

# Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh: Factors and Consequences

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## Introduction

On October 1, 1953 Andhra State formed with Kurnool as its Capital, which was carved out from Madras presidency. The first linguistic based state in India is Andhra with the efforts of Potti Sreeramulu and it comprises of the Coastal and the Rayalaseema region. In 1956, by Gentlemen's agreement the Telangana region (for a long time part of the erstwhile Nizam's princely state of Hyderabad) merged into Andhra State and formed into Andhra Pradesh State. After 57 years of Andhra Pradesh State formation the Telangana State again separated from Andhra Pradesh and formed as 29<sup>th</sup> State of India on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014. This paper basically explains about Causes or factors lead towards bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Problems faced by residuary Andhra Pradesh after post - bifurcation. First, we discuss about causes or factors lead to formation of Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

## The Factors and causes behind Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh

The first wave of Telangana movement had started in 1969 but it was suppressed by Indira Gandhi Government with soft and hard policy. In Andhra region, counter agitation movement started, which is called as '**Jai Andhra Movement**' (creation for Andhra state) due to negligence of the Andhra region and it was also suppressed. In the following paragraphs, we discuss about factors and causes leading to bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

The prime factor of Telangana Movement was started due to difference between Andhra (Seemandhra) and Telangana regions. Since Andhra was part of a colonial Madras Presidency, education levels and development of this region were better than in feudal Telangana. Since 1953 onwards People of Telangana were against merger with Andhra state as they feared that they would lose jobs. Again from 2004 onwards the Telangana political leader's propagated that majority of the Governmental jobs and promotions were occupying by the Andhra people. This leads to mass participation of the youth and Governmental employees in the Telangana movement. For this reasons, the Osmania University became a hub for Telangana movement and also Prof. Jayasankhar and Prof. Kodanda Ram emerged as Telangana movement leaders.

Secondly, the Cultural differences too remain even after 57 years of togetherness. Under Nizam's, and before that, under the Qutb Shahi rule, the culture and language in Telangana bore influences of north India. Emphasis on festivals is also different. Some scholars have pointed

out that "cultural production in the form of song-performance and fiction" gave strength to historical memory and provided an impetus to the Telangana movement.

Thirdly, the Telangana Political leaders propagated that this region was economically neglected, wrong river water distribution; political marginalisation and domination by powerful and resourceful castes from the Andhra areas were routinely given as reasons by Telangana leaders to justify their agitation for a separate state. And also a strong feeling was created in Telangana that it was being exploited and that the region's surplus was being transferred to finance development in the Andhra region.

Fourthly, dynamic political leaders of Telangana who played a key role in the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. The Telangana movement launched by influential political leaders to give themselves relevance - like Chenna Reddy in the late 1960s and KCR in the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century. The role of Telangana Rashtira Samithi (TRS) under the leadership K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR), champion the cause of a separate Telangana state. Telangana leaders also claim that backwardness and neglect of this region it leads to Telangana Movement. Of course, Rayalaseema is more backward than Telangana but there has been no strong separatist movement in that region like in Telangana.

Fifthly, all political parties, except the CPI (M), supported the creation of Telangana. The dominant political party at that time in the state was Congress and it deeply divided into two factions one is for Pro – Telangana State and another group for anti – bifurcation of AP. Finally, the UPA Government under leadership of Congress party and also took assistance with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) then the Telangana Bill was passed in Parliament.

Sixthly, the Srikrishna Committee (2010) report discussed six solutions to the problem. The preferred option was keeping the State united by simultaneously providing certain definite constitutional and statutory measures for socio-economic development and political empowerment of Telangana region through the creation of a statutorily empowered Telangana Regional Council. The second best option was bifurcation of the State into Telangana and Seemandhra as per existing boundaries, with Hyderabad as the capital of Telangana and Seemandhra to have a new capital.

Lastly, in the past 57 years the city of Hyderabad has grown in leaps and bounds as opposed to other areas in both the regions in Telangana and the Andhra region. Information technology companies, public sector units, state and central educational institutes, manufacturing industries, the entertainment industry, major national and international research institutes in the sciences and social sciences, national parks, multi-specialty hospitals, real estate, airports, multinational corporations, cultural centers, NGOs, even prime tourist destinations have been overwhelmingly concentrated in one place in Hyderabad, almost to the neglect of other places in the state.

