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SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC WELFARE AND INITIATIVES

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ROLE OF OPPOSITION PARTIES IN UNDIVIDED ANDHRA PRADESH AND TELANGANA STATE : A CASE STUDY OF 12th AND 13th LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES



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The opposition plays an outstanding role in both vigilance and making a proactive position to bring the policies from the ruling government. In a parliamentary form of government, the opposition stands as a shadow government to check the government for its malfunction. In a democracy, the vital part is critical views on the policies made by the government. The 12th and 13th AP assemblies had always remembered path breaking years in the history of AP Assembly and even for the Telangana assembly due to the hatching years for the separate statehood of Telangana.

The genealogy of the history of political parties and their structure has been a remarkable space for debate and even to comprehend post-independent India. In exchange for political patronage, the Nehru Era created the Congress system. This was where powerful state-level factional leaders provided crucial support to Congress at the national level. This system of political patronage allowed Congress to reach deep into state politics. Kothari says that the Indian party system could be described as a dominant one-party system and not a single-party system.¹ Congress's strength was in its disciplined and well-organized national structure. Nehru was the mainstay of the Congress system. Nehru's charisma and personality helped to maintain the unity of Congress. 1964 saw the end of an era in which Congress was the most organized national party. Nehru died in 1964. Indira Gandhi took over the leadership. She made

Congressan instrument of her personality and not a force for good. In effect, this subservience led to the deinstitutionalization of Congress. Indira Gandhi wanted to make the party an instrument of personal power and ensure that no one could challenge her position as prime Minister or endanger her succession. The Congress's provincial and district-level organizations were crucial in gauging the pulse of the region's electorate. However, they were made moot by the centralization of power. The Congress has lost its base and is now a party without a base. This led to the growth of regional parties.

The dominance of the congress party was liquidated by Indira Gandhi's authoritarian policies and along with that most of the regional parties were floated due to these developments. India is a large country, with over 1.2 billion inhabitants. They differ in their language, social traditions, and ethnicity. Language is the main factor in the creation of states. The rise of regional parties has been aided by people's demands for social and economic development. The power of regional parties is increasing and they play a key role at the state and central levels. The Indian masses have felt democracy more tangible due to the rise of powerful regional parties that demand more autonomy. This has decentralised power from the central to the states and improved governance. The formation of three states namely Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttaranchal out of the states of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh during the rule of Bharatiya Janatha Party's led NDA (National Democratic Alliance), which gave scope for raising many more demands for smaller states like Bodoland, demand for Telangana, Gorkhaland, Vidarbha, Bundelkhand and Harit Pradesh, Saurashtra and Kosalanchal etc. The recent creation of these three smaller states within India had a great effect on understanding the capacity of federations across the world in considering the raising demands for self-rule. These events triggered the aspirations for the separate Telangana movement in AP.

This research would focus predominantly on the role of opposition in the 12th and 13th assemblies the time had been a paradigmatic shift in terms of the transition from clientele politics to a mass and charismatic politics which was led by AP's late ex-chief minister YSR. So the regime change brought the changing of the whole political order in AP and which was a remarkable phase in the history of AP. The important policies brought by the government had a certain impact on the opposition parties and it was tangible in many aspects. The untimely demise of the YSR left space for the Telangana movement and the 13th assembly was embroiled in enormous protests for separate statehood and which resulted in a separate state in 2014. These two assemblies had transformed the destiny of the AP and created a new state with a humongous proactive presence of the opposition whether it is TDP or TRS but their role was immense to crave on the policies.

The rationale of the Study

This research will have a post-mortem analysis of the two assembly sessions and their working nature related to the functioning of democracy and the tangible

influence of the opposition on the drafting of the policy-making of the ruling government. The definition of the research would fall under the rubric of posterior analysis of the opposition's role in all aspects of assembly procedures. What is the rationality to bring out such research, so the simple answer is to evaluate the functioning of democracy and freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the constitution. Nevertheless, this research is a post-mortem analysis but needs to be drawn on the role of the opposition to establish a strong narrative which TRS had done during the Telangana movement.

Statement of the Problem

The research is all about problematizing the issues which come on the surface so here legislative assemblies are vital places for not criticizing each other but constructing the future through robust policies. So, the policy framing has been the sole authority for the ruling party by given mandate but still, some people consciously shape the behaviour of the ruling party through great vigilance. The political theory implies that checks and balances are crucial for sustaining democracy so the assessment and evaluation of the policies by the people are done through a vital channel which is the opposition in the UK the shadow government's role is amazing to check the ruling government. This research would focus on this matter through critical ways to address and pull out the possible ways to find the governing process.

Review of Literature

The following thematic research will have a general understanding of political parties and move to specific political parties and their space as a political party and their impact on the ruling parties.

Maurice Duverger (1855-1983) studied the evolution and institutions of different political systems. Myron Weiner's 1957 work on state politics focused on the electoral behaviour of the parties at the state level based on party alignments and electoral cleavages to understand the workings of the Indian Political System. In 1965, Sirsikar investigated voters' confidence in the effectiveness of elections and parties. The Modernity of Tradition: Political Development in India by Rudolph and Rudolph (1967) demonstrated that caste groups served as conduits for both internal and exterior social transformation. Rajni Kothari in his book is the first in-depth analysis of the Indian political system, looking at it from numerous angles and combining the contributions of diverse disciplines into one coherent framework. The analysis of the theoretical, historical, socio cultural, and comparative matrices of Indian polity was changed as a result of this. Kothari's in-depth analyses and commentaries covered both established and new political paradigms in India. Thomas Pantham, in his 1976 study on party organisations, analysed the function of political parties in establishing and preserving political consensus in democracies. Hanumantharao Vadakattu (1983), in his "Party Politics In Andhra Pradesh 1956-1983", examined party politics in Andhra Pradesh. Paul R. Brass (1985) used an ecological perspective to study and analyse some

of the fundamental problems in modern Indian politics. Narayana Rao reviewed the Telugu Desam Government of Andhra Pradesh, which was led by N.T. Rama Rao. Narayana Rao, and Sundar Ram, analysed a decade worth of political developments in Andhra Pradesh. Sanjay Kumar and Annapurna Nautiyal (2004) conducted a study of the 2004 Lok Sabha elections in Uttaranchal. Suri (2006), in his article "Telugu Desam Party", described the Journey of the Telugu Desam Party from its launching in 1982 through to the 2004 elections. Vinay (2008)'s study attempted to establish a clear connection between democracy's efficacy and the effective organisational functioning of political parties. Venkat Rao (2016), wrote about the rise of a new party and suggested that new dynamics had entered the Andhra Pradesh state politics with the emergence of the Telugu Desam Party. Adam Ziegfeld (2009), started his research with the question "Where do party structures come from?".

