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Reasons for TRS Victory in Telangana State Legislative Assembly Elections- 2018

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ABSTRACT: Telangana Rastra Samiti (TRS) party won 88 of 119 total seats, with a huge majority in TSLAE-2018. KCR dissolved assembly eight months before to full tenure. According to several news reports, he dissolved assembly on the advice of an astrologer and survey he conducted. To his satisfaction, opposition was not well prepared and were caught like sitting ducks. He didn't change many sitting MLAs in election contest. They had advantage of few months to campaign over opposition. Opposition formed Praja Kutami (Grand Alliance) to fight unitedly. But, they failed in winning seats. Proper strategy and coordination was lacked by them. They badly failed in election management and social engineering. Despite years of experience in elections, many opposition party leaders fell flat in assessing the pulse of the public. TRS party's social welfare and developmental schemes reached large section of the Telangana society. They remained loyal and voted TRS into power for the second time. Opposition parties did not provide any enough tough contest for TRS party in elections.

KEYWORDS: Rythu Bandu, Rythu Bhima, Asra, Arogya Sri, TRS party, TSLAE-2018, Praja Kutami, TRS welfare programmes.

The aim of this research paper is to examine reasons for TRS winning TSLAE--2018. The temporal period of this paper is from September,2018 to December,2018. The methodology adopted for this paper is ethnographic method and interpretative. The researcher has long acquaintance with the state as he lives and works there. The data gathered for analysis is through observation, in-depth interviews with cross-section of the society from old 10 districts of Telangana either over telephone or in person. The sample was 75 persons, state government employees included teachers, engineers, electricity department, students, lawyers, farmers, small businessmen, hawker, artisans, retired employees, politicians, fruit vendors, labourers, outsourcing employees, contract employees, toddy tapers, beedi workers, old aged persons, shepherds, Muslims, etc. Researcher also examined media reports and secondary literature too.

I. INTRODUCTION

In a democracy like India, people elect government based on adult franchise. Every five years, state assembly elections are held in India. People give their feedback on the previous government's performance. Political parties fiercely contest elections to come into power depending on ideologies and manifestos. KCR wanted to go to polls based on his work done in 4 years, 3 months and 4 days. KCR wanted to benefit from plenty of rains. Reservoirs were filled with water and people were also feeling happy. Telangana State Legislative Assembly was dissolved on 6th September, 2018 by Chief Minister K. Chandra Shekar Rao (KCR). Eight months before elections were due in May, 2019 to complete five years term. 105 out of 119 sitting candidates were declared as contesting candidates in assembly polls on dissolution day itself. This gave fair advantage to TRS over opposition parties. KCR decoupled TSLAE and Parliamentary elections simultaneously, as he was sure that Modi's popularity and polarization would impact his fortunes. He also planned to reap benefit from investments to the tune of 2 lakh crores in irrigation, power projects, industries and Rs 5000 per acre Rythu bandhu.

TRS party was in forefront in bifurcation struggle of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh. People gave a chance to TRS to rule Telangana in 2014 elections, because other political parties like Congress and TDP (Telugu Desam Party) ruled un-bifurcated Andhra Pradesh for several years. People wanted to try new party. On 7th of December, 2018 Telangana State Legislative Assembly Elections were held. Results were announced on 11th of December, 2018. Analysis of TSLAE-2018 is done in this research paper. In TSLAE-2014, TRS party won 63 of 119 total seats and polled 34.3% votes. In TSLAE-2018, TRS won 88 seats and polled 46.9% votes. TRS not only increased seats, but also enhanced vote share from TSLAE-2014.

