CHAPTER V

THE URBAN POLITICAL ELITES OF CHITTOOR DISTRICT
Urban Political Elites of Chittoor District:

Political elites are those microscopic minority of people who exercise influence on decision-making in society. Government and politics far disproportionately to their numerical strength, thanks to their extra-ordinary talents and abilities compared to those of the common people who constitute the majority in a community. In or out of formal position and authority, they continue to yield real political power at any time, in some degree or other. The political scene in Chittoor District during the freedom movement and since independence presents a large number of distinguished personalities who influenced the course of political events many a time and at all levels.

The emergence of a new type of leadership is a long drawn process, particularly in developing societies like India wherein traditional and historical factors play a crucial role in determining issues like leadership. The Local Self-Government Institutions, by and large, serve as an out-let and catalytic agent in producing new leadership for important positions at higher levels of Government.

A relevant consideration is as to what degree or extent Municipal Institutions can bring about a change in the pattern of leadership. Do traditional forces, i.e., the higher socio economic classes still have a predominating position in Municipal Institutions? It is assumed that the higher social sections have better education, financial resources and political training which contribute to their ascendency in the power mechanism at Central, State and Local levels. As elections are somewhat expensive and require that the candidates should be popular, the higher echelons of society by and large possess advantages in these respects to a great extent in Andhra Pradesh, particularly because of their past glory. At the same time, their hold over newly established democratic institutions further enables them to increase their influence in the society through their institutional position and distributive capacity.

The individual's resource position plays a crucial role in public life i.e., the more sound the economic conditions of a person, the greater are his chances of participation in electoral politics. Thus, the economic status of an individual may help in getting him elected to public office. This means that the higher socio-economic status groups have greater chance to get a hold over important positions and thereby they can safeguard their socio-economic status. Do the higher
socio-economic sections, largely participating and getting elected, represent or support the masses in the actual sense of the term? Or, will their early socialization affect the infrastructure of decision-making? In several studies it has been found that the Socio Economic Status (SES) characteristics have a definite bearing on the individual's behaviour. As parry maintains, "it is a wide-spread assumption of political sociology that social background and up-bringing of a decision-maker will influence his attitudes and policies.\(^1\) The main assumption of the present study are:

(a) Traditional higher social echelons of society still dominate at the local level public utility offices in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Besides high social status, economically well of groups also have command over a large number of seats in Governmental and quasi-Governmental positions.

(c) The individual's interior socialization through miscellaneous units like voluntary associational groups and political parties helps him in escalating his influence in the public and accentuates his desire to compete for public utility offices.

With a view to testing these assumptions, an attempt has been made to interview Municipal leaders who contested the Municipal Elections of Chittoor District in 1981 and 1987.

The following could be regarded as prominent Urban Political Elites of Chittoor District.

1. Tirupati:

Though not the Headquarters of a District, Tirupati is one of the most important towns of Andhra Pradesh, by virtue of its being the abode of the richest Hindu God, Lord Venkateswara. It would, therefore, be fitting and proper to commence a study of Urban Political Elites in Chittoor District first with this pilgrim town.

(1.) P. S. GURUVA REDDY\(^2\)
One of the most prominent Urban Political Elites and politicians of Tirupati town is P. S. Guruva Reddy. Having associated himself not only with Tirupati Municipal politics but Chittoor District politics as well, he has contributed a lot to both. He is particularly remembered for his memorable role in the development of Tirupati Town.

Socio-Economic Background:

Guruva Reddy hails from the most dominant Pakanati Kapu sect of the Reddy community which is found mostly in the areas of Tirupati, Chandragiri and Srikalahasthi of Chittoor District. The Pakanati Kapus are generally middle class people, maintaining cordial relations with every section in society. Guruva Reddy's father was a fairly rich man and hence maintained a high standard of living.

Guruva Reddy was born at Tirupati on December 12, 1909. He is the son of the late Pandraveti Subba Reddy. He has two sisters. He hails from a peasant family. His father was a self-made man who earned to share hard work and participated actively in the political field too. He was well-versed in cultivation. He worked as village officer in Tirupati for some time. After his entry into politics, Guruva Reddy's father held the post of the Member of the District Board when Tirupati was a part of the composite Madras Province. After earning reputation as a friend of all, he passed away in 1960.

With such a distinguished parental background, no wonder Guruva Reddy inherited an impressive political legacy which kept him in good stead in the later years, when he himself became a professional politician.

Guruva Reddy has developed intimate personal relations with almost every section in society at Tirupati. This helped him to become Secretary of the prestigious elitist organization, the Lion's Club.

Guruva Reddy's social relations were such that while, on the one hand, he prepared a group of powerful and able Reddy followers, he had also managed to secure the support of the numerically strong Baliya community in Tirupati by drafting its prominent leader Poola Venkata Muni Chetty, the late Tirupati Town Municipal Vice-Chairman. But, with the emergence of Mabbu Rami Reddy (the present MLA from Tirupati), another rival Pakanati Kapu leader who could
mobilize several Reddy youths under his control, Guruva Reddy's hold over Tirupati town began to decline gradually.

For the rise of Guruva Reddy in power politics, economic factors played no less part than social factors. Guruva Reddy's father was a rich landlord, with huge properties both in and outside Tirupati. The big tank area around the present R.T.C. Bus Complex - Tallapaka Cheruvu - was under the possession of Guruva Reddy's family. (The current market price of this land is Rs. 14 lakhs per acre). Besides these lands, several Inam lands situated in Chandragiri and around Tirupati are also owned by Guruva Reddy. In the Tirupati town itself his urban property includes PGR Movieland, a cinema theatre, Goutham Lodge, business and film financial corporations and film production.

Guruva Reddy has his early education in Municipal School at Tirupati. He studied SSLC in the District Board High School at Nandalur (Cuddapah District). Later he joined B. T. College at Madanapalle for his higher education. Guruva Reddy used to show good understanding of the country's problems even during his student days. The spirit of self-sacrifice demonstrated by stalwarts like Andhrakesari Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu and other leaders impressed him very deeply. Under the influence of National leaders he joined the nationalist movement through the Indian National Congress. Within a short period of his entry into politics, he adorned, with distinction, various posts. Of them the most noteworthy were General Secretarship of Tirupati Town Congress, Joint Secretaryship of Chittoor District Congress Committee and Membership of the Pradesh Congress Committee. During his active political career in which he held a number of organizational posts in the Congress Party. He sought to educate the masses regarding the constructive programmes of the Congress. Right from the beginning, he endeared himself to the weaker sections in society through his emotional involvement in and total identification with the problems concerning the peasants and the landless labourers and striving for their satisfactory solution. Much of his political career was spent on Municipal Politics and Co-operative politics.

His close political associates, the late Pooja Venkata Muni Chetty and great big hotel proprietor, Late Venkatachalapathi, contributed a great deal to Guruva Reddy political career. On the whole, it could be stated that P. S. Guruva Reddy's record of Public service as Municipal Chairman of Tirupati Municipal Council was undoubtedly memorable. He occupies a unique place in the Municipal politics of

Guruva Reddy's political career, as a matter of fact, started seriously with his electoral defeat in the elections held to the posts of Directors in the Tirupati Co-operative Banks in 1935. In 1937, he won the election as Director and held the post of Treasure for 12 years. He became President of the Bank in 1939 and continued in that office till 1951.

Guruva Reddy also worked as Joint Secretary of the Co-operative Union in the composite Madras Province. After the emergence of the State of Andhra Pradesh he occupied the post of General Secretary and President of the A. P. State Co-operative Union. In 1972, he was deputed as the State Representative to the National Co-operative Union. Later in 1976-77, he was elected as Vice-President of the Co-operative Union of southern states.

During the Chief Ministership of P. V. Narasimha Rao, Guruva Reddy was elected as Member of the Legislative Council of Andhra Preash and during 1975-78, he worked as a Member of the S. V. University Syndicate.

Even during his student days Guruva Reddy worked against untouchability. During the Chief Ministership of C. Rajagopala Chari, when the Harijans made an effort to enter the temple of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala, Guruva Reddy joined B. S. Murthy, M. P. (Amalapuram) M. V. Naidu, M. L. A. (Pakala) and others. Violating the prevailing Section 144, he participated in the movement and strove hard for the entry of the Harijans into Lord Venkateswara's temple.

At the time of the visit of Acharya Vinoba Bhave to Tirupati, Guruva Reddy, as Municipal Chairman, gifted away ten acres of land lying at Chennaya Gunta in Tirupati to the great Bhoojan Movement leader.

Despite Guruva Reddy being initially on the side of Government during the Jai Andhra Movement in 1973, he, however, changed his stand in response to the people's aspiration and became a staunch supporter of the Movement.

Guruva Reddy has been a consistent wearer of Khadi, like a true Gandhian, and did his best for the promotion of Khadi in Tirupati Town.
Municipal Politics:

For the first time, Guruva Reddy entered Municipal Politics in 1953 when elections were held to the Municipal Council. He got elected as a Municipal Councillor from the 13th ward, with Flower Symbol allotted to his independent candidature. Guruva Reddy could capture the Chairmanship of the Municipal Council with the support of 12 out of 16 Municipal Councillors. In 1957 he was re-elected as Municipal Councillor and became Municipal Chairman once again with the support of a majority of the councillors. In 1961 and 1965 too he could elected as Chairman. From 1967 to 1972, he continued in the office of Municipal Chairman.

At the end of the Special Officer's regime which lasted from 1972-81, Guruva Reddy became Chairman again, thanks to the elections held to Tirupati Municipal Council. In this connection it would be interesting to point out that the present MLA from Tirupati, Mabbu Rami Reddy, met with defeat at the hands of Guruva Reddy who could manage to secure the backing of 17 Councillors, as against 15 secured by the defeated candidate in the indirect election to the Municipal Chairman.

From 1981-82, Guruva Reddy held the office of the President of the Chamber of Municipal Chairmen of Andhra Pradesh. It was during this time that he proposed the introduction of direct election to the post of Municipal Chairman.

In 1982, as a result of the No Confidence Motion moved against him by Mabbu Rami Reddy, Guruva Reddy lost his Municipal Chairmanship, although he continued to play politics later by getting the newly elected Municipal Chairman removed from his post and replacing him with his own nominee, Municipal Councillor Kola Ramu.

In 1983, Guruva Reddy joined the Telugu Desam Party started by the matinee idol N. T. Rama Rao and became a prominent leader of the Regional Party. In the elections held to Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Guruva Reddy lost his contest against Mabbu Rami Reddy, the Congress (I) candidate, by a margin of 1500 votes.

As a token of recognition of Guruva Reddy's contribution to the Co-operative Movement he was honored with the State Co-operative Award in 1989.
Guruva reddy' Political Ideas:

As a well-experienced politician, Guruva Reddy has formed his own political ideas recorded by this researcher in the course of the interviews granted to him. They may be summarized as follows:

1. In view of the country's adoption of the democratic system of political rule, it is desirable to have direct elections to all elective posts. In Municipal Elections, both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be elected directly. This would eliminate the possibility of unnecessary bickerings and manipulative politics among the Municipal Councillors, if they are allowed to elect the Chairman from among themselves.

