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GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS OF ANDHRA PRADESH 2014 AND 2019 - A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Andhra state was created in 1953 from the Telugu speaking Northern districts of Madras state. It consists of two distinct cultural regions – Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra. It hadn't included few telugu speaking areas from Hyderabad state. On November 1,1956 Andhra Pradesh became the first state in India under the States Reorganisation Act,1956 which is formed by merging Andhra state with Telangana region of Hyderabad state. Later by Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act,2014 Telangana state was separated back out of Andhra Pradesh on June 2,2014 creating the new states i.e., Telangana and residuary Andhra Pradesh. T he united AP Legislative Assembly have 294 Legislative Assembly seats which were distributed between the AP and Telangana i.e., 175 seats for AP and 119 seats were allocated to State of Telangana.

KEYWORDS: *Legislative Assembly, Assembly elections, majority, political parties, seats*

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS OF AP-2014 AND 2019

The 2014 AP Legislative Assembly Elections were held on April 30,2014 and the results were declared on May 16,2014.The parties that contested in the Assembly elections are INC,CPI,CPI(M),TDP in alliance with BJP and JSP, YSRCP,NP and Independents.The TDP succeeded in securing a majority of 102 out of 175 Legislative Assembly seats and there by formed the government.YSRCP won 67 seats ,BJP secured 04 seats and the Navodyam party and Independent secured 01 seat each where as INC did not secured any seat in the Legislative Assembly elections.

The 2019 AP Legislative Assembly elections were held on April 11,2019 and the results were declared on May 23,2019.The parties that contested in 2019 Legislative Assembly elections are INC,BJP,TDP,YSRCP and JSP in alliance with CPI,CPI(M),BSP and other Independents.YSRCP swept the polls by winning 151 out of 175 Legislative Assembly seats.YSRCP won all seats in the Kadapa,Kurnool and Vizianagaram Districts.TDP won 23 seats and JSP won 1 seat where as INC and BJP did not secured any seat in the Legislative Assembly Elections.

The below Table-1 clearly shows that the strength of the AP Legislative Assembly- District wise data and also gives clear picture on 2014 and 2019 AP Legislative Assembly Constituencies along with No. of seats secured gained by the different political parties.

Table:1 No. of seats won by political parties during 2014 and 2019 Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Elections-District wise Information

S.No	Name of the District	Strength of AP Legislative Assembly Constituencies	AP Legislative Assembly Elections 2014-party wise data					AP Legislative Assembly Elections 2019-party wise data		
			YSRCP	TDP	BJP	NP	IND	YSRCP	TDP	JSP
1	Srikakulam	10	3	7	-	-	-	8	2	-
2	Vizianagaram	09	3	6	-	-	-	9	-	-
3	Visakhapatnam	15	3	11	1	-	-	11	4	-
4	East Godavari	19	5	12	1	-	1	14	4	1
5	West Godavari	15	-	14	1	-	-	13	2	-
6	Krishna	16	5	10	1	-	-	14	2	-
7	Guntur	17	5	12	-	-	-	15	2	-
8	Prakasam	12	6	5	-	1	-	8	4	-
9	Nellore	10	7	3	-	-	-	10	-	-
10	YSR Kadapa	10	9	1	-	-	-	10	-	-
11	Kurnool	14	11	3	-	-	-	14	-	-
12	Anantapur	14	2	12	-	-	-	12	2	-
13	Chittoor	14	8	6	-	-	-	13	1	-
	TOTAL	**175**	67	102	4	1	1	151	23	1

Source:-*Website information.*

The below Table-2 gives a clear picture on the Election manifesto promised by the different political parties during 2014 and 2019 elections.

