

March 6<sup>th</sup> 2010

To  
Mr V. K. Duggal, IAS (Retd),  
Member Secretary,  
The SriKrishna Committee  
Room No. 248  
Vignan Bhavan Annexe  
Maulana Azad Road  
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

This is a submission for the consideration of the Committee.

It is an attempt to set out the recent history of the political parties operating in Andhra Pradesh and their views and their statements as reported in the media. We furnish the full text of the media reports as well as the hyperlinks for confirmation/verification by the Committee.

We urge the Committee is to ask the parties concerned to reconcile and clarify their current positions against those their publicly declared positions before the Assembly election of 2009 and the commitment they made to the entire electorate of Andhra Pradesh concerning the issue of a separate state for the Telengana Region.

This submission deals first with the period June 2008 to April 2009 when the Assembly election was held. **(Items 1-2)**

**Items 3, 4 and 5** indicate the extraordinary reversal in the stand of the Telugu Desam Party.

**Item 6** states the similar and consistent (since 2004) stand taken by Mrs Sonia Gandhi, the leader of the Indian National Congress. Nine days later, however, the then Chief Minister, the late Dr Y S Rajashekar Reddy seemingly made U-turn hours AFTER the election booths were closed in Telengana and election was still to be conducted in Rayalaseema and most of Coastal Andhra. Newspaper accounts of the episode are attached for the consideration of the Committee **(Items 7-10)**

The account of the parties' election manifestos is given in **Item 11**

It then takes a snap shot of the situation in December 2009 **(Item 12-13)** and adds a set on analyses made by a non-Telugu national political commentator of the resulting confusion **(Items 14-15)**

## **The Submission is as follows:**

1. The Party positions in the run up to the 2009 election were significant in as much the issue of separate statehood for Telengana and the poll alliances saw a significant change from that of the situation before the 2004 election.
2. The most significant change came with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) making a complete reversal of its 2004 position for united Andhra Pradesh and making a commitment for a separate Telengana state and allying with the Telengana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).
3. The Congress Party, which was in alliance with the TRS in 2004 and supported a separate Telengana state, reasserted its position in support of a separate Telengana state in 2009 also. However, a strange reversal took place after the booths closed in Telengana with the late Chief Minister indicating hostility to the idea. However, later his son and leader of his late father's faction, Mr Jaganmohan Reddy, seems to have first supported and then opposed the separate statehood – a platform on which he, his faction and Party contested and won the election.
4. The Other parties- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Communist Party of India and Praja Rajyam also stated their support for a separate Telengana state.
5. The only party opposing a separate Telengana state was the Communist Party Marxist (CPM) which got only one seat in Telengana and none in Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra
6. The Parties supporting separation of Telengana secured **106 of the 119** seats in Telengana and **all** 123 seats in Coastal Andhra and **all** the 52 seats in Rayalaseema. – this would mean that parties supporting a separate Telengana state secured 284 of the 294 seats in the Assembly
7. On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009, the All Party meeting agreed to a separate Telengana States and the ruling Congress Legislature Party passed a unanimous resolution abiding by the decision of their central leadership on the issue of creating a separate state
8. A objective view would require these openly stated positions and pre-election commitments and post-election declarations of the parties – parties that together represent all but 10 legislature constituencies - in favor of Telengana state to be held also before the Committee. Any change would require to be explained satisfactorily; as such change would go against the election mandate received by them in 2009.
9. The issue of Scheduled Caste support is also dealt with and the reports attached suggest that the two major SC communities – Malas and Madigas – support separation for their won self inters and to avoid the tension caused between them

over the sub-categorization issue intended to address the situation where (mostly Andhra) Malas have been benefiting at the expense of (mainly Telengana) Madigas. A newspaper report on this is attached also **(Item 16)**

**10.**The Muslim support for Telengana is a matter of confusion largely due to the MIM party not taking a stand either way and being ambiguous on the matter. However, other Muslim organizations seem clear in their support for Telengana. The set of newspaper reports are attached for the information of the Committee.  
**(Items 17-21)**

With respect



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## TELANGANA TIMELINE

### 1. No time-frame for Telangana statehood: Andhra CM

June 02, 2008 21:26 IST

<http://www.rediff.com/news/2008/jun/02ap.htm>

#### REDIFF NEWS

No time-frame can be fixed for solving the complex issue of Telangana statehood as it requires political consensus, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhar Reddy said on Monday.

The demand for carving out a separate state was under active consideration of the Congress high command, he said a day after the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, spearheading the statehood movement, received a huge setback in the by-elections.

"Telangana demand is a complex issue. It can be achieved only through consensus among all political parties and all other stakeholders," Reddy said in response to a query during a TV show today evening.

He said the Congress high command was trying to reach a consensus over the Telangana demand.

To a question, he said no timeframe can be fixed for solving the issue but the Congress would try to solve the issue as early as possible.

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### 2. Telangana issue: Rebellion brews in TDP

June 21, 2008 17:00 IST

<http://www.rediff.com/news/2008/jun/21ap.htm>

#### REDIFF NEWS

As the Telangana sentiments continue to be on the boil with in the Telugu Desam Party and the senior party leader T Devender Goud is pondering over his next move, there are several other top leaders of the TDP from Telangana region who needs to be watched closely.

Even as the beleaguered TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu is trying to bulldoze Goud by pitting several other leaders against him, more and more senior leaders from Telangana region are coming out in support of Goud.

They include a veteran like Ch Rajeshwara Rao, former minister and Dalit leader Kadiam Srihari, former minister E Peddi Reddy, former Union minister P Venugopala Chary, Gutta Sukhinder Reddy, C Mutyam Reddy and E Dayakar Rao belonging to different districts of the region.

If all these leaders with their supporters quit the TDP in mass, it will be as good as TDP getting wiped out from the map of Telangana, which was once the stronghold of the party.

Devender Goud, known as clever strategist, is maintaining an enigmatic silence busy in consultations with his supporters, mulling two options of either joining the proposed party of film star Chiranjeevi or launching his own regional party.

Sources close to him say that in case he opts for launching his own party, his long-term plan is to have an electoral alliance or understanding with the Telangana Rashtra Samiti to defeat both the Congress and the TDP in the next elections.

#### **Leaders to watch:**

□ **Ch Rajeshwara Rao:** In an indication that these Telangana leaders were quite serious in taking on Chandrababu Naidu, Ch Rajeshwara Rao defied the party president and made a statement to the effect that party had no option but to take a pro-Telangana line.

Rajeshwara Rao, who had quit the CPI to join the TDP before 2004 elections, is no pushover. His voice is heard respectfully and has his own following.

Presently, he represents Sircilal constituency of Karimnagar district in assembly. In a telling comment, he said: "From my heart, I have always been an integrationist (pro united Andhra Pradesh) but after seeing the injustice with Telangana by the Congress government I am forced to demand Telangana."

**Future:** Likely to quit the TDP to join Devender Goud if he forms a new party. His name is being proposed to head the new party.

□ **Kadiam Srihari:** Recently elected to the state assembly from Station Ghanpur constituency in Warangal district, this Dalit leader is one of the senior-most figures of the TDP in the region.

Srihari, who held several important portfolios in TDP governments in the past, has come out openly in favour of Telangana. In his latest statement, he said there were many leaders in the party, who supported the demand for Telangana.

He also has warned that if the party does not take a decision in favour of Telangana, it will be disastrous in the next elections.

□ **E Dayakar Rao:** Elected to Parliament in recent by election from Warangal on the slogan of 'Jai Telangana', is a surprise in the pack.

Deemed to be a close confidante of Chandrababu Naidu, Dayakar Rao is of the view that party cannot go back after declaring that it respect the Telangana sentiment.

He feels that those who raised the slogan of Telangana in the recent by leaders will lose their respect and credibility in the eyes of the people if they change their position now.

