



The demand for new statehood in Indian federalism with reference to the Telangana

Hema

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India

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Abstract

State reorganization process is not only a subject of administrative reform in India, but it is also related to regional identity, linguistic diversity, cultural identity, economic disparities, and political representation. Creation of the State of Telangana in 2014 has been an important event in Indian federalism which brought back the demands of new states such as Vidarbha, Gorkhaland, Bodoland, and Bundelkhand in the national discussion. The paper analyses the background of the formation of the State of Telangana, and its social, political, and economic issues and its impact on Indian federalism. This study employs qualitative research approach, descriptive and analytical design, case study method. It involves the analysis of the report of the States Reorganization Commission, the Srikrishna Committee report, the parliamentary debates, the government reports, and the literature review. The research shows that creation of new states may be one of the ways of democratic expression of regional interests. but it does not guarantee development and good governance. It requires efficient administration, fair redistribution of resources and implementation of inclusive policies. The research gives many useful recommendations for policy makers in state reorganization in the context of Indian federalism.

Keywords: Telangana, state reorganisation, new state movements, Indian federalism, cooperative federalism, regional identity

Introduction

Most societies are multiethnic, multicultural, and multilingual, like India. This study shows that the formation of a new state is not just administrative restructuring, but also it is the decision of social, economic, and political experience. For example, formation of the Telangana was not only a political demand, rather it involved regional identity, economic disparity political representation. This study explains what the causes of the emergence of demands of new states are and how the formation of the Telangana state affects new demands of states such as Gorkhaland, Vidarbha and Bodoland, also examining how it affects Indian federalism. As a result, new state formation reflects the nature of federalism, like centre-state relations. (Saxena,2020) ^[28]

The purpose of this study is to understand why state demands appear and the impact of state demands on Indian federalism, and how the federal structure accommodates these demands. Constitution of India Article 3, which empowers the Parliament to form a new state by the separation of territory from any state or unite or merge two or more states or parts of states. how new demands were affected by the Telangana state formation. The Telangana movement was highlighted because of regional identity, economic inequality, and political representation, as well as an original approach to federalism. Tillin stated that the creation of new states is not based on ethnic or regional identity, but on social, political, and economic power and institutional shifts (Tillin,2013) ^[34]. I will employ the qualitative method. The analysis will be comparable, comparing Telangana with other statehood requirements such as Gorkhaland, Vidarbha and Bodoland to understand the general trends in state-building. Primary sources will include the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) Report, 1955 ^[33], based on its recommendation establishment of the State Reorganisation Act in 1956, the Srikrishna Committee (SKC) Report, 2010 ^[31], Telangana

Assembly Debates, Central and State Government Documents and Data, and. Lok Sabha, and Rajya Sabha Discussions. Secondary sources will include scholarly books, research papers, government documents, and news records. There are studies on state demands in the existing literature, focused on regional identities, on growth and inequality. However, a glaring research issue is that the processes of state formation have been little analysed from the perspective of the changing character of Indian federalism, particularly cooperative federalism. The Telangana movement has been viewed as a regional or political struggle, but how it affects Centre-State relations, resource-sharing, and institutional cooperation must be examined in depth (Saxena,2020) ^[28].

The significance of this study is that it highlights the dynamism of Indian federalism, its resilience, and the political process of institutionalising regional aspirations. Telangana state-building showed that federalism is not only a constitutional framework, but a collaborative arrangement in which the Centre and the state jointly provide democratic solutions. It focuses on why the demands for the state arise in India and how it is affected by the formation of the Telangana state. What impact do these demands have on Indian federalism? Analysis of this through the example of the State of Telangana. India's strong federalism continues, new state demands are emerging, and cooperative federalism tries to accommodate these demands in India.

Theoretical Framework

Cooperative federalism provides the basis for understanding how the Centre and the States make decisions through dialogue, committees, commissions, and parliamentary processes. Cooperative federalism is important where big states are available, also there are linguistic, ethnic, and cultural differences, economic inequality, and uneven development (Saxena, 2021) ^[29]. The process of coordination through institutional platforms such as the

Finance Commission, Inter-State Council, State Reorganisation Commission (SRC), and Sri Krishna Committee (SKC) report during the formation of Telangana statehood confirms this approach (Saxena, 2011; Saxena, 2020; Tillin, 2006) ^[15, 28]. Cooperative federalism also shows that state building is not just a result of political will but is a result of the constitutional framework and institutional process, in which the involvement of various stakeholders is guaranteed.