2. The candidates for Municipal Councillorship should possess at least the minimum educational qualification of S.S.C. The currently prevalent photo system is highly desirable, because in such a situation there would be no scope for rigging, bogus voting and other fraudulent practices.

3. There is the need for excluding local MLA's and MP's from ex-officio Memberships in any elective body, because their interference in Municipal Administration would only aim at promoting their party interests rather than the general interests of the community. By interfering with the transfer of Municipal officials, they would also be hampering the smooth working of Municipal Administration.

4. Municipal Elections should be held not on party basis but on individual basis only. In case elections on party lines are inevitable, anti-defection law should be vigorously enforced.

5. The Standing Committees like the Contract Committee, the Head-masters Committee and the other employees committees should be constituted with Chairman, Commissioner and senior Councillor.

6. In view of the fact that the Tirupati Town happens to be the gateway to Lord Venkateswara's temple at Tirumala, it is imperative for the TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams) to pay an annual recurring grant (atleast Rupees one crore) to the Tirupati Municipality to enable it to provide the basic amenities and comforts needed by the visiting pilgrims.
Development of Tirupati During Guruva Reddy’s Municipal Chairmanship:

Guruva Reddy sought to solve the drinking water problem of Tirupati by arranging for the supply of 40 thousand gallons of water from Kalyani Reservoir. To perpetuate the memory of his political mentor, Tunguturi Prakasam, Guruva Reddy named the University Road as Prakasam Road, the Municipal Council hall as Prakasam Council Hall and Municipal High school as Prakasam Municipal High school.

Guruva Reddy is remembered for the drainage scheme introduced in Tirupati Town. He converted the metal roads into concrete roads. The other services of Guruva Reddy included construction of own buildings for the Municipal Schools and establishment of two Municipal High schools and four Upper Primary Schools.

It was during Guruva Reddy’s regime that the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Tirupati Municipality took place.

No wonder, therefore, Guruva Reddy, with his long political experience and record of public service, became popular with one and all in the pilgrim town as its Municipal Chairman for a pretty long period (twenty years).

As a Telugu Desam Party Leader:

Guruva Reddy, who played a prominent part in the politics of the Congress Party at Tirupati ever since his student life, faced the rivalry of his fellow casteman, Mabbu Rami Reddy, in the Congress power politics. So it was but natural that he attracted the attention of film hero, N. T. Rama Rao, when the latter started his Telugu Desam party in December, 1982. He worked for the strengthening of the new regional party, when N. T. Rama Rao fielded himself as the TDP candidate from Tirupati against the then A. P. Assembly Speaker, Agarala Eswara Reddy. Thanks to Guruva Reddy's tireless and effective campaign, coupled with his own cine glamour, N.T. Rama Rao secured an overwhelming majority of around 40 thousand votes. This contribution of Guruva Reddy to NTR's spectacular triumph was duly noted by the party supremo, who after being simultaneously elected from three constituencies (Gudivada, Hindupur, Tirupati) retained Hindupur and resigned from the other two constituencies, of which Tirupati happens to be one. Guruva Reddy also helped Kathula Syamala, the TDP candidate who contested in the bi-election caused by N.T.R.’s resignation. In 1985 State Assembly Mid-term
Poll, Guruva Reddy became the automatic choice for TDP candidate in Tirupati constituency but unfortunately he lost the election very narrowly to his Congress (I) rival Mabhu Rami Reddy, by a margin of around 1500 votes.

Guruva Reddy tried to secure the TDP ticket in the 1989 Assembly Elections, but was, however, denied by the party High Command on grounds of his old age and ineffective functioning as a party leader.

Thus ended, for all practical purposes, the political career of P. S. Guruva Reddy who could not make a mark in State politics, despite being a Congress MLC in his early years, with his defeat in the Assembly Elections of 1985 and denial of the party ticket in 1989 Guruva Reddy retired from active politics in order to make room for the younger generation.

(2) C. S. Ramahiah

C. S. Ramahiah was born on 10-9-1917 as second son of a distinguished Setty Ballja political leader, Chandragiri Srinivasulu Setty. His father was elected as a Municipal Councillor when Tirupati was part of the composite Madras Province. He also held the posts of the Vice-chairman and Chairman of Tirupati Municipal Council in 1921-22 and 1922-24, respectively. He was re-elected to the post of Municipal Chairman in 1938 and continued in that office till 1940. Ramaih's father was also a Member of the TTD Committee, Member of Taluk Board, District Board Member and Founder of Co-operative Town Bank. With a distinguished politician like his father as his main supporter, Ramaih became prominent even during the active political career of his father, C. S. Ramaih, popularly known as Ramaih, got elected as Municipal Councillor from 8th ward in 1948 and Chairman subsequently. He was re-elected as a Councillor and Chairman in 1952 and continued in office till 1956.

Ramaih worked as SVU Syndicate Member in 1972 and 1985. In 1989 he became the President of Tirupati Co-operative Town Bank.

EDUCATION:

He had his primary and secondary school education in Tirupati and graduation at Loyola college, Madras. He took B. L., degree from Madras Law college in 1942. He evinced keen interest in politics since his student days. Along with his friend, T. S. Pattabhi Raman, C. S. Ramaih was arrested at Madras when both
of them participated in a protest movement against the imprisonment of Jawaharlal Nehru in Gorakhpur Jail in 1941. Deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, Ramaih undertook a propagation of prohibition with personal devotion and determination.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND:

C. S. Ramaih, being a prominent Baliya leader, always counted upon the support of his caste in Tirupati Town, since the Baliya caste is numerically very strong in this town. His influence on the local electoral politics has always been noticeable. As a lawyer too, he was a leading popular figure among the elite of Tirupati Town.

Ramaih possesses vast properties in Tirupati Town with several buildings and business concerns. All his family members maintained high social status as professionals in various fields. With this socio-economic background, no wonder, Ramaih could come up to the top in the Urban Politics of Tirupati Town.

Ramaih entered active politics in 1948. Prior to that from 1945 to 1948, he practiced law. In the elections held to the Tirupati Municipal Council in 1948, he was elected as Councillor defeating his rival C. Doraswamy Chetty. With the support of 12 out of 20 Councillors, Ramaih got elected as Municipal Chairman. As Municipal Chairman he did yeoman service to the cause of development of Tirupati Town by converting metal roads into concrete roads. On his re-election as Municipal chairman during 1952-56, he continued the process of development by taking up the sanitation problem in the pilgrim town constantly vulnerable to floating population and resultant environmental pollution.

Ramaih, who was nominated as a Member of the SVU syndicate by TDP Government in 1985 under Educationist category resigned from that post in response to the protest made by Prof. D. L. Narayana who said that Ramaih should be treated as a lawyer and not an educationist. During his Municipal Chairmanship, Ramaih arranged felicitation to Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Dr. S. RadhaKrishnan when they visited Tirupati during their presidential tenures.

Ramaih frequently changed sides from Congress to TDP and vice versa in the Municipal Politics. While his support to Mabbu Rami Reddy could not help the latter to win the Municipal Chairmanship against P. S. Guruvu Reddy, he was, however, instrumental in getting Rami Reddy elected as Municipal Chairman.
in the following election to that post. As a leading Congressman, Ramaiah extended his support to the Congress candidate, Agarala Eswara Reddy against the TDP leader N. T. Rama Rao. In the bi-election held following N. T. Rama Rao's resignation, Ramaiah opposed Kathula Syamala the TDP candidate who had, however, won the election against R. Rajasekhar Reddy whom Ramaiah supported.

In the 1985 Mid-term poll Ramaiah worked for the success of the Congress candidate, Mabbu Rami Reddy, against TDP candidate P. S. Guruva Reddy.

As a protest against the dismissal of N. T. Rama Rao's first ministry by the then A. P. Governor, Ramlal, Ramaiah joined the TDP. So, naturally, in the direct elections held to the post of Municipal Chairman in 1987, he supported the candidature of A. Mohan, the T. D. P. candidate, who, however, lost the election.

As a result of the intra-party conflicts in TDP Ramaiah left that party and joined hands with Mabbu Rami Reddy who helped him to become the President of Tirupati Co-operative Bank.

Developmental works:

Ramaiah is responsible for the following developmental works.

1. Improvement of sanitation in the slum areas like, Singalagunta, S. V. Nagar, Padmavathipuram etc.,

2. Establishment of two High schools and two Upper Primary Schools.

3. Introduction of Kalyani water scheme from Kalyani Reservoir.


5. Construction of public lavatories in the main slum areas of the town.

Political Ideas:

The political ideas of C. S. Ramaiah may be summarized as follows:

1. Election to the Municipal Chairman should be on non-party basis.

2. Interference of MPs and MLAs in the local institutions should go.
3. Photo identification is always preferable. He wants the extension of this system to the State and National level, too.

4. The State Government should bear the salaries of Municipal Employees as it does in the case of other Departments.

3. Vakucherla Venkata Muni Chetty:

One of the most important politicians of the Tirupati Municipal Council and a former Municipal-Vice Chairman for nearly three decades, Vakucherla Venkata Muni Chetty, comes from the numerically strong Baliya Caste. He was born in 1918 at Tirupati and passed away on February 8, 1984 when he completed sixty years. Even though he studied only upto V class, by dint of sheer intelligence and industry he earned considerable property through flower business, as a result of which he was known as ‘Poola Venkatamuni Chetty’. He constructed a cinema theatre fetching him good profits.

Chetty joined politics in 1948 as a Municipal Councillor. In the same year he was elected as a Vice-chairman of Tirupati Municipality and continued in that position upto 1972. The veteran Baliya leader was also president of Tirupati Town Congress Committee during 1959-1965.

In 1981, Chetty became Chairman of the Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA). After the emergence of the Telugu Desam Party, he resigned from this post, as it was political in character.

Venkatamuni Chetty never wavered in his political loyalties and he lived and died as a faithful Congressman. He also actively participated in each and every movement of the Congress Party. He was a constant Khadi wearer.

While Peddi Reddy Timma Reddy, former APCC President and former A.P. Minister, was the only State level leader with whom Venkatamuni Chetty had close and cordial relations, P.S. Guruva Reddy, C.S. Ramaiah and Mabbu Rami Reddy were the local Municipal leaders with whom he had a sort of love-hate relationships at different times and frequent intervals. At the same time, it was, of course, equally true that those leaders, too, made use of his influence in Municipal politics as a prominent Baliya leader.
Developmental works:

Venkata Muni Chetty, as Municipal Vice-Chairman had much to do indirectly with

1) construction of Kalyani dam, which solved the water problem of Tirupati town.

2) Drainage scheme

3) Laying of cement roads and

4) Construction of new buildings for the Tirupati Municipality.

The developmental works he undertook directly and personally in his capacity as Chairman of TUDA deserves special mention. He extended the Protected Water Supply Scheme from Tirupati to Renigunta. He improved all the slum areas in and around Tirupati, but especially he did a lot for the improvement of Channa Reddy colony.

Venkatamuni Chetty's demise in 1984 was followed by the succession of his son, V. Munirathnam, as his political heir at the Municipal level.

