

1. Elucidate the salient features of the Gentlemen's Agreement (1956)?

The **Gentlemen's Agreement of 1956** was a political understanding between the leaders of the **Telangana and Andhra regions**, preceding the formation of the united state of **Andhra Pradesh**. It was designed to **safeguard the socio-economic and political interests of Telangana** within the newly merged state. Despite its significance, its repeated violations contributed to deep-rooted discontent and ultimately the demand for a separate Telangana state.

Salient Features of the Gentlemen's Agreement**1. Financial Safeguards**

- **Separate financial allocation:** Revenue surpluses from Telangana were to be reserved exclusively for its development.
- **Proportional sharing:** General administrative expenditure was to be borne proportionally by both regions.
- **Review clause:** This financial arrangement was to be reviewed after 5 years and could be extended with Telangana Assembly's consent.

2. Education and Prohibition

- **Educational access:** Telangana students were to be guaranteed access to existing educational institutions, with at least **one-third reservation** in Telangana-based technical and higher education colleges.
- **Liquor prohibition:** Decisions regarding prohibition of alcohol in Telangana were to be respected as per the wishes of Telangana MLAs.

3. Employment and Public Services

- **Proportional recruitment:** Public service appointments were to be made **based on population ratio**.
- **Retrenchment balance:** Any layoffs post-integration were to be done proportionally from both regions.
- **Language requirement:** Telugu was not to be mandatory at the time of recruitment but passing a Telugu test within two years was required.
- **Domicile rules:** A **12-year residency** condition was proposed to secure Telangana's share in employment opportunities.

4. Establishment of Regional Council

- **Statutory Regional Council** for Telangana with 20 members, including MLAs, MPs, and nominated members.
- Empowered to oversee:
 - Planning and development
 - Irrigation and industrial projects
 - Education and service recruitment
- In case of disagreement between the Council and the State Government, the **Government of India was the final arbiter**.

5. Political Representation

- **Cabinet composition:** A 60:40 ratio in favour of Andhra, but **mandatory representation for Telangana**, including one **Muslim minister**.
- **Leadership balance:** If the Chief Minister was from Andhra, the **Deputy CM** was to be from Telangana, and vice versa.
- **Party structure:** It was agreed that the **Telangana PCC** (Pradesh Congress Committee) would remain separate until 1962.

Conclusion

The Gentlemen's Agreement was a **foundational document meant to ensure equitable treatment of Telangana post-merger**. However, its **repeated violations and erosion of safeguards** (e.g., Regional Council's weakening, disregard for domicile rules) bred **resentment and mistrust**, laying the ground for the **Telangana agitation** of the 1960s and eventual statehood demand. Its failure is a stark reminder that **institutional safeguards must be implemented in both letter and spirit** to maintain federal balance and regional harmony.

2. Critically analyze the breaches of Telangana safeguards under the Gentlemen's Agreement between 1956 and 1969. What were the political and administrative consequences of these violations?

The **Gentlemen's Agreement of 1956**, signed between Telangana and Andhra leaders, aimed to **protect Telangana's political, economic, and cultural interests** post its merger with Andhra State to form Andhra Pradesh. However, between **1956 and 1969**, multiple **violations of its safeguards** led to political alienation and administrative marginalisation in Telangana, ultimately fueling the **1969 Telangana movement**.

I. Nature of Safeguards and Their Breaches

1. Political and Institutional Violations

- **Dilution of the Telangana Regional Council**
 - *Expected:* A **statutory Regional Council** with real powers over development, irrigation, education, and recruitment.
 - *Actual:* A **weakened Telangana Regional Committee** with **advisory status only**, and without any decision-making authority.
- **Dissolution of TPCC**
 - The **Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC)** was dissolved in 1957, violating Clause 14, which allowed it to exist until 1962.
 - Result: Telangana leaders lost an autonomous political platform, weakening regional voice in national Congress politics.
- **Neglect of Deputy CM Provision**
 - *Violation:* Chief Ministers like Neelam Sanjiva Reddy **did not appoint a Deputy Chief Minister from Telangana**, breaching the agreed power-sharing formula.

2. Economic and Financial Violations

- **Diversion of Telangana Funds**
 - *Agreement:* Telangana's **revenue surplus** was to be reserved for its own development.
 - *Violation:* Funds were diverted to Andhra region, including **Rs. 13 crore of Nizam's Securities**, causing fiscal imbalance.

- **White Paper Acknowledgement (1961)**
 - The government admitted these injustices, promising reallocation of funds. However, this was largely unfulfilled.

3. Employment and Administrative Discrimination

- **Violation of Mulki Rules & Domicile Norms**
 - The **Public Employment (Requirement as to Residence) Act, 1957** and the **Andhra Pradesh Public Employment Rules, 1959** were poorly enforced.
 - **Non-locals** were appointed to posts in Telangana under discretionary clauses like “spousal postings” and “lack of eligible candidates.”
- **Hayagrivachari's Protest (1968)**
 - As Chairperson of the Regional Committee, he highlighted **widespread recruitment of non-Telanganites** in administration, defying domicile-based safeguards.

4. Land and Water Exploitation

- **Land Transfers**
 - Despite the **Hyderabad Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1950**, non-Telangana elites purchased large tracts in **Warangal and Nizamabad**, often without Regional Committee approval.
- **Krishna Water Disputes (KWDT)**
 - Telangana received **only 34.26% (277.86 TMC)** of Andhra Pradesh's Krishna water allocation despite being the **main catchment region**.

II. Political and Administrative Consequences

1. Rise of Regional Discontent

- The **systematic breach of safeguards** led to growing disillusionment with the unified state structure.
- Widespread perception of **Andhra dominance**, resource exploitation, and denial of opportunities to Telangana.

2. Cultural Marginalization

- The dominance of **Andhra elites** in politics, education, and bureaucracy led to **cultural alienation** of Telangana identity.

3. 1969 Telangana Movement

- Culmination of accumulated grievances.
- The movement was marked by **student protests, mass mobilisation, and violent police repression**.
- Demanded **implementation of safeguards or separation**.

4. Erosion of Federal Trust

- The inability to uphold constitutional and political promises led to **loss of faith in federal assurances**.
- Subsequent efforts like the **Six-Point Formula (1973)** were made to contain further unrest but failed to resolve core issues.

Conclusion

The period from 1956 to 1969 saw **systematic violations** of the Gentlemen's Agreement — both in spirit and practice. While the agreement aimed at **balancing regional aspirations within a unified framework**, its breach led to **political alienation, administrative injustice, and fueled separatist sentiment** in Telangana. The consequences serve as a stark lesson on the **importance of genuine power-sharing, constitutional fidelity, and respecting regional autonomy** in a diverse federal structure like India's.