

FRESH IMPETUS? HK Kumaraswamy, Madhu Bangarappa Take Over As President, Working President

# Nikhil made head of JD(S) youth wing as grandpa keeps plum posts within family

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Less than a couple of months after the Lok Sabha polls debacle, JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda brushed aside criticism that he favours and promotes only family members, appointing grandson and chief minister HD Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil as president of the party's state youth wing.

Sakleshpur MLA, HK Kumaraswamy, was appointed state party president, while former MLA Madhu Bangarappa was named working president on Thursday. Kumaraswamy replaced AH Vishwanath, who stepped down citing poor health, while Nikhil replaced Bangarappa.



Pics: TOI



CLANNISH LOT: JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda and grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy at the function in Bengaluru on Thursday

## 'Induct prez in coordination panel'

Outgoing state JD(S) president AH Vishwanath reiterated his demand to include state presidents of the Congress and the JD(S) in the coordination committee, which was set up to ensure smooth functioning of the coalition government. Former chief minister and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah heads the panel.

"Siddaramaiah should be ashamed of not having presidents of both parties as members of the committee," Vishwanath said. Vishwanath has been fighting for the inclusion of presidents in the panel ever since he took over as JD(S) president, but Siddaramaiah has successfully stalled those efforts. The two barely see eye-to-eye. **TNN**

uled caste and has been a loyal JD(S) worker. "Kumaraswamy's immense political experience will help the party," Gowda said. Gowda also hoped Madhu and Nikhil would together to make the party appealing to youth.

five hours a day" over the past 45 days. "This will help me," he said. "I had told party bosses to give the post to someone outside the family [but they reposed faith in me]."

As for his defeat from Mandya constituency in the Lok Sabha elections, Nikhil said: "Mandya will be my *janma* and *karma* bhoomi in the coming days." On whether he would continue his work in films, Nikhil merely said cinema was his passion.

## Unexpected turn

Nikhil claimed his elevation to the post of youth president was unexpected, but vowed to strengthen the party and meet expectations.

"I am speechless," he said, soon after being installed. "I got a telephone call at 11am today informing me I am being made youth wing president and Doddavaru (Gowda) himself came on the line and asked me come to the office."

Admitting the new task will not be easy, Nikhil said he has been listening to his grandfather talk about his political experience for "four to

**CHANGE OF GUARD:** Outgoing chief AH Vishwanath crowns HK Kumaraswamy the new president of JD(S) in Bengaluru on Thursday

tune, insisting in a statement that he wasn't unhappy with Nikhil's appointment.

On Thursday, at a simple function at the party's office in Bengaluru, Vishwanath handed party flags to Kumaraswamy, Madhu and Nikhil in the presence of Gowda, MLC Basavaraj Horatti and other senior leaders of the party.

The Sakleshpur legislator, a five-time MLA, is a sched-

## POLITICAL NOTES

Nikhil's elevation expectedly triggered ripples, but it came from an unexpected quarter -- from another of Gowda's grandsons. Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna claimed he was unaware of his cousin's new assignment.

"I know only about the appointments of Kumaraswamy and Madhu," Prajwal told reporters in New Delhi when his reaction was sought on his cousin's new role. "I have no information on Nikhil's elevation as head of party's state unit." An hour later, though, Prajwal was singing another

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