CHAPTER V

POLITICAL ELITES OF KURNOOL DISTRICT
During recent years, traditionally privileged dominant castes appear to play an exceptionally influential role in the political and social affairs. These elites are the 'decision-makers' of the society whose power is not subject to control by any other body in the society. They command respect in their respective constituencies and exercise influence.

The political scene in Kurnool district during 1975-85 presents a number of distinguished personalities who influenced the course of political events. Those who are particularly prominent are selected for a special focus in this chapter.

(1) **NEELAM SANJEEVA REDDY:**

Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy popularly known as 'Neelam' was born on May 19th, 1913 and hails from a middle class 'Kisan' family of a remote village Illuru of Anantapur district.

Kurnool district has a unique distinction of providing to the country Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy (1977-82) a distinguished President. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy began his political career by working among the poor peasantry of Rayalaseema. He was drawn into the National Movement in 1931.
Sanjeeva Reddy belongs to a group of professional politicians who are self educated like Late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Sastri. The first phase in the political life of Sanjeeva Reddy started with the organisation of 'Ryots Association' at Singanamala and district youth association at Anantapur. By 1938 he became a respected leader of the people because of his humble beginning as rightist in the congress organisation. Sanjeev Reddy played a significant role both in the party organisation as well as in the Government of the composite Madras state. His leadership in politics is not accidental but has an evolution from local to national level. His political rise has been slow but steady. Rise or fall he has taken with equal ease and equanimity.

Sanjeeva Reddy played an important role in bringing Andhra Pradesh state in 1956. He became Chief Minister in 1956 and afterwards did not hesitate to give up the position in 1959 to become President of the Indian National Congress. In 1964 he became the minister for steel and mining in the central cabinet.

His role as Lok Sabha speaker will be written in golden words because he never discriminated between ruling party and the opposition. He conducted proceedings with decency and decorum. In 1977 he preferred to contest from Nandyal Constituency of Kurnool district just because
once he lost election from his native district Anantapur. Besides the landed gentry belonging to Reddy community extended invitation and assured success.

N. Sanjeeva Reddy's unanimous election as President by all major political parties was a unique feature in Indian History. After completing his term of office he retired from politics.

(2) KOTLA VIJAYA BHASKAR REDDY:

Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, born in Kurnool in 1920, is a freedom fighter and an experienced administrator. He participated in "Quit India Movement". He graduated from the Madras Law College in 1947.

Hailing from a rich family of Laddagiri of Kurnool district, Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy became a member of Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1955 at a comparatively young age. He is a man with simple and disciplined life style. He was minister for Ayacut development from 1968 to 71. Thereafter he was a prominent leader of Congress party in Kurnool district. Being a Law graduate K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy with his genial temperament and amiable manners, he is respected by all sections in society. Endowed with a clear and comprehensive understanding of various political issues of the time he was nonetheless, a political, turn-coat,
well-known "K.V."
and fondly called by his near and
dear ones irrespective of religion, caste and creed.

He earned an unique place in the public life at Kurnool.
He represented Lok Sabha from Kurnool district for nearly
five times. He lost his election only once against Telugu
Desam party candidate E. Ayyapu Reddy with only five
thousand votes difference.

K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy was a close associate of
Kasu Bramhananda Reddy, Ex-Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
He was made State Minister for Co-operation by Kasu Bramha-
nanda Reddy in 1967. Later he became Parliament member
and worked many times in the capacity of Cabinet rank
minister. In September 1982, he was chosen by the then
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as a Chief Minister of Andhra
Pradesh specially to lead the state. He left the state
politics for almost a

There was a wide gap, therefore he could not achieve anything during his four months
period from September 1982 to December 1982 as Chief
Minister. Later in the Assembly Elections K. Vijaya Bhaskar
Reddy got elected to the legislature but later opted
to go back to the Lok Sabha, but the death of Indira Gandhi
is a blow to his political life. The ascendancy of Telugu
Desam party in Kurnool district gave a healthy lead over
him by his family rivals like K.E. Krishna murthy over politics of Kurnool district.

