



‘Mass Movement’ For Samaikyandhra Movement (2009-2014) : An Overview

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ABSTRACT

The Samaikyandhra Movement (2009-2014) emerged as a significant mass movement in Andhra Pradesh, driven by widespread opposition to the proposed bifurcation of the state to create a separate Telangana. The movement, which called for a unified Andhra Pradesh, saw participation from various sections of society, including students, government employees, and political leaders. It was marked by large-scale protests, strikes, and demonstrations across the Seemandhra region. The movement highlighted the deep-seated concerns over regional identity, economic implications, and the future of Andhra Pradesh. This overview explores the origins, key events, and impact of the Samaikyandhra Movement, emphasizing its role in shaping the socio-political landscape of the region during a critical period of state reorganization in India.

Keywords: Samaikyandhra Movement, Andhra Pradesh, mass movement, Seemandhra protests, state reorganization, regional identity, socio-political impact, Telangana bifurcation

INTRODUCTION

Andhra Pradesh was the first state in India to be formed on a linguistic basis in 1956, by merging the Telugu-speaking regions of the former Madras State with the Telangana region of Hyderabad State. This integration fostered a sense of unity among Telugu speakers, although regional disparities continued to exist. The Samaikya Andhra Movement (United Andhra Movement) emerged as an effort to keep Andhra Pradesh intact, opposing the separation of the Telangana districts into a separate state. The movement garnered support from government employees, advocates, students from 14 universities, and various occupational, caste, and religious groups across the Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions. The final wave of protests occurred after the Congress Working Committee decided to divide the state, ultimately leading to the creation of Telangana, which officially came into existence on June 2, 2014, following the President of India's approval of the Telangana Bill.

THE CONCEPT OF "SAMIKYA ANDHRA":

"Samikya Andhra" means "United Andhra," advocating for the continued unity of Andhra Pradesh despite regional demands for separation. This sentiment was particularly strong in the coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions, which feared economic disadvantages if separated from the more developed Telangana, particularly Hyderabad. The movement took shape on 9 December 2009, when as a result of an 11-day fast by Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) president K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram announced that the Indian government would start the process of forming a separate Telangana state pending the introduction and passage of a separation resolution in the Andhra Pradesh assembly. The announcement resulted in widespread protests across Coastal Andhra and Rayalseema regions.

Lagadapati Rajagopal initiated a hunger strike, demanding that Andhra Pradesh remain united. In a dramatic turn of events, he made a surprising "escape" from a hospital in Vijayawada and traveled to the State capital, where he claimed to have come to the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS). He ended his symbolic fast in the presence of reporters and announced that he would begin another fast-unto-death in Visakhapatnam if the central government did not propose a solution acceptable to all, though his strike garnered limited support. Leaders and activists from Seemandhra political parties, along with several elected representatives and Congress leaders, held one-day hunger strikes in support of the cause. Students, workers, lawyers, and various organizations across the regions organized agitations and peaceful demonstrations (dharnas) demanding that the state remain united. MPs from these regions also submitted their resignations in protest, seeking a reversal of the home minister's statement. In a tragic outcome, two activists allegedly committed suicide in protest against the state's division.

KEY EVENTS FROM 2009 TO 2014

DP leaders, including MLAs Devineni Uma and Paritala Sunitha, who were on a fast-unto-death in protest at locations such as Vijayawada, Ananthapur, Guntur, and Ongole, were arrested and forcibly taken to hospitals by the police. In Kadapa, Y. S. Vivekananda Reddy, the brother of Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) and a Member of Legislative Council (MLC), also staged a hunger strike in support of a united Andhra, joined by his wife and followers who participated in a relay hunger strike. Another Congress leader, who was fasting, was similarly taken to the hospital by force.

At Sri Venkateswara University, actor Mohan Babu held a day-long fast on campus to show solidarity with the students already on hunger strike. On December 23, in response to the reactions from people in other regions, the Government of India announced that no action on Telangana would be taken until a consensus was reached among all parties and groups in the state. Proponents of the Samaikyandhra movement continued their efforts, demanding a clear statement from the central government that the state would remain united and not be divided. On February 3, 2010, the government established a five-member committee, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Srikrishna, to examine the issue. The Srikrishna Committee was given a deadline of December 31, 2010, to submit its report, with specific Terms of Reference outlined for the investigation.

