

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Background

1. Rajeev Chandrasekhar is an Independent MP in the Rajya Sabha from Bengaluru, Karnataka, elected for a second term in 2012. He supports and is part of the NDA coalition. He was part of the Opposition between 2006-2014.
2. Rajeev has lived in Karnataka for almost 40 years. First as a young boy as his father was a Distinguished Airforce Officer and Pilot who served in Air Force Yelahanka and Training Command, Hebbal. He studied at Kendriya Vidyalaya in Yelahanka and Hebbal and as a young boy walked from school in Hebbal to home in Yelahanka.
3. He completed his Bachelors in Engineering at MIT Manipal - then part of Mangalore University. He later finished his Masters in Computer Science at Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago and then went on to pursue a very exciting career in Software and Microprocessors in the Silicon Valley working at Intel Corp. He was a member of the legendary processors 80486 and Pentium.
4. He returned to India in 1992 and has settled down in Bengaluru with his family ever since.

Rajeev as an Entrepreneur

1. In early 1990s, Rajeev returned to India and launched one of India's first and biggest cellular company, BPL Mobile in 1994 at the age of only 30.
2. He was the amongst the youngest members of Prime Minister AB Vajpayee's council on Trade and Industry.
3. He was youngest president of FICCI. As a Chairman of FICCI, he drafted vision document on Terrorism after 26/11 many of his ideas were implemented like NatGrid.
4. Amongst the many investments he has made through his company Jupiter Capital - includes Suvarna News, Kannada Prabha, Republic TV and their digital platforms. He has also made other investments in various Technology and media start-ups in Bengaluru and outside. He is well recognized and respected by young Entrepreneurs all over Karnataka.
5. He has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science from Visveswaraya Technical University. Distinguished Alumni award from Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago and Manipal Institute of Technology (Along with Satya Nadella of Microsoft)

Rajeev and Politics

1. Rajeev has been associated with BJP since the mid-1990s. He has supported and worked for the BJP's various election efforts National and in Karnataka. He has worked on every Karnataka state and BBMP election since 1999.
2. As a Member of Parliament, Rajeev has worked relentlessly on protecting Bengaluru and Bengalureans' interests with Urban Governance issues, Digital India including Internet and Technology policy issues, Transforming India through Governance and Economic reforms, Veteran and Armed Forces issues, Protecting our Children, etc.
3. As one of India's most informed and experienced MPs in areas of technology, finance, entrepreneurship and economy, He has been nominated to several Parliamentary and Government committees. He has been on various standing and select committees of Parliament - Defence, Finance, Telecom, Urban Development, GST, Real estate Regulatory bill, Coal, NCC Advisory Board etc. Prior to becoming an MP, Rajeev has also been a member of the PM's Council on Trade and Development, Chairman of Karnataka Government's Infrastructure Task Force, Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT and Member of Parliamentary Forum on Youth.

Rajeev for Bengaluru and Karnataka

1. He helped make successful the Aasare program of the BSY govt and brought many reputed corporates like CISCO, Infosys, Wipro to help with the massive reconstruction efforts for the flood affected totalling nearly 40,000 homes.
2. He himself helped reconstruct Shirbadgi village in Bagalkote and built over 293 homes.
3. NMM - The first military memorial of independent India in Bengaluru was Rajeev's brainchild and it was started under BSY govt. Since its inception, Rajeev has been donating National Flag which is hoisted on 210ft flag pole (Rs 55K is the cost of each flag which needs replacement frequently)
4. Rajeev Chandrasekhar's connect with Bengaluru goes beyond just representing Bengaluru Urban in the Rajya Sabha. The city is home to him for almost three decades. Over the past years, he has advocated and been vocal about the problems faced by citizens of the city. He is easily accessible to RWAs and citizen groups that face challenges with Govt.
5. A strong votary for Governance Reforms through the planned development of Bengaluru, Rajeev has fought for increased citizen participation in the development plans of the city and against corruption.

6. Seeking active involvement of Bengalureans to reclaim the city, MP Rajeev empowers and collaborates with the citizens of Bengaluru in movements to eradicate corruption, bring in accountability and usher in transparency in the functioning of the Government.
7. Under the BSY Government, he was convenor of ABIDe that created a PlanBengaluru2020 after extensive consultations and drafted the new legislation for Bengaluru. Current Siddaramaiah Govt is planning to spend Rs 5.96 Cr to prepare a vision document for 2025. Whereas, in 2010, as a Convener of ABIDe Task Force, Rajeev prepared PB2020 by spending all money from his pocket.
8. His active support and participation in the Steel Flyover Beda movement led to Government of Karnataka's scrapping the corrupt project.
9. Further, he has opposed the current RMP of this govt as part of his long-standing demand for statutory multi-year development plan and submitted his proposals to Government of Karnataka arguing for the need to reimagine the Master Plan 2031.
10. He has been in forefront of Fights to protect Bengaluru lakes and therefore the future water security of Bengaluru. Planted over 17000 saplings along lake embankments across Bengaluru.
11. He has led the fight against commercialization of residential areas including bars near schools and homes.
12. He has fought against serving liquor to children in bars.
13. He has used Public Interest Litigation (PILs) and Judicial interventions to challenge several dubious decisions of Siddaramaiah govt and Rajeev has been best known for his role as an anti-corruption crusader in Bengaluru and holding Government agencies accountable to the citizens of Bengaluru.
14. In Karnataka alone, he supported many needy families and donated many Crores as financial assistance including those who died due to accidents during film shooting.
15. Given scholarships to BBMP students. Rewarded Police who exposed Kidney rackets.
16. He is Founder of Namma Bengaluru Foundation which is an NGO that has been at the forefront of issues relating to Bengaluru and also then reputed annual Namma Bengaluru Awards that recognises those in Government organisations and private sector/NGOs that work for Bengaluru. Since 2009, Many scores of unrecognised people and organizations including those in Government have been recognised and supported by NBF for their work.