But after the fall of Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh state K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy's political life quickly took changes. He became Cabinet minister for Law in the central cabinet. He was able to convince P.V.Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister to contest from Nandyal Constituency in the by-election in 1991. He succeeded even in convincing Gangula Pratap Reddy voluntarily to sacrifice Nandyal seat for P.V. Narasimha Rao. This clearly reveals the overwhelmed confidence of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao over K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy. K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy campaigned vigorously and bagged the credit of getting more than five lakh votes of majority to P.V.Narasimha Rao which even entered into the Guinnese book of World Records. This fetched him great strength and his personal goodness worked as a capital investment in this regard. None was ever so dominant and occupied so many positions in Kurnool district as 'Kotla'.
(3) **P. VENKATA SUBBAIAH:**

Pendekanti Venkata Subbaiah, a freedom fighter and a Congress stalwart, belongs to a rich business community. For the first time he was elected as member of legislative assembly from Adoni segment during 1957, 1962 and 1967.

From 1970s onwards he represented Nandyal constituency as Lok Sabha member. But for the first time he lost his election during 1979 against Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy of Janata Party and in 1984 against M. Subba Reddy of Telugu Desam Party. Afterwards he almost left action politics of the district but he was chosen to the Governor's post.

P. Venkata Subbaiah is a honest and sincere worker who occupied twice the post of Governor. He worked in the capacity of Cabinet rank minister in the centre. He is honoured as 'Vaisyarathna' and 'Vaisya Pramukha' by Vaisya community, to which he belongs.
(4) E. AYYAPU REDDY:

Erasu Ayyapu Reddy, born on January 15, 1924 at Nannur village of Kurnool district. His father E. Thiripun Reddy was a landlord. After school studies E. Ayyapu Reddy completed graduation at Government Arts College, Anantapur and Law at Madras. He married E. Kamakshamma on June 1st 1947. He had three sons and one daughter.

He was by profession Advocate and Agriculturist. Previously associated with Congress party during freedom struggle. Later in 1948 he joined socialist party. Again he joined Congress party in the year 1954 and stayed upto 1977. He was a member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1955-67 and 1972-83. He worked even as the leader of the opposition in Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly for one year.

He was a Chairman for Subordinate Legislative Committee for about twelve years and also he was Chairman for two years in Public Accounts Committee and Public Undertakings Committee in Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

E. Ayyapu Reddy joined Telugu Desam party in 1984 contested with K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy of Congress party and won the Lok sabha seat of Kurnool with five thousands majority. It is at this time his service are note-
worthy. He was appointed as Chairman of Public Accounts Committee 1985-86 and he was appreciated by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for his commendable work in pointing out the defects of the Accounting system and Audit system.

He is author of many books. "Commentary on Land Reforms Act" is an important book and many others books are relating to legal topics only. Besides he wrote number of essays and poems in telugu literature.

Asa leader of the Parliamentary Committee of Telugu Desam party he maintained good and decent relations with the party leader N.T. Rama Rao. Keeping in view the significance of muslim minorities in Kurnool, he worked for Osmania Law College, Osmania Girls College and a Shadi Khana (marriage hall). Unfortunately he couldn't win the confidence of the muslim minorities at the time of eighth Lok Sabha elections in 1989. Even at this time too the main contest was between E. Ayyapu Reddy and K.Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy. The seat was won by K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy of Congress-I.

Later E.Ayyapu Reddy felt that Telugu Desam Party is not fulfilling its promises instead it is prolonging its list of promises. He also felt the Facist nature
of the leader of the party and resigned from the Telugu Desam Party and joined in Congress party in 1991 giving a statement that he believes in decentralisation of power in democratic set up.

(5) **MADUR SUBBA REDDY:**

M. Subba Reddy son of M. Narasimha Reddy was born on 4th December, 1914 at Bramhanakotkur village of Nandikotkur Mandal of Kurnool district.

He was educated at Municipal High School of Kurnool. After finishing SSLC he showed interest in participating in Freedom movement and continued his participation upto 1947. He married M. Nagamma in 1934 and blessed with two sons and a daughter. He was a Congress stalwart for many years. In 1983 he joined in Regional party called Telugu Desam. He is a rich man and was inspired by great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. He believed in the principle of non-violence and never encouraged groupism or factionalism. He is well known for simple living and dedicated work.