Table:2 Manifesto of different political parties during 2014 and 2019 AP Legislative Assembly Elections

S.No	Name of the political party	Manifesto of political parties in 2014 AP Legislative Assembly Election	Manifesto of political parties in 2019 AP Legislative Assembly Election
1	Indian National Congress (INC)	a)Decentralized development by improving the coastal corridor network. b)Setting up industries based on mineral resources in Rayalaseema region. c)Creating an Industrial corridor and a Tourism corridor and exploring the KG basin by encouraging petro chemical hub. d)Green Field Airport in every district. e)Waiver of loans to Self Help Groups. f)International airports in Visakhapatnam,Vijayawada and Tirupati	a)Granting special status to AP. b)NYAY Scheme – Providing minimum income guarantee scheme to the poor. c)Supporting farmers by waiving of loans upto Rs.2 Lakhs and intrest free loans to farmers,tenant farmers and Self Help Groups. d)Establishment of full fledged Railway Zone. e)Petrol and Diesel would be brought under GST regime and Handloom sector would be exempted. f)33% Reservation of seats to Women in Loksabha and Legislative Assemblies. g)RTI and RTE Act would be effectively implemented.
2	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	a)Extending of special status from 5 to 10 years and ensuring all promises made during the division are implemented. b)Assured that constitutional amendments will be taken up if there are any legal hurdles in having a common capital, special powers to Governor and Article-371(D). c)Making Seemandhra as wealthy state. d)Development of Vizag-Chennai corridor. e)Use of KG basin gas.	a)It has ensured that state would pay the premium instead of farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme and extended it to all agricultural and horticultural crops and set up an Agricultural Planning Commission for the promotion of primary sector. b)Godavari and Krishna rivers are promised to be cleaned on the lines of Namami Ganga programme. c)In the health sector it undertook to establish kidney Research Center in Srikakulam and set up Government Medical Colleges where there there are no such colleges now and a Cancer Research center in Rayalaseema. d)Development of Visakhapatnam,Vijayawada and Tirupati as Regional Development Centers.

3	Communist Party of India (CPI)	a)Economic development with equitable distribution and social justice. b)Rigt to Housing and Right to Work to be enacted as Fundamental Right. c)Shift from capital intensive development to job intensive development. d)Providing 35kg of foodgrain per month to all families at a maximum of 2 per kg.	a)Reservations would be provided in private sector and their main agenda is to revamp the political system. b)Preventing corruption,providing employment opportunities. c)Rs.5000 stipend to unemployed graduates. d)Granting of Special category status and implementation of AP Reorganization Act,2014. e)Supply free drinking water. f)Eligible poor people would be allotted houses under government housing scheme. g)Making state drought free. h)Steps to prevent attack on women and dalits. i)Special package to North Andhra and Rayalaseema regions
4	Communist Party of India Marxist (CPI(M))	a)Deregulation of petroleum product prices and reducing excise and customs duties on them. b)Cracking down on black money and money laundering. c)Increasing public investments in agricultural production. d)Employment guarantee in all urban areas.	a)Increasing of all the pensions to Rs.5000. b)Rs.5000 as unemployment allowance. c)Minimum wage Rs.18000 and removing the acts which are against workers rights. d)Reservation in private sector.
5	Telugu Desam Party (TDP)	a)Waiver of loans,separate budget for Agriculture sector in addition of Rs.5000cr market intervention fund for rescuing farmers during price fluctuations. b)Unemployment Allowance of Rs.1000 to Rs.2000 a month to youth till they secure a job. c)Retirement age will be enhanced to 60 years and a five day a week will be implemented in all Government Offices. d)NTR Health Scheme. e)Development of New Capital. f)Old Age Pension will be enhanced to Rs.1000. g)Mahalakshmi Scheme which would give Rs.2 Lakhs to each girl child by the time she is married.	a)Annadatha Sukhibhava Scheme. b)Pasupu kunkuma for Self Help Groups. c)Rs.3000 as Unemployment Allowance for youth with intermediate education was also announced. d)Chandranna Pelli Kanuka of Rs.1 lakh. e)Age limit for Old Age Pension will be reduced to 60 years and the amount will be increased to Rs.3000. f)Cancellation of CPS. g)Five point vision for the development of AP- 1. Merging of rivers. 2. Building of Capital Amravathi as the 5th greatest city in the world. 3. Construction of beach road along the coastline. 4. Usage of pollution free vehicles. 5. Industrial AP – 175 MSME park establishment.
6	Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP)	a)Waiver of Rs.2000cr loans to DWCRA groups. b)Amma Vodi scheme for poor families. c)Agricultural colleges for every two districts. d)102 Mobile service to reach out to farmers and 103 Mobile service for Veterinary services. e)Universities will be set up in all districts. f)Continuation of ArogyaSri and Rs.3000 allowance post surgery till one gets back to work. g)50Lakh houses for poor in 5 years.	a)The Navaratnalu include- 1. YSR Rythu bharosa 2. Fee Reimbursement 3. Arogyasri 4. Jalayagnam 5. Ban on Liquor 6. Amma Vodi 7. YSR Asara Scheme 8. Housing fot the poor and 9. Enhancement of pensions. b)Rs.10000 pension for kidney,long term disease patients. c)Rs.1150cr funds for the Agrigold victims. d)Cancellation of CPS.

