

Fighting to stay relevant, Chandrababu Naidu in tough battle with Jagan Mohan Reddy

Agency
Amravati May 23,

Winning and losing elections is not new to Telugu Desam Party and its president N Chandrababu Naidu.

After coming to power in 1983 within nine months of its inception under the leadership of matinee idol N T Rama Rao, the TDP lost power to the Congress for the first time in 1989, but bounced back in 1994.

After Naidu came to power by staging a coup against his father-in-law in 1995, he brought the Telugu Desam Party to victory again in 1999, but lost power for two consecutive terms in 2004 and 2009. After the bifurcation of combined Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the TDP chief returned to power in the truncated Andhra after a gap of 10 years.

This time, Naidu faces a tough challenge from 46-year old Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, heading the YSR Congress party, who is said to be leading in the race for power, as suggested by various exit polls.

While winning the high-stakes battle in state is a big challenge for Naidu, he is also very keen on winning a good number of Lok Sabha seats in the state in order to play a major role in establishing an anti-Bharatiya Janata Party coalition government in the Centre. For the last one year, Naidu has been flying from state to state rallying the opposition leaders against the BJP.

Even if Naidu loses power in the state, he will hope to play a significant role at the national level, provided the TDP gets at least 10 parliamentary seats, the BJP-led NDA misses the absolute majority mark by a mile and



a maha ghatbandham of anti-BJP parties get a chance to form the government. But, almost all exit polls, though known to be wrong, have predicted return of the NDA with a huge majority. In such a scenario, a defeat could mean a virtual collapse of the TDP as Naidu is already nearing 70 years and he might not have the patience and energy to sustain the party for another five years so as to bring it back to power. His son Nara Lokesh, who is considered to be his heir apparent, has failed to prove himself as a leader in the last five years. It would also be a personal defeat for Naidu who appears to nurture dreams of playing the kingmaker at the Centre.

But political analyst S Ramakrishna says one cannot write off Naidu so easily in politics. "He has tremendous willpower and is a very shrewd politician. Even though he was out of power for 10 years, he could bring the TDP back to power in 2014. If his party gets 40-50 assembly seats and a half a dozen MP seats in the ongoing elections, he can still continue as a powerful political force. The TDP is a strong cadre-based party and it cannot collapse with just one election loss," Ramakrishna said.

MP Congress leader Ratan Singh dies of heart attack at counting centre

Source-TOI
Bhopal, May 23,

In a tragic incident, Congress' Sehore district chief Ratan Singh died of heart attack at a vote counting centre set up for Lok Sabha election results on Thursday. Singh was gathering information on the trends at the counting centre when he complained of chest pain and collapsed.

The news came at a time when the Congress was heading towards another defeat in Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress had managed to form the government after recently-held assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh. According to trends, the ruling BJP will form the government at the Centre with a huge majority.

The saffron party has made massive gains mainly in Hindi-speaking states during the vote counting.

GST, demonetisation had no impact on the ground

Agency
New Delhi May 23,

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) performance in both urban and rural constituencies across the country prove that the 2016 invalidation of high-value banknotes and the 2017 introduction of the goods and services tax (GST) did not have a negative impact on the party's political prospects.

Even though the Congress and some Opposition parties raised the two issues throughout the campaign, but the results show that they failed to reap any political benefit out of it. The Narendra Modi government pulled out high-value currency note from the economy in November 2016 and rolled out the GST in 2017; inviting criticism from Opposition parties that the two decisions allegedly

crippled the economy, dealt a blow to businesses, lessened job opportunities and caused discomfort to people, particularly in the country's rural areas where cash was predominantly the preferred mode of transaction.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi, in particular, was relentless in his criticism of the two economic schemes. "We will simplify the tax regime. We will remove 'Gabbar Singh Tax' and bring about the GST," Gandhi had said at a public meeting in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, on April 20.

"Unemployment rose as soon as Narendra Modi imposed demonetisation. As soon as your money was taken from you, you stopped buying and the producers stopped producing. The economy of the country was destroyed," he said at Tikamgarh in Madhya

Pradesh on May 1. The talking points in Gandhi's speeches, however, could not translate on to the ground.

It has been more than two-and-a-half years since demonetisation and close to two years since GST was rolled out. This meant that the two issues and the struggles that came with their introduction appear to have largely receded from public memory; instead, a large majority of voters appear to have seen the moves as examples of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisive action against corruption and black money.

Experts feel that Modi was able to convince voters about his intent.

"Narendra Modi was able to convey this message that he was after the corrupt and his actions, irrespective of the immediate and short-term discomfort, were aimed at a

larger good," said Sidharth Mishra, president, Centre for Reforms, Development and Justice. "The poor were ready to take a hit, and Modi compensated them through several welfare measures," he added.

In an interview for a TV news channel, Modi said people voted on demonetisation during the 2017 assembly election in Uttar Pradesh and on GST in the 2018 assembly election in Gujarat. The BJP won both elections.

