CHAPTER IV

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KARANATAKA STATE

Introduction:

Women constitute 50% of the population of Karnataka. Women literacy is about 57.7%. Women have given adequate representation in the local bodies after the 73rd and 74th amendments to the constitution of India, unfortunately, the representation given to women in Karnataka and other important posts is negligible. Women candidate nowhere contested to the parliament election in 1952 and 1957, but in 1962’s elections at the first time from Karnataka a lady namely Dr. Sarojani Mahishi was elected to the parliament from Dharwad constituency of Karnataka. Also, she was contested from M.P and elected for four times continuously from 1962-1977. But till now the women members of parliament could not be exceeded three seats out of 28 seats in the state. In 1980 and 2004 there was no number of elected women MPs in the state.

Elected women candidates to the state assembly and lok sabha from Karnataka as in the 2008 public election, there were 6 seats allotted to the women in total 132 seats wholly contested and elected by the congress. There was a null reservation in parties like Janatadal(s) and (U) BJP, AIADMK and independent parties it of total seats of 224 in the house. But there was also not better condition in the parliament from the state. The total number of 28 seats there was a seat given by congress and elected accordingly. In the Karnataka assembly election of 1999 there were 1340 numbers total contestants 62 women candidates no percentage or 71% of
total women population in the state. From 1983 to 2008 elections in the state there could not be exceeded 3% of the elected women MLAs seats out of women population. In 1999 to 2004 assembly elections there were 6 women MLAs were elected out of 224 assembly seats.

In the state legislative contest there were 7 women candidates elected by the MLAs in the total seats of 75 in the council. Also 3 members are elected to the Rajya Sabha out of 12 seats in the Karnataka state.

Women Cabinet Rank Ministers in Karnataka:

A glance at the available data reveals that only few women became the Minister of the Cabinet rank in the Karnataka Ministry. They include the following…

- Smt. Yashodhara Dasappa
- Smt. Leeladevi R Prasad
- Smt. Manorama Madwaraj
- Smt. K.S. Nagarathnamma
- Smt. Motamma
- Smt. Chandraprabha Urs
- Smt. Renuka Rajendran
- Smt. Bhagirathi marulasiddana Gouda
- Shobha Karandlge
- Umashree
SMT. YASHODHARA DASAPPA:

Yashodhara Dasappa was inducted into the S.R. Kanti Ministry in 1962. A Cabinet-rank Minister in charge of Social Welfare, this Gandhian made news by resigning in 1969 (when Nijalingappa was Chief Minister and Ramakrishna Hegde the Finance and Excise Minister) in protest against the withdrawal of Prohibition. Women Ministers have typically been assigned two portfolios: Women and Child Welfare, and Kannada and Culture, both unfortunately considered “soft” in the male-dominated world of real politick.³

Yoshadharamma Dasappa enjoyed a unique place among the first generation of women freedom fighters of Gandhian era. She was the wife of Sri. H. C. Dasappa, a prominent congressman from the former Mysore State. Yashodharamma’s first confrontation with the Government took place at Shivapur Congress session held on 10th April 1938. It was the first session of the Mysore congress.⁴

Yoshadharamma along with other women participants guarded the flagpole for which she was arrested. She also played an important role in underground activities. The centre of activities was the house of Yoshadharamma. Satyagrahis were coming from all corners of the state. There was a particular significance in hoisting the flag near the Town hall because the government had banned holding of any meeting there. Yoshadharamma wrote speeches for the Satyagrahis to oppose the decision of the Government to name the building of the town police of Mysore after Hamilton, who was known for his cruelty and inhuman treatment of those who participated in nationalist activities.
Yoshadharamma was the first lady member on the working committee of the Mysore State Congress and later its first lady-president, too. She was mainly responsible in the freedom movement. She had the gift of the gab. Add to it her transparent sincerity and her missionary zeal, she was a great force in those days, and continued to be one, even later. Her short speeches, but hard-hitting ones were classics by themselves. Both men and women would sit like a painted picture to listen to her. She was most influenced by Mahatma Gandhi. She was in Sevagram in 1944. Gandhiji advised her to take to constructive work. She took to social work under the programme of Kasturba Memorial Trust. She was the first lady Minister of cabinet rank. She served in Nijalingappa’s Ministry. She resigned her ministership on the question of prohibition. She continued to be the Chairman of the state-level Prohibition Committee till sometime before her death. Age had slightly bent her tall imposing figure but it had crushed her fighting spirit. Mellowed though she was, occasionally she turned into a firebrand at the contemplation of the change of values that has taken place in the present public life.

Yoshadharamma continued to fight for freedom from ignorance, illiteracy, poverty and squalor. For her, prohibition was not just a principle but a creed. She was running hostels for workingwomen, homes for the destitute, the handicapped. She brought up a Harijan girl and adopted her. All those who worked with her ately called her ‘Amma’.

🔹 **SMT. LEELADEVI R. PRASAD:**

According to Leeladevi R Prasad Every women has to fight for their right and enter in all fields to achieve women empowerment. Instead of complaining about men’s women should build their confidence level and face the world to achieve. The
cream of women is here with the launch of Cowe- Karnataka Chapter. Is house wife not an entrepreneur? Is it that she works without any encumbrance? Women are powerful with their intent of dedication, sacrifice and growths of the company with her will power. Unless we have economic power whether small or big is important along with will power. Inspired by her talks women take courage as they are Home minister at home running the daily routines without any glitch, Education Minister at home teaching the children’s the facts of life, Finance minister at home running the finances within the purview of the budgets. Why not with all this qualities a women can run an enterprises more efficiently than men. The moment of the day is to build women enterprises society and all women folk join together and share their views to console each other and bring about a change in the society towards betterment of women. She contested from Athani in the year of 1985. The former Minister Leeladevi R. Prasad has criticised political parties that are opposing the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha. Speaking after inaugurating a function where women achievers in different fields were honored by the Development of Women and Child Urban Association here on Wednesday, Ms. Prasad said these vested interests were opposed to women's progress. She said women had proved that they were not inferior to men in any way, with many making a mark in various fields. The 33 percent reservation proposed for women in all elected bodies would provide new direction to parliamentary democracy.

**Problem faced:**

Referring to the phenomenal growth of self-help groups (SHGs) run by women in rural and urban areas in the State, Ms. Prasad said one of the major problems they encountered was the lack of proper marketing facilities for goods
manufactured by them. The State Government should take the initiative to set up a proper and permanent marketing mechanism in district headquarters. Ms. Prasad said SHGs had given new hope and confidence to women, particularly in rural areas. Women were now, as a result, able to stand on their own and support their families. Renuka Veerasomeshwara Shivacharyaru of the Rambhapuri Math, who felicitated the achievers, said it was unfortunate that women, who were placed on a high pedestal by Indian society, were being used as objects in advertisements in the media. “The media should desist from projecting women in bad taste. This is not our culture,” he added. Vice-president of the Gulbarga Zilla Panchayat Jayashree Sajjanshetty, Syndicate member of the Women's University, Bijapur, Indira Shakti, and Deputy Superintendent of Police Madhura Veena spoke.

- **SMT. MANORAMA MADWARAJ:**

  She is very popular Mogaveera women born on 19 September 1940, she was MLA for trice for Karnataka assembly in 5th, 8th and 9th government formation, all the three time she was elected from Udupi constituency, that time she was member in Indian national congress. 

  She was also member of the 14th Lok Sabha of India. She represented the Udupi constituency of Karnataka and was a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) political party. She quit BJP and Lok Sabha after voting in favour of Congress during vote of confidence.

  Manorama Madhwaraj was elected as an MLA in the 5th, 8th and 9th Karnataka Legislative Assembly. On all of these occasions was elected from Udupi constituency and was a member of the Indian National Congress.
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\*\*\* SMT. K.S. NAGARATHNAMMA: \*\*\*

First woman Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from March 1972-78, K S Nagarathnamma was elected to the lower house seven times. She became the Minister for Health and Family Welfare in 1990.\(^\text{12}\) Prior to her long political career, she held many important positions, including Vice-presidency of Bharat Scouts and Guides, Mysore and Senate Member of Mysore University.