Research Gap

These research papers reveal a broad range of studies that each focus on a specific theme at different locations. The above literature review reveals that most studies were focused on the development of political party systems. Some studies focused on regional political parties and limited their analysis to the electoral patterns of regional parties or the welfare measures of these parties. Studies on the Telugu Desam Party were also limited to the same trends. While some studies focused on structural dimensions, others did not cover them fully.

A review of the literature indicates that it is necessary to examine the structure, process, and reformist attitude to which political parties are referring about their state development. They should try to understand the public's perceptions of how they are moving to build their party and state. The researcher has undertaken the study "Telugu Desam Party & Its New Political Order In Andhra Pradesh-A Study" to examine the party's relationship to the party government in Andhra Pradesh.

The research gap is so explicit in terms of its nature due to the confines of the party performances but the opposition role for the impact on the ruling government is minimal in the existing literature. This research would focus on bringing new insights to substantiate the working nature of legislative assemblies and the role of opposition parties and how their ideas shape the policy framework. As Thomas R Dye said public policy is "what government chooses to do or not" but this is a plain story from a side the government will choose their own choices to make public policy but there are innumerable aspects that would push them to consider that's the opposition role certainly plays a vital role. An honest attempt to capture the TDPs and TRSs the role would yield conspicuous insights into the working nature of democracy. The existing literature has some limitations over the performance of the governments, but the shadow role of the opposition has never been recorded so far so this is a huge gap to be filled to comprehend the actual performance of the governance in terms of policy framing

and even pull out the people's aspirations like the Telangana movement it's pure opposition narrative to bend the government to bring out the desired goal.

Objectives and Scope of the Study

1. Exploring the earlier studies on electoral politics concerning political parties, as the studies on electoral politics are vast.
2. Identifying the electoral significance of Andhra Pradesh, during the reigns of Congress and the Telugu Desam Party, on the political map of India.
3. The structure and process of the Telugu Desam Party and TRS contributed to the growth of the party and its impact on the government in Andhra Pradesh.
4. Presenting the new political order given by the opposition parties to the state of Andhra Pradesh.
5. Tracing out the perception of the electorate selected for the study on the new political order of the Andhra Pradesh.
6. To examine the profound analysis of the regionalism caused by the policies of the ruling government.
7. Assessing the milestone policies and their magnitude regarding constant support from the opposition parties.

Hypotheses

1. The role of opposition parties will have a greater influence and impact on the policy framing and policy implanting.
2. The 12th and 13th assemblies of Andhra Pradesh brought enormous paradigmatic shifts in political terrain to transform the state in various forms.
3. The separate statehood of Telangana germinated the consequences of the policies which had been taken by the ruling party.

Research Questions

1. What is the role of opposition in policy framing and implementing of the policies?
2. Does democracy rely on the critical voices of the opposition parties?
3. How do opposition parties structure the narratives of people to question the governments?
4. Why functioning of Democracy needs the strongest opposition?
5. How far rights of the oppressed will be represented by the opposition parties?
6. Were the flagship programs by YSR impacted by the opposition parties?

7. To what extent did the TRS's role as opposition carve separate statehood?
8. Why did existing literature ignore the opposition role in legislative houses in India as well as in the states?

Sources of Data

The study makes use of both primary and secondary data. The study is mainly based on primary data. The primary data has been collected through interview schedules and discussions with the respondents. The secondary data has been collected from the study of published and unpublished literature.

Methodology

The methodology of the study portrays the context, significance, objectives, and scope of the study; the sampling technique, the tools and methods of data collection, and the method of analysis. To fully comprehend the mechanisms of the new political order, the researcher met many officials, non-officials, and academicians besides the sampled electorate under the study. These individuals served as various types of informants on the different aspects of the schedule. This pool of informants was drawn from many sources of the State and the district.

Tools for collection of primary data

The study is descriptive, empirical, and analytical. The interest of the researcher, in theory, is secondary to empirical research. Three kinds of tools are employed in collecting the primary data. They are:

1. Interview Schedule for respondents
2. Discussions, and
3. Interview.

1. Interview Schedule: The interview schedule is constructed to elicit information from the electorate in the areas under the study

2. Discussions: Discussions are very useful not only in obtaining data but also in establishing a good rapport with the respondents. Secondly, informal discussions with the informants outside the sample helped very much in the discovery of some very useful facts. The researcher started with informal discussions and it was only after winning the respondent's confidence that the schedule was administered.

3. Interview: The major part of the data for this study has been collected through interview schedules. Both structured and unstructured interview technique is adopted to collect primary data. An unstructured interview schedule was administered to the members of the party offices. Face-to-face interviews with the electorate provided a reliable and first-hand recording of information. The major component of the data

collected for the thesis is primary data. This is the chapter based on empirical data. Secondary data include the use of textbooks, journals, Government manuals and publicity material of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the vision documents and reports.

Role of TDP and TRS as opposition parties in 12th and 13th Assembly sessions

During the years 2004 to 2009, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Andhra Pradesh was the main opposition party, criticizing the ruling Indian National Congress party on a range of issues. The TDP had several criticisms of the Congress party's governance during this period, which can be broadly categorized into four main areas: Corruption and nepotism: The TDP accused the Congress government of rampant corruption and nepotism, alleging that ministers and officials were involved in various scams and were misusing their power for personal gain. The TDP also claimed that the Congress leadership was promoting nepotism by appointing family members to key positions and that this was undermining the democratic process.

Lack of development: The TDP criticized the Congress government for failing to deliver on its promises of development and growth, and for neglecting the needs of the state's people, especially those in rural areas. The TDP argued that the government was not investing enough in infrastructure, education, and healthcare and that this was hindering the state's progress. Failure to address farmers' issues: The TDP was particularly critical of the Congress government's handling of issues related to the state's farmers, who were facing a range of challenges such as low prices for their crops, lack of credit, and poor irrigation facilities. The TDP accused the government of not doing enough to address these issues, and of not implementing effective policies to support the agricultural sector.

Mismanagement of finances: The TDP raised concerns about the Congress government's management of the state's finances, alleging that the government was spending money on unnecessary projects and wasteful schemes and that this was leading to a deterioration of the state's fiscal health. The TDP also criticized the government's borrowing practices and claimed that the state's debt burden was becoming unsustainable. To give a more detailed look at some of the specific criticisms, we can go deeper into a few examples.

Corruption and nepotism: The TDP accused the Congress government of corruption in several high-profile cases, including the Satyam scandal, in which a prominent IT company was found to have committed financial fraud. The TDP claimed that the government had failed to act against corrupt officials and that it was unwilling to investigate cases of corruption involving Congress leaders. The TDP also criticized the government for appointing family members of Congress leaders to key positions, alleging that this was a form of nepotism that undermined the democratic process.