□ **Gutta Sukhinder Reddy:** The vice president of the TDP from Nalgonda district. He has already been issued a show cause notice for his alleged role in the defeat of TDP candidate in by election to the Aler assembly constituency. He has also aligned himself with Devender Goud on Telangana issue

□ **K Venugopala Chary:** A Brahmin leader from Adilabad district, Chary was elected to the Parliament twice and also served in United Front government. He was defeated in 2004 as well as in the recent by-elections. He feels that it will be end of the road for the party if it does not take a clear stand in support of Telangana by 2009 polls.

With so many leaders up in arms, Naidu is finding himself caught between devil and the deep sea.

Mohammed Siddique in Hyderabad

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### 3. KCR-Naidu talks: TDP to reverse Telangana stand

**July 07, 2008 08:40 IST**

<http://www.rediff.com/news/2008/jul/07tdp.htm>

#### **REDIFF NEWS**

In a dramatic political development with far reaching implications two bitter opponents have talked for the first time in about nine years. Indicating the possibility of a sea change in the political landscape of Andhra Pradesh with the Telugu Desam Party reversing its stand on the issue of Telangana state, TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu spoke with the Telangana Rashtra Samiti president K Chandrasekhara Rao over the phone late on Sunday night and discussed the unfolding political situation and possibility of the two parties joining hands in the next elections.

Naidu, whose 150-day-long Mee Kosam Yatra entered the West Godavari district on Sunday night spoke to Rao for 15 minutes, well informed and reliable sources in the TDP said.

Since Chandrasekhara Rao left the TDP in 2001 and launched the movement for Telangana and formed his own political party, it was first time that the two leaders spoke directly.

The contact assumes significance in the backdrop of both the leaders facing serious challenges to their political survival. While TDP is witnessing an exodus of leaders to the camp of popular film star Chiranjeevi and Naidu's grip on the party seems to be slackening, Chandrasekhara Rao is facing a serious threat from the yet to be launched party of T Devender Goud. According to the sources, the two leaders discussed several issues including the impact of Devender Goud and Chiranjeevi launching their respective parties.

It is learnt that KCR urged Naidu to decide his party's stand on Telangana issue to pave the way for the two parties to work together ahead of next year's elections. Naidu on his part told KCR that the extended executive meeting of the TDP in Khammam on July 13 will have a threadbare discussion involving the leaders from all the regions.

"The party may pass a resolution declaring its support for separate Telangana state opening the way for understanding with the TRS. It will pave the way for negotiations to share the 119 assembly seats in Telangana region," a senior party leader said.

Any such change in the policy will mark a major break from the past for Naidu and his party. Naidu has been a strong votary of an integrated Andhra Pradesh saying a smaller state will not be good for the development and progress of the state. But the recent political developments have forced his hand.

After former MP Bhuma Nagi Reddy and his wife former MLA Shohba Nagi Reddy quit the TDP to join Chiru camp, another former minister Khaleel Basha from Kadapa has followed suit. TDP member of Rajya Sabha C Ramachandraiah is also planning a similar move on the ground that the backward classes were not getting justice in the TDP. M Pedda Rathaiah, strongman in Guntur, is also contemplating a similar move.

Naidu, concerned over a large number of senior leaders making a beeline to the exit door and looking towards Chiranjeevi, is thinking in terms of containing the damage specially in Telangana. He was also determined to check the political plans of Goud who quit the TDP last month and is now planning to launch the 'Praja Telangana party'.

E Dayakar Rao, TDP Member of Parliament and a close confidante of Naidu, has already gone on record saying an understanding with the TRS was imminent. He also forecast that both the parties together would win more than 100 assembly seats in Telangana region altering the political situation drastically.

Devender Goud, on the other hand, is hoping to join hands with Chiranjeevi if his proposed political party takes a pro Telangana stand.

Mohammed Siddique in Hyderabad

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#### 4. Let's divide AP, Telangana a historic necessity: Naidu

##### NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/lets-divide-ap-telangana-a-historic-necess/371360/>

**Agencies** Posted online: **Thursday, Oct 09, 2008** at 1832 hrs

**Hyderabad, October 9:** In a major shift from its policy, the Telugu Desam Party on Thursday for the first time took a pro-Telangana stand and said it was in favour of bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

"In deference to the sentiments of the people of the region, the Telugu Desam supports the demand for a separate statehood to Telangana," the party Politburo said in its one-page resolution.

Announcing the decision at the party headquarters in Hyderabad, TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu said Telangana was a 'historic necessity' and 'our party has taken the right decision in this regard.'

The TDP, which was founded by late N T Rama Rao in 1982 to safeguard the 'Telugu pride' and 'self respect', would continue to uphold these ideals and 'we shall re-dedicate ourselves to the Telugu people,' Naidu said.

The TDP's pro-Telangana stand was not taken for any political aims, he asserted, adding that the party had conducted an elaborate exercise for over two-and-a-half years on the 'sensitive' issue.

"We do not take certain decisions only for political gains. We go by the people's wishes and respect them," Naidu said.

The TDP will do whatever required 'legally, constitutionally and politically' for the creation of Telangana state, he added.

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## 5. TRS joins TDP-led Grand Alliance in Andhra

**January 31, 2009 20:12 IST**

<http://www.rediff.com/news/2009/jan/31/trs-joins-tdp-led-grand-alliance-in-andhra.htm>

### **REDIFF NEWS**

The Telugu Desam Party-led Grand Alliance in Andhra Pradesh got a major boost on Saturday with the Telangana Rashtra Samiti formally announcing its decision to join the alliance.

The TRS had been holding political negotiations with both the Grand Alliance and Chiranjeevi's Praja Rajyam Party.

TRS chief K Chandrasekhara Rao, accompanied by other party leaders, met TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu today afternoon and formally joined the alliance.

Though both sides are keeping the number of seats to be shared by them under wraps, sources said that the TDP has agreed to give up 9 Lok Sabha seats in the Telangana region to the TRS. Though the PRP had agreed to give TRS its desired number of seats, the party decided to join hands with the TDP as many senior leaders felt that only Naidu's party had the strength to defeat the ruling Congress.

After meeting Naidu, Rao told the reporters, "Our alliance is going to sweep the elections in the state. We will win at least 200 seats. The Congress will certainly be defeated".

He added that the details of the seat sharing agreement will be announced at a public meeting.

TDP leader Yerran Naidu said that the main purpose of the alliance was to defeat the Congress in the upcoming state elections. The TDP has recently reversed its stand on the issue and announced its support for the creation of Telangana.

The TRS received another shot in the arm today when the Talli Telangana, led by actress Vijayshanti, deciding to merge with it. Vijayshanti, who had earlier walked out of the Bharatiya Janata Party and formed her own party, accepted the primary membership of TRS in the presence of Chandrasekhara Rao.

Mohammed Siddique in Hyderabad

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## 6. No objection to forming Telangana state, says Sonia

April 7th, 2009 - 10:11 pm ICT by IANS

### NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/no-objection-to-forming-telangana-state-says-sonia\\_100176745.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/no-objection-to-forming-telangana-state-says-sonia_100176745.html)

Hyderabad, April 7 (IANS) Congress president Sonia Gandhi Tuesday said her party has no objection to carving out a separate state of Telangana, but stopped short of making any commitment on the issue.

Addressing two public meetings as part of the party's campaign in the backward Telangana region, she said the Congress would take up the issue on priority.

"As far as Telangana is concerned, the chief minister (Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy) has made a statement in the assembly and the Congress has also said in its election manifesto that it has no objection to formation of a separate Telangana state and will take up this issue on priority," Gandhi said in meetings in Karimnagar and Bhongir in Nalgonda district.

The Telangana region along with north coastal Andhra will go to Lok Sabha and assembly polls in the first phase April 16.