\*\*\* SMT. MOTAMMA: \*\*\*

Former leader of the opposition in the Council, C. Motamma won the hearts of Opposition members when she launched a veiled attack on the ruling party and cabinet ministers on Wednesday. Motamma, a senior Congress leader who could not make it to the cabinet, slammed the government and asked the ministers and CM Siddaramaiah to rise above caste politics.\(^\text{13}\)

Although she heaped praise on the CM for presenting a pro-people budget, she felt the administration was slack in many respects. “Good governance is possible when honest and efficient officers are posted in the right places.

But of late, postings are done on the basis of caste and other parameters,” she said. She complained that it had become difficult for legislators to get their work done with ‘inefficient’ officials forcing them to run from pillar to post.\(^\text{14}\)
Motamma had the Legislative Council in splits with her fiery replies to potshots taken by members. Albeit in a jocular manner, at her husband. It started with BJP MLC Narayanaswamy chiding Motamma for forcing her ‘man from Mandya’ to stay in Mudigere.

Quick came the reply from Motamma who said such sons-in-law prove costly to the bride’s household. “Sons-in-law aren’t like daughters-in-law. A daughter-in-law tries to accept her husband's house as hers but the same can’t be said about the son-in-law stays in his wife’s house,” she rationalized.

When minister for social welfare H. Anjaneya said this amounted to defaming men, Motamma shot back that the minister with three daughters, would soon come to know if she was speaking the truth. C. Motamma, a senior Congress leader who could not make it to the cabinet, slammed the government and asked the ministers and CM Siddaramaiah to rise above caste politics.

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CHANDRAPRABHA URAS:

She is the daughter of Shri D Devaraj Urs. Her date of birth is 25th May, 1946. She is a most courageous lady of Karnataka politics. She takes her educational qualification at B.Sc., B. Lib. Sc, Ratna (Degree in Hindi) Educated at VHD Institute of Home Science, Bangalore, Manasa Gangotri, Mysore and Hindi Prachara Sabha, Bangalore. Now she is in present Member, Karnataka Legislative Assembly Cabinet Minister, She has a profession of Social Welfare, Sericulture and Excise, Karnataka

POSITION HELD:

- Member, Karnataka Legislative Assembly
- Cabinet Minister, Social Welfare, Sericulture and Excise, Karnataka
- General Secretary, P.C.C.(I), Karnataka
- Vice-President, P.C.C.(I), Karnataka
- President, Mahila Congress
- Elected to Lok Sabha (Tenth)
- Chitrakala Parishad affiliated to Academy of Fine Arts

SMT. RENUKA RAJENDRAN:

A former Minister, Renuka Rajendran, had been arrested by the police in a case of cheating a youth who had applied for a post of police sub-inspector. She stood trial in 1981 along with her husband, a government official. They were acquitted by the magistrate R.G. Vaidyanatha.
In the political history of Karnataka, R Gundu Rao’s regime as chief minister (1980-83) has left behind cruel memories. To recall just a couple of incidents: Farmers in Naragund in north Karnataka were gunned down, and over 200 children died of burns when they were watching Venus Circus.

Even corrupt politicians were stunned at the brazenness of Gundu Rao. He used to say, “I am a chicken-eating Brahmin.” His liaison with his cabinet colleague Renuka Rajendran had given rise to gossip. It appeared like he was working hard to earn a negative image.

Amidst all the turbulence, a blood-curdling case of human sacrifice rocked the government. It all started with the lock-up death of the evil sadhu Lakshmana Giri.

❖ SMT. BHAGIRATHI MARULASIDDANA GOUDA:

Karnataka has had a consistently poor record in appointing women Ministers. The only woman in the Cabinet in the present government (and the only woman MLA in the Congress) is T. Bhagirathi Marulasiddanagouda, who has, almost predictably, been given Women and Child Welfare.

Bringing an end to the six-month long speculation, Karnataka Chief Minister N Dharam Singh today expanded his coalition ministry inducting 20 ministers-- 11 from coalition partner JDS and nine from Congress.

Eighteen ministers were inducted in the cabinet rank and two as ministers of state at a brief ceremony on the portals of the Vidhana Soudha, the state secretariat, where Governor T N Chaturvedi administered the oath of office and secrecy.

SHOBHA KARANDLAJE

Born October 23, 1966, she is a politician from Karnataka and is a member of the 16th Lok Sabha of India representing the Udupi-Chickmagalur constituency. She was a cabinet minister in the Government of Karnataka.

Hailing from Puttur in Coastal Karnataka, Shobha became associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh at a very early age, one of the many women full-time workers of the Sangh parivar. When she decided to join politics, the RSS gave her the initial thrust. She served the Bharatiya Janata Party organisation in various capacities before being elected as an MLC in 2004. She was elected as MLA from Yeswanthpur, Bangalore in May, 2008 and was appointed as the minister for rural development and Panchayat Raj in the B.S. Yeddyurappa government. She was lauded for her performance as the RDPR minister and came to be known as a good administrator. She resigned in 2009 due to a political crisis but was re-instated in 2010 and was entrusted with the energy portfolio. She was the power minister in the Jagadish Shettar government and also had the additional charge of the food and civil supplies department.
She contested the Indian general election, 2014 from Udupi Chikmagalur (Lok Sabha constituency) and won by a huge margin of 1.84 Lakh Votes.24

UMASHREE:

Umashree participates in positive social activities such as supporting rural and disadvantaged women. She performs on stage in rural villages to highlight their needs. Her election in 2013 as the member for Terdal constituency (Congress Party) allowed Umashree to continue her work Umashree is Chairman for the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Party Committee on other backward classes.25

She is known for her portrayal of film roles spoken in the Kannada language (over 400), particularly comic roles. In 2013, Umashree became a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Karnataka in the government of Siddaramaiah where she was minister for women and child development, empowerment of the differently abled and senior citizens, Kannada language and culture.

Only a few women from Karnataka became the union ministers and all of them were state minister’s rank. They are…

- Smt Basavarajeshwari
- Smt Margret Alva
- Smt Taradevi
- Smt Sarojani Mahishi
SMT. BASAVARAJESHWARI:

Basavarajeshwari (1921 or 22 – 2008) was an Indian politician from Bellary, Karnataka. She belonged to the Lingayath community and was the Union Minister of State for Women and Children Development in the P.V Narasimha Rao Ministry.

The former Union Minister Basavarajeshwari died here on Tuesday after a prolonged illness. She was 86.

Ms. Basavarajeshwari, whose political career lasted 40 years, was the Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development in the P.V. Narasimha Rao Ministry. She also served as a Deputy Minister between 1962 and 1967 and was a member of the Legislative Council for one term. She won the Bellary Lok Sabha seat three times in a row. She began her career as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in 1957 from Lingasugur in Raichur district, and was re-elected for the second term when she held the post of Deputy Minister for five years. She was later elected as the Member of the Legislative Council (1977-84).

She performed a hat-trick of sorts by winning the Bellary Lok Sabha seat thrice in 1984, 1989 and 1991 and was inducted into the P.V. Narasimha Rao Ministry. As the Union Minister, Ms. Basavarajeshwari represented the country at the World Women’s Conference held at Beijing in China.

She kept a low profile after she was denied the Congress ticket to contest in the Lok Sabha elections from Bellary in 1996 and floated a trust, for which she was the chairperson. It started several educational institutions, including an engineering college, a polytechnic and an ITI.
In 2004, Ms. Basavarajeshwari joined the BJP and campaigned for the party not only in Bellary but also in the neighbouring districts.

She is survived by four sons and four daughters. The last rites would be performed at her native village Gejjalagatta in Sindhanoor taluk on Wednesday, according to family sources.

**MARGARET ALVA**

Born 14 April 1942, née Margaret Nazareth, is the governor of the Indian state of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa and has previously been governor of Uttarakhand. She took over in Rajasthan from the Punjab governor, Shivraj Patil, who had been holding an additional charge of that state. She is a senior figure in the Indian National Congress and was Joint Secretary of the All India Congress Committee.