Lack of development: The TDP accused the Congress government of neglecting the needs of the state's people, especially those in rural areas, who were facing a range of challenges such as lack of access to education, healthcare, and basic infrastructure. The TDP claimed that the government was not investing enough in these areas and that this was hindering the state's progress. The TDP also alleged that the government was not doing enough to attract private investment and that this was a key factor in the state's economic stagnation.

Failure to address farmers' issues: The TDP was particularly critical of the Congress government's handling of issues related to farmers, who were facing a range of challenges such as low prices for their crops, lack of credit, and poor irrigation facilities. The TDP claimed that the government was not doing enough to address these issues and that this was leading to a crisis in the agricultural sector. The TDP also accused the government of not implementing effective policies to support farmers, and of not providing adequate compensation for crop losses.

Mismanagement of finances: The TDP raised concerns about the Congress government's management of the state's finances, alleging that the government was spending money on unnecessary projects and wasteful schemes and that this was leading to a deterioration of the state's fiscal health. The TDP claimed that the government was borrowing too much money and that this was leading to an unsustainable debt burden for the state.

Telugu Desham Party (TDP) – Important Events

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was in opposition in the Andhra Pradesh legislative assembly from 2004 to 2009. During this period, the party had several political objectives that it aimed to achieve through its oppositional stance. These objectives were rooted in the party's political ideology and its commitment to serving the interests of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Some of the main political objectives of the TDP during this period were:

1. **Demanding Accountability and Transparency:** Finally, the TDP used its position in opposition to demand accountability and transparency from the Congress government. The party believed that the government was not being transparent about its actions and was not being held accountable for its mistakes. The TDP worked to expose corruption and malfeasance in the government and to push for greater transparency and accountability in governance.
2. **Demanding Development:** Another important political objective of the TDP during this period was to demand development for Andhra Pradesh. The party believed that the Congress government was not doing enough to promote economic growth and development in the state. The TDP used its oppositional stance to highlight the need for investment in infrastructure,

education, and healthcare, and to push for policies that would promote economic growth.

3. **Opposing the Congress Party:** The TDP's main political objective during this period was to oppose the ruling Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh. The party saw the Congress as corrupt and inept and believed that it was not serving the interests of the people of Andhra Pradesh. The TDP used its position in opposition to criticize the Congress government and hold it accountable for its actions.
4. **Protecting the Interests of Telugu-speaking People:** The TDP has always been committed to protecting the interests of the Telugu-speaking people of Andhra Pradesh. During its time in opposition from 2004 to 2009, the party worked to safeguard the rights of Telugu-speaking people in areas such as education, employment, and language policy.
5. **Supporting the Farmers:** The TDP has a strong base among farmers in Andhra Pradesh, and one of its main political objectives during this period was to support their interests. The party criticized the Congress government for its handling of issues such as irrigation and crop prices and pushed for policies that would benefit farmers.

During the 2004-2009 period, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was the principal opposition party in Andhra Pradesh. The TDP made significant efforts to articulate the aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh during this period through various means, including assembly sessions. One of the most notable events during this period was the TDP's opposition to the proposed Polavaram project. The Polavaram project, which aimed to construct a dam across the Godavari River, was fiercely opposed by the TDP because it would result in the displacement of thousands of people from their homes and land. The TDP argued that the project would cause irreparable damage to the environment and the livelihoods of the people in the region.

The TDP also raised concerns about the state of the education system in Andhra Pradesh. In the assembly sessions, the party highlighted the government's failure to provide quality education and adequate infrastructure in schools and colleges. The TDP criticized the government's decision to close several schools and colleges, which it argued had a detrimental impact on students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Another key area where the TDP voiced its opposition was the government's handling of the issue of farmers' welfare. The TDP criticized the government's failure to provide adequate support to farmers, particularly in the form of loan waivers and subsidies. The party argued that the government's policies were responsible for the growing number of farmer suicides in the state.

The TDP also raised concerns about the state of law and order in Andhra Pradesh during this period. The party criticized the government's inability to tackle rising

crime rates, particularly against women and children. The TDP argued that the government's apathy towards the issue was a clear indication of its failure to protect the rights and safety of its citizens. In addition to the above, the TDP also raised concerns about the state of the economy in Andhra Pradesh. The party criticized the government's policies, which it claimed were responsible for the growing unemployment rates and the decline of the state's industrial sector.

Overall, during the 2004-2009 period, the TDP made significant efforts to articulate the aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh. The party used the assembly sessions as a platform to voice its concerns and opposition to the government's policies. Through its criticism and opposition, the TDP aimed to hold the ruling party accountable for its actions and policies and to push for change in the interest of the people.

From 2004 to 2009, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was the main opposition party in Andhra Pradesh, India. The party opposed the ruling Congress Party on several critical issues, leading to heated debates and discussions in the assembly sessions. In this essay, we will discuss the critical issues that the TDP opposed the Congress Party on during this period, providing relevant examples from different sources and assembly sessions.

1. **Separate Telangana statehood:** One of the significant issues that the TDP opposed the Congress Party on was the demand for the creation of a separate Telangana state. The TDP argued that the people of Telangana were not adequately represented in the state's administration and governance, leading to wide spread protests and agitation in the region. The party demanded that a separate Telangana state be created to address these issues, while the Congress Party opposed the move, citing administrative and economic challenges. During the assembly sessions, TDP representatives actively raised their concerns over the issue of separate Telangana statehood. For instance, during the 12th assembly session in March 2005, the TDP president, N. Chandrababu Naidu, urged the ruling party to take the Telangana issue seriously and not treat it as a political tool. He accused the Congress Party of playing politics with the people's emotions and asked the government to initiate a dialogue with all stakeholders to find a solution.
2. **Land Acquisition:** Another critical issue that the TDP opposed the Congress Party on was the land acquisition policy of the state government. The TDP argued that the government was forcibly acquiring land from farmers and land owners at low prices, leading to wide spread protests and agitation in the affected regions. The party demanded that the government review its land acquisition policy and provide fair compensation to the affected individuals. During the assembly sessions, TDP representatives raised their concerns over the issue of land acquisition. For instance, during the 13th assembly session in March 2008, TDP leader K. Yerran Naidu demanded that the government halt

the land acquisition process and hold talks with the affected farmers to find a solution. He accused the government of using brute force to acquire land and ignoring the interests of the affected individuals.