In the 2004 elections, Gandhi had promised that her party would respect the sentiments of the people of the region. The Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), fighting for separate statehood to Telangana, was then an ally of the Congress.

This time the Congress is contesting the elections on its own while the TRS along with the Left parties has joined a grand alliance led by the state's main opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

Gandhi criticised the TDP for its somersault on the issue but refrained from attacking the TRS.

"The same TDP, which opposed separate Telangana state, is today trying to be the biggest votary of Telangana. I want to ask them: why they failed to give separate statehood to Telangana region during their rule? What have they done for Telangana and its development?" she asked.

She pointed out that the Congress government under the leadership of Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy took up several irrigation projects and set up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Telangana.

In February this year the state's Congress government set up a legislative committee to go into the issues raised by the demand for a separate state.

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## 7. Settlers will become foreigners in Telangana state: YSR

April 16th, 2009 - 9:28 pm ICT by IANS-

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/settlers-will-become-foreigners-in-telangana-state-ysr\\_100180673.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/settlers-will-become-foreigners-in-telangana-state-ysr_100180673.html)

Hyderabad, April 16 (IANS) Minutes after the polling ended in Telangana Thursday evening, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy said that the settlers from coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema in Telangana will become foreigners if a separate Telangana state is formed.

“If Maha Kootami ('Grand Alliance') wins this election and forms Telangana state, settlers from coastal and Rayalaseema regions in Hyderabad will become foreigners,” the chief minister told a public meeting at Nandyal in Kurnool district of Rayalaseema region.

All 10 districts of Telangana and three districts of north coastal Andhra went to Lok Sabha and assembly polls in the first phase Thursday while the polling in the rest of coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema will be held on April 23.

YSR, as the chief minister is popularly known, made the remarks on Telangana while campaigning for the second phase.

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), which is fighting for separate statehood to Telangana region, and is part of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led Grand Alliance, reacted sharply and said it would complaint to the Election Commission against the chief minister for inciting people of one region against the other.

“If he (YSR) has the courage, he should have made this statement before the first phase of polls. This shows his timidity and double standards,” said TRS leader Harish Rao.

The four-party Grand Alliance has promised that if voted to power it would initiate steps for the formation of a separate Telangana state.

The ruling Congress party, during the campaign in Telangana, had said that it had no reservations on the formation of separate Telangana state.

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## 8. Opposition urges Election Commission to act against YSR

April 17th, 2009 - 7:58 pm ICT by IANS -

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/opposition-urges-election-commission-to-act-against-ysr\\_100181153.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/opposition-urges-election-commission-to-act-against-ysr_100181153.html)

Hyderabad, April 17 (IANS) The alliance of opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh Friday urged the Election Commission to take strong action against Chief Minister Y.S.

Rajasekhara Reddy for allegedly “stoking regional feelings”.

The four-party alliance led by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) submitted a memorandum to state’s Chief Electoral Officer I.V. Subba Rao demanding action against the chief minister for stating that people from coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions would become foreigners if a separate Telangana state is carved out.

TDP leader K. Rammohan Rao told reporters that the chief minister had violated the model code of conduct by inciting people of one region against the other.

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), which is fighting for separate statehood to Telangana, the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) are the other constituents of the ‘Maha Kootima’ or the grand alliance of opposition parties.

In a separate memorandum to CEO, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demanded criminal action against the chief minister for making “provocative” remarks.

Soon after the first phase of polling was over in Telangana Thursday, Rajasekhara Reddy had made the controversial remarks at Nandyal in Kurnool district in Rayalaseema region while addressing a public meeting along with Congress general secretary Rahul Gandhi.

YSR, as the chief minister is popularly known, warned people that if TDP and its allies came to power, settlers from others regions would become foreigners in Telangana, they would not be able to conduct business and they would be forced to shut down their educational institutions in the region. He also stated that the irrigation projects in Rayalaseema would also be affected.

YSR Friday tried to clarify his remarks saying he was only reiterating what TRS leader K. Chandrasekhara Rao had been saying.

“TDP is an opportunist as it has joined hands with such a party,” said YSR, whose Congress had an alliance with TRS in 2004 elections.

YSR’s remarks evoked strong evoked all round condemnation. The entire opposition, leaders of his own party in Telangana and even intellectuals condemned his remarks.

“He (YSR) is trying to provoke regional feelings. He bows before a foreigner from Italy but talking in such an irresponsible way about his own people,” said TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu while addressing an election meeting in coastal Andhra.

The opposition leader said the chief minister made the provocative statement as he feared defeat in Telangana and wanted to garner votes in other regions by stoking regional passions.

TRS alleged that YSR had insulted people of the region and demanded an apology.

“He made the remarks as he realised that his party will bite the dust in Telangana,” said TRS MP Vinod Kumar.

Praja Rajyam party leader and actor Pavan Kalyan said the chief minister’s statement was a proof that Congress was losing heavily in Telangana.

Eminent academician and member of state legislative council Chukka Ramaiah said the chief minister tried to raise regional feelings.

He said YSR should not forget that he is not the chief minister of Rayalaseema but the entire state.

“People of Telangana don’t consider people from other regions their enemies,” he said.

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member V. Hanumanth Rao said he would bring to the notice of party’s central leadership the remarks made by the chief minister.

Senior Congress leader and former minister M. Satyanarayana Rao said it is unbecoming of a chief minister to instigate people of one region against the other. He warned that such remarks would damage the party. “Nobody can stop formation of separate Telangana,” he said.

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## 9. YSR in combative mood, defends remarks on Telangana

April 18th, 2009 - 4:35 pm ICT by IANS -

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/ysr-in-combative-mood-defends-remarks-on-telangana\\_100181406.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/ysr-in-combative-mood-defends-remarks-on-telangana_100181406.html)

Hyderabad, April 18 (IANS) Facing the ire of both the opposition and leaders of his own Congress party for his controversial remarks on Telangana, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy was Saturday in a combative mood.

Addressing the media in Guntur while campaigning for the second phase of elections, YSR not only defended his remarks on Telangana but remarked he was not worried that the the opposition parties could complain to the Election Commission alleging he was provoking people of one region against the other.

Hitting back at both the senior leaders of the Congress and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led opposition alliance, the chief minister wondered why they were finding fault with his remarks when they were silent on the remarks of Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) leader K. Chandrasekhara Rao.

YSR claimed that he only reiterated what Chandrasekhara Rao had said in the past.

He said he was not worried about senior Congress leaders complaining to the central leadership. "It is because of this attitude of senior leaders that my status has gone up before the high command," he said.

"Let them complain to the Election Commission, an authority higher than that. I am not worried," YSR said.

"There is no change in my stand on Telangana," said the chief minister, who comes from Rayalaseema region and is known to be against the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

YSR claimed that his party would win 110 assembly seats out of 154 that went to polls in the first phase. He was confident that the Congress would win 120 out of 150 assembly seats going to polls in the second phase April 23.

The chief minister, addressing a public meeting in Kurnool district after the first phase of polling in Telangana Thursday, said that if the TDP-led alliance comes to power, people of other regions would become foreigners in a separate Telangana state.

He also said the people of Rayalaseema and Andhra regions would have to close their educational institutions and shops and even the irrigation projects in these regions would suffer.

The opposition, which also includes TRS and the Left parties, the Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) of actor-turned-politician Chiranjeevi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress leaders from Telangana and even intellectuals from the region condemned YSR's remarks and alleged that he was trying to stoke regional feelings for electoral gains.

The TDP-led alliance urged the Election Commission to act against YSR for making provocative statement while BJP demanded criminal action against him.

State's chief electoral officer I.V. Subba Rao said he was examining the video-clippings of YSR's speech.

The Congress, in its election manifesto, has said that it has no objection to formation of a Telangana state. Congress president Sonia Gandhi had promised to accord top priority to the issue.