SRI KRISHNA COMMITTEE REPORT

The five-member committee led by Justice B.N. Sri Krishna conducted an extensive tour across all regions of the state, inviting opinions on statehood from all sections of society. The committee received over one lakh petitions and representations from political parties, organizations, NGOs, and individuals. It also held consultations with political parties and the general public, considering the impact of recent developments on various groups, including women, children, students, minorities, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes. In its report submitted to the Home Ministry of India on December 30, 2010, the committee recommended keeping the state united while also favoring the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. This recommendation was met with opposition from Samaikhyandhra proponents, while Telangana leaders accepted the report and insisted on the formation of a separate Telangana state with Hyderabad as its capital.

In January, activists in Krishna District stopped trains at various railway stations and staged road blockades in protest. A total of 46 trains were detained for durations ranging from 2 minutes to 45 minutes at various stations within the Vijayawada division of the South Central Railway, though no damage to railway property was reported. MLAs from Congress and TDP participated in the agitation. In a tragic incident, a government teacher in Tirupati reportedly committed suicide for the cause of a united state, leaving behind a note expressing sadness over the strikes and other efforts to divide the state.

In February, during its inaugural session in Tirupati, the Samaikyandhra Medical Joint Action Committee accused P. Chidambaram of "conspiring" to weaken Andhra Pradesh by allegedly supporting the bifurcation of the state into two separate entities. They criticized his stance against the bifurcation of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, accusing him of double standards and suggesting that, as a Tamil Nadu politician, he aimed to weaken Andhra Pradesh by dividing it, thereby hindering the rapid development the state had experienced over the past 15 years. In September, members of the Samaikyandhra All Universities Joint Action Committee (JAC) blocked the State Highway in Visakhapatnam district in protest against allegations made by a student from Warangal. The student claimed he was beaten by locals after joining a B.Ed. college in the area, despite not attending classes. The JAC asserted that the allegation was false and noted that the student went on a hunger strike in Warangal, which received support from TRS MLAs. In November, on the eve of Andhra Pradesh's state formation day on November 1, the students' JAC warned separatist forces against continuing to incite public passions. Meanwhile, a statue of Potti Sriramulu in Tirupati was adorned with garlands as various parties and movements united to express their strong support for a unified Andhra Pradesh.

PROTESTS IN 2011

In February, students in Ongole, under the banner of the Samaikya Andhra Rashtra Vidyarthi Joint Action Committee (SARVJAC), staged a protest against the film *Jai Bolo Telangana* by symbolically watching it with flowers in their ears. The film depicted Telangana's history and the statehood agitation, which the SARVJAC members strongly opposed. They criticized the film's content and scenes, accusing it of misleading the public. The protesters warned the director against creating films that fuel regional tensions and declared that actor Jagapathi Babu would be barred from entering Seemandhra if he continued to participate in such films.

Role of Key Political Parties and Leaders

In March, leaders of the Samaikyandhra Parirakshana Samithi performed a 'palabhishekam' at the statue of Gurram Jashua in Nagarampalam and the statue of Annamayya, protesting the desecration of statues of prominent Telugu figures by pro-Telangana forces during the Million March at Tank Bund. In Vijayawada, activists from Jana Vignana Vedika, along with members of other cultural and literary organizations, held a rally. They carried pictures of renowned literary figures like Sri Sri, Tripuraneni Ramaswamy Chowdary, Annamayya, and Kuchipudi exponent Siddhendra Yogi, condemning the desecration of their statues and emphasizing that these figures belong to all regions and groups. Journalists, under the banner of the AP Union of Working Journalists (Krishna urban unit), organized another rally and staged a dharna at the sub-collector's office, condemning attacks on media personnel and the destruction of media equipment. They demanded that the leadership of the Telangana movement take responsibility for these incidents.

In July, hundreds of women activists from the Women Joint Action Committee organized a rally in Kadapa in support of a united Andhra Pradesh, raising slogans for Samaikyandhra. In October, in response to the Sakala Janula Samme organized by the Telangana JAC, Congress MLAs pointed out that while the wealthier sections were largely unaffected, those in the lower economic strata were suffering the most. They criticized the fact that I-Max theatres and Telangana-based institutions continued to operate while others bore the brunt of the strike.