The reasons for TRS winning Telangana State Legislative Assembly Elections—2018: K. Chandra Shekar Rao addressed 91 election meetings throughout the state, ever since he dissolved assembly on 6th September, 2018. Ramu Naik, a farmer said, “KCR came to us to ask votes, so we voted to him. Just before elections, he gave us Rythu Bandhu. Money is deposited in our bank.” Both, astrology and surveys gave him favorable time to have elections. Initially, he was not sure of public voting him back to power. He was surprised to see such huge mandate after election results. TRS could gather huge crowds for election meetings. TRS party elections meetings were covered extensively by print and electronic media, giving TRS party space and time. TRS political campaigns had edge over opposition parties’ election campaigns. TRS benefited from following social welfare and development schemes.

TRS flagship social welfare and development schemes: -1) Asra pensions: a social security welfare measure for old and infirm, HIV-AIDS patients, disabled weaver family, toddy tapers, widows, beedi workers, physically handicapped persons and filariapatients.2) Arogya Lakshmi: Telangana government provides nutritious support to pregnant and lactating mother with children under six through anganwadi centres. 3) Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak: Financial assistance to a girl from SC/ST and minority families, who attained 18 years of age at the time of marriage. 4)Subsidized rice scheme:6kgs of rice distribution to 2crores 86 lakh families5)Anapoorna canteens food for Rs 5 6) Free unlimited power supply for farmers 7) Subsidized Sheep distribution to Yadav/Golla/ Kurma castes people and fish distribution scheme 8) Mission Bhagiratha: Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project. It would lay 1.30 lakh km of water pipe lines in cities, town and villages. Mission Kakatiya: 46000 water tanks were restored to irrigate 25 lakh acres of land at Rs 22000 crores. Main objective of Mission Kakatiya is to enhance ground water level, decrease power consumption by farmers, improving higher yields,stimulating growth of livestock and reviving rural economy.9)Rythu Bandhu scheme 10) Minority and Backward classes residential schools.

11)Reservations to Muslims in education and employment 12) Scholarships for minority and backward class students 13) Kanti velugu 14)T--Hub 15)KCR kit for pregnant women 16) Hariitha haram: Increasing forest cover from 24% to 33% in Geographic area17) Two bed room houses for weaker sections 18) Rythu bhima patakam 19) Amount for women giving birth to newly born 20) Fees reimbursement 21) Arogya Sri 22) Bank loan waiver for farmers.23) SoFTNet: Society for Telangana Network is established to promote quality education through satellite communication and information technology. SoFTNET with the help of GSAT8, telecasts four channels. T—SAT NIPUNA and T-SAT VIDYA.SoFTNET facilitates distance learning, Agriculture Extension, Rural Development, Tele-Medicine and E-Governance requirements of the people of Telangana. 24) Baba Sahab Ambedkar overseas educational financial assistance programme for S.C and S.Ts.25) Wellness centres for government and retired employees.26) District, Area and Public Health Centres were renovated and brought on par with private hospitals.27) Government distributed food items to minorities, during their festivals. 28) SHE teams to protect women from eve teasing and stalking. 29) Telangana Government spent 271 crores for modernizing police force for buying four-wheelers and two—wheelers. 30) Telangana Academy of Skill and Knowledge(TASK) is started to empower graduates coming out of colleges with industry friendly knowledge and skills.

31) WE HUB is meant to empower women entrepreneurs.WE Hub aims to support women entrepreneurs with innovative ideas, solutions and entities focusing on emerging areas in technology. WE Hub will also support under-explored / unexplored sectors along with the Service sector. The mandate and goal of WE Hub is to eliminate financial, societal and support barriers for women and help them succeed in their enterprises (cm.telangana.gov.in).32) Contract employees in government institutions are given equal to basic pay of the grade employee is working in.

