



## Politics in separate Telangana statehood and impact of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi Party

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### Abstract

Sometimes prior to the region's merger with Andhra state, the people of Telangana had been calling for their own state. Political parties and other organizations have been leading the movement in a consistent upward trajectory. Additionally, it looks at the national parties' electoral strategies in general, including the Congress party, the Bharatiya Janatha Party, and the Telugu Desam party in Telangana. It also discusses the rise and importance of the TRs party as well as its battle to achieve its ultimate goal of Telangana becoming a separate state. In particular TRS party electoral politics with Congress party and TDP in view of attract public attention and get solution for its demand of separate statehood. All the time majority of Telangana people rallied behind these movements and political parties supporting the demand for Telangana statehood in such a way the issue of Telangana has become a tool in the hands of all the political parties only to gain political mileage except Communist Party of India and CPI (M) Communist Party of India (Marxist). It also provides an overview of how the political parties both national and state playing politics over the demand for smaller in India.

**Keywords:** Separate statehood, electoral politics, movement, exploitation, suppression, identity

### Introduction

Leading up to the region's merger with Andhra state, Telangana residents had been calling for its own statehood. They later became increasingly agitated over a number of employment and development-related issues. Inequality, backwardness, lack of development, discrimination in the distribution of funds for irrigation and job creation, and the persistent dishonesty of leaders are some of the pertinent reasons why the Telangana issue may be discussed. Ever since the formation of Andhra Pradesh, there has been discrimination against Telangana in terms of the resource allocation, developmental schemes and employment generation. Injustice and discrimination are also evident in denying spaces for Telangana and Telanganites in decision making in economic, political, social and cultural spheres. Actually Telangana is not merely a geographical dispute. It is not individual land dispute. It is a result of unequal development through several historical phases".

Students and workers initially launched the agitation for a separate Telangana as a protest movement against the injustices inflicted on the Telangana region. Subsequent political parties led the agitation and exploited the situation. According to Narasimha Swamy, those of us fighting for Telangana's independence are not separatists or extremists; rather, we are fighting to establish our existence and to maintain our standard of living. We eagerly take on the responsibility of fighting for our rightful share of resources, including jobs, education, water, and money, which our forefathers entrusted to us. The separate state of Telangana is never a demand, it's our right and we are fighting for that right. In this movement of struggle nothing matters neither lives nor blood and sweat, the one and only thing matters is the state of Telangana and which has to be achieved now itself, as we do not want to pass the struggle to the next generation. We aspired that the next generation has to live in peace regardless of exploitation and discrimination of any kind and where they can proudly say this is our state of Telangana. Thus, we are fighting for the better and bright future of tomorrow for the people of this region.

### Separate statehood Movement of Telangana: 1969

In order to benefit Andhra-based employees in Hyderabad, the legitimate rights of Telangana-based employees have been denied. The movement began in 1969 as a result of the employees' and students' discontent with the earlier promises being broken. It began as a movement to implement the Gentlemen's Agreement's safeguards, but it quickly grew more severe and eventually evolved into a demand for Telangana to become its own state. From there, it spread somewhat, with students killed in police shootings in nearly every region of Telangana. The movement aim was to get fair share in employment and educational facilities. Later, this mass movement was continued effectively for a year. However, then the leaders of the ruling party had tried severely to control and suppress the movement by using its police forces. This movement was described by Keshav Rao Jadav as the first fight for economic and cultural independence of the people of Telangana meanwhile the non-party movement as well. It was a powerful articulation of the demand for responsible governance.