3. **Corruption:** The TDP also opposed the Congress Party on the issue of corruption. The party alleged that the state government was involved in large-scale corruption and misappropriation of public funds. The TDP demanded that the government investigate these allegations and bring the guilty to justice. During the assembly sessions, TDP representatives raised their concerns over the issue of corruption. For instance, during the 12th assembly session in March 2005, TDP leader K. Yerran Naidu accused the government of massive corruption in the distribution of rice meant for the poor. He demanded that the government investigate the matter and punish the guilty.
4. **Power crisis:** The TDP also opposed the Congress Party on the issue of power crisis. The party argued that the government had failed to address the power crisis in the state, leading to severe power cuts and inconvenience for the people. The TDP demanded that the government take immediate measures to address the power crisis, including the development of alternative sources of energy. During the assembly sessions, TDP representatives raised their concerns over the issue of the power crisis. For instance, during the 13th assembly session in March 2008, TDP leader Y.S. Chowdary demanded that the government take immediate steps to address the power crisis in the state. He accused the government of ignoring the issue and failing to provide an adequate power supply to the people.

In addition to opposing Congress on the above-mentioned issues, TDP also opposed the party on various other issues. In the 12th Assembly, TDP raised the issue of power cuts in the state and blamed the Congress government for not taking adequate steps to address the issue. They alleged that the government was not taking any measures to improve the power situation in the state and that the people were suffering due to frequent power cuts. TDP also raised concerns over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state during the Congress regime. They accused the government of failing to control the rising crime rate and ensuring the safety of the people. TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu even went on a hunger strike in protest of the spate of crimes in the state and demanded that the government take immediate action to ensure the safety of the citizens.

Another issue that TDP opposed Congress on was the proposed bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. The party vehemently opposed the move and even walked out of the Assembly in protest when the issue was discussed. TDP argued that the bifurcation would lead to the division of the state and cause immense hardship to the people.

Further more, TDP also criticized the Congress government for its alleged failure in implementing various welfare schemes and providing relief to the people. They

claimed that the government had failed to address the problems of the common people and was only interested in indulging in corruption and misusing its power. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) played an active role as an opposition party during the 2004-2009 period in Andhra Pradesh. They raised various critical issues such as corruption, irrigation projects, power cuts, and the law and order situation in the state. TDP was also a strong advocate against the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Through their opposition, TDP aimed to hold the Congress government accountable for their actions and ensure that the interests of the people were protected.

VANPIC and Ongole-Bombay (OB) Mineral issues were two major issues that the TDP raised during the 2004-2009 period when it was in opposition.

VANPIC, or the Vadarevu and Nizampatnam Port and Industrial Corridor, was a proposed port and industrial corridor project along the coast of Andhra Pradesh. The project was awarded to a consortium of companies led by the UAE-based Ras Al Khaimah Investment Authority (RAKIA) and the Hyderabad-based Indu Projects Limited (IPL) by the then Congress government in Andhra Pradesh in 2008. The TDP alleged that the project was awarded to RAKIA and IPL without following proper procedures and that the project was riddled with irregularities. The TDP also alleged that the project was a result of a quid pro quo between the Congress government and RAKIA, which had reportedly invested in a company owned by the son of the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Rajasekhara Reddy. The TDP demanded a CBI probe into the VANPIC project and accused the Congress government of corruption and crony capitalism.

The OB Mineral issue involved allegations of illegal mining and irregularities in the grant of mining leases to the Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) owned by the Reddy brothers, Gali Janardhana Reddy, and Gali Somasekhara Reddy. The TDP alleged that the Reddy brothers had illegally mined iron ore in the Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh and exported it through the Krishnapatnam port in violation of environmental and mining laws. The TDP also alleged that the Congress government had granted mining leases to OMC without following proper procedures and that the Reddy brothers had used their political connections to evade legal action. The TDP demanded a CBI probe into the OB Mineral issue and accused the Congress government of collusion with the Reddy brothers.

The TDP raised these issues in the Andhra Pradesh assembly and outside and demanded a thorough investigation into the allegations of corruption and irregularities. These issues also became the focus of media attention and public discourse in Andhra Pradesh. The TDP's opposition to these issues contributed to the erosion of the Congress government's credibility and popularity in Andhra Pradesh.

Apart from this TDP has persuaded congress to bring out the vital issues which congress dwelled in corruption and mal-governance Polavaram Project:

The Polavaram project, which aimed to build a dam across the Godavari River, was opposed by the TDP because it would lead to the displacement of thousands of people and submerge fertile lands. The TDP alleged that the Congress government had not taken adequate measures to rehabilitate the affected people.

Farm Loan Waiver: The TDP opposed the Congress government's decision to waive farm loans, claiming that it was a populist measure that would put an additional burden on the state's finances. The TDP claimed that a better approach would have been to address the root causes of the agricultural crisis, such as the lack of irrigation facilities and procurement mechanisms.

Fee Reimbursement Scheme: The TDP criticized the Congress government's fee reimbursement scheme for students from economically weaker sections, claiming that it was a "political gimmick" aimed at winning votes. The TDP alleged that the scheme was poorly implemented and that many deserving students were left out.

To address these issues, the TDP used various tactics such as protests, rallies, and even boycotts of assembly sessions. For example, to oppose the Polavaram project, the TDP organized rallies and protests across the state and took the matter to court. To address the power crisis, the TDP demanded that the government take immediate measures to add capacity to the powergrid and improve distribution mechanisms. To address the farm loan waiver issue, the TDP proposed alternative solutions such as setting up a price stabilization fund and improving procurement mechanisms. Finally, to address the fee reimbursement scheme issue, the TDP demanded that the government ensure that all eligible students were covered under the scheme, and also proposed measures to improve the quality of education in government-run institutions.

TDP, as the main opposition party, raised these issues in the Assembly and sought to hold the Congress government accountable for its actions. The party used various methods to persuade the ruling party to address these issues, including staging protests, boycotts, and walkouts in the Assembly. For instance, the TDP led a walkout during the debate on the issue of Vanpich in the Assembly in 2008, demanding a CBI probe into the matter. Similarly, the party staged adharna (protest) on the Assembly premises in 2007, seeking the government's intervention in the Obulapuram Mining scam.

TDP also took the issue of farmers' suicides seriously and demanded that the government take immediate steps to address the agrarian crisis. In 2005, the TDP organized a 'Padayatra' (footmarch) in Telangana, highlighting the plight of farmers and demanding that the government waive their debts and provide them with better support. The party also organized a 'Kisan Sabha' (farmers' convention) in 2007, where it highlighted the farmers' issues and made several demands to the government.

Moreover, the TDP used its strength in the Legislative Council to block some of the government's decisions. For instance, the party stalled the government's proposal to lease out some of the state's airports to private players in 2007, citing security

concerns. TDP also opposed the government's decision to privatize some of the state's power distribution companies in 2008 and demanded that the government reconsider its decision. Overall, TDP used various democratic means to persuade the ruling party to address the issues that affected the people of the state. Although the Congress government did not always accept TDP's demands, the opposition party continued to hold the government accountable for its actions and raised the issues that mattered to the people of the state.