Factors influencing voting behaviour in TSLAE—2018: In TSLAE-2018, charisma of KCR worked well then candidates contesting elections. KCR knows about demography and every inch of geography of Telangana. No other politician in Telangana has such comprehension. He is an agriculturist himself. So, he designed and implementing policies favouring farmers. Farmers were committing suicides, because of rural distress as agriculture became financially unviable due to unavailability of water facilities. Cost of cultivation has also gone up. Benefit from cultivation has become less.Large section of the Telangana public practice agriculture. Telangana economy depends on agriculture. People have seen him as a saviour. Because of promises, he made during separate Telangana movement. People looked towards him to fulfil all those promises. He was to make “Golden Telangana”. KCR has a large generous heart. He gave incredible support to people of Telangana, nobody would expect. He gave support to everybody in the society. He gave 43% hike in salaries to government employees after 2014 elections.

After formation of first Telangana state government, he gave standalone Telangana increment 10% of basic salary to government employees. It is continuing to this day. KCR is implementing many welfare and development schemes

based on caste and religion too. He also started residential schools and colleges to backward castes, S.C and S.T communities and minorities. So, the benefiting castes remained loyal to him. KCR is implementing reservation policies to minority Muslims in education and employment. He started many minority residential educational institutions to Muslims. So, they also remained loyal to him. KCR is deeply religious. Hindu temples like Yadagirigutta are renovated and are given new facelift. He performed Ayutha chandi yagam in December, 2015 in his Erravali farm. He performs yagnams and homams from time to time. He promotes Telugu language. He conducted World Telugu Mahasabhas in Hyderabad. Arogya sri scheme for eligible candidates is also liked by its beneficiaries. TRS also started wellness centres (health facilities) for current government and retired employees at various places. New Districts, Revenue divisions and Mandal were created for better administration and implementation of social welfare and developmental schemes. Despite implementing several welfare and development schemes, TRS party also helps the contesting candidates in elections in many ways. KCR evokes Telangana pride and sentiment in crucial times before elections. TRS has been winning elections from panchayat to assembly from 2014. People of Telangana are identified with Telangana sentiment than ever before. Wherever TRS party is weak, defection from TDP, CPI and Congress party were taken in. Certain popular schemes like double bedrooms and three acres of land for Dalits were also implemented.

Weaker section of the society appreciates helping hand. KCR understood their basic necessities and fulfilled them. So, they remained loyal to him. Many TRS MLA's worked hard and won hearts of the people. So, they won the elections. TRS party election management is the best compared to opposition parties. In terms of funding resources or men and material. Opposition parties didn't have resources nor men and material. TRS party took up issues pertaining to specific area, like developing a city like Warangal as a smart city. So far TRS party has no serious corruption charges. People like corruption free administration. Lot of development work is visible in districts. People were also satisfied with law and order. Public wanted continuation of the policies and programmes for one more term. Government's money is reaching every house hold. Electricity is supplied uninterruptedly. Government officials were made accountable to their work. So, in 2018 assembly elections all section of the society showed their loyalty to TRS party by voting them to power with huge majority.

Reasons for opposition parties' failure in luring public in elections: Malla Reddy, a retired government employee said, "Opposition party want to adopt strategy of Bihar elections--2016, where all parties united against BJP and got into power. Opposition parties did not want votes to split, so they formed Praja Kutami (Grand Alliance). But, that did not work as public did not see opposition parties united and any use".

Nageshwar, a political activist said, "Lack of organized and coordinated political party poll management by Praja Kutami. Congress, TDP, TJP and CPI were part of Praja Kutami. Construct critical account on TRS government's performance was not communicated to public by Praja Kutami. Congress could not communicate that it was a viable alternative to TRS through its manifesto. People were not in a mood to visualise any other party as an alternative to TRS in TSLAE—2018. Seat distribution among Praja Kutami was also unscientific. Lot of compromises in Praja Kutami lead to public ire and confusion. Praja Kutami really frustrated voters with internal quibbling. TRS policies are populist, people felt satisfied with government support. Though, populist policies are financial burden on the Government". TRS knows the art of using public pulse to its advantage." Because of mass mobilization by TRS party in campaign trail, it created a buzz that it will win. Psychologically, people would like to vote to winning party. KCR in his public meetings evoked Telangana sentiments by playing to the emotions of the public. KCR gave assurance that he would enhance retirement age from 58 to 61 to state government employees. He also assured public that, he would enhance financial support to Asra scheme beneficiaries. He also made a promise to implement financial support to unemployed youth. Strategically, TRS released election manifesto just before elections. Opposition parties were unprepared to contest early polls declared by TRS. Opposition parties could not muster strength due to Kutami formation and finalization of candidates to contest elections. Post-bifurcation of the state, TDP lost its relevance as it is seen as Andhra party in state of Telangana.