### Emergence of Telangana Rashtra Samithi

Even after the 1969 movement was put down, intellectuals, workers, and young students continued to advocate for Telangana statehood, citing the need to end discrimination, injustice, and humiliation experienced by Telangana workers and residents. To address the issue of Telangana statehood in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a number of organizations and forums were established, including the Telangana Mahasabha, Telangana Janasabha, Telangana Teachers Forum, Telangana Intellectuals Forum, Telangana Information Center, and Telangana Study Forum. These organizations were proceeded to struggle irregularities against the interests of Telangana people including violation of Gentlemen's agreement, six point formula, Utilization of irrigation water and budget allocations establishment of schools and colleges and so forth. With this background during 1980's and 1990's especially during the rule of

Telugu Desam Party, once again the demand separate Telangana state picked up in view of political conditions and paved way for the emergence of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) party.

In the state of Andhra Pradesh, a political party called Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) is vying for Telangana statehood. On April 27, 2001, Mr. K. Chandrasekhara Rao founded the TRS party. The party's primary goal is for Telangana to become a separate state with Hyderabad as its capital. People who joined the TRS party come from practically every political party and organization in the Telangana region. It is evident that the majority of the other MLA candidates are from various political parties, including the Indian National Congress, Telugu Desam, and Communist parties, while KCR, the founder and president of the TRS party, is a member of the TDP. The supporters of the party mostly including rural unemployed youth, employed sections of the towns, self-employed middle class people. Students are its main supporters. The people from several artisan sections were also supported TRS party due to the reason that they felt it was the policies of the TDP and Congress party which made them to lost their traditional employment opportunities.

According to Prof. M. Kodand Ram, the Seemandhra political leaders control the state's political parties and administration system, so there is no room or opportunity for the people of the Telangana region to voice their concerns in the political arena. Intellectuals and social activists from the middle class were instrumental in the emergence of the statehood movement. Thus, once the movement gained big support from the public, and then only the political leaders responded to the demand for separate statehood and tried to make use of this demand for their political gains. However, The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) was formed at this context only, when the movement was strong in 2001. He clearly stipulated that the TRS party has given political expression to the Telangana movement.

The Mulki agitation in 1952, in which students demonstrated against the entry of foreigners (Seemandhra) into Telangana government services, served as the impetus for the Telangana movement. Since the 1950s, dozens of political and social formations have arisen to express the desire for independent statehood, as noted by Rama S. Melkote and E. Revathi. However, a large number of them vanished. Among the current political parties supporting Telangana, the TRS is the oldest to be founded with the sole goal of obtaining separate statehood. There was no other political party with mere goal of achieving a separate state had lived for such a long time in electoral politics of Telangana. The emergence of Telangana Rashtra Samithi's (TRS) shows the latest phase in the movement for statehood of Telangana. It is very unusual, if we observed with the TPS which emerged in view of Telangana demand and won the elections but no longer survived, very soon merged with the Congress due to political lobbying. Whereas TRS party was participated in elections on the issue of Telangana statehood and performed very well in various elections of local government, Assembly and parliament elections as well. There has been a lot of effort put into raising public awareness and drawing attention to the demand for separate statehood, both nationally and in the Telangana region. Given the injustice, carelessness, and discrimination that the people of this region have been facing in the state of Andhra Pradesh, it has been instrumental in demonstrating the significance of separate statehood. It has also made effective use of every available space for the party in a variety of

circumstances. In support of the demand for a separate Telangana state, it became the focal point of hope for many groups to gather and agitate at various movement events.

### **TRS Party on the issue of Telangana**

According to TRS (Telangana Rashtra Samithi) Party has submitted a brief report to Sri Krishna committee in response to the notice of the committee on the issue of Telangana in 2010. It stated that the reason for the apprehension of people to merge with Andhra then was the fear of exploitation, neglect and injustice in the unified state of Andhra Pradesh. The merger of Telangana was the result of influential politics with a number of promises and constitutional safeguards as a protection to the people of Telangana. These promises were made several times, but none of them was ever honoured and implemented really. In the process, Telangana became a victim of broken promises such as the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1956, the All Party Accord of January 1969, the Eight Point Formula and the Six Point Formula etc.