**Early Life:**

Margaret Alva was born Margaret Nazareth on 14 April 1942 in a Christian family at Mangalore, Karnataka. She obtained a BA degree from Mount Carmel College, Bangalore and a law degree from Government Law College in the same city. She was a keen and appreciated debater during her time at college and had some involvement in students' movements.²⁸

Alva combined her work as an advocate with involvement in welfare organizations, eventually becoming president of the Young Women's Christian Association. One of her early involvements was with the Karuna non-governmental
organization, which she founded and which was focused on issues relating to women and children.

She married Niranjan Alva on 24 May 1964, with whom she has one daughter and three sons, including Niret Alva. The couple had met as students at Government Law College and her husband now operates a successful export business, which has given her financial security that has been beneficial to her later career.

Alva's decision to enter politics in 1969 was strongly influenced by her husband and father-in-law, Joachim Alva, the latter and his wife, Violet Alva, being Members of Parliament representing the Indian National Congress. She has acknowledged this encouragement, saying that "I never had to face any family constraints on my political activities" and she has also said that the death of Violet in 1969 provided the impetus. She aligned herself with the Congress (Indira) faction led by Indira Gandhi and worked for its state unit in Karnataka. She served as Joint Secretary of the All India Congress Committee between 1975 and 1977 and as General Secretary of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee between 1978 and 1980.

**Rajya Sabha:**

In April 1974, Alva had been elected to the Rajya Sabha as a representative of Congress. She served a six-year term and was then re-elected for a further three six-year terms, in 1980, 1986 and 1992. During her time in the Rajya Sabha, she was its vice-chairman (1983-85) and also served terms as Union Minister of State in the ministries for Parliamentary Affairs (1984-85) and for Youth and Sports and Women and Child Development, an arm of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
She also served on various House committees, which garnered her, a considerable degree of procedural expertise, and was briefly Minister for Science and Technology.\textsuperscript{32}

In her HRD role, between 1985 and 1989,\textsuperscript{6} Alva oversaw the Rajiv Gandhi-led government's 28-point plan intended to improve the rights and involvement of women and children. In addition, she made proposals for various development corporations for women, only some of which materialized, and also campaigned for a greater prominence of women in government and in her party's official posts. Her 1989 proposal that 33 per cent of seats in panchayat raj (local government) elections should be reserved for women became law in 1993 and, according to Laura Jenkins, "marked a further shift from the former abhorrence of reservations as a nationally divisive policy".\textsuperscript{33} She continued her efforts to improve the lot of women during her period as Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions and Parliamentary Affairs (1991 and 1993-96, where she tried to increase the number of female officeholders in various ministries and government organizations, such as the Union Public Service Commission and the judiciary.\textsuperscript{34}

Alva has also been involved with women's issues and related matters such as population growth on the international stage, notably through various United Nations bodies and in writings.\textsuperscript{35}

**Lok Sabha:**

Alva was elected to the 13th Lok Sabha as a Member of Parliament in 1999, serving a five-year term. She lost a subsequent re-election attempt in the Uttara Kannada constituency.\textsuperscript{36} Between 2004 and 2009, she served as General Secretary of
the All India Congress Committee and was an advisor to the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies & Training, a government body that works with newly elected parliamentary representatives at both national and state level.

**Governorships:**

In November 2008, Alva said that Congress seats for the elections in Karnataka were open to bidders rather than subject to meritocratic appointment. Congress denied her claims and a meeting with the party president, Sonia Gandhi resulted in Alva resigning or being removed from her numerous official responsibilities in the party. Subsequently, Alva patched up her differences with Congress leadership. She has declined to go into details of the 2008 controversy even as her resignation letter continues to be a subject of media speculation.

On 6 August 2009, Alva became the first female Governor of Uttarakhand. Although she said then that she was enthusiastic about the challenges facing the nascent state, she found herself sidelined outside national politics and frustrated by the Bharatiya Janata Party state government. She remained in the post until May 2012, at which time she was appointed Governor of Rajasthan, which was a more important region in political terms. Of her time in Uttarakhand, Alva said that "The quietude allowed me to recharge my batteries and even spare some time for working on my biography". The autobiography is not expected to appear until after her retirement.

The move to Rajasthan relieved Shivraj Patil, the Governor of Punjab, of his temporary adjunct responsibility for that state which had arisen due to the death of the incumbent governor, Prabha Rau, in April 2010.
SMT. TARADEVI:

Even the legacy of Gandhis hasn't helped the prospects of women in Karnataka. Way back in 1978, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi chose Karnataka for her political re-birth. After losing in Rae Bareli in 1977, she contested from Chikmagalur and got elected, to return as prime minister two years later. Twenty-one years later, her daughter-in-law Sonia Gandhi successfully contested from Bellary.

The number of women elected to Parliament from the state is grossly inadequate. Election of Basavarajeshwari, Taradevi Siddharth and Margaret Alva has been a silver lining; as they went on to serve as Union ministers.

SMT. SAROJANI MAHISHI:

Sarojini Mahishi is a former Union Minister of India, Educationist and a Literary Figure hailing from Karnataka state and is known for submitting Dr. Sarojini Mahishi Report, which recommends major percentage of employment in Karnataka should be reserved to local people.

The Ramakrishna Hegde government appointed her in 1983 to head the committee which recommended a certain percentage of jobs to Kannadigas in public sector undertakings, private companies and multinational companies. Pro Kannada lobby groups such as Karnataka Rakshana Vedike have been pressurizing the implementation of Dr. Sarojini Mahishi Report in Karnataka.

The committee headed by Dr. Mahishi consisted four retired I.A.S. officers and the members of the committee were Prof. Gopala Krishna Adiga, G.K.Satya,
Salient features of the report:

The committee was constituted in 1983, submitted interim report on 13.6.1984 and final report on 30.12.1986 and it made 58 recommendations. Of these recommendations, Government of Karnataka accepted 45 recommendations for implementation. Some of the recommendations are: 100 per cent reservation for Kannadigas in all State Government establishments and Public Sector units. 100 percent reservation for Kannadigas in group 'c' and group’d’ jobs in Central Government departments and PSUs operating in Karnataka. A Minimum of 80 percent and 65 reservation for Kannadigas for Group 'b' and Group 'a' jobs respectively, in Central Government units and PSUs operating in Karnataka. All Personnel officers in all industrial units in the state should invariably be a Kannadiga. Industries should appoint local people on priority.

Consequences:

The Sarojini Mahishi report has become a tool for local organizations to insist all jobs in Karnataka to locals and implementation of local language in the state. Government of Karnataka has established a separate department named "Kannada Abhivridhi Pradhikara" to oversee that the accepted recommendations of the report are implemented in Karnataka effectively.

Position held:

- Member of Rajya Sabha
- Vice Chairperson of Rajya Sabha(1982–84)
• 4 time member of Loksabha from Dharwad North constituency
• President of Sansadiya Hindi Parishad
• President of Delhi Karnataka Sangha

More than 12 women became state ministers in Karnataka ministry who include the following…

• Smt Rani Satish
• Smt Suma Vasanth
• Smt Nafeeza Fazal
• Smt B.T. Lalita Naik
• Smt Eva Vas
• Shivakantha Chature
• Smt Leelavati Magadi V
• Smt Basavarajeshwari
• Smt Pushapavati
• Smt Nagamma Keshavamurthy
• Smt Renuka Rajendran
• Smt Leeladevi R Prasad

❖ SMT. RANI SATISH:

Congress leader Rani Satish, who took up the cause of Lingayats’ pent up ire against KPCC President G. Parameshwara with the party high command in New Delhi, said that party chief Sonia Gandhi made it clear that it would not be proper for her to receive caste delegations. Rani Satish, when contacted by Deccan Herald on Thursday, “Firstly, she was very busy. Secondly, she said that it would not be proper
for her to receive caste delegations like ours, as it would compel her to meet
degocations led by leaders of other castes. Hence she asked me to brief her political
secretary,” she said. Rani Satish said that it was imperative for the party to change the
leadership in the State, as it would be the “best strategy” to adopt before the
elections.45

