



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF TELANGANA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The Social movements come out with the issues like language, caste and also with class region. The different types of movements: women, Dalit Tribal, agrarian, farmers, regional movement, identity and human rights movements exist based on the socio-economic characteristics of the participants. All these are aimed at acquiring due spaces for different sections of population and the regions that has denied systematically in the economy, political and the development process. Andhra Pradesh political scenario is not an exception to this phenomenon. The state market and civil society are the mediators of such movements.

Telangana region is located in the western part of Andhra Pradesh. Earlier Asaf Jahis ruled the State of Hyderabad. It came out of the ruins of Bahamani and Qutub Shahi kingdoms and formed a polygonal tract occupying the centre of Deccan Plateau. The Nizam's state comprised of three linguistic regions, viz. Telangana, Marathwada and Karnataka. For the purpose of Administration the entire state was divided into four Subas i.e., Warangal and Medak (Telangana) Aurangabad (Marathwada) and Gulbarga (Karnataka). The Telangana region that formed a part of the Nizam's Domination represented unique Deccan culture. Even though India got independence in 1947, the Hyderabad state did not get freedom at that time. They remained unfree till the year 1948. After police action under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the state was merged with the Indian union. Based on the Telugu language this region merged with Andhra region which was the province of Madras presidency in the year 1956.

BRIEF HISTORY OF TELANGANA

Following the Kakatiya Kingdom (1083-1324) was invaded by the Delhi Sultanate; the political autonomy of the region came to an end. In the course of the next two centuries, it became a province of the Bahmani Sultanate between 1347 and 1518. When the hegemony of the Bahmani Sultanate ended, the Telangana region became part of the Golconda Sultanate (1518-1687). Even during the period of the resurgent Vijayanagara Empire (1336-1646), the Hindu warring state that matched the four Muslim Deccan Sultanates and blocked the southward thrust of Muslim power, Telangana remained the main region of the Golconda Sultanate. With the collapse of Golconda in the face of the invasion of Aurangzeb, the region became a Mughal province and with the dissolution of the Mughal Empire, formed the Nizam of Hyderabad. This continued from 1720 till 1950 during which period the region saw various shifts in status—first formally subsidiary to the Mughal emperor, but actually to the Maratha Empire, later allied with the French, and then with the English East India Company. Eventually the Nizam acknowledged the



British sovereign as Empress of India and thereby, as his overlord. When the paramountcy of the British sovereign lapsed with the Indian Independence Act of 1947, all the Indian princely states resumed their independence. From 15 August 1947 till 17 September 1948, Hyderabad was an independent state.

When that independence ended with Indian invasion and annexation, Hyderabad state continued to exist till 1950 with the Nizam conferring authority first on the military government and then on the civil administrator selected by New Delhi and appointed by him. His puppet role lasted till 19 November 1949 when the Nizam accepted the Constitution of India as the Constitution of Hyderabad state. From 26 January 1950, he was Rajpramukh (an administrative title) of Hyderabad state, which was given the status of a Part B state in the Union and Republic of India.

The present Telangana region was under the rule of Nizam's Hyderabad state before 1947. Hyderabad state consisted of three regions of the present AP state, along with five districts of Marathwada region and three districts of Karnataka region. Nizam surrendered both coastal and Rayalaseema districts to the British as part of settling debts with colonial rulers in 1788 and 1800 respectively. The districts that constitute present Telangana remained under Nizam State. Telangana was not under direct colonial rule, whereas the other two regions were exposed to British colonialism, reform movements and English education, among other things. Several irrigation projects were constructed during colonial rule in Andhra region whereas till date Telangana does not have any major irrigation project. People were exploited and suppressed by the feudal regime of the Nizam. The appropriation of surplus that created through the sweat and blood of people of Telangana made Nizam's state among the wealthiest of princely states in India. While there were social reform movements in Andhra and Rayalaseema to free the people from its societal shackles, the Nizam state reinforced class and caste hierarchies in Telangana. The seeds of uneven development and regional difference were implanted much before transfer of power in 1947.

