



The Creation of Telangana and Thereafter...

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Abstract

The inception of Telangana as a state occurred in June 2014, following a long-standing struggle by the region's inhabitants for separate statehood. Since its establishment, Telangana has gradually distinguished itself from its parent state and embarked on its path of development. This paper endeavours to examine the origins and progression of the demand for Telangana's separate statehood, followed by an exploration of the process involved in creating the new state. Subsequently, it delves into the post-statehood narrative of Telangana, shedding light on some of the challenges it has faced since its creation.

Keywords: state, statehood, government, Telangana.

Introduction

The establishment of Telangana as a separate state in June 2014 was met with great enthusiasm, but as time passed, the state encountered its own challenges. Against this backdrop, the aim of this research paper titled "*The Creation of Telangana and thereafter*" is to investigate whether statehood alone is a key determinant in the progress and development of a newly formed state. Specifically, the paper focuses on the case of Telangana, which emerged from the larger state of Andhra Pradesh. This research study commenced with the initial hypothesis that the establishment of a separate state is not the sole

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prerequisite for the progress and development of a newly formed state. It is postulated that various other factors also contribute significantly to the comprehensive growth of a new state. Drawing upon this hypothesis, the subsequent objectives of this present research paper were delineated as follows:

- i. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the historical backdrop surrounding the emergence of the state of Telangana
- ii. To acquire insights into the indigenous movement that spearheaded the advocacy for a separate state of Telangana
- iii. To conduct an analysis of the performance of the state of Telangana in relation to specific pivotal socio-economic indicators.
- iv. To identify and examine the challenges that have persisted in the state of Telangana subsequent to its separation from its parent state.

This research paper endeavours to examine the progress and development of Telangana after its establishment as a separate state. It aims to analyse the state's trajectory using important social and economic indicators, including education, administration and governance, literacy, health, agriculture, industry, share in exports, ease of doing business, and tourism. The approach taken in this paper is descriptive and analytical, relying primarily on information collected from reputable secondary sources

Historical Background of the State of Telangana

In the past, the area of Telangana was under the rule of Hyderabad, a princely state, which was governed by the Nizam. However, with India's independence, Hyderabad came under the jurisdiction of the Indian government. In 1955, the States' Reorganization Commission was established to assess the viability of new states in India. As part of its recommendations, it suggested that Hyderabad should remain a separate state. However, this recommendation was not accepted and on the basis of the language criterion, the province of Hyderabad was amalgamated with Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh came into existence in October 1953, and in November 1956, the region of Telangana, which was part of Hyderabad, was amalgamated with Andhra to form the unified state of Andhra Pradesh [Chandra, 2008]. This was seen as a move to unite under the auspices of a single state, the Telugu-speaking people. Besides, the people of the region were assured that the welfare of the region would be preserved and protected by implementing the 'Gentleman's Agreement'[i]. The Gentleman's Agreement contained provisions to ensure the non-discrimination of Telangana by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the domains of social, economic and political life. Some of the promises that were guaranteed to the Telangana region, which, however, were not implemented, included the allocation of portfolios in the state cabinet and distribution of funds, protection of linguistic and cultural interests, formation of a regional committee and the creation of employment opportunities [Chippa. 2020, Pp 180]. The people of the Telangana region felt that the coastal regions of Andhra were making progress while the Telangana region was lagging in the path of development. The roots of the demand for the separation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh can be traced to the perceived discrimination practised by the Seemandhra leaders in the areas of education, water and irrigation resources, employment opportunities, development and the non-fulfilment of certain key parameters mentioned in the Gentlemen's Agreement particularly pertaining to political space for Telangana (e.g.CM/Dy.CM). According to Pingle (2014, Pp. 216), the residents of Telangana believed that establishing their own independent identity was the solution to overcoming the discrimination they faced in their region. The demand for a separate state of Telangana can be traced back to a historical context, influenced by the developmental model pursued by the ruling classes in both Andhra Pradesh and the central government. Previous movements in Telangana aimed to address these contradictions through the

