

1. Examine the early debates and demands that were held for Telangana's statehood in the post-independence period.

Introduction:

The demand for **Telangana's separate statehood** is rooted in post-independence political, economic, and cultural anxieties specific to the **Hyderabad State region**. While the eventual formation of **Andhra Pradesh in 1956** was framed as linguistic unification, early debates reveal that Telangana's distinct identity and concerns over regional imbalance were already strongly articulated.

I. Cultural and Intellectual Resistance:

- **Golconda Kavula Sanchika (1939):** This publication by the *Golconda journal* was a rebuttal to claims by Andhra leaders that Telangana lacked literary merit. It asserted **Telangana's cultural identity** and pride in its Telugu poetic tradition.
- **Comparative Study of Telugu Journals (1951):** *Suravaram Pratap Reddy* undertook a study comparing Telugu journal circulation in Andhra and Telangana. It reflected an early realization of the **need to preserve Telangana's linguistic and literary identity** in the face of Andhra's dominance.

II. Political Developments and Initial Mobilisation:

- **Operation Polo and Aftermath (1948):** Following Hyderabad's integration into the Indian Union, Telangana residents faced **social and economic marginalization** while seeking refuge in Andhra regions, deepening distrust and regional consciousness.
- **Vishalandhra Mahasabha (1950):** Held in Warangal to promote the unification of Telugu-speaking areas, the event saw opposition from Telangana locals. *Kaloji Narayana Rao*, who supported unification, faced criticism—highlighting **internal divisions** and resistance within Telangana.
- **Hyderabad Pradesh Congress Committee Resolution (1953):** Prominent leaders like *Burgula Ramakrishna Rao*, *K.V. Ranga Reddy*, *Marri Chenna Reddy*, and *J.V. Narsingarao* supported the resolution for **a separate Telangana state**, revealing that the demand had considerable **mainstream political support** even before Andhra Pradesh was formed.

III. States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) Report, 1955:

- The **SRC acknowledged Telangana's concerns** about economic exploitation, unequal development, and job opportunities.
- It recommended that **Telangana should remain a separate entity** with the option to merge with Andhra after public approval via plebiscite.
- The **SRC report was disregarded**, and Telangana was merged with Andhra in 1956, leading to **latent resentment** and perceived betrayal of popular sentiment.

IV. Formation of Andhra Pradesh (1956) and Its Aftermath:

- Despite 44 MLAs opposing the merger, the Hyderabad Assembly approved the union due to majority support.
- **Swami Ramananda Tirtha** advocated for merger but failed to address Telangana's fears of subordination.
- This perceived **lack of safeguards and violation of Gentlemen's Agreement** sowed seeds for future agitations like the **Jai Telangana Movement (1969)**.

Conclusion:

The early debates and demands for Telangana's statehood were driven by a **desire to preserve regional identity, achieve economic justice, and ensure political autonomy**. While the movement gained momentum in later decades, its **foundations were laid in the immediate post-independence period**, reflecting a deep-seated aspiration for self-governance and equitable federalism.

2. Analyze the factors that necessitated the creation of the States Reorganization Commission (SRC) in 1953.

Introduction:

The States Reorganization Commission (SRC) was constituted by the Government of India on **29 December 1953**, under the chairmanship of **Justice Fazal Ali**, with members **K.M. Panikkar** and **H.N. Kunzru**. The Commission was set up to address the complex issue of reorganizing Indian states, particularly in response to **growing linguistic, cultural, and regional aspirations** post-Independence. Its formation marked a critical step in reshaping India's internal federal structure.

I. Rise of Linguistic Nationalism in Post-Colonial India

- **Historical Roots in Colonial Era:** Demands for **linguistic-based provinces** dated back to British India. Odisha was carved out for **Odia speakers** in 1936, setting a precedent.
- **Post-Independence Aspirations:** India's democratic transition heightened **expectations for cultural and linguistic recognition** through administrative autonomy.
- People believed that **democracy should reflect regional identities**, not just administrative convenience.

II. Failure to Address Long-Standing Demands

- **Neglected Regions:** Regions such as **Andhra, Gujarat, Haryana, and Punjab** had long-standing demands for separate statehood based on **distinct languages and cultural heritage**.
- The existing **provincial boundaries** inherited from colonial rule failed to address these sentiments, leading to widespread dissatisfaction.

III. The Andhra Agitation and Precedent of 1953

- **Creation of Andhra State:** The formation of Andhra in 1953, carved out from the Madras Presidency, was a direct outcome of **Potti Sreeramulu's fast unto death**, which drew nationwide attention.
- This event revealed the **potential for mass unrest** if linguistic aspirations were ignored.
- **Chain Reaction:** The Andhra precedent spurred similar movements, such as **Maha Gujarat, Punjabi Suba, and Vidarbha**, necessitating a **cohesive national strategy**.

IV. Political Pressures and the Need for a Systemic