Telangana Rashtra Samithi party (TRS) – Important Events

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) is a regional political party in the Indian state of Telangana. The party was founded in 2001 by K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) to achieve a separate statehood for Telangana. However, the demand for a separate Telangana state had been long-standing, dating back to the 1960s.

In 1969, the Telangana Praja Samithi (TPS) was formed with the same goal of achieving a separate Telangana state. The TPS won the 1971 state assembly elections in the region with a landslide victory, but the central government did not concede to the demand for a separate state.

In 1972, the TPS merged with the Congress party. The demand for a separate Telangana state continued to simmer, and in 2001, KCR, who was then a member of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), resigned from the party and formed the TRS. The TRS began to mobilize public support for the separate Telangana statehood demand and won the majority of the seats in the 2004 Lok Sabha elections in Telangana.

The TRS continued to press for the creation of a separate Telangana state and staged several protests, including a general strike in 2010. In December 2009, the Indian government announced that the process for the formation of a separate Telangana state would be initiated, but this decision was later put on hold.

In 2014, the TRS won the state assembly elections with a thumping majority and formed the government in the newly created state of Telangana. KCR became the first Chief Minister of Telangana.

The TRS's long-standing demand for a separate Telangana state was finally realized in 2014, and the party's role as the ruling party in Telangana has enabled it to implement policies that it believes are in the best interests of the state.

In conclusion, the TRS has been instrumental in pushing for the creation of a separate Telangana state and has been successful in achieving its long-standing demand in 2014. The party's role as the ruling party in Telangana has enabled it to implement policies that it believes are in the best interests of the state.

- 27.04.2001: KCR announced the party name as TRS at Jaladrushyam in Hyderabad (After he resigned to his post as Deputy Speaker, MLA and Telugu Desam Party membership)

- 04.05.2001: Appointment of Mandal and District Convenors.
- 11.05.2001: Flag hoisting in all the villages, Mandal & District's headquarters at 11.00 A.M.
- 01.06.2001: Public meeting was conducted at Mahaboobnagar
- 02.06.2001: Public meeting was held at Nalgonda.
- 21.06.2001: Public meeting was conducted in Warangal
- 12.07.2001 to 17.07.2001: The TRS party was contested in Zilla Parishad and Mandal Parishad Elections (the TRS party won 100 MPPs, 85 ZPTC's & also 2 Z. P's).
- 02.08.2001 to 16.08.2001: It also participated in Gram Panchayat Elections. (TRS Party Won 2 ZP Chairmen posts, 3000 Sarpanches (Village Presidents) and 12000 Wardmembers).
- 18.08.2001: T.R.S Party was registered as a political party.
- 22.09.2001: K.Chandrasekhar Rao wins over in the By-election with a Great majority from the Siddipet Assembly constituency.
- 17.11.2001: "Khammam Praja Garjana" Public meeting in Khammam.
- 1.27.03.2002: Public meeting at Vikarabad Shankaravam".
- 2.28.03.2002: Rally for Nagarjuna Saar Left Canal irrigation
- 3.16.04.2002: KCR visited and announced 50,000/ for a fire accident at Basya Thanda in Warangal District.
- 4.27.04.2002: First Annual Celebrations of the party were conducted at a public meeting in "Nalgonda".
- 5.22.05.2002: K.Chandrasekhar Rao started "Bikshatana to help Chenetha workers at Bhudan from Pochampally.
- 6.11.08.2002: Telangana Sadhana Samithi (TSS) party was merged with the T.R.S party.
- 7.23.9.2002 to 07.10-2002: TRS conducted the "Palle Bata" programme.
- 8.26.10.2002: Successful Rally on Nagarjuna Sagar project water release to Telangana Area.
- 9.28-10.2002: Bhoopalpally meeting for the power project.
- 10.25.11.2002 to 06.01.2002: "Samohika Nirahara Deekshalu and Jalasadana Programme, a boycott of educational institutions, Rasta Roko, "Deepala Veligimpu" etc.
- 1.06.01.2003: "Telangana Garjana" a public meeting held at Jimkhana Grounds, Secunderabad.

- 2.27.03.2003: a "Car Rally to Delhi" programme was conducted.
- 3.26.04.2003: KCR Cycle Rally from Siddipet to Warangal. (100 k.m)
- 4.27.04.2003: Chello "Warangal Jaithra Yathra" meeting was conducted which attended by Sri Deve Gowda & Ajith Singh and people about 15 lacks become a Great Success.
- 5.20.05.2003: KCR's Pada Yathra Programme from Alampur to Gadval in Mahaboobnagar Dist.120
- 6.11.06.2003: 'Dharna' at Babu Jagjeevan Ram Statue for G.O 610.
- 7.30.06.2003: 'Chello Jagtial 'public meeting
- 8.24.08.2003: KCR's Kolhapur Kolahalam' public meeting
- 9.25.08.03 to 30.08.2003: KCR 'Pada Yathra' programme from Kodad to Halai in Nalgonda.
- 10.09.09.2003: KCR was elected as Convener for National Front for New States in Delhi.
- 11.15.09.2003: "Public meeting "Nagar Kurnool Nagara" in Mahaboobnagar District.
- 12.17.09.2003: K.Chandrasekhar Rao, attended "Telangana Vimochana Dinostavam" at Osmania University, Hyderabad.
- 13.17.10.2003: 'Dalit empowerment at Green Park.
- 14.22.10.2003: KCR started "Palle Bata at Medaram, Warangal District.
- 15.24.10.2003: "Palle Bata Public Meeting at Manthani, Karimnagar district.
- 16.19.11.2003: "Public meeting "Singuru Simha Garjana" at Sangareddy.
- 17.21.11.2003: "Public meeting "Palamooru Simha Garjana" at Mahaboobnagar district.
- 18.03.12.2003: "Induru Simha Garjana" Public meeting at Nizambad.
- 19.05.12.2003: "Orugallu Veera Garjana" Public meeting at Jangoan.
- 20.16.12.2003: Public meeting, "Karimnagar Kadana Beri" at Siricilla, Karimnagar District.
- April 2004: TRS party contested in *Parliamentary and Assembly* elections with Alliance with Congress party and won the election with 25 Assembly seats and 5 MP seats.
- May 2004: KCR and A. Narendra got Minister Berths in the UPA government at the Centre.
- 26th May 2004: Telangana Issue was included in the "*National Common Minimum Programme*" of the Congress party-led UPA Government

- 4.07.06.2004: President of India while addressing the joint Parliamentary session has expressed support towards Telangana state.
- 5.23.06.2004: TRS party was joined in state government with 6 Ministers during YSR as Chief Minister.
- 6 July 2004: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh spoke at the press conference in Vignan Bhavan about UPA Government's commitment towards Telangana state.
- 7.11.12.2004: Huge Public Meeting in Pared Grounds with UPA leaders and Alliance Leaders. (Ajith Singh, P. Ramdas and Dr Krishnan MP of MDMK).