The TDP, which reversed its traditional stand to support Telangana demand last year, has pledged that if voted to power, it will initiate measures for carving out a separate state.

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## 10. Election Commission gives clean chit to YSR

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/election-commission-gives-clean-chit-to-ysr\\_100182781.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/election-commission-gives-clean-chit-to-ysr_100182781.html)

April 21st, 2009 - 11:19 pm ICT by IANS

Hyderabad, April 21 (IANS) The Election Commission has given clean chit to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy for his remarks on separate state of Telanagana.

The poll panel found nothing objectionable in the chief minister's speech at Nandyal in Kurnool district, state's chief electoral officer I.V. Subba Rao told reporters here Tuesday.

The four-party Grand Alliance led by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) had complained to the Election Commission that the chief minister was trying to create animosities among people by inciting one region against the other.

The alliance and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had sought strong action against YSR - as the chief minister is popularly known as by his initials.

Immediately after the first phase of polling in Telangana and north coastal Andhra April 16, the chief minister had told a public meeting that people of Andhra and Rayalaseema regions would become foreigners in separate state of Telangana.

Cautioning people against voting for the TDP-led alliance, YSR had also said that in the event of formation of a separate state, the people of other regions would have to shut their businesses and educational institutions.

The chief minister, however, had defended his remarks saying he was repeating what Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) leader K. Chandrasekhara Rao had once said.

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## 11. Thus spake their 2009 election manifestos

<http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?Title=Thus+spake+their+election+manifestos&artid=bVa0n0sgINE=&SectionID=e7uPP4|pSiw=&MainSectionID=fyV9T2jIa4A=&SectionName=EH8HiI NJ2uYAot5nzqumeA==&SEO>

### NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Express News Service

First Published : 04 Jan 2010 10:28:46 AM IST

#### **Congress (I)**

The Congress-led UPA government has clearly echoed its stance by incorporating the separate Telangana issue in its Common Minimum Programme keeping in view the feelings and sentiments of people in the region.

“UPA Government is consulting all the stakeholders involved in the issue of separate State and would take a decision after reaching consensus at a right time.

The UPA has already constituted a committee under the aegis of Pranab Kumar Mukherjee and has been striving to arrive at a consensus among political classes. However, it did not happen as anticipated due to disagreements among some classes.

In the last five years, Congress-led Government has given utmost importance to the development and welfare of the people of Telangana. Abiding by this principle, the State Government too has taken up the various programmes to see to it that every village in the region is developed.

Fundamentally, Congress party doesn't have any objections to facilitate a separate State but at the same time it opines that proper procedure should be adopted for the same. Before arriving at a conclusion, various disagreements, misconceptions that have arisen around the issue should be resolved.



Further, the State Government has constituted a committee under the leadership of K Rosaiah comprising members from both the Houses (Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council). The committee would seek and consider the opinions of important members and organisations and would submit a final report to take appropriate measures after the submission.

### **Telugu Desam Party**

From its inception, the Telugu Desam has concentrated on development of backward regions and strived relentlessly in this direction.

The party has been founded on the platform of protection of self-respect of Telugus by Hon'ble Dr N T Rama Rao and it will leave no stone unturned in the task of all round development of Telugus in whichever region they live.

The TDP politburo has reviewed the recommendations of the core committee set up by the TDP on the issue of separate statehood to Telangana and has decided to honour the sentiments of people of Telangana for a separate State. The TDP has submitted its consent and favourable opinion for a separate Telangana State to the Pranab Mukherjee Committee.

In this backdrop the Telugu Desam Party declares that it will resume all political and legal initiatives to pursue the goal of achieving a separate Telangana

### **Communist Party of India (CPI)**

The root cause for the Telangana problem is the negligent attitude flaunted by the ruling classes for the past five decades.

During the Telugu Desam Party's regime (1999-2004) 42 Congress MLAs have raised the demand for a separate Telangana State. With the emergence of TRS the Telangana cause gained more acceptance.

The Communist Party of India, which has supported the 'Samaikhya Andhra' in the past, after getting convinced with the Telangana cause, is seconding it.

The CPI fought on issues pertaining to the region like improvement of basic amenities, education, health facilities and job opportunities. We have even demanded the release of Rs 10,000 crore package along with the revival of regional council among other issues for which the Government did not respond.

At this juncture, the CPI has decided to support the demand for separate Telangana State and at the same time rejecting the popular notion that one region is developing at the cost of the other as unscientific.

Demanding for a separate Telangana State, the CPI opines that the Centre appointed committee has failed to solve the problem and the State-level committee is an exercise to gain time.

### **Praja Rajyam Party**

Praja Rajyam will go ahead with the slogan of “Samajika Telangana”. Respecting the public opinion, Praja Rajyam will undertake and hasten all the necessary legislative processes for the creation of separate State of Telangana.

### **Bharatiya Janata Party**

The forthcoming election to the Legislative Assembly in 2009 will be historic because it is being contested with most political parties promising the formation of two states: Telangana and Andhra.

The BJP, which has always championed the cause of smaller states, is committed to fulfilling the promise it made in Kakinada (1998), Delhi (2008) and which it reinforced recently in Nagpur (2009). The BJP favours smaller states for the administrative convenience.

Shri LK Advani has promised that on BJP-led NDA coming to power; the two states will be carved out in one hundred days. We shall fulfill this promise.

[...] The Congress Party remains isolated on the issue of Telangana. Their position is not stated clearly. Rank opportunism marks the Congress’ attitude, which came to power in 2004 in alliance with the Telangana Rashtra Samiti on the promise of the formation of Telangana.

Today, after five years the Congress Party stands out in the national political spectrum as a party, which does not fulfill its promise given to the people. On the contrary their use and throw policy in cashing on the Telangana sentiment to come to power is clearly observed by the people. Our sincere appeal is to vote the Congress out.

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## 12. Congress seeks opinion of all parties on Telangana

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/congress-seeks-opinion-of-all-parties-on-telangana\\_100285790.html#ixzz0cH0X7i3N](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/congress-seeks-opinion-of-all-parties-on-telangana_100285790.html#ixzz0cH0X7i3N)

### NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

December 8th, 2009 - 1:52 am ICT by IANS -

Hyderabad, Dec 7 (IANS) With Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) chief K. Chandrasekhara Rao continuing his fast unto death to demand a separate Telangana state, the ruling Congress party Monday intensified efforts to find a solution.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister K. Rosaiah Monday night sought the opinion of all the parties of the state at an all party meeting, convened on the direction of Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Rosaiah later conveyed the opinion of all the parties to the Congress' central leadership, which is likely to take a decision Tuesday.

The Congress party said it would abide by the decision of its central leadership and the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) said it would take a stand in couple of days but all other parties backed the demand for giving separate statehood to Telangana region, comprising 10 districts including Hyderabad.

The TRS, the main opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the two communist parties, the Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) and Lok Satta said if the government moves a resolution in the assembly, they would support it.

The opposition parties criticised Congress for not taking a clear stand but Information and Public Relations Minister J. Geeta Reddy told reporters that since Congress was a national party, it would abide by the decision of its central leadership.

Earlier, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) discussed the Telangana issue but left the decision to the central leadership. The CLP meeting saw Congress legislators from different regions expressing divergent views on the issue.

The CLP and the all party meeting were held at the end of the ninth day of the fast unto death by Chandrasekhara Rao. KCR, as Rao is popularly known, has already made it clear that he would end the fast only on a categorical assurance on carving out the separate state.

KCR's fast is getting support from students, teachers, government employees, lawyers and other sections of the society. A 48-hour shutdown called by TRS paralysed normal life in the region.

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### 13. Jagan glows in new-found warmth

**December 13th, 2009**

DC Correspondent ,

#### DECCAN CHRONICLE

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/hyderabad/jagan-glows-new-found-warmth-085>

New Delhi, Dec. 12: Senior Congress leaders in the national capital are giving a more than warm handshake to Mr Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the son of the late chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy, after the Centre bungled on the Telangana issue.