17. He is founder of Flags of Honour Foundation - that looks after families of soldiers especially those who are martyred in service to nation. Many families have been supported by FoH in Karnataka and elsewhere.
18. He is convenor of National Coalition to Protect our Children (NCPOC) - a coalition of NGOs that has done a lot of work to increase awareness of sexual crimes against children and has improved awareness and prosecution. Rajeev has been in the forefront in Bengaluru about the fight to make schools safer and more accountable.
19. His RC Foundation supports Drishya Foundation, which educates hundreds of children from Urban Poor families in Bengaluru.
20. He has wide support from RWAs, Youth, Armed forces, Technology, Middle class residents all over.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar - Political Achievements as MP

The 12 years as an Independent MP (9 in Opposition to UPA, 3 in support to NDA) have been meaningful with not a moment of time wasted. Some of his achievements are:

1. 2G - 2007 was first to raise 2G issue in Parliament. Was responsible for media coverage of it, Briefing of Arun Jaitley, PILs of Swamy and Prashant Bhushan, and Briefing of CAG. He was singlehandedly responsible to ensure the 3G auction despite heavy lobbying by Telcos - The 3G auction was key to exposing 2G scam.
2. Public sector Bank loot / UPA NPAs - In 2010 He was first to raise NPA and continued to raise issue of PSB Lending to favourite UPA corporates till 2014. Raised media awareness and also raised the issue of Concentration of Lending to top 9 corporate houses. Has advocated a series of reforms in Banking and Financial sector.
3. RERA, GST, Economic policy advocacy – MP to lead the push for these two important legislations including active public advocacy and creating media and public support for them. Also served on Select Committee on both and helped public consultations on the same and shaping the final legislations. Was active defender of Economic strategy of Government in Parliament and outside.
4. OROP - From 2006 onwards single handedly fought for OROP and raised awareness of it in Parliament and outside in Media. In 2009 participated in the first Jantar Mantar agitation of Veterans and also sat in on many medal return ceremonies. He was responsible for the Koshiyari committee report which opened the way for OROP.
5. Voting rights for Armed forces, National War Memorial - From 2012- Sought voting rights for Armed forces and families. When the UPA govt refused to do this fearing, the votes would be against them, he approached Supreme Court and got SC to rule in 2014. He has been on the forefront of many Veterans and family welfare issues. As MP he has agitated for a National

War Memorial since 2007 and even conceived and initiated country's first one in Bengaluru.

6. Sec66A and Freedom of Expression online, Right to Privacy - He was first to raise in Parliament and oppose UPAs IT act. Raised it repeatedly in Parliament and got media awareness on this. He finally approached Supreme Court and it struck Sec66A down. He was strong advocate of Citizens right to Privacy and was one of the main petitioners that got SC to uphold Right to Privacy.
7. Call Drops, Net neutrality - Consumer protection and rights. He was first to raise in Parliament and mobilize public opinion. He has pursued the cause of consumers relentlessly till the current situation where TRAI and Govt are fully supporting my and consumers position.
8. Digital India – One of the Foremost MPs advocating and supporting PMs vision of Digitally transforming Citizens live and Government/Governance.
9. Children from Sexual abuse and Trafficking - He has been only MP working tirelessly on creating awareness amongst Parents, Schools, Media, Judges, Police, Prosecutors and have now created an atmosphere of accountability amongst schools and Police and justice system. He has brought together all Child protection organizations under one umbrella.
10. Bengaluru Urban Governance and Political campaigns - From 2006, He has fought against corruption and malgovernance in Bengaluru, Developed Development and Governance reforms blueprint and Organized Citizen Activism. He is recognized as the Guardian MP of Bengaluru and have succeeded on many occasions in protecting city using PILs and citizen mobilization. He has campaigned/worked for all BBMP elections and 3 assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Bengaluru.
11. BJP Vision 2020 and Namo4PM - In 2010, He was chosen to be principle author of Vision 2020 - a narrative of Transforming India that was very helpful in the 2014 Narendra Modi call to change India. In 2013 he openly endorsed and campaigned for Namo as PM to TransformIndia.
12. Kerala – Over 12 months addressed monthly meetings of Industry, Technology professionals, Media, Citizen groups and raised political issues like Land encroachment (Munnar), Corruption in Government, Women and Child safety, Ezhava Unity Sivagiri and SNDP and made NDA/BJP a strong relevant political voice in Kerala. Filed PILs in NGT against Left Govt of Kerala.
13. He has had an unblemished political track record and developed a reputation for staying the course despite the many attempts to discourage his work by defaming and threats. His tireless efforts have invariably made him a target of the Left and Congress, and the media affiliated to these parties.