

**His Excellency Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah:
The Renowned and Remarkable Politician of India**

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Abstract

His Excellency Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah is the Indian Political Icon renowned ubiquitously as the *politician par excellence, speaker of spontaneous communication, administrator of admirable acumen* accepted universally for executive skills and beyond all these a *capable Congressman known for commitment, and constancy*. Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah right from his childhood craved to uplift the lives of commoners and in achieving this pursuit transformed and emerged himself from a Student Union Secretary to a seasoned politician with the passage of time.

Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah competently sways the mislead of errants with his shrewd queries to point out and expose their misdeeds. On the other, Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah typically but aptly introduces the necessary reforms substantially in the time of crisis with his unmatched accent and eloquence in the State Assembly, which the opponents dare not to question due to his legitimacy. He is a man who is bedecked with a deep commitment towards moral values, social responsibility, sense of integrity, democratic tradition, exhilarating eloquence and what not that are essential for a seasoned politician.

Key Words: Assembly, Budget, Finance, Government, Politics, People



REQUISITE FOR THIS BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY

Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah's political career is full of rich historical facts and interesting events that motivates and instills both the commoner as well as the connoisseur to serve Mother India with devotion and dedication. Moreover, a focus on his self-less commitment to serve the society and elevate the socio-economic standing of the populace with multi-dimensional honest reforms, naturally instills an indelible imprint in the minds of the people as well as the politicians to selflessly serve the society than to glue around self advancement. In fact, this paper on Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah describes what is **Governance** and how it's impact will be on the **Changing Paradigm** in the politics.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND SOURCES

Innumerable sources ranging from Budget Debates, Assembly Discussions, News Paper Deliberations, Magazine Reports, Pamphlets, Website Publications, Brochures, Leaflets, Government Orders and so on provide plethora of information about Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah, the living legend of the Indian Political Arena. However, all these sources contain details about a single or a specific event that took place in the political sphere of Andhra Pradesh in general and in the life of Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah in particular. So, this article after deeply analyzing the available sources in detail, sheds a flood of light on the contributions of Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah that simultaneously elevated the stature of the State to dizzy heights and the Student Union Secretary to the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

In fact, this is the outcome of a thorough probe into both the Primary Sources and the Secondary Sources available on Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah. The Primary Sources range from Field Visits, Personal Interviews, Assembly Debates, Government Websites, Budget Discussions,

Socio-Economic Surveys and so on. Consulted Secondary Sources include News Papers, Magazines, Brochures, Websites and other miscellaneous publications.

THE OBJECTIVES

The prime objective of this paper is not personal gratification. It aims to propagate the idea of serving the society and respecting the value system in listening to people hearts. The society needs to be informed about the righteousness of the virtuous people which will sow the seeds of inspiration in the minds of the generations that follow. Other main objectives are

- 1) To trace the rise of Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah from a common man to a connoisseur of politics.
- 2) To establish how humanistic approach in Governance can bring in a change in the political scenario
- 3) To testify how insightful fiscal policies can standardize the economic scenario of the State
- 4) To bring to limelight that essential intellectual prowess is quintessential to withstand the political pressures of the time and clime.
- 5) To project that a single human being with his will and determination can become a dominant force in bringing about a significant sustenance power in the attitude of the people and the Government.
- 6) Linguistic and Physiographic boundaries do not stand as a barrier to carry forward good Governance and reach out to serve the humanity.

THE CONTINUUM HYPOTHESIS

This paper attempts to investigate the important happenings of the life of Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah and places on record the intriguing facts after careful scrutiny. On one hand it

endeavours to analyse and validate the correlation between good Governance as a Paradigm to uphold the hassle free existence of the common man in the constant Changing World and on the other it showcases how responsible honesty, dynamic leadership coupled with compassionate approach, constant work, dexterous and selfless service to the nation automatically bestows administrative posts on the common man.

What makes this research article distinct is its' conception of portraying the craving of a commoner in the form of Konijeti Rosaiah, who utilized his capabilities to uplift the lives of common folk through Fiscal Proposals, Administrative Reforms, Transportation Policies, Electricity Schemes, humanistic Medical and Health Department's restructuring and welfare programmes, intuitive Legislative Planning and so on to suit the requisites of the people of all ages and of diverse regions of India.