There are various political, economic, sociocultural, and linguistic facets to this Telangana State problem. It is coupled with the desire for self-rule and a sense of self-respect. 1. The region's natural and financial resources are diverted to support the growth of other regions. As a result, this region continues to lag behind other coastal Andhra regions in terms of economic development; 2. The Telangana region's leadership completely loses its influence and authority on the political front. The party believed that political presence had been discriminatory. The lack of political voice causes neglect and discrimination of this region by the powerful leaders of Seema-Andhra region. 3. The electronic and print media and the cinema industry have belittling the people of Telangana and their identity. Meanwhile their traditions, customs have been always interrupted which damage the self respect of the people.

### **Telangana Movement and Politics**

The establishment of national parties such as the Indian National Congress, Bharatiya Janatha Party, Communist Party of India, and CPI (M) Communist Party of India (Marxist) is necessary for the creation of Telangana state through the division of Andhra Pradesh. as well as other national regional parties. Since the creation of the Unified State of A.P., the Congress party has been in charge of Andhra Pradesh state affairs. From 1952 to 1983, 1989 to 1994, and 2004 to 2008 and 2009, this party ruled the state. The Congress party can form a state government in this state alone, unlike any other in South India. The Congress party plays a significant role in the formation of states. But, the party has gained a doubtful name for mischievous tactics to gain political advantage and suppress the movement of Telangana statehood. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is also playing its role on the Telangana statehood since 1998. Communist Party of India and CPI (M) Communist Party of India (Marxist) being national parties opposed the formation of Telangana state. However, CPI changed stand and participating in the Telangana movement in recently after 2009 movement.

### **Telangana Movement - Politics of Telugu Desam Party**

On March 29, 1982, former Telugu movie star N.T. Rama Rao founded the Telugu Desam Party. On March 29, 1982, veteran and well-known Telugu film star N.T. Rama Rao

founded this party on the basis of the Telugu people's self-respect. Essentially, it is an integrationist party. He desired an alternative to the state's dominant Congress party. In the 8th Lok Sabha elections, he was elected Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh after the state won 30 of 42 Lok Sabha seats and 202 of 294 seats. Then, a regional party emerged as the biggest opposition party in the Indian Parliament for the first time.

The TDP subsequently lost the 1989 Assembly elections. The Telugu Desam Party then took control of the Assembly in 1994 after securing 219 of its 294 seats. For the third time, A.P. Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao was elected. In 1984, N.T. Rama Rao issued G.O. 610, which called for the repatriation of roughly 58,000 workers from the Telangana region to the corresponding districts in the Seemandhra region. (Bernstorff and Hugh Gray 1998:210) However, the G.O. has not yet been put into effect, disregarding the rightful claims of Telangana's jobless youth to these opportunities. The Telangana supporters persistently demanded for implementation of G.O 610 while Sri Chandra Babu Naidu was Chief Minister during 1995 to 2004. He has been delayed and prolonged the issue instead of implementing through appointing of committees such as Jaibharath Commission, Gilglani Commission and legislature committee headed by Mr. Prakash Reddy MLA.

In a sense, the Telugu Desam Party lost power to the Congress in the 2004 elections; it only managed to secure 12 MP seats in the general elections and 11 Assembly seats out of 100. The TDP was instrumental in the formation of the NDA government (1999–2004) by exerting pressure on the BJP to reject Telangana's demand for independent statehood when the three Northern states of Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, and Uttaranchal were established in 2000.

