

Under RSS pressure, is BJP heading for major organisational changes?

New Delhi: After a less-than-adquate performance in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party is likely to undergo major organisational changes over the next few weeks. It is understood that the role of three top leaders including BJP chief JP Nadda, and the saffron unit's two powerful National General Secretaries, BL Santhosh and Sunil Bansal, is being relooked. Sources stated that the performance of the BJP leadership is likely to be reviewed by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ideological parent of the saffron unit, over the next few weeks. Nadda, who is already on an extension, is expected to be moved out of the organization and is likely to be replaced by a leader who is more acceptable to the Sangh. The step comes days after the BJP chief had courted controversy and upset the top leadership of the RSS after he had made certain unwarranted remarks during the peak electoral campaign on the BJP's need for Sangh's cadre in campaigning and support. During an interview in the electoral heat of the general elections, Nadda had said, "We were less capable in the beginning and needed the RSS. Today we have grown and are more capable. The BJP now runs itself." The comments by the BJP chief were not taken kindly by the Sangh leadership. RSS had been instrumental in creating

the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951 and later the BJP in 1980. The Sangh's anger over these comments is believed to be one of the crucial factors that led to the inadequate showing of saffron candidates during the recently concluded polls as its cadres were found to be absent during crucial campaign days. In another major move, the role of BJP's National General Secretary (Organization), BL Santhosh, is also likely to be reviewed by the Sangh. The position is considered one of the most important posts in the party. And, the incumbent is responsible for better coordination between the party and its ideological parent the RSS, to discuss and finalise strategy on political and election issues. The person holding this post is loaned from RSS for effective supervision of the organisational tasks and can be repatriated to the Sangh. Santhosh was promoted at the national level with an eye on the expansion of the BJP in South India. In mid-2019, Santhosh was moved to the position of National General Secretary (Organization) in the place of Ramlal. However, the Sangh is seemingly not happy with the way that Santhosh was non-receptive to the ideas and suggestions put forth by the RSS leadership for improvement in BJP's electoral campaign. It was felt that Santhosh was primarily serving the cause of the party, instead of focusing

on the ideology and promotion of Sangh's strategic interests, sources said.

New role for Sunil Bansal?

Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the posting of Sunil Bansal as National General Secretary had created a buzz. Bansal, a known close confidante to former BJP chief and Union Home Minister Amit Shah saw an expanded role and was given the charge of West Bengal, Odisha and Telangana as the party's National General Secretary. Interestingly, the BJP has done very well in two of these three states, even securing the Odisha Assembly for the saffron unit for the first time. The BJP is expected to promote him and give him more important tasks as it tries to consolidate during Modi 3.0. Earlier, Bansal had played a crucial and successful role in getting the party repeated victories in the important state of Uttar Pradesh in both Assembly (2017 and 2022) and Lok Sabha polls in 2019. Though the BJP may have been able to cobble up the numbers to secure a third consecutive term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it will be crucial for the party to ensure that its coordination with RSS remains in top-notch condition. An organisational leadership which is in sync with the ideological and strategic goals of the saffron front is soon expected to take root and ensure that a repeat of recent poll outcomes is avoided.

Naidu said to demand half a dozen ministries for supporting Modi, but his insistence on Speaker's post intriguing

Bengaluru: What will Chandrababu Naidu extract from the BJP for his support for re-election of Modi as Prime Minister? The buzz in Andhra Pradesh political circles considered close to Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is that he is demanding the post of Speaker, apart from six ministerial posts for his flock of 18 MPs which includes two from Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena. The portfolios he is seeking are Finance, Water Resources, Urban development, Industry and Health. Naidu is also reported to be seeking the fulfilment of Centre's promise on Special Category status of AP.

Demand for six ministries and Speakership

That would be a minimum of six prime posts for a flock of 18 MPs - 16 of TDP and 2 of JNP, but given the precarious position of the BJP was short of 32 for majority, it needs support of every MP that it can get. The support of MPs elected on TDP-JNP ticket is more critical than the 12 from Nitish Kumar-led JDU in Bihar. Naidu's insistence on the ministries are born out of his determination to ensure that the long-pending promise of Central assistance through Special Category status to AP for losing cash cow Hyderabad to Telangana, and funding for completing the mega irrigation project of Polavaram. That is why the insistence on Finance. Also known to be industry-friendly, he wants the Industry ministry for AP in order to drive investment towards his state. The insistence on Urban Development is to ensure that the centre invests in developing Amaravathi as the state capital.