establishment of a separate state [Hargopal, 2010, Pp. 51-60]. The origins of this demand can be traced back over half a century to the systematic and extensive mistreatment of the region by the privileged few in Andhra Pradesh and the state governments in power throughout the years. The successive governments in Telangana pursued an economic path that led to the region being treated as an internal colony, resulting in the diversion of its resources for the development of other regions. The demand for separate statehood can be seen as an expression of the desire for a fair distribution of resources within the region. This movement is a response to the perceived injustice and neglect experienced by Telangana due to the actions of the governments in power in Andhra Pradesh. The separation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh was seen as the only solution to address these grievances [Ram, 2007, Pp 90-94]. The tribal people in Telangana have long felt neglected and deprived of their legal rights, starting from the time when the region was under the rule of the Nizams. The subsequent governments in Andhra Pradesh, largely dominated by upper castes and landlords, continued the exploitation of the region [Ramdas, 2013, Pp. 118-2].

Several protests took place in Telangana to voice the demand for a separate state. The 1969 agitation witnessed the active participation of students and employees from various Telangana services. After March 1969, former minister S. Venkatram Reddy expressed his support for the agitation. Under his patronage, the Telangana Praja Samithi (TPS) was founded with Madan Mohan as its chairman. There was an upsurge in the agitation which is attributed to historical and economic factors. The demand for a separate state of Telangana can be attributed to various factors, including regional differences, subcultures, caste categorisations, modernisation, and the failure of the political system to address the specific problems of the region [Reddi and Ram eds, 1994, Pp. 23-24]. These factors have contributed to a sense of marginalisation

and neglect experienced by the people of Telangana over the years. One of the allegations propounded by the Praja Samithi and other organisations championing the cause of separate statehood for Telangana was that this region has faced educational neglect [Reddy and Sharma, 1979, Pp. 17). Post the 1969 agitation, dialogues were held with the leaders of the Andhra and Telangana regions, following which the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi proposed an 8-point plan on 12th April 1969. However, the leaders from the Telangana region rejected the plan and continued with their agitation. In 1972, the Jai Andhra movement emerged as a counter-opposition to the Telangana movement. The Jai Andhra Movement urged the people of Andhra to disrupt the state administration by refusing to pay taxes and disobeying prohibitory orders. This agitation had a significant impact and effectively crippled the administration. As a result, the President's rule was imposed on the state on January 18, 1973 [Benichou, 2000, Pp. 281-282].

A political agreement was reached with the Centre on 21st Sep 1973, and a six-point formula was propounded to please the people of both regions. The six-point formula was implemented with several key provisions. These included the founding of a central university in Hyderabad, the abolition of the Mulki rules that governed eligibility for government services based on Hyderabad residency, the establishment of administrative tribunals to supervise government employees, the creation of a state-level planning board, and the formation of sub-committees to cater to the needs of backward areas [Bonagani, 2011, Pp. 210]. In 1985, once again, there was an outcry from the employees of the Telangana region who alleged that they were being subjected to injustice in the matter of appointments to government departments. They were pacified by the erstwhile Telugu Desam Government by an order which claimed to safeguard the interests of people of the Telangana region in government employment. In 1999, the Congress party initiated the call for the establishment of a

distinct state of Telangana. They had been constantly defeated in the assembly and parliamentary elections by the indomitable Telugu Desam Party.