Following a crushing defeat in the 2004 General and Assembly elections, the TDP gradually altered its political approach regarding Telangana. By opposing Telangana State, it lost both its position as kingmaker at the center and its political clout in the state. The TDP is getting back to its roots and focusing on gaining more influence. The party adopted a stance of strategic neutrality regarding Telangana. Similar to their Congress counterparts, Telangana TDP leaders have adopted the Jai Telangana slogan solely to garner support in elections for local bodies, the state assembly, and the parliament. The people could not understand the real stand of the TDP party with regard to Telangana state formation. As general elections of parliament and state assembly elections coming closure, the TDP party announced a major shift in its policy towards Telangana, after long rounds of discussion with the polite bureau of TDP, declared that it would favour a separate state of Telangana fearing that it would lose the elections on 9th October, 2008. Previously TDP strongly opposed the separate statehood as it stood for a unified Andhra Pradesh. Sri Chandra Babu Naidu also gave a letter to Pranab Mukherjee committee that his party is also in favour of Telangana statehood.

It believed that division of the state will definitely disintegrate and weaken the party. In view of the nature this nature of the party, its stand towards formation of Telangana state appears to be negative absolutely and trying to be neutral frankly.

However, on December 9, 2009, Union Home Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram announced central government policy regarding the Telangana issue, fully exposing the T.D.P.'s

dual stance. The TDP party's leaders publicly opposed Telangana state's creation. In the meantime, the Telugu Desam party's MPs and MLAs from the Andhra region have all resigned from their positions in the state assembly and parliament. In view of Telangana agitations at peak, then the Chief Minister of A.P K. Rosaiah convened all party meeting on 7th December, there the president of TDP party declared that his party will abide the decision of the state and Central government with regard to formation of Telangana state. But he has reversed his earlier stand after Union Minister's announcement in favour of Telangana state. Like Congress party, the Telugu Desam Party also tried to its level best to avail electoral gains on the eve of elections to get people's votes and reversing their stand immediately after election results are announced. Thus TDP party has been adopting a wait and sees policy with regard to the issue of Telangana state formation.

### **B.J.P Party and its Stand on Telangana Statehood**

Smaller states are generally preferred by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the sake of easier governance and electoral gains. The party decided to create smaller states as part of its political agenda. During its Kakinada state executive meeting in 1998, on the eve of general elections, the BJP adopted a resolution that called for one vote for two states (Telangana and Seemandhra) as part of its policy extension. However, during the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in 2000, Telangana state was excluded when three new states—Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand—were formed from the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar, respectively. Mr. Chandrababu Naidu and Venkaiah Naidu's intervention against the formation of Telangana state. However, the party after defeated in General elections 2004, realized its mistake and taken a positive stands and adopted a resolution at state and central executive bodies. The BJP party also coming out with open stand in regard to the reorganization of states. The parliamentary party leader Mrs. Sushma Swaraj raised the issue of Telangana at many times in Lok Sabha and offered party support unconditionally in formation of Telangana state. However, BJP party again recommended the demand for smaller states in its election manifesto of 2009. Moreover; it has asserted that the party always in favour of creation of smaller states in India and it was during the NDA's (National Democratic Alliance) regime only that the three small states were created as stated above. (BJP Manifesto: 2009) The BJP party in future also keeping in mind its promise to good governance and all round development, would encourage the cause of smaller States. The party was emphasized and supports the creation of Telangana as a part of the commitment to its policy on new states.

### **Telangana Statehood and Politics of Congress Party**

At the state and federal levels, the Coastal Andhra region's Congress political leaders have been acting in a highly dubious manner. The majority of the chief ministers from the Seemandhra region have been viewed as strong and working against the interests of the Telangana region's citizens since Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy's administration. In favor of Telangana, the Gentlemen's Agreement was not implemented. Whenever the movement for Telangana came into force, the Seemandhra leaders manipulated the opinion of the central government against the formation of

Telangana state and implementation of safeguards to the people of Telangana as well. The movement of Jai Telangana 1969 was oppressed by the then Chief Minister Mr. Kasu Bramhananda Reddy who was also issued the G.O.36 in view of transfer nearly about 25000 employees of Andhra region in Telangana to their respective districts but could not be implemented.