Cooperative federalism, contrasted with dual federalism, emphasises mutual dependence, coordination, and joint action (Saxena, 2021) ^[29]

Rekha Saxena has devoted considerable attention to institutional coordination and political adjustment in Indian federalism. she said that state restructuring is not just a legislative process, but it is a means of setting up consensus between the central and regional political powers (Saxena, 2020) ^[28]. This was clear in the Telangana movement when the Centre set up a dialogue with agitators and regional parties through institutional investigations such as the Srikrishna Committee (SKC, 2010) ^[9], allowing legitimacy and transparency to be achieved. Additionally, ensuring a multi-stakeholder consensus, such as the participation of various regional parties and civil society groups, is part of the core principle of cooperative federalism Rekha (Saxena, 2011).

Daniel J. Eleazar observes federalism as a form of partnership and perpetual bargaining. He asserts that federal relations are a combination of conflict and cooperation, and both governments must constantly negotiate to achieve shared goals (Eleazar, 1987). In the context of Telangana, the state formation was the result of coalition politics at the Centre and political negotiations with the TRS. The agreement on the watershed (Krishna and Godavari) and the shared capital issues of Hyderabad prove this partnership model (Tillin, 2013) ^[34].

William H. Riker (1964) ^[27] argues that federalism is a political compromise, in which federal decisions are the result of the rational political calculation of the leaders. At a time when the Central Government (UPA-II) needed the help of regional parties, Telangana was formed. The agitators gained the state, and the centre gained short-term political gains, resulting in Riker's principle of political compromise (Riker, 1964) ^[27]. Theoretically, the combination of these three approaches Saxena's institutional model, Eleazar's partnership model, and Riker's calculation model shows that cooperative federalism is an important mechanism in Indian federalism that balances economic heterogeneity and competitive pressures through institutional dialogue, bargaining, and political calculation (Saxena, 2011; 2021 Elazar, 1987; Riker, 1964; SKC, 2010; Tillin, 2013; watts, 1999) ^[5, 23, 27, 29, 34, 35].

Case Study: Telangana

Historical Background: Hyderabad State to SRC Recommendations

Telangana's political and social history is particularly influenced by the princely state of Hyderabad. Hyderabad merged with India through "Operation Polo" in 1948, but the Telangana region remained as an independent administrative unit for a lengthy period. The region was linguistically, socially, and administratively separate from the coastal Andhra and Rayala regions (George, 2023; Gray, 1971) ^[10].

After the formation of Andhra state in 1953 ^[16], the reorganization of states on linguistic lines became a major issue in national debate. The States Reorganisation Commission (SRC), set up in 1955 ^[33], were initially, creation of the state based on language. This was successful attempt to merge administrative behaviour with diversity or differences. But this was not enough to solve regional dissatisfaction permanently. but later, demands of new states appear not only based on language but also identity such as ethnicity, culture, regionalism, and distribution of resources for example jobs, natural resources water, electricity, related to development. so SRC Recommended that Telangana be merged with Andhra at once. The SRC stated that Telangana is economically weakened, there is no fair distribution of resources, and the immediate merger will increase the apprehensions of the local population. The majority of the SRC's recommendations were that Telangana should remain a separate state for at least five years, and later the legislature should decide on the merger (States Reorganisation Commission [SRC], 1955; Pingle & Jaiswal, 2012) ^[18, 33].

Gentlemen's Agreement (1956)

Opposing the recommendations of the SRC, the SRC recommended that Telangana should not be merged so quickly because there are economic differences, it is backward, but still Telangana was merged with Andhra Pradesh in 1956 under pressure from the Centre and political compromises. To make this merger acceptable, the Gentlemen's Agreement was held, which included the following assurances, Isolated use of revenue (Telangana Regional Council) Priority to local youth in government jobs, Regional Balance in Education and Development Plans And Proper representation in the Assembly Over time, these promises often broke down, leading to a "crisis of confidence" in Telangana and creating a political ground for mass movements (Reddy, 1987; George, 2022; Mallareddy, 2014) ^[14, 25, 26]

Backwardness and Internal Colonialism

The main idea of the Telangana movement was that the Andhra and Rayala regions had imposed internal colonialism on Telangana. This includes Inequity in the water resources, especially the Krishna and Godavari rivers (Ram Reddy, 2013) ^[22], Immense benefits of coastal Andhra in irrigation and industries (Rao, 2014) ^[24], Sectoral development plans to be concentrated in other areas, and Domination of outsiders in universities and government jobs. These complaints were not just emotional also Budget, employment and water distribution figures continued to clearly show regional disparities. The Telangana movement emphasized the concept of "just development" and "sharing of resources" (Rao, 2014; Ram Reddy, 2013; Gray, 1971; kumar 2014) ^[10, 22, 24].