Senior leaders, including the Union finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, have been conducting one-to-one parleys with Mr Reddy on the Parliament premises on the developing political crisis in the state.

With resignations of MLAs from all political parties pouring in, the Congress has reportedly sought his help to defuse the situation.

Sources said Mr Mukherjee discussed the political situation in Andhra Pradesh during a separate meeting with the Kadapa MP on Friday on the Parliament premises after a meeting with all non-Telangana MPs.

Mr Mukherjee is said to have requested YSR's son to use his political clout to calm the tempers of MPs and MLAs from Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra Pradesh after the Centre announcement its intention to create a separate state of Telangana.

The Kadapa MP, who has been maintaining a low profile, is said to have told senior Congress leaders that only an assurance from the Congress that a hasty decision would not be taken would bring calm to the state.

Interestingly, Mr Reddy was the only non-Telangana MP present when Mr Mukherjee met Telangana MPs seeking assurances from the Centre on separate statehood on December 8.

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## 14. Telangana botched up

### THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

<http://expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?title=Telangana%20botched%20up&artid=vSDKQ4RMNlo=&type>

Neerja Chowdhury

**First Published: 15 Dec 2009 12:29:00 AM IST**

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The genesis of the T-trouble that has suddenly erupted in the face of the Congress lies in the vacuum left by the death of Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, and the intense power struggle that has ensued in the Congress. The struggle for a separate state of Telangana is not a recent phenomenon. It first surfaced as a peasant's movement against landlords in the late Forties and early Fifties. Later it acquired the shape of a demand for a separate state and got new impetus only in the last 10 years.

During this period the Congress graduated from a position of proposing a Second States Reorganisation Commission which the Pranab Mukherjee Committee had made to L K Advani — and which was turned down by the then Union home minister — to a commitment to create a separate state of Telangana.

These promises were contained in the Common Minimum Programme in 2004, in the Congress manifesto and election campaign in 2009. Sonia Gandhi's words in Secunderabad are cited repeatedly, accepting 'in principle' the idea of a separate Telangana. However, YSR, who had resisted a separate state assured the party high command that he would manage the situation at his end. YSR managed to keep Telangana from boiling over through a policy of carrot and stick. He set up a committee on the Telangana issue that was headed by K Rosaiah. He also deliberately picked up ministers from the Telangana region who he felt would be pliant.

As luck would have it — or he managed it — the Telangana Rashtra Samithi did poorly in election after election which pushed the issue off the radar. Frustrated with the non-action by the Congress, with which it had forged an alliance in 2004, the TRS parted ways in 2006 but fared poorly in the bypolls which followed the resignation of his MPs and MLAs two years later.

The TRS came a cropper again in the 2009 general elections winning only two out of the 17 Lok Sabha seats and 10 out of the 119 Assembly seats in the Telangana region. This is not to say that there has not been an under-the-surface feeling in favour of a separate Telangana, given its continuing backwardness compared to coastal Andhra, and the domination of the Reddys and Kammas in the state's politics since its formation which the OBC leaders chafe against — the Telangana region comprises 60 per cent OBCs. The point is that the 'T' sentiment was not dominant enough to become an election issue

influencing their outcome in successive polls. Till KCR decided to go on a fast. After his 2009 poll debacle, he had reportedly quipped to friends whether he should shut shop. He had not even mustered up courage to contest the elections last month for the municipal council of Greater Hyderabad.

The timing of the fast was curious and coincided with two other events, though ostensibly unconnected. One was the confirmation of Rosaiah as a full-fledged CM. The second was a CBI enquiry initiated by the Centre against the Reddy brothers for illegal mining operations. The Bellary brothers were closely associated with YSR and with Jagan Mohan Reddy, and it is possible that Jagan began to feel the heat.

Whether it was Jagan's supporters who stoked the fires both of the Telanganites and later of the Andhraites, so as to embarrass Rosaiah and bring down his government is a matter of conjecture. But Congress leaders are openly making these allegations. They point out that those who had led the signature campaign to make Jagan CM were also the ones who had tendered their resignations. And it was the Congress MLAs from coastal Andhra and Rayalseema who took the lead in resigning, compelling legislators from other parties to follow suit. The draft of the resignation was also the same.

The Congress has been inept in its handling of the situation and failed to anticipate the problems the midnight announcement could throw up. The bandh call by students the next day had pressed panic buttons in Delhi and it was felt that an immediate announcement could take the sting out of an escalating situation which threatened to spin out of control. The deteriorating health of KCR is also cited as a reason but it could not have been a major consideration for he could have been force-fed.

The Congress leadership had made some ground preparations once KCR's fast was underway — like getting the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet and the Congress Legislature Party to authorise the party high command to take a decision on Telangana, and instructing the CM to hold an all-party meet. All parties, except the CPI(M) and MIM, had promised their support for Telangana and wanted the Congress to bring such a resolution in the state assembly (but took a U turn two days later).

Congress leaders were in touch with KCR, eliciting a promise that he would break his fast the moment they made the announcement — which is what he did. He is also believed to have assured them that if Telangana was formed, TRS would merge with the Congress.

Where the Congress failed was to anticipate that the (former) empire of YSR would strike back. That while Jagan may have overtly accepted the high command's decision to install Rosaiah as CM, neither he nor his mentor K V P Ramachandra Rao were reconciled to it. They had the backing of the economically and politically powerful in the state. YSR had been given a free hand in the selection of tickets in the 2009 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, and the MLAs continue to be loyal to his son.

The high command also failed to anticipate the rash of demands the grant of Telangana would unleash in the rest of the country, suddenly making the creation of small states an all-India issue. The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha got into the act within hours. So did Mayawati who is making a case for the division of UP into three units.

It is all very well for Pranab Mukherjee to say that Telangana does not mean that other regions are about to get statehood. But the manner in which the announcement was made, under obvious pressure, has sent a message that the government will relent only under pressure. This may spawn a new kind of street politics in the weeks to come.

The Congress bosses calculated that they would sweep in Telangana and keep power in the remaining parts of Andhra, given the reality of the Reddy versus Kamma line-up and Kamma versus Kapu fight. Now the party finds it can neither backtrack on its promise of Telangana and at stake here is the very authority of the government of India, nor can it go ahead with it, given the violence and threatened resignations of 20 ministers.

Postponing the decision could lead to loss of support in both regions. The Congress has really shot itself in the foot in a state, which brought it to power at the Centre in 2004 and helped to retain it in 2009.

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## 15. Congress' Telangana Maze

**Neeraja Chowdhry**

NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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<http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?Title=Congress%E2%80%99+Telangana+maze&artid=92NoGzmAMGc=&SectionID=d16Fdk4iJhE=&MainSectionID=HuSUEmcGnyc=&SectionName=aVIZZy44Xq0bJKAA84nwcg==&SEO=>

Telangana is a ticking time bomb. The constitution of the panel headed by Justice B N Srikrishna, and its controversial terms of reference — it mandates him to look into the demand for a separate Telangana as well as the opposing view of retaining a united state — were expected to defuse the situation. But Telanganites see the terms of reference as the undoing of the Centre's publicly announced decision to move towards the creation of a separate state.

At the time of writing, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi's 10 MLAs had quit, and so had five other legislators, including two from the Congress. The TDP is fashioning its

strategy to embarrass the Congress. Its legislators may send in their resignations to the convenor of the Telangana Joint Action Committee with the proviso that their letters be sent to the Speaker along with the those of the Congress MLAs. The idea is to step up pressure on the Congress MLAs, who are torn between the groundswell of support for a separate state and the high command's edict that nothing be done to precipitate a crisis. The Congress has moved from what looked like a win-win scenario, when it decided to form a separate Telangana, to a situation, which is becoming messier by the day.