SCS would involve RS 50,000 cr

Naidu's demands for his state have financial implications for the Centre in the vicinity of Rs 50,000 crore or more. The TDP supremo is also said to have demanded Rural Development and Health. But these are more



likely to be bargaining chips, rather than non-negotiable demands. But what is interesting is his insistence on TDP getting the Speaker's chair. According to the buzz in TDP circles, this is to ensure that the BJP cannot at some point of time break the TDP group in the Lok Sabha to increase number of its own flock. Naidu, according to TDP circles, is very wary of the BJP "doing an Eknath Shinde or Ajit Pawar on him".

Defections to BJP embittered Naidu

The TDP boss is understandably bitter with the BJP since it induced two of his most trusted lieutenants, Sujana Chowdhary and CM Ramesh, both members of Rajya Sabha, who defected from TDP in June 2019. The BJP did so, embittered with Naidu's decision to break the alliance. But according to TDP sources, Naidu has continued to nurse his bitterness towards Amit Shah, who he had blamed for breaking away from TDP Chowdhary and Ramesh, both very affluent businessmen, known to have funded the Telugu regional party. In support of their contention, TDP sources point to two old video clips currently going viral on social media in Andhra Pradesh. One is of Naidu speaking with a TV channel on February 11, 2019 in which he accuses BJP of using central agencies to stifle Opposition, a year after he broke a state level alliance with

the party, accusing it of breaking its promise to accord Special Category status.

Naidu wary of Amit Shah

The other is of Amit Shah launching a bitter attack on Naidu after the latter broke the alliance. Shah is heard saying: "There is no more opportunistic leader like Chandrababu Naidu in the entire history of India." He goes on to accuse Naidu of stabbing NTR in the back to become chief minister, joining the BJP for political gains, and leaving it when it was found convenient. Shah goes on to declare: "Chandrababu Naidu, the doors of NDA are closed to you forever." Five years is a long period in politics, and both Naidu and BJP have set aside their pet peeves and decided to enable the forming of the Modi 3.0 government at the Centre. But apparently, Naidu's animus for Shah has not abated. He is said to have insisted that Amit Shah should not hold the Home portfolio, and has demanded that either TDP or JDU should be given the ministry, or that anybody other than Shah be given the responsibility to make the TDP feel more secure.

BJP averse to giving up Home

But aware that his demand for the Home ministry being rejected by the BJP, Naidu is demanding the Speaker's post, in order to keep his flock together. According to the Constitution, the Speaker is the "custodian" of the House, and after a long drawn-out battle in the Supreme Court over the supremacy of Parliament, and the powers of the Speaker to decide on the validity of defections, the 1985 anti-defection law was placed in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, taking it out of the purview of judicial scrutiny. That is why, Naidu, being a seasoned politician, and fearful of his political power being undermined, now wants the Speaker's post for his party.

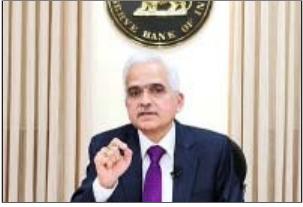
AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi Defeats

BJP's Madhavi By Over 3.3 Lakh Votes



The Hyderabad parliamentary constituency has been the stronghold of the Owaisi Family and their party, the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen, for decades. Asaduddin Owaisi's father, the late Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi, represented the constituency six times. In 2004, due to ill-health, Salahuddin Owaisi opted out of representing the constituency, and since then, Asaduddin Owaisi has held sway over the constituency. In the 2014 elections, Asaduddin Owaisi emerged victorious with 513,868 votes, defeating BJP's Bhagavanth Rao by a margin of 3,11,414 votes. In the last 2019 Lok Sabha elections, AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi secured 5,17,471 votes, defeating BJP's Bhagavanth Rao once again, this time with a margin of 2,82,186 votes. This year, in an attempt to overturn AIMIM's stronghold, the BJP fielded Madhavi Latha Komppala, an entrepreneur and classical dancer. However, her campaign faced controversy when a gesture of shooting an imaginary arrow at a Masjid in Siddiham Bazar on Ram Navami drew national attention in the fierce battle between BJP and AIMIM. Madhavi's campaign focused on civic issues, with door-to-door campaigns in areas with a higher Muslim population. However, her discussions and statements on the hijab in schools and madrasas in the city sparked controversy. Amidst her controversies, Madhavi Latha Komppala sparked another one by asking burqa-clad Muslim women voters to show their faces on polling day (May 13). Subsequently, she was booked by the police under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Section 132 of the Representation of the People Act. Ministers like Union Home Minister Amit Shah campaigned for her, and Anurag Singh Thakur also did a roadshow with her in the constituency. On the other hand, Owaisi's campaign centered around the protection of the Constitution and representation of minority and marginalized communities. Hyderabad polled on May 13th during the 4th phase of the election, with a total voter turnout of 48.48 percent.