4. Mabbu Rami Reddy:

The most prominent Congress (I) leader of today, Mabbu Rami Reddy, MLA from Tirupati, made history when he succeeded in getting a no confidence motion passed against one of the senior-most politicians and Municipal Chairman, P.S. Guruva Reddy, and got himself elected to the post in December 1982, when the latter left the Congress (I) and joined the TDP Party.

Rami Reddy was born on 30th November, 1944 at Tirupati. His parents were Mabbu Chenga Reddy and Lakshmamma. He belongs to the Pakanatt Reddy caste though the agriculture family originally belonged to middle class upto the time of Chenga Reddy, Rami Reddy however, through hard work, earned enough wealth to sustain himself in power politics. He studied upto 11th form only at Tirupati, but acquired working knowledge of English which helped him most in his political career.
Rami Reddy is a highly intelligent person, endowed with abundant commonsense which made him a successful politician. His political sagacity and wisdom were evident when he endeared himself to all sections in society and established his popularity in the pilgrim town of Tirupati. At the local level, he has close contacts with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) and the Non-gazetted officers working in the various Government Departments at Tirupati. At the State level he has been maintaining cordial relations with Kola Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, Dr. M. Channa Reddy, N. Janardhana Reddy and Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy.

For the first time Rami Reddy entered politics contesting in the election for the Municipal Council of Tirupati. He created a sensation when he contested for the post of Municipal Chairman against the 'Doyen of Municipal politics', P.S. Guruva Reddy. Though he lost it very narrowly by just two votes, very soon in about a year he was able to get Guruva Reddy removed, with the support of 24 Councillors against 8, through a no confidence motion in December, 1982. It was followed by his own election as Municipal Chairman in the place of Guruva Reddy. This particular event brought the dynamic, young Rami Reddy into limelight in the Municipal politics of Tirupati.

But, Rami Reddy had quit the Municipal Chairmanship in the same way as he got it into through a no confidence motion moved against him by the Telugu Desam Councillor, Kola Ramu, who replaced him.

Rami Reddy's political career as a member of the A.P. Assembly is quite interesting, because in the Elections of 1985 and 1989 he defeated both his former opponents in Municipal politics, namely, P.S. Guruva Reddy and Kola Ramu, respectively. The Assembly Elections provided an excellent opportunity for Rami Reddy to demonstrate the superiority of his real popularity over his Telugu Desam rivals in whose hands he accidentally suffered defeat on two occasions due to sheer manipulative politics in the Chairmanship elections.

Ever since his entry into politics, Mabbu Rami Reddy has been consistently a Congressman only. Despite a temporary set back in his Municipal politics, he never left the Congress (I) to join any other party.

Rami Reddy made elaborate arrangements for the All India Youth Congress Conference at Tirupati where Rajiv Gandhi presided over the session in the year
1984. In this connection, it would be interesting to note that Rami Reddy successfully arranged at Tirupati a mammoth public meeting of Nadendla Bhaskar Rao who replaced N. T. Rama Rao as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh by getting him dismissed from the office through his political defection from the Telugu Desam Party and securing support from the Congress (I).

Rami Reddy's keen interest in the local S.V.University politics was evident when he extended his full support to the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor Prof. G.N. Reddy who faced a rough weather from the TDP. Government which was opposed to Prof. G.N. Reddy's appointment.

Developmental works:

Rami Reddy has to his credit the following Developmental Works both as (a) Municipal Chairman and (b) MLA

(a) As Municipal Chairman:

1. Improvement of slum areas
2. establishment of two Elementary Schools, one Urdu Elementary School;
3. one Municipal Park;
4. Arranging sodium vapour lights in the streets; and
5. Steps for pollution control.

(b) As MLA:

1. Providing ample water supply through bore wells in the Tirupati surroundings;
2. Electrification of the rural areas covered by Tirupati Assembly constituency;
3. Supplying television to almost all villages as well as leprosy patients in Government Hospitals at Tirupati town, paying the bills from his own pocket.

The Congress (I) party is very much strengthened at Tirupati, thanks to the determined efforts of Mabbu Rami Reddy in this direction. Rami Reddy is largely responsible for the success of the Congress (I) candidates for the posts of Tirupati
Municipal Chairmen, two Mandal Praja Parishad Chairmen and five Single window Presidents.

The political craftsmanship of Rami Reddy specially lies in joining hands with Akula Subrahmanym, a Balija leader, in order to successfully fight against the other prominent Balija leader, V. Muni Rathanam, the present Chairman of the Tirupati Municipal Council. It is, however, remarkable that Rami Reddy extended his wholehearted support to Munirathnam when the latter was declared as the official Congress (I) candidate for the post of Tirupati Municipal Chairman. This shows the self-discipline, political honesty, integrity and character of Mabbu Rami Reddy in his political career. His political future is expected to be very bright.  

5. KOLA RAMU:

Young in age but influential politically in Tirupati town, by virtue of his belonging to a Dasari family, Kola Ramu was born on March 10, 1952 at Tirupati. His education was only upto fifth class but he has got good organizing ability, as evident from his performance as an active member of the Telugu Desam Party which he joined immediately after its formation in December, 1982.

Ramu has got a big business complex both at Tirumala and Tirupati. With the middle class and poorer sections in Tirupati Town Ramu has cultivated a warm relationship which helped him very much in the Municipal Elections.

For the first time, Ramu entered politics in 1981 when he contested as an independent in the Municipal Elections for the post of Councillor. Subsequently he joined the TDP in December 1982. Till 1987, he continued as Joint Secretary of Chittoor District TDP. In the 1981 election to the post of Municipal Chairman, Ramu extended his full political support to P.S Guruva Reddy who had won the election. In 1986, after Mabbu Rami Reddy was removed from the Municipal Chairmanship through the no confidence motion moved against him by the TDP, Kola Ramu became Chairman as a TDP. candidate. He however, could continue in this office for a short period only, i.e., from 1-4-1986 to 30-6-1986. Consequently, on the introduction of direct election to the Municipal Chairmanship, he had quit the office. In July 1989 he became the Chairman of TUDA. He was in that office till contesting on the TDP. ticket unsuccessfully against Mabbu Rami reddy,
his old rival, in the election held that year to the State Legislative Assembly from Tirupati Constituency.

**Developmental works**: Kola Ramu, who had the unique distinction of holding the posts of Tirupati Municipal Chairman and TUDA Chairman at different times, had to his credit a good record of developmental works:

(A) As Municipal Chairman:

1. Improvement of the slum areas through extension of roads into the narrow lanes;
2. Establishment of an Elementary School at Patnool Street where the Gujaratis who migrated from Ahmedabad settled down;
3. Provision of treatment for seasonal diseases in Tirupati Town;
4. Supply of drinking water to the people of Tirupati through allotment of 400 tap connections;
5. Digging of a channel up to 1.65 kms, in connection with a drainage scheme;

(B) As TUDA Chairman:

1. Extension road facilities to sixteen villages within the jurisdiction of TUDA;
2. Sanctioning of pattas for the housing sites of 1000 members belonging to the weaker sections and calling for tender to the tune of Rupees Forty Lakhs for this purpose;
3. Securing the TTD financial help upto Rs. 50 Lakhs for the Development of Tirupati;
4. Effort for pollution control in the overcrowded pilgrim town of Tirupati;

Kola Ramu had also worked as Member of the Nehru Zoological Board at Hyderabad. Notwithstanding his electoral defeat in the State Assembly Poll of 1989, he is continuing as an active worker in the TDP and strove for strengthening it, though it is no longer the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh.
6. VAKUCHERLA MUNIRATHNAM:

The only son of the reputed Balija leader of Tirupati town, Vakucherla Venkata Muni Chetty and the present Municipal Chairman of the pilgrim town, V. Munirathnam was born on June 24, 1938 at Tirupati. He graduated in Arts from the Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, in 1960. He was an outstanding sportsman having been Captain of the University Foot Ball Team. He played Hockey as a Member of the University Team.

Following his father’s demise in 1984, he joined politics.

Munirathnam has come up in life through hard work and developed the properties he inherited from his father by purchasing a new cine theatre and constructing a good number of commercial buildings in Tirupati Town.

With his firm hold over the Balijas, who constitute 40% of population in Tirupati, Munirathnam has developed political intimacy with P. Shivashankar and Jalagam Vengal Rao, former Union Ministers, V. Hanumantha Rao, APCC. president and Dr. R. Rajasekhara Reddy, ex- DCC president. As an Executive Member of the Kapu, Telaga, Balija Association, Munirathnam has established close relations with prominent leaders of this caste group all over the State.

Munirathnam’s entry into politics in 1984 was marked by his election as Director of the Tirupati Co-operative Town Bank. In 1985, he became President of that Bank. During the same year Munirathnam also became President of Tirupati Town Congress (I) Committee. In 1987, he was elected as Vice-President of A.P. State Co-operative Federation Bank. Later, Munirathnam also became Municipal Chairman in the direct election. In this connection it should be mentioned that, due to the factional politics prevailing in the Tirupati Town Congress (I), the opponent of Munirathnam, Mabbu Rami Reddy, tried to bring in his nominee Akula Subrahmanyam, who also belongs to the same caste as Munirathnam, namely Balija, as the Congress (I) candidate for chairmanship. Munirathnam however managed to get the Congress (I) Party ticket for himself, with the help of Jalagam Vengal Rao who happened to be the APCC President at that particular time.

In this connection it is interesting to note that Munirathnam does not believe that Mabbu Rami Reddy really lent his support to him, on account of the BJP candidate in the Chairmanship election being a Reddy and Rami Reddy’s own
brother-in-law. Munirathnam alleges that Rami Reddy tried to split the Reddy votes just to get him (Munirathnam) defeated in the Municipal Council Election. Munirathnam's observation is just contrary to what Mabbu Rami Reddy said on the subject. Rami Reddy claims that, in obedience to the Congress (I) Party's directive, he supported the candidature of Munirathnam, despite of differences between them. On the other hand Rami Reddy made a counter-allegation that Munirathnam was favouring his own men and excluding his opponents in the matter of distribution of Congress (I) tickets for the posts of Municipal Councillors.

On the issue of no confidence motion against P.S Guruva Reddy and election of Mabbu Rami Reddy in his place as Municipal Chairman, Munirathnam categorically states that it was his own father, Venkatamuni Chetty, who, on being denied the opportunity to become Chairman even for a brief period of six months, (because of his anger with Guruva Reddy), moved successfully a no confidence motion against him and replaced him with another Reddy, namely Mabbu Rami reddy. Thus, Munirathnam refuses to give much credit to the claim of Mabbu Rami Reddy that he brought about the downfall of P.S Guruva Reddy or got himself elected with the support of 24 out of 32 members who were actually induced by Venkatamuni Chetty only to throw out Guruva Reddy and bring in Rami Reddy as Municipal Chairman.¹⁰

Developmental works: As Municipal chairman, Munirathnam is responsible for the following developmental works.

1. Double electrification of streets;
2. Bore wells in slum areas;
3. Establishment of two Upper Primary and four Elementary Schools;
4. Second pipe line from Kalyani Reservoir for increasing water supply to Tirupati Town;
5. Construction of the second vegetable market at the cost of Rs. 40 lakhs; and
Political Ideas:

Munirathnam has expressed the following views on matters of political interest:

1. Direct election of the Municipal Chairman is preferable, because then only the Chairman will be able to take a bold and independent stand on any civic issue;

2. Indirect elections are not desirable because the Chairman so elected will only act as a rubber stamp of the Councillors, for the fear that he may be removed any moment in case he does not oblige them on any issue.