The genesis of the present crisis lies in the war inside the Congress, following the death of Y S Rajasekhara Reddy. Though the Congress had been toying with the idea of a separate Telangana, the timing of the announcement was determined by the need to checkmate YSR's son Jagan Mohan Reddy and his mentor K V P Rama Chandra Rao who had mounted a campaign to make Jagan chief minister.

The Congress high command was worried about the financial muscle of the Jagan camp and had not forgotten the power the Bellary brothers came to wield in Karnataka, reducing the CM to tears and almost bringing down that state government.

The Reddys are a powerful community in Andhra Pradesh, and they have been the mainstay of Congress support and chief backers of YSR and his son. But the Reddys in the Telangana region are numerically larger than the Reddys in the Rayalaseema region to which YSR belonged. Without the backing of the Telangana Reddys the Rayalaseema Reddys would not enjoy the kind of clout they have so far wielded. A separate Telangana would have loosened the grip of Jagan and his politico-financial group on the party. So when KCR went on a hunger fast for a separate Telangana, the Congress moved swiftly. There are those who believe that it was the Congress, which encouraged the TRS chief to go on a fast, with the understanding that he would join the Congress after the principle of Telangana had been conceded. The Congress leadership would have also calculated that the party would naturally sweep the new state of Telangana, and that new permutation and combinations would see them through in the rest of the state.

The Khammas, who are the centrepiece of the Telugu Desam Party, are very powerful in coastal Andhra and in some districts of Rayalaseema but they have had to rely on the Telangana OBCs to win. It was the late N T Rama Rao who had brought them into the TDP fold when the party was founded. The formation of Telangana would have split this social alliance.

The Congress must have thought it would have 'ladoos' in both hands with the long-standing tension between the TDP-supporting Khammas and the Kapus in coastal Andhra, the possibility of the Congress and Chiranjeevi's Kapu-dominated Praja Rajyam Party making common cause, particularly after the PRP's less than grand showing in the recent elections, the support of the minorities and a section of the SC community, and the weakened anti-Telangana credentials of the TDP, which had tied up with the TRS and announced its backing for Telangana at the December all-party meet.

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Whether or not it would have worked, there was hard political planning behind the idea of a separate Telangana mooted by the Congress. In 2004, the party had been cautious when it promised only the formation of a second reorganisation commission to look into the demand. The Pranab Mukherjee committee had agreed to the idea provided there was a consensus. And YSR had set up a committee to buy time after coming to power in 2009.

What the Congress had not banked upon was the opposition in the rest of the state, and the overt and covert support it would get from elements within the party, including Jagan. This compelled the party to backtrack, and resort to ploys — like the constitution of a committee.

While the creation of a separate Telangana might have benefited the Congress, putting it on hold may create huge problems for it. It is bound to be seen as a big betrayal. It is unlikely to bring down the Rosaiah government, for even if the Congress is divided, the PRP and the MIM MLAs would bail out the government. But Andhra Pradesh is headed for days of uncertainty and instability. Already, those, who had located in the state a decade or more ago because of the bright future the state promised, are talking in terms of relocating, if the situation does not stabilise.

The Telugu newspapers are full of stories of village-level relay hunger fasts, of cultural programmes organised spontaneously for Telangana. There are hundreds of new songs written about the idea of Telangana and these CDs are distributed at meetings. In Warangal district, 1,500 panchayati raj employees resigned en masse, others have threatened non-payment of taxes. Students talk about not pursuing their studies or careers till they have achieved the goal of a separate state. And all this, without a call from any organised body. The agitation is taking on a cultural dimension, which goes beyond the imperatives of ‘politics’ and ‘development’. The half-a-century-old movement has had a sociology and it has suddenly gripped the psyche of the people cutting across communities.

The opponents of Telangana cite the Maoist factor as a reason why a separate state should not be granted. They fear that once the new state is formed, the Naxals would take control of the area where they were once active till YSR pushed them out.

Today the Telangana movement is without a leader. Though KCR’s fast triggered off the present fervour, he is a discredited politician. There is a joint action committee, but no one party is spearheading it. If the government tries to suppress the movement, it will make the task of the Maoists that much easier, whether or not they would have controlled a new state. Given the way the idea has seeped into the consciousness of the people, the government will increasingly find itself in an unenviable position to control the situation. And, let us not forget, Rosaiah is no YSR.

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## **16. Anti-Telangana group develops caste cracks**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Anti-Telangana-group-develops-caste-cracks/articleshow/5341968.cms>

Subodh Ghildiyal, TNN, Dec 16, 2009, 04.09am IST

NEW DELHI: The resistance to Telangana statehood developed caste cracks on Tuesday when three MPs belonging to Scheduled Caste from Rayalaseema and coastal regions told party leadership that they were for bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

The backing for Telangana statehood from Harsha Kumar, backed by Chinta Mohan and Panabaka Lakshmi, took the anti-faction by surprise as they lobbied defence minister A K Antony to roll back the bifurcation announcement. They were supported by another MP who is an OBC.

The dalit MPs feel that statehood for Telangana would resolve their fear of SC sub-categorisation, which has divided the dalits along Mala-Madiga camps.

Sub-categorisation, struck down by the court since, led to 15% dalit quota in jobs and education apportioned between four dalit groups, with Malas getting 6% and Madigas 7%. The reason for sub-division was the feeling that Malas had cornered quota benefits disproportionate to their population, leading to their inequitable distribution among SC groups. Malas are opposed to sub-quota as it limits the share they can compete for to a mere 6%.

Harsha Kumar feels that carving out Telangana from AP would end the fear of sub-categorisation. In fact, it may turn Malas in favour of the move. His reasoning is simple. Madigas outnumber Malas (70% to 30%) in Telangana. While the two have nearly equal strength in Rayalaseema, Malas are said to form 80% of the population in coastal region to 20% Madigas.

Once Telangana, where Madigas are 70% of SCs, is taken out of AP, the share of Madigas in SC population in the remaining state would dip sharply while that of Malas would go up considerably. Any move to reintroduce sub-division of SCs would be done on the revised SC population in state. Here, Malas would form a big chunk and thus get a bigger share of sub-quota. Kumar said, "If Telangana is separated, the Mala share in dalit quota (15%) would be 12%.

## **17. Muslim Forum For Telangana demands immediate formation of the state**

Submitted by admin4 on 21 December 2009 - 12:42pm.

[http://www.twocircles.net/2009dec20/muslim\\_forum\\_telangana\\_demands\\_immediate\\_formation\\_state.html](http://www.twocircles.net/2009dec20/muslim_forum_telangana_demands_immediate_formation_state.html)

**By TCN News Desk,**

Hyderabad: To put pressure on the government for formation of Telangana state without any delay and to demand withdrawal of the cases against Telangana activists, Muslim Forum for Telangana (MFT) organized a press conference on 20th December at Basheerbagh Press Club in Hyderabad.

Expressing its deep concern over the delay in the process of formation of Telangana state, MFT demanded the central government to introduce the Telangana separate statehood bill in the Parliament without further delay.

The Muslim group also condemned the state government for arresting Telangana activists and demanded their release unconditionally.

Giving reason as to why they demand for separate state, members of MFT said that they are fed up with cruelty and injustice with the Muslims and capturing of Waqf lands and lands belonging to Muslims in united Andhra.

“Urdu was the official language for 224 years i.e. from 1724 to 1948 under the Nizam rule. After that Urdu is mixed in the Telangana language as pearls in a string. The reasons for demanding separate Telangana are not only water, resources, political representation but also because Telangana language was not given its due respect for the past 50 years” reads statement issued after the press conference.

They blamed that because of police action on 17th September 1948 the people who lost everything were mostly Muslims and also they lost their language and culture after the formation of Andhra Pradesh. Moreover, Muslims representation in assembly and employment are equal to zero.

