

Sticking to its Two-eyed Theory, Telugu Desam Looks at Two States Differently

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The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) manifesto makes separate promises for each of the successor states of Andhra Pradesh. This newspaper carried the promises on Wednesday and we have classified them in groups in a Table.

TDP ELECTION PROMISES TO VOTERS IN SUCCESSOR STATES		
SECTOR	TELANGANA	SEEMANDHRA
EMPLOYMEN, EDUCATION AND STUDENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●•Creation of 50 lakh jobs, job opportunities in next 10 years ●•Dole of Rs 2,000 to each unemployed youth. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●•Linking up of industries with educational institutions. ●•Setting up of NTR Study Circles in all districts for imparting coaching for competitive examinations. ●•Free bus passes to students till Intermediate. 	
	Free education to differently-abled from KG to PG.	Free education from KG to PG to poor children. Ipads for college students.
	Physical education and sports colleges in all districts.	
SUPPORT FOR RELIGION	Priests of temples sans income to get Rs 5,000 as honorarium and a pension of Rs 1,000 after they attain 60 years of age.	Free houses to poor Brahmins
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●•Honorarium of ` Rs. 3,000 to RS 5,000 per month to imams of mosques having no income. ●• Rs 5-lakh aid for construction of mosques. 	
	Subsidy to Christians for pilgrimage to Bethlehem	
HEALTH CARE	Free medical treatment up to Rs 2.50 lakh through NTR Arogya Cards	Safe drinking water for every village and town.

PENSIONS	Revision of pension every five years after the age of 65 years along with medical care and DA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●•Rs 1,000 as pension to the aged and widows ●•Rs 1,500 to physically challenged; old age homes in every constituency ●•Medical facilities and DA for pensioners on par with regular employees.
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES	Immediate setting up of Telangana Public Service Commission and bringing out a calendar for filling up vacancies in Govt depts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●•Additional concession in travel for employees.
SPECIAL GROUPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●•Rs 10 lakh financial aid and a government job for every family of martyrs and withdrawal of all cases against those who participated in the Telangana movement. ●•Rs 5 lakh insurance cover for lorry and taxi drivers. ●•Measures for safety and welfare of the Gulf migrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●•Hutless AP; free houses to poor ●•Interest-free loans to paper boys, milk distributors and hawkers for purchasing a two-wheeler
FARMER SUPPORT AND POWER	Market intervention fund of Rs 1,000 crore to ensure better market price for agricultural produce to benefit farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●•Waiver of crop and DWCRA loans; ●•Prices stabilization fund with Rs 5,000 crore; crop insurance based on farmer.
	75 pc subsidy to farmers for solar power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●• 9-hour free power to agriculture;
INDUSTRIAL AND HOUSE HOLD POWER		Round-the-clock power supply to households and industries
SKILL DEVELOPMENT	Occupational skill development centers for improving traditional occupations and handicrafts.	
WOMEN ISSUES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●•Removal of belt-shops; ●•Special police force for protection of women; ●•Security setup for rescuing women in distress within five minutes; ●•Free cell phones to women for their safety

BC ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●•100 seats for BCs and Rs.10,000 crore budget for them. ●•Inclusion of Boya community in SC category ●•Moving Padmasalis to BC-A from BC-B category. ●•Inclusion of Sivarchakas in BC-D category 	Special budget for BC welfare
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First, take employment, educational and students issues. The only promise that is made to Seemandhra is that KG to PG education will be free for poor students (is it not already?) but only for differently enabled children in Telangana. The Seemandhra poor students will get an I Pad but not the Telangana children. However, jobs, free bus passes and doles are promised for Telangana youth but not to Seemandhra youth.

Second, the TDP promises much to religious groups - Hindus, Muslims and Christians - in Telangana but not so much in Seemandhra (except free houses for poor Brahmins). Funding new mosques but not temples and churches? Does all this not attract the attention of the Election Commission?

Apparently, TDP thinks Telangana voters don't need safe drinking water but the ill- effects of water-borne diseases are taken care of by promising free health care. Seemandhra voters need the promised safe drinking water but not free health care?

Pensions are promised for old aged, widows and disabled people in Seemandhra only. However, retired government employees treated equally in both the states.

As for special groups, obviously for TDP some groups are special in Telangana and other groups in Seemandhra. Electoral politics?

Farmers in Telangana are promised a price stabilisation fund of Rs 1,000 crore while those in Seemandhra Rs 5,000 crore. Telangana farmers will get subsidy of 75% for solar pumpsets (is this over and above the Central government's 90% subsidy?) but not Seemandhra ones.

Only Seemandhra farmers are promised 9 hours free power supply. The radical promise of 24 hour power supply is made to industry and households - but again only for Seemandhra.

The TDP promises women a great deal of special protection in Seemandhra but TDP thinks those in Telangana don't need such protection (women safer in Telangana?). Belt shops shut in Seemandhra, but to remain in Telangana.

Lots of special care for specific BCs in Telangana only and a general statement for Seemandhra. Electoral calculations? But BC CM for Telangana missing?

What is the major inference from this analysis. TDP has acknowledged that the issues and needs of the two successor states are different and the promises made are intended to rectify deficiencies existing in each state.

TDP's two eyes are squinting left and right and there is very little in common as far as TDP promises to Telangana and Seemandhra are concerned. Just wait for the rest of the party manifestos!

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