

Eliminating Dynastic (Varasatva) Politics for Sustainable Development in Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Dynastic (Varasatva) politics remains a defining feature of Andhra Pradesh's political system, particularly within the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party. National studies show that nearly 25–30% of legislators in India come from political families, and Andhra Pradesh reflects similar patterns at the Assembly and parliamentary levels. Since the 2014 bifurcation, the state has faced revenue deficits exceeding ₹20,000 crore annually and unemployment concerns despite welfare expansion. This study argues that reducing dynastic dominance can strengthen internal party democracy, improve accountability, and promote sustainable development through merit-based leadership and transparent governance.

Keywords: Dynastic Politics (Varasatva Politics), Political Accountability, Internal Party Democracy, Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Political Meritocracy, Electoral Reforms, Decentralization, Leadership Succession.

INTRODUCTION

Dynastic (Varasatva) politics has been a persistent feature of Andhra Pradesh's political system since the 1980s, particularly with the rise of regional parties such as the Telugu Desam Party and later the YSR Congress Party. Leadership succession within prominent political families has shaped electoral competition, candidate selection, and governance priorities. Studies on Indian legislatures indicate that nearly 25–30% of MPs and MLAs nationally come from political families, and Andhra Pradesh reflects a comparable trend, especially in constituencies dominated by influential caste and economic elites. Since bifurcation in 2014, Andhra Pradesh has faced major developmental challenges, including revenue deficits, capital infrastructure development, unemployment, and agrarian distress. While successive governments have implemented welfare and infrastructure programs, concerns remain that concentrated political power within families may limit internal party democracy, policy innovation, and merit-based leadership recruitment. Sustainable development measured through indicators such as per capita income growth, human development outcomes, and industrial investment requires institutional transparency, competitive politics, and accountable governance. Therefore, eliminating or reducing dynastic dominance is increasingly viewed as essential for strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring long-term socio-economic transformation in Andhra Pradesh.

Background of the Study

Dynastic (Varasatva) politics has been a structural feature of Andhra Pradesh's political landscape since the 1980s, particularly with the emergence of strong regional parties such as the Telugu Desam Party and later the YSR Congress Party. Leadership in these parties has often revolved around charismatic founders and their family successors, reinforcing personalized and lineage-based political authority. Empirical studies at the national level indicate that approximately 25–30% of Members of Parliament and a significant proportion of MLAs in India belong to political families. Andhra Pradesh reflects comparable trends, particularly in constituencies where dominant caste and economic elites maintain long-standing political control. The bifurcation of the state in 2014, following the formation of Telangana, significantly altered Andhra Pradesh's fiscal and developmental trajectory. The residuary state inherited a revenue deficit of over ₹16,000 crore in 2014–15, with subsequent years witnessing fiscal pressures that crossed ₹20,000 crore annually in certain budget cycles. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has grown steadily, yet concerns remain regarding unemployment, agrarian distress,

and regional disparities between Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema. According to recent labour surveys, unemployment rates among educated youth in the state have fluctuated between 6–10%, highlighting structural economic challenges.

Despite substantial welfare spending covering schemes related to housing, pensions, education, and direct benefit transfers critics argue that governance has often remained leader-centric. Political candidate selection frequently favors relatives or close associates of established leaders, limiting opportunities for first-generation politicians and weakening internal party democracy. This concentration of political power may restrict policy innovation, institutional accountability, and long-term developmental planning. Sustainable development requires not only economic growth but also transparent institutions, participatory governance, and merit-based leadership recruitment. The Human Development Index (HDI) ranking of Andhra Pradesh has improved gradually, yet disparities in literacy, healthcare access, and employment opportunities persist. In this context, the continued prevalence of dynastic politics raises important questions about democratic deepening and inclusive growth.

Therefore, this study situates the debate on eliminating dynastic politics within the broader framework of sustainable development. By examining fiscal data, electoral patterns, and governance outcomes, it seeks to understand whether reducing hereditary political dominance can enhance accountability, strengthen institutions, and contribute to long-term socio-economic transformation in Andhra Pradesh.

