

Under the Name of an Ancient Land... A New Journey

* One State...
Countless
Aspirations

The formation of Telangana was not merely a geographical bifurcation; it was the political realization of decades-long aspirations. The people envisioned that a separate state would secure their rightful share of water (Neellu), multiply employment opportunities (Niyamakalu), bring development to historically backward regions, and spread the wealth generated by Hyderabad across all corners of Telangana. When the new state was born on June 2, 2014, these collective hopes became the central development agenda for governance. A twelve-year journey has unfolded since. Over this twelve-year milestone (Pushkarakalam), governments led by two different political parties have steered the state's administration. Now, the time has come to look back and evaluate that trajectory. What has changed under these administrations? To what extent has it transformed? What challenges still remain? Analyzing these fundamental questions forms the primary objective of this Development Audit.

Building from the Foundations
In the initial years of the new state, primary focus was directed toward laying developmental foundations. Progress moved across multiple fronts: irrigation, drinking water, electricity, rural infrastructure, industrialization, and the expansion of Hyderabad. Flagship initiatives such as Mission Kakatiya, Mission Bhagiratha, major irrigation projects, and progressive industrial policies became distinct milestones in state-building. Concurrently, Hyderabad expanded rapidly, driven by the growth of IT, pharmaceuticals, real estate, and the services sector. While the state actively built its core strengths through numerous initiatives, a critical question persists: did these foundational pillars of development reach all regions of the state equitably?

Welfare Alongside Development
Welfare has been another defining pillar of Telangana's journey. From direct farmer investment support to social security pensions, numerous welfare schemes have been implemented for women, students, and marginalized communities. Simultaneously, capital expenditure in irrigation, power, road networks, indus-

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tries, and urban infrastructure continued. In essence, Telangana's growth model operated along three parallel tracks: Welfare, Infrastructure, and Capital Investment. To what degree did welfare programs deliver lasting social security? How effectively did capital investments enhance productive economic capacity? To what extent did infrastructure drive balanced regional growth? While answers to these questions vary across regions, true development is achieved only when progress moves beyond rhetoric to resolve these persistent questions.

Political Transition... An Ongoing Trajectory
Over these twelve years, Telangana also witnessed significant political transitions. While a single leadership directed the state's path in the initial phase, a new administration assumed office post-2023 to carry the governance mantle forward. However, a change in government does not halt a twelve-year developmental arc. Existing infrastructure requires sustained maintenance, public expectations surrounding established welfare frameworks must be met, and new priorities must be balanced against emerging fiscal constraints. Therefore, political change must be viewed not through the lens of partisan rivalry, but as an evolution of development priorities. Ultimately, what matters to citizens is not political slogans, but

measurable developmental outcomes.

*Telangana Has Grown... But how? Over the past twelve years, Telangana's economic footprint expanded significantly, with per capita income rising substantially from 2014-15 levels. Hyderabad consolidated its position as one of the country's foremost economic powerhouses, anchored by IT, life sciences, and service industries. However, statewide macroeconomic averages do not tell the complete story. Regional disparities among districts persist. While one region surges ahead, the question remains whether other regions are keeping pace or lagging behind. Assessing the spatial distribution of this growth trajectory is central to understanding the state's broader economic health.

Telangana Beyond Hyderabad
This is where the core inquiry of our Development Audit begins: How far has the economic dynamism concentrated in Hyderabad, Rangareddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri radiated to peripheral districts? Is Warangal truly emerging as a vibrant regional growth pole? How effectively have industrial corridors, agro-based economies, and transport connectivity strengthened Northern Telangana? Where have new economic opportunities materialized for Southern Telangana? To what degree have the industrial, agricultural, and mineral endowments of Eastern

Telangana translated into regional wealth? ... Answering these questions demands a region-by-region audit. Development concentrated in a single hub cannot be deemed comprehensive progress, nor does it fulfill the broader aspirations of the populace. Genuine growth requires balanced decentralization across all districts.

A How Far Has Development Truly Spread?

That Telangana has progressed over the past twelve years is undeniable. Today, however, the defining question is not merely how much it grew, but where that growth spread. That spatial equity remains the true benchmark of progress. Strengthening Hyderabad as an economic engine is essential; building robust, self-sustaining regional economic hubs beyond Hyderabad is equally vital. Decentralized development does not mean curtailing Hyderabad's growth-it means extending its momentum across the entire state.