Within a short period of time between 1990 and 2005, Hyderabad emerged as the power house hub for economic, political, social, cultural and entrepreneurial activities, drawing people from all over the state of Andhra Pradesh. Due above developments Hyderabad city became crucial for both regions and felt that they cannot survive without Hyderabad. The Telangana Political leaders succeeded in convincing Telangana people that the Hyderabad huge Income resources are diverting to Andhra regions. Due to these factors also leads to bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

### **Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh according to Constitutional Process**

According to Article 3 of the Indian Constitution, the power to form a new State vests with the Parliament, provided that the Bill creating such a State is introduced on the recommendation of the President and he has referred it to the legislature of the affected State “for expressing its views thereon.” This linear interpretation of the Article would render the view that the Andhra Pradesh Assembly will have no legal effect and the formation of Telangana is solely the prerogative of the Government of India.

Though only an opinion is required under Article 3 of the Indian Constitution, a resolution was adopted by voice vote and the bill was rejected by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Council on 30 January 2014 as the majority of the legislators were from Seemandhra region. But under dramatic conditions the bill was passed in the Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha and got assent by the President of India and Telangana becomes as 29<sup>th</sup> State of India on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014.

The prominent ones being Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 commonly called Telangana Bill is an Act of Indian Parliament proclaiming the bifurcation of the Andhra Pradesh state into two states, Telangana and residuary Andhra Pradesh. The Important provisions in the Bifurcation Act are Hyderabad as the common capital for ten years. The Andhra Pradesh Governor will be Governor for both successor States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The Polavaram Irrigation Project declared as a national project and the Center will take under its control the regulation and development and the Tungabhadra Board will continue to monitor the release of water to high level canal, low level canal and Rajolibanda diversion scheme.

The then Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh had also announced 6-Point Package for AP's Successor States on the floor of Parliament. In a bid to address concerns of the Seemandhra region, government announced grant of special category status including tax incentives to the residuary state as part of the six-point development package. But grant of special category status is not introduced in Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014

## Consequences after post bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh

After formation of Telangana State on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014, the residuary Andhra Pradesh faced several problems and they are clearly discussed in the below paragraphs. Primarily, the Central Government neglected main promises which are clearly mentioned in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. To implement these promises the central government has to allot financial assistance and support to the State Government and the major ones are.

- ❖ Developing a new major sea port in Dugarajapatnam in Nellore district,
- ❖ Setting up an integrated steel plant in Rayalaseema,
- ❖ Developing Vizag- Chennai industrial corridor,
- ❖ New railway zone in Vizag,
- ❖ Rapid rail and road connectivity between the new capital city Amravathi and other parts of the AP State and Telangana,
- ❖ Metro rail facility in Vizag,
- ❖ Financial support for completion of the Polavaram project which is a national project,
- ❖ Revenue deficit grant for 5 year period.

Secondly, Due to irrational and illogical allocation of financial resources, river water distribution and other resources between Andhra and Telangana states leads to controversy between both the States and also Centre – State relations deteriorated. For example, delay in partition of Telugu University, Ambedkar Open University, heavy revenue deficit burden on AP, etc.,

Thirdly, the promise of Special Category Status was made to residuary Andhra Pradesh by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Parliament during the time of passage of the re-organisation Act. But, still now the Central Government playing hide & seek game with Andhra Pradesh State. And showing silly and unreasonable causes like that it was not mention in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014; Telangana and Tamil Nadu government are not accepting

Fourthly, The Andhra Pradesh lost highly developed Hyderabad City with rich infrastructure. Still now, Andhra Pradesh State struggling very hard to construct Capital Amaravathi with minimum facilities. It is also suffering from lack of adequate funds and land pooling. It shows clear betrayal of central government in supporting the construction of Capital Amaravathi.

Fifthly, due to lack of clarification in the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Act, 2014, still some Government corporations, offices and its assets are unable to bifurcate between the two states and approached the courts. And also some of the promises which made in the Parliament of India by the, then Central government were left untouched saying that they are not part of the Act.

Sixthly, in the AP Reorganisation, 2014 Act clearly mentioned that the Central government will solve all the revenue deficit loss occurred to the residuary Andhra Pradesh. But in reality, the central government showed its empty hands and allocated inadequate and insufficient funds.

Lastly, the way of Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh had done by Congress with support of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Parliament, still the People of Andhra Pradesh did not forget in their minds. It remained some sort of heart burning, humiliation and insult among Andhra people.

## Conclusion

Andhra Pradesh is the first state formed on the linguistic basis in India. But after bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, it clearly showed the sense of same language had failed to keep the people of the state united and “conditional formation” of a state based on language appears to be a failed experiment. According to the present conditions there is no time to dig the past incidents. The Andhra Pradesh Government has to convince Central Government about problems like inadequate financial resources, lack of infrastructure and human resource development to get more funds and assistance. The State government also has to encourage more people participation to become one of the best States in the country in all the fields. If our political leaders, administrators and People of Andhra Pradesh work cordially and cooperatively with mission and vision within short period we will become number one State in India.

## References

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