Chary, an educationist said, "Congress and TDP are born rivals, they formed Praja Kutami with other political parties' CPI and Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS). People of Telangana were unhappy with Andhra party TDP forming Praja Kutami with Congress. Votes did not transfer at the grass root level to Praja Kutami, as people felt it is an unethical, immoral and opportunistic unholy alliance. Congress and TDP cadre at the grass root did not accept this alliance. Seat sharing was another obstacle among Praja Kutami parties. Seats were distributed till last day of nominations to contest elections. All parties had to compromise on seat sharing. Opposition parties lost precious time to campaign and give feedback on TRS government. Muslims in tandem voted to TRS as MIM supported TRS government. There was

intense anti-incumbency on many sitting TRS MLAs, despite that people voted TRS to power, because of KCR's leadership and charisma".

How public of Telangana perceived KCR? Rajesh, a shopkeeper, said "He is an orator, who stirs emotions of common man. His speeches compel people to believe him. People look to him for resolving issues pertaining to Telangana society". Srinivas, a farmer said, "But in December, 2018 assembly elections, he was entrusted to run the government for one more time because he has to complete many irrigation projects he has started. So, people voted to KCR. This was a wise decision appreciable. Otherwise, there would have been policy paralysis like present Andhra Pradesh".

If we make content analysis of KCR political speeches during elections, they were revolving around agriculture, farmers, irrigation, water storage, education, employment, industrialisation, farmers, employees and health of people living below poverty line. Rakesh, a student leader says, "Opposition lacks a leader who is competent enough to sell dreams like KCR. KCR knows public aspirations and plays up to them". D.Srikanth, a political leader says, "KCR understands rural economy well and also is a good marketer. He concentrates on castes or segments by wooing them by giving them welfare schemes. Most of his welfare schemes are given lot of advertising and publicity. Beneficiaries of the schemes supported him."

Recent elections teach us how elections are fought for power by political parties. They want to influence people by all means to get back to power. Ruling party always has edge in election management during elections. TRS and Praja Kutami showered many populist schemes in the elections.

In an interview Bhagath a research scholar said, "People don't want politicians to travel to Delhi for decisions to be implemented in the state. People also don't want corruption, nepotism or cronyism. People want law and order and doesn't like anarchy in the state. People want development. TRS government has given approval to several industries, if they start production it will give employment to thousands of people. So, people have voted to TRS party in 2018 elections"

An electrician, Ramesh said, "After elections TRS consolidated power by attracting MLAs or defections from other parties to consolidate its power. TRS's welfare schemes are enjoyed by large section of the Telangana society. Government is providing services from womb to tomb to weaker sections of the society. Then why will people desert TRS."

Ganesh, Fruit vendor and Andhra settler said, "People of Telangana and people of Andhra Pradesh residing in Telangana from all castes and religions voted to KCR. Even settlers from other states voted TRS, because they are either satisfied with TRS administration or not finding alternative with opposition parties".

Pragmatic approach of KCR in election management: Charan, a doctor said, "Persuasive communication, selection of candidates to contest elections was done few months before assembly elections. Opposition party's contesting candidates did not get enough time to campaign for their candidature. KCR's political communication touched serious issues and assured Telangana public that he will take care of them. People didn't have alternative to KCR, except voting him".