3. Elections should be held on non-party basis, as they provide an opportunity for men of honesty and integrity to participate in public life.

4. Introduction of the photo system on the identity cards is absolutely essential to ensure the prevention of bogus voting.

5. It would be better if the politically unimportant post of Municipal Vice-Chairman is abolished. But if it is continued, every section in society should get it under rotation system.

6. Opposition members should be drafted to the three Municipal Committees, namely, Contract Committee, Headmasters Committee and other employees committees.

7. The domination of ex-officio members over the working of Municipal councils and their undue interference in its day-to-day administration should be minimised. In view of the special importance of Tirupati Town where the TTD is located, there is no need for the separate Tirupati Municipality, as the TTD itself can be entrusted with the task of looking after the needs and requirements of the pilgrim town. It would be sufficient, on the other hand alternatively, if the TTD grants 10% of its annual income to the Tirupati Municipality for its all-round development.

Since illiteracy is bound to affect adversely the normal working of any representative institution, every aspirant for Municipal Councillorship should have necessarily studied at least up to class X.
An advisory committee comprising different sections of people, in society like intellectuals and other public-spirited citizens should be constituted to offer suggestions for the development of the town in every respect.

7. A. Mohan

A. Mohan, born on June 14, 1956, at Tirupati, is one of the important TDP activists. He received M.A. Degree from S.V. University and Law Degree from Bangalore University.

He comes from the numerically strong Baltija caste in Tirupati. His father is a rich farmer. He owns landed property worth nearly Rs. 60 lakhs. He has also got a large number of buildings and runs a watch dealers' shop (Hindustan Machine Tool Watch Dealer).

Mohan is a dynamic popular figure among the Telugu Desam Party Youth in Tirupati town. He established close relations with N. T. Rama Rao and N. Chandra Babu Naidu. Caste and matrimonial alliances have brought him closer to the Congress (I) leader, A. Madanmohan.

During his student days, he was closely associated with Chandra Babu Naidu in the Student Union Elections of both the S. V. Arts College and the S. V. University College, Tirupati. He was elected as Secretary of both the Students Unions as the nominee of Chandra Babu Naidu.

In 1983, when Mohan, along with Chandra Babu Naidu, joined TDP, and worked hard for strengthening it in Chittoor District, for some time. He worked as Chairman of TUDA and resigned from that post in order to contest in the Tirupati Municipal Elections against one of his closest relatives and Congress (I) candidate, V. Munirathnam, who defeated him in the election. Inspite of this happening, however, Mohan maintains cordial relationship with Munirathnam, on account of the family relationship between them. All the same, Mohan continuous to be a staunch supporter of TDP and its leaders, N.T.R. and Chandra Babu Naidu.

During his brief term as Chairman of TUDA, Mohan brought about the extension of Municipal limits of Tirupati and by-pass road. He also took steps for the supply of drinking water to the people in the village around Tirupati.
8. Duggandla Purushotham Reddy

The forty-four year old Duggandla Purushotham Reddy hails from Pakanati Reddy family. His father, Rami Reddy, and brother, Karunakar Reddy, were both Municipal Councillors and Directors of Town Bank.

Purushotham Reddy is a B.Com Degree holder. During his student days, he was an active participant in several movements. The political career of Purushotham Reddy ran as follows; First, he was a Congressman, then a Janatha Party man and a member of BJP later. He is closely associated with the State BJP leaders, M. Venkataiah Naidu, C. Ramachandra Reddy and Venugopala Reddy. Purushotham Reddy also happens to be a close relative of the Congress (I) leader, Mabbu Rami Reddy. In the direct elections held to the post of Municipal Chairman, Purushotham Reddy contested on the BJP ticket. But he lost it to V. Munirathnam of the Congress (I).

9. Dr. K. NARAYANA:

The forty-year old Dr. K. Narayana is a local leader of the C.P.I. He did his Ayurvedic Doctor's course at Guntur and Hyderabad. He belongs to the Kamma Caste. He has got good reputation as a popular figure among the depressed and down-trodden in Tirupati Town.

Dr. K. Narayana was an active participant in the students' movements during his student days. He worked as General secretary of A.P. Unit of All India Students Federation (AISF). As Secretary of All India Students Federation, he worked for the solution of many problems of the students. He attended the youth festivals held in Soviet Union and East Germany. In his capacity as President of District Labor Union, he also worked hard for redressing the grievances of the poor labourers.

In 1987 direct elections to the post of Municipal Chairman, he contested and lost on the C.P.I. ticket. At present he is District Secretary of C.P.I. and continues to work for the welfare of the working class people.
II. Important Urban Political Elites of Chittoor:

Chittoor is the Headquarters of the District. It has got a distinguished political history both before, during and after freedom movement. Here is a profile of the important urban political elites of Chittoor Town.

(1) C.V. SREENIVASAN\(^{14}\):

The role of C.V. Sreenivasan in the Municipal politics of Chittoor was significant during 1956-59. He belongs to Mudaliyar caste. He is nick named ‘Seenu Mudaliyar’. He has the wealthy background of his father, a big landlord.

He studied A.M.I.E. at London. Having entered into politics in 1947, Mudaliar got elected as Municipal Councillor of Chittoor. He has a firm grip and strong hold over Vanniyars and Mudaliyars. He became Chairman with the support of 13 out of 21 in the indirect election held for the Municipal Chairmanship in 1956. He continued in that position upto 1959.

In view of the fact that the Municipal Council at Chittoor did not own a building, Mudaliyar strove hard for getting a building for it and got it inaugurated by his friend, the late A.C. Subba Reddy of Nellore. A meeting held in that building was named after C.V. Sreenivasan Council Hall.

Developmental works:

Sreenivasa Mudaliyar got Municipal sites surveyed and secured the Protected Water Supply Scheme for the citizens of Chittoor at the cost of Rs. 10 lakhs. He was responsible for the construction of buildings for one High School, one Vanniyar Block in an Elementary School. The measures he undertook for the improvement of sanitation and eradication of cholera were remarkable.

After retiring from politics in 1959, Mudaliar, with his enormous wealth, settled down at Madras to engage himself in Mechanical Engineering Works. On the whole, the services rendered by Sreenivasa Mudaliar to Chittoor town are unforgettable.

(2) N.P. VEERA RAGHAVULU NAIDU\(^{15}\):

Coming from a reputed political family, the late N.P. Veera Raghavulu Naidu was born as the son of N.P. Venkata Krishnama Naidu and Smt.
VinayaKamma. He belonged to the socially dominant Kamma caste. He studied upto S.S.L.C. at Chittoor and did his Diploma in Automobile Engineering Course at Madras. Naidu hailed from a very rich family, which owned 30 acres of land at Bangarupalem near Chittoor. He also owns 30 buses and one cinema theatre.

Veera Raghavulu Naidu’s father, Venkata Krishnama Naidu, was a doyen of the Co-operative Movement in Chittoor District. He was also the founder of the sugar factory and P.V.N. college at Chittoor. Veeraraghavulu Naidu’s paternal uncle, N.P. Chengalraya Naidu, is a famous Congress (I) leader of Chittoor. He held the positions of MLA from Vepanjeri near Chittoor, Member of Lok Sabha from Chittoor and Member of Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh.

Veera Raghavulu Naidu commanded the support of the powerful Kamma group. At the State level, Naidu had political intimacy with the late Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Sanjeevaiaiah, and the late A.P. Minister, A.C. Subba Reddy. But the 30% Tamil population in Chittoor was dead opposed to him.

It was against this background that one had to understand the reason for his former classmate and Tamilian leader, M.S. Rajendran’s moving successfully a no-confidence motion against him. The Chittoor Municipal Council thus ended the brief tenure of Veera Raghavulu Naidu from Municipal Chairmanship. He was Municipal Chairman from 26-10-1959 to 29-11-1960.

Although Veera Raghavulu Naidu’s father was always anti-Congress, Veeraraghavulu Naidu himself was a staunch supporter of the Congress upto 1982. With the emergence of Telugu Desam Regional Party under the leadership of N.T. Rama Rao, Naidu became the Convenor of that party in Chittoor district.

Veera Raghavulu Naidu became popular as an MLC and Chairman of the Rayalaseema Development Board and worked for the development of the Rayalaseema region.

Developmental works:

Veera Raghavulu Naidu did his best for the improvement of the civic conditions in Chittoor Town, like sanitation, education, street lighting. He also helped the poor farmers to receive loans and responsible for the establishment of Chittoor Dairy.
Naidu passed away in 1986. His wife, Smt. Jhansi Lakshmi, was elected as MLA from Chittoor constituency on TDP ticket and also as Member of Parliament from Chittoor on the same party ticket. After resigning from TDP in 1991, Mrs. Naidu was BJP candidate for the Chittoor Parliamentary Constituency in 1991.

(3) M.S. RAJENDRAN:

The one politician who had the unique distinction of being the Municipal Chairman of Chittoor for the longest period at a stretch was M.S. Rajendran. A Tamil Nayakar, he hailed from Sholingar, formerly of Chittoor district. His father Subramaniam was elected as an Independent MLA from Sholingar and was called 'Praja bandhu'.

Rajendran had property worth Rs. 10 crores. He owned M.S.R. Shopping Complex, M.S.R. Cine Theatre. He was the proprietor of CPTC Company with 40 private buses (under the name of Chittoor Public Transport Company).

M.S. Rajendran belonged to the Nayakar caste forming 30% of population in Chittoor Town. He had the full backing of his caste people in all Municipal Elections. Even though Rajendran had no State level contacts with politics, his local popularity with different sections of people helped him in power politics.

By getting a 'no confidence motion' against N.P. Veera Raghavulu Naidu passed by just one vote majority, Rajendran could manage to succeed him as Municipal Chairman for the second time. He became Municipal Chairman with the support of an overwhelming majority of Municipal Councillors and was in that position from 1967 to 1972.

Developmental works:

During the Municipal Chairmanship of M.S. Rajendran, the following developmental works took place:

1. Tube lights in the streets of all the wards.
2. Construction of M.S.R. Town Hall.
4. Construction of two Elementary Schools and one High School.
5. Steps for treatment of citizens affected by the plague disease.

Following Rajendran's death in 1986, his sons bade goodbye to politics.

(4) R. Jyothinathan:

The 34 year old R. Jyothinathan belongs to a Tamil Gandla caste. He studied up to S.S.C. Prior to 1979, Jyothinath's family was just an ordinary one. But today it is one of the richest families in Chittoor. His brother, R. Gopinath, was elected as an MLA in 1985 from Chittoor and, currently, he is holding the post of President, Chittoor District Congress (I) Committee.

R. Jyothinathan has got intimate personal relations with the Congress (I) leader of Tamil Nadu, G.K. Moopanar. Jyothinathan became the first Municipal Councillor and later Municipal Chairman in which position he continued 30-6-1986. Both the brothers, Jyothinathan and Gopinath have full support from the local Tamil population in Chittoor Town.

