

TELUGU DESAM PARTY AND NATIONAL POLITICS

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ABSTRACT

Since independence the State of Andhra Pradesh has been playing a dominant role in Indian political development. The Telegu Desam Party (TDP) had played a key role in forging a non-Congress (I) and non-BJP coalition at the centre by actively negotiating with the time-tested and fairly successful strategy followed by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) under NTR's leadership. N.T. Rama Rao, the founder President of the TDP, served as a catalyst in organizing the non-Congress Opposition conclaves in the eighties. The Telugu Desam, a regional political party was the second largest party in Lok Shaba, winning 30 seats in 1984. A similar situation arose in 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2014 when TDP played a pivotal role (this time Chandra Babu was in charge) in the formation of four central governments. In 1996, Andhra Bhawan, strategically located just off India Gate, was where the United Front was formed, with Telugu Desam Party (TDP) boss and the then Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu playing a stellar role. TDP's golden years were, when it was a key player in the governments led by the National Front (1989-91), the United Front (1996-98) and the National Democratic Alliance (1998-2004, 2014 to till today).

KEYWORDS: *Telugu Desam Party, N.T. Rama Rao, Chandrababu Naidu, National Politics, Lok Sabha*