On October 21, the Rayalaseema Hakkula Ikya Vedika held a seminar in Kurnool, attended by Vedika president T. G. Venkatesh, 24 MLAs, and 4 MLCs from the Congress, TDP, and YSR Congress Party. The leaders passed a resolution urging the central government to keep Andhra Pradesh united, warning of serious consequences if Telangana were to be formed. The speakers emphasized that the people of

Royalaseema had made significant sacrifices for the creation of Andhra Pradesh, including agreeing to shift the state capital from Kurnool to Hyderabad.

On November 1, the formation day of Andhra Pradesh, Samaikyandhra supporters in Vijayawada reaffirmed their commitment to keeping the state united by paying floral tributes to Potti Sriramulu, whose sacrifice led to the creation of Andhra State from Tamil Nadu in 1953, which later became Andhra Pradesh in 1956 based on linguistic lines. At a meeting organized by the SARVJAC, representatives of state government employees, teachers, and lawyers pledged to make any necessary sacrifices to prevent the division of the state. Cultural programs were also organized to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Telugu people.

PROTESTS IN 2012

In August, the Student JAC warned that it would revive the agitation if the central government did not issue a clear and strong message about keeping Andhra Pradesh united. At a meeting held on the premises of Acharya Nagarjuna University, attended by representatives from 14 universities across the Coastal Andhra and Royalaseema regions, activists demanded that the Centre clarify its stance on the Telangana issue and end the prevailing uncertainty in the state. From October 18, 2012, to August 4, 2013, Y. S. Sharmila toured 14 districts, emphasizing that Andhra Pradesh was a single entity and should not be divided. On December 9, the anniversary of the Union government's 2009 statement, the Samaikya Andhra Rashtra Vidyarthi Joint Action Committee (SARVJAC) organized protests against moves to grant statehood to Telangana, marking the day as Vidroha Dinam (Betrayal Day). On December 28, leaders of the Samaikyandhra Parirakshna Samithi met in Vijayawada, warning of serious consequences if a separate Telangana state were formed. They also expressed anger towards Telangana leaders for their alleged inflammatory statements. In Guntur, several educational institutions remained closed in response to the bandh call by the Samaikyandhra Student JAC, and demonstrations were held throughout the day.

PROTESTS IN 2013

As the one-month deadline approached for the home minister's decision on state division, numerous political leaders and organizations met with him, urging that the state remain united. On January 10, students from the Samaikyandhra Joint Action Committee protested outside Guntur MP Rayapati Sambasiva Rao's residence, pressing him to support a united state. On January 18, Samaikyandhra JAC leaders were arrested near Public Gardens in Hyderabad while attempting to hold a meeting. They also raided the homes of MLAs in Coastal Andhra and Royalaseema, demanding their resignation and urging them to persuade the central government to keep the state united. The Samaikyandhra Vidyarthi Joint Action Committee (SVJAC) organized rallies calling on the Centre for a definitive announcement on maintaining state unity, arguing that any delay was harming development and affecting the future of youth and residents in Royalaseema and the coastal areas. On January 22, 4,673 active advocates from 38 courts across Visakhapatnam district went on strike, participating in a protest rally with placards urging the Central government to maintain the state's status quo.

On January 25, students and teachers from unaided schools and colleges held rallies in Kadapa and Anantapur, demanding a clear statement from the central government against state bifurcation. They also besieged Hindupur MP Nimmala Kistappa, calling for his resignation. Advocates in Kurnool and Anantapur boycotted courts and protested against the proposed separation of Telangana, with members of the Kurnool and Anantapur Bar Associations organizing rallies in opposition to the split.

In Rajahmundry, a meeting organized by local Congress MP Vundavalli Aruna Kumar, attended by 11 ministers, called on the Union Government to reject the state bifurcation. Vundavalli stated, "The young people who died during the Telangana agitation are also our children, and we do not wish to see their sacrifices in vain. We will not allow KCR to continue his political maneuvers for personal gain." He criticized the TRS for fueling regional tensions under the guise of a movement. On January 27, Samaikyandhra JAC activists surrounded State Minister for Minor Irrigation T.G. Venkatesh in Anantapur, demanding his resignation in support of the Samaikyandhra movement. Venkatesh responded that both the Union Government and the Congress state government were committed to forming a second State Reorganization Commission, as outlined in the Congress manifesto.

