

## Telangana: Ushering in the New Era

The movement of a separate Telangana State (TS) is a loyalty of Telangana by its own leaders, creation and formation of Telangana. But, the pathetic tale of Telangana is not only a long story of paralysed promises of Andhra Pradesh (AP), but also an unfaithfulness by its own leaders. The battle for separation of Telangana from AP exploded in 1969 where in over 350 died in police firing. Many students, medicos and union leaders are injured and it was an open secret that politicians from behind the scenes were managing the student union leaders. After failures of political leaders, fifteen years after merger P.V.Narasimha Rao became a Chief Minister (CM) of Telangana later, two leaders from Telangana, Jalagam Vengala Rao and Dr Marri Chenna Reddy became CM of AP. None of them paid attention to the implementation of gentlemen agreement and equitable distribution of resources. People realized that politicians would take them for a ride and benefit from their movement which was the outcome of injustice dispense out to the region by successive governments that sought to articulate the demand for a fair share in the resources.

Due to the sense of neglect and unfairness perceived by the people of Telangana over the last five decades, political parties and organisation have found it easy to rake up the issue of separate Telangana over and over again. After 1969-70 Telangana agitation, periodic attempts were made by students, government employees, intellectuals, jobless politicians to float organisations apparently fighting for the right of Telangana people and demanding a separate TS. Jai Andhra Movement Started in 1972. The Centre settled the issue on September 21, 1973, with a political settlement and a six point formula put in place to placate people of two regions. In 1985, employees from Telangana region cried foul over appointment of non-locals in government and complained about "injustice" done to people of the region. Then the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government, headed by N T Rama Rao, brought out a G.O.No. 610 to safeguard the interests of Telangana people, but no leader raised a voice against it. Till, 1999, there was no demand from any political quarters for division of the state on regional lines and that is why P V Narasimha Rao from Telangana could contest and get elected in Nandyal with little opposition. There was a demand for a political party in 1980s and 1990s also to realize aspirations of Telangana people, but no leader was ready to make any sacrifice.

Since 2004 to 2010, after a lull, the demand for a separate TS was raised when K Chandrashekar Rao quit TDP to form the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) on April 27, 2001. But one must realize that at least he has the courage to quit his post and party. In the 2004 elections, TRS forged an alliance with Congress as the latter included the creation of Telangana in the Common Minimum Program (CMP) after consultations. In the 2009 elections, the TRS managed to win 10 out of the 45 Assembly seats and only 2 MP seats. Some media analysts thought Telangana sentiment faded (2013, September.3, Times of India). Within few months of getting re-elected as popular CM, YS Rajashekar Reddy (YSR) died in a helicopter crash in September 2009. This resulted in a leadership crisis within the Congress party and also created a political vacuum in the state (2004, March 18, Deccan Herald). At this point in time, TRS president K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), on 29 November 2009, started a fast-unto-death, demanding that the Congress party introduce a Telangana bill in Parliament (2004, March 5, The Hindu).

On 9 December 2009, Union Minister of Home Affairs P Chidambaram announced that the Indian government would start the process of forming a separate TS, pending the introduction and passage of a separation resolution in the AP Assembly. This resulted in protests across both Andhra and Rayalaseema. Students, workers, lawyers and various organizations in the regions launched the Samaikyandhra Movement demanding that the state be kept united (2011, Nov.15, NDTV.Com). On 23 December, the Government of India

announced that no action on Telangana will be taken until a consensus is reached by all parties and groups in the state (2009, November 17, The Hindu).

A Joint Action Committee (also known as JAC or TJAC) comprising political and non-political groups was formed to lead the demand for separate Telangana with Osmania University Professor M Kodandaram as its convener (2011, March 12, Times of India). On 3 February, the government appointed a five-member committee headed by Justice SriKrishna to look into the issue (2009, Dec.19, The Hindu). TJAC organized Telangana March in the name of Sagara Haram on September 30, 2012 as it announced earlier. Lakhs of people across the Telangana region reached the spot to make it a huge success.

On December 5, 2013, the Cabinet approved the Telangana draft bill prepared by Group of Ministers for approval by the Parliament. Later the bill was sent to the President who in turn sent it to the AP Assembly. The Assembly passed it by voice vote (2014, February 5, Times of India). On February 18, the Telangana Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha amidst protests of Seemandhra region MPs irrespective of their political affiliations (2014, February 18, timesofindia.indiatimes.com). On February 20, the Telangana bill was passed by Rajya Sabha with the support from the BJP (2014, February 7, Hindustan Times). Later, the president gave his assent on March 1, 2014 (2014, February 14, timesofindia.indiatimes.com) and the new State was formed on June 2, 2014.

After bifurcation of Telangana the State has made remarkable achievements in some of the key sectors by grounding path-breaking initiatives to reconstruct and revive the state economy and to achieve the goal of “Bangaru Telangana” (i.e., Golden Telangana). The key principle of Bangaru Telangana is to achieve a sustainable development path focusing on faster economic growth coupled with a strong focus on social inclusiveness. The State has undertaken pro-poor growth policies targeted towards rural communities, farmers, and weaker sections and put in concerted efforts to make the State business friendly in the country. It is observed that significant increase in public spending on irrigation, energy, drinking water, roads, infrastructure, IT, Communication, agriculture, urban, health, social security, education, etc. resulting in a complete turnover in these sectors. In Telangana research and knowledge management, e-Governance has been recognized as a vital force for transformational improvement in quality, efficiency and effectiveness of governance to bring in more transparency and increased accountability.

#### **References:**

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**Disclaimer:**

I would like to say at the end, as I have not followed the basic principles and it is not ordered well. The information I placed above is collected from different sources i.e. public speeches by eminent personalities, discussion forums, newspapers and article published in websites, etc. This is not meant to criticize, denounce, or hurt any person or organization. Readers may have different thought on given a situation.

**Jai Telangana**