STRUGGLES AGAINST FEUDAL OPPRESSION OF NIZAM'S

The Telangana Armed Struggle is a glorious chapter in the history of revolutionary peasant movements in the subcontinent, which fought the feudal Nizam, the Indian Army as well as the opportunist CPI leadership at the same time. When the Nizam understood the impossibility of continuing as monarchical ruler given the massive opposition from people, he made an agreement with the new Indian ruling class and agreed to join the Indian Union in 1948. When Indian government put forward the proposal of Telangana joining the Andhra Pradesh state, there was widespread opposition from the people. But this was completely ignored by the rulers by once again violating the political aspirations of Telangana people. Andhra Pradesh state was constituted, and this was the first state to be established on linguistic basis. Whether it is feudal oppression or it is in the name of democracy, the nature and response of the ruling classes has been one and the same.



The people of the land, both in feudal and the so-called democratic rule have remained targets of state repression. People were in no way party to the decisions ruling classes had taken before and after 1947. Voices have often been raised in favor of separate Telangana by parliamentary political parties. They were silenced by ruling class strategy offering them some positions and they had also betrayed the cause repeatedly. Several opportunistic leaders tried to take advantage of the genuine aspirations of people without taking the movement for statehood forward. Such leaders varied from right wing parties to parliamentary left parties. All these parties used the aspirations of the people and gained out of it.

For the present economic system it is necessity to keep certain regions underdeveloped which gradually becomes peripheries, in order to develop some other regions which emerged as centers. The material and natural resources of Telangana region has been diverted for the development of Andhra, while Telangana region has been pushed to a position of continuous dependency due to lack of development. From the time of united Andhra Pradesh Telangana people has been kept socially, culturally, politically oppressed and economically looted by a combination of feudal and comprador-capitalist forces of Andhra ruling. All the major cities in Andhra region have been developed by concentrating the wealth of Telangana there. Even the city of Hyderabad was taken over by the powerful families of Andhra whereas Telangana till the date does not have a single city or major town except Hyderabad. In view of the crucial interest of Andhra ruling class in the city of Hyderabad and the big landlords of Andhra in major water resources of Telangana, they are hell-bent on crushing the democratic movement of Telangana by using force.

INJUSTICE TO TELANGANA REGIONS:

Telangana waters have been diverted to irrigation projects in Andhra. Successive governments have blatantly violated the water-sharing agreements between the two regions. In the name of homogenization of state culture, Andhra rulers have tried to impose its culture particularly in terms of language and food habits. The government public distribution system in Andhra supplies only rice whereas the rain-fed areas of Telangana cultivates bajra, jowar, raagi and such other food grains. This has resulted in extra pressure on Telangana peasantry to grow only rice at the expense of their indigenous crops. Telangana youths have also been deprived of opportunities in government services. At the level of culture, even the cinematic representation of Telangana is extremely biased and prejudiced, whereby the Telangana language and names are mostly projected negatively in Telugu cinema. Print and electronic media considers only the heartland Andhra language as the official language.

Telangana water resources are diverted to Andhra even if the proposed Polavaram project which is intended to supply irrigation water to Andhra is going to engulf 13 mandals of Telangana with adivasi inhabitants. There have been attempts to divert waters from Telangana to Rayalaseema through the Pothireddypadu project



by holding water more than dam's capacity in Sree Sailam through 'Jala Yagnam', resulting in unprecedented floods in Rayalaseema and Telangana districts in the recent past. The huge revenue extraction from Telangana was invested in Andhra region for its development, while Telangana was deprived of basic infrastructural facilities needed for industrial growth.

The CPI and CPM has taken a stand against separate statehood for Telangana in spite their cadres taking active part in movement, violating the leadership's decision. These parties cherish the utopia of united Andhra Pradesh even when there is a widespread mass movement for separation. The Telugu Desam party has been keeping silent on the whole issue since the formation of state is going to harm the interests of its supporters from Andhra. Telangana Rastra Samithi, yet another regional party, opportunistically raises the slogan of Telangana whenever they are politically cornered. The misery of Telangana and the exploitation it faces was conveniently forgotten by it when it was enjoying power in central government. Now once again the TRS chief has sat for a 'fast unto death' for Telangana. In the ruling Congress party, some of the Telangana elected representatives wants a separate state where as Andhra representatives are vehemently opposing the demand. Andhra representatives are lobbying with the Congress central leadership not to allow Telangana state in order to safeguard their huge capital investments, and SEZs in and around Telangana. This is supported by some of Telangana MP's too, since they hold land in and around Hyderabad for SEZs.