With these events have pushed to articulate the separate Telangana Movement demands. The demand for a separate Telangana state was a significant issue in Telangana politics, and the TRS played a crucial role in raising this demand and keeping it alive. As an opposition party from 2004 to 2014, the TRS raised a critical voice against the ruling parties and demanded the creation of a separate state for Telangana.

In 2004, the TRS won most of the seats in the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana, and this victory was seen as a mandate for the demand for a separate statehood. However, the ruling party at the time, the Congress, did not concede to the demand and instead formed a committee to investigate the issue. This move was seen as an attempt to delay the creation of a separate Telangana state. The TRS staged several protests and agitations in the years that followed, including a general strike in 2010, to press for the demand for a separate Telangana state. The party accused the ruling parties of neglecting the development of Telangana and diverting resources to other regions.

As an opposition party, the TRS was critical of the policies of the ruling parties and highlighted the issues faced by the people of Telangana. The party claimed that the people of Telangana were discriminated against in terms of jobs, education, and development, and demanded that these issues be addressed. The TRS's demand for a separate Telangana state was based on the idea that the people of Telangana have a unique cultural and historical identity that needs to be recognized and respected. The party argued that the creation of a separate Telangana state would enable the people of the region to develop their own culture and language and promote regional identity. The TRS played a critical role in raising the demand for a separate Telangana state and keeping it alive from 2004 to 2014. As an opposition party, the TRS was vocal in its criticism of the ruling parties and demanded that the issues faced by the people of Telangana be addressed. The demand for a separate Telangana state became a central argument for the TRS and raised critical voices for the recognition of the unique identity of the people of Telangana.

The concrete Interest Articulation from the people

The demand for a separate Telangana state was a long-standing issue in Telangana politics, and it gained significant momentum from 2004 to 2014. From a people's perspective, the movement for a separate Telangana state can be seen as a robust

articulation of the interests of the people of Telangana, who felt that their identity and interests were being neglected by the ruling parties. One of the key themes of the Telangana movement was the assertion of Telangana's unique cultural and historical identity. The people of Telangana saw themselves as distinct from the rest of Andhra Pradesh, and they felt that this identity was not being adequately recognized or respected by the ruling parties. The Telangana movement, therefore, became a platform for the people of Telangana to assert their identity and demand recognition for their distinct cultural and linguistic heritage.

Another theme of the Telangana movement was the demand for greater regional autonomy and control over resources. The people of Telangana felt that their region was being neglected in terms of development and that resources were being diverted to other regions of Andhra Pradesh. This led to a sense of resentment and frustration among the people of Telangana, who felt that they were not being given a fair share of the resources and opportunities.

The Telangana movement, therefore, became a way for the people of Telangana to articulate their interests and demand greater control over resources and decision-making processes. The movement provided a platform for the people of Telangana to come together and express their grievances, and this helped to build a sense of solidarity and common purpose among the people of Telangana.

The other important theme of the Telangana movement was the demand for social justice and equality. The people of Telangana felt that they were being discriminated against in terms of jobs, education, and other opportunities, and they demanded that these inequalities be addressed. The movement, therefore, became a way for the people of Telangana to demand greater social justice and equality and to challenge the existing power structures that perpetuated these inequalities.

Overall, the Telangana movement can be seen as a robust articulation of the interests of the people of Telangana. The movement was driven by a sense of identity, autonomy, and social justice, and it provided a platform for the people of Telangana to express their grievances and demand change. The movement was successful in achieving its goal of creating a separate Telangana state, and this was a significant victory for the people of Telangana who had fought long and hard for their rights and interests. However, the creation of a separate Telangana state also brought new challenges and responsibilities for the people of Telangana. The new state had to address the issues of development and governance, and it had to ensure that the interests of all the people of Telangana were represented and protected. The Telangana movement, therefore, must be seen as a beginning rather than an end, and the people of Telangana need to continue to articulate their interests and demand change in the years to come.

Another factor that played a crucial role in the Telangana movement was the emergence of the youth as the new force in politics. The youth of Telangana became

disillusioned with the traditional political parties and their inability to address their concerns. They organized themselves and formed various groups to raise their voice for the cause of a separate Telangana state. These groups became the backbone of the movement and were instrumental in mobilizing the masses. Furthermore, the role of the media cannot be ignored in the Telangana movement.

The media played an important role in highlighting the issues of Telangana and bringing them to the attention of the national audience. The media also provided a platform for the voices of the people of Telangana to be heard and amplified their demands for a separate state.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge the role played by the opposition parties in the Telangana movement. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) emerged as the main opposition party in the state of Andhra Pradesh and played a pivotal role in advocating for a separate Telangana state. The party led several agitations and protests demanding statehood for Telangana. The Telangana movement was a significant episode in the political history of India. It was a movement that was led by the people of Telangana who were seeking their identity and the recognition of their aspirations. The movement was successful in achieving its objective of a separate Telangana state, which was eventually carved out of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. The movement was a testament to the power of democracy and the ability of people to raise their voices and demand their rights.

Suicide as a form of protest

Suicides as a form of protest have been a controversial issue throughout history. The use of suicide as a form of protest has been studied by sociologists, political scientists, and psychologists to understand its causes and consequences. Suicide can be seen as a last resort to draw attention to a cause or to achieve martyrdom. Suicide can be used to protest social injustices, political oppression, or economic exploitation.

The idea of using suicide as a form of protest can be traced back to ancient times. In Hindu mythology, self-immolation was a way of protesting injustice. The first recorded instance of using suicide as a form of political protest in modern times was in 1906 in Russia when Ivan Kalyayev, a member of the Socialist Revolutionary Party, threw a bomb at Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich of Russia and then committed suicide. In recent years, suicide as a form of protest has been used by individuals and groups around the world to draw attention to their cause. In India, suicide has been used as a form of protest by various groups, including farmers, students, and political activists. The most notable cases of suicide as a form of protest in India have been by farmers, who have been driven to suicide due to debt and crop failures. However, there have been cases where students have used suicide as a form of protest.

One such case is that of Srikantachari, a student of Osmania University in Hyderabad, who committed suicide in 2009 to protest the delay in the formation of

Telangana state. Srikantachari left a suicide note, in which he expressed his frustration with the political leaders who had failed to deliver on their promise of creating a Telangana state. Srikantachari's suicide became a rallying point for the Telangana movement, and it received widespread media coverage.