In 1969, when Telangana was at its height of independence, it was led by workers and students. However, Congress leader Mr. Marri Chenna Reddy and his supporters joined the Telangana agitation and formed the Telangana Praja Samithi (TPS) 1969 party. Through this party, he ran for office in 1971 and won 11 of the 14 parliamentary seats. He later rejoined the Congress party once more in order to obtain personal benefits such as positions as governor and minister. However, the TPS was merged with the Congress. Afterwards, a reorganized TPS was formed but could not lead the Telangana movement. Congress party through its manipulations tried to crush the Telangana movement by offering political positions to its leaders. The popular sentiment of the people for separate Telangana state was enmeshed by the Congress party itself and the disguised leaders like G. Venkata Swamy, Mallikarjun, Madan Mohan and M. Sthyana Narayana Rao enjoyed political positions for long time in the Congress, through the leadership of Mr. Marri Chenna Reddy. Lakhs of employees and students those who participated in the movement for Telangana got upset and lost patience felt dissatisfied which further caused these people to fight for separate statehood.

Few organizations frequently advocated for Telangana statehood, which represented the state's citizens' desire at the time. The Congress party was the opposition party in both the state assembly and Parliament. Since 1999, the Congress party has exploited Telangana's circumstances and sentiment to increase its electoral share. Additionally, Congress participation in Telangana's movement has gradually increased. By pledging to support Telangana statehood, the Congress party forged an alliance with the TRS party and established Zilla Parishads in the local body elections. As a result, the Telangana issue has benefited the Congress party. The leader of the opposition party Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy during the period of 1994-2004, encouraged some 41 MLA's of Telangana region to project themselves as a group lobbying for Telangana state. This group of MLA's went with Dr. K. Jayashankar and submitted a memorandum to Mrs. Gandhi, Pranab Mukherjee and other key leaders at the centre to take a decision in favour of Telangana state formation. Meanwhile, keeping in view of the 2004 elections, their electoral gains and capture power at the state and centre also, Telangana Congress leaders formed "Telangana Congress Forum" under the guidance of Mr. Chinna Reddy so as to give an impression to the people of Telangana and TRS party at the state and central level that Telangana state is possible Congress party when it came to power.

TRS party was also joined the both state and central government cabinets. A committee was constituted under the chairman of Sri. Pranab Mukherjee of UPA government. Moreover, the Congress party was also included the Telangana issue in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) in 2004. The TRS party was agreed to make alliance with the Congress party in keeping view that they will accept the Telangana state if they came to power. Similarly, TRS parties keep on insisting the UPA

government regarding formation of Telangana state. But The UPA government declared in CMP that, it will take the issue of Telangana statehood with the consensus and approval of the members its UPA alliance. Thereafter, the President of India A.P.J. Abdul Kalam while addressing the both houses of the parliament referred the issue of Telangana on 7th June, 2004. He said that Telangana issue was included in the agenda of UPA government.

### **Communist Party of India & Communist Party of India (Marxist)**

At their representation meeting with the Sri Krishna Committee, the general secretary of the CPI (M) state unit stressed that the party's national policy, which opposes state division, meant that the CPI (M) opposed the division of Andhra Pradesh and, therefore, was not in favor of Telangana becoming its own state. He made it clear that the party's policy is founded on the idea that, in the event that smaller states are demanded, the autonomy of the states with regard to the Center may be jeopardized.

Where as in the case of CPI, the General Secretary of the state unit stated that an exception had been made by the national executive of CPI as far as Telangana demand is concerned, because of its wide popular demand for a separate statehood, although the national policy of the CPI is also against the bifurcation of states and not supported to creation of smaller states. (Sri Krishna Committee Report 2010:436) The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in principle, which has supported the formation of smaller states. The party also stated, it seems that political discussion in the country has not arrived at any complete agreement on the important subject of creation of new states.