In the upcoming phase, identifying the specific regional requirements for employment, industry, education, healthcare, agriculture, and infrastructure will be the real test. This Telangana Development Audit series seeks to investigate these questions and present evidence-based findings.

BJP Slams Congress Over Alleged Attacks



Hyderabad, August 31 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao condemned alleged attempts by Congress-affiliated groups to attack BJP offices and the residences of party leaders, describing the incidents as cowardly and politically motivated. Speaking at a press conference, Ramchander Rao said the recent BJP agitation over pending fee reimbursement and student issues had received strong support from students and young people. He alleged that the Congress was attempting to divert public attention because of growing support for the BJP among the youth. He criticised alleged actions by NSUI and Youth Congress workers, including the reported use of black paint at the BJP state office and attempts to target party leaders' residences. He also alleged that there were

efforts to target an RSS office. Ramchander Rao said political differences should be expressed through democratic protests rather than violence. The BJP leader warned that his party was exercising restraint but said any further attacks on BJP offices, leaders or workers could lead to stronger democratic protests. He urged the Congress leadership to

restrain its cadres and prevent further escalation. Ramchander Rao also announced a month-long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' from September 17 to October 17 to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of public service in constitutional positions.

He said the campaign would focus on service-oriented activities rather than political power, with programmes planned at mandal level across Telangana. Tree plantation drives, essay competitions for students, cleanliness campaigns under Swachh Bharat and blood donation camps will form part of the initiative. Ramchander Rao said the campaign would seek to reinforce the importance of public service in political life. Andhra Pradesh Health and Medical Education Minister Satya Kumar, who participated as chief guest, offered guidance on organising the programmes.

Laxman Warns Congress Over BJP Office Attack

Hyderabad, August 31 | TPN Bureau

BJP Rajya Sabha member Dr. K. Laxman strongly condemned the alleged attacks by Congress workers on the BJP Telangana state office and the residence of Nalgonda district BJP president Dr. Nagam Varshit Reddy. Laxman described the reported incidents as a serious assault on democratic values. He alleged that black paint was smeared on the BJP office gates and that a mob attacked Varshit Reddy's residence while he was away, allegedly assaulting family members and injuring his mother. Questioning the Congress government's performance during its 1,000 days in office, Laxman alleged that the ruling party was resorting to violence instead of answering criticism over unfulfilled promises. He asked whether attacking women and family members in their homes could be justified in a democracy.

The BJP leader accused Congress workers of attempting to divert public atten-



tion from governance-related issues and said such incidents would not weaken the BJP's political activities. Laxman urged the Congress leadership to immediately restrain its workers and prevent further confrontations. He warned that continued attacks could lead to intensified democratic protests by BJP cadres. He demanded that police register cases under stringent provisions and arrest those responsible for the alleged attacks on the BJP office and Varshit Reddy's residence. Laxman said the BJP would continue raising public issues and would intensify its agitation across Telangana if what he described as political violence continued.

Jagadish Reddy Alleges Water Neglect



Hyderabad, August 31 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS MLA G. Jagadish Reddy on Monday accused the Congress government in Telangana of failing to protect the state's interests over the alleged diversion of Krishna River water by Andhra Pradesh. Addressing a press conference, Jagadish Reddy questioned why the Revanth Reddy-led government was allegedly remaining silent over what he described as illegal diversion of Telangana's water. He asked whether the state government's silence was linked to political considerations and lobbying efforts in New Delhi. The BRS leader alleged that failure to raise objections against water diversion amounted to tacit approval. He further levelled serious allegations against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, claiming that the

interests of Telangana farmers, particularly those in the Nalgonda ayacut, were being compromised. Jagadish Reddy alleged that Andhra Pradesh was drawing water through the Pothreddypadu head regulator and claimed that substantial quantities of water from the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar reservoirs were being held in projects located in Andhra Pradesh. He accused the Congress government of neglecting the concerns of farmers dependent on Krishna waters and alleged that the state's water resources were being sacrificed for political interests. The allegations were made by the BRS leader and could not be independently verified. Calling for a public movement on the issue, Jagadish Reddy announced that a massive farmers' protest, or Maha Dharna, would be organised in Miryalaguda on September 3 under the leadership of BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao.