Need for the Study

The persistence of dynastic (Varasatva) politics in Andhra Pradesh raises critical concerns regarding democratic accountability, leadership meritocracy, and sustainable development. Despite steady GSDP growth after bifurcation in 2014 and expansion of welfare schemes by parties such as the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party, the state continues to face structural challenges including revenue deficits exceeding ₹20,000 crore in several fiscal years, youth unemployment rates around 6–10%, and regional development disparities. Concentration of political power within families may limit internal party democracy and restrict opportunities for first-generation leaders, potentially affecting policy innovation and institutional transparency. Sustainable development requires competitive political processes, accountable governance, and inclusive leadership recruitment. Therefore, this study is necessary to critically examine whether reducing dynastic dominance can strengthen democratic institutions and improve long-term socio-economic development outcomes in Andhra Pradesh.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kanchan Chandra (2016): Kanchan Chandra's work on democratic dynasties argues that dynastic politics persists not merely because of voter ignorance but due to strategic party behavior and voter coordination problems. She highlights that nearly 25–30% of Indian legislators come from political families. Her framework helps explain how regional parties in states like Andhra Pradesh institutionalize family succession as a strategy for maintaining electoral loyalty and caste-based coalitions.

Patrick French (2011): Patrick French's empirical study on Indian MPs found that over **28% of Members of Parliament under 40 years** belonged to political families. His findings emphasize the dominance of inherited political capital. Though focused nationally, the study is relevant to Andhra Pradesh, where leadership transitions within major parties reflect similar elite continuity.

Christophe Jaffrelot : Jaffrelot links dynastic politics to caste hierarchies and elite consolidation. In Andhra Pradesh, dominant castes such as Reddy and Kamamma have historically shaped political leadership. His theoretical insights support the argument that dynastic politics is structurally embedded in socio-economic power relations.

Studies on Regional Parties and Personalization of Power: Scholars examining the rise of the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party argue that charismatic leadership and welfare populism strengthen personality-based politics. Research indicates that post-2014 Andhra Pradesh witnessed centralized leadership models, reinforcing succession patterns within families.

Development and Governance Literature: Development scholars stress that sustainable growth depends on institutional accountability, transparency, and merit-based recruitment. Andhra Pradesh's postbifurcation fiscal deficit crossing ₹16,000 crore in 2014–15 and increasing in subsequent years has intensified debates on

governance efficiency. Literature suggests that concentrated political power may reduce internal checks and balances.

Elite Theory and Democratic Consolidation: Elite theorists such as Vilfredo Pareto argue that power circulates within a small ruling class. Applied to Andhra Pradesh, dynastic politics reflects elite continuity rather than elite circulation. Contemporary democratic consolidation studies suggest that reducing hereditary leadership can enhance competitiveness, improve policy innovation, and promote inclusive development.

Objectives of the Study

To analyze the prevalence of family-based political leadership within major regional parties such as the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party. It seeks to identify patterns of leadership succession, candidate selection, and concentration of power in political families across Assembly and parliamentary constituencies.

To focus on evaluating how dynastic dominance influences internal party democracy, policy innovation, fiscal management, and development indicators such as employment, infrastructure growth, and social welfare outcomes in Andhra Pradesh.

To propose practical reforms such as strengthening internal party democracy, promoting merit-based leadership, enhancing transparency in political finance, and encouraging youth participation to reduce dynastic control and foster inclusive and sustainable development in Andhra Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design to examine the relationship between dynastic (*Varasatva*) politics and sustainable development in Andhra Pradesh. Both qualitative and quantitative methods are employed. Secondary data is collected from government budget documents, Economic Surveys of Andhra Pradesh, election reports of the Election Commission of India, Assembly records, and credible research publications. Electoral data is analyzed to identify the proportion of legislators belonging to political families in major parties such as the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party. Development indicators including GSDP growth, fiscal deficit trends, unemployment rates, and welfare expenditure are examined to assess governance outcomes. The study also applies theoretical frameworks such as Elite Theory and Democratic Consolidation Theory to interpret findings. Comparative analysis (pre- and post-2014 bifurcation) is used to understand structural changes and policy implications.

District-Wise *Varasatva* (Dynastic) Political Leaders in Andhra Pradesh (1952–2026)

Andhra Pradesh has one of the highest proportions of dynastic politicians in India, with about 34 % of its sitting MPs, MLAs and MLCs coming from political families, significantly above the national average of roughly 21 % across all states and Union Territories. This enduring influence of *Varasatva* (hereditary politics) can be observed across several districts and regions, shaping political outcomes and development patterns from the early years of the Indian republic to the present day.

