

## Is it beginning of the end of Congress in T?

By Gautam Pingle

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HYDERABAD: The [Congress](#) high command may be under the impression that only a national party like it can give Telangana, but thanks to its lack of understanding of the ground reality or its condescending attitude to the whole issue, it is becoming increasingly evident that the entire region is virtually lost for the ruling party for many years to come.

A clear indication of this was Sunday's development, in which three Telangana Congress MLAs, Jupalli Krishna Rao (Kollapur in Mahbubnagar district), S Satyanarayana (Ramagundam in Karimnagar district) and T Rajaiah, MLA (Station Ghanpur in Warangal district) quit from the primary membership of the Congress and joined the [Telangana Rashtra Samithi](#) (TRS).

Jupalli has already resigned as a minister in the Congress government, apart from earlier quitting from the assembly. While his resignation from the cabinet has been accepted, no decision as yet has emerged on his MLA status. Rajaiah and Satyanarayana, the other two Congress MLAs who quit the party on Sunday, had also resigned along with all the Telangana elected representatives in support of the separate state in July this year. However, Speaker Nadendla Manohar had rejected all the 101 resignations on the ground that they were submitted under emotional stress.

While the remaining Congress MLAs from the region totally numbering about 50 may be short-sighted and hankering after short-term gains like cabinet berths, the ruling party MPs from the region appear to be aware as to what is in store for the party in the 2014 elections as long as it continues to play around with the sentiments of the people of this region.

[Rajya Sabha MP](#) K Keshava Rao and [Nizamabad Lok Sabha MP](#) [Madhu Yashki](#) have been trying to impress upon the high command as well as telling the media both in Hyderabad and New Delhi that the party will be decimated in the next polls if it persists with its present policy towards the demand for the separate state.

According to sources, after allying with the TRS in the 2004 elections and promising a separate state, the Congress has virtually left the ground for the latter to consolidate its position. "For full seven years, the Congress played cagey on the Telangana demand. And what made matters worse was its announcement in favour of the separate state on December 9, 2009, and withdrawing it in two weeks' time. Thus, while the Congress was committing hara-kiri in Telangana, the TRS went about in a systematic way in tearing apart the TDP, the only other strong force in the region," said a Congress leader.

But what has stumped many of the Telangana Congress leaders is that despite repeated assertions to the leaders as to what is happening to it in the T region, it continued to play the ostrich burying its head in sand in times of danger. "The latest example of this is putting up a candidate against the TRS nominee in the Banswada assembly bypoll. This, despite our appeal not to do so," said a T Congress leader.

As a result, the TRS has come to end up as the sole torch-bearer of the Telangana cause. And its grip on the region is getting firmer with each passing day. And out of sheer helplessness, in the coming days, more Congress leaders as well as those from the TDP are likely to join the TRS. By the time the 2014 assembly elections take place, the scenario of a complete domination of the T region by the TRS appears to be very much on the cards.

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DR GAUTAM PINGLE  
DIRECTOR  
CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE  
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF INDIA  
BELLA VISTA  
RAJ BHAVAN ROAD  
HYDERABAD 500082  
TEL:+91-40-6653 3000, 3081  
+91-40-2331 0907 (D)  
FAX:+91-40-66534356/ 2331 3882  
E-MAIL: [gpingle@asci.org.in](mailto:gpingle@asci.org.in)  
[gautam.pingle@gmail.com](mailto:gautam.pingle@gmail.com)