The two brothers have however, a strong opponent, C. K. Babu (C.K. Jaya Chandra Reddy) who contested as an Independent candidate in the Assembly Elections against the official Congress (I) candidate R. Gopinath and won the election with the support of the youth of the constituency, besides that of his community (Reddis).

Jyothinath was elected as Municipal Chairman in 1981 with the support of 19 out of 32 Councillors and had undertaken several developmental works.

Developmental works:

1. During his Chairmanship Jyothinath brought about the second water scheme for Gangadhar Nellore which is situated within the Municipal Jurisdiction of Chittoor Town.

2. He was responsible for the sodium lights in Chittoor Town.

3. The metal roads in the narrow lanes were converted into cement roads.

4. He worked for the T.V. Station at Chittoor.

5. He was successful in bringing about sanitation for 43 slum areas and protecting the health of the people.
Jyothinathan’s service in getting water for the Hilly area of Kondamitta are unforgettable.

In view of the Chittoor Municipal Council being reserved for Scheduled Castes since 1987, Jyothinathan, who lost the Municipal Chairmanship due to this development, was instrumental in getting his follower, S. Bhaskar, elected to that post. At present he is content with helping his brother, Gopinath, in the discharge of his functions as President of Chittoor District Congress (I) Committee (DCC)²⁰

(5) Hari Prasad²¹:

Hailing from the Kamma caste, the 37 year old Hari Prasad is the son of C. Yathi Rajulu Naidu who worked as Director of Co-operative Bank, Chittoor, and Sugar Factory, Chittoor. His elder paternal uncle, C.D. Naidu, was MLA from Chittoor from 1962 to 1967.

Having been elected as Municipal Councillor in 1981, Hari Prasad could not succeed in his subsequent efforts to become Municipal Chairman, in view of the comparatively strong position of his political rival, R. Jyothinathan.

Originally a Congressman, he joined Telugu Desam Party in 1982 and is now Secretary of the District Unit of that party. At the State level he has intimate political relations with the TDP leader, N. Chandra Babu Naidu, and G. Muddu Krishna Naidu. In 1989 he contested on the Telugu Desam ticket for the Membership of the State Legislature, but was defeated by his political rival C.K. Babu (alias C.K. Jaya Chandra Reddy). Ever since his defeat in the Municipal as well as Assembly Elections, Hari Prasad mobilized the Kamma youth and formed a separate group of his own. Under his guidance the TDP Municipal Councillors prepared themselves for their effective functioning in the proceedings of the Municipal Council.

(6) S. Bhaskar²²:

Born in 1961, S. Bhaskar, a member of the Scheduled Caste ‘Mala’ , studied upto B.A. at Chittoor. He is a distinguished sportsman. He was very actively associated with the students Union of Govt. Degree College, Chittoor. For some time he worked as Member of the Chittoor Town Congress (I) Committee.
After the conversion of the Chittoor Municipal Council into the Scheduled Caste category in 1987 Bhaskar contested in the Municipal Council Election on the Congress (I) party ticket with the help of the local MLA, R. Gopinath. Even as a Final Year B.A. Student, he contested in that election. The factors which contributed to his success were:

1. His popularity among the youth.

2. The help he received from the Local MLA

3. The general antipathy towards N.T. Rama Rao and his Telugu Desam Party.

4. The full support extended to him by the Tamil population and AIADMK workers.

But the major factor for his electoral victory was undoubtedly the help received by him from Gopinath and Jyothinath brothers only.

Bhaskar has a firm grip over the Scheduled Caste people in Chittoor Town. However, the stiff opposition from the group led by C.K. Babu, (the present MLA) has been obstructing him in his political activities.

Developmental works:

1. Bhaskar, as Chairman, was responsible for the forty new bore wells in Chittoor town.

2. At present the second Hindus' Burial Ground is under preparation.

3. The completion of the water tanks is also his major achievement.

Bhaskar was also instrumental in the establishment of two High Schools, one Elementary School, and one Vegetable Market. He is also striving hard for the laying of by-pass road.

Bhaskar accompanied his political mentor, R. Gopinath, in the latter's efforts to mobilize the Scheduled Caste support for the Congress (I) in General elections.
(7) Dr. T.D. MOHAN:  

The 37 year old T.D. Mohan belongs to a middle class Scheduled Caste family. He discontinued his MBBS course in the middle for the sake of his entry into politics. For the first time he successfully contested in the Municipal Election in 1981, in which his father Dorai, too, had won the election as a Councillor.

T.D. Mohan started his political career as a Congressman, served as organizing secretary of Chittoor District Youth Congress. In 1982, having been attracted to N.T.R's Telugu Desam Party, he joined the party and became the General Secretary of its Town Unit.

Mohan is quite popular among Scheduled Castes. He is closely associated with the Kamma community in general, Hari Prasad, a TDP. leader, Chittoor, Rajasimhulu (alias Dora Babu), Dairy Chairman, Gali Muddu Krishnamma Naidu, former Minister and N. Chandra Babu Naidu, in particular.

After the conversion of Chittoor Municipal Council into the Scheduled Caste category 1987, Mohan unsuccessfully contested on the TDP. ticket in the Municipal Chairmanship Election, in which he was defeated by S. Bhaskar of the Congress (I).

Notwithstanding his defeat in the Municipal Chairmanship Election, Mohan is, however, serving as Secretary of TDP. Chittoor Town Unit and offering his useful suggestions to the Municipal Councillors belonging to his party.

(8) C.K. BABU (C.K. Jayachandra Reddy):  

C.K. Jayachandra Reddy, popularly known as C.K. Babu, is a 36 year old bachelor very closely and actively associated with the Congress (I) politics in Chittoor Town ever since his entry into politics in 1979 as President of the Chittoor District Youth Congress (I) Committee.

His father, Chittoor Krishna Reddy a rich landlord was the Munsif of Chittoor for several years. During the days of the British rule, he was given even Magisterial powers. The family background of C.K. Babu reveals that while his brother served as Security Officer for Neelam Sanjiva Reddy when he was President of India. All his sisters settled in the United States of America.
During his collegiate days, C.K. Babu became Chairman of the Students' Union. He was also chosen as Honorary Chairman for all the College Students Unions in Chittoor. During the late Sanjay Gandhi’s Presidency of the All India Youth Congress, he led a delegation of one thousand students to a conference held at Bangalore and attracted the attention of Sanjay Gandhi who instantaneously appointed him as President of Chittoor District Youth Congress (I) Committee, in response to the representation made to him on behalf of C.K. Babu’s followers. C.K. Babu is today a youthful and dynamic leader for the younger generation in Chittoor who see in him a ray of hope for their bright future.

The political sagacity and skilled craftsmanship of C.K. Babu was evident when he could manage unanimous elections of his followers as Municipal Councillors in the election held after the conversion of Chittoor municipal council into the Scheduled Caste category. Again there was no wonder that he was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of Chittoor Municipal Council. On account of his hold over a majority of the Municipal Councillors, Babu proved himself to be very powerful vice-chairman, thereby making the Chairman who belonged to the Jyothinath group of his own Congress (I) Party ineffective.

Among the political mentors of C.K. Babu may be mentioned N. Janardhana Reddy and Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy to both of whom he owes unquestionable allegiance. Babu has also got the full backing of Dr. (Mrs.) G. Kulubhalamma, A.P. Minister, AIADMK, workers in Chittoor Town and also the Reddy population in and around Chittoor Town.

There is a constant power struggle between C.K. Babu and Gopinath. Having tried unsuccessfully for the Congress (I) ticket in the 1989 Assembly election, C.K. Babu contested from Chittoor as an Independent candidate and defeated Gopinath who happened to be the official Congress (I) candidate as well as Hari Prasad, the TDP Candidate. Later he became an Associate Member of the Congress (I) legislature party.

After quitting the Municipal Vice-Chairmanship on his election as an MLA Babu could manage to get his own nominee elected as Vice-Chairman of Chittoor Municipal Council. He is at present an ex-officio Member of the Chittoor Municipal Council, in his capacity as an MLA.
III. Madanapalle :

Madanapalle has got the reputation of being one of the finest places in India with a cool and pleasant climate. It has also got the all India importance of being the birth place of India's National Anthem, 'JANA GANAMana' composed by Viswakavi Rabindranath Tagore. So it would be interesting to study the Urban political elites of Madanapalle.

Importance of the urban political elites of Madanapalle :

(1). T.N. BROTHERS 25 : (T.N. Viswanatha Reddi, T.N. Nagi Reddi and T.N. Sreenivasulu Reddi)

Hailing from a rich land owning family of Tamballapalli, the three brothers, T.N. Viswanatha Reddi, T.N. Nagi Reddi and T.N. Sreenivasulu Reddi, earned a spotless pure name in politics. Although they never sought any position for themselves in Madanapalle Municipal council, they, however, considerably and effectively influenced the Municipal politics in Madanapalle. No political decision was ever taken without their intervention.

Tamballapalli Narasimha Reddy was the father of these three distinguished brothers. This family belongs to Pakanati sect of Kapus (Reddis). T.N. Viswanatha Reddi was born in 1916. He took his B.A. Degree from B.T. College, Madanapalle and B.L. Degree from Madras Law college. Besides enormous land wealth, this family has got a lot of commercial establishments like Nava Bharat Tobacco Company in which all the three brothers were share-holders. (Navabharat Tobacco Company had dealings with the Russian Government for nearly thirty years and earned several crores of rupees).

Viswanatha Reddy entered politics for the first time in 1952 and got elected as a Member of parliament from Rajampeta Constituency. Later in 1962, following the resignation of M. Anantha Sayanam Ayyangar (who was appointed as Governor of Bihar) from the Chittoor Constituency, Viswanatha Reddy contested from that constituency against Prof. N.G. Ranga, at whose hands he was defeated by a narrow majority of 900 votes.

Right from his early years, Viswanatha Reddy was a prominent Gandhian and a veteran Congress (1) Leader. Despite his being wealthy, he was a consistent wearer of khadhi. He was a great philanthropist. A powerfull leader of the Reddy
community in Madanapalle he had close links with the State and National level leaders like Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, P.V. Narasimha Rao and Kasu Bramhananda Reddy. Viswanatha Reddy had also a family relationship with Neelam Sanjiva Reddy through the marriage of his son with the latter's daughter. This matrimonial alliance strengthened his political relations with Sanjiva Reddy.

T.N. Nagi Reddy, the second of T.N. Brothers, was elected as Chairman of Chittoor Zilla Parishad and earned a good name as an efficient administrator. Like his elder brother, Nagi Reddy, too, was a well-known philanthropist. He mobilized a large number of Reddis and Kammis around himself against Gattu Narasinga Rao, MLA. In the course of his diplomatic political favors to the Kamma community, Nagi Reddy has picked up Ratakonda Reddappa Naidu for the post of Municipal Chairman in Madanapalle.

Nagi Reddy was generally popular among all castes and communities. His son, T.N. Ramachandra Reddy, worked as Tamballapalli Samithi president and rendered yeoman service to that area for five years.