The Central Working Committee of the Congress, in response to the pressure exerted by Congress leaders from Telangana, urged the National Democratic Alliance Government to establish a second states' reorganisation commission. The purpose of this request was to carefully consider the demand for a separate state of Telangana. However, this demand was rejected by the Central Government on the grounds that small states were not effective and conducive to the integrity of the state. Meanwhile, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti, formed in 2001 under the leadership of K. Chandrashekar Rao, gradually gained momentum and bolstered the movement advocating for the establishment of a separate state of Telangana. In 2004, the Indian National Congress formed an electoral alliance with the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) for the assembly and parliamentary elections. This alliance was founded on the understanding that if they were successful, a separate state of Telangana would be created. Despite the Congress party winning at both the state and the national level, with the TRS as one of its partners, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) failed to provide a clear stance on the issue of Telangana's statehood. This ambiguity compelled K. Chandrashekhara Rao to withdraw support to the UPA Government in September 2006. In November 2009, K. Chandrashekhara Rao began an indefinite fast demanding that a separate Telangana state be formed. In December of the same year, Mr P. Chidambaram, who was then the Union Minister for Home Affairs, announced that the Government would commence the process of creating a new state of Telangana. However, this announcement was followed by violence across the state. In February 2010, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs established the Sri Krishna Committee, comprising five members, to

facilitate extensive consultations regarding the Telangana issue. On December 30, 2010, the committee submitted its report, which did not offer a definite recommendation on the position of Telangana but rather provided certain suggestions to the government for maintaining law and order in the state. Eventually, the Union Government granted approval for the creation of Telangana as a separate state, with Hyderabad as its capital, on June 2, 2014.

The bifurcation of a state from its parent state is not the sole criterion for its progress and development. The progress and development of a newly created state is determined by a host of other factors and Telangana was no exception. Post-separation from its parent state, Telangana began on an arduous journey of creating its image. The state has been able to enjoy the advantage of having stable governments for the last six years. Having a stable government is a great advantage for a newly created state as the political establishment can focus on the task of governance and administration without any hindrance. The state government went ahead with the task of improving administration and governance and has made considerable progress on this front. The establishment of the post of Deputy Secretary in each district headquarters was implemented alongside the existing positions of Collector and Joint Collector, which were responsible for overseeing land and revenue affairs. Additionally, coordinators were introduced in every district to assist Collectors in the implementation of welfare schemes. Furthermore, regional coordinators were appointed to supervise the functioning of new districts, with the objective of ensuring smooth operations. To expedite the approval process for development and welfare programs, the government proposed the deployment of senior Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officials as Regional Coordinators. These Regional Coordinators were entrusted with the task of guaranteeing prompt approval of proposals submitted by district authorities.

In terms of governance, the state government of Telangana has implemented a crucial strategy of decentralising the administration, aiming to bridge the gap between key officials and the local population. This has involved a significant increase in the number of districts, from 10 to 33, as well as a rise in revenue divisions from 43 to 71. Furthermore, the number of mandals, which represent administrative units, has grown from 464 to 589. Additionally, the government has expanded the number of Gram Panchayats (village-level local self-government institutions) from 8,368 to 12,751, Municipal Corporations from 6 to 13, and municipalities from 68 to 128. They focused on enhancing rural and urban local governance through initiatives like Palle Pragathi (village development) and Pattana Pragathi (city development). In July 2020, the State's Municipal Administration Minister said that the government is decentralising the departments with the purpose of taking the administration closer to the people. He said the government has increased the number of districts, revenue divisions, mandals and municipal corporations as part of the decentralisation process.

Having a closer look at the State's performance in certain other realms throws light on Telangana's progression post-statehood. If we look at the literacy parameter, according to census data, the literacy rate of Telangana is 66.54%, which is modestly impressive. According to statistical data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the literacy rate among males in Telangana is 75.04%, while the literacy rate among females stands at 57.99%. These findings were included in a report titled "Household Social Consumption on Education in India," which provides valuable insights into the state's educational landscape. This report has pointed out that education is discontinued by many before they reach the age of 20. It is significant to note that despite the fact that though 94 percent of persons receive education in the age group of 6 to 17 years, this number takes a huge plunge to a meagre 30.9 percent in the age bracket of 18 to 23 years. Moreover, it drops to a nominal 1.5 percent when it comes to the age bracket of 24 to 29 years. According to the report, in terms of expenditure on education, Telangana is the fourth most expensive state when it comes to spending on each student on 'general courses' in higher education, which stands at 13,095 rupees. In terms of technical education, the state is the seventh most expensive state, spending 47,348 rupees per

student. Literacy data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) highlights the fact that 15.4 percent more males are literate as compared to females. For any newly created state to make progress, the literacy and educational rates have to be improved first. Any investment by the government in education is a long-term investment in the development of its citizens' human resource capital.