During first general elections in 1952 he contested from Nandyal Assembly as an independent candidate. Then Nandyal Assembly was in Madras state. Andhra state formed in 1953 a year after his election and thus he represented Nandyal Assembly for the first time in new born Andhra
state and continued to be M.L.A., even in composite Andhra Pradesh state that is up to 1956. Again in 1962 he was elected from Nandyal Assembly as an independent and from then onwards he had command over the constituency. He worked many times in the rank of cabinet minister in Andhra Pradesh state. He worked for the development of Nandyal irrigation works when he was minister for irrigation.

In 1983 M. Subba Reddy resigned to Congress party and joined in newly born regional party "Telugu Desam". In 1984 as a member of Telugu Desam Party he won Nandyal parliament seat. Again in 1989 though he wished to contest for Assembly seat, Telugu Desam party leader wanted him to contest only to Lok Sabha seat. But this time he lost the election. And in 1991 in the by-election, Telugu Desam party didn't contest against the Congress-I party candidate P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India. This is so happened because of the initiative taken by M. Subba Reddy. His word and idea is honoured by the party leader, N.T. Rama Rao. Later he campaigned for Congress-I candidate P.V. Narasimha Rao with whom he was closely associated when he was in Congress-I party.
(6) **K.E. KRISHNA MURTHY:**

K.E. Krishna Murthy an young and dynamic backward class leader of Kurnool district is the eldest son of K.E. Madanna Ex-MLC of Kurnool. 'KE' family as it is commonly called by local people is noted for its factionalism. They are very dominant at Dhone assembly segment of Kurnool district. KE's family profession is arrack business.

K.E. Krishna Murthy as Congress M.L.A., first time became Minister for Excise in T.Anjaiah's ministry in 1980. From then onwards he became very powerful political leader of the district. It is appreciated by the locals that K.E. Krishna murthy never gave an empty hand to anybody who ever approached him irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

In 1983 though K.E. is very much attached to Congress-I party, resigned to primary membership and joined in newly born regional party 'Telugu Desam'. And in 1984 during parliament elections K.E. worked vigorously for the defeat of K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy of Congress-I from Kurnool Lok Sabha seat, because of their age old family enemity. The family enemity between 'KE' and 'Kotla' increased further because K.E. always felt that
Kotla is obstructing his political growth. He even went to the extent of saying that Kotla’s hand is there right from 1982 for not getting a berth for him in the cabinet.

K.E. Krishna Murthy worked as Minister for major industries under Telugu Desam party government in 1985. For Budget leaking in 1989 N.T. Rama Rao, Telugu Desam party leader with one pen strike removed all the thirty two ministers. It is on this occasion K.E. Krishna Murthy went to the extent of starting new party called 'Telugu Nadu' with all the dissident cabinet colleagues. The new party started only with the intention of merging into Congress-I party. In 1989, K.E., again contested from Dhone constituency of Kurnool district with Congress-I banner and won the seat with good majority.
Rambhupal Chowdary, an Engineering graduate, prominent business man became known to Public during municipal elections of Kurnool. He won the municipal election and became the Municipal Councillor. In 1983 he joined in Telugu Desam party. And he could win assembly seat from Kurnool and expected a berth in the N.T.Rama Rao's ministry. But he was not given any position in the government. Therefore he was disappointed and joined hands with Nandendra Bhaskara Rao, a rival group leader of Telugu Desam party. As a reward he was given a ministry of public works by N. Bhaskara Rao which lasted only for a month.

In 1985, V. Rambhupal Chowdary resigned to Telugu Desam party and joined in Congress-I. From then onwards he is the reserved candidate for Kurnool Assembly seat and retained the seat thrice. During 1989 Lok Sabha elections he worked hard in the constituency for the sake of K.Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy and as a reward he is made a minister for Co-operation in Andhra Pradesh cabinet. He is the only minister representing Kurnool distrit in the cabinet.

V. Rambhupal Chowdary though he belong to a very rich business family is a simple and principled man. He never hesitated to help others. People of the constituency always approach him with great hope.