

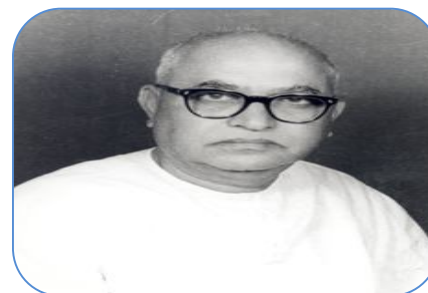


ADVOCATE OF CHITRADURGA SRI S.NIJALINGAPPA'S CONTRIBUTION TO UNIFICATION OF KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

November 1st 1956 is a historic day for Kannadigas. It was on this day that the Unification of Kannada speaking areas was realized. President Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the new Mysore state at Bangalore by pressing a button whereby the big map of the new state of Mysore was brilliantly lit. After invocation, famous vocalist P.Kalinga Rao sang the song "Udayavagali namma cheluva Kannada nadu", the popular Kannada anthem.

KEYWORDS: simple autobiographical , visionary political leaders.

1. INTRODUCTION :

The President then presented Rs.1000 to Huilgol Narayan Rao, who had composed the song as early as in 1924 and Rs.500 to P.Kalinga Rao who had set it to suitable tune and popularised it. This was followed by Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar, being sworn in as the new Governor of the state and S.Nijalingappa as the new Chief Minister.

Nijalingappa was born on 10th December 1902 at Halavagilu in Bellary district to Adivappa and Neelamma. He had his schooling at Davangere and college education at Bangalore. He obtained his Law degree at Pune and began his practice as Advocate at Chitradurga.

2. NIJALINGAPPA AS A SUCCESSFUL ADVOCATE:

This is a deceptively simple autobiographical account of one of independent India most respected political leaders. Documenting events which made history in twentieth century India with a clear-eyed assessment, Nijalingappa recreates an era when politics was imbued with the ideal and passion of the freedom struggle and a galaxy of visionary political leaders shaped the destiny of India. Nijalingappa life-story also spans the last quarter of the twentieth century when, in striking contrast, relative pygmies pre-occupied with self-interest took political center-stage. Born in a poor village family in Karnataka, Nijalingappa became a successful advocate by dint of hard work and long struggle. He was one of the early leaders of Mysore Congress. His political activism eventually led to his imprisonment and disbarment from legal practice. Then followed a tumultuous political career of ups and downs for the next several decades as he grew to national stature and a powerful player in Congress politics.

Soon he was drawn into the freedom struggle and joined the Congress party in 1936 and was appointed as the president of Chitradurga District Congress committee. In September 1939, the Mysore Congress decided to launch a *sathyagraha*, as the Maharaja's government did not accede to the demand of the Congress for introducing Responsible government in the state. On 18th September, Nijalingappa

personally led a campaign in Chitradurga against the provision of Forest Act and cut palm trees at Turuvanur and courted arrest. He was released in 1940. But the government debarred him together with some other Congressmen from practising in any court of the state and his name was struck off from the roll of advocates. Nijalingappa had participated in the Congress session at Bombay on August 8th 1942, where the historic call for the British to "Quit India" was given. While returning home Nijalingappa was arrested at the Yeshwanthpur Railway station and sent to Kolar jail. In 1944, Nijalingappa was elected as President of Mysore Congress. In 1946, he was appointed as president of K.P.C.C.

3. TUMULTUOUS POLITICAL CAREER:

Nijalingappa served variously as president of Mysore Congress and a member of the historic Constituent Assembly which also crafted the Indian Constitution. Later, he became the first chief minister of the re-organized Mysore state in 1956. Nijalingappa termed as Congress president (1968-71) was marked by the historic Congress split when Indira Gandhi sought to become both the supreme political leader of the country and the undisputed overlord of the party. Nijalingappa lays bare the inner tug-of-war of this struggle. Nijalingappa has many other revealing tales to tell as well: Why Nehru was the wrong choice to be India and prime minister how Lal Bahadur Shastri was secretly anointed as Nehru and successor much before the latter and death; What prompted the election of Indira Gandhi as prime minister.

4. S.NIJALINGAPPA'S CONTRIBUTION TO UNIFICATION OF KARNATAKA:

Nijalingappa had played an important role in the Unification of Karnataka. Hence after the Unification of Karnataka in 1956, Nijalingappa became the natural choice for the post of Chief Minister. Nijalingappa's government took steps to integrate the different patterns of administrative laws and rules that had prevailed in various regions that were merged in the new state. Uniform scales of pay were evolved for all categories of government servants throughout the state and introduced as early as January 1957, option being given to the allottees from the merged areas to retain their own pay scales if they so desired. These new pay scales improved the lot of the low paid staff from certain regions merged in the new state. Uniform service rules followed uniform pay scales. Inter-regional transfers were introduced in various departments to instill a sense of oneness among the civil servants. To integrate the different patterns of education, within three months of the formation of the new state, the state government took the step of appointing "Mysore Educational Integration Advisory Committee" and on its recommendation a new and uniform pattern of education was evolved and implemented.

In the meantime, the second general election to the state assembly was held in March 1957 and the Congress won 151 out of 208 seats. Nijalingappa was once again unanimously elected leader of the Mysore Legislature Congress party in April 1957. On 10-5-1957 a committee under the chairmanship of B.D.Jatti was appointed to enact a comprehensive Land Reforms Act, as there were different agrarian laws in the different parts of the new state of Mysore. On 5-2-1958 Union minister for Irrigation and Power S.K.Patil inaugurated the construction works of the Rs.40 crore Sharavathi Hydel project.

Unfortunately, due to dissident activities, Nijalingappa had to resign on 8th May 1958 after being in office for only 18 months. But soon he bounced back to power in 1962.

5. CONCLUSION:

The services rendered by Nijalingappa towards the unification of Karnataka was enormous, and in recognition of the same, he was chosen as the first Chief Minister of the unified state. Then again for the second time, he was elected to the same responsible post and he continued in that post up to April 1968. He may well be called the "Maker of Modern Karnataka". The state owes much to him for development of agricultural, irrigation, industrial and transport projects.