“We have nothing against Parameshwara. But, we need to address the fact that
many Lingayat leaders have defected to BJP, which has impacted the party adversely.
Further there is no proper Lingayat representation at both the national and State level.
Another factor that the party can cash is on is the fact the Lingayat religious leaders
are not comfortable with former chief minister B S Yeddyurappa calling the shots,”
she said. Rani Satish, former minister and KPCC vice-president, was the only
member of the Lingayat delegation that was allowed to meet Sonia in New Delhi two
days ago. The AICC Chief, who did not receive even a memorandum from the
degocation which had nearly 40 members, asked them to meet Ahmed Patel, her
political secretary. Congress MLA P M Ashok said that talks with Patel had been
successful. “I am hundred per cent sure that our demand will be met. We have no
issues even if Parameshwara is made the chief minister. But there should be a
representation to Lingayat at the party level.” It is learnt that the Lingayat leaders
said if the High Command failed to yield to their demand, the leaders have decided to
press for bringing either CLP leader Siddaramaiah or Union Labour Minister
Mallikarjun Kharge in as the KPCC president. A second “smaller” and “non-
Lingayat” delegation is said to go to Delhi in another ten days and meet with senior
working committee members including Gulam Nabi Azad and Janardhan Dwivedi.45
SMT. SUMA VASANTH:

The reason behind the defeat of former minister Suma Vasanth in the elections could be attributed to the long standing differences prevailing in the taluk Congress. Ms Suma Vasanth contested from Virajpet reserve constituency of Mangalore Lok Sabha seeking re-elections. But however, she was defeated with a margin of 8,000 votes. The long standing differences in the taluk Congress could be responsible for the former minister’s defeat. Among the three MLAs of Kodagu district, the constituency belonging to Suma Vasanth has witnessed a number of developmental works. However, this has not helped Suma Vasanth to win the elections. The fact which was not favorable to her was the brimming dissidence prevailing in the taluk Congress, which finally won an upper hand in the elections. The dissidence came to fore during the elections to the Legislative Council. However, district leaders, including Suma Vasanth, personally could not eliminate these differences. And the results of the same is evident in the present elections. For the first time, the dissidence was noticed during the elections for the Legislative Council, when supporter of Suma Vasanth, Mr Arun Machaiah contested as a rebel Congress candidate. Once he was elected from the local bodies to the Legislative Council, this further paved way for differences within the taluk Congress. Since, a group of supporters of Mr Arun Machaiah started lashing out on Suma Vasanth’s performance. They started criticising her and flaunted openly that they were the only true Congressmen. Neither the taluk Congress nor the district Congress tried to clear this confusions. It can also be recalled that Arun Machaiah and his supporters supported H D Basavaraju of BJP during the elections and rebelled against Suma Vasanth. Apart from this, his supporters also claimed publicly that, to defeat Suma Vasanth in the elections was their sole aim. The victory of the BJP in the
elections could be attributed to the support extended by the supporters of Arun Machaiah to a large extent. Once the dates for the elections were announced, the supporters of Arun Machaiah began propagating against Suma Vasanth, by holding meetings. Also the supporters also alleged that Suma Vasanth had neglected true Congressmen. The district Congress leaders also failed to give a convincing reply to the people in turn, nor tried to clear the confusions created by these supporters. The Congress leaders also failed to take a serious note of the various allegations made against a Minister. It wouldn’t be wrong to state that this could also be one of the important reasons for the defeat of Suma Vasanth in the elections.48

❖ SMT. NAFIS FATHIMA

Born 6 April 1963, is a Member of Board of Management of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka49 and the Secretary of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.50 She is also the President of Karnataka Cancer Society,51 (an NGO working for the early detection and cure of Cancer by conducting various camps, talks etc. for the underprivileged) and an activist of the Indian National Congress.52 She had been the General Secretary of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee 53 from 1999 to 2002.

Personal Information:

Nafis Fathima was born in Bangalore and she completed her Bachelor's in Science from Nijalingappa College of Arts, Science & Commerce where she was a student leader. She later did her Master's in Arts with Political Science as her subject.54 She was married to Mr. Noor Ahamed Shariff on 9 January 1983 and has one son.
Political biography:

She had entered active politics in the year 1990, when she had contested to the elections of the Bangalore City Corporation thereafter she has been actively participating in the activities of the Indian National Congress in Karnataka beginning from the block level as the President of the Women's wing and became the state General Secretary (KPCC) under the President-ship of Mr. S.M. Krishna. She has held various positions of the party, and is now the Secretary of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

She has held various positions like the Vice-President of the Karnataka State Industrial Bank Ltd., Member of Programme Committee, Doordarshan, Bangalore, Member of ZRUCC, Southern Railways, Member of Advisory Committee, All India Radio, and Member of the Family Planning Association of India.

She is the minister of The SM Krishna’s Cabinet of 1999 has so far had the maximum number (four) of women legislators - Motamma, Rani Satish, Suma Vasanth and Nafeeza Fazal - in the state.

Hon’ble Minister for Medical Education Smt. Nafeeza Fazal on their visit to the hospital during the Independence Day Celebration of 2000 praised the hospital of its cleanliness and said it was one the Best Maintained Hospital.
POSITIONS HELD:

Party positions:

- President, Malleswaram West Mahila Congress Committee (I) from 1991 to 1995.
- General Secretary Malleswaram West Congress Committee (I) from 1992 to 1995.
- Joint Secretary, KPCC (I) Minority Cell from 1997 to 2002.
- General Secretary, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (I).
- Member KPCC., Hebbal Block from 2002 to 2005.
- Co-opted member to the KPCC from 2005 to 2010.

Other Positions

- Member, All India Handicrafts Board (under the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India).
- Member of the Board of Management of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.
- Member, Family Planning Association of India, Bangalore.
- Programme Co-ordinator for INTUC., Danida Programmes, New Delhi.
- Member of Programme Committee, Doordarshan, Bangalore.
- Member of ZRUCC, Southern Railways.
- Member of Advisory Committee, All India Radio, Bangalore.
- President of the Karnataka Cancer Society.
- Vice President of Karnataka State Industrial Bank Ltd.
- President of the Yelahanka Local Association of Bharath Scouts and Guides.
B.T. LALITHA NAIK:

She is an Indian politician, writer, and social activist. A former minister in the Government of Karnataka, she has written 16 books and acted in some films and tele serials. Winner of the Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award in 1991, she is known for her short fiction collection, *Habba mattu Bali* ("Festival and the Sacrifice"), the novel *Gati* ("Fate") and the poetry collections, *Ide Koogu Matte Matte* ("The Same Cry Again and Again") and *Bidiru Mele Kantiyali* ("In the Bamboo Thicket"). Naik has served as an MLC (1986-1992), MLA (1994-1999) and as Minister for Kannada, Culture, and Department of Women & Child Welfare. She is also known for leading important literary, social and language-rights movements such as Bandaya movement and Gokak agitation.  

While serving as MLC (1986–1992) Naik joined the Janata Dal, inspired by the socialist ideals of Shantaveri Gopala Gowda and Jayaprakash Narayan. In 1994 she was elected MLA from Devadurga constituency, Raichur on a Janata Dal ticket, and was made Minister for Kannada, Culture, and Department of Women & Child Welfare in the J. H. Patel government.  

Barely two years into her tenure as minister, her son Vishwajit was accused of defiling the statue of B.R. Ambedkar at B.R. Ambedkar Medical College, Bangalore. Though subsequent investigations revealed the allegations to be baseless, she was forced to step down at that time. She also served as the President of Women's Janata Dal. After the split of Janata Dal in 1999 into Janata Dal (Secular) and Janata Dal (United), she joined Janata Dal (Secular) headed by H.D. Deve Gowda. She was a member of its National Executive. Later she quit Janata Dal (Secular) over Gowda's decision to form alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party. She later joined Janata Party, but left it in
2004. Subsequently she joined the Welfare Party of India and served as its National Vice President. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections she contested from the Gulbarga constituency on an Aam Aadmi Party ticket and lost to Mallikarjun Kharge.

Naik is the recipient of numerous awards and honours including 'the Best Legislator' honour (1987), the Karnataka Rajyotsava award (1991), Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award (1991), Rajiv Gandhi National Unity Award (1995), Mahila Ratna Award (2003), Daana Chintamani Prashasthi of Karnataka Government (2007), Kannada Shree Award (2010), Alvas Nudisiri Award (2011) and Karnataka Choodamani (2011). Recognizing her contribution to Kannada literature and Social Work she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Kuvempu University in 2009–10.