He said the proposed protest would focus on protecting the rights of Telangana farmers and raising concerns over the alleged diversion of Krishna waters. Jagadish Reddy appealed to farmers and party workers to participate in large numbers and strengthen the movement.

Kavitha Targets Prashanth Reddy



Nizamabad, August 31 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Rakshana Sena president Kalvakuntla Kavitha launched a sharp attack on former BRS minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy at the party's Panchajanya Sankalpa Sabha in Nizamabad on Monday, accusing him of creating differences within her family and damaging the interests of the people. Kavitha said Prashanth Reddy portrays himself as an elder son to former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, but compared him to Shakuni of the Mahabharata. She said she could forgive former BRS leaders Harish Rao and Santosh Kumar, but would not forgive Prashanth Reddy. She alleged that he met Congress leaders soon after the BRS lost power and subsequently contributed to differences between KCR and his children. These allegations could not be independently verified. Kavitha became emotional while recalling her imprisonment and subsequent expulsion from the BRS.

She questioned why she was jailed despite maintaining that she had committed no wrongdoing and said she had faced the difficult period without compromising her principles. Reports from the meeting also highlighted her appeal to the people of Nizamabad to give her another opportunity to serve them. She called for a new political force in Telangana and presented a broader political agenda centred on free education, healthcare, employment, agriculture and social justice. She said her party would contest all MP/MLA and ZPTC seats and sought public support for the initiative. Kavitha also criticised the previous BRS government over the Kaleshwaram project, alleging that despite huge expenditure, Nizamabad had not received the expected irrigation benefits. She also accused the Congress government of failing to fulfil its promises during its first 1,000 days in office. She said Telangana generates substantial annual revenue and argued that allocating a significant portion towards free education and healthcare would be possible. She also called for greater social justice and support for farmers, workers and disadvantaged communities. The Telangana Rakshana Sena's official website identifies free education, healthcare, employment, agriculture and social justice as its five key commitments. Kavitha urged people to support what she described as a new political alternative and said her objective was to serve the people rather than seek political office for its own sake.

CPI(M) Demands Project Completion



Hyderabad, August 31 | TPN Bureau

CPI(M) State Secretary John Wesley on Monday demanded that the Telangana government accord top priority to completing pending small and medium-scale irrigation projects in Yadadri-Bhongir district, stating that irrigation facilities could be extended to nearly seven lakh acres with an investment of about Rs 1,700 crore. Thousands of farmers and CPI(M) supporters participated in a padyatra from Sundarayya Vignana Kendram at Bagh Lingampally to Indira Park, where a massive protest was organised demanding funds for the completion of long-pending projects. Addressing the gathering, Wesley questioned why projects such as Dindi and Charlagudem had remained incomplete for decades. He also demanded the completion of Baswapur and Gandamalla reservoirs, the Charlagudem project, Dharmareddipalli and Pilaipalli canals, besides the pro-

posed Rachakonda Lift Irrigation Scheme. He said completing these projects could transform the economic condition of thousands of farming families. Wesley also demanded compensation for families displaced by the Baswapur project and called for measures to clean the Musi River and bring Krishna and Godavari waters to the district. Criticising both the Centre and successive governments, Wesley alleged that the BJP, Congress and BRS followed similar policies affecting workers, farmers and the poor. He maintained that a socialist system was essential to address people's problems. CPI(M) Central Committee member S. Veeraiyah said previous governments had neglected smaller irrigation schemes while concentrating heavily on Kaleshwaram. He questioned why Telangana's MPs and Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar were not pressing for greater support to the state's irrigation projects. Former MLA Julakanti Ranga Reddy and former MLC Cherupalli Sitaramulu also addressed the protest. The demonstration was presided over by CPI(M) State Secretariat member and Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri District Secretary Md. Jahangir, with several party and mass organisation leaders participating.

BJP Demands Probe into 22A List



Siddipet, August 31 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao on Monday alleged that the Congress government's handling of the 22A prohibited land list had created serious hardships for lakhs of farmers and landowners across the state. He demanded a white paper and a comprehensive judicial inquiry into the issue. Speaking at a protest in Siddipet along with MP Raghunandan Rao, Ramchander Rao criticised the government over what he described as arbitrary restrictions on lands under the Bhu-Bharathi system. He alleged that people were being prevented from selling their properties, establishing ownership rights and obtaining bank loans against their lands. He claimed that large numbers of agricultural lands and residential plots in areas including Malkajgiri, Chevella and Siddipet had been placed under the 22A prohibited category, causing anxiety

among affected families. Comparing Bhu-Bharathi with the previous government's Dharani land records system, the BJP leader said both had created difficulties for farmers, alleging that the present system had worsened the situation. He claimed that around 50 lakh people were affected by the 22A-related problems.

