

The All India Party Meet is one of the most important discussion platforms to raise social and political awareness in a flourishing democracy like India. Meetings such as the All India Party Meet are crucial in democracies as they form the pressure groups and keep the ruling in check. The power is now in your hands; try not to bring the house down.

All India Party Meet

DiPSMUN 2018

Chairperson: Suryadeepto Nag
Vice Chairperson: Rikhil Halder
Rapporteur: Namita Kaushik

Welcome Letter
DiPSMUN 2018

Dear Participants,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the sixth edition of DiPSMUN.

It is a very humbling moment to see DPS Bangalore South, host one of Bangalore's finest high school Model UN conference with 8 committees and hundreds of delegates in attendance in 2018. DiPSMUN will always hold a particularly sentimental place in my heart as I was on the first ever MUN delegation from DPS Bangalore in 2009 and since then have helped design and chair two previous editions of DiPSMUN. As I have interacted with most of the members of the current Secretariat and Organizing Committee, I can safely say that your coming conference will be one that you will remember.

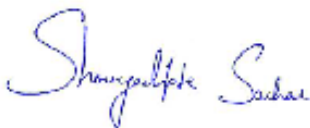
"Only a Sith deals in absolutes" – Obi Wan Kenobi to Anakin Skywalker, on Mustafar, Star Wars Episode III, Revenge of the Sith.

This quote holds true today more so than ever, as we live in our social media driven echo chambers and thought bubbles, fed by algorithms in one of the most hyperpolarized societies ever. A Model UN Conference is the first step in breaking out. It is one of the best platforms to debate, deliberate, negotiate and come up with some truly innovative solutions to some of the world's biggest challenges and most importantly, see them from a perspective that you haven't yet. It is not just a debate where you show off your bragging rights and get profile pictures for until the next conference (but please make sure you do that!). In my experience Model UN is where you can pick up certain key skills such as negotiating, public speaking, analytical thinking and teamwork among a plethora of others that will give you a heads up to succeed in your professional and personal endeavors in the future.

DiPSMUN 2018, therefore, has been designed to help you, the delegate, find your own voice in the environment that you are most comfortable with. The committees simulated at this conference range from discussing the Mexican Drug War to the very formation of the states of Israel and/or Palestine in the British mandate of Palestine; from solving global inequality to abolishing slavery. When you sit in committee, ensure you intend to walk away with more than just a trophy or a certificate. Ensure you walk away with knowledge and experience, for those will last you longer than a certificate.

Always remember *"..that the circumstances of one's birth are irrelevant. It is what you do with the gift of life that determines who you are."* – Mewtwo, Mewtwo Strikes back

Sincerely yours,



Shouryadipta Sarkar

Analytics and Strategy Consultant
Department of Field Support
United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY

Foreword

Dear delegates, it is with great joy and pride that I welcome you to the sixth edition of Delhi Public School Bangalore South's Model United Nations conference. My name is Suryadepto Nag and I'm honored to be serving as the chairperson of the second All India Party Meet to be simulated in this conference.

Our committee will be focusing on topics highlighting Unity and diversity addressing long unanswered questions of caste inequality and divisions based on linguistic lines. These topics have been chosen not only for their significance historically, and its everlasting impact; but also because of their relevance in today's volatile times.

During the 3 days of this conference, we shall be embarking on serious discourse on the World's largest democracy and I do fervently believe that every member has a vital role to play.

We are hoping to indulge in qualitative and dramatic debate, deliberating on each aspect of the crisis at hand comprehensively, and arriving on concrete propositions. I hope to have every delegate participate and deliver effectively in committee. I also intend for the happenings in this committee to act as great learning experiences for each one of you and for members of the executive board as well.

The Executive board members have been working enthusiastically towards preparing the background guide and hope to give you a clear understanding of the questions we are going to deal with, along with its massive humanitarian backdrop.

We also expect all delegates to be specific and realistic in their proposed courses of action.

Beware of defections and withdrawals and approach alliances with caution. Trust no one, and risk no more than is required. You must act decisively, and you must act now; or history will cast its verdict, with those harsh and chilling words – 'too late'. I look forward to seeing all of you on the 4th, 5th, and 6th of July

Sincerely,

Suryadepto Nag

Chairperson, All India Party Meet, DiPSMUN 2018

Rules of Procedure:

This meeting will NOT adhere to parliamentary rules of procedure. However certain aspects of the MUN rules of procedure will be followed which will be intimated by the Chair as and when necessary. English will be the official language for the committee. However, there will be no negative marking for the usage of Hindi in committee. Please note that all documentation must be done only in English.

