

A STUDY ON THE TELANGANA STATE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND EMERGING CHALLENGES AFTER ONE DECADE OF ITS FORMATION

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Abstract:

The movement for the statehood of Telangana included many political factions, public protests, and negotiations with the central government. The objective of regional autonomy, development, and equitable resource distribution served as the main impetus behind it. The creation of Telangana as an independent state was a significant event in the history of India. Furthermore, it provided a basis for tackling the specific concerns and needs that are unique to the Telangana region. Telangana has a rich cultural heritage and a distinct identity. The present paper is an attempt to answer what factors helped to form the Telangana state and what are the major achievements and challenges after formation of one decade. The state is renowned for its historically important sites, remarkable architecture, vibrant festivals, and rich heritage in traditional arts and crafts. The struggle for Telangana to get statehood included several political factions, public protests, and negotiations with the central government. The pursuit of regional autonomy, growth, and equitable resource distribution served as the primary impetus for this endeavor. The creation of Telangana as an independent state was a significant event in the history of India. Furthermore, it provided a basis for tackling the specific concerns and needs that are unique to the Telangana region.

Keywords: Equitable resources, Regional Politics, Regional Autonomy, Cultural identity, Traditional arts.

1. Introduction:

A number of different political groups, public agitations, and discussions with the federal government were all part of the campaign for Telangana to become a state. The goal for regional autonomy, development, and equal allocation of resources was the driving force behind it. The establishment of Telangana as a sovereign state was a momentous occasion in the annals of Indian history. It also served as a foundation for addressing the particular issues and requirements that are distinct to the Telangana area.^[1]

The day that commemorates the establishment of the state of Telangana is known as Telangana Formation Day, and it is observed annually on June 2nd. Telangana is one of the 29 states that make up India. It was separated from the state of on June 2, 2014, making it one of the states.^[2]

A political issue that had been going on for a long time in India was the desire for Telangana to be a separate state. Those who advocated for this demand said that it would provide more regional autonomy and development. After a number of years of demonstrations, negotiations, and political debates, the Andhra

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Pradesh Reorganization Act was finally approved by the Indian Parliament in 2014.^[3] This was the event that ultimately resulted in Telangana being established as a distinct state.

The state of Telangana has a cultural legacy that is abundant and a unique personality of its own. The state is well-known for its historically significant landmarks, architectural wonders, lively festivals, and traditional arts and crafts history. On Telangana Formation Day, the inhabitants of the state celebrate their distinct identity, the development they have made, and the accomplishments they have accomplished to far.

Over the course of many decades, the fight for Telangana's independence as a state was a protracted and difficult process that lasted for a considerable amount of time. Under the jurisdiction of the unified state of Andhra Pradesh, the notion that the area had been ignored in terms of development, representation, and resources was the primary impetus behind the desire for a separate state for Telangana.^[4]

“The first Chief Minister (CM) of Telangana, K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), who led the latter phase of the Telangana movement with 'Neellu, Nidhulu, and Niyamakalu' (Water, Funds, and Jobs), makes use of the financial resources” that are available to him in order to fulfill his election promises and some of the goals of the fight for a separate state.

2. Telangana's statehood movement: major factors and obstacles^[5-7]

The following is a list of significant characteristics and challenges that are associated with the Telangana statehood movement:

1. **Historical Context:** The desire for a distinct state of Telangana can be traced back to the early 1950s, when the States Reorganization Commission (SRC) was established with the purpose of reorganizing the Indian states based on linguistic and administrative considerations. The state of Telangana, which had a sizeable population of people who spoke Telugu, was amalgamated with Andhra Pradesh, which had a population that spoke Andhra more than any other language. There were certain politicians in Telangana who were opposed to this choice because they were afraid of being discriminated against and neglected.
2. **Political Movements:** Telangana has seen a rise in the number of political groups and movements that support statehood over time. Over the course of the early phases of the struggle, the Telangana Praja Samithi (TPS), which was established by Marri Chenna Reddy in 1969, was an extremely important organization. Subsequently, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), which K. Chandrashekar Rao headed, developed as a powerful political party with the primary objective of attaining statehood for Telangana.
3. **Large-Scale rallies and Agitations:** Telangana saw large-scale agitations, strikes, and rallies calling for “the creation of a separate state. The Telangana Joint Action Committee (TJAC),” which is a coalition of diverse political, social, and student groups, was established in the early 2000s, which was a milestone that contributed to the movement's growth and development. To bring attention to the demands for Telangana statehood, the Telangana Joint Action Committee (TJAC) conducted large-scale demonstrations, public meetings, and protests.
4. **Fast until Death:** In 2009, TRS leader K. Chandrashekar Rao embarked on a fast till death, which was considered a pivotal event throughout the battle. Over the course of eleven days, he went on a hunger

strike, which generated a significant amount of popular support and put pressure on the central government to take action about the Telangana problem.

