



## PERALS - FITFALLS

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### ABSTRACT

The Congress party was the dominated of political force in Andhra Pradesh politics from 1952 to 1983. It is not surprising that there is no stable opposition party in Andhra Pradesh during this time. Many candidates who contest as independents and re-join the Congress party after winning. In almost all elections this independence vote percentage was second place after Congress. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) which was born in such a context not only defeated the Congress party three times in a row but also managed in almost eliminate the Congress party in Andhra Pradesh politics by the 2014 elections. From Congress party has not won a single seat and many places have not received deposits. After the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014 into two states, the TDP has remained firmly in power in seemandhra called Andhra Pradesh. But this party almost disappeared from Telangana. However, even today there are followers of TDP in Telangana. The TDP has been in power for over a decade (1994 to 2004) as well as in the opposition 2004 to 2014. The TDP in the recently held assembly elections 2024, the alliance won 164 seat out of 175 without even getting opposition status for the YSR Congress party. The TDP has neither won nor lost consistently in A.P Politics but has been consistently very active in Andhra Pradesh politics. In the centre a part from serving as the main opposition party, the TDP has also been active in electing Prime Ministers. The TDP is achieving victories in A.P in a time when major parties like the Congress-I and the Communist parties are collapsing.

### INTRODUCTION

Baharat is the largest democratic country in the world which has multiparty system by multi-culturalism. The Indian National Congress party ruled the Union and States as a monopolist for 40 years including Andhra Pradesh State. Congress-I party has never known defeat in Andhra Pradesh till 1980. Nandamuri Tarakarama

Rao (NTR) is known as the TDP symbol in the Telugu film industry for four decades. He is well known to the Telugu people as Lord Rama and Krishna in the Dasahavataras of God through his historical films. He founded Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on 29-03-1982 as a regional party in Andhra Pradesh.<sup>1</sup> NTR's political campaign, he addressing the people that state leader are acting like lackey of the centre they go to Delhi even to brush their teeth, they cannot stand up to the New Delhi queen even when the states interests are compromised. Why should they not their heads sheepishly for anointed Chief Ministers who are but high commands rubber stamps? What happened to Telugu self-respect.<sup>2</sup>

The gigantic and indomitable personality of NTR to achieve a resounding victory against Indira Gandhi's Congress-I party in Andhra Pradesh in the year 1983 elections India today exclaimed. The film artist turned loveable person fantastic victory over a formidable leader with an international reputation like Mrs. Indira Gandhi has no precedent in the world history.<sup>3</sup> TDP has faced ten assembly elections so far in Andhra Pradesh under NTR's leadership, TDP participated in four etc., legislative elections (1983 to 1994) and won three (1983, 1984 and 1994) and lost one in 1989 under the Chandrababau leadership, the TDP participated in six assembly election from 1999 to 2024 winning the three (1999, 2014 and 2024) and losing three (2004, 2009 and 2019) the TDP is struggling to win consecutive Andhra Pradesh assembly elections. But TDP has grown as an unstoppable force in Andhra Pradesh politics.

### **Combined State**

Combined Madras State Assembly elections first held in 1952. Congress party contested in 367 constituencies and won 152 constituencies with 34.88 per cent votes. Independent's have more votes (23.75 per cent) than opposition Communist Party of India (CPI) (13.18 per cent).<sup>4</sup> The United State of Andhra Pradesh was formed on 01-11-1956.<sup>5</sup> In the second A.P State Legislative elections in 1957 the INC won 187 seats with 47.38 per cent votes and reformed the government.<sup>6</sup> Congress parties vote percentage increased from 34.88 per cent (1952) to 47.38 per cent in 1957. This shows the strength of Congress party in A.P. The INC again formed the government in the 1962 election by winning 177 assembly seats in A.P with 47.25 per cent votes.<sup>7</sup> The Congress party was strong at the centre and in many state and was victorious in 1950 and 1960 decades. In 1967 under the leadership of Indira Gandhi, the Congress party formed the government again, winning 165 seats with a vote percentage of 45.44 per cent.<sup>8</sup> Again under the leadership of India Gandhi, the Congress party won an indisputable victory in the A.P assembly elections in 1972. The Congress party won 219 seats with a vote percentage of 52.29 per cent. But in the absence of a strong opposition the vote share of independent candidates increased from 18.63 per cent in 1957 to 20.48 per cent in 1962 than it raised to 26.4 per cent in 1967 and it reached to 32.22 percentages of votes. The Congress-I party formed A.P government with 39.25 per cent of the votes but it sets decreased to 175 in 1978 elections.<sup>9</sup> In this election two independent candidates got 28.85 per cent of votes and they won in 60 constituencies. The TDP founded by N.T Rama Rao a leading figure in the world of Telugu cinema won the 1983 Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh with a Guinness Book record. TDP won 201 assembly seats while Congress-I won only 60 seats. TDP got 97,77,222 votes with 46.7 per cent while Congress-I got 70,90,907 votes with 35.58 per cent.<sup>10</sup> TDP got 19,86,315 votes more than Congress-I 10.72 per cent of votes different. N.T. Rama Rao's public appeal and TDP manifestation