In June 2013, Samaikyandhra JAC activists protesting the BJP's position on state division were attacked by BJP supporters while attempting to enter a town hall meeting in Nellore. Union Tourism Minister Chiranjeevi, whose former party Praja Rajyam had supported a united state before merging with Congress, affirmed his personal preference for a united state but stated he would follow the Congress high command's decision. On July 1, Digvijay Singh, the Congress party's state in-charge, announced that the party was in the final stages of deciding on the Telangana issue. He also instructed the state chief minister, deputy chief minister, and state party president to prepare a roadmap with both options open to assist in reaching a decision.

As the central government appeared to move toward a decision on Telangana, four MLAs and two MLCs from Congress, YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), and TDP submitted token resignations to protest the state's division. Samaikyandhra Vidyarthi Joint Action Committee (SVJAC) activists also submitted a representation to Digvijay Singh, urging against the state's division. They expressed concerns that Rayalaseema and Coastal areas would face water and power shortages and fall into backwardness, with lands potentially turning into deserts. They also warned that smaller states could exacerbate issues like Naxalism, as stated by JAC State Convener D.V. Krishna Yadav and others.

On July 5th in Anantapur, the Samaikyandhra Joint Action Committee (JAC) resolved to organize numerous meetings across various districts to apply pressure against the division of the state. A substantial number of activists from the Samaikyandhra JAC participated in a rally in Dharmavaram, located in Anantapur district. In a related event, the Union Minister of State for Railways, Kotla Jayasurya Prakasha Reddy, met with Digvijay Singh, where he advocated for the unity of the state.

In Visakhapatnam, members of the Samaikya Andhra Porata Samithi (SAPS) conducted a protest and reached out to MP Purandeswari by sending her a traditional Ashada Masa gift, which included turmeric, kumkum, bananas, sweetmeats, and a saree—items typically exchanged by brothers and married sisters during the Ashada Masam—via parcel service. They also dispatched a Kamandala and Vibhoodhi (holy ash) to T. Subbarami Reddy, indirectly urging him to take the issue seriously or face potential political repercussions. Additionally, the activists threatened to encircle the homes of these leaders in Vizag if they did not respond favorably to their plea for a united Andhra.

SAPS state president G.A. Narayana Rao criticized the two leaders, claiming they were neither advocating for a united Andhra in Delhi with the Congress high command nor engaging with Seemandhra leaders to show their support for this cause. A group of activists also burned an effigy symbolizing the state government at Andhra University, while another faction held a meeting of intellectuals endorsing the united Andhra movement. During the intellectuals' gathering at the public library, the majority of speakers expressed their opposition to the government's stance on bifurcation, declaring their refusal to accept a division of the state.

In Vijayawada, a meeting was convened under the leadership of Lagadapati Rajagopal, which was attended by Union Minister J.D. Seelam, who reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining the unity of the state. Meanwhile, in Guntur, the Students Joint Action Committee (JAC) called for a bandh of educational institutions to protest the arrests of JAC leaders during Union Minister Kavuri Sambasiva Rao's visit. Another Member of Parliament, Rayapati, initiated a signature campaign organized by students from Acharya Nagarjuna University, which garnered significant participation from students across local colleges. They expressed determination, stating they would not hesitate to sacrifice their lives if the state were divided. In Ongole, student activists gathered in front of Congress MLA B.N. Vijaykumar's residence, demanding his resignation in support of a united Andhra Pradesh. In anticipation of the Congress core committee meeting scheduled for July 12, which is expected to tackle the contentious issue of Telangana state formation, the students urged the legislator to resign in order to exert pressure on the Centre to prevent the division of the state at all costs.