In terms of healthcare, Telangana has made significant strides in its development. Per the health index rankings published by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in 2019, Telangana secured the 10th position out of 21 major Indian states. It consistently ranked among the top three states providing improved healthcare services through public sector facilities in 2018 and 2019.

The Telangana Social Development Report, 2017 points out that in 2007-08, only one district in Telangana, i.e. Nizamabad, demonstrated a favourable male-female ratio. In 2017, four districts showed a sex ratio higher than 1,000. These include Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Khammam. In Telangana, a high percentage of institutional births have been observed, with 96 percent in urban areas and 87 percent in rural areas. However, the percentage of institutional births in public facilities is quite low, at 27 percent in urban areas and 34 percent in rural areas, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4[ii]) conducted in 2015-16. When Telangana was established as a separate state in June 2014, it faced significant challenges in the field of health. The state's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) stood at 34 in 2014 ([iii]-2014), with a Maternal Mortality Ratio of 92 (SRS-2011-13) and an Under-5 Mortality Rate of 34 (SRS-2014). Although there was a high number of institutional deliveries, accounting for 91.5 percent, the percentage of institutional births in public institutions was only 31 percent. The state also had a high rate of Caesarean section births, with 58 percent conducted in the private sector out of the total. The full immunisation rate in Telangana was 68.1 percent, according to the NFHS-IV survey.

Despite the numerous obstacles faced, it is important to highlight that over the past six to nine years, Telangana has made significant strides and witnessed notable improvements in its key health

indicators. This is evident in the fact that the state's maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate, under-five mortality rate, and neonatal mortality rate are lower than the national averages for these indicators. It is quintessential to note that Telangana's performance is better when compared to the all-India averages for Total Fertility Rates as well as the percentage of Full Immunization and Institutional Deliveries.

Just like many other states in India, in the case of Telangana too, the agricultural sector is its lifeline. According to the State Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Telangana has witnessed the highest production of agricultural crops ever since the state came into existence. For the year 2019-20, its production stood at 1.3 crore metric tonnes. According to the Statistics Department, the increase in production is due to an increase in the area being cultivated due to irrigation projects, particularly Kaleshwaram and increased livelihood. The objective of the Kaleshwaram Lift irrigation project was to harness the flood waters of Godavari and thereby make Telangana drought-proof. The project aims to tap the waters of the River Godavari by reverse pumping and storage. This feature is supposed to boost agriculture on over 38 lakh acres and aid in rejuvenating a large number of tanks, supplying water to industries and providing potable drinking water to cities such as Hyderabad and Secunderabad by creating a series of storage tanks and a network of pipelines.

The government has implemented several measures aimed at improving the well-being of farmers in Telangana. These initiatives include the Rythu Bandhu program, which provides support for agricultural investments, and the Rythu Bima scheme, which offers life insurance coverage to farmers. Additionally, the government ensures that farmers have access to quality inputs such as soil health cards, credit facilities, seeds, and mechanical equipment. They also provide technical assistance to promote best agriculture practices and encourage market reforms. Furthermore, a crop insurance scheme has been established to protect farmers against unforeseen losses. In addition, the state government has identified horticulture as a realm of high value in the state. Consequentially, a land area comprising 12.40 lakh acres was utilised for cultivation to achieve the production of 71.52 lakh metric tonnes.