RBI Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 6.5 Percent for the Eighth Time



The three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) began on Wednesday. Later, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das briefed about the decisions taken at the meeting. The Monetary Policy Committee with a 4:2 decision has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5. This is the eighth time that the RBI has not made any change in the repo rate. Additionally, the Marginal Standing Facility has been kept at 6.75% and the Standing Facility Rate remains at 6.25%. The RBI had hiked the repo rate to 6.5 percent in February 2023 and has maintained it seven times in a row since then. Experts had earlier said that the policy interest rate (repo rate) is unlikely to be cut given the current economic situation of the country. The biggest obstacle to rate cuts is rising inflation. In addition, the economic growth rate remains strong despite the repo rate being high at 6.5 percent since February 2023. The repo rate has been kept the same from February 2023. Experts also said that the trend is likely to continue. Interest rate cuts expected in the third quarter. The policy interest rate is likely to be cut in the third quarter of the financial year 2024-25. When the series of cuts begins, it will be nominal, according to the latest analysis released by SBI Research.

'Dusra Ilaj Karein Kya Tumhara?'



Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav was seen getting angry and threatening at a journalist in a now viral video. The incident happened when a group of journalists asked his reaction on the Lok Sabha elections results.

BJP Counters Rahul Gandhi's Market Scam Charge With India's '5th Largest Economy', Says 'Investors Benefited Most'

'Markets Scam' Charge: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'biggest stock market scam' allegations against the BJP have made headlines, and now the saffron party has hit back at the Congress leader. BJP leader Piyush Goyal on Thursday slammed Gandhi's allegations, stating that he is making such remarks because he is unable to handle INDIA's loss in the recently completed general elections.

What Was Rahul Gandhi's Allegation

Recently, the congress leader alleged that the comments made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP ministers led a drastic surge in the stock market ahead of the counting. Subsequently, the stock market crashed after Lok Sabha election results, causing huge losses for investors. Gandhi termed it "biggest stock market scam," Gandhi called for an investigation.

BJP's Response On The Allegation

Congress rebel and independent candidate Vishal Patil, who achieved a historic victory in the Sangli parliamentary constituency, officially extended his support to the Congress on Thursday. Patil met Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi and handed him a letter of support. He was accompanied by Congress' Palus Kadegaon MLA and his partner in this rebellion, Vishwajeet Kadam. In Delhi, in the presence of our leader, former minister A. Vishwajeet Kadam, we submitted a letter of support to the Congress National President, Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge, and accepted the position of associate member in the Lok Sabha for the Congress. I have fought with the Congress ideology and assured that I will continue to work with unwavering dedication to these principles," Patil wrote while sharing pictures of the meeting. 'Getting Lot of Calls, Will Reveal in Time': NCP (SP) Leader Jayant Patil on Reports That Ajit Pawar's MLAs Coming Back. In a remarkable turn of events, Congress rebel and independent candidate Vishal Patil achieved a historic victory in the triangular contest for the Sangli parliamentary seat. Patil, the grandson of former Maharashtra

in which the SP secured victory in 37 constituencies. In the video, Yadav can be seen talking to the reporters, when he turned his attention towards one reporter. In anger, the SP chief said, "Bhai, kyun kar rahe ho tum yeh? ... Dusra ilaj karaye kya tumhara? (Why are you doing this, brother? Should I give you another treatment?)." While it remained unclear when exactly the incident happened, Yadav had attended a meeting along with other partners of the INDIA bloc in New Delhi on June 5 to strategise their plans for forming the central government.

Language of thug'

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) reacted to Yadav's viral video and slammed the SP chief. BJP

leader Sudhanshu Trivedi took to X accusing Yadav of using the "language of a thug". "The government isn't formed yet; Akhilesh Yadav is so heated that he's started using the language of a thug. Right in front of the entire media and cameras, he's threatening a journalist by saying - 'Shall we give you another treatment?' Just imagine, when they were in power, what kind of gangster rule they must have spread?" The results for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections were announced on June 4 after a marathon six-week, seven-phase voting process. The BJP secured 240 seats, falling short of 32 seats for a majority. However, the BJP-led NDA secured 292 seats against the Opposition alliance, INDIA, which won 232 seats.

Three arrested for using forged Aadhaar cards to enter Parliament complex

Three labourers were apprehended by CISF personnel for attempting to enter the high-security Parliament complex using forged Aadhaar cards, official sources reported on Thursday. Delhi Police arrested the three individuals, identified as Kasim, Monis, and Soyeb, charging them under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) related to forgery and cheating. Sources informed PTI that the trio was intercepted and detained by CISF personnel at the flap gate entry of Parliament House on Tuesday during routine security and identity checks. The CISF found their Aadhaar cards to be forged upon further scrutiny.