Ravi, a businessman said, "They are satisfied with continuous uninterrupted power supply. Agriculture was given top priority and government took every possible care to see that farmers are served well. Government's welfare schemes reached many families of the state in one form or another. So, why shouldn't people vote TRS party. It is taking care of people very well in every possible way. People who didn't have hope KCR gave them hope. KCR is also trying to industrialise Telangana by attracting investors"

Srinivas, a degree college lecturer said, "KCR exhibited unmatched and unparalleled leadership comparative to opposition leaders. KCR's persona would have also impressed public because of Telangana sentiment. Many people see KCR as a God. As he is giving helping hand. People were even satisfied with law and order situation in the state. He is also encouraging private business organisations to start their business or expand their business. It leads to growth in employment and expansion in economy. Public reposed immense faith in KCR as their saviour".

Media and TSLAE—2018: All throughout the TSLAE—2018, it was observed that media wasn't impartial. It was seen media preferring TRS party candidates campaign to opposition parties' campaigns. Ram Das, a journalist, "CM KCR public meetings were covered on front page and opposition parties campaign was covered in second or third or

fourth page. Agenda was set by KCR in election campaign. In the din of election meetings, opposition parties voice could not be heard by public. Whatever KCR said it was highlighted in the media. On the whole, TRS got more publicity than Opposition parties. Probably, media could have influenced voting behaviour, as already people have positive attitude towards TRS”.

Background of separate Telangana statehood movement: The new state of Telangana was formed as 29th state on 2nd June, 2014 within the India. It was bifurcated from pre-existing united Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh was formed on 1st November, 1956. Telangana was formed after long struggle. Initially, agitation started in 1969 and culminated in 2014. The struggle was very hard, lengthy and arduous. Sriram, a software professional says, “The movement was started because of exploitation, hegemony, under representation, identity, cultural differences etc. The people of Telangana always felt they are different from Andhra and Rayalaseema people. Because, their festivals, culture, traditions, dialect, cuisine, mentality, and way of life was different”. People of Telangana lived under Nizams rule for a longer period. On the contrary, Andhra and Rayalaseema was ruled by Britishers. Andhra and Rayalaseema public had access to English education and value system of British for a long time. So, Andhra’s were far ahead of Telangana in every way. Certain part of Andhra Pradesh is fertile comparing with Telangana. Andhra people have more political awareness and active than Telangana public. Andhras are shrewder than Telangana people. Andhras have more business acumen and hard working. Most of the businesses in united Andhra Pradesh are owned by Andhras.

Andhras are more pro-active in every field than Telangana public. Andhras migrated to Hyderabad and other places in Telangana to explore opportunities. Many “Gunturpallis” are seen in Telangana, where migrated Andhras are found living. The united Andhra Pradesh for most of the time was ruled by leaders from Andhra and Rayalaseema. Andhras and Rayalaseema public were dominating united Andhra Pradesh. No doubt, Telangana public didn’t have identity or representation in public life. Large part of Telangana state was backward comparing with Andhra. Faiz, a student says, “In united Andhra Pradesh, overall Telangana was inferior and secondary to Andhras and Rayalaseema. Telangana people were time and again humiliated and betrayed by Andhra leaders. Gentlemen’s agreement in 1956 and Mulki and non-mulki rules were never respected by Andhra political leaders. Andhras were asked to leave Madras by Tamil leaders and form their own capital city. Initially, they chose Kurnool as capital. Telangana was ruled by Nizams, so. it has good infrastructure in Hyderabad. That is the reason for choosing Hyderabad as Capital of united Andhra Pradesh in 1956. Andhras are more entrepreneurial than Telangana public”.