Only reports and documents by the government organizations shall be considered as legitimate (For example: Parliamentary committees' reports like JPC, Standing committee, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, CBI reports). Media Reports will hold value only for persuasive argument and will not be deemed legitimate in the meeting. In the beginning of the committee session, the honorable members shall vote to decide the agenda which shall be taken up for discussion by the committee following which the chairperson will open the speaker's list where all members must present their views on the agenda being discussed for a maximum time period of 60 seconds.

Please note that position papers will not be required for this committee.

However, all members must give an opening stance on the agenda in the first session for a time period of 60 seconds, before the formal debate starts.

This meeting will function at 2 levels: –

1st: Public – When the committee is in public session, every word that is spoken shall be enshrined in public record and hence might be subjected to public critique. Media and outside observers will be present during public sessions.

2nd: Private – When the committee deems fit, it may motion for a private session. All exchanges in private sessions shall not be put on record and will be privileged and confidential. Outside observers and media personnel shall not be permitted. It is during these sessions that members may discuss the “less savory” aspects of political functioning. This is to provide a moral-free, protected forum for the members to consider political realities. Guidelines regarding the use of unparliamentary language would be communicated in the meeting itself. All members are required to particularly note that they CANNOT refer to anything that might have been said/done during the private sessions in public debate. Any violation of this rule shall lead to serious consequences.

The committee also has a provision for a SECRET CAUCUS wherein any two or more parties can enter into a secret caucus where they will be allowed to have a conversation without the presence of the, Conference Staff or Media. The party prior to raising a motion for a secret caucus should have the consent of the parties involved in the secret caucus under consideration.

Outcome:

The main purpose of this All India Parties Meet is to ensure that all the participating members come down to consensual solutions with respect to the issues at hand. For which the final document of this Meeting would be solutions in the form of recommendations to the Government to solve the existing issues for which all the political parties have arrived at a consensus. And for such document/s to be passed a simple majority of all the members present and voting is necessary. Members CAN abstain from voting.

Introduction

Early Hindu society was divided into 400 castes and the Schedule Castes and the Schedule Tribes were the 'untouchables'.

The Constitution under its founding father BR Ambedkar sought to change this. The preamble of the constitution of India talks about equality among the citizens of India, but the lower caste was treated ruthlessly even with the same footing as the other citizens. Despite the implementation of Article 17 that abolished this system of untouchability the lower caste remained unequal.

The Parliament recognized the continuing gross indignities and offences against Scheduled Castes and Tribes, passed the 'Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act' in 1989.

This Act sought to prevent the commission of offences against such classes, to provide special courts for the trial of such offences and rehabilitation for the victims of such offences. It aimed to deliver justice to these communities through proactive efforts to enable them to live in society with dignity and self-esteem and without fear or violence or suppression from the dominant castes or help the social inclusion of Dalits into Indian society.

Although graced with good intentions, the act was termed by the Supreme Court as an attempt to persecute innocents and public servants for political and personal gains and checks were needed to prevent the misuse. A practice that was a blot on the fair name of India the review of an act guaranteeing privileges to those previously deprived must be carefully considered and debated.

History and Background

The post independence era was marked with atrocities against the 'untouchables' who demanded their right to vote and to govern, voiced their right to dignity and self-respect. These have ranged from verbal abuse, physical assault, mass attacks, social and economic boycotts, torture, custodial violence, rape and gang rapes and even mass murders. To cite a few of the major massacres–

- The gruesome killing of Dalit Kotesu in Kanchikacherla, Andhra Pradesh in 1969
- the killings of 10 STs by police in connection with a land dispute in Indravalli in Andhra Pradesh in 1978
- the massacre following an SC bridegroom riding on horseback at Kafalta in Uttar Pradesh in 1980,
- the killing of Bacchdas in Mandsaur district in Madhya Pradesh in 1982

- the police shootings that killed 15 STs at Banjhi in Sahibganj district in Bihar in 1985

Such worsening situation led to the need for a decisive solution which prompted the Indian Parliament to consider the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955. The Parliament enacted the Untouchability (Offences) Act 1955 which was later rechristened as the Protection of Civil Rights Act in 1976. However due to loopholes and lack of a proper legal framework this act failed. Under this act 'untouchability' as a result of religious and social disabilities was made punishable. But the law and public administration was ill-equipped to implement this piece of social legislation and the levels of punishment were watered down. Further the normal provisions of the Indian Penal Code were seen as inadequate to check and deter crimes committed by dominant caste groups. It necessitated Parliament, therefore, to enact The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (POA Act) and The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 (POARules).