Mulki Rules and the 1969 Telangana Agitation

Under the "Mulki Rules", residents should have a priority in government employment. After the merger, the rules were enforced, and people from outside districts began obtaining jobs. In 1969, the issue appeared as a larger student-led movement in the Jai Telangana Movement. The movement transformed local discontent, employment issues, and administrative neglect into a political agenda. However, despite the pressure, the movement set up the foundation for

a distinct identity and political identity of Telangana (Kulkarni, 1970; George, 2022) ^[13, 25].

KCR and the TRS Movement (2001–2014) ^[14]

K. Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR) founded the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). TRS redefines the Telangana issue at three levels: The question of identity assertion, Justice in Development (Equitable Development) and Right to Political Representation encompasses right to participation in public affairs, right to elected or right to vote based on universal suffrage, right to access to public service and freedom from discrimination based on class, caste, gender, and culture (Koderma Ram, 2003; George, 2023) ^[21]

The TRS created a broader political narrative by linking historical grievances (SRC, Gentlemen's Agreement, Mulki Rules) to contemporary development inequalities and issues of resource distribution. Students, employees, women, farmers, and cultural organizations were organized on a common platform and transformed the movement into a statewide mass movement (George, 2023) ^[19].

Srikrishna Committee (SKC) Report (2010) ^[31]

The central government set up the Srikrishna Committee (SKC) to study the Telangana demand. The report recommended five practical solutions, including the creation of the Telangana state. Important Findings, Signs of Economic Neglect in Telangana (SKC, 2010 George, 2023) ^[31], Historical Inequality in Resource Distribution, Maintaining the United States could increase regional discontent, to create new state "viable and sustainable solution" The committee did not suggest statehood as the primary option due to security and political opposition, as well as the opposition to Seemandhra and internal security concerns (George, 2023).

Formation of Telangana (2014) ^[14]

After the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 ^[1] and prolonged agitations and political pressure, Telangana became the 29th state of India on 2 June 2014 ^[14]. This decision was a milestone in the history of Indian federalism, showing that democratic and institutional processes can lead to peaceful solutions to regional disagreements (George, 2023) ^[19].

Why Telangana Became a Successful Statehood Movement

Louise Tillin (2013) ^[34] stated that there are two main reasons for the success of Telangana: Coalition Politics where multiple parties cooperate and collaborate to run government, where dialogue is necessary to take decision or make policy it means there is no single party in dominance so mostly decision based on consensus which are more inclusive or representative. Coalitions are mostly temporary based, if disagreements happen among parties so it leads to the collapse of government that create instability also it provides a system of checks and balances which can help to make government responsible transparent accountable and democratic and reduce of risk to become authoritarian government. The coalition governments at the Centre needed the support of regional parties. The TRS exerted a strategic influence on the UPA and other alliances. Institutional Change, The SRC, SKC, parliamentary committees, and assembly resolutions were used to resolve the Andhra-Telangana administrative stalemate. Long-term stability was supported by taking the constitutional

approach. Thus, the success of Telangana was attributed to a combination of social struggle, political strategy, and institutional processes (Tillin, 2013 ^[34], George, 2023).

Gorkhaland Movement (West Bengal)

Historical and Ethnic Background

The demand for Gorkhaland is based on the distinct ethno-cultural identity of the Indian Gorkha community of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and the surrounding hilly areas (Pradhan, 2023) ^[19]. The Gurkhas claim that their language, culture, and historical experience are different from Bengal's mainstream. This demand began in 1907, but it became an intense movement in the 1980s under the leadership of the GNLFF (Pradhan, 2023) ^[19].

Gorkhas are often referred to as "Nepalis", causing them to suffer from an outsider stigma (Nivedita, 2021). The requirement for the removal of certain sections of the Indo-Nepal Treaty (1950) is to reduce this identity-related insecurity and eviction concerns.

Cultural and Identity Claims

The Nepali community of Darjeeling is considered an unassimilated minority in comparison to the Bengali community. The Nepali language and Hindu religion strengthened the Pahari communities (Lepcha, Bhutia, Nepali) and gave them a distinct identity from the plainsmen (Pradhan, 2023) ^[19]. The main task of the community is to separate itself but remain within India, to ensure an Indian Gorkha identity (Pradhan, 2023; Nivedita, 2022) ^[19, 25].