7	Jana Sena Party (JSP)	-	a)33% Reservation for Women in the State Legislature and Establishment of Mahila Banks in all districts. b)Free LPG gas cylinders for housewives. c)Replacing ration with amount of Rs.2500-3500 and directly crediting the amount to Womens Bank Account. d)Irrigation Support Fund of Rs.8000/acre to every farmers family. e)Dokka seethamma canteen which provides free food for students. f)Rs.5000 pension for Small Marginal Farmers/Tenants above 60 years age and Free Solar pump sets for all farmers. g)Arts and science college at every Mandal level in the Districts. h)Free education from LKG to Post Graduation(PG). i)High Court Bench in Rayalaseema. j)Chief Minister to be brought under Lokayuktha. k)Providing 10 Lakh jobs every year to the unemployees.

Source:-*Website information*

The below Table-3 clearly shows the District wise no. of Reserved Constituencies in 2014 and 2019 AP Legislative Assembly Elections.

Table-3 District wise number of Reserved Constituencies in 2014 and 2019-AP Legislative Assembly Elections

S.No	Name of the District	Category wise no. of Reseved Constituencies in 2014			Category wise no. of Reserved Constituencies in 2019		
		SC	ST	OC	SC	ST	OC
1	Srikakulam	1	1	8	1	1	8
2	Vizianagaram	1	2	6	1	2	6
3	Visakhapatanam	1	2	12	1	2	12
4	East Godavari	3	1	15	3	1	15
5	West Godavari	3	1	11	3	1	11
6	Krishna	3	-	13	3	-	13
7	Guntur	3	-	14	3	-	14
8	Prakasam	3	-	9	3	-	9
9	Nellore	3	-	7	2	-	8
10	YSR Kadapa	2	-	8	2	-	8
11	Kurnool	2	-	12	2	-	12
12	Anantapur	2	-	12	2	-	12
13	Chittoor	2	-	12	2	-	12
Total		**29**	**7**	**139**	**28**	**7**	**140**

Source:-*Website information*

In 2014 there are 29 SC constituencies,7 ST constituencies and 139 OC constituencies and in 2019 there are 28 SC constituencies 7 ST constituencies and 140 OC constituencies which shows that there is a decrease in 01 SC Reserved constituency and increase in 01 OC constituency. The only difference in 2014 and 2019 AP Legislative Reserved Assembly Constituencies is from Chittoor district, Satyavedu Legislative Assembly Constituency.The constituency is SC reserved in 2014 and has no reservation in 2019.The ST Reservation is present mainly in 5 districts of AP i.e., Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and West Godavari.The reservation is mainly based on the presence of ST population.

The below Table-4 clearly narrates the category wise elected Women Representatives in 2014 and 2019 Legislative Assembly Elections in the Ditricts of AP.

Table:4
District and category wise Elected Women Representatives in 2014 and 2019

S.No	Name of the district	Number of Elected Women candidates category wise in AP Legislative Assembly 2014			Number of Elected Women Candidates category wise in AP Legislative Assembly 2019		
		SC	ST	OC	SC	ST	OC
1	Srikakulam	-	-	1	-	1	1
2	Vizianagaram	-	1	3	-	1	-
3	Visakhapatnam	1	1	-	-	1	-
4	East Godavari	-	-	1	-	1	1
5	West Godavari	1	-	-	1	-	-
6	Krishna	1	-	-	-	-	-
7	Guntur	-	-	-	2	-	1
8	Prakasam	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Nellore	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	YSR Kadapa	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Kurnool	-	-	1	-	-	1
12	Anantapur	-	-	-	1	-	1
13	Chittoor	-	-	3	-	-	1
Total		3	2	9	4	4	6

Source:-*Website information.*

In 2014 Legislative Assembly Elections of AP the total number of Women Representatives elected is 3 from SC category,2 from ST category and 9 from OC category and in 2019 Legislative Assembly Elections of AP the total number of Women Representatives elected is 4 from SC category, 4 from ST category and 6 from OC category.When compared to 2014 and 2019 AP Legislaive Assembly Elections it shows that the increase of Women Representatives from SC category by 1 , 2 from ST category and decrease of 3 Women candidates from OC category in 2019.The total number of elected Women Representatives in 2014 and 2019 AP Legislative Assembly Elections remain the same i.e., 14.