In the fiscal year 2018-19, Telangana exported a total of 11,509 quintals of pulses, including hyola, bajra, sorghum, paddy, and sunflower seeds. These agricultural products were sent to countries such as Russia, Italy, Egypt, Philippines, and Tanzania, among others, under the umbrella of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Furthermore, between 2014-15 and 2017-18, the state observed a significant increase in farm power, with the quantum growing from 1.98 to 3.35 KW/ha. This growth has been attributed to the concerted efforts in promoting agricultural mechanisation. As a result, Telangana currently boasts a higher availability of farm power compared to the national average of 1.35 KW/ha.

In the field of industry, the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), conducted in 2016-17, has highlighted significant growth in the number of newly registered industrial units in Telangana. The total number of functioning manufacturing units in the state has increased from 7,729 units in 2009-10 to 12,476 units in 2016-17, indicating a growth of 61%. Additionally, employment in the industry sector experienced substantial growth of 6.0% from 2014 to 2017, surpassing the national average of 3.6%. According to the Telangana State Industrial Report Growth (2014-2023), Telangana, through its novel step of TS-iPASS, has succeeded in attracting 22,745 industries, investments of Rs. 2,60,060 crores and creating employment opportunities for 17.54 lakhs people. Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) has developed 109 new Industrial Parks on 35,581 acres of land during 2014-23. The Life Sciences sector has attracted investments worth 25,000 crore and generated employment of more than 4.5 lakhs since 2014. The Food Processing sector has produced investments of Rs. 6,864 Crs. leading to the establishment of 3,807 units and 80,000 employment opportunities since 2014. Telangana, in the Aerospace & Defence sector, secured the Best State Award from the Ministry of Civil Aviation consecutively for the third time in a row (2018, 2020, 2022). This was in recognition of Telangana being the State with the most forward outlook towards the Aerospace & Aviation sector and for figuring one of the most cost-effective global aerospace hubs. In the EV sector, Telangana Mobility Valley (TMV), which is India's first and one-of-its-kind New Mobility cluster, was launched in February

2023 during Hyderabad E-Mobility Week. The aim of TMV was to attract investments amounting to 50,000 rupees and generate more than 4 lakh jobs in the next five years. During the years 2014-2023, the Handlooms & Textiles sector has attracted total investments of Rs. 6,496 crores with an employment potential of 43,370 people.

As regards Telangana's share in the exports of the country, it grew from 10.61 percent in 2018-19 to 11.58 percent in 2019-20. The per capita income of the state stands at Rupees 2,28,216, which amounts to twice the national average of Rs 1,34,432 at current prices. The TS-iPASS (Telangana State Industrial Project Approval and Self-Certification System), which contributed to the top slot for Telangana in the parameter of Ease of Doing Business in the country, could garner collective investments amounting to Rs 1.96 lakh crore in the previous five years and created 13.9 lakh jobs. Nearly 75 percent of the total number of industries that were approved – 9,021 of the 12,021 units – have already commenced their operations. In addition, Rs 45,848 crore investments are being generated through upcoming mega projects, leading to the creation of 83,000 new jobs in multiple sectors such as information technology, automobile units, fabrics, electronics, life sciences, construction and food processing. During 2019-20, Telangana was the recipient of the "Best Performing State" title by NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals India Index 2019. Hyderabad was accorded the first rank in the seventh edition of JLL's (Jones Lang LaSalle) Annual City Momentum Index in January 2020. This was in recognition of its holistic growth drivers and vision. Mercer credited Hyderabad with the first rank in terms of the city to live. Hyderabad was also awarded the second rank in the World Economic Forum's list of most dynamic cities.

Tourism plays a key role in generating revenue for any state. Keeping this in view, the Department of Tourism in the state of Telangana has progressively endeavoured to position the state as an attractive destination for tourism. According to the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Telangana, during the time period 2014 to 2019, the state witnessed a growth in domestic tourist arrivals, and these have been more than the foreign tourist arrivals. Nevertheless, foreign tourist arrivals have attained thrice its number, reaching almost 2.6 lakhs in 2019.