5. **Political Negotiations:** The desire for Telangana to become a state developed into a big political issue in the national arena. In order to address the issues and find a solution, the central government established a number of committees and engaged in talks with political leaders from all sectors of the political spectrum. In 2014, the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act was finally approved, which ultimately resulted in the establishment of Telangana as a distinct geographical region.

The campaign for Telangana to become a state involved various political groups, public agitations, and discussions with the federal government. The goal of regional autonomy, development, and equal resource allocation was the driving force behind it. The establishment of Telangana as a sovereign state was a momentous occasion in the annals of Indian history. It also served as a foundation for addressing the particular issues and requirements that are distinct to the Telangana area.

3. Telangana's Major Accomplishments:

"Economy," "Electricity," and "Empowerment" are three major categories that may be used to categorize the most significant accomplishments that Telangana has made since becoming an independent state.

3.1. Economy:

Over the course of the last eight years, Telangana has regularly shown positive development in terms of its gross domestic product (GDP). Its Gross Domestic Product "(GDP) growth at constant prices (2011-12) climbed from 6.8 percent in 2014-15 to 11.2 percent in 2021-22, while the contribution of the youngest state to India's GDP at Current Prices increased from 4.1 percent to 4.9 percent between 2014-15 and 2021-22."¹⁸ According to current pricing, "Telangana's gross state domestic product (GSDP) has more than doubled in the last eight years, going from 5.1 lakh crore to 11.6 lakh crore."

In a similar vein, "the state's per capita income (PCI) at current prices has increased by more than twofold, going from Rs 1,24,104 in 2014-2015 to Rs 2,78,833 in 2021-22. The all India PCI at Current Prices has not even doubled throughout this time span, which is a significant difference."¹⁹

In addition, the proportion of the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) that accounts for agricultural and related industries has climbed from 16.3 percent in 2014-2015 to 18.3 percent in 2021-22. This represents a significant increase.

Because agriculture is responsible for the employment of 48.4 percent of Telangana's population, the growth of agriculture is of utmost importance for the state.

In spite of this, Telangana continues to face issues such as regional inequity in terms of development and the attraction of investments. Districts such as Sangareddy and Rangareddy, for instance, were able to attract investments in the industrial sector totaling more than Rs 16,000 crore between the years 2015 and January 2022. On the other hand, districts such as "Mulugu and Adilabad did not get even Rs 100 crore in investments during this time period."

3.2. Electricity:

An growth in the generation of 'Electricity' is one of the key accomplishments that the state has accomplished.

Due to the fact that Telangana is a semi-arid and plateau area, the surface level of rivers such as the Godavari and Krishna is much lower than the surface level of the majority of the state. As a result, the agricultural sector of Telangana is reliant on borewells.

A glimmer of hope was provided by the decision made by the state administration to supply free power to farmers around the clock. To put this into action, the state administration has concentrated its efforts mostly on the electricity industry in the first few years of its existence.

At the time of its creation in 2014, Telangana was experiencing “a peak demand deficit of 2,700 megawatts (MW) and a load relief of four to eight hours.” Additionally, businesses in the state were required to implement two power outages every single week.

In Telangana, “the installed capacity of electricity increased from 9,470 MW in 2014-15 to 17,218 MW in 2020-21 as a result of the emphasis of the state government and the collaboration of the union government.”^[10] Because of this, “Telangana has become the only state that provides free electricity to 25.92 lakh agricultural” users around the clock, seven days a week, and maintains continuous supply to both the industrial and service sectors equally.

Over the course of the 2014-2015 fiscal year, “the state government has incurred a total expenditure of Rs 39,200 crore on subsidies to the agricultural industry for the complimentary supply of electricity. At the national level, Telangana is the state that uses the biggest amount of electricity for agricultural purposes, which is 41.25 percent (24077 GWh out of a total energy sales of 58,365 GWh).”^[11]

On the other hand, this preeminence of agriculture in the electricity sector, which is fueled by subsidies, has the potential to become an unavoidable burden on the state's finances in future years.

At the same time, the fact that thermal power accounts for 55% of the total is not a very progressive component. The percentage of total installed capacity that is comprised of renewable energy in Telangana is 22 percent, which is the lowest among the southern Indian states. In contrast, the percentage of renewable energy in neighboring Karnataka is 65 percent.

3.3. Empowerment:

The seats of power have been moved closer to the general population as a result of the reorganization of administration that took place in 2014, which included expanding the number of districts from ten to thirty-three. This move, in conjunction with the state's continually strong economic development, has contributed to a rise in the rate of “land prices throughout the state.”