“In 1969, a big rally was taken out from Charminar to Rajbhavan to demand Telangana state, in which a number of Muslims participated and today also Muslims are supporting the movement and actively participating in the struggle for Telangana” they revealed.

They also requested the Andhra and Rayalseema Muslims to support separate Telangana statehood as development of Muslims, Dalits and Minorities is only in the separate

Telangana. They urged them not to believe emotional words of Andhra and Rayalseema political leaders.

They also claimed that they have received the messages of President of Jamat-e-Islami Hind (JIH), A.P and Orissa units that JIH has taken the stand for Telangana statehood.

However, Prof. Jayashankar while speaking at the press conference said: “State Assembly has no role in the formation of separate state; it can just give its opinion on formation but not consent. According to Article 3 of the Indian Constitution the bill has to be passed in the Parliament. Therefore, if the government of India is firm on its decision, then no one can stop the passing of bill in the Parliament. So, government should pass the bill otherwise civil war may take place.”

The press conference was attend by many office bearers of MFT and some other organizations namely Lateef Mohd Khan, Dr.Rafat Seema, Khaja Moinuddin, Prof. Kodand Ram, .V.President, MPJ, Kaneez Fathima, Nayeemullah Shareef, Adv.Yahiya Khan, Mujahid Hashmi, Jamaaluddin, Dr.M.A.Malik, Ms.Azmath Qiyam Basith Khan.

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## 18. Telangana Muslims back separate statehood; but MIM keeps quiet

January 01, 2010 20:55 IST

<http://news.rediff.com/report/2010/jan/01/andhra-crisis-telangana-muslims-back-separate-statehood.htm>

Even as the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, the Muslim political party with tremendous clout in Hyderabad, still keeping its cards on Telangana [ [Images](#) ] issue close to its chest, several other Muslim organisations have become active in support of the Telangana state.

Though Muslims in Hyderabad's old city, the bastions of the MIM are largely silent and aloof from the one month long agitation for Telangana state, the minority community members were participating in large numbers in protests and processions in other nine Telangana districts.

As the well established organisations like Jamat-e-Islami have declared their full support to Telangana on the grounds that smaller states will be helpful in providing good governance, several other Muslim groups like Muslim Forum for Telangana and Telangana Muslim Front have also come up to spearhead the movement.

The issue of Muslim participation in Telangana movement has always been sensitive and crucial as they constitute nearly 20 per cent of the four crore population of the region and were mostly concentrated in Hyderabad and other urban centers like Nizamabad, Kamareddy, Warangal, Karimnagar, Adilabad and Nalgonda.

Abdul Rahman Al Attas, the former Telangana Rashtra Samithi member of Legislative Council sought to dispel the impression that Muslims as a community were opposed to Telangana state.

"This is untrue. Muslims like the other people of Telangana region want Telangana state as their rights will be more secure and they will get back their due share in government jobs," he said.

He said that a Muslim Minority Joint Action Committee on Telangana was leaving for New Delhi [ [Images](#) ] on Saturday to meet Union home minister P Chidambaram [ [Images](#) ], finance minister Pranab Mukherji and other senior leaders to spell out the stand of Muslims in favour of Telangana.

The MIM, which has one seat in Lok Sabha and seven in the state assembly, is among the eight recognised political parties of the state invited for the January 5 talks by the Central government. "We will not come out with our stand in the very first meeting as it will be a prolonged process," said the MIM president and Member of Parliament Asaduddin Owaisi [ [Images](#) ].

Even as nearly 90 legislators of different political parties in Telangana region announced their resignations to mount pressure on the Central government to form the state, MIM has kept silent and the party has made no such announcement.

MIM has traditionally been opposed to the division of Andhra Pradesh and formation of Telangana state on the ground that separate Telangana state will be more fertile ground for the Bharatiya Janata Party [ [Images](#) ] and other 'communal forces' and the people from Andhra and Rayalseema regions were 'more secular' than those of Telangana.

"If Telangana is formed, politically it will be beneficial for my party as it can win 15 to 20 seats in a 119 member assembly. But we are not looking at the issue from the angle of political benefit. We feel that it will not be in the interest of Muslim minority. BJP can never think of coming to power in an integrated Andhra Pradesh but they will have a chance in separate Telangana," Owaisi had said a few months ago.

"We are neither for Telangana state nor for a united Andhra Pradesh. We are just saying that when they sit for discussion to decide the fate of the state, MIM should have chair at the table and Muslims as a stakeholders should be heard," he had said.

But with the mounting pressure on the Central government from pro-Telangana forces and inclination in the Centre to positively consider the demand, the MIM is a bit worried about the future.

Jamat-e-Islami Hind's Amir chief of Andhra Pradesh Malik Moatasim Khan declaring Jamat's support to Telangana movement dismissed the fear of communal forces becoming communally strong and said that the communal forces were present all over the country and Jamat along with other forces will fight against them.

"The issue now is not that of creating political consensus on formation of Telangana. But now the time has come to think of the development of the Telangana state," he said, adding that the Central government does not have any option but to form Telangana state.

Movement for Peace and Justice, another active organisation, has come out in its support and said Telangana state should be formed on the basis of justice.

Mohammed Siddique in Hyderabad

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## 19. Muslims will play a big part in Telangana state'

Rediff.com January 04, 2010

Contrary to belief, the Muslim community has come out in support of the movement for the formation of a separate Telangana state. Muslims in the Telangana region feel that all these years they have been treated as outsiders in their own place and believe that once the state is formed, a lot of their problems will be solved.

The community claim that as they are the main sufferers in a united state, the time has come to speak up and be heard collectively. Leading the movement in Hyderabad is **Lateef Mohammad Khan**, chief of the Muslim Forum For Telangana, who says that they are fed up of being branded as ISI agents and rowdy-sheeters.

In an interview to rediff.com's Vicky Nanjappa, Khan speaks extensively about the role Muslims want to play and how their lives would change once Telangana is formed.

*We thought Muslims were opposed to the formation of Telangana. What happened? Why has that stand changed?*

We have not changed our stand. Our stand was always for a separate Telangana. It was just a propaganda being floated by late chief minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy that the Muslims were opposing Telangana's formation.

*The Majlis-e Ittihad al-Muslimin, which largely represents the Muslims, especially in Hyderabad, does not seem to have taken a stand on the issue. What are your thoughts about the same?*

The MIM says they are in favour of the formation of a separate state. However, the Muslims in Hyderabad, at least, have some doubts about them. We have been told by reliable sources that we should not trust the MIM, as they are sitting on the lap of the Congress party which is against the formation of a separate state.

However, the MIM cannot continue this way for long since the movement has gone into the hands of the people and eventually they will have to come around and support our cause.

*There is a lot being spoken about the Nizam's rule. Some say that post-Telangana, the state would prosper as it did under the Nizam. What is the take of Muslims on this issue?*

We agree that the Nizam's rule was feudal in nature. But, the Nizam protected the welfare of the people. He had imposed the 'Mulki' rule, under which in matters of education and employment preference would be given to the people of Telangana.

There was another interesting rule, which was in force under the Nizam. People who migrated to and spent 14 years in Hyderabad were given equal rights. After the 1948 police action, Andhra people started migrating to Hyderabad.

The people of Andhra were recruited in military and civil sectors and we, the people of Telangana, were told that we do not know English and Telugu. Some 28,000 Andhraites came here during 1968 and during 1986, 59,000 Andhra and Rayalseema region people illegally occupied jobs.

During the Nizam rule, 'Mulki' rules were formed to protect the local people. All the agreements were violated the day after the formation of a United Andhra.

At present, some 3,85,000 Andhra and Rayalseema people are occupying jobs in Telangana region. All these jobs are of Telangana, in which our share is included. Coastal Andhra people overlook the historical Charminar, saying that it will not provide any food, and hi-tech city would provide employment to lakhs of people and benefit of crores of rupees would be gained. We are nowhere today.