In Srikakulam, activists organized rallies and formed human chains throughout the district, urging the Congress to reject any decision favoring Telangana State formation, arguing that it would harm the interests of underdeveloped areas like Srikakulam. Protesters demonstrated outside the residence of Union Minister of State for Communications and Technology Killi Krupa Rani in Tekkali, calling on her to support a united

Andhra Pradesh. In Tirupati, students from various educational institutions held a large rally and formed a human chain at the busy Town Club Circle, while advocates chose to boycott their duties. During a joint meeting convened by SAPS and the Sri Venkateswara University Teachers Association (SVUTA), intellectuals vocally opposed the state's bifurcation. They highlighted that they had already sacrificed two state capitals, Chennai and Kurnool, during the formation of Andhra State and Andhra Pradesh State, and expressed their unwillingness to give up another capital, Hyderabad.

PUBLIC PROTESTS AFTERMATH

The establishment of a separate state incited widespread protests throughout the Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions, as well as among various government employee unions in Hyderabad. Demonstrations included bandhs, the obstruction of highways and roads, and intermittent protests led by student groups, non-governmental organizations representing non-gazetted government employees, and other community members. Protesters vocally expressed their discontent towards Congress President Sonia Gandhi, even resorting to burning effigies of both Sonia Gandhi and KCR. In Vizianagaram, a home guard tragically took his own life in protest against the decision, while another student was reported deceased in Guntur in connection with the same issue. The APSRTC employees union, the AP Government Doctors Association, and legal professionals condemned the bifurcation of the state, marching around court premises with banners urging the government to maintain the state's unity..

All commercial activities were halted, and educational institutions were shut down. APSRTC buses were stationed in depots, with employees participating in the protests. MIM activists in Anantapur also organized a demonstration against the decision to divide the state. Private businesses, banks, government offices, and hotels remained closed. Seemandhra employees in the Secretariat refrained from their duties and participated in rallies. The protests featured specific demonstrations by advocates, teachers, students, automobile mechanics, bus and lorry owners, drivers, tailors, barbers, butchers, goldsmiths, carpenters, and merchants across various regions. The demonstrators chanted slogans advocating for 'United Andhra Pradesh.' In a tragic incident, a young man took his own life in Chittoor district after expressing support for 'Samaikyandhra Pradesh.' An unemployed engineering graduate also committed suicide by ingesting pesticide, blaming TRS president K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Union Ministers P. Chidambaram, Sushil Kumar Shinde, and Digvijay Singh for the division of the state. Daily life was severely disrupted in 13 districts throughout Coastal Andhra and Rayalseema, with public transport suspended and over four hundred thousand government employees engaging in an indefinite strike against the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Petrol stations, educational institutions, cinemas, shops, and other establishments were closed in many areas, while various forms of protests, including hunger strikes and rallies, were conducted.

SAVE ANDHRA PRADESH MEETING IN HYDERABAD

On September 7th, in Hyderabad, government employees expressed their demand for nothing less than an undivided Andhra Pradesh at a significant public meeting titled "Save Andhra Pradesh," organized by the AP Non-Gazetted Officers' Association at LB Stadium. This gathering occurred amidst heightened tensions due to the Telangana bandh call, sporadic attacks, and stringent police restrictions. The stadium's galleries and ground were filled with employees from various departments.

During the meeting, the president of the APNGOs asserted that the people of Seemandhra were unwilling to accept the division of the state or relinquish Hyderabad, which is pivotal to their livelihoods. He noted that while Indira Gandhi had ordered for a united Andhra Pradesh, the Congress party decided to create a separate Telangana state with Hyderabad as its capital. The APNGOs also voiced strong objections to the police-enforced restrictions on live coverage of the meeting, underscoring that they had held the meeting with proper permission from the police and High Court. The president questioned the justification for imposing limitations on the media coverage of the APNGOs' meeting, stating that it was undemocratic to suppress media voices. He warned that their agitation would intensify if the Telangana Bill were introduced in Parliament without considering the sentiments of the Seemandhra populace. Furthermore, he revealed plans to organize a million-strong march at Parade Grounds in Hyderabad.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF BIFURCATION

Scores of pro-Telangana supporters gathered clandestinely in the Nizam College hostel building adjacent to the LB Stadium and hurled stones at employees from Seemandhra, who were making way into the stadium. Police, who entered the hostel building to disperse the violent mob, were also greeted with stones. However, police in riot gear took several 'outsiders' into custody and whisked them away from the hostel building.[78] An Armed Reserve police constable was allegedly beaten up by policemen and Samikyandhra employees inside the venue for voicing Jai Telangana slogans.