Ramchander Rao also criticised the Congress government over its promises concerning Rythu Bharosa and alleged that tenant farmers had been particularly neglected. He said farmers were facing difficulties in protecting their land and accessing financial support. He alleged that the administration was handling land-related matters like a real estate business and accused the government of creating disputes that could weaken landowners' bargaining positions. These allegations could not be independently verified. The BJP leader demanded that the government publish a white paper explaining the reasons for including lands in the 22A list and conduct a judicial inquiry to establish how the restrictions arose and identify those responsible. Ramchander Rao said the BJP would continue its agitation in support of affected farmers and landowners until their grievances were addressed.

Bandi Sanjay Condemns BJP Office Protest



Hyderabad, August 31 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday strongly condemned a protest by Youth Congress activists at the Telangana BJP office in Hyderabad and questioned the alleged absence of police personnel during the incident. Youth Congress workers led by Telangana Youth Congress president Jakkidi Shiva Charan Reddy staged a protest outside the BJP state office at Nampally, raising slogans against the BJP and the Centre. The protesters reportedly threw black paint at the rear gate of the office and burnt an effigy while demanding the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Reacting sharply, Bandi Sanjay questioned why police personnel were not present when the protesters were allegedly damaging the office premises. He also questioned the functioning of the state's intelligence system and sought an explanation from senior police officials over the incident. The Union minister spoke to senior police officials over the phone and

sought details about the circumstances surrounding the protest and the reported absence of police personnel at the BJP office. He demanded that those responsible for the incident be identified and arrested immediately. Bandi Sanjay warned that BJP's patience should not be mistaken for weakness and urged the Congress leadership to respond to the incident. He also cautioned that any retaliatory action by party workers could lead to further political tensions. The protest was reportedly organised in opposition to the BJP's alleged conduct following Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's rally in Haldwani, Uttarakhand. Youth Congress leaders also raised issues concerning alleged police action against students and demanded accountability from the Centre. Police intervened during the protest and detained several Youth Congress activists, according to reports. The incident subsequently triggered a strong political reaction from the BJP, with Bandi Sanjay holding the state police administration responsible for explaining how the demonstration escalated at the national party's state headquarters. The episode has intensified the political confrontation between the ruling Congress and BJP in Telangana, with both sides trading allegations over the conduct of protests and the role of law-enforcement agencies.

Demand to Scrap GO 97

New Delhi, August 31 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud on Sunday demanded the immediate scrapping of the Shakti Scheme and GO 97, calling upon the Telangana government to continue polytechnic education under the traditional academic system. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, Srinivas Goud claimed that nearly 80,000 students and around 10,000 teachers across Telangana had joined protests against the proposed Shakti Scheme and GO 97. He said the issue had also affected nearly one lakh families connected with polytechnic education. The former minister alleged that the proposed changes would undermine the objective of polytechnic education, which traditionally provides students with technical knowledge and opportunities to pursue engineering and higher studies. He argued that diploma education should enable students to progress academically rather than limit their future career options. Srinivas Goud suggested strengthening Industrial Training Institutes by establishing stronger links with industries, expanding skill development programmes and ensuring employ-



ment opportunities after apprenticeships. He said ITI students should receive structured training based on industry requirements. He also stressed that polytechnic students should continue to have opportunities to advance into engineering courses through the ECET examination, allowing eligible diploma holders to enter the second year of B.Tech programmes and subsequently pursue higher studies, including M.Tech. Raising other issues concerning students and unemployed youth, Srinivas Goud demanded the release of approximately Rs 14,000 crore in pending fee reimbursement dues. He also called upon the government to immediately fill around two lakh vacant posts, referring to employment commitments made during the elections. He urged the state government to engage with students and teachers protesting against the proposed education reforms and address their concerns at the earliest. Student leaders from Hyderabad Central University, including Rakesh Datta, Jayanth Yadav and Rajinikanth, participated in the press conference.