We question them to point out a single Muslim in the hi-tech city. Hence, we feel that the 'Mulki' rule of the Nizam will be in place once Telangana is formed.

*Is that not asking for too much? This is India, after all.*

Why didn't anyone think in the past that we too are Indians? We have been deprived of our legitimate rights and I think that some focus exclusively needs to be given to us so that we are able to rise and prove ourselves.

*You say the Nizam's rule was feudal. How would you compare the rule of the Nizam to the present-day Congress rule?*

The Nizam had undertaken a lot of developmental works for the people of Telangana. Whatever he did was for the good of the people. However, the Congress has made the people think that we are lazy and speak a funny language. That is all we have gained. To cut a long story short, the Hindus in Telangana are called jokers and the Muslims terrorists.

*How would the lives of Muslims change once Telangana is formed?*

Once Telangana is formed, the Muslims will have a big part to play. We form 20 per cent of the population of Telangana. We will get more political representation and a Muslim could become a chief minister or at least a deputy chief minister. Till date, there has not been a single Muslim chief minister in Andhra Pradesh.

*What about the real estate mafia? How has that changed the equation in today's fight for a separate state?*

When 'Hyderabad' was a State, we were rich in wealth. The State had a lot of lakes and agriculture fields. Leafy vegetables were produced in the fields around Hyderabad. The leaders from Rayalseema and Andhra destroyed several acres of lands belonging to the wakf board.

They also destroyed the lakes and ponds and used it to develop real estate. The people of Coastal Andhra became billionaires and Hyderabad Muslims were forced to come on the roads.

Telangana lost greatly in the past 50 years. Water was never supplied properly for irrigation and all our resources were always diverted. We are living under the worst conditions.

Muslims have been committing suicide unable to pay loans and innocent girls are being married off to Arab Sheikhs for meagre sums. If at all change has to occur in our lives, we should have an equal share in employment and education and representation in politics — for which a separate Telangana state is the only solution.

The time has come to break our silence and as Hazrat Ali (son-in-law of Prophet Mohammed) had said, "There is no meaning for silence when there is a need to speak for justice."

Source: <http://news.rediff.com/interview/2010/jan/04/andhra-crisis-muslims-will-play-big-part-in-telangana-state.htm>

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## 20. MIM seeks president's rule in Andhra Pradesh

January 5th, 2010 - 7:42 pm ICT by IANS

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/mim-seeks-presidents-rule-in-andhra-pradesh\\_100299362.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/mim-seeks-presidents-rule-in-andhra-pradesh_100299362.html)

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Hyderabad, Jan 5 (IANS) Continuing its silence over the demand for statehood to Telangana, the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) Tuesday urged the central government to impose president's rule in Andhra Pradesh to restore peace. MIM, one of the eight parties that attended the meeting called by union Home Minister P. Chidambaram, suggested that the government set up a committee for wider consultation over the Telangana issue.

MIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi told reporters after the meeting in New Delhi that the committee headed by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court and comprising senior bureaucrats should be formed with a time-frame to give its findings.

“Our party will give its opinion only before the committee. And if the government does not form the committee, we will convey our views to the Union home minister,” said Owaisi, who was accompanied by his brother and MIM floor leader in the state assembly Akbaruddin Owaisi.

MIM, a key political force in the state capital, has one MP and seven legislators. While all other parties have either supported or opposed the formation of Telangana state and the ruling Congress and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) stand divided on regional lines, MIM has not spelt out its stand.

In the past, MIM had demanded union territory status for Hyderabad in the event of the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh but it has remained silent ever since the Telangana movement was revived in November last year.

Asaduddin said he demanded that the central government seriously consider imposing president's rule as the agitation for and against Telangana had created law and order problems and paralysed governance and development in the state.

In its representation submitted to Chidambaram, the MIM blamed the Congress, the BJP and the TDP for complicating the issue by “shifting stands and sheer opportunism”.

“The apparent procrastination by the union government and the Congress leadership has caused the present situation,” it said.

The MIM said the future of Andhra Pradesh cannot be decided without taking the views of Muslims into consideration, and felt that the issue needed proper and in-depth study in the larger perspective.

The representation pointed out that Muslims have suffered socio-economic deprivation, loss of employment and educational backwardness ever since police action in 1948. The community also suffered at the time of trifurcation of Hyderabad State and formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1956.

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## 21. Jamaat-e-Islami, students hold massive meetings for Telangana

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/jamaat-e-islami-students-hold-massive-meetings-for-telangana-lead\\_100316462.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/politics/jamaat-e-islami-students-hold-massive-meetings-for-telangana-lead_100316462.html)

February 7th, 2010 - 11:40 pm ICT by IANS -

Hyderabad, Feb 7 (IANS) Telangana Sunday witnessed two massive public meetings organised by a Muslim organisation and students to press the demand for statehood to the region.

Speakers at both the meetings made it clear that the protests for Telangana would continue if the terms of reference of Srikrishna Committee were not favourable to formation of Telangana state.

The central government Feb 3 announced a five-member committee to deliberate on a mechanism for a separate Telangana state to be carved out of Andhra Pradesh.

The move is vehemently opposed by people in the two other regions of the state - Rayalaseema and Andhra.

While Muslim group Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) held a massive public meeting here, students' Joint Action Committee organised a meeting at Kaktiya University in Warangal town.

JIH at its meeting declared support to the demand for statehood to Telangana. Thousands of Muslims, including burqa-clad women and girls, attended the meet.

Addressing the meeting, Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) chief K. Chandrasekhara Rao promised that Muslims would be provided 12 percent reservation in proportion to their population in the proposed Telangana state.

Even as Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM), the key Muslim political party in the region is keeping mum on the issue, the JIH joined the movement for separate state by holding the meeting at Nizam College Grounds here.

The Andhra Pradesh and Orissa unit of JIH and its frontal organisations like Movement for Peace and Justice (MPJ), Students Islamic Organisation (SIO) and Girls Islamic Organisation (GIO) held the meeting attended by thousands of Muslims from Hyderabad and nine other districts of the region.

Burqa-clad women and girls in large numbers attended the meeting, addressed by leaders of various political parties and groups fighting for Telangana state.

This is the first time that a Muslim group has come out to organise a public meeting for Telangana. Various pro-Telangana Muslim organisations supported the JIH.

Addressing the meeting, Jamaat leaders said they decided to support the Telangana movement as it was a movement for rights and justice neglected ever since the region was merged with Andhra in 1956 to form Andhra Pradesh.

JIH Andhra Pradesh and Orissa zone president Malik Moatasim Khan said successive governments neglected the region in basic sectors like education, employment, irrigation and industries though many promises were made for its development at the time of merger.

He, however, said the Jamaat was for a peaceful movement and wanted lives and properties of people of all the regions to be protected.

“After seeing burqa-clad Muslim sisters coming out in such large numbers, I have no doubt that Telangana will become a reality,” revolutionary balladeer Gaddar said.

Congress MP from Nizamabad, Madhu Yashki Goud said no force could stop formation of Telangana state. Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader N. Janardhan Reddy said his party had taken a clear stand on the issue.

MIM, which has one parliamentarian and seven legislators in Hyderabad, has not spelt out its stand on the demand for Telangana state. The party said it would express its opinion during the consultation process to be launched by the government.

Muslims constitute about 13 percent of nearly 35 million population of Telangana. They are nine percent of Andhra Pradesh’s total population of about 80 million.

Meanwhile, the massive meeting at Kakatiya University in Warangal town was disrupted by a group of students. They were protesting some remarks made by Manda Krishna Madiga, a Scheduled Caste leader. Two groups clashed during the meeting forcing the organisers to end the meeting abruptly.

