

Pulse of Telangana: Decoding the Voter's Mindset

The Congress has been in power in Telangana for nearly two years. What do the people think about these two years of governance? What are the primary issues the public is facing? What is the situation of the opposition parties? With the upcoming local body elections in mind, Peoples Pulse Research Organization conducted a mood survey across Telangana for a month (from 25th September – 25th October 2025) to understand what's in the mind of the Telangana voter. What policies has the Telangana government adopted in the agriculture, industrial, and social sectors during these two years? Are the six guarantees being implemented as promised? Have employment opportunities for the youth improved? To what extent have the welfare schemes and development works implemented during these two years gained public approval? Peoples Pulse Research team conducted this mood survey to briefly study these and other aspects. The report has been prepared based on information collected through field visits.

During field interactions with the public by the People's Pulse team, a majority of people expressed dissatisfaction with the Congress party. They are counter-questioning, "Why should we vote for the Congress party at all?" Observing the ground-level situation, it must be said that no matter what scheme the Congress government introduces, it has failed to gain political benefits from it. Even though they introduced free travel for women in RTC buses, women are expressing severe dissatisfaction with the government due to reduced bus services and the behavior of RTC staff. On the other hand, auto drivers are worried that the promised financial assistance of Rs. 12,000 has not been provided, and the free bus scheme has impacted their livelihoods. Ramesh, an auto driver in Karimnagar, said that their income has significantly decreased due to the Mahalakshmi free bus travel scheme. Especially in urban areas, families dependent on autos are angry with the government.

Regarding the farm loan waiver, although it initially gained some mileage, lakhs of farmers did not receive the benefits due to numerous conditions. Farmers are saying that the Rythu Bharosa scheme is also being provided inadequately, and it was not given for one crop in between. As a result, farmers too are expressing dissatisfaction with the government. In addition, "Crops have been damaged due to urea shortage. We suffered huge losses. Setting aside the loan waiver and Rythu Bharosa, the government has troubled farmers by not providing urea on time. Such problems did not exist during KCR's time," said Rajesh, a young farmer met in a Booth of united Adilabad. It is noteworthy that farmers across the state are speaking in the same vein.

Since the Peoples Pulse team toured during the festival season, women in many places brought up the issue of Bathukamma sarees. "They haven't provided Bathukamma sarees even for the second year. Gas subsidy is also not coming. This government is not paying attention to women" said Lakshmi, a woman in Kamareddy. Women are roaming around gas agencies because the Rs. 500 gas subsidy is not being credited. They are expressing anger that the government is not even providing basic information about this. When talking about the promise to give Rs. 2,500 per month to women... women from Adilabad to Mahabubnagar are expressing severe dissatisfaction and questioning in a tone of "When will they give it?" Recently, the BRS's campaign with the 'Baaki Card' has worked to some extent. People's Pulse recorded people referring to the items on the Baaki Card. However, BRS failed by limiting it only to social media and not taking it deeper into the public.

When Peoples Pulse spoke to real estate businessmen, they said, "Real estate has plummeted drastically. No one is coming forward to make investments." Real estate sales have stopped due to the fear of HYDRA, and real estate businessmen who did not wish to be named lamented that the CM introduced HYDRA without even studying it properly. Due to the slump in real estate, allied sectors are also facing crisis situations. With proper investments not coming in, employment opportunities in the private sector, especially in IT, have slowed down, as learned from interactions with unemployed youth at coaching centers.

As for the Congress party's slogan of 42 percent reservations for BCs, there is no discussion about it at the ground level except among leaders in Hyderabad. In addition, ministers like Ponnampaluri Prabhakar, Konda Surekha, and Adluri Laxman being involved in controversies has turned negative for the government. "Instead of focusing on district development, urea shortage, and power issues, what are the ministers doing by picking fights?" questioned Srinivas, a farmer in Hanamkonda, expressing frustration. People living in slums are complaining that Basti Dawakhana are being neglected. "Drains are overflowing. There is no one to even spray mosquito repellent," expressed Azim Abdul in Rehmat Nagar of Jubilee Hills constituency, voicing anger.

The new ration cards and fine rice schemes introduced by the Congress government have brought some positivity across the state. However, at the same time, the positivity from these schemes has vanished because farmers are protesting that crops have been damaged due to urea shortage. Discussions on the past and present are happening vigorously at Rachabandas. A majority from all sections are unanimously saying that KCR's governance was better. Eight out of ten said KCR's governance was better. "The handloom profession has been hit. The government is not providing any help to us," said handloom workers in Siricilla. Similar words were heard in Pochampalli as well.

BRS continues to be the main opposition in the state even now. Although it was thought that BJP would come to the second position after the parliamentary elections, the situation has not improved. BJP discussion exists only in northern Telangana. After Ramchander Rao was elected as president, BJP's graph has declined. BJP workers are disappointed that they lack a leader who can provide proper direction. Just as there are factional fights in the Congress party, there are as many in BJP too. As a result, BJP district units are also in confusion.

Communists are limited to some areas in Nalgonda and Khammam districts. However, their presence is not visible anywhere. There is also a perception among people that communists are not questioning Congress's deceptions. If this continues, there are chances that communists will be forgotten even in Nalgonda and Khammam. The impact of new parties formed by KCR's daughter Kavitha and Teenmar Mallanna is nominal. Along with communists, these parties have also remained as letterhead organizations.

The weaknesses of other parties are benefiting BRS. But although people say they will vote for BRS due to anti-Congress sentiment, they are responding as if they are looking towards BRS because there is no other option. Even though there is positivity towards KCR, people are expressing severe dissatisfaction with BRS party's performance. Criticisms were heard across the state that BRS is limited to social media by holding just press conferences and placing tweets, and is neglecting its ground-level opposition role in highlighting Congress failures.

A professor at Palamuru University, who did not wish to be named during the visit, said that Revanth Reddy's government is managing with pomp and media management. He said there is no accountability for officials, anti-sentiment towards MLAs and ministers is increasing, and there are internal conflicts in Congress in every district. However, some opined that the opposition BRS party should still intensify protests against them. Although they claim to have given 60,000 jobs in a year, Suresh, a PG student standing next to the professor, said that no new jobs have been given, and all are empty words from Congress.

If this mood survey conducted by Peoples Pulse is carefully decoded, it becomes clear that the Congress government has quickly gained a bad name. Although schemes like fine rice and new ration cards brought some positivity, hundreds of promises given by them have not been implemented. That's why people are comparing the past BRS governance with the current Congress governance and praising KCR. If elections were held right now, people are not showing interest in voting for Congress. Dissatisfaction and opposition are more visible. This reflects the mood of Telangana people. This has the potential to severely impact Congress's victories and defeats in the Jubilee Hills by-election and upcoming local elections. If elections are held properly, People's Pulse mood survey estimates that out of 31 Zilla Parishads, BRS could win 20, Congress 10, and BJP 1-2 seats.

Even now, the Congress party should recognize its mistakes and work according to ground-level situations. Otherwise, there are chances that this dissatisfaction among people will increase further. More focus is needed on implementing the six guarantees. BRS too should introspect on the opposition role it is playing. Beyond social media and media, it should design programs to be among people daily to win back lost voters. BJP, which has the opportunity to move forward by highlighting shortcomings in past BRS governance and current Congress governance, should come out of its dormant state. If that party wants to come to power, it must wage war every day for the next three years. That is, there is no doubt that the future belongs to those who understand the mind of Telangana people.