Chandu, an office help, “One of the reasons for formation of Telangana movement was not enough representation of Telangana public in politics and employment. The Telangana public and their political leaders were denied proper political representation in united Andhra Pradesh. Telangana political leaders were not financially sound comparing with Andhra leaders. Politics in Telangana was not vibrant and intense like Andhra. So, Telangana people were seen inferior to Andhra or Rayalaseema leaders”. Telangana public were weak in political management. Though Telangana politicians were elected through formal democratic means, they were never taken seriously nor given powerful positions or responsibilities. Andhra and Rayalaseema politicians have taken Telangana politicians for granted. So, these grievances were never taken seriously by Andhra and Rayalaseema politicians. Moreover, Andhra people were seen in government jobs then Telangana public.

Role of media in Telangana movement: Civil society in Telangana had awareness on social, economic and political exploitation, due to media penetration. Initially, during second phase of the separate Telangana movement, Telangana leaders felt it would take a while to build a mass movement with intense effort and time. On the contrary, to their surprise the movement reached grass roots in no less time. Thanks to media. As public had a wish for separate Telangana on top of their mind. People could be mobilised in no matter of time. From this we can conclude that Telangana has a vibrant civil society lead by media. Media from time to time reflected aspirations of the public.

“Sakala Janula Samay” in September, 2011 was incredible agitation seen nowhere in the world. It mobilised public for a cause peacefully. The separate Telangana statehood movement was led by Telangana Political Joint Action Committee (TPJAC), under leadership of Prof K. Kodandaram. Government of India announced formation of separate Telangana state on 9th December, 2009. But, due to violent agitations in Andhra and Rayalaseema, it was kept on hold on 23rd December, 2009. Later on Congress Working Committee took a decision for formation of Telangana State on 30 July, 2013. Finally, parliament passed Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Bill in February, 2014. The bill received Presidential assent on 1st March, 2014.

There were only sporadic incidents here and there. Many students and common public committed suicide for Telangana. No major bloodshed or violence was seen during the formation of the state. The aspiration of Telangana people was fulfilled at last by Congress led UPA government on 2 March, 2014 after publishing the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014 in Indian Gazette.

Telangana's first government was formed by TRS party: TRS could form the government after bifurcation in 2014. Congress gave Telangana, but it could not get advantage of it. Reason is, they made many mistakes in TSLAE 2014. Congress could not communicate to the public that it brought Telangana state. It ruled united Andhra Pradesh for ten years i.e., from 2004 to 2014.

Congress was part of Praja Kutami in TSLAE-2018. Congress committed blunder in seat distribution too. Instead of giving tickets to probable winning candidates, it gave based on some other parameters. Telangana public wanted to try new party TRS and gave mandate to it. However, after winning TSLAE 2014, TRS government made efforts to give importance to industrialisation, irrigation, agriculture, decentralisation, education of weaker sections and minorities and employment etc. It succeeded in initiating many measures to realise them.

Telangana is an agrarian state. Most of the population depends on agriculture. Most of the farming in state of Telangana is dependent on rain, therefore, providing irrigation facilities is a big challenge. The state is drought prone and it is a recurrent phenomenon. Due to construction of reservoirs, plenty of water is made available to the farmers. With regards to irrigation, initially TRS government emphasised on desilting and renovating of irrigation tanks in each village of the state by "Mission Kakatiya" programme. Later on, TRS Government focused on building dams like Kaleshwaram, Mallana Sagar, Kondapochama, Medigadda etc. As a consequence, agricultural produce has increased by several folds.

TRS party's election promise in 2014 was to fill one lakh jobs in the government. All through the Telangana movement, it was claimed that government jobs were taken by people from Andhra and Rayalaseema. Many Telangana unemployed aspired to get into government Jobs. Till TSLAE -2018, few thousand jobs were filled. Though Telangana youth were dissatisfied, one should realise that no government can give employment to all the youth of Telangana. Telangana youth should concentrate on private sectors jobs too.