is the source for the TDP success. The Indian express in its editorial, while describing the emergency of the TDP as an avenging fury said that “NTR captured a mood” even as his pledge to restore the Telugu “Self-respect” struck a responsive chord.<sup>11</sup>

Because of Nadendla Bhaskar Rao illegally interference by support of Indira Gandhi, NTR won to the Mid Term assembly elections. 3,45,87,372 voters have registered in this elections while 2,33,70,750 people exercised their right to vote which is 67.57 per cent. TDP won 202 seats again TDP got 1,06,25,508 votes with 46.21 per cent while Congress party got 85,66,891 votes with 37.25 per cent.<sup>12</sup> In a matter of two years his party contested three elections one for Lok Sabha elections hands down. If looked like it was impossible to break the spell cast by NTR on the people of the state for the third time in a row, he was sworn in as Chief Minister at a spectacular public ceremony. This time at parade grounds in Secunderabad. India today called NTR’s impressive win the third coming elections.<sup>13</sup> The difference between TDP and Congress is 20,58,617 votes with 8.96 percentage. Indira Gandhi Lead Congress-I government toppled the constitutionally elected N.T Rama Rao government. But people of Andhra gave a landslide victory to NTR’s TDP. The Congress-I party won the 1989 Andhra Pradesh legislative assembly elections. Congress party with 1,35,39,785 (47.09 per cent) votes won in 181 seats out of 294. TDP under the leadership of NTR won only 74 seats with 1,05,06,982 (36.54 per cent) votes, Congress party got 30,32,803 votes more than TDP i.e., 11.36 per cent more votes.<sup>14</sup>

The main reasons for TDP defeat is dissolution of the council of ministers as it stands NTR’s dictatorial behaviour in the party, unfortunately political violence found leading vote’s community.<sup>15</sup> With split from TDP the retirement age of employees has been reduced from 58 years to 55 years Supreme Court involvement this issue was disappear. CCS opposed the NTR government. Thus India today commented Andhra Pradesh voters reject Rama Rao’s eccentric politics and in comprtetence.<sup>16</sup> The A.P legislative assembly elections 1994, the TDP contested with the Communists and achieved a resounding victory over Congress Party. TDP got 1,37,43,842 votes 44.14 per cent and its alliance and TDP got 1,57,23,835 votes with 50.49 per cent of all Congress party got only 1,05,06,982 votes. The TDP won 216 on its alliance TDP got 250 seats with 50.49 per cent votes. TDP got more 51,83,635 votes i.e., 16.64 per cent than Congress Party.<sup>17</sup> Lakshmi Parvati not only married NTR but also interfered in the political life as a result the TDP split into two. A large number of MLA’s supported Chandra Babu Naidu (CBN) and he was elected as a Chief Minister of A.P under the leadership of CBN.<sup>18</sup> The TDP along with the BJP won the 1999 state assembly elections with a landslide victory. TDP alliance won 192 seats with 1,58,36,788 (47.54 per cent) Congress party won 91 seats with 1,35,26,309 votes (40.61 per cent). The TDP and BJP alliance got 23,10,479 votes (6.93 per cent) more than the Congress party<sup>19</sup>. Transparency in government to take the governance forward to the people in the name of Janmabhoomi programme and fair recruitment of government teaching jobs was the reason for his victory. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the president of A.P. Pradesh Congress Committee resigned from his post taking responsibility for the Congress defeat.<sup>20</sup> The CBN who came to power for the second time, effectively implemented governance reforms as well as e-governance. He significantly improved the power generation and supply system. For this CBN tried to forcibly collect electricity dues from farmer. At the same time,

Congress party made alliance with CPI, CPM and TRS party. Congress party leader YSR promised in his padayathra that free electricity to the famers. Congress lead united progressive alliance got 226 seat with 48.61 per cent votes while BJP and TDP alliance got only 49 seat with 40.22 per cent Congress alliance got 39 per cent (30,00,813) votes more than TDP alliance.<sup>21</sup>