Percentage of Elected Women Representatives in AP Legislative Assembly Elections in 2014 and 2019

Percentage of women in 2014 AP Legislative Assembly - 24.5%

Percentage of women in 2019 AP Legislative Assembly - 24.5%

As per the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts of Indian Constitution provides 33% Reservation for Women in Local Governments because of which the Women Representation is more in Local Governments when compared to AP Legislative Assembly.Hence, it clearly shows that there is a need to amend the Indian Constitution and implement the Women Reservation in AP Legislative Assembly.So that the no. of Women Representatives will be given chance to take part actuve role in the State politics.

Reasons for the success of YSRCP in 2019 AP Legislative Assembly Elections

1. Y.S.Jagan's 3648kms long padayatra across AP.
2. People appeared to have responded well to Y.S.Jagan's call to them to give him one chance,having seen TDP rule for many years.
3. Election strategy and engineering at the time of polls.
4. TDP coming out of NDA and coalition with congress made people belive YSRCP as the better opposition to the then ruling party TDP which encouraged Defections.
5. Y.S.Rajashekar Reddy image also played a key role in keeping YSRCP as main lead in the race.
6. Y.S.Jagan's campaign on corruption and failure in fulfilling the election promises made by the then ruling TDP.
7. Enhancement of Old Age Pensions from Rs.1000 to Rs.3000 in its manifesto.
8. Diminishing presence of Congress also helped in the success of YSRCP.

Reasons for the failure of TDP in 2019 AP Legislative Assembly Elections

1. Ignoring the low level cadre of leaders/party supporters by the TDP.
2. Fielding of candidates in the elections by the TDP though they have remark on the contesting candidates.
3. Pending of installment payment relating to Rythu Runa Mafi Scheme.
4. Withdrawl of TDP from the BJP alliance at the center before the elections.
5. Non-Cooperation of BJP and indirect support of TRS party to YSRCP.
6. Enhancement of pensions and providing Pasupu Kunkuma announced at the last moment of the Election.
7. Administrative and political corruption by some of the TDP leaders.
8. Unemployment-No jobs for educated youth which were promised at the time of previous elections.
9. Decent % of TDP votes got split and JSP grabbed those votes.

Suggestions for conducting fair elections

1. NOTA should be made relavent.
2. Mandatory use of VVPAT's with EVM'S.
3. Linking of AADHAAR with Voter Identification Card.
4. To find a secured way to vote online so that there may be higher voting percentage.
5. Immediately after cpmpletion of elections the counting of votes should be as early as possible.
6. Stringent audit of electoral expenses and if any violation of expenditure which were not shown in the account they should be punished.

7. Educating the voter regarding the casting of vote in the EVM's and VVPAT's.
8. Decriminalization of politics.
9. Administrative and political corruption should be eliminated to conduct free and fair elections.
10. Limiting of Nepotism which hinders the growth of a common man in politics.
11. Transparency in each step of the election process,so that the true democracy can be achieved.

List of Abbrevations

INC - Indian National Congress
BJP - Bharatiya Janata Party
CPI - Communist Party of India
CPI(M) - Communist Party of India Marxist
TDP - Telugu Desam Party
YSRCP - Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party
JSP - Jana Sena Party
NP - Navodyam Party
IND - Independents
CPS - Contributory Pension Scheme
MSME - Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
LPG - Liquified Petroleum Gas
LKG - Lower Kinder- Garden
SC - Scheduled Castes
ST - Scheduled Tribe
OC - Open Category
NDA - National Democratic Alliance
NOTA - None Of The Above
EVM - Electronic Voting Machine
VVPAT - Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trial
AADHAAR - Unique Identification Authority of India
Cr - Crores
KG Basin - Krishna-Godavari Basin

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