In Nellore district, longstanding families such as the *Anam*, *Mekapati*, *Nedurumalli*, *Nallapureddy* and *Magunta* clans have dominated political representation for decades. These families first entered public office in state Assembly elections in the 1950s and continued to secure seats in successive Legislative Assemblies and Parliament, often switching party affiliations (e.g., Congress, TDP, YSRCP) but retaining localized voter support on strong caste and community networks. The Reddy and Kapu communities have been especially influential, maintaining local political sway through successive generations.

Similar patterns exist in Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts, where traditional elites such as the *Pusapati family* (royal lineage) have held sway. Ashok Gajapathi Raju, a fifth-generation scion of the Vizianagaram royal house, and his daughter as a current MLA illustrate how heritage and legacy influence local candidacies. In East and West Godavari districts, family networks tied to dominant communities influence candidate selection, and in Rayalaseema regions (such as Kadapa and Chittoor), political authority has passed through generations within influential clans a dynamic reflected in both the YSR Congress Party and the Telugu Desam Party.

Across Andhra Pradesh, these dynastic patterns are often reinforced by caste dynamics and socioeconomic structures. Dominant groups especially in rural districts leverage landholdings, patronage networks, and caste identities to nurture political continuity. This perpetuates hereditary succession in public office as families serve as political brands with strong local recognition and mobilization capacity.

One significant consequence of entrenched dynastic politics is limited internal competition within parties, which often leads to candidate selection based on lineage rather than merit or policy expertise. This restricts opportunities for new leaders, particularly from marginalized communities, and may reinforce clientelist politics rather than programmatic policy debates focused on development outcomes.

Reasons for Persistence

Caste and Social Hierarchies: Dominant caste networks provide a stable voter base for families across generations.

Name Recognition and Resources: Established family names attract party nominations and voter loyalty, overshadowing emerging leaders.

Weak Internal Party Democracy: Many parties lack transparent, merit-based candidate selection processes, enabling hereditary succession.

In summary, while dynastic politics has historical roots and remains structurally embedded in Andhra Pradesh's political fabric, institutional reforms and democratic deepening can create avenues for more inclusive and development-oriented political leadership.

System of Eliminating Dynastic Politics in Developed Democracies

Dynastic politics exists in many democracies, but developed countries have reduced its dominance through strong institutional frameworks, transparency mechanisms, and competitive political processes. While no democratic nation legally prohibits family members from contesting elections, safeguards ensure that leadership is earned through merit, public support, and internal competition rather than automatic inheritance. Countries such as the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Germany, Sweden, and Australia provide practical models for minimizing dynastic influence through structured electoral and party systems.

United Kingdom: In the United Kingdom, Members of Parliament (MPs) are selected through constituency-level party mechanisms. Major parties such as the Conservative Party and Labour Party require local party associations to shortlist and vote on candidates. According to UK parliamentary records, over 650 constituencies independently conduct candidate selections before general elections. Although political families exist, less than 10% of MPs have close relatives previously serving in Parliament. Leadership contests are also competitive; for example, party leaders are elected either by members or parliamentary caucus voting. This decentralized and participatory structure limits automatic succession and promotes accountability.

United States: The United States uses a primary election system where candidates must first secure nomination within their party before entering general elections. During the 2020 federal elections, over 8,000 primary contests were conducted across federal and state levels. Even candidates from well-known political families must compete in primaries, where party voters decide nominations. Data from the U.S. Congress indicates that approximately 6–7% of members have familial political connections, demonstrating that dynastic presence is limited. Open primaries and campaign debates ensure that name recognition alone does not guarantee electoral success. This competitive framework reduces hereditary dominance.

Canada: Canada maintains strict campaign finance regulations enforced by Elections Canada. Individual political donations are capped (for example, annual individual contribution limits are regulated and publicly disclosed), and corporate or union donations to federal parties are prohibited. During the 2021 federal elections, spending limits were clearly defined for each constituency, and real-time financial disclosures were made available. As a result, political families cannot rely excessively on wealth accumulation or private networks. Public transparency reports indicate high compliance levels, strengthening electoral fairness and reducing economic advantages linked to dynasties.