The state government has initiated a number of projects in pivotal infrastructure sectors such as irrigation, potable water, power, and roads. These include the completion of irrigation projects, drinkable water projects, irrigation tank renovations under Mission Kakatiya^[iv], broadening of roads, electrification, and expanding the accommodation facilities for less privileged sections of the state's population. The state proclaims the provision of uninterrupted free power supply to the agricultural industry and the provision of potable water to all communities.

Challenges then and now

Just before the establishment of Telangana as a distinct state, C.H. Hanumantha Rao highlighted the primary obstacles that the former region of Telangana had encountered. These challenges encompassed land disputes, irrigation and power issues, education, and healthcare [Rao, 2014]. In September 2020, the Chief Minister said that the comprehensive land survey programme planned by his government would end all land disputes permanently. After conducting a survey, the land use in Telangana would be classified into agriculture and non-agriculture categories. The Chief Minister emphasised that the government had successfully resolved any disputes regarding the agricultural land owned by 57.9 lakh farmers, which amounts to over 1,45,58,000 acres, through the implementation of the Rythu Bandhu scheme. As a result, the Telangana State Legislative Assembly passed The Telangana Abolition of the Posts of VROs Bill, 2020 and The Telangana Rights in Land and Pattadar Passbooks Bill, 2020 to further address land-related issues.

Before 2014, a number of districts in the Telangana region of undivided Andhra suffered due to drought. Post the creation of Telangana, a three-dimensional approach was adopted to cope with the limitations in this sector: firstly, finishing the projects of previous governments that were still not completed, secondly completing projects that were sanctioned by earlier governments and thirdly revitalising projects that were left halfway because of paucity of funds. The Government also gave the green signal to 23 major and 13 medium projects on a priority basis. The Government is also

working towards restructuring the functioning of the irrigation department by bringing four divisions under a single umbrella for quicker response. With regard to power, when the state was formed in 2014, its installed power capacity was just 7,778 MW, which increased to 15,980 MW in February 2020, including 3,81 MW of solar power. The upcoming 4,000 MW Yadadri thermal power plant is a 4,000 MW ultra-mega power plant, which is a record by itself. The first state government of Telangana, after taking on the mantle effectively discussed the issue of public education in 2015-16. The paucity of English medium education, absence of pre-primary and kindergarten classes, and insufficient number of separate teachers for every class were highlighted as the factors influencing parents' preference for private schools for their children. The Telangana government has also set up Gurukul residential schools. This is part of its endeavour to provide free education from kindergarten to post-graduation. Although the government is making significant efforts to improve the quality of education in Telangana, there is still room for improvement. The primary focus should be on enhancing the standard of education while also ensuring that education is accessible to all segments of the population.

Conclusion

This study has confirmed the initial hypothesis that the creation of a separate state is not the sole prerequisite for the progress and development of a new state. Various other factors also play a crucial role in the comprehensive growth of a newly formed state. Any new state that is created needs sufficient time and space to carve out its niche in terms of development and progress. Telangana is hardly a decade old and to expect it to progress at a fast pace would be unrealistic. The state has its share of challenges, which require a concerted effort on the part of the administration to tackle them. If Telangana successfully addresses these challenges, it has the potential to serve as a model for future small states, highlighting effective strategies for progress and development.

Notes

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[i]The Gentleman's Agreement was signed before the state of Andhra Pradesh was formed. It was signed between leaders from the Telangana and Andhra regions on 20 February 1956 at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi. The purpose of this agreement was to console the people of the Telangana region by ensuring certain safeguards for them.

[ii]The National Family Health Survey 2015-16 [NFHS-4] provides crucial information on vital parameters such as population, health and nutrition for India and each State/Union Territory. For the first time, this survey provided district-level estimates for many important indicators.

[iii]The Sample Registration System [SRS] provides reliable annual data on crucial indicators such as fertility and mortality at the state and national levels. This data is collected separately for rural and urban areas.

iv Mission Kakatiya is a novel programme of the Government of Telangana. The objective of this programme was to provide irrigation sources to approximately 25 lakh acres of land, and its expenditure was estimated to be 22,000 crore rupees.

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