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SMT. EVA VAS:

She was the former cabinet minister, state of karanataka daughter of the late Jerome Pereira and Margret Lobo.

She held the cabinet minister’s post in the Devaraj urs cabinet from 1972 to 1977. Earlier, she was only woman corporator of Banglore city from 1969 to 1971.

SMT. BASAVARAJESHWARI:

Basavarajeshwari (1921 or 22-2008) was an Indian politician from Bellary, Karnataka. She belonged to the Lingayat Community and was the Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development in the P.V. Narasimha Rao Minisitry.

The former Union Minister Basavarajeshwari died here on Tuesday after a prolonged illness. She was 86.
Ms. Basavarajeshwari, whose political career lasted 40 years, was the Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development in the P.V. Narasimha Rao Ministry. She also served as a Deputy Minister between 1962 and 1967 and was a member of the Legislative Council for one term. She won the Bellary Lok Sabha seat three times in a row. She began her career as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in 1957 from Lingasugur in Raichur district, and was re-elected for the second term when she held the post of Deputy Minister for five years. She was later elected as the Member of the Legislative Council (1977-84).

She performed a hat-trick of sorts by winning the Bellary Lok Sabha seat thrice in 1984, 1989 and 1991 and was inducted into the P.V. Narasimha Rao Ministry. As the Union Minister, Ms. Basavarajeshwari represented the country at the World Women’s Conference held at Beijing in China.

She kept a low profile after she was denied the Congress ticket to contest in the Lok Sabha elections from Bellary in 1996 and floated a trust, for which she was the chairperson. It started several educational institutions, including an engineering college, a polytechnic and an ITI.

In 2004, Ms. Basavarajeshwari joined the BJP and campaigned for the party not only in Bellary but also in the neighbouring districts.

She is survived by four sons and four daughters. The last rites would be performed at her native village Gejjalagatta in Sindhanoor taluk on Wednesday, according to family sources.
SMT. RENUKA RAJENDRAN:

A former Minister, Renuka Rajendran, had been arrested by the police in a case of cheating a youth who had applied for a post of police sub-inspector. She stood trial in 1981 along with her husband, a government official. They were acquitted by the magistrate R.G. Vaidyanatha.

In the political history of Karnataka, R Gundu Rao’s regime as chief minister (1980-83) has left behind cruel memories. To recall just a couple of incidents: Farmers in Naragund in north Karnataka were gunned down, and over 200 children died of burns when they were watching Venus Circus.

Even corrupt politicians were stunned at the brazenness of Gundu Rao. He used to say, “I am a chicken-eating Brahmin.” His liaison with his cabinet colleague Renuka Rajendran had given rise to gossip. It appeared like he was working hard to earn a negative image.

Amidst all the turbulence, a blood-curdling case of human sacrifice rocked the government. It all started with the lock-up death of the evil sadhu Lakshmana Giri.

SMT. LEELADEVI R PRASAD:

According to Leeladevi R Prasad Every women has to fight for their right and enter in all fields to achieve women empowerment. Instead of complaining about men’s women should build their confidence level and face the world to achieve. The cream of women is here with the launch of Cowe- Karnataka Chapter. Is house wife not a entrepreneur? Is it that she works without any encumbrance? Women are powerful with their intent of dedication, sacrifice and growth of the company with her
will power. Unless we have economic power whether small or big is important along with will power. Inspired by her talks women take courage as they are Home minister at home running the daily routines without any glitch, Education Minister at home teaching the children’s the facts of life, Finance minister at home running the finances within the purview of the budgets. Why not with all this qualities a women can run an enterprises more efficiently than men. The moment of the day is to build women enterprises society and all women folk join together and share their views to console each other and bring about a change in the society towards betterment of women. She contested from Athani in the year of 1985. The former Minister Leeladevi R. Prasad has criticised political parties that are opposing the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha. Speaking after inaugurating a function where women achievers in different fields were honoured by the Development of Women and Child Urban Association here on Wednesday, Ms. Prasad said these vested interests were opposed to women's progress. She said women had proved that they were not inferior to men in any way, with many making a mark in various fields. The 33 per cent reservation proposed for women in all elected bodies would provide new direction to parliamentary democracy.

**Problem faced:**

Referring to the phenomenal growth of self-help groups (SHGs) run by women in rural and urban areas in the State, Ms. Prasad said one of the major problems they encountered was the lack of proper marketing facilities for goods manufactured by them. The State Government should take the initiative to set up a proper and permanent marketing mechanism in district headquarters. Ms. Prasad said SHGs had given new hope and confidence to women, particularly in rural areas.
Women were now, as a result, able to stand on their own and support their families. Renuka Veerasomeshwara Shivacharyaru of the Rambhapuri Math, who felicitated the achievers, said it was unfortunate that women, who were placed on a high pedestal by Indian society, were being used as objects in advertisements in the media.65 “The media should desist from projecting women in bad taste. This is not our culture,” he added. Vice-president of the Gulbarga Zilla Panchayat Jayashree Sajjanshetty, Syndicate member of the Women's University, Bijapur, Indira Shakti, and Deputy Superintendent of Police Madhura Veena spoke.

❖ SHOBHA KARANDLAJE

Born October 23, 1966, she is a politician from Karnataka and is a member of the 16th Lok Sabha of India representing the Udupi-Chickmagalur constituency. She was a cabinet minister in the Government of Karnataka.66

Hailing from Puttur in Coastal Karnataka, Shobha became associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh at a very early age, one of the many women full-time workers of the Sangh parivar. When she decided to join politics, the RSS gave her the initial thrust. She served the Bharatiya Janata Party organisation in various capacities before being elected as an MLC in 2004. She was elected as MLA from Yeswanthpur, Bangalore in May, 2008 and was appointed as the minister for rural development and Panchayat Raj in the B.S. Yeddyurappa government. She was lauded for her performance as the RDPR minister and came to be known as a good administrator. She resigned in 2009 due to a political crisis but was re-instated in 2010 and was entrusted with the energy portfolio. She was the power minister in the Jagadish Shettar government and also had the additional charge of the food and civil supplies department.
She contested the Indian general election, 2014 from Udupi Chikmagalur (Lok Sabha constituency) and won by a huge margin of 1.84 Lakh Votes.

❖ SMT. SHIVAKANTA CHATURE:

Shivakanta Chature won from Hulsoor (reserved) in the 1985 elections and became a Minister in the Ramakrishna Hegde Cabinet. The Janata Dal Secular (JDS) is the only party to have fielded a woman to contest the Assembly elections in the district, which has six Assembly segments. Rajashri Swami, a former zilla panchayat president (1996-99), is contesting from the Bidar Assembly constituency. The only other woman candidate in the district is Bhagirathi, who is contesting as an independent candidate from Basavakalyan. Ms. Swami is up against a formidable opponent, Gurupadappa Nagamarapalli of the Congress. Raheem Khan of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Raghunathrao Malkapure of the Bharatiya Janata Party are also in the fray in the Bidar constituency.

Shivakanta Chature won from Hulsoor (reserved) in the 1985 elections and became a Minister in the Ramakrishna Hegde Cabinet. She contested again in 1989, but lost. Shobha Vijay contested unsuccessfully as a Bahujan Samaj Party candidate from Bhalki in 1989.

❖ SMT. LEELAVATI MAGADI:

This is an unusual story of a minister and the scruples of a bygone area -- a rarity in contemporary political milieu. It happened with Late Leelavati Magadi, a Gandhian, who was a Minister of State for Small Scale Industries and Khadi in the Jatti Ministry (1958-62).
Sometime after assuming charge, Magadi felt the need to have a car of her own as she was feeling uncomfortable in using the government car for her personal work. But the problem was that she could not afford it.

Then came the government order which said that ministers desiring to have a car for their personal use could get one from government quota. She grabbed the opportunity. But she had only half of Rs.13,000 required for the purpose.

And she was not willing to ask her husband the balance. She managed to get a handloan from an acquaintance. When her tenure came to end, she was stuck with the car purchased and loan for the same remaining uncleared, though the acquaintance had not asked for the money.