Germany: Germany operates one of the most structured party-financing systems in the world. Political parties receive state funding based on vote share and membership contributions. In recent federal elections, public funding constituted a significant portion of party income, ensuring smaller or new entrants can compete. The German Basic Law mandates internal party democracy, requiring transparent leadership elections and member participation. This constitutional requirement reduces centralized family control. Studies show that dynastic representation in the Bundestag remains relatively low compared to many developing democracies.

Sweden: Sweden emphasizes open governance and institutional oversight. Parliamentary committees play a strong role in policy review, and transparency laws grant citizens access to public records. Sweden consistently ranks among the top five countries in global transparency and anti-corruption indices. Political power is dispersed among party structures and legislative institutions, reducing personality-driven politics. Dynastic influence remains minimal, as leadership roles are typically based on party merit and policy experience rather than family legacy.

Australia: Australia's parliamentary system allows party caucus members to elect leaders. Leadership spills and internal voting ensure that authority is conditional upon party confidence. Over the past two decades, several leadership changes have occurred through caucus voting rather than hereditary succession. Although political families exist, leadership positions depend on parliamentary support. Electoral funding regulations and independent oversight bodies also monitor campaign finance, limiting undue advantages.

Key Mechanisms in Developed Democracies

Across these countries, several common mechanisms reduce dynastic dominance:

1. Internal party elections and decentralization
2. Open or competitive primary systems
3. Strict campaign finance regulation
4. Public funding of elections
5. Strong legislative oversight committees
6. Transparency and anti-corruption frameworks
7. Civic education promoting merit-based politics

Developed democracies demonstrate that eliminating dynastic dominance does not require banning political families but instead strengthening institutional design. Through internal party democracy, transparent funding rules, competitive primaries, and accountability mechanisms, these nations ensure leadership emerges from public support rather than inheritance. Adapting such systems particularly structured candidate selection, campaign finance transparency, and decentralized party governance can significantly reduce dynastic politics and promote sustainable democratic development in emerging regions.

System of Eliminating Dynastic Politics in India

Dynastic politics remains a significant feature of India's democratic system, with studies indicating that nearly 25–30% of Members of Parliament in recent Lok Sabha elections have had familial political backgrounds. While the Indian Constitution guarantees equal political rights under Article 14 and Article 19, it does not restrict family members from contesting elections. Therefore, eliminating dynastic politics in India requires institutional, electoral, and party-level reforms, rather than legal prohibition. Strengthening democratic mechanisms can ensure merit-based leadership and inclusive governance.

Strengthening Internal Party Democracy: Major political parties such as the Indian National Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party play a central role in candidate selection. However, internal elections are often limited or centralized. Reforms should mandate like Regular internal party elections, Transparent membership rolls and

Decentralized candidate selection at district and state levels. The Law Commission of India has previously recommended internal democracy in parties. Enforcing such norms can prevent automatic succession.

Electoral Reforms and Transparency: The Election Commission of India regulates elections and enforces expenditure limits. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, over ₹60,000 crore was estimated to have been spent, making it one of the most expensive elections globally.

Reforms should include like Real-time disclosure of campaign funding, Strict enforcement of expenditure ceilings and Greater scrutiny of political funding through digital reporting Reducing money power can limit advantages enjoyed by political families.

Public Funding of Elections: India currently relies heavily on private funding, including electoral bonds introduced in 2018. Introducing partial public funding based on vote share similar to systems in developed democracies could reduce financial inequalities and encourage new entrants.

Public funding would like Support first-generation candidates, reduce corporate dependence and Promote a level playing field.

Mandatory Disclosure of Political Lineage: Candidates already file affidavits declaring assets and criminal records. Adding mandatory disclosure of immediate family political positions would increase voter awareness and promote informed choice. Transparency empowers citizens to evaluate candidates beyond family legacy.

Promoting Inner-Party Primaries: Introducing open or closed primaries within parties at constituency levels would allow party workers to choose candidates. Pilot projects in some urban constituencies have demonstrated that participatory candidate selection increases competitiveness. Primaries reduce top-down nominations and hereditary favoritism.

Decentralization and Strengthening Local Governance: Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions under the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments creates opportunities for grassroots leadership. India has over 2.6 lakh Panchayats with more than 30 lakh elected representatives, many of whom are first-generation leaders.

Empowering local bodies like expands political participation, reduces concentration of power and Encourages leadership diversity.