Salient Features of the Act

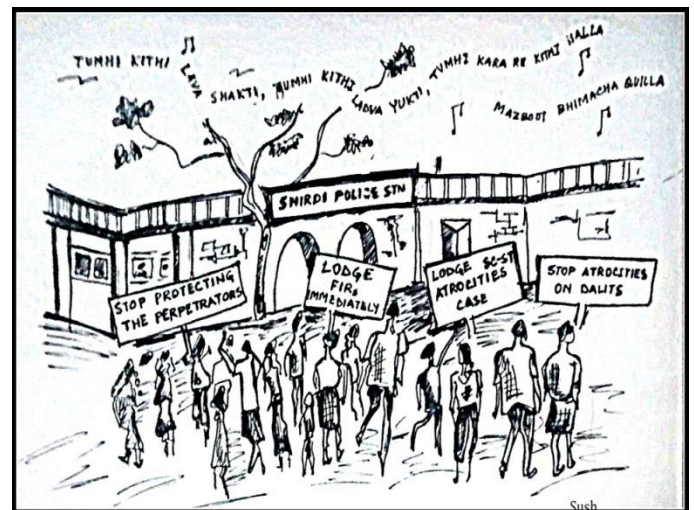
The Prevention of Atrocities Act was meant not only to prevent but also to eliminate atrocities against SCs and STs.

With this in view, it defined the term 'atrocities' as 'an offence punishable under Section 3 or the crimes of the Act which lists a number of offences. It formulated stringent measures for imposing heavy penalties on dominant caste perpetrators of atrocities as well as on those public servants wilfully neglecting their duties in implementing the PoA Act & Rules. In particular, this Act consists of the following significant features:

- ❖ It addresses various offences/crimes committed against SCs/STs in the areas of social disabilities, encroachment or appropriation of property, malicious information or suit, political rights violations and economic exploitation.
- ❖ It establishes special procedures to prosecute the offenders booked for these offences.
- ❖ It mandates; investigation by Deputy Superintendent of Police, the designation of special courts and special public prosecutors for dealing with atrocities, the setting up of State and District Level Vigilance Committees and Monitoring Committees, Special Officers, Nodal Officers.
- ❖ It enjoins on the States and Union Territories to take specific preventive and punitive measures to protect Dalits and Adivasis.

- ❖ It makes provision for adequate relief and rehabilitation measures to the affected victims.
Legal Aid available despite financial status
- ❖ Grant arms licenses to SCs and STs.
- ❖ Denial of anticipatory bail.
- ❖ Denial of probation to convict
- ❖ Identification of atrocity prone areas.
- ❖ It also provided a framework for monitoring the state response to the atrocities against SCs and STs–
 - a. According to the Act and Rules, there are to be monthly reports (from the District Magistrates), quarterly review meetings at the district level by the District Monitoring and Vigilance Committee (DVMC) and half yearly reviews by a State Monitoring and Vigilance Committee (SVMC) the chaired by the Chief Minister.
 - b. The performance of every Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) will also have to be reviewed by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) every quarter.
 - c. Annual reports have to be sent to the Central government by 31 March every year.

The Act is expansive in its scope in many respects: in the list of offences, in constituting organizational mechanisms, in identifying officers for performing specific responsibilities, in defining their specific duties, in framing penalties for offences committed, and in assuring relief and rehabilitation measures to the victim–survivors.



Amendments to the Act

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015

- Amends existing categories and adds new categories of actions to be treated as offences.
- Offences in case of **sexual exploiting of SC or ST woman**:
 - (i) Using acts, words or gestures of a sexual nature against SC/ST woman.
 - (ii) Touching an SC/ST woman intentionally in a sexual manner without her consent
 - (iii) (Practice of dedicating SC/ST women as a devadasi to a temple...
- **New offences**: (a) garlanding with footwear, (b) compelling to dispose or carry human or animal carcasses, or do manual scavenging, (c) abusing SCs or STs by caste name in public, (d) attempting to promote feelings of ill-will against SCs or STs or disrespecting any deceased person held in high esteem, and (e) imposing or threatening a **social or economic boycott**.
- Preventing SCs or STs from undertaking the following activities will be considered an offence: (a) using common property resources, (c) entering any place of worship that is open to the public, and (d) entering an education or health institution
- **Presumption to the offences**: If the accused was acquainted with the victim or his family, the court will presume that the accused was aware of the caste or tribal identity of the victim unless proved otherwise.
- The act specifies the duties of public servants
- Under the earlier Act, a court of Session at the district level is deemed a Special Court
 - Amendment specifies that an Exclusive Special Court and **exclusive Special Public Prosecutor** must be provided at the district level
 - Special courts must be established where offences are less in number
 - cases should be disposed of within **two months**
- Adds a chapter on the **rights of victims and witness**.
 - The duty of the state to make arrangements for the protection of victims, their, and witnesses.