She quietly sold the car and returned the loan much to the surprise of the acquaintance. “There was no need for you to return the money. I had never given it as a loan,” said the acquaintance. Magadi stood her ground insisting on repayment.

Another occasion arose when a Bombay-based (now Mumbai) industrialist evinced interest in industrial estates being formed in the districts by the government. As the proposal was meant for promoting local entrepreneurs she refused to oblige him despite the sufficient hints thrown that she could be adequately “compensated” for the gesture.

The industrialist sought the intercession of her father Sardar Veerana Gouda Patil, a veteran Gandhian, with a promise that any help received would be compensated handsomely with donation for the Mahila Vidyapeetha, Hubli, an educational institution being run by him. But still Magadi refused to consider the “offer”.
Another piquant situation arose when the government decided to purchase khadi to meet its requirement. The question was who should be entrusted with the task. The obvious choice was her husband, Venkatesh Magadi, who headed a State-level federation of khadi institutions. Instead of giving the responsibility to the federation with which her husband was connected, Magadi opted for decentralisation of the purchases among the different district khadi units.

She risked losing the seat held by her in 1967 from Shirahatti constituency, rather than meet the demand for money made by some villages. She lost the election but did not regret it.

All these nuggets are contained in a book on her which was released at a function to unveil her statue at the Karnataka Khadi Gramodyoya Samyukta Sangha here on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Surendra Dani, former Editor of Samyukta Karnataka and author of the book, said that these incidents had been recorded so that they could inspire posterity to recapture the values in public life which were fast vanishing.

❖ SMT. PUSHAPAVATHI:

She is also one of kannadian politician of Karnataka state. She was also state minister of Karnataka state.

❖ SMT. NAGAMMA KESHAVAMURTHY:

Congress leader and former minister Nagamma Keshavamurthy today announced that she was resigning as the State president of Congress women’s wing, as well as from the party membership. Disclosing this at a press conference in
Davangere on Thursday she said, she was resigning as the women’s wing president owning moral responsibility for her inability to secure substantial number of nominations for women candidates in the first list for April 20 elections in the State. She said she was sending her resignation letter to the party leadership on Thursday. However, she did not reveal anything about her next move. She said she had not yet decided about the future course of action. Ms Keshavamurthy said it was not good for any party to neglect women voters who constituted almost half of the total electorate.

She said she was deeply hurt by the Congress’ utter disregard for women as reflected in its list of 118 candidates for 120 assembly segments in which only two women had been accommodated. The name of Nagamma Keshavamurthy, an aspirant for Mayakonda assembly ticket also does not figure in the first list, though she is the party’s State women’s wing president. A visibly upset Nagamma Keshavamurthy said the KPCC was asked by the women’s wing of the party to reserve a minimum of 20 per cent of the seats for women in the coming elections. The party leadership had assured to give tickets to at least one woman candidate from each district. Unfortunately, the party leadership including AICC general secretary Vilasrao Deshmukh, who was in charge of Congress affairs in Karnataka, did not keep up the promise, she added. She remembered that the Congress gave tickets to 16 women candidates of which 7 had won in the previous elections. But, all of them were unlikely to get tickets this time, she added. After the Congress list was announced, a number of disgruntled women candidates were calling her up every day to express their disappointment for failing to get the party ticket, Ms Keshavamurthy revealed adding “I don’t know how to answer them. Women who have worked all these years for the Congress have been disappointed by the party’s attitude. Their choking voice
tells it all’’. Ms Keshavamurthy, a former cabinet minister in the Veerappa Moily government and former Deputy Speaker said, as the State president of the party’s women’s wing, she fought for the cause of women at every level. But now, she had realised the fact that women within the party did not come under the purview of social justice. “That is why I’m quitting the party,’’ she added.

Ms Nagamma Keshavamurthy was of the opinion that the disregard for women candidates in the State unit could not have been shown without the tacit approval of AICC president Sonia Gandhi. But, she refused to comment on the role of the local party elements in ensuring that she did not get ticket from Mayakonda constituency.

“That you all know,’’ she told mediapersons. She was also quick to add that denial of a ticket to her for the second time was not the sole reason for her quitting the Congress.

She said she had done a satisfying job during her tenure as minister for industries and education. She had been a loyal party worker since her entry to the Congress 36 years ago. “But, loyalty, sincerity and good work do not seem to have any value these days’’ she rued. Her husband and former councillor Keshavamurthy was also present

**Similarly a few women got to the loksabha those are as fallow…**

- Smt Basavarajeshwari
- Smt Margret Alva
- Smt Sarojani Mahishi
- Sudha Reddy
- Smt Tejashwini Ramesh
- Kum. Shobha Karandlaje
DR. TEJASHWINI GOWDA:

Born 11 November 1966, is a member of the 14th Lok Sabha of India. She represents the Bangalore Rural constituency of Karnataka and is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) political party. She was born in Doddarayappanahalli-Kanivenarayanapura. On 3/13/2014 she quit INC and joined BJP.69

Early Life and Education:

Tejashwini was born on 11 November 1966 to Muinajappa and Munithayamma at Doddarayappanahalli, near Kanivenarayanapura in Bangalore Rural district. She holds a masters degree in Political Science and a bachelor's degree in Law from Vivekanda Law College, Bangalore. She is also a Philosophical Doctor from Bangalore University. She married Sreeramesh on 12 May 2000. She has a son and a daughter. 70

Life as a Journalist:

Before joining politics, Tejashwini was a research scholar and used to write on various aspects of life and society. She has also traveled into the tribal belts of Chhattisgarh and Bastar to produce television documentaries.

Her popularity among the crowds increased immensely after she started to host the chart show "Mukha Mukhi" (in Kannada it means face to face). Her popularity started to increase after she interviewed many political personalities. Her chat show was able to increase the popularity due to its content, which asked questions related to politicians inter-party squabbling and corruption.
**Electoral Performance:**

Taking the advantage of her popularity, before the 14th Loksabha elections, Tejashwini joined the Indian National Congress. She was fielded against the former prime minister of India H D Deve Gowda in the Kanakapura (Bangalore-Rural) Lok Sabha constituency. She was given the ticket from the Congress party on the last day of nominations. She was able to win the a margin of over one lakh votes. Also in the contest was Bharatiya Janata Party's leader Ramachandra Gowda. She was the candidate of INC from the BangaloreRural Constituency in the General Elections 2009.

**SMT. SUDHA REDDY:**

Former MP Sudha V. Reddy recalled their association with former Vice-President. I am also connected with the national movement on land reforms and water rights which is of particular importance to farmers and women. In the present political context, India is seized by divisive forces for political gains in the guise of religious nationalism. There is an urgent need for deepening the secular values and meaningful inter religious dialogue for peace. We also know that the present dominant paradigm of development is doomed to failure and will marginalize and exclude people even more.

My association with the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World has enriched me with a global understanding of issues. I realize that we must simultaneously work for change at local, national and international levels. Through the Alliance I have been participating in the intercultural dialogue between India and China.
It has been a very challenging and a creative journey to be a part of the Charter of Human Responsibilities.

DIVYA SPANDANA (RAMYA)

Bborn 29 November 1982, known by her stage name Ramya, is an Indian film actress and was a Member of Parliament from Mandya constituency in Karnataka. She predominantly acts in Kannada films and also appears in Tamil and Telugu films. After winning the by-election she was also the youngest Member of Parliament in India at the time.

Ramya made her acting debut in the 2003 Kannada-language film Abhi, opposite Puneet Rajkumar. She subsequently starred in several Kannada films alongside lead actors and, following successive commercial successes, established herself as one of the most sought-after actresses in the Kannada film industry, becoming referred to as the "Golden Girl of Kannada cinema" and 'Sandalwood Queen'. Based on an online poll conducted by The Times of India, Ramya won the Best Actor Female award for Sanju Weds Geetha. She won Filmfare Best Actress Award twice for her roles in Tananam Tananam (2006) and Sanju Weds Geetha(2011) films. She also won Karnataka State Film Award for Best Actress for Sanju Weds Geetha (2011).