An Armed Reserve police constable was beaten up by policemen and Samikyandhra employees at the 'Save Andhra Pradesh' public meeting at LB Stadium for raising Jai Telangana slogan. On 29 September 2013, a seven-hour-long meeting to 'Save Andhra Pradesh,' held in Kurnool saw an attendance of around 100,000 people.

Reactions by Political Parties

On 1 August, One minister and 18 legislators from the Congress Party in Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions resigned over the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. On 5 August, MPs belonging to both Congress and TDP created uproar in both Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha demanding a clear statement from the government to keep the state united. On 10 August, president of the YSR Congress Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his mother, YSR Congress Legislature Party leader Y.S. Vijayalakshmi resigned from their memberships of the Lok Sabha and Assembly respectively to protest the Congress' unilateral decision to go ahead with the creation of Telangana state without addressing the concerns of other regions of the state. On 12 August, two state ministers resigned from their posts protesting the proposed bifurcation of the state. On 13 August, Members of the Congress party, including Cabinet Ministers, MPs & MLAs held a protest and raised slogans in the Parliament premises demanding a united Andhra Pradesh.[84] TDP MP Naramalli Sivaprasad created uproar in the Lok Sabha by dressing up as Lord Krishna and trooping into the well of the House to protest.

On 15 August, a delegation of eight union ministers met the high-level panel headed by Defence Minister A. K. Antony, which was appointed to look into the concerns of people from Coastal Andhra & Rayalaseema regions after the proposed division. The ministers told the panel about the problems like sharing of water and power resources, security to employees and other issues that would arise once the State was divided.[86] They also demanded the appointment of a 2nd States Reorganisation Commission to look into the creation of a Telangana state.

On 19 August, YSR Congress Party honorary president Y.S. Vijayalakshmi began her indefinite fast against the proposed division. On 20 August, two MLAs from Nellore district started an indefinite hunger strike against the division proposal. In Kadapa, two YSRC leaders ended their fast after 9 days when they were forcibly shifted to a hospital. On 21 August, CM Kiran Kumar Reddy met the Anthony committee and argued that bifurcation would harm the interests of the two States and also pointed out that the Congress party will face problems electorally. Over a dozen state ministers also met the committee and listed a number of issues such as river water sharing, employment, economic development, agriculture, HRD that needed to be addressed before the Centre goes ahead with the division.

On 22 August, TDP MP in Rajya Sabha Nandamuri Harikrishna submitted his resignation which was accepted on the same day.[95] In Guntur & Nellore, TDP MLAs who were on an indefinite fast were forcibly shifted to hospitals.[96][97] Another MLA launched a padayatra from Chittoor to Tirumala.[98] In Lok Sabha, the government brought a suspend motion on 11 MPs belonging to TDP & Congress for protesting the Telangana decision. However, members of opposition including Trinamool Congress and BJP protested the motion. On 2 October, several BJP leaders from Coastal Andhra & Rayalaseema regions met their party's central leadership including L K Advani, Rajnath Singh and sought their intervention to impress upon the Centre to address concerns of the people due to the state division. The BJP later issued a statement that their party was committed for the state division but will ensure that everyone's concerns will be addressed and no injustice will be done to any region.

FINAL DECISION AND BIFURCATION (2014)

APNGOs Association have called for bandh (general strike) in seemandhra on 13 February 2014 in protesting against the introduction of Telangana Bill in parliament.[102] The general strike has crippled normal life in the Rayalaseema and Coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh.

AP Reorganization Bill in Parliament

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Bill, 2013 was introduced by the speaker Meira Kumar at 12:00PM on 13 February 2014. During this time there was a lot of shouting slogans in the parliament and MP Lagadapati Rajagopal sprayed pepper spray at the speaker and all around in the parliament. He was then tackled by some Congress MPs from other states. Another MP Modugula Venugopala Reddy pulled out a mic and moved menacingly towards the MPs who were trying to stop L Rajagopal. The parliament was then adjourned at 12:05PM to 02:00PM. But later, it was officially announced that the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Bill, 2013 was passed. Leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj said she does not know if the bill was introduced and denies to acknowledge that it was introduced.