Present Scenario and Concerns:

On March 20, the Supreme Court said that the arrest of an accused under the SC/ST Act is not mandatory and recourse to coercive action would be only after preliminary inquiry and sanction by the competent authority.

Coupled with this, the court said, that there was no "absolute bar against grant of anticipatory bail in cases under the Atrocities Act if no prima facie case is made out or where on judicial scrutiny the complaint is found to be prima facie mala fide".

"..., we direct that in absence of any other independent offence calling for arrest, in respect of offences under the Atrocities Act, no arrest may be effected" without the permission of appointing authority in case of public servant or that of Senior Superintendent of Police in case of general public, said the bench of Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel and Justice Uday Umesh Lalit in its judgment.

Originally, the Act allowed for the immediate arrest of suspected offenders upon a complaint and denied anticipatory bail.

Protests:

This judgement caused widespread dismay for having diluted the POA Act. There was a national strike by Dalits against the judgment which turned violent leading to loss of lives. The Center has given review petition against the judgment. However, the Supreme Court has refused to keep in abeyance its earlier order preventing automatic arrests on complaints filed under the SC/ST Act.

Political parties started blame-game and grandstanding, to make mileage out of the issue for 2019 elections. But amidst all this cacophony, the real issue should have been crowded out. Several Dalit outfits called for a nationwide bandh on April 2nd 2018 and protests were staged in many parts of the country, mostly in northern India including Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

At least nine persons are reported to have died in the violence and numerous others injured. Normal life in these regions were hit with agitators disrupting rail and road traffic and even blocking parts of national and state highways. Markets and educational institutions were forced to shut down in several areas and sporadic violence was also reported.

In Punjab, the final practical examinations of Class 10 and 12 of the Punjab School Education Board had to be postponed to April 11th 2018. In Madhya Pradesh, as the protests took an ugly turn, authorities imposed a curfew in many places.

Review petition

The government subsequently filed a review petition over the Supreme Court's order. Seeking the judgment's recall, the government said it "entails wide ramifications and implications resulting in dilution of the stringent provisions" of the 1989 law.



The petition referred to the "increase" in the "disturbing trend" of "certain atrocities" where Scheduled Castes were made to eat "inedible substances like human excreta", attacks on them and mass killings and rape of women belonging to SC and ST.

Despite the deterrent provision of the law, the high incidence of offences against SC/ST show that it "was not being adequately felt by the accused", it said, adding it was against this backdrop, and that it became necessary to make its provisions more effective as it referred to 2016 amendment to the prevention of atrocities law.

The Centre's stand

The Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has said the government will argue the matter with full authority in the apex court for the verdict's reconsideration.

Prasad said the government and the Bharatiya Janata Party were committed to the welfare of SCs and STs and alleged that opposition parties, including the Congress, were politicizing the issue.

"We wish to emphatically say that the provision of reservation for the Dalits in the said Act is firm and will remain firm. The Modi government has no idea at all of tampering with it, which the Congress is seeking to campaign in the most vicious manner," he said.

The Supreme Court's view

Denying any dilution of the Act, the Supreme Court declined to stay its ruling and asserted that it wanted to protect innocent people from being punished.

A bench of Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel and Justice Uday Umesh Lalit on Tuesday said that compensation can be paid to victims under The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, even without a FIR being registered. The bench was responding to the Centre's review petition.

Refusing to budge on its five directions issued on March 20th 2018, the court said that "We are not against the law or its implementation" and that the directions in no way diluted the law but were aimed to protect the innocent people from being punished. It described its direction for preliminary inquiry before an FIR is registered on a complaint as "filter".

The court said that all they have done is to read the Constitution's Article 21 – guaranteeing protection of life and personal liberty – in the act and that should happen with every statute.

