

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಕಡತಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

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SUBJECT: Subbaiah

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State's first BJP chief became one of its fiercest critics

KANAKA



A.K. Subbaiah
Ajjikuttira
the first pr
BJP in the
turned a bi
party, pas
Tuesday du
complicati
va suffered
two years
on dialysis
KARNATAKA

SHNA KUMAR
RU
or politician and the
State president of the
A.K. Subbaiah, 85, who
ed away in Bengaluru
uesday, was responsible
the party taking roots in
state in the 1980s. Later
e, this plain-speaking
cian, was also one of
affron party's most bit-
itics.

Subbaiah (called AKS)
an enigma for many. He
orn on August, 9, 1936,
luru village of Virajpet
He began his career as
vocate but then moved
olitics. He was imprid
d during the Emergen-
er drifted towards Bha-
Jana Sangh and was
ed the first State presi-
of the Bharatiya Janata
in 1980. Known for his
speeches, he played a
role in the BJP's ex-
on during its infancy in
taka along with others
S. Acharya and B.S. Ye-
appa. So much so, that
1983, the BJP had
ged as a significant pol-
force in Karnataka.
had rocked the Con-
government of Gundu
exposing some of its
als, and the BJP con-
in the Assembly elec-
on its own and won 18



A.K. Subbaiah

1936-2019

In view of a hung Assemb-
ly and at the instance of the
party's national leadership,
BJP ended up extending out-
side support to the Janata
Party which had won 95
seats and formed the go-
vernment with Ramakrishna
Hegde as Chief Minister.

Though influenced by the
RSS and the Jana Sangh, he
subsequently began speak-
ing out against them and of-
ten landed in controversy.
Mr. Subbaiah's views used to
be at variance with the BJP's
official stance on various is-
sues, but he was known to
speak his mind.

Falling out
As he fell out with the par-
ty's leadership that began to
ignore him, Mr. Subbaiah

was marginalised within the
BJP and began leaning to-
wards the Congress. He
served as Congress MLC
from 1988 to 1994. Later, he
launched his own party -
Kannada Nadu - without
success. Though he was not
a force to reckon with politi-
cally in later years, he re-
mained active in public life.

More recently, he had
questioned the BJP for its
stance against the Tipu
Jayanti celebrations, even
though it had drawn the
wrath of a large number of
Kodavas. In the run up to the
Assembly elections in 2018,
he called for a coalition of
like-minded forces to keep
communal forces at bay. He
had written a book titled
RSS Antharanga, critiquing
the organisation. He was al-
so part of a three-member
committee, along with free-
dom fighter H.S. Doreswamy
and the late editor-activist
Gauri Lankesh, formed by
former CM Siddaramaiah, to
rehabilitate and bring to the
mainstream left-wing extre-
mists. The committee me-
diated the mainstreaming of
nine of them.

Leaders across party lines
condoled his death. CM Ye-
diyurappa said that Mr. Sub-
baiah built the party from
the grassroots and always
fought against injustice.