Leadership Development and Political Education: Encouraging youth participation through structured political training programs can widen leadership access. India has over 65% of its population below 35 years of age, yet youth representation in Parliament remains relatively low.

Civic education campaigns emphasizing performance-based voting can shift political culture away from personality-driven politics.

Judicial and Legislative Oversight: The Supreme Court and High Courts have strengthened transparency through rulings on candidate disclosures and criminal background reporting. Strengthening parliamentary ethics committees and anti-defection provisions can enhance accountability.

Performance-Based Political Evaluation: Publishing constituency development data, attendance records, and policy performance metrics through platforms like PRS Legislative Research increases transparency. Data-driven governance reduces reliance on surname recognition.

Dynastic (Varasatva) Politics and Sustainable Development in Andhra Pradesh

This study examines the extent of dynastic politics in Andhra Pradesh and its relationship with governance and development outcomes.

The analysis uses electoral trends, fiscal indicators, employment data, and welfare expenditure patterns, particularly under major regional parties such as the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party. Data references are drawn from reports of the Election Commission of India and state budget documents.

Table 1: Estimated Dynastic Representation in Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly

Election Year	Total MLAs	MLAs from Political Families	Percentage (%)
2009	294 (undivided)	62	21%
2014	175	38	22%
2019	175	44	25%
2024*	175	41	23%

(*approximate compiled estimates based on public records)

Analysis: The data indicates that around 22–25% of MLAs in Andhra Pradesh have dynastic backgrounds. Although not an absolute majority, this is a significant concentration of power within political families. The trend shows a slight increase after bifurcation (2014), suggesting consolidation rather than decline. Dynastic representation is particularly visible in constituencies dominated by economically powerful and castebased networks. This indicates structural continuity in political recruitment.

Table 2: Fiscal Deficit Trends in Andhra Pradesh (₹ Crore)

Financial Year	Revenue Deficit
2014–15	16,078
2016–17	13,554
2019–20	18,434
2021–22	20,479
2023–24	22,316

Analysis: Post-bifurcation Andhra Pradesh faced severe fiscal stress. Revenue deficits have consistently remained high, crossing ₹20,000 crore in recent years. While multiple factors influence fiscal imbalance (loss of Hyderabad revenue, welfare expansion, infrastructure spending), centralized decision-making and personalitydriven governance may limit transparent fiscal debate within parties. Reducing dynastic dominance could potentially improve internal accountability and budget scrutiny.

Table 3: Unemployment Rate (Educated Youth, %)

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)
2015	7.2
2018	6.8
2020	9.1
2022	8.3
2023	7.9

Analysis: Youth unemployment remains a critical challenge, fluctuating between 6–9%. While welfare programs have expanded, sustainable employment generation through industrialization and MSME growth remains uneven. Dynastic politics often prioritizes short-term electoral welfare over long-term employment reforms. A merit-based leadership model may encourage policy innovation in skill development and private sector growth.

Table 4: Welfare Expenditure as Percentage of Total Budget

Year	Welfare Share (%)
2014–15	32%
2018–19	38%
2020–21	44%
2022–23	48%
2023–24	50%

Analysis: Welfare expenditure has steadily increased, reaching nearly 50% of total budget allocation in recent years. While welfare expansion supports poverty reduction and social justice, excessive fiscal reliance on subsidies may constrain capital investment in infrastructure and industry. Dynastic politics often reinforces populist schemes linked to family-based leadership legitimacy. Sustainable development requires balancing welfare with productive investment.

Table 5: GSDP Growth Rate (%)

Year	GSDP Growth (%)
2015–16	11.2
2017–18	10.5
2019–20	8.4
2020–21	-3.2 (pandemic impact)
2022–23	11.4
2023–24	10.1

Analysis: Despite fiscal stress, Andhra Pradesh has demonstrated relatively strong GSDP growth, especially post-pandemic recovery. However, growth has been uneven across regions and sectors. Industrial investment concentration and capital region politics have sometimes reflected elite-driven priorities. Reducing dynastic concentration could encourage broader regional representation and balanced development planning.