The 2019 Lok Sabha results show that the BJP has performed well both in the rural and the urban area, among poor as well as the business community. In its campaign, the BJP kept its focus on the promise that the work started by Narendra Modi needed another five-year term to achieve its goal. And voters bought this argument.

MoU signed between North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong and IIFT

New Delhi for setting up of Centre for North Eastern Studies (CeNEST) at the IIFT Kolkata Campus

IT News
Shillong, May 23,

An MoU between the North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi was signed yesterday at North Eastern Council, Secretariat, Shillong as a part of the initiative to develop the NEC as the 'state of the art' resource centre. This collaboration would enable the setting up of the Centre for North Eastern Studies (CeNEST) at the IIFT Kolkata Campus in a partnership model between the NEC and IIFT. The Centre would facilitate the North Eastern States in policy making, strategic planning and effective implementation of various trade promotion schemes; undertake research and analysis on issues relating to international trade and business, capacity building and serve as a knowledge partner. This will help the States in exploiting the potentials of exports of the products from the Region and promote innovations in business. **The newly developed website of (CeNEST) was also officially inaugurated and launched by Shri Ram Muivah, Secretary, NEC on the occasion.** The MoU was signed by Shri Ram Muivah, Secretary, NEC and Prof. K. Rangarajan on behalf of IIFT in the presence of officials from NEC and IIFT



Kolkata. **Background:** The North Eastern Council is the agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region which consists of the eight States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The North Eastern Council was constituted in 1971 by an Act of Parliament. NEC has been instrumental in setting in motion a new economic

endeavour aimed at removing the basic handicaps that stood in the way of normal development of the region and has ushered in an era of new hope in this backward area full of great potentialities. The main objective of the Council is to ensure the balanced and integrated economic development of the North Eastern parts of the country. **IIFT, Deemed to be University** was established in 1963 as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce &

Industry. With the establishment of its Kolkata Campus in 2006, it has taken serious initiative to enhance export for the North Eastern States. IIFT has always maintained that when Act-East policy of Government of India is in vogue and given the cross border connectivity of the North Eastern states, there remains a huge potentiality for enhancing the regions trade based connectivity with South East Asia in particular and world as a whole.

Assam Rifles Organises Medical Cum Health Awareness Camp



IT News
Imphal May 23,

On the occasion of World Autoimmune Arthritis Day, Keithelambi Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised a Medical cum Health Awareness Camp in ChadongMaphao village on Yesterday.

The medical cum awareness camp was organised by Hanuman Top Company Operating Base (COB) with the aim to reach out to the needy and socially deprived section of the society and provide them basic medical

facilities. The camp witnessed an attendance of over 150 locals of the area.

The event commenced with an informative lecture on arthritis, joint pain, seasonal diseases with guidance on necessary precautions required to be undertaken in view of upcoming monsoons. This was followed by an interactive session in which various queries raised by the attendees were clarified.

As part of the camp, a dedicated medical team under the Unit Medical Officer provided medical assistance to the locals of the area. In addition to the medical checkup, consultation on

various diseases and health related issues as well as free medicines were distributed to the needy patients. The medical team also visited houses in the village rendering medical assistance to the elderly and bed ridden patients.

The initiative of Assam Rifles was appreciated by the local populace who conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Assam Rifles for conducting such a camp and providing much needed medical assistance to the people. They also requested for more such camps in the near future for the benefit of the entire community.

Declaration

I, **Laikangbam Basanta Singh**, Army No. 14666965L, Rank : CFN, Trade : Autotech A vehicle, S/o L. Nabachandra Singh, a resident of Naoremthong Khumanthem Leikai, P.O Imphal, P.S Lamphel, Tehsil : Imphal, District - Imphal West, State - Manipur Pin -795001, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

- 1) That, my wife's name is recorded as "Irom Serina Devi" in my Service Book/Record instead of "Serina Irom", whereas, my son's name is recorded as "L. Justin Singh" instead of "Laikangbam Justin Singh" as recorded in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8973 0473 1121. This is true to the best of my knowledge.
- 2) That, in my wife's educational documents as well as Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5982 1193 3516, her name has been entered and recorded as "Serina Irom" in her . This is true to the best of my knowledge.
- 3) That, the two names of my wife which are Irom Serina Devi and Serina Irom as well as two names of my son's i.e Laikangbam Justin Singh and L. Justin Singh refers to one and same person. This is true to the best of my knowledge.
- 4) That, I desire to rectify my wife's name as **Serina Irom** and her Date of Birth as 17-03-1986 and my son's name as **Laikangbam Justin Singh** along with his Date of Birth 06-05-2010 in my Service Book and other official records in order to avoid any complications in future. This is true to the best of my knowledge.

Sd/-
Laikangbam Basanta Singh