Economic and Political Grievances

The grievances are caused by the lack of resources and in the region, such as the underdevelopment of the Tea, Timber, and Tourism industries. Hydropower capacity using only 45MW out of 2000MW and persistent water scarcity increased dissatisfaction, Discrimination for Nepali speakers in government jobs and education, and the lack of IAS/IPS/IFS officers created a sense of internal colonialism. The GJMM contends that the creation of a separate state will increase employment, trade, and growth (Pradhan, 2023) ^[19].

Political History and Mobilisation

From 1907 to 1917, there was a requirement for a separate administrative position for Darjeeling (Pradhan, 2023) ^[19]. In 1947, the CPI proposed Gorkhas by merging Darjeeling, South Sikkim, and Nepal (Pradhan, 2023) ^[19]. In the 1980s, the GNLFF put forward three main demands: Separate State Gorkhaland, Recognition of Nepali language in the 8th Schedule and Indo-Nepal Treaty (1950) (Pradhan, 2023) ^[19]. In 1988, the GNLFF entered into an agreement for DGHC (Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council). In 2007, GJMM (Bimal Gurung) again raised the demand for the entire state of Gorkhaland. His slogan was: "First the land, then the bread and water" (Pradhan, 2023) ^[19]. Autonomous bodies such as the DGHC and GTA were created, but the movement continued due to economic and administrative disparities (Pradhan, 2023; Nivedita, 2022) ^[19].

Socio-Economic and Identity-Based Factors

The Gorkhaland movement is based on identity assertion and economic deprivation. The Tea estates crisis, unemployment, and the failure of the DGHC/GTA re-

accelerated the movement. The sub-nationalist tension proved that identity-based state demand is essential for regional autonomy, cultural recognition, and fair development. Counter-arguments asserted that becoming a small state does not guarantee the improvement of living conditions and limited resources.

As a result, The Gorkhaland Movement is an example of the need for identity-based in India. This movement is not just cultural or linguistic alienation, but it is also driven by economic deprivation, administrative neglect, and lack of political support. The DGHC and GTA provided temporary solutions, but the demand for a separate state is still the primary issue for the community today (Pradhan, 2023; Nivedita, 2022) ^[19, 25].

Vidarbha Demand (Maharashtra)

The demand for Vidarbha (Eastern Maharashtra) is based on economic inequality and the unavoidable distribution of resources. The region is facing serious problems such as lack of irrigation, industrial backwardness, agrarian distress, and farmers' suicides (Gadgil, 1965) ^[6]. Main Complaints and Arguments: A large part of Maharashtra's budget was spent in Mumbai-Western Maharashtra (Nagpur Pact, 1953) ^[16]. Under the Nagpur Agreement, it was ensured that Vidarbha would get its fair share of its population-based financial allocation. The Vidarbhas argue that this agreement did not come into force, leading to economic and institutional inequality (Nagpur Pact, 1953) ^[16]. Coal, mineral and power resources of Vidarbha to help other sectors. Regional economic inequality and favouritism in the distribution of resources led to a slow pace of development in Vidarbha (Gadgil, 1965) ^[6]. Lack of Investment and Irrigation Projects. Despite the recommendations of the Dandekar Committee and the Statutory Development Boards (VDB), the backlog in Vidarbha did not decrease, leading to inequality in development (Dandekar Committee, 1962) ^[4]. Poor condition of cotton farmers and agrarian crisis. The agrarian crisis and lack of irrigation affected the social and economic status of the peasants, leading to regional discontent (Gadgil, 1965) ^[6]. The demand for Vidarbha is based on unequal distribution of resources and fair development in development. This can be interpreted from the perspective of competitive fiscal federalism, in which the region struggles to support its development rights and resources (Gadgil, 1965) ^[6].

Bodoland Movement (Assam)