Asserting that it has in no way diluted or tinkered with the law to protect the SC/STs, Justice Goel said: "We are only giving effect to existing law. It is not a law of arrest that the moment an FIR is lodged, the accused is arrested" and the "procedure established by law should be fair, just and reasonable".

The apex court has listed the Centre's plea after 10 days for detailed hearing; all parties have been asked to file written submissions by then.

Conclusion

Members of the AIPM please note that the background guide is the only the start of your research on this very vast agenda and you are expected to be thoroughly researched, not only on your party's stance but the portfolio you represent as well.

Please leave your footwear outside.

History and Background:

What is Special Category Status

Special Category Status used to be granted to some regions that have historically been at a disadvantage compared with the rest of the country. This decision was taken by the National Development Council (NDC), a body of the former Planning Commission, and was based on various parameters such as–

1. Hilly and difficult terrain
2. Low population density
3. Low resource base
4. Strategic location along the borders of the country
5. Economic and infrastructure backwardness
6. Non-viable nature of the state's finances.
7. Sizeable share of tribal population

Jammu & Kashmir was the first state to get Special Category Status, and another 10 states were added over the years, with Uttarakhand being the last in 2010. The benefits that a state gets under the provision of being a 'special state' are –

- i) Preferential treatment in getting central funds assistance
- ii) Concession on excise duty to attract industries to the state
- iii) A significant 30 per cent of the Centre's gross budget goes to the special category states. These states can avail the benefit of debt swapping and debt relief schemes
- iv) In the case of centrally sponsored schemes and external aid, special category states get it in the ratio of 90 per cent grants and 10 per cent loans, while other states get 30 per cent of their funds as grants.
- v) Tax breaks to attract investment.

After the dissolution of Planning Commission, with the creation of NITI Aayog which has replaced the Planning Commission, has no power to allocate funds — therefore, the discretion that the ruling party at the Centre had to dole out special favours to states through the Plan panel, no longer

exists. The recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC), Central plan assistance to SCS States has been absorbed in an increased devolution of the divisible pool to all States (from 32% in the 13th FC recommendations to 42%) and do not any longer appear in plan expenditure. The FFC also recommended variables such as “forest cover” to be included in devolution, with a weight age of 7.5 in the criteria and which could benefit north-eastern States that were previously given SCS assistance. Besides, assistance to Centrally Sponsored Schemes for SCS States was given with 90% Central share and 10% State share.

Constitutional Provisions and Guidelines

The Constitution does not include any provision for categorisation of any State in India as a Special Category Status (SCS) State. But, recognising that some regions in the country were historically disadvantaged in contrast to others special statuses was provided. The following Articles are drafted under Part XXI of the Constitution under Temporary, Transitional, and Special Provisions.

Article 371–D: Special provisions for Andhra:

- President has the power through this article to provide equal opportunities and means to local people in the matters of jobs and education.
- For this, President may ask the state to create civil posts in local organizations for different regions of the state and also provide for direct recruitment to posts in local institutes.
- President can ask the state for making an administrative tribunal to deal with disputes related to placement, allocation, and promotions in public posts of services.
- Although the President of India can abolish these tribunals and also Supreme Court of India will have jurisdiction over it, but it will not come under the purview of the High court.

Article 371–E: Special provisions for Central University in Andhra Pradesh:

It says:

Indian Parliament may by law grant for the establishing a Central University in the State of Andhra Pradesh.



Reasons responsible for Special Provisions of States

- The condition in which the Constitution of India was passed was very critical and different from today's time. The issue of federalism was one of the areas of debate. In order to cater the special needs of states, the founders of the new India provides special provision.
- The special development boards were specifically constituted to cater the developmental needs of the areas such as Katchh and Marathwada in Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively.
- The required consideration was also given to the tribal culture by the provision of autonomy through tribal councils and local governance models, E.g.: Tuensang district of Nagaland.
- The discretionary power was accorded with the governor of some states in order to manage the local level challenges in very efficient manner.
- The constitution provided special protection to customary law in order to protect them from outside influence. The conceptualization of Justice for these communities was protected as per their laws.
- Special provision also takes care of economic viability of local governance and thus provided scope for revenue collection and also grants for various welfare schemes from central government.
- The Presidential authority in many areas provides the ultimate protection to these special provisions in order to keep them for the welfare of groups with special needs.