FORAY INTO THE FOREGROUND

His Excellency Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah was born to the illustrious couple Subbayya and Ademma on 4th July 1932 at Vemuru, a village situated in the Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. After completing his schooling at a High School in Kolluru, Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah joined the Hindu College at Guntur¹ to pursue his Collegiate Education. The College provided a platform to Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah to actively take part in politics and achieve greater strides of attainment in the Indian politics at a later stage. As the days passed by Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah actively engaged himself in politics. Though this involvement at times restrained him from attending classes regularly, he was excellent in coping up with the classes and studies. Soon he became the Students Union Secretary of the Hindu College and formed a powerful Union.

Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah organized Annual Functions exceptionally and was the first to pool out funds both from the students as well as from the College. One can crystal clearly witness the inborn fiscal management skills in Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah here itself, for his excellent collection and utilization of funds in conducting the College Day Programmes economically at one end and gratifying all the students with a Coco Cola, which he introduced as a customary practice for the first time in the history of the Hindu College. Of course, he succeeded in doing all this with the

cooperation of 2,764 students who were for the first time seated in an organized manner to take part in the celebrations. He used to instill team spirit in the minds of the students. These leadership qualities of Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah slowly but enormously expanded once he actively plunged himself into mass politics².

Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah's linguistic eloquence even as a Student Leader was so profound that, he was spontaneously chosen to represent the tribulations faced by the farmers near Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India at Teen Murthi Bhavan, Delhi, when he went along with a Student Delegation to meet the Prime Minister after attending a National level student conference at Srinagar. A pat from the then Prime Minister of India inspired Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah to take up politics as his career³.

INSIGHTS INTO THE INSPIRATIONAL POLITY

During 1950's, soon after the State of Hyderabad was freed from the control of the Nizam's Government, the local people as well as the leaders of all the 9 Districts of the Hyderabad State, travelled down to Guntur to carry out negotiations with the intention of forming a united Visalandhra. Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah, in the capacity of a student leader, actively partook⁴ in the hospitality arrangements to comfort the leaders like V.B. Raju, Kothuri Seethaiah Gupta, Boorgula Ramakrishna Rao and so on. All this stimulated his entry into politics as the disciple of N.G. Ranga. He became the Member of the Legislative Council for the first time in 1968 and continued to be as the MLC for nearly 18 years. The Krishikar Lok Party of N.G. Ranga merged itself with the Congress Party with the passage of time. In 1979, Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah served the people of Andhra as the Cabinet Minister for Transportation and Roads and Buildings. Later, in 1980, he was appointed as the Cabinet Minister for Transportation and Housing. When K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in 1982, Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah was elevated as the Cabinet Minister for Home⁵.

Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah played a very active role in the opposition between 1983 and 1985. Whenever he tackled allegations by the respected members of the House, he exhibited Himalayan patience and whenever the criticism was beyond the limits in the House, pat he used

to reply with compassionate coupled highly charged words, for, the persons who had criticized him too were convinced by his answers and used to find it extremely difficult to reply back⁶.

Between 1985 and 1989, he served the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee in the capacity of a Treasurer and toured extensively throughout the length and breadth of the State. Sitting in the opposition too, he actively took part in the Council discussions and it is opined that at one stage unable to respond to strait forward debates aimed towards the general welfare of the public, the Council itself was abolished⁷.

Once again, when the Congress Party came to power, the Cabinet Ministries of Finance, Transportation and Electricity, Finance, Medical & Health, Education and Electricity adorned him in 1989, 1990 and 1992 respectively. He served as the President of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee from 1995 to 1997⁸. During the year 1998, he won the elections as the Member of the Parliament from Narasaraopet constituency and served in various Parliamentary Committees⁹. His services to the constituency in the capacity of the Member of the Parliament were quite humanistic and this paved way for the overall development of the Constituency which is being remembered till date by the commoners of the Constituency¹⁰.

From 2004-2009 Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah was inducted as the Minister for Finance, Planning, Legislative Affairs, Health and Medical and Family Welfare in the Cabinet of Dr. Y.S. Rajashekar Reddy. In 2009, once again he was elected as a Member of the Legislative Council and he was again inducted in the Dr. Y.S. Rajashekara Reddy's Ministry as Minister for Finance, Planning and Legislative Affairs. During his tenure as the Finance Minister Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah envisioned the transformation of Andhra Pradesh as a treasure trove through financial reforms. He presented the Andhra Pradesh State budget 16 times, including 7 times in a row, which is a remarkable record in the country that establishes him as a distinguishing politician of India. Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah could bridge the development programmes in the State of Andhra Pradesh during smudging situations too and his preparation of the State Budget illustrates this perspicuously. In fact, at a time, when technology and industries started occupying a cardinal¹¹ place, compared to many other basic needs that were pushed down to occupy a lesser or no significant allocation generally in the Budgets, Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah, with his humanistic and

conspicuous approach, allocated Rs. 4,793.73 crores for the construction of 17,65,000 houses to the poor and the downtrodden people of the society¹². In fact, the Budgets presented by Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah were aimed at the overall development of the common man in a congenial manner. Once, commenting at the Budget which he presented in 2007-2008, Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah himself accosted,

I am not building castles in the air, I am very realistic. It is really a historic and progressive budget. We have not changed the priorities nor neglected any sectors... It is a path-breaking, development-focussed, welfare-oriented and growth-accelerated budget¹³.