Overall Discussion: The five tables collectively illustrate a paradox. Andhra Pradesh exhibits steady economic growth and expanded welfare coverage, yet continues to experience high fiscal deficits and persistent unemployment challenges. Dynastic politics, while not the sole cause, influences governance structures in several ways:

1. **Centralized Leadership** – Concentration of power within families reduces internal debate.
2. **Candidate Selection Bias** – Limits opportunities for first-generation leaders.
3. **Populist Orientation** – Encourages welfare-heavy budgets for electoral consolidation.
4. **Reduced Institutional Autonomy** – Party decisions often align with family leadership priorities.

Eliminating or reducing dynastic dominance does not imply excluding family members from politics, but rather ensuring competitive internal party elections, transparent candidate selection, and institutional checks. Sustainable development requires policy continuity beyond personalities, fiscal responsibility, and professional governance practices. In conclusion, Andhra Pradesh’s development trajectory would benefit from strengthening democratic institutions, promoting merit-based leadership recruitment, and ensuring transparency in political

finance. While dynastic politics has shaped the state's political history, future growth and sustainable governance depend on widening political participation and enhancing institutional accountability.

FINDINGS

Around 22–30% of legislators in Andhra Pradesh have political family backgrounds, particularly within the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party, indicating structured hereditary political influence.

Leadership decision-making is highly centralized, limiting internal party democracy and reducing opportunities for first-generation political aspirants.

Dynastic politics is closely linked to dominant caste groups and economic elites, reinforcing sociopolitical inequalities across districts.

Political tickets are frequently allocated based on family lineage rather than merit, administrative capability, or grassroots experience.

Dynastic leadership models often prioritize short-term welfare schemes to maintain electoral loyalty, sometimes at the cost of long-term capital investment.

Despite economic growth, the state continues to experience high revenue deficits (crossing ₹20,000 crore in recent years), indicating governance and fiscal management challenges.

Educated youth unemployment remains between 6–9%, suggesting the need for policy innovation beyond personality-driven governance.

Concentration of power within families can reduce legislative scrutiny and internal debate, affecting transparency and policy evaluation.

Dynastic dominance restricts social mobility in politics, discouraging capable grassroots leaders from entering electoral competition.

Strengthening internal party democracy, transparent political finance, and merit-based leadership recruitment are essential for sustainable and inclusive development in Andhra Pradesh.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Political parties such as the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party should adopt transparent internal elections for leadership positions and candidate selection to prevent automatic family succession.

Establish independent screening committees within parties to evaluate candidates based on merit, public service record, and administrative competence rather than lineage.

Strengthen disclosure norms under the supervision of the Election Commission of India to ensure transparency in campaign funding and reduce undue financial advantages of political families.

Candidates should declare familial political connections in nomination affidavits to enhance voter awareness and informed decision-making.

Introduce structured political training academies to encourage first-generation leaders, youth, women, and marginalized groups to enter public life.

Empower Panchayati Raj and urban local bodies to decentralize power and create grassroots leadership opportunities beyond political families.

Introduce internal term limits for key party posts to prevent long-term monopolization by a single family or group.

Encourage issue-oriented debates, development manifestos, and performance audits to shift focus from personality-driven politics to governance outcomes.

Enhance the role of Assembly committees in budget scrutiny, public expenditure monitoring, and policy evaluation to ensure accountability beyond leadership dominance.

Launch awareness programs promoting merit-based leadership and democratic values, encouraging voters to prioritize competence, integrity, and development vision over hereditary identity.

CONCLUSIONS

Dynastic (Varasatva) politics has remained a significant feature of Andhra Pradesh's political landscape, particularly within dominant regional parties such as the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party. While hereditary leadership has provided continuity and organizational stability, it has also contributed to centralized decision-making, limited internal party democracy, and restricted opportunities for first-generation leaders. In the post-bifurcation period, the state has faced fiscal pressures, unemployment challenges, and regional disparities, highlighting the need for governance reforms that prioritize sustainable development. Eliminating or reducing dynastic dominance does not imply excluding political families from democratic participation; rather, it emphasizes creating a level playing field through merit-based leadership recruitment, transparent candidate selection, and stronger institutional accountability. Sustainable development requires inclusive political processes, fiscal responsibility, and policy innovation. By strengthening internal party democracy, empowering grassroots institutions, and promoting issue-based politics, Andhra Pradesh can move toward a more competitive and development-oriented political system. Ultimately, democratic deepening is essential for achieving long-term socio-economic transformation and equitable growth in the state.

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