### **Electoral politics of TRS Party**

The only reason Telangana Rashtra Samithi was formed was to establish Telangana state. The party has frequently stated that the Telangana movement's combination of lobbying and political participation is its primary strategy for achieving Telangana statehood, rather than electoral gains. Nonetheless, it has been taking part in parliamentary and local body elections since 2001. In reality, electoral gains were seen as crucial, despite the fact that the party was founded for the Telangana state's independence. The TRS party has run independently in local body elections, but it shares authority with the Congress party in the Zilla, Mandal, and Gram panchayats. Similarly, TRS party forged an alliance with the Congress party for 2004 general elections. The party was considered winning elections as an important strategy. TRS joined an alliance with the Congress party after 2004 and shared power at the state and Centre, deviating from very objective of achieving Telangana state. The TRS party's president KCR and Narendra have joined in Manmohan Singh government and 6 MLA's of TRS in the Cabinet of YSR's government. They have joined with the alliance with the Congress party against the wishes of the Telangana people.

### **Role of TRS party in By-elections**

Since this is the response based on the actual situation, it is not surprising that the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) legislators resigned in support of the separate Telangana demand after the party's strong showing in the most recent by-elections. It has given the TRS party great confidence to claim that its election victory is a resounding verdict on

Telangana statehood and can be interpreted as a referendum on the matter. Thus, this election marked an important turning point and influenced greatly the dynamics of party politics in the Telangana movement. Mr.KCR had had gone for indefinite Hunger strike in view of attract the people's attention and improvise its party's popularity towards the demand of Telangana and slowly the movement picked up and reached to the level of such an extent to forced the central government to make declaration in this regard. Consequently, the Union Home Minister, P Chidambaram has announced that the process of formation of Telangana state would be initiated on 9th December 2009. As a result of the mass mobilization, people cutting across political lines have come forward to support the demand separate Telangana which seems to put an end to the long pending issue of Telangana.

### Conclusion

The TRS party was founded and grew out of the discontent of its leaders who believed that the Andhra Pradesh State mechanism was ignoring the Telangana region. Furthermore, Telangana has been neglected as a result of the incorrect implementation of all the agreements, accords, and assurances made on the Assembly and Lok Sabha floor, according to the TRS party. Through electoral politics, the TRS party formed alliances with the Congress party and the Telugu Desam Party in an attempt to elevate the Telangana movement to a higher level. As a result, TRS had established its political system both at the state and federal levels. The movement for Telangana state has always become a political agenda. Though students, employees, people have been joining the movement in 1969-Jai Telangana movement and emergence of TRS party in 2001 onwards it has become a political issue. In 1969 TPS led the movement meanwhile TRS took initiative to struggle and fight for separate statehood. But due to some political tactics the movement was not run properly to express the aspirations of the people at the expected level. Each and every political party in the state of Andhra Pradesh has been utilized the people's sentiment. Political parties in their manifestos supported before and during elections namely (1999, 2004, 2009) respectively and divert and distract the issue of Telangana after won the elections. The Congress party would come first in terms availing the sentiment of the people for its electoral gains on different occasions. BJP party was also encouraged the Telangana before 1999 elections but could not able to formed the Telangana state due to pressure and opposition the its Coalition partner TDP party. Hence, all the political parties have availed the issue of Telangana for their electoral gains and capture power at the both centre as well as states.

Since regionalism has inherent political self-interests, there is a growing call for a smaller state. For the purpose of gaining votes nationwide, the political parties are igniting regional demands. In the meantime, discriminatory policies prevent state governments from eliminating development imbalances. Furthermore, the safeguards, commitments, and guarantees meant to lessen regional disparities were not carried out by the succeeding administrations. The growing awareness among the people of backward regions that they are being neglected and discriminated against promoted the feeling of regionalism along with the regional disparities. The political leaders completely try to gain advantage of this situation and endeavour to project themselves as the

champions of certain regions in order to maintain and preserve their political positions. Demands for smaller states have been regular phenomenon of India politics since the formation of Andhra state in the Indian federation.

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