“The state government has made a number of efforts, such as providing agricultural investment support of Rs 10,000 per acre each year to 63 lakh beneficiaries under the Rythu Bandhu scheme; increasing the overall gross irrigated area from 62.48 lakh acres (in 2014-15) to 136.86 lakh acres (in 2020-21) through the commissioning and completion of irrigation schemes and projects, such as the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project, renovating 27,665 minor irrigation tanks and water bodies under the 'Mission Kakatiya,' etc., which has resulted in the economic empowerment of the agriculture-dependent rural Telangana.”^[12]

Entrepreneurs in the state have been given more influence as a result of the implementation of programs such as TS iPASS, which aims to offer permissions to all projects within a period of thirty days. Under the TS iPASS program, 18,761 projects totaling 2,26,806 crores of rupees were authorized between the years 2014-2015 and 2021-22.^[13]

An additional accomplishment that has occurred since the foundation of Telangana is the empowerment of

young people via the expansion of employment possibilities. For instance, the number of employment in the information technology industry alone has doubled from 3.7 lakh to 6.28 lakh between the years 2014-2015 and 2020-21.

As part of Mission Bhagiratha, which was initiated in 2016, the government of Telangana made sure that every family in “23,890 rural and 121 urban habitations” had access to drinking water from the tap. Among the families in the state, one hundred percent have functioning tap connections, as shown by the statistics provided by the Jal Jeevan Mission of the center. Through the reduction in the amount of work that women had to put in to get water for their homes, our mission has helped women feel more powerful.

However, the progress that has been made on this front is being derailed by problems like as the growing wealth disparity, claims of power consolidation, and the inability to enhance “government job recruitment, which is one of the primary objectives of the Telangana movement.”

4. Challenges and the need for a new course of action

“As understood from the above information, the KCR-led Telangana state government has given the agricultural and irrigation sector” has been of paramount significance since the establishment of the State.

The escalating State subsidies and mounting debt load have prompted concerns over the development paradigm, especially in light of “the Sri Lankan economic crisis.”

Therefore, “the newest state of India, despite its many accomplishments over the last eight years,” need a fresh course with updated goals.

For instance, Telangana is deficient in regional-level infrastructural amenities such as expressways. In addition, there has been no growth of mass public transit in Hyderabad, such as the metro rail.

Despite having the necessary financial capacity, Telangana has not constructed any new expressways in the last eight years, in contrast to Uttar Pradesh which, despite being significantly poorer, has implemented many expressway projects throughout the northern state.

Constructing expressways will facilitate the dispersion of growth and prosperity from the highly concentrated “Hyderabad mega-city to the surrounding interior areas.”

“In Hyderabad, the Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP)” is specifically aimed at constructing flyovers and roadways. Unlike other major cities such as “Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai, who are quickly developing their metro rail networks, Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) now covers just 69 km. Phase II of HMR, which is still in the design stage, is expected to add an additional 31 km.”

Despite “the services and industries sector being the largest sector in Telangana's economy, accounting for 61% and 20.4% of the Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in 2021-22, it has not been given the necessary emphasis.”

Hyderabad, a metropolis, and its adjacent regions serve as the primary driving force behind the economy of Telangana and contribute significantly to the state's financial resources.

As an example, the value of “IT exports from Hyderabad has grown from Rs 66,276 crore to Rs 1.4 lakh crore during the last eight years. However, it is significantly far from Bengaluru, which had IT exports amounting to 4.5 lakh crore.”

Therefore, rather than being satisfied with its wealth generation since its establishment, Telangana must persist in its endeavors to surpass expectations. Failure to practice frugality and prioritize wisely for immediate

political advantages might impede the long-term development of the state, especially considering the growing rivalry “among Indian states and cities globally.”

In order to stimulate “the next phase of expansion, Telangana” should prioritize the dissemination of Hyderabad's affluence to its rural areas, constructing top-notch infrastructure, and reducing the expenses associated with doing business.

One approach to do this is by implementing rapidly growing mass transport systems, such as “the metro in Hyderabad, and undertaking RRTS (Regional Rapid transport System) projects comparable to Delhi NCR.” These projects would aim to link Hyderabad with other major centers in the state.

Telangana has the requisite financial capability, whereas the crucial need lies in the presence of political determination.^[14]

5. Conclusion

A number of political factions, together with popular agitations and talks with the federal government, worked to make Telangana a state.^[15] It was motivated by the desire for fair distribution of resources, development, and regional autonomy. A watershed event in Indian history occurred with the creation of the independent state of Telangana. The unique problems and needs of the Telangana region might be better addressed on top of that. There is a wealth of cultural heritage and distinct character in the Indian state of Telangana.^[16] Historic sites, beautiful buildings, exciting festivals, and a rich culture of handicrafts have brought the state great fame. The effort to get Telangana recognized as a state included a variety of political factions, popular movements, and talks with the federal government.^[17] The main reason for its creation was the desire for less centralization and more equitable distribution of resources on a regional level. A watershed event in Indian history occurred with the creation of the independent state of Telangana. The unique problems and needs of the Telangana region might be better addressed on top of that.

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