The primary cause of new state demand is Ethnic autonomy, Security and Land Rights. The Bodo community has been demanding a separate state or autonomous region within Assam for a long time. This movement has its roots in land rights, ethnic identity, and political representation (Hazarika, 2013) ^[11]. There are Main Complaints and Arguments, a Lack of development in the Bodo areas. Despite the establishment of the Bodo Autonomous Council (BAC) (1993) and the later creation of the BTC (2003) ^[32], development projects remained limited, leading to regional discontent (Sixth Schedule, 2003) ^[32]. Migration and Demographic Change Threaten Land Rights. Immigration to the Bodo reserve forest areas increased land grabbing, threatening the community's right to traditional lands and resources (Hazarika, 2013) ^[11]. A question of security and cultural survival are the main basis of the Bodoland

movement was the preservation of cultural survival and security. The Bodo Peace Accord (2020) ^[2] focused on the laying down of arms of the NDFB and returning to the mainstream (Bodo Peace Accord, 2020) ^[2]. Ignored by the Assam government, agreements were entered into by the Government of Assam and the Centre from time to time (BAC 1993; BTC 2003; Peace Accord 2020) ^[2, 32], which gave autonomy to the Bodo community constitutionally and administratively (Sixth Schedule, 2003) ^[32]. The Bodoland movement is a clear example of constitutional symmetry in Indian federalism, where the identity-based movement was provided with peace and stability through institutional solutions (Hazarika, 2013; Sixth Schedule, 2003) ^[11, 32].

Finally, the study shows that primarily Gorkhaland demands are identity-based, such as ethnic, culture, language, and land rights, economic backwardness of the Indian Gorkha community in Darjeeling, Kalim Pong, and the surrounding hills (Pradhan, 2023) ^[19]. and the Bodoland movement centred on issues of ethnic autonomy, land rights, security, and cultural survival. Vidarbha demanded economic justice and equal distribution of resources and lack of development, economic disparity, irrigation backlogs, agrarian distress, and violation of the Nagpur Pact. (Gadgil, 1965; Dandekar committee report, 1983) ^[6]. The impact of Telangana on the demands of new states can be seen after Telangana's successful pursuit of new states' demands through mass movements and political pressure, because Telangana state formation set an example that well well-organised movement with the support of the centre can achieve, alike Gorkhaland and Vidarbha use political mobilization and negotiation.

Impact on Indian Federalism

The formation of the state of Telangana has had a profound and diverse impact on Indian federalism. This process was a symbol of not only the fulfilment of regional ambitions, but also the federalism of India. Cooperative Federalism: The Telangana Movement and later restructuring showed how the dialogue-based approach between the Centre and the States makes constitutional provisions, particularly Article 3, effective. The establishment of new states under this article proves the potential of Indian federalism to accommodate regional aspirations within the defined legal framework. The major factors that contributed to the demand for the Telangana state were economic neglect, political marginalization, cultural repression, and neglect of regional needs in Andhra Pradesh. With the formation of Telangana in 2014 ^[14], Chandrasekhar Rao became the first Chief Minister of Telangana. (Saxena 2020; Tillin 2013) ^[28, 34].

The emergence of new states enhances the dialogue and cooperation between the Centre and the States. The decision-making process of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the State Government, the Centre, and committees (the SKC Report, 2010) ^[9] was transparent. The main significance was the establishment of dialogue-based federalism, a committee-based decision-making system, and shared decisions. Economic, Administrative and Cultural Benefits the New States offer better opportunities for development, fair distribution of resources, and fulfilment of local endeavours. Improves administrative decision-making, planning capacity, and implementation of services at the grassroots level. Cultural identity and people's desires are safeguarded. (Saxena 2020; Tillin 2013) ^[11, 28].

The Telangana Movement and later restructuring showed how the dialogue-based approach between the Centre and the States makes constitutional provisions effective. The participation of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government, various committees (the SKC Report, 2010) ^[9] and political parties strengthened cooperative federalism in practice. The establishment of Telangana shows that Talk-based federalism, Committee decisions and Shared decisions between the state and the Centre promote institutional coordination. (SKC, 2010).

Multi-Party Competition and Coalition Politics. The creation of Telangana enhanced the political legitimacy of regional parties (such as the TRS) and strengthened multi-level party competition. Consequently, national parties became more sensitive to regional issues, the bargaining power of regional parties increased in coalition governments, and regional issues became more involved in national politics. The rise of Telangana helped the political power of regional parties (such as TRS). This led to a multi-level party contest in Indian federalism. National parties had to be more sensitive to regional issues, the bargaining power of regional parties strengthened in coalition governments, and the entry of regional issues into national politics has increased. Louise Tillin's 2013 ^[34] "Logic of Coalition" "where parties corporate with each other so that one party dominance automatically is reduced. the role of regional parties from similar movements becomes decisive in the federal system. (Tillin,2013) ^[34]

Promoting Decentralization

In smaller states, administrative decisions are made faster, and access to public services is better. At the local level, problems were easier to solve, and regional neglect was less likely in large states. Telangana is a significant example of decentralisation from this point of view. The formation of Telangana is based on the broader principle of decentralisation. In smaller states, administrative decisions are fast, Access to public services is improved, and grassroots-level problems are easy to solve. In the case of Andhra Pradesh, it was seen that regional neglect is more prevalent in large states. After the formation of Telangana, this imbalance decreased. (Tillin,2013) ^[34].