T.N. Srinivasulu Reddy is the youngest and the last of T.N. Brothers. He studied up to Degree level. He has inherited the political legacy of his two distinguished elder brothers and is following in their footsteps. He was elected as an Independent MLA once, in 1985. But lost as a Congress candidate in 1989 from Tamballapalli, a neighbouring constituency of Madanapalle. In the light of the rise of the powerful Baliya community, Sreenivasulu Reddy emerged as a leader of both the Reddys and the Kammis to safeguard the interests of both in the power struggle.

The T.N. family, with its political history, has helped a lot, the weaker sections, particularly the Muslims, by rendering invaluable and unforgettable services to them.

(2) Ratakonda Reddappa Naidu: Born in a prominent Kamma family in 1921, Ratakonda Reddappa Naidu played a key role in the Municipal politics of Madanapalle from 1953 to 1983. As an important factional leader of the Congress party, Naidu made a mark in the urban politics of Madanapalle. Graduated from B.T. College, Madanapalle, with a law degree from Madras, He endeared himself to several sections in the town with his reputation as a cultured intellect. He was
hailed by one and all as a man of the poor in society. He worked as President of the Local Lion's Club and President of private bus owner's association.

Right from the beginning, Naidu was highly rich, owning five buses, 50 acres of land and large number of buildings in Madanapalle. He had intimate political relations with Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy of Kurnool and the T.N. Brothers of Madanapalle. In 1956, R.R. Naidu was elected as President of Panchayat Samithi. Later, in 1964, he was elected as a Municipal Councillor and, with the unanimous support of all the twenty elected Councillors, he became Chairman of Madanapalle Municipal Council. Again in 1968, Naidu was elected Municipal Chairman for the second time, with the unanimous support of all the Councillors. In view of the Municipal Council being placed under the Special Officer’s rule from 1972 to 1981, his Municipal political career had some interruption. But in the Municipal Elections of 1981, Naidu was elected once again as a Councillor and subsequently as the Chairman of the Madanapalle Council with the support of 14 out of 24 elected councillors, defeating his nearest rival, Smt. Boyapati Vijayalakshmi, by a majority of four votes. He died as Municipal Chairman on June 16, 1983, at Madanapalle.

Development of Madanapalle during the regime of R.R. Naidu:

As Municipal Chairman, Madanapalle town registered considerable progress. A lot of developmental work took place. The people of Madanapalle could never forget the valuable services rendered by this dynamic leader. Naidu’s close connections with officials, non-officials and every section helped him to solve various problems concerning the civic amenities for the people of Madanapalle town. It was during the Municipal Chairmanship of Reddappa Naidu a Municipal colony for the Municipal Employees was constructed.

2. The four prominent shopping complexes were built during Naidu’s time only. They have become today the main sources of income to the Madanapalle Municipal Council.

3. Naidu successfully and effectively tackled the sprinkling water scarcity problem by arranging for its supply from Vempalli river. He was also responsible for the protected water supply scheme.
The other developmental projects successfully completed during Naidu's regime were: Contribution of four Upper Primary Schools, two Elementary Schools and two High Schools, construction of three Municipal Parks, and laying foundation for one Municipal Auditorium.

**Friend of Muslims**: The one distinguished feature of Reddappa Naidu's Municipal and political career is the intimate bond he developed close links with minority sections in society, particularly the Muslim community, which has a sizable, population in Madanapalle town. After the emergence of Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh, Naidu played his cards very cleverly and skillfully by managing to secure the support of Kamma Municipal councillors belonging to TDP (without himself ever leaving the Congress) against the designs of his political rivals, belonging to the Baliya and Vysya communities only. With the support of Reddis, Brahmins and Muslims, Naidu could easily thwart the attempt to dislodge him from power. This particular episode spoke volumes about his extraordinary political sagacity and wisdom. After Naidu's demise, his son R. Rajasekhar entered politics and is continuing as Municipal Chairman even today.

**(3) BOYAPATI VIJAYALAKSHMI**²⁷: Born in 1937 in Krishna District, Boyapati Vijayalakshmi, married to Dr. Jayachandra, a lecturer in the local B.T. College, Madanapalle and has become an active political figure in the urban politics of Madanapalle. A Kamma by caste, she entered, for the first time in Panchayat politics by working for a Baliya candidate against a Kamma candidate supported by the politically reputed Kamma family of Ratakonda Reddappa Naidu.

Vijayalakshmi's entry into Municipal politics was marked by her ejection to the Municipal Council of Madanapalle in 1981. She also contested for the Chairmanship against Ratakonda Reddappa Naidu, with the support of Baliyas and Vysyas, though unsuccessfully. Not withstanding her defeat in the Chairmanship election, Vijayalakshmi earned name as the leader of the opposition in the Municipal Council.

Through her important questions in the Municipal Council meetings, she became largely responsible for the various developmental works like, measures for health, protection, sanitation and education. Due to domestic reasons, Vijaya Lakshmi retired from active politics in 1987.
(4) Gangavaranpu Venkata Subba Reddy 28:

Though a Reddi in name (due to his father and forefather being village Munsifs) Gangavaranpu Venkata Subba Reddy was actually a veteran Kamma leader who played a significant role in the Municipal politics of Madanapalle.

His family was one of the wealthiest in Chittoor District. He had a property worth Rs. one crore. He was known as a very non controversial and popular figure in public life. He studied upto S.S.L.C. at Madanapalle. For the first time, he was elected Councillor to the Municipal Council in 1984 and continued in that office upto 1968. He got elected as a Municipal Councillor again in 1981. In December 1982, he left the Congress Party and joined N.T. Rama Rao's newly founded Telugu Desam Party. With the passing away of Reddappa Naidu in 1983, Venkata Subba Reddy, with his political craftmanship learnt from Rajasekhar, son of his erstwhile political rival Reddappa Naidu, by appealing to the Kamma caste sentiment, despite the party difference between the two.

Starting his political career as a Congressman, Venkata Subba Reddy changed his political loyalties several times, from the Congress to Krishkar, from Krishkar to Swathanthra, from Swathanthra to Congress, from Congress to Telugu Desam. Venkata Subba Reddy was the founder of Telugu Desam Unit at Madanapalle. He worked a lot for the success of the Telugu Desam Kamma candidate, Ratakonda Narayana Reddy, an uncle of Rajasekhar. Subba Reddy's tenure as Municipal chairmanship was marred by noisy disturbances in Municipal Council meetings on account of the fact that the Congress (I) and Telugu Desam had heated exchanges. All the same, Subba Reddy was credited with some developmental works, thanks to the co-operation he received from officials. He worked hard for the laying of cement roads in narrow lanes, layout, approaches etc. With his death in 1986, the political importance of his family vanished.

(5) Ratakonda Rajasekhar 29:

Ratakonda Rajasekhar comes from a family with a distinguished political history. He is the son of Ratakonda Reddappa Naidu. Born in 1949, Rajasekhar, with his youthful dynamism has played a prominent part in the Municipal politics of Madanapalle, since 1983. A student of the local B.T. College, he was elected as Chairman of the Students Union in 1966. He was one of the eight educated children of Reddappa Naidu. Rajasekhar's brothers and sisters occupied important
positions like the posts of Secretary in Indian Embassy at Washington, Lecturer, Scientist in I.I.T. Medical Practitioner at London etc., He inherited a rich legacy from his father in the form of business, and a large number of buildings in Madanapalle town.

Rajasekhar has got close personal and political contacts with Muslims, Reddis and Scheduled Castes. Taking advantage of his caste affinity, he could manage to secure the required political support from Kamma members of Telugu Desam Party. He maintained cordial relations with P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, former Union Minister and the present Prime Minister of India, C. Dass, former President of APCC. and former Minister of A.P., Pendekanti Venkata Subbaiah, former Governor of Karnataka, T.N. Brothers of Madanapalle and Dr. R. Rajasekhar Reddy, former President of Chittoor District Congress Committee (DCC).

After his father's death, Rajasekhar was elected to the Municipal Council of Madanapalle in 1983, as a Councillor. Although he was inclined to contest for the post of Chairman, elders belonging to his caste in Telugu Desam prevailed over him to extend his support to the Telugu Desam candidature, G. Venkata Subba Reddy (Kamma).

Subsequently in the direct election held to the post of Municipal Chairman in 1987, Raja Sekhar could win it on the Congress (I) ticket, though, strangely enough, he lost in the contest for the post of Councillor from ward No. 25 in the same election. In this connection, it would be specially mentioned that Rajasekhar's victory in the Chairmanship election was facilitated by the support he received, through cross voting, from his fellow Kammans in the Telugu Desam Party who ditched their own Telugu Desam candidate as he belonged to the Vysya community. Having been sworn in as Municipal Chairman Rajasekhar is still continuing in same position even today.

Developmental works:

Under Rajasekhar's present regime a lot of progress took place in the sphere of developmental works at Madanapalle, particularly in lighting, water supply through bore wells granted to a large number of private houses. He is instrumental in the establishment of one High School, one Upper Primary School and two Elementary Schools. In fulfilment of his promises to the Muslims at the time of
Municipal Elections, Rajasekhar also brought about a well-planned burial ground for them. Currently, he has been striving for the construction of a second cremation ground for the Hindu's and MIG quarters for the Municipal employees.

Political Ideas:

Rajasekhar is of the opinion that there should be necessarily direct election to the post of Chairman for the Municipal Council, as he feels that in democracy there should be general participation for all the citizens in the elections.

He wants the interference of ex-officio members to be limited in Local Bodies (Municipal Council). Rajasekhar expressed his displeasure over the State Government's unwillingness to pay the salaries of the Municipal Staff, although the latter's services are provincialized. If, on the other hand, the State Government resumes the responsibility for paying the salaries of the Municipal Staff, Rajasekhar thinks, the Municipal councils would be in a position to spend their limited resources on developmental works and civic amenities.

Rajasekhar pleads for greater powers to the directly elected Municipal Chairman. He wants particularly magisterial powers for the chairman in the matter of disposal of cases relating to the unauthorized construction of buildings within the Municipal jurisdiction.

Rajasekhar feels no need for election to the post of Vice-Chairman, on account of the prospects of increasing factional rivalries within the political parties and among the Municipal Councillors. According to him, it would be sufficient if, in the absence of the Chairman a senior-most member of the council presides over the meeting.

Rajasekhar does not rule out the possibility of several evils in the direct election system. In view of no opportunity to move a no confidence motion against the Chairman who is directly elected, there is every possibility of his becoming corrupt and dictatorial. Therefore, he demands that a machinery should be created to check up the uncontrollable position of the directly elected Municipal Chairman.

(6) Dr. B. Madan Mohan:

Born on August 14, 1947, Dr. B. Madan Mohan belongs to a middle class Vysya family. He studied upto the Pre-University at Madanapalle and did his
M.B.B.S. at Kakinada. His grand father, father and brother had also worked as Sarpanchs of Madanapalle. Besides being a successful practitioner along with his medico- wife, Dr. Madan Mohan also owns a number of commercial establishments and buildings let out for rent. He has the best relations with his own community which is numerically second in Madanapalle. He is also popular among the youth of Madanapalle.