Manoj, a car driver, "The State Government of Telangana has decentralised administration. It has increased number of districts from 10 to 31. The districts have become small and easily manageable, as a consequence they are expected to grow faster. Due to small areadistrict administrators can provide better governance by knowing aspirations of the people and also public problems get redressed in time. Welfare schemes will also get implemented in totality. Small districts also enhance representation of local politicians democratically. As a result, many TRS party cadres were accommodated in various posts at district level institutions".

Politics of identity: Murthy, a cameraman says, "Culture, language, dialect, traditions, customs, festivals, dressing, and food etc build identity of a place. Telangana is different from Andhra and Rayalaseema in many ways. In united Andhra Pradesh, Andhra culture and customs were projected. Most of the Telugu movies have Andhra dialect and pitched in their culture, dressing and food etc. Andhra's culture, language, traditions, customs, dressing and food were seen superior to Telangana. Illustrious persons from Andhra were given more importance than illustrious persons from Telangana. This discrimination is found on statues erected on Tank Band." Sampath kumar a telugu teacher says, "After formation of Telangana, TRS government tried to build cultural identity by declaring grand festivals like Bonalu in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, as state festivals. TRS government also declared Bathukamma festival as state festival. Bathukamma is celebrated with religious fervour and grandeur all over the state and also foreign countries. KCR took special interest in declaring tribal goddesses "Samakka and Saralamma jatras" as state festival. He gave importance to pushkarulu of various rivers. Government made all arrangements for pushkaralu. Promotion of cultural identity lead to propagation of religiosity. TRS party made every effort to project unique Telangana identity everywhere. And public also took pride in this".

Personality of KCR as a leader and CM: KCR has been in politics for a long time. Won all elections as a MLA or MP except one. He is an eloquent speaker and voracious reader. He has good command over Telugu language. When he was in TDP not much is known about him. When he was not given ministry by N. Chandrababu Naidu in his Government, he took up the cause of long pending public demand Telangana. People of Telangana rallied around him for the cause of separate Telangana. He is a mass leader. People identified with Telangana and him. He stood for separate Telangana and realised it with Congress.



He has deep understanding on irrigation and agriculture. So, he has given top priority to building irrigation projects. He understands the plight of farmers. He designed and implemented many schemes for farmers. He is successful in increasing agricultural produce of the farmers. In another few years, Telangana would remove rural distress to a large extent and become “Green Telangana”. Thus, Telangana would set agenda for whole country to adopt.

KCR is very liberal with giving boons to employees or public at large. He gave handsome hike to TSRTC employees too. He also helped soldiers’ families, who lost their lives in services. His financial support to the needy is so much that no C.M in India can surpass him.

K. Narsimharamulu, a journalist sums up as, “KCR is a master strategist and shrewd, he knows pulse of the people. He is merciless in turning his opponents to zero. He knows when to attack and when to submit. He has no opposition in the state. He deals issues pragmatically. He is feared by his opponents and party men alike. In the past seven years, there was hardly any movement against him. Beneficiaries vote to him because they are scared that welfare schemes will go away with him. So he has become indispensable to weaker sections of the society. Certain schemes are also serving poor and rich alike. Though, Telangana is a new state, it’s social indicators are better than many old states. He has many more welfare schemes in his arsenal catering to weaker sections of the society. He will bring them out before next assembly elections. He sat firmly in his saddle as Chief Minister. He is safe as of now. His welfare schemes will win him next elections. People are contented with TRS. As opposition is weak and shows no sign of recovery and role in Telangana politics. TRS will continue to rule Telangana for some more time.”

II. CONCLUSION

TRS has fought for a separate statehood. People reposed faith in the party and voted to power in 2014. It implemented several welfare schemes for various sections of the society. People of Telangana by and large are satisfied with law and order and administration. Development activities are visible everywhere. As a consequence, people voted TRS in TSLAE-2018 too. On the contrary, people are not finding alternative to TRS. As all opposition parties are weak and are not in a position to win the confidence of the public. As of now, it’s popularity is intact and sees no sign of waning away.

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