A substantial evidence to the above mentioned statement is that the average annual growth of economy in Andhra Pradesh, which was a little over 3% after its formation in 1956, accelerated to record an average impressive growth of 8.33% after Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah took over the reins as the Financial Minister of Andhra Pradesh¹⁴. As a matter of fact, the strength of the economy of Andhra Pradesh

... is evident from the remarkable transition to a high growth path, which has been achieved in the recent years¹⁵.

Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah was appointed as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, soon after the death of the Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. He was righteously credited with the effective management of the flood situation, sustaining the State with respect to the Telangana Separation¹⁶, streamlining and managing budgetary allocations to take ahead various welfare programmes for the betterment of the State. Under his deft administrative direction, the living standards of the people of Andhra Pradesh have improved by and large and the State's economy growth reached a record rate of 8.75% due to a number of strategic initiatives put in¹⁷ by Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah. Citing health reasons, Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah submitted his resignation as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on 24 November 2010¹⁸.

Evaluating his exuberance in positively and also confidently leading the State of Andhra Pradesh and winning the hearts of the people of Andhra Pradesh, J. Geeta Reddy, Former Minister for Information & Public Relations, Tourism, Culture, Cinematography, PDC, Archaeology, Museums & Archives, Government of Andhra Pradesh aptly accosted

The people of Andhra Pradesh are fortunate enough to have a Chief Minister like Dr. Rosaiah, whose intellect experience and understanding is immeasurable¹⁹.

Adjudging his services to the public, Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah was soon bestowed with the administrative powers of Tamil Nadu as the Governor of the State on 26 August 2011. His Excellency never sighed in silence as the ceremonial head. His Excellency, wherever he is and whatever the post he adorns, never neglects his commitment to the community to which he belongs to. He actively takes part in community activities which is distinct from his public appearance in the Vasavi Colony Residents Welfare Association Silver Jubilee Celebrations at Hyderabad²⁰. He never let loose an opportunity to serve for the betterment of the society whenever an opportunity arises. One such instance which can be placed here on record is his emphasis on extending anti-ragging measures to even private hostels, that expressed his vision of witnessing Tamil Nadu as a Ragging free State while chairing a meeting with the State-Level Monitoring Cell on Anti-Ragging, which met at Raj Bhavan in August 2014²¹.

IMPACT OF ENDURING GOVERNANCE

Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah's illustrious Legislative career that spans over a period of nearly four and half decades exhibits his commitment and contribution towards good governance in each and every stage of his public life. His name can be reckoned in the history as a politician par excellence in tactfully tackling, prudently handling and admirably answering the opposition while he was on the treasury bench or in the Opposition. His contributions in the capacity of a Finance Minister and later as a Chief Minister to transform the Andhra Pradesh State that has lowest economic and human development right from his entry into the politics are so profound

that the said State soon grew into a destination of affluence and exoticism under his strict fiscal management and remarkable reforms that brought him the boon from the Central Government of India the post of Chief Ministry and elevation as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. At one point of time he decided to quit from active politics and submitted his resignation as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh due to health reasons. However, the enduring and innovative administrative reforms introduced by Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah, showcased him as the best option for the Central Government to bestow him with the Governorship of the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah's impartiality and intuition are enduring and everlasting and considering all this, when there was a political transformation in India after the elections in 2014, he was the only Governor of India, who due to his non-controversial nature²², was bestowed with the Governorship of another State too, i.e., Karnataka, until Vajubhai Vala took over the post on 1st September 2014²³. An exploration into all these happenings in the Life of His Excellency Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah in various administrative capacities, appropriately showcases the importance of a blemishless and good Governance as the base to bring in a healthy changing paradigm in the career of the politicians at one end and the life of the people at another end and of course all these contributions of Dr. Konijeti Rosaiah justifiably earns him a venerable epithet ***The Renowned and Remarkable Politician of India***

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