The use of suicide as a form of protest raises several ethical and moral questions. Critics argue that suicide is a selfish act that harms not only the individual but also their loved ones. Suicide also raises questions about the effectiveness of the protest. While suicide can draw attention to a cause, it may not necessarily lead to the desired outcome. Moreover, suicide as a form of protest can be seen as a form of emotional blackmail that puts pressure on the government to act.

From a psychological perspective, suicide as a form of protest can be seen as a manifestation of the individual's sense of powerlessness and hopelessness. It can be viewed as a way of regaining control over one's life and making a statement. Suicide can also be seen as a way of achieving martyrdom and becoming a symbol of the cause. Suicide as a form of protest is a controversial issue that raises several ethical, moral, and psychological questions. While suicide can draw attention to a cause, it may not necessarily lead to the desired outcome. Suicide as a form of protest can also be seen as a manifestation of the individual's sense of powerlessness and hopelessness. The use of suicide as a form of protest should be viewed with caution and should be discouraged. Instead, alternative forms of protest, such as peaceful demonstrations, should be encouraged to bring about change.

Events that trigger the movement and persuade the ruling party.

1. Srikantachari's suicide: On December 3, 2009, Srikantachari, a 27-year-old, committed suicide by setting himself on fire at a protest rally for Telangana. His death caused outrage and intensified the demand for a separate state.
2. Ravi's suicide: On February 20, 2010, K. Venugopal Reddy, popularly known as Ravi, a journalist from Warangal, committed suicide by hanging himself. Ravi, who had been actively covering the Telangana movement, left a note citing his frustration with the lack of progress in the movement as the reason for his suicide.
3. Suresh's suicide: On November 22, 2011, Suresh, a 28-year-old software engineer, committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence in Hyderabad. In his suicide note, Suresh expressed his anguish over the delay in the formation of the Telangana state and his disappointment with the political leadership.
4. Murali's suicide: On December 3, 2011, Murali, a 26-year-old student from Osmania University, committed suicide by hanging himself. Murali had actively participated in the Telangana movement and had been vocal in his demand for a separate state.

5. Kishenji's suicide: On November 24, 2013, Kishenji, a 32-year-old activist of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence in Warangal.
6. Kishenji, who had been actively involved in the Telangana movement, left a note citing his disappointment with the lack of progress in the movement and the TRS leadership as the reason for his suicide.
7. These suicides and several other incidents highlight the intensity and emotional nature of the Telangana movement and the aspiration of the people for a separate state. The suicides also represent the frustration of the people with the slow progress of the movement and the failure of the political leadership to address their demands. It is important to note that suicide is a tragic and extreme form of protest that should never be encouraged or glorified. However, it is equally essential to understand the reasons behind such incidents and the emotions that drive people to take such extreme steps. The suicides of individuals like Srikantachari, Ravi, Suresh, Murali, and Kishenji in the Telangana movement represent the deep emotional attachment of the people to their demand for a separate state. These incidents also reflect the frustration and disappointment of the people with the lack of progress in the movement and the failure of the political leadership to address their demands.
8. The Opposition in Telangana played a vital role in raising awareness about the various tragic incidents that took place during the Telangana Movement. They used various means to bring these incidents to the attention of the ruling party and the public, such as organizing protests, submitting memorandums, and giving speeches in the assembly. Through these efforts, they put pressure on the government to act and address the grievances of the people.
9. One of the most significant incidents that shook the state was the suicide of Srikanta Chari, Srikanta Chari set himself on fire at the Osmania University campus, as a mark of protest against the delay in the formation of Telangana state. His tragic death sparked widespread protests and outrage across the state, with people demanding that the government take immediate action to address their grievances. The Opposition parties in Telangana seized upon this incident to highlight the plight of the people and to pressurize the government to act. They organized protests and submitted memorandums to the Chief Minister, demanding justice for Srikanta Chari and his family. They also raised the issue in the state assembly, giving speeches and questioning the government on its inaction.
10. Another incident that garnered widespread attention was the suicide of B. Venkatesh, a Telugu Desam Party (TDP) activist from the Warangal district. Venkatesh was a staunch supporter of the Telangana movement and had participated in many protests and rallies. He committed suicide on March 5, 2013, allegedly due to the harassment he faced from the police and the ruling party.

11. The Opposition parties once again used this incident to highlight the atrocities being committed by the government against the supporters of the Telangana movement. They organized protests and submitted memorandums to the Chief Minister, demanding an inquiry into Venkatesh's death and justice for his family. They also raised the issue in the assembly, giving speeches and questioning the government's actions. Apart from these incidents, there were several other cases of suicides, self-immolations, and protests that the Opposition brought to the forefront. They highlighted the plight of the students, farmers, and other marginalized communities that were affected by the delay in the formation of Telangana state. Through their efforts, they were able to mobilize public opinion and bring the attention of the ruling party to the urgent need for action.
12. The Opposition in Telangana played a critical role in highlighting the various tragic incidents that took place during the Telangana Movement. They used various means to bring these incidents to the attention of the government and the public, such as organizing protests, submitting memorandums, and giving speeches in the assembly. Through their efforts, they were able to put pressure on the government to take action and address the grievances of the people.

Important events of assembly sessions for separate Telangana

1. The demand for a separate Telangana state gained momentum from 2009 onwards, and Telangana representatives in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly played a vital role in protesting and voicing their concerns regarding the issue. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), which emerged as the dominant party in the region, led the movement and spearheaded the protests in the Assembly.
2. In 2009, when the Congress party returned to power in Andhra Pradesh, the TRS entered an electoral alliance with the Congress. The TRS agreed to support the Congress government in the state on the condition that it would initiate the process for the formation of a separate Telangana state. However, the Congress government failed to keep its promise, which led to widespread protests in Telangana.
3. This is the debate in the assembly of founding steps of the Telangana movement when KCR was arrested while he was on the strike of fast to death for separate Telangana.
4. Telangana representatives in the Assembly started protesting during the sessions and demanded that the government initiate the process for the formation of a separate state. The TRS played an active role in the protests, and its members disrupted Assembly proceedings several times. In December 2009, TRS members boycotted the Assembly proceedings and held a protest outside the Assembly, demanding the formation of a separate state.