Dr. Madan Mohan's grand father and father were staunch supporters of the Congress Party. But an ardent admirer of his film hero N.T. Rama Rao, Dr. Madan Mohan has naturally opted for the Telugu Desam Party founded by his matinee idol. Having worked as an active member of the TDP, he rose to the position of an Executive Member of the Chittoor District TDP. Unit. He has intimate relations with N. Chandra Babu Naidu, N.T.R's son-in-law and General Secretary of TDP. and Gali Muddu Krishnamma Naidu, former A.P. Minister.

Against this background, Dr. Madan Mohan contested in the Municipal Elections at Madanapalle in 1987 on TDP ticket for Chairmanship, but lost it, due to internal quarrels and disunity among the TDP rank and file, despite the vehement campaign of both N.T. Rama Rao and his son, Balakrishna, a popular film hero. (It may be of interest to note in this connection that, after declaring here his son as his successor in politics, N.T. Rama Rao had to contradict himself in response to stout protests and criticisms leveled against his statement).

All the same, Dr. Madan Mohan, notwithstanding his defeat at the hands of R. Rajasekhar by 3,500 votes, is still a force to reckon with in the Municipal politics of Madanapalle by virtue of his position as Secretary of town TDP and Secretary of Arya vysya association, Madanapalle, besides his close relations with the public at large, as a medical practitioner.

(7) N. Rajagopal:

The fifty four year old N. Rajagopal is a prominent member of the Vysya community in Madanapalle. He worked as President of Vivekananda Education society. He was also the Vice-President of the Red Cross Society for the Madanapalle branch and President of Viswa Hindu Parishad in which post he still continues.
In the direct elections held to the post of Municipal Chairman, he contested on the BJP ticket and lost to the Congress (I) candidate. At present, he is working as an Executive Member of the State BJP Unit.

IV. Srikalahasti:

Historically well-known as Dakshina Kasi for its religious importance for Hindus and politically significant for having once given rebirth to the political career of Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, former president of India, Srikalahasti and its urban political elites demand our particular attention.

Important Urban Political Blites of Srikalahasti:

The Family of Pawars\(^{32}\): In the political history of Srikalahasti, Panchayat and Municipal Council, the family of Pawars, which migrated long ago from Maharashtra, has got a unique place. The most important members of this family are:

1. Ramachandra Rao Pawar
2. Jayarama Rao Pawar
3. Madhava Rao Pawar
4. Santaram Pawar

Of the above, the last two are presently surviving.

(1) Ramachandra Rao Pawar: Parents of Ramachandra Rao came down from Maharashtra to Srikalahasti some time after 1885 A.D. in connection with their business activities covering initially the Beedi Industry and later developing into cinema halls and stationery. This family belongs to the Marathi sect.

Ramachandra Rao studied up to SSLC. He was very popular among all the sections in Srikalahasti, particularly Muslims and Balijas and other weaker sections. He owned two beedi factories and some cultivable land. All his property was self-acquired and hard-earned.

He was elected twice to the Panchayat of Srikalahasti. He was also a Member of the Chittoor District Board for one term. The services rendered by Ramachandra Rao in the form of providing adequate drinking water, good sanitation, street
lighting and eradication of contagious disease could never be forgotten by the people of Srikalahasti. As a member of the District Board, too, he played a crucial role in the constructive programmes taken up for the sake of the entire District.

From the very beginning Ramachandra Rao was a leading Congressman. Till today, his family has not changed its allegiance to the Congress Party. Following his demise, his eldest son P. Jayarama Rao stepped into his shoes as a prominent local leader.

(2) P. Jayarama Rao:

The eldest son of Ramachandra Rao Pawar, Jayarama Rao Pawar became his successor in the local politics of Srikalahasti. By nature, he was very gentle and soft. He was regarded as a firmed and well-wisher of the depressed and downtrodden in society. He studied up to his graduation at Madras.

Even since his student days, Jayarama Rao evinced keen interest in politics and was associated with the Student Congress activities.

Jayarama Rao belonged to one of the wealthiest families in the Chittoor District. Having inherited his parental property of two beedi factories, Jayarama Rao also entered into a new field by constructing two cinema theatres. It was during Jayarama Rao's time, that the Pawar family started the Udaya Enterprises, a stationery industry. He also developed some land making it profitable in the agricultural sphere.

Jayarama Rao had got intimate political relations with Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, ex-President of India, late A. Bala Rami Reddy and late A. C. Subba Reddy, ex-Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, and J. Vengala Rao, ex-Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Central Minister.

In the elections held to the Panchayat of Srikalahasti in 1953, Jayarama Rao got elected as Sarpanch. During his tenure as Sarpanch, Jayarama Rao took steps for providing adequate water supply, good sanitation and establishment of Elementary Schools.
After the conversion of Srikalahasti Panchayat into a Municipality, Jayarama Rao became the very first Chairman of the Municipal Council in the indirect election held among the Municipal councillor in the year 1960.

All the eighteen Municipal Councillors unanimously opted for the candidature of Jayarama Rao Pawar. During the Municipal Chairmanship of Jayarama Rao, the Municipal Council did commendable service in the form of converting all the metal roads into cement roads. Jayarama Rao was also responsible for setting up the tube lights in the town. He succeeded in the construction a second pipe line from Swarnamukhi river. Four Elementary, two High Schools and one Urdu Upper Primary School were established during his tenure of office.

In memory of this veteran leader of Srikalahasti, we find today, Jayarama Rao Street, Jayarama Rao Park, Jayarama Rao Poor People Trust.

In this connection it should be noted for the record purpose that the Municipal Council Hall which was named Jayarama Rao Municipal Council Hall was changed into Telugu Talli Municipal Council Hall after the Telugu Desam Party came into power at the State level. Jayarama Rao Pawar’s death led to his brother P. R. Madhava Rao inheriting the political legacy of the Pawar family.

(3) P.R. Madhava Rao: Born in February 1931, as the second son of Ramachandra Rao Pawar. Madhava Rao is a highly distinguished public figure in Srikalahasti. He studied up to the undergraduate level at Srikalahasti and did B.Sc., B.L., at Madras.

Following in the footsteps of his father and elder brother, Madhava Rao established his reputation as a popular leader of Srikalahasti endearing himself to all sections in society.

By establishing cordial relation with the Balija community in Srikalahasti Town, Madhava Rao succeeded in putting up a stiff fight against his political rivals. Madhava Rao has also got close contacts with the Muslims in the town employed in his Beedi Factories in large numbers. He maintained intimate friendship with late A. Balaram Reddy, ex-Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He was intimate and cordial relations with several veteran leaders at the State and National levels, like the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Jalamag Vengala Rao.
From 1964 to 1972, he held the Municipal Chairmanship for two terms. For the first time he was elected as Municipal Chairman unanimously in 1964. After completing his first three year term, he was re-elected unanimously in 1967 and completed successfully the five year term upto 1972.

Madhava Rao Pawar worked as President of the Chittoor District Congress Committee. He not only worked for the unity among the different sections and groups in the Congress Party, but also contributed greatly to the victory of the Congress Party in the Assembly and Parliamentary Elections. He was a Syndicate Member of the S.V. University in 1972.

Developmental works:

Madhava Rao’s Municipal Chairmanship is remembered for the second water pipe line from the Swarnamukhi river. This enabled the supply of drinking water twice every day to the people of Srikalahasti.

The other developmental works taken up by him were conversion of metal roads into cement roads and improvement of the condition of slum areas.

The Pawar family, unrivalled in many respects for several years, has also become controversial during Madhava Rao’s active public life. According to the Communist leader, C. Venkatappaiah, the real reason for the success of the Pawar family in the Municipal Election was not so much its popularity with the people of Srikalahasti as the sole fact of its enormous wealth. He is of the view that by spending large amounts of money only the Pawar family could make its political fortunes in the Municipal Council Elections. Madhava Rao and his successors managed to get their own enemies elected as Municipal Councillors thereby paving the way for their own election as Municipal Chairmen.

In view of all Municipal Councils in the State coming under the regime of Special Officers, there were no elections after 1972 and up to 1981. In the Municipal Election held in 1981, Madhava Rao put up his elder brother’s son Santharam as his nominee for the post of Chairman and managed to get him elected with his own personal influence, in addition to the reputation of the Pawar family as a whole.

(4) P.J. Santharam: The thirty-seven year old Santharam P.J. is the son of the late Jayarama Rao Pawar and the nephew of Madhava Rao Pawar. His
education was upto SSL.C in Srikalahasti. Like all his distinguished family members in the past, Santharam is also maintaining extremely good relations with all the sections of Srikalahasti Town. He has developed politically intimate relations with J. Vengala Rao and N.P. Chennalraya Naidu, ex-MP of Chittoor.

For the first time in 1981, he entered the Municipal Election scene and got elected first as Councillor and later as Chairman unanimously on both the occasions. During the period of Santharam, the Pawar's family evoked the feelings of jealousy among political rivals. No wonder, therefore the emergence of Telugu Desam Party has led to problems for the Pawar's family. The very first set-back to the family was the conversion of Srikalahasti Municipal Council into Scheduled Tribe category in 1987. But, although the Municipal Council is not directly under the control of the Pawar's family, the Congress councillors are all its loyal supporters.

As a retaliation against the TDP., the Pawar's family extended its wholehearted support to the Congress (I) candidate T. Chenchu Reddy, in the bye-election held in 1988. For the success of the Congress (I) candidate, the Pawar family assumed full responsibility. During the Municipal Chairmanship of Santharam Pawar, the Municipal Council of Srikalahasti celebrated its silver jubilee.

Developmental works:

Santharam's tenure as Municipal Chairman was memorable for the Urban Water Supply Scheme solving permanently the problem of water scarcity in Srikalahasti Town. For the implementation of this scheme, separate cement pipe lines were lifted from the Swarnamukhi river during Santharam's period. One Municipal Park, two Elementary Schools, one Upper Primary School came into existence.

The Jayarama Rao Poor Children's Trust, founded by Santharam, provides for the free supply of clothes to the poor pupils of the local schools.

An ambulance van was also arranged for the free transportations of the needy patients to the local clinics and hospitals. Construction of public lavatories and improvement of conditions in the slum areas were the other achievements of P.J. Santharam.
Political Ideas:

1. Santharam wants the holding of Municipal elections on non-party basis, because of the possibility of political favouritism in the event of Municipal Chairman Councillors being members of political parties.

2. In his view direct elections are always preferable rather than indirect Elections.

3. Municipal Councils should be empowered to confiscate property in the event of tax defaults.

4. There should be no political interference with the day-to-day administration of the Municipal councillors.

5. Photo system should be extended to the elections at all levels.

(5) Pamula Krishnaiah:

The fifty-year old Pamula Krishnaiah belongs to the Scheduled Tribe of Yanadi. As a Congressman, he has got a distinguished record of work for twenty years, though for a brief period (1983-87) he shifted to TDP. Born in a poor agricultural family, he could get elected as President of Thottambedu Panchayat Samithi.

Krishnaiah entered into Municipal politics at the time of elections to Srikalahasti Municipal Council as a Congress candidate for the post of Chairman, though he could not succeed in fulfilling this ambition.

Krishnaiah maintains close political contacts with the SC and ST leaders at the State level. As Director of S.V. Sugar factory, Gajulamandyam, he did commendable work to solve the problems of sugarcane growers. He was nominated to the A.P. Adivasi Association as a representative of Chittoor District.