Early life:

Ramya was born in Bangalore, Karnataka on 29 November 1982. Her mother is Ranjitha Mandya Boraiah and her foster father is R T Narayan. Her parents originally hail from Mandya. In August 2013, a person named B C Venkatesh Babu claimed that he is biological father of Ramya, and he had filed a petition in court.
regarding the paternity issue in April 2014. JD(S) Legislator M. Srinivas has even called her a test-tube baby during Mandya Lok Sabha by-polls when Ramya didn’t mention her father's name in the nomination papers. Ramya said that her grandfather is G S Bore Gowda. Though it is also claimed that her father is S. M. Krishna. She studied at St. Hilda's school in Ooty, and in Sacred Heart School (Church Park), Chennai, Tamil Nadu. She pursued her graduation at St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bangalore.

Career:

Ramya has said that the first film offered to her was Ninagagi that eventually starred Radhika. Ramya was not chosen for the role citing her weight at that time. Radhika She was then supposed to make her debut in Puneet Rajkumar's first film Appu. She made her acting debut in the 2003 Kannada-language film Abhi, alongside Puneet Rajkumar. The same year, she had another release in Kannada with Excuse Me, which also did well at the box office, and also stepped into Telugu filmdom with the film Abhimanyu.

In 2004, Spandana debuted in the Tamil film industry, also under the name Ramya, with the film Kuththu alongside Silambarasan Rajendar, which managed only a mediocre run at the box office as did her next Tamil film Giri. Her debut film, however, gave her the name 'Kuthu' Ramya, by which she was then popularly known in Tamil Nadu. She had two releases in Kannada as well, Ranga S. S. L. C. and Kanti, out of which the latter, a love story set against the backdrop of borders and language issues, was declared a major success. In 2005 she had four releases, all being Kannada films, with the latter three films Aakash, Gowramma and Amrithadhare becoming
major box-office successes, whilst also garnering critical acclaim for Ramya's performance and establishing her as a leading actress in Karnataka.

In 2006 she starred in Julie, a remake of the same-titled 1975 Hindi-language film. She essayed the role of a single, unwed mother in the film, which failed to attract audiences. After her following release, Datta did average business at the box office, her next Kannada release, Jothe Jotheyali was a successful venture, in spite of largely unfavorable reviews by critics. Her final 2006 release, Kavitha Lankesh's Tananam Tananam, an average grosser that released to mixed reviews, fetched Ramya her first Filmfare Award for Best Actress. She had described her role in the film as "little complex" and "challenging." In 2007, Ramya starred in three feature films; the first releasing, Arasu, co-starring Puneet Rajkumar and Meera Jasmine, was a huge hit. She then appeared as a sex worker, which was made in order to create awareness about AIDS and was part of Mira Nair's AIDS Jaago project. Her fourth 2007 release was Polladhavan, where she acted against Dhanush. The film, released during the 2007 Deepavali period, was considered a dark horse success and made possible Ramya's breakthrough in Tamil. Rajinikanth was all praises for the entire crew of Polladhavan.

Her first 2008 release, the Kannada film Mussanjemaatu with Sudeep, was a big hit, for which she also received a nomination for a Best Actress Award at the 56th Filmfare Awards South. Her next film was the Tamil film Thoondil. Ramya later stated that she regretted accepting the film. Later that year, she starred in the films Bombaat and Anthu Inthu Preethi Banthu, with the former becoming declared a "super hit" as well. Her final release in 2008 was Gautham Menon's Vaaranam Aayiram for which she changed her screen name to her actual name Divya again,
which is believed to have brought her more luck. She had also dubbed in her own voice for Vaaranam Aayiram, which became a high critical as well as commercial success. She did not have any releases in 2009, since both her films Bhimoos Bang Bang Kids and Jothegaara got delayed heavily due to financial problems.

Her first release of 2010 Just Math Mathalli which released on January 26, 2010 was a huge success and it also received rave reviews. Her role in the film was also very much appreciated. She had two more releases that year, the long delayed Jothegaara eventually, and Kiccha Huccha. Her next release was the Tamil film Singam Puli opposite Jeeva, which released to mixed reviews, following which the romantic drama Sanju Weds Geetha released. The film opened to highly positive reviews, with Ramya being unanimously praised by critics for her performance, which was widely considered her best or one of her best in her career. She has completed shooting for Dandam Dashagunam, a Kannada remake of Kaakha Kaakha, and Kadhal 2 Kalyanam in Tamil, starring alongside a newcomer Sathya, while currently working on the comedy drama Siddalingu, in which she portrays the role of a school teacher. In August 2013, Ramya announced that she may quit acting if she wins the election, in order to pursue a career in politics.

Political career:

Ramya joined the Indian Youth Congress in 2011. Ramya became the Indian National Congress’ Member of Parliament from Mandya constituency in Karnataka by winning the by-election in 2013. In the 2014 Indian General Election, she again contested from Mandya but lost her seat to C. S. Puttaraju of the Janata Dal (Secular) party.
Other work:

In 2013, Ramya will be making her debut in the small screen in a television serial, *Ashwini Nakshatra*. Ramya will be seen in the role of a sutradhar in the serial, making an appearance every day in the first week, and she will go on to introduce the main characters of the serial.

**J. SHANTHA**

She is an Indian politician and a Member of Parliament in the 15th Lok Sabha of India. She represents the Bellary constituency of Karnataka and is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party political party.  

Early life: Shantha was born in Bellary, Karnataka. Her highest attained education is intermediate.

Political career:

Shantha, is the elected Member of Parliament from a constituency which is reserved for scheduled tribe's candidates.

Posts held:

- 2009-2014 – Member 15th lok Sabha
- 2009-2014 – Member, Committee on Water resource.

However, as far as the legislature is concerned women have served as the speakers, Deputy Speakers of the state legislative Assembly and Chairpersons of the legislative council. They are,  

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1. Speaker;
   • Smt K.S Nagarathnamma

2. Deputy Speaker
   • Smt . Nagamma Keshava Murthy
   • Smt Sumathi Madiman

3. Chairperson
   • Smt Basavarajeshwari

4. Deputy Chairperson
   • Smt M.R Lakshmamma
   • Smt Rani Satish

Some women served as a member of state Assembly and council… those are as follow

**ANURADHA(TARA)**

Known by her stage name Tara is a south Indian film actress who primarily works in Kannada films and a politician with the Bharatiya Janata Party. On March 15, 2012, Tara was elected as a chief president for the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy (KCA) making her the first ever actor to hold the position. Tara has featured in over 500 commercial and Parallel Cinema.

Known for her strong author backed roles, Tara has won the Best Actress award in the 2005 National Film Awards for her role in the film Hasina, which also received the Best Film on Family Welfare award. It was her first major recognition in a film career spanning over two decade’s long. Besides Kannada, she has acted in few Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam films as well.
Career:

Tara made her first appearance on screen for a Tamil film Ingeyum Oru Gangai directed by noted actor, Manivannan, in 1984 which also featured Murali in the lead. Followed by this, she featured in her first Kannada film Thulasidala in 1985. However, she got a big break of her career through a Rajkumar starrer Guri in 1986 and thereafter she has acted in several movies as a leading lady and mainly as supporting actress. Her performance in Girish Karnad's Kanooru Heggadithi, which brought her widespread recognition. She received her first ever award as best actress for the Kannada movie Krama(1991), directed by debutant director Asrar Abid. In the late 1980s, she featured in Mani Ratnam's two of the biggest blockbuster Tamil films, Nayagan and Agni Natchathiram as a supporting actress. In 2005, she was cast by Girish Kasaravalli in his film Hasina, for which she won a National Award from Indian Government. Subsequently, her role in Kannada movie Deadly Somawas appreciated. Then came another breakthrough performance in the movie Cyanide the inside story. In 2007, Tara received her second Best Actress award. Besides acting, she produced Hasina, directed by Girish Kasaravalli and she has also announced intent to direct films as well.

VIMALA GOWDA

She is a leader of Bharatiya Janata Party and a member of Karnataka Legislative Council. She served as deputy chairperson of Karnataka Legislative Council from 2011 to 2014.
VIMALABAI DESHMUKH:

Vimlabhai Deshmukh, a JD-S candidate from Muddebihal constituency in Bijapur district, stands out in the male-dominated world of Karnataka politics. In the last four state elections, she has contested from the same constituency four times and won only once. Vimlabhai’s husband is the late J S Deshmukh, who served as the energy minister in the state cabinet led by Ramakrishna Hegde.