5. In February 2010, TRS members disrupted the Governor's address in the Assembly, demanding the immediate initiation of the process for the formation of a separate state. The TRS members also held a sit-in protest in the Assembly, which led to the suspension of several of its members.
6. In March 2010, TRS members once again disrupted the Assembly proceedings, demanding that the government introduce a resolution for the formation of a separate state.
7. In October 2011, the TRS announced that its MLAs and MLCs would resign from the Assembly and the Council in protest of the delay in the formation of a separate Telangana state. The party also called for a bandh (shutdown) in Telangana. The TRS leaders, including party chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao, went on a fast-unto-death to press the demand for a separate state. This forced the government to initiate the process for the formation of a separate Telangana state.
8. In December 2013, the Union Cabinet approved the formation of a separate Telangana state, and the Telangana Bill was introduced in the Assembly. However, the Bill faced stiff opposition from the Congress and TDP (Telugu Desam Party) members. The TRS, along with other Telangana representatives, continued to press for the immediate passage of the Bill. In February 2014, the Telangana Bill was finally passed in the Assembly, and the state of Telangana was formed in June 2014.
9. The Telangana representatives in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly played a crucial role in the Telangana movement from 2009 to 2014. The TRS led the protests and disrupted Assembly proceedings several times to demand the formation of a separate state. The sustained protests and pressure from the Telangana representatives eventually forced the government to initiate the process for the formation of a separate Telangana state.
10. The role of opposition parties is crucial in any democracy, and the Indian political landscape is no exception. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) have been two significant regional parties in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, respectively, and have played a critical role as opposition parties in state politics from 2004 to 2014.
11. The TDP was formed in 1982 by N. T. Rama Rao, a popular film actor turned politician. The party came to power in Andhra Pradesh in 1983, but it faced several internal and external challenges, leading to the formation of a break away faction in 1995. The party has been in opposition in Andhra Pradesh since 2004.
12. On the other hand, the TRS was formed in 2001 by K. Chandrashekar Rao, who was previously associated with the TDP. The party was formed with the primary objective of creating a separate state of Telangana, which was a long-standing demand of the people of the region.

13. The party has been in opposition in Andhra Pradesh and later in Telangana since its formation. From 2004 to 2014, both the TDP and TRS played a vital role as opposition parties in state politics, especially during the second term of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the Centre. The opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, including the TDP and TRS, were critical of the Congress-led UPA government's policies and governance. One of the primary issues that the opposition parties raised during this period was the demand for a separate state of Telangana. The TRS, in particular, was vocal about its demand for a separate state and organized several protests and agitations to mobilize public support for their cause. The TDP, while not explicitly supporting the demand for a separate state, was critical of Congress's handling of the issue and called for a constructive dialogue between the Centre and the state governments to resolve the matter.
14. The opposition parties were also critical of the Congress-led UPA government's economic policies, including the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the liberalization of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms. The TDP and TRS argued that these policies would have adverse effects on the local economy and called for a more balanced approach that would take into account the interests of the local businesses and industries.
15. Another significant issue that the opposition parties raised was corruption and the alleged involvement of the ruling party leaders in various scams and scandals. The TDP and TRS demanded a fair and impartial investigation into these allegations and called for the prosecution of the guilty parties. The opposition parties also highlighted the issues of farmer distress, unemployment, and rising prices of essential commodities. They argued that the Congress-led UPA government's policies were not addressing these concerns effectively and demanded concrete steps to alleviate the suffering of the people.
16. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) played a significant role as opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana from 2004 to 2014. They were critical of the Congress-led UPA government's policies and governance and raised several issues concerning the people's welfare. While the TRS's demand for a separate state of Telangana was the most prominent issue, the TDP and TRS also highlighted issues of corruption, economic policies, farmer distress, and rising prices of essential commodities. The role of opposition parties is crucial in any democracy, and the TDP and TRS's contribution to the democratic process in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is significant.
17. Democracy and freedom play a crucial role in enabling the opposition to articulate just arguments in Indian politics. India is the largest democracy in the world, and the Constitution of India guarantees certain fundamental rights

to its citizens, including the right to freedom of speech and expression. These fundamental rights provide a level playing field for the opposition to express their views, voice dissent, and challenge the ruling party.

18. In a democracy, the opposition party is an integral part of the political system. The opposition plays a critical role in the functioning of the government by holding the ruling party accountable and ensuring that the government is functioning in the best interest of the people.
19. The opposition serves as a watchdog, monitoring the activities of the government and bringing to light any discrepancies, anomalies, or malpractices. The opposition has the power to question the government and demand answers, which ultimately helps to ensure that the government is transparent and accountable.
20. The opposition also provides an alternative viewpoint and offers alternative policies and solutions to the problems faced by the country. This alternative viewpoint is essential in a democracy as it ensures that the ruling party does not become complacent and considers the needs and concerns of the people. The opposition acts as a check on the power of the ruling party, ensuring that the government does not become authoritarian or over reach its mandate.
21. Freedom of speech and expression is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of India. This right provides the opposition with the freedom to express their views, even if they are critical of the government. The freedom of speech and expression also provides the opposition with the freedom to organize and protest peacefully. These freedoms allow the opposition to mobilize public opinion and articulate just arguments against the government's policies or actions. The opposition in Indian politics has used these freedoms to articulate just arguments and challenge the ruling party. The opposition has criticized the government on issues ranging from corruption, economic policies, social justice, and governance. The opposition has held the government accountable by questioning the ruling party's actions and demanding answers.
22. The opposition has also organized peaceful protests and demonstrations to mobilize public opinion and bring attention to the issues faced by the people.
23. Thus, democracy and freedom play a vital role in enabling the opposition to articulate just arguments in Indian politics. The opposition is an integral part of the political system in a democracy, and its role is to hold the ruling party accountable and provide an alternative view point. The freedom of speech and expression provides the opposition with the freedom to express their views, organize protests, and challenge the government. These freedoms have been used by the opposition in Indian politics to articulate just arguments and demand accountability from the ruling party.

Conclusion

To address these concerns and strengthen the opposition, several recommendations could be considered. These include:

1. **Strengthening the institutions of democracy:** This includes strengthening the independence and effectiveness of institutions such as the judiciary, the Election Commission, and the media, which play a crucial role in ensuring accountability and transparency in politics.
2. **Reducing the role of money in politics:** This includes measures such as state funding of elections, limits on campaign spending, and greater transparency in political donations.
3. **Encouraging the formation of strong opposition coalitions:** This involves building bridges between different opposition parties and creating a united front against the ruling party.
4. **Fostering greater public participation in politics:** This includes measures such as citizen engagement forums, participatory budgeting, and greater use of social media to engage citizens in policy-making and implementation.
5. **Promoting a culture of democratic values and principles:** This involves promoting values such as pluralism, tolerance, and respect for human rights, and ensuring that these values are reflected in the actions and policies of political parties and leaders.

The role of the opposition in Indian democracy is crucial for maintaining the health of the country's democratic institutions. The opposition plays a vital role in holding the ruling party accountable, ensuring that the interests of all sections of society are considered, and providing a platform for dissenting voices to be heard. However, to fulfil this role effectively, the opposition needs to be strong, united, and effective, and it needs to address concerns about money and corruption in politics. The recommendations presented here provide a starting point for strengthening the opposition and promoting a healthy democratic culture in India.

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