Krishnaiah had also worked as President of Chittoor District Girijan Seva Sangham and Director of the A.P. Scheduled Tribe Association. Through these posts, he rendered yeoman service to the cause of the Scheduled Tribes.
Initially a Congressman, Krishnaiah joined in TDP in 1982, but came back to the Congress fold in 1987. He worked as Secretary of Thottambedu Unit of TDP.

The Municipality of Srikalahasti, which was under the control of Pawars’ family, became a Scheduled Tribe Municipality. So, Krishnaiah, in the Municipal elections of 1987, after unsuccessfully trying for the TDP ticket, resigned from the party along with all his followers. Although he got the Congress (I) ticket, he was, however, defeated in the Municipal Chairmanship Election.

But, even after his defeat in the Municipal Election of 1987, Krishnaiah has been continuing as a prominent Scheduled Tribe leader of the Congress (I) Party.

(6) Theegala Chandrasekhar:

The present Chairman of Srikalahasti Municipal Council, Theegala Chandrasekhar, aged 24 years, belongs to the Scheduled Tribe of Yerukala. He hails from a middle class agriculture family. He studied upto B.A. Thereafter he worked as a bus conductor before he joined politics.

Right from the beginning, Theegala Chandrasekhar has been an ardent admirer of N.T. Rama Rao. Under pressure from the local TDP leaders, Chandrasekhar resigned from his bus conductor’s job and contested for the Municipal Chairmanship in the Scheduled Tribe category of Srikalahasti Municipal Council in the 1987 Election. He was elected as Municipal chairman on the TDP ticket by defeating the Congress (I) candidate by nearly 3000 votes majority.

Despite his family’s non-political background, Chandrasekhar could capture the Municipal Chairmanship, solely with the help of the local TDP leaders.

Chandrasekhar’s political contacts are with N. Chandra Babu Naidu, Gali Muddu Krishnamra Naidu and the local TDP MLA Gopala Krishna Reddy. The Municipal Chairmanship of Chandrasekhar was marked by bitter factional rivalries among the TDP. Municipal councillors, over whom he had no control as he belonged to a weaker section in society. It was against this background only the Municipal Vice-Chairmanship changed thrice. His ineffective role as Municipal Chairman was only due to his caste weakness.
Developmental works:

1. During the Chairmanship of Theegala Chandrasekhar, in the place of the dilapidated building meant for the Municipal Council meeting came a new building and the name of the Council Hall itself was changed from Jayaram Hall to Telugu Talli Hall.

2. Chandrasekhar succeeded in getting adequate water supply for Srikalahasti town through the construction of a water tank with the capacity of 12,756 gallons of water.

3. He also brought about the sodium vapour lights for the streets of Srikalahasti.

4. Construction of two Elementary Schools, one Upper Primary School, improvement of slum areas, grant of loans under Urban Housing Scheme were the other achievements of Chandrasekhar as Municipal Chairman.

Political Ideas: The following ideas of Theegala Chandrasekhar may be summarized as follows:

1. Elections to the Municipal Chairmanship should be direct on non-party basis, as such an arrangement would enable all the citizens to participate fully in the civic affairs, without any political reservations and inhibitions.

2. In view of the strong opposition from the Muslim women to the system of affixing photos on identity cards, there is the urgency for an alternative system.

3. An increase in the State Government's Annual Grant by 10% would greatly help the Municipalities to complete the developmental works expected of them.

4. Elections to the Vice-Chairmanship should be held along with Chairmanship. Its specific tenure should also be prescribed.

5. If the Chairman belongs to the General Category, the Vice-Chairmanship should be given to the weaker sections and vice-versa. This would provide representation to all the sections in society.
6. If Municipal Chairman is empowered to punish the guilty among the Municipal staff, it would safeguard discipline and check corruption.

V. PUNGANUR:

As one of the important commercial centres in Chittoor District, Punganur is the latest town to be added to the list of Municipalities. The Muslim segment of the town’s population is of special interest to the students of Urban Government and Electoral politics.

Important Urban Political Elites of Punganur Town:

(1) S. HYDER: Born on 1-1-1958, S. Hyder had his education upto B.Com., at Madanapalle and did his Law Course at Bangalore. By profession, he is a lawyer. He married the daughter of P. Basheer Saheb, Member of State TDP Committee and Vahidunnisa, Convener District Telugu Mahila, Basheer Saheb is one of the richest men in Punganur. He has commercial dealings with important persons in gold and mango business at the National level.

After his marriage, with the influence of his parents-in-law, Hyder became a prominent figure in Telugu Desam Party. He was nominated as Treasurer of TDP at Punganur. He was elected as Chairman in the Municipal Elections on the TDP ticket in 1987 against G. Krishna Reddy of Congress (I) Party.

He managed to secure the support of Muslims who were till then supporters of the Congress Party. In this connection it should be noted that the Muslim voters gave one vote to the Congress (I) in the Councillors' Elections and the other to Hyder, the TDP candidate. The erstwhile Janata Group of the Congress Reddys shifted their loyalty to Hyder an indirect tribute to the winning capacity of the TDP Muslim candidate as well as a clear indication of the political inconsistency of the defecting Reddy group.

After assuming the Municipal Chairmanship of Punganur, Hyder was elected to some other locally important positions, like Secretary of the Urs Celebration Committee and President of Recreation Club of Punganur.
Developmental works:

Despite his being a Telugu Desam man, Hyder, as Municipal Chairman, could succeed in securing the support and co-operation of the Congress councillors in his efforts for improving Punganur Town through various developmental works. Under Action Plan Scheme, Hyder brought about the by-pass road at Punganur. This facilitated the relaxation of traffic jam within the town. Hyder was also responsible for the construction of two overhead tanks, along with pump house. The water scarcity problem facing the people of Punganur was thus satisfactorily solved. Another developmental work taken up and completed by Hyder was the construction of Dhobi Ghat which helped the local washer men a lot. A full-fledged vegetable market, along with a separate market for Tomato were brought up during Hyder’s regime.

Hyder is also remembered for the coming into being of a Municipal High School; conversion of metai roads into cement roads, construction of a Municipal Park, improvement of sanitation in the slum areas and two hundred tap connections for water supply in the town.

Foundation stones are laid by Hyder for the Journalist colony, Beedi Workers Colony and Physically Handicapped Colony. In this connection it should be specially mentioned that, in all the ventures undertaken by Hyder, he has the full support and backing and immeasurable help of his father-in-law who is a very popular Muslim leader. Basheer’s political opponents would, however, attribute Hyder’s success to his father-in-law’s enormous wealth which was earned, according to them, through illegal activities like smuggling and counterfeit of currency note. Hyder is still continuing as undisputed Chairman of the Punganur Municipal Council having been directly elected to that post in 1987.

(2) G. KRISHNA REDDY\(^{37}\) : A prominent political leader of Punganur, G. Krishna Reddy, was born on October 4, 1951. His father, Raml Reddy, was a famous agriculturist and a tamarind merchant. After completing his education at Punganur (where he made a mark as a School Pupil Leader), he studied B.Com., at B.T. College, Madanapalle. He was Chairman of the Students Union during his college days. As the leader of the Students Union, he could tackle many students’ problems, skillfully, tactfully and successfully.
Krishna Reddy owns landed property worth Rs. 12 Lakhs and also a profitable tamarind business fetching him Rs. 5 lakhs annually.

Without any political background and outside support, Krishna Reddy entered politics on his own. In 1977, when the Janata Party replaced the Congress at the Centre, Krishna Reddy joined that party. In the Panchayat Elections held that year, Krishna Reddy attracted the attention of the public by campaigning for the Janata Party candidate. Later, on the advice of a former A.P. Minister, Peddireddy Timma Reddy, he left the Janata Party and joined the Congress, in which he is still continuing.

Krishna Reddy's entry into politics was marked by his defeat in the Panchayat Elections of Punganur in which he contested for the post of Sarpanch. However, in the Panchayat Elections held at the same place in 1983, he was elected as a Member from Ward No. 18. From 1981 onwards he has been working as President of the Large Scale Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society (LSMPCS) in Punganur. He also served as Secretary and President of the Co-operative Bank during 1981-83 and 1983-88, respectively.

When the Panchayat was converted into a Municipal Council at Punganur in 1985, Krishna Reddy contested on the Congress (I) ticket in the Direct Elections held in 1987 for the post of Municipal Chairman, but lost narrowly by 216 votes.

Notwithstanding his personal defeat in the election for the Municipal Chairmanship, Krishna Reddy, however contributed a great deal to the success of majority of Congress candidates in the elections held for the Municipal Chairmanship.

Krishna Reddy developed intimate political bonds with the Congress (I) leaders, like Gnanendra Reddy, MP of Chittoor, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy of Cuddapah and Venugopal Reddy, former Advocate-General Andhra Pradesh.

Political Ideas: Krishna Reddy has got definite views on the following:

1. Direct elections to the local bodies are always preferable to indirect elections, because they alone facilitate popular participation in politics and administration.
2. Introduction of the photo system for voters' identity is absolutely essential, in order to eliminate the possibility of bogus voting. He wants the extension of this system from the local to the state and national levels also.

3. Interference of MP's and MLA's in the local institutions is undesirable and objectionable.

4. Elections to the local bodies should be held on non-party basis. Party spirit may prevent public service if election to the Local Body posts are held on party basis.

5. The Municipal Councillors should give their wholehearted co-operation to the Chairman in the matter of developmental works.

6. There should be no delay in the implementations of Municipal Council Resolutions.

7. Fractional politics among political parties should be avoided, so as to enable the execution of developmental works promptly and effectively.

8. The Municipal Chairman, despite his direct election should seek the co-operation of all Municipal Councillors for the civic amenities in the town. He should rise above all narrow considerations, like groupism, casteism, nepotism etc.

9. There must be a total revolution at all levels in the Local Body politics, if the popular aspirations are to be fulfilled.

(3) V. Suryanarayananachari:

Hailing from the backward caste of Kamsali, V. Suryanarayananachari is a prominent Communist (C.P.I.) leader in Punganur. He was born in 1952 at Kadiri (Anantapur District). He took M.Com degree from S.V. University, Tirupati, B.L., from S.K. University, Anantapur. During his student days, Suryanarayananachari was Secretary of All India Students Federation (AISF.) at the State level. In 1986, he was Secretary of the CPI Unit in Punganur town.

Suryanarayananachari has close and cordial relations not only with his own partymen but also with the depressed and down-trodden sections in society. He worked for the welfare of the Beedi factory workers and succeeded in his fight
against the Government for their cause. He had good intimacy with Dr. K. Narayana, Secretary, District CPI, Adinarayana Reddy, a prominent Communist (C.P.I) leader belonging to Anantapur. He lost in the contest for the election of Municipal chairmanship. Inspite of his defeat, however, Suryanarayanachari offered useful suggestions to the Chairman and Councillors in the management of civic affairs.
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6. Based on interviews with (i) Mahbu Rami Reddy, MLA (ii) Pasala Krishnaiah, a veteran freedom fighter and (iii) Venkataramana, Town AIADMK. President, on 23-4-1990.


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