Petitions in Supreme Court

Nine petitions were filed in supreme court requesting for a stay of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Bill, 2013 tabling in parliament. The supreme court later rejected the pleas saying, "We do not think this is the appropriate stage for us to interfere". And said they would take them up later.

Support in Telangana

AIMIM party which represents a few assembly segments in Hyderabad City has committed towards keeping the state united. Also, Sangareddy MLA Jagga Reddy has come in support of keeping the state united.

In 2010, Chiranjeevi and Jagan Mohan Reddy who had openly supported this movement had faced trouble attending some public events in Telangana region

In light of the ongoing violent agitations and political gridlock, some politicians have suggested to include Nalgonda district in to Seemandhra instead of Kurnool district. This could resolve the issue of Hyderabad as a permanent common capital. This proposal means Hyderabad can be a border city of Telangana and seemandhra. Many Telangana leaders have opposed this plan.

PASSAGE OF THE ANDHRA PRADESH REORGANISATION ACT, 2014

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, was a significant piece of legislation that facilitated the bifurcation of the state of Andhra Pradesh into two separate states: Telangana and the residual state of Andhra Pradesh. The Act was passed by both houses of the Indian Parliament in February 2014 and received the President's assent shortly thereafter.

The Act formally established the state of Telangana, comprising 10 districts from the existing state of Andhra Pradesh, including Hyderabad as its capital. Hyderabad was designated as the joint capital of both Telangana and the residual Andhra Pradesh for a period of 10 years, during which the new capital for Andhra Pradesh would be developed. The Act outlined the division of assets, liabilities, and personnel between the two states. This included government offices, institutions, and public sector undertakings. The Act included provisions for financial assistance and the establishment of various institutions to support the development of the new state of Andhra Pradesh, given that it was losing Hyderabad, its major economic hub. For the first ten years, the law and order situation in Hyderabad was placed under the control of the Governor, who would be an appointee of the central government.

Debate in Parliament and Its Aftermath

The passage of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act was marked by intense debate and significant controversy in Parliament. The bill faced strong opposition from members of Parliament (MPs) from the Seemandhra region (coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema), who feared economic losses and underdevelopment in the residual Andhra Pradesh after the separation.

The allocation of water resources between the two states, particularly concerning the Krishna and Godavari rivers. The division of public sector enterprises and institutions located in Hyderabad. The political future of leaders who were aligned with the united Andhra Pradesh movement. Despite the heated debates and disruptions in Parliament, the bill was passed with a majority, although it led to political fallout, including protests and resignations from leaders who opposed the bifurcation.

The official bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh took place on June 2, 2014, leading to the creation of Telangana as the 29th state of India. K. Chandrashekar Rao, leader of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), was sworn in as the first Chief Minister of Telangana, while N. Chandrababu Naidu, leader of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), became the Chief Minister of the residual Andhra Pradesh. The bifurcation was met with mixed reactions. In Telangana, there was widespread celebration as the people had achieved a long-standing demand for statehood. However, in the residual Andhra Pradesh, there was a sense of loss, particularly regarding Hyderabad, which had been the economic and cultural heart of the undivided state.

Overall, the bifurcation reshaped the political, social, and economic landscape of the region, with ongoing debates about its success and the challenges faced by both newly formed states.

CONCLUSION

The Samaikyandhra Movement (2009-2014) stands as a testament to the intense regional emotions and socio-political upheavals that can arise during state reorganization. The movement, fueled by a sense of injustice and fear of economic marginalization, saw widespread participation across Seemandhra. From students and professionals to politicians and civil society groups, the collective opposition to the proposed bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh demonstrated the deep-rooted attachment to a united state. Despite its widespread support and the intensity of its protests, the movement was ultimately unable to halt the creation of Telangana, reflecting the complex dynamics of statecraft and political decision-making in India.

However, the legacy of the Samaikyandhra Movement is profound. It reshaped the political landscape of Andhra Pradesh, influencing electoral outcomes and the emergence of new political narratives centered on regional identity and development. The movement also highlighted the challenges of managing regional aspirations within India's federal structure, serving as a reminder of the need for sensitive and inclusive approaches to governance. While Telangana was carved out as a separate state, the Samaikyandhra Movement remains a significant chapter in the history of Andhra Pradesh, symbolizing the power of mass mobilization and the enduring impact of regional movements on national politics.

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