THE SITUATION AT OSMANIA UNIVERSITY DURING THE MOVEMENT

Mean while there is a democratic demand from various sections of society for separate statehood, the state is responding in the only way it knows to deal with popular movements: by unleashing fascist force. Andhra Pradesh government has deployed huge forces in the state to curtail the movement. Paramilitary forces, Grey Hound squads, Rapid Action Force etc are deployed in the university premises without the knowledge of Vice Chancellors of Osmania University, Agricultural University, Kakatiya University, University of Hyderabad etc. University students were beaten and two students lost their lives in police crackdown. More than 28 students have committed suicide. Even media personal were attacked. The elected representatives who went to express solidarity with the movement were also brutally beaten up. The Chief Minister has given orders to the police officials to take action on the spot without waiting for any order. In the girl's hostel premises of Osmania University, women students were chased by the police for giving slogans in favor of separate state. Students were chased out of the campus and dragged to the neighborhood areas where huge force was deployed. These forces are attacking not only students but also the residents. During the movement more forces are being brought from different states and deployed in Hyderabad. In the view of the call for "Chalo Assembly" on 10th December by the Joint Action Committee, the government had ordered close down and mass evacuation of students from



universities. The state government has blocked different roads to Hyderabad to prevent protesting students from reaching the city.

Nehru considered that it was “injurious to Hyderabad and would upset the whole structure of south India” in the issue of splitting Hyderabad state, “It would”, he added, “be very unwise to do anything that would destroy the administrative continuity that has been achieved in Hyderabad after so much effort”. In response to the Communist Party of India (CPI) – front demand for disintegration, Nehru stated forthrightly to chief ministers on 2 October 1952. “Then there is the cry for a division of Hyderabad on a linguistic basis. For my part, I am entirely opposed to this. If it is accepted, I am sure it would retard progress in Hyderabad for many long years and would create problems and upset that balance of south India. All the Five-Year Plans and other area been to be put on the shelf until the new equilibrium is reached”.

The Telangana people are once again restive, waiting for a separate state. The demand of the people of this region for a separate state is not a new development. It was voiced much before the formation of Andhra Pradesh and continues to be raised even thereafter. The reasons to oppose to continue in the present state and to join Visalandhra (metamorphosed to Andhra Pradesh) are their experiences of becoming victims and fear of negligence and injustice in the enlarged state.

HISTORICAL REASONS FOR SEPARATE TELANGANA

The states which are newly formed state will have many resources. But the Andhra rich farmers who had secured assurances from its coalitional partners, namely the politico- administrative elite, would now want that from it be provided with conditions to increase surplus. The period ending with the mid-sixties, in which there was relative political stability, coincided with the expansion of infrastructure for wider internal market and compulsory procurement of food grains by the government. The expansion of education brought more qualified people from Andhra into Telangana. Telangana’s qualified men and women were slow to come in, the new educational institutions needed for the new systems being opened only in the late 1950s, Public works brought in contractors and transporters from Andhra. They might have stopped to coming Telangana if the government intervened to increase the rural incomes and promote the potential rich. Tenancy reforms resulted in the increase small scale production, very few agrarian rich could acquire meaningful surplus. The only prosperity for all the sections of Telangana is tremendous increment in irrigation.

According to P.Harinath’s argument, Telangana concentrated its efforts to bring more water for Telangana area for bigger surpluses under sustained pressure and Andhra coalition efforts. The Andhra agrarian rich did not, from the beginning, want a competitive section from Telangana that would spoil its attempt to peripheral Telangana into small-commodity producing peasantry. The Andhra



political elites were instrumental in realizing this negative aspiration by scuttling all the attempts of the Telangana's economy was reinforced by the government's cutting down of size and outlay of Telangana irrigation projects and by increasing the supply of water from Telangana to Andhra region by floating legal norms and arrangements. The irrigation and engineering bureaucracy, which dominated by Andhra component was a crucial input in favor of Andhra region as an advantage area began to take shape now. Disparities were created and protected by the Andhra ruling elites served as a mechanism in perpetuating this process. Telangana was slowly but surely turned from a periphery into a colony by the middle of the sixties. The systematic transfer of resources through the government not yet given work had started, water, coal, and electricity being in coastal Andhra. Instead Telangana is paying more taxes in the form of higher agricultural tax rates and excise tax of being converted into a circumferential backward area.

