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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWSPAPER: [illegible] ದಿನಾಂಕ DATE: 2/9/2020

Former MLA Appaji Gowda dies of Covid

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FORMER Bhadravathi MLA and senior JDS leader **M J Appaji Gowda** succumbed to Covid-19 here late Wednesday night. He was 67, and is survived by his wife and son. Thousands of people gathered in Bhadravathi to pay their final respects, and his final rites were performed in his farm in Gonibeedu.

Sources said the former MLA was suffering from acute respiratory distress syndrome due to Covid-19 for the past three days. Gowda, who was under treatment at a private hospital, came to McGann Hospital with non-invasive ventilation support on Wednesday. His condition deteriorated, and he breathed his last at 11.25 pm.

Labour leader to politician

Gowda had emerged as a labour leader, fighting for the cause of labourers of the state-owned Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited in Bhadravathi. He then tried his luck in politics, contested as an independent in 1994 and won against Janata Dal's D P Shivakumar.

Then on, the stage was set for epic battles between him and Congressman BK Sangameshwar for two decades. In 1999, he contested as an independent and defeated Sangameshwar. In 2004, Gowda contested as a Congress candidate but was defeated by Sangameshwar, who had contested as an independent. Gowda then joined JDS and in 2008, was defeated by Sangameshwar, this time back in the Congress. In 2018, he was defeated by Sangameshwar (Cong).