YS. Rajasekhara Reddy became Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He implemented public welfare schemes such as Arogyashri are properly implemented but there have been more allegations of corruption. The TDP entered into an alliance with the CPI, CPM and TRS parties. It was during this time that Telugu film top actor Chiranjeevi who belonged to the Balija community founded the Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) on 28-06-2008. The Congress party under the leadership of Chief Minister YSR won 156 seats with 36.5 per cent votes although the PRP won 18 seats with 16.32 per cent of votes<sup>22</sup>. The PRP is main reason for government opposite vote spite. This is the first time in the history of TDP which has been out of power for ten consecutive years (2004 to 2014). The Congress party led by Sonia Gandhi divided Andhra Pradesh into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for its own political purposes. The special Telangana issue questioned the political future of the TDP. Along with KCR, the founder of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), many leaders belong to the TDP. If TDP support for a separate Telangana can cause huge damage to the TDP in Seemandhra. In such circumstances CBN called upon the centre to reconcile the two regions. CBN has successfully made his padayathra in Seemandhra and Telangana under the name of *Vasuthuna Meekosam* padayatgra. After ten years CBN came back to join with BJP. The Janasena Party founded by Pawan Kalyan openly supported to the TDP alliance. TDP and BJP got 106 seats while UCP won only in 67 seats out of 175 CBN's governance experience and his padayatra promises to the people brought CBN back to power.<sup>23</sup> Apart from this politically alliance with BJP and Janasena made TDP successful.

In the 2014 elections, TDP had a margin of only 1.82 per cent of votes over YSR Congress party. The TDP has distanced itself from the BJP due to differences over special status for A.P state. In addition to this Janasena is also contesting the 2019 elections alone. After the formation of the new A.P state almost all the Congress party cadre merged into the YSRCP. Having Jagan as the success for of YSRCP and appealing to the people to give him a chance to rule the state influenced the voters very well. In the 2019 selections YSRCP won 151 seats with 49.95 per cent of votes. While TDP won only 23 seats with 39.17 per cent votes. In this elections Janasena party got 19,60,892 votes i.e., 6.24 per cent and BJP got almost one per cent votes. Due to this split of votes the YSRCP has increased its seats significantly.<sup>24</sup>

## Findings

The TDP contested the Andhra Pradesh legislative assembly elections ten times from 1983 to 2024. Under the leadership of NTR TDP contested four times and won three times (1983, 1985, 1994), under the leadership of CBN contested six times and won three times (1999, 2014, 2024). In its political journey of more than 40 years. The TDP has lost state assembly elections four times (1989, 2004, 2009, 2019) voters of various social groups as well as votes of Balija social class were crucial in TDP's victories. The assassination of Vanga Veeti Mohana Ranga in the 1989 elections resulted in the loss of those segments votes to the TDP. In the 2009 elections, Chiranjeevi's PRP lost the voters of that segment to the TDP in the 2019 elections, due to Pawan

Kalyan's Janasena Party. However the TDP did not achieve continuous victories like BJP in Gujarat 12998 to till day and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) lead by Naveen Patnaik from 1997 to 2024. But TDP is the most active party in Andhra Pradesh and central politics.

## 2024 Elections

Elections indicate that money is an important but not determining factor. Distribution of money is a total waste because the rival candidates will also distribute money. The better use of money will be on social media expenditure and leaving a little money with booth committees for last day booth management. Most candidates claim to have exhausted their budget before the Election Day. In these elections, TDP, BJP and Jana Sena come together called as *Kutami*, their manifesto is based on pro-poor, pro-former, pro-unemployees. Because of governance has been failed in all respects, direct distribution money is not bring any effectiveness. The *kutami* has won confidence of the people before election after election in 2024. The *kutami* has received public response through their public voice, the theoretical confidence will be converted as practical materialised.

## Hundred Days Good Government

With great responsibility comes an obligations to deliver what is best for our youth and ensure their futures are bright, procedure and successful. In just 100 days, our government is well on its way to fulfilling its responsibility of making India a global skilling hub and setting an example of excellence at scale through a comprehensive skilling roadmap. Let us continue our work to build a nation where every dream has the chance to flourish, and every talent is given the opportunity to shine.<sup>25</sup>

## Conclusions

TDP brought not only political consciousness but also development, employment and welfare among the Telugu people. The TDP has been able to transform the state which was poverty-stricken with hunger and death into a prosperous state Indian political history. TDP a regional party has served as an opposition party in the Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989. Since TDP inceptions, this party has been active in central politics in electing the Prime Minister CBN brings international reorganization to the Telugu people through TDP Government.<sup>26</sup>

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