In 2010 by-election in A.P. to the Lok Sabha from Karimnagar constituency, the voters were confirmed with a choice between 'development' (within an integrated state) and 'separate Telangana'. The verdict went overwhelmingly in favour of 'separate' state (for Telangana), some sections of the political leadership are evading the real issue. There was no religious or ethnic 'sentiment', not even of language, as issue in this election. One can, no doubt, read in this result, some assertion of 'regional identity', but this does not defy rational explanation. The simple and straightforward explanation is that the people receive that 'development'-in the sense of equitable share in water resources, jobs, opportunities for enterprise and career advancement, and adequate voice in political decision-making is not possible within the integrated state and that separate statehood alone can ensure justice for them.

Table -1: Historical background of Telangana struggle

Year	Details of Telangana History
1956	Nov 1: Telangana merged with Andhra State, which was carved out of Madras State, to form Andhra Pradesh, a united state for Telugu-speaking people.
1969	'Jai Telangana' movement for separate statehood to Telangana began. Over 300 people killed in police firing.
1972	'Jai Andhra' movement began in coastal Andhra for separate Andhra State.
1975	Presidential order issued to implement Six Point Formula, providing some Safeguards to Telangana.
2001	K. Chandrasekhara Rao floated Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) to revive Telangana movement.
2004	TRS fought elections in alliance with Congress, wins five Lok Sabha and 26 assembly seats. UPA includes Telangana issue in common minimum programme.
2009	Two Lok Sabha and 10 assembly seats.
October 2009	Chandrasekhara Rao began fast—unto—death for Telangana state.



2009	Centre announced decision to initiate the process for formation of Telangana December state.
3 February 2010	Centre set up five—member Srikrishna committee to look into Telangana issue.
December 2010	Srikrishna committee submitted its report, suggested six options
5 December 2013	Union cabinet approved draft Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill 2013 prepared on the basis of recommendations by the GoM. Bill sent to President Pranab Mukherjee with a request to make a reference to Andhra Pradesh legislature to obtain its views under Article 3 of the Constitution. with a request to make a reference to Andhra Pradesh legislature to obtain its views under Article 3 of the Constitution.
16- December 2013	Bill introduced in both houses of state legislature amid clashes between Seemandhra and Telangana lawmakers.
13- February 2013	Bill introduced in Lok Sabha amid clashes between MPs from Seemandhra and Telangana. L. Rajagopal, a MP from Seemandhra, used pepper spray in the house. Speaker suspended 16 MPs including Rajagopal for rest of the session.
18- February 2013	Lok Sabha passes Telangana bill. Formation of Telangana as the 29th State in India
June 2, 2014	Telangana State was formed

<http://www.nation.lk/edition/component/k2/item/26062-a-brief-history-of-telangana.html#sthash.PtrfSPYZ.dpuf>

Conclusion

In the history of social movements in India, Andhra Pradesh has its crystalline position. Andhra Pradesh was almost a laboratory for international institutions or experimenting with economic reforms. The state also witnessed the movements against the reforms. Against the reforms, different social groups have participated/ in the movements down the line ranging from the extreme left to autonomous groups. It also witnessed anti liquor movement, movement against the globalization, separate Telangana movement, Naxalite movement, and so on. The Dalit and tribal movement in the state were the first in the country in demanding reservation within reservation among Scheduled Castes (SC's) and scheduled Tribes (ST's). The violation of civil rights ensured by the constitution especially in Andhra Pradesh where the presence of radical left parties resulted of the movement for land indicated the renewed demand for the distribution of land to the landless. The separate Telangana movement becomes an identity for other regional movements.

REFERENCE

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