The Concerns and Present Scenario:

Telangana has been a highly disputed region ever since it was formally merged into Andhra Pradesh in 1956. There were safeguards provided for the Telugu-speaking people in the form of a document known as the Gentlemen's Agreement. In fact, the ill implementation of these safeguards is one of causes for the struggle for bifurcation.

Since 1969, there have been protests and objections to the state of the Telugu people. Though, the Centre was formally involved in 2009 when following the death of the then CM of Andhra Pradesh, YSR Reddy, the TRS party demanded that the Congress introduce a bill for Telangana in the Lok Sabha. In opposition to this, Jaganmohan Reddy formed the YSR Congress. There were also movements such as the **Samaikyandhra Movement**; in a bid to keep Andhra Pradesh united.

Clearly Andhra Pradesh does not satisfy majority of the parameters for special status. But there is a strong reason why the people of Andhra Pradesh are demanding the special status. When Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated in 2014, it sought Special Category Status on the grounds that it was at a disadvantage, since it would lose a significant amount of revenue as a result of Hyderabad going to Telangana, the new state that came into existence on June 2, 2014.

Andhra Pradesh was promised Special Category Status by the Congress government, which was at the Centre during the state bifurcation, and by the BJP during the course of its 2014 election campaign, Manmohan Singh, who was then Prime Minister, said in the Rajya Sabha that special category status would be extended to Andhra Pradesh for five years to help put the state on a firmer footing. This oral submission by the then PM has been the basis for Andhra Pradesh's claim to the status. BJP, which was in the opposition, also stated that it would extend it to five more years if it formed the government.

As a result, Andhra Pradesh lost its capital Hyderabad to Telangana. Hyderabad is one of the fast developing cities in India and has an annual GDP greater than even Chennai. Before the separation, Hyderabad was alone generating Rs.70, 548 crore as revenue. Although it was decided that Hyderabad would be the common capital for 10 years Andhra Pradesh was left with no capital, lack of source of income and also a huge amount of debts.

So, the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh promised Seemandhra in front the Lok Sabha that Andhra Pradesh would be given a Special Status for 5 years in order to recover from the huge economic loss and to build their capital. The current Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister M. Venkiah

Naidu was then in the opposition. He demanded the status to be extended to 10 years and said that it would be done by BJP once they come into power. This was also an integral part of the election manifesto of BJP during their election campaign in Andhra Pradesh. But the bill that eventually turned into law assured central assistance to develop a new capital for Andhra Pradesh, a separate High Court, ports and other infrastructure, and Centre would sponsor the Polavaram Irrigation Project but did not have any mention on Special Status. Telugu Desam Party (TDP) which is allied with the BJP during the General Elections came into power in Andhra Pradesh and the people of Andhra Pradesh were hopeful that they would be given special status but the Telugu Desam Party decided to quit the NDA, days after two of its ministers resigned from the Narendra Modi government following the Centre's refusal to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh.

In response, The YSR Congress submitted a notice for a no-confidence motion Andhra Pradesh chief minister and Telugu Desam Party N Chandrababu Naidu immediately announced support for the motion and YSR Congress chief Jagan Mohan Reddy is understood to have sought the backing of other opposition parties. The parties in support included the Congress, the Left and the Trinamool Congress Their support means it will be more than comfortably accepted as it will have the support of at least 50 members of Parliament (MPs) in the House, which is a minimum requirement. Still, the BJP w remained unaffected as it has a comfortable majority in the Lok Sabha on its own. .

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the Centre would willing to honour the commitments made to Andhra Pradesh in 2014, but the granting of special category status itself was restricted by the 14th Finance Commission. However, Jaitley said the government was committed to granting the monetary equivalent of a special category status to Andhra and would bear 90 per cent of the share of schemes sponsored by the Centre, with the state having to pitch in with only 10 per cent. Jaitley also said Rs 4,000 crore had been granted to Andhra to bridge its revenue deficit and only Rs 138 crore was left.

There have been small movements right from after the elections demanding Special Status but they gained huge momentum recently –With immediate effect the opposition parties in the state called for Bandhs to gather the media attention. Even the BJP got down a step and offered a Special Package which includes some economic help to the State but the demand for special status continues.

According to a former Supreme Court Judge, anything which is promised by the leader of the House at the time of passing the bill and accepted by the House is equivalent to it being written in the bill. So the people of Andhra are continuing their fight for their right promised by the Lok Sabha and only time would decide the final outcome.

Happy researching!

This page has been intentionally left blank in memory of our loving friend Sreetama Sur