CISF takes over security

The incident occurred shortly after the CISF took over the entire security of the Parliament complex, replacing CRPF and Delhi Police contingents.

Employment and construction work

The three arrested individuals were employed by Dee Vee Projects Ltd, contracted to construct the MP's lounge inside the Parliament complex.

Legal proceedings

The CISF handed the individuals over to the Delhi Police, who then filed an FIR and booked them under IPC sections 465 (forgery), 419 (cheating by personation), 120B (criminal conspiracy), 471 (using a forged document as genuine), and 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating).

Worried over future, senior IAS, IPS officers, once YSRCP loyalists, throng Chandrababu Naidu's residence to meet him



Responding to the allegation, Piyush Goyal said, "It seems like Rahul Gandhi has not overcome the defeat of the opposition in the Lok Sabha elections. Now, he is trying to deceive market investors. Today, India has become the fifth-largest economy in the world. The whole world accepts that it is the fastest-growing economy in the world. PM Modi has assured the nation that in this term, India will become the third-largest economy". The minister noted, after the exit polls, investors of other countries bought stocks at high rates while investors of the country sold and booked profits. Goyal accused Rahul Gandhi of "hatching a conspiracy to mislead investors" from Rs 67 lakh crore during the UPA government. India's market cap surged to Rs 415 lakh cr; domestic and retail investors benefited most," he said further. Goyal claimed that the stock market achieved robust growth under the saffron government. "In the last 10 years of Modi Govt, for the first

time our market cap has crossed over 5 trillion dollars. Today, India's equity market has entered the market cap of the top 5 economies of the world... We know that the market cap of USPs listed in the market has increased 4 times under the Modi Govt..." The 3rd of June brought the awaited Lok Sabha election results, hinting at a probable coalition government's formation at the national stage. This outcome led to a rather disturbing stir in the stock market. It plummeted almost 6%, marking its biggest slump in four years.

Congress Reaches 100-Mark In Lok Sabha After Vishal Patil Meets Mallikarjun Kharge, Gandhis; Extends Support



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Patil's campaign discreetly. This support was instrumental in his success, particularly after he lost the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as an independent candidate. This time, however, Patil managed to garner sympathy votes due to the contentious manner in which Shiv Sena (UBT) selected Chandrabhar Patil as their candidate. Apart from the unique situation in Sangli, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) performed well overall, reclaiming its foothold in western Maharashtra, a region historically dominated by leaders such as Sharad Pawar. Pawar's influence in the region had been diminishing since 2014, making this resurgence significant for the MVA. The seat-sharing negotiations between the Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) were marked by prolonged disputes, especially over the Sangli seat. For weeks, the two parties were locked in a tussle, with Shiv Sena (UBT) ultimately nominating wrestler Chandrabhar Patil as their candidate unilaterally. Congress leader Vishwajeet Kadam had even appealed to the party's central leadership to allow Vishal Patil to contest from Sangli, but his efforts were in vain as Shiv Sena (UBT) prevailed in the decision-making process.



Vijayawada: A large number of senior IAS, IPS officers and senior leaders thronged the residence of Telugu Desam Party National President N Chandrababu Naidu located at Undavalli near here on Thursday. Former Additional Director General of Police (Intelligence) PSR Anjaneyulu went to the residence of Naidu this morning to meet him as a courtesy. However, he was not allowed to meet Naidu by the security officials as the TDP Chief didn't give him an appointment. Anjaneyulu left without meeting Naidu. Another senior IPS officer and IGP Kolli Raghurami Reddy, who arrested Chandrababu Naidu in Skill Development case as the Chief of SIT, went to the residence of Naidu this morning but the latter disliked meeting him. Kolli Raghurami Reddy was stripped of all posts and directed to report in police headquarters on Wednesday. He also left without meeting Naidu. Retired Additional DGP AB Venkateswara Rao called on Naidu on Thursday. Venkateswara Rao retired six days ago. According to TDP sources, several senior IAS and IPS officers tried to talk to Chandrababu Naidu over phone but Naidu expressed reluctance to talk to them. According to sources, the senior IAS and IPS officers, who arrested many TDP leaders, registered cases and earned a bad reputation as ardent loyalists to the ruling YSRCP, are now worrying about their future. TDP sources said that Naidu held a meeting with the newly elected MPs today. The TDP Chief is going to Delhi to attend the NDA meeting tomorrow, sources added.