Incidentally, Hegde had contested the assembly elections four times and had won it only once. Vimlabhai, 64, says that it is not only about winning.

“I love my constituency. Whether I win or not, I can work for the people here. I contested this seat for the first time in 1994 after the death of my husband. I am appalled by the fact that political parties still believe that only men can work for their constituencies. Despite 33 per cent reservation for women, the number of women candidates is very negligible. A woman is capable of working well for her constituency and if given a chance, a honest candidate can do wonders,” she said.

Vimlabhai is the only woman politician in Karnataka who has held on to her constituency for such a long time.

ANITA KUMARA SWAMY:

Janata Dal-Secular leader Anitha Kumaraswamy contested for the first time from Tumkur Madhugiri in 2008 and won the elections. This time, she will contest from Channapatana neighbouring Ramanagar, from where her husband H D Kumaraswamy is contesting the elections. The JD-S has a better chance of winning in this region due to the pro-JDS wave generated by the Cauvery water dispute.
SHASHIKALA ANNASAHEB JOLLE

She is a member of the current Karnataka Legislative Assembly and a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Personal life:

Shashikala Jolle is current Member of Legislative assembly of Karnataka, she is born in 1969 to middle class parents. Shashikala Jolle is a social worker and founder of many education institutes including school for mentally challenged children.

Shashikala was elected to Karnataka Legislative assembly in 2013 election from Nippani constituency with 81,860 votes.

LAKSHMI HEBBALKAR

She is a renowned politician of Indian National Congress party in the Indian state of Karnataka. She has been chosen by her party to contest for the 16th Lok Sabha elections from the Belgaum constituency of Karnataka.

Personal life:

She has been married to Ravindra Hebbalkar and lives in Hindalga, Belgaum.

Political career:

She had contested for the Belgaum rural constituency in the 2013 Karnataka Legislative elections.
J. SHANTHA

She is an Indian politician and a Member of Parliament in the 15th Lok Sabha of India. She represents the Bellary constituency of Karnataka and is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party political party.

MALLIKA PRASAD (BHANDARY)

She is an Indian politician from Bharatiya Janata Party and she is the incumbent MLA representing the Puttur constituency.

In 2008 Karnataka assembly elections, she contested against Congress leader Bondala Jagannath Shetty, and won by a margin of 1425 votes.

SHANKUNTALA SHETTY:

She is a Indian Politician belonging to Indian National Congress party from State of Karanataka. She is a MLA from Puttur, Dakshina Kannada in Karanataka.

VIOLET HARI ALVA

April 24, 1908 - November 20, 1969, was an Indian lawyer and politician and Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. She was the first woman lawyer to appear before a High Court in India and the first to preside over the Rajya Sabha.

Early life:

Alva was born Violet Hari on April 24, 1908 in Ahmedabad. She was the eighth of nine children. Violet's father, Reverend Laxman Hari, was one of the first Indian pastors of the Church of England. Having lost both her parents when she was
sixteen, her older siblings provided for her education till her matriculation at Bombay's Clare Road Convent. She graduated from St. Xavier's College, Bombay and Government Law College. For a while thereafter, she was a professor of English at the Indian Women's University, Bombay.

In 1937, Violet married freedom fighter and later parliamentarian Joachim Alva. The couple set up legal practice together. In 1943, Violet Alva was arrested by British Indian authorities. Pregnant with her second son, Chittaranjan, Alva was imprisoned in Arthur Road Jail.

Career:

In 1952, Violet was elected to the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of the Indian Parliament. After the second Indian General Election in 1957, she became Deputy Minister of State for Home Affairs.

In 1962, Alva became the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, thereby becoming the first female to preside over the Rajya Sabha in its history.

In 1969, Alva resigned after Indira Gandhi declined to back Alva as Vice-President of India. She suffered a fatal cerebral haemorrhage three days later.

Personal life:

The couple had two sons, Niranjan and Chittaranjan, and a daughter, Maya. Niranjan Alva married Margaret Alva, parliamentarian and present Governor of Rajasthan.

Thus the representation given for women in karanataka state is totally inadequate. Women have been marginalized in karanataka politics.

Many reasons can be attributed to this state of affairs and more important of them are;

- Gender bias against women in karanataka Politics.
- Lack of courage and sportive nature among women to enter politics and demand their share.
- The prevalence of age-old superstitions by which women are ignored and marginalized in the state politics.
- General trend not in favors of encouraging women in the political field.

Some suggestions are made to improve women participation in the political field.

- Creating awareness among women to enter politics.
- Pressuring the political parties to give adequate representations for women nominations in the elections in the elections to the state legislature and parliament.
- Promoting women NGOs for training women Activists, so that they can enter politics at a later late.
- Economic empowerment of women so that they become economically strong to enter politics.
In addition to the above, women reservation should be able in the parliament and passed. This will give constitutional protection for women participation in politics.

The 225-member Karnataka assembly has just five women members, a mere 2.22% of the total. There needn't be any other statistic to reflect the importance given to the women in politics or the strides made by them in the field. The Constitution of India, in Articles 325 and 326, guarantees political equality to all men and women. Though there now are about 33 crore registered women voters, only marginally less than 36 crore male voters, there is no reservation for women in state legislatures and the Parliament. The historic Women's Reservation Bill to provide 33% reservation of seats for women in Parliament and state assemblies is pending before the Parliament for the past 14 years, from the time H D Deve Gowda was the Prime Minister.

Even the legacy of the Gandhis hasn't helped the prospects of women in Karnataka. Way back in 1978, former PM Indira Gandhi chose the state for her political rebirth. After losing the seat in Rai Bareli in 1977, she contested from Chikmagalur and got elected, to return as PM two years later. Twenty-one years later, in 1999, her daughter-in-law Sonia Gandhi contested from the state (Bellary) and got elected. But, the number of women elected to the Parliament from the state is grossly inadequate. However, the case of some women --- Basavarajeshwari, Taradevi Siddharth and Margaret Alva --- is a silver lining, as they got an opportunity to serve as Union ministers.

The future surely seems bright for women of the state. But, before looking at the future, it's essential to look at the past. Shocking, but true. When it comes to politics
in Karnataka, women were better off in 1950s and 1960s! Fifty years ago, they had respect, better representation in the legislative assembly and stood a good chance of victory in the electoral battle. The highest number of women elected to the assembly so far, from 1957 to 2008, is 18 in 1962. In 1957, when there were 179 constituencies, 13 women had got elected. The good trend continued in 1967 too, when five women gained entry into Vidhana Soudha. Another feature of those two decades (50s and 60s) is that women enjoyed a good success rate in the electoral battle. In 1957, out of 24 contestants, 13 emerged victorious. In 1962, 18 out of 30 and in 1967, five out of 9 tasted victory. A nightmarish trend surfaced from 1972 and it has continued till date. For the first time, though 28 women contested none could make it to the assembly. Since then, it is male domination. Reasons Decline in the quality of electoral politics brought aversion among people, especially the middle class, to encourage women to take part in politics; women couldn't cope up with the changing face of elections, which turned into a battleground with money and muscle power; and lack of reservation. Take, for instance, the 2008 elections. Out of the 224 assembly constituencies, none of the political parties gave tickets to even a dozen women candidates. The BJP, JD(S) and BSP gave an opportunity for 10 women each, while Congress enabled 11 women to contest. Political parties continue to doubt women candidates' ability to compete with their 'powerful' male opponents who know how to use money and muscle. The fact is that on several occasions, women MLAs have performed as well if not better than their male colleagues. For instance, Yashodamma Dasappa, was the minister, when her government reverted the liquor ban. C Motamma, who was the women and child development minister during the S M Krishna government during 1999-2004, was instrumental in creating the Self Help Groups, the revolutionary scheme to empower rural women. Sadly, discrimination
continues even after the election of women as legislators. In the history of the state, none of them have occupied the position of the chief minister or the deputy chief minister or home minister. K S Nagarathnamma was the only woman MLA to become the speaker and the opposition leader in the assembly. Motamma is the only woman to have become the leader of the Opposition in the council.
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