The Telangana movement revived "demand politics in which people demand of social justice, good governance, protection of culture and language, ensure education employment which also brought forth demands such as Gorkhaland, Vidarbha and Bodoland. The establishment of new states creates interstate resources and border disputes. The dispute over water, capital and resources of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh made this clear, but the mediation and institutional arrangements of the Centre were beneficial in preventing these disputes.

The Telangana movement revived "demand politics After this, demands like Gorkhaland, Vidarbha, and Bodoland resurfaced. It says that Indian federalism is a dynamic in nature or structure, where citizens can express their political ambitions within the constitutional framework.

Border Politics: The disputes over water, capital, and resources between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh resulted in the establishment of new states. However, mediation and institutional provisions by the Centre controlled these

disputes, resulting in the potential for cooperative federalism.

Strengthening of Federal System and Democracy The creation of new states demonstrates the potential of Indian federalism, Accommodation: Acknowledging Regional Aspirations, Pluralism; Representation of Different Groups, Responsive Governance: Responding to Citizens' Demands, Constitutional Innovation: Development of Constitutional Processes through New State Creation and Excessive centralization can undermine democracy, so it is necessary to preserve the autonomy of the states.

The formation of Telangana shows that the creation of new states enhances democratic representation, enhances administrative capacity, respects cultural aspirations, and enhances Indian federalism. New states make Indian democracy more accessible, responsive, and vibrant.

So, study shows that the emergence of new state demands and Telangana as a recent example have changed Indian federalism. It is dynamic and accommodative in nature where cooperative federalism in which centre and states work together, try to solve issues through institutional dialogue such as SRC, SKC and parliamentary process, to enhance better governance, it works more efficiently and also focus on development and remove economic disparity, try to establish economic justice so that resources are distribution equally. however risk of interstate disputes conflict over resources can be increased, risk of fragmentation where demands can be emerged unnecessary because India is multicultural or multiethnic country where diversity is there so its not easy to accommodate all the groups so smaller states can be created which are danger also for political gain people can be influenced (Saxena 2020, Tillin 2013) ^[28, 34]

Findings

Key findings of this study: demands are not based on administrative reform but also on economic, political, cultural, and social reasons. The primary reason for the demand for Telangana statehood was economic, political, and administrative inequality, which led to neglect and dissatisfaction in the region. The movement was not only identity-based, but also development-based. In case of Telangana, cooperative federalism played a crucial role. Both the Centre and the state found solutions through institutional mechanisms, committees, parliamentary discussions, and intergovernmental negotiations. This case made it clear that smaller states are more administratively responsive and development-oriented, as seen in Telangana after its creation. Telangana revived the new demand policy in another region such as Gorkhaland, Vidarbha, Bodoland. This process provided Indian federalism with a more participatory, multi-party and accommodative form. The Telangana case study shows that in Indian federalism, state-building is not just a division but a process of democratic expansion and deepening representation (SKC,2010; Tillin,2013and Saxena,2020) ^[28].

Conclusion

The Telangana Movement and its successful outcome have clearly demonstrated the multi-layered nature of Indian federalism, its adaptability and democratic resilience, dynamic and collaborative in nature. It was not just the creation of a new state, but it was a constitutional and democratic solution to long-standing regional issues such as

economic inequality, administrative neglect, and disputes over resources. The movement also shows that cooperative principles enable the Indian federal system to ensure diversity management, constitutional satisfaction of local aspirations and responsive governance. The establishment of smaller states enhances administrative efficiency, decentralization, improved policy implementation, and the pace of development, enabling to addressing of regional disparities. New demands appeared faster after the Telangana state, and inspired people started gathering for the movement, also trying to get the support of a political party. The experience of Telangana also shows that the dialogue-based decision-making process between the Centre and the State, committee-based consultations and effective use of constitutional flexibility play a decisive role in making the federal system robust, inclusive, and pluralistic. The Telangana movement is not only an example of the satisfaction of a regional aspiration, but also reveals the guiding principles for reform, administrative accountability, and just development of Indian federalism. This case study shows that state-building is an important way to enhance democratic deepening, decentralization, and regional justice in India. Telangana has made the structure of Indian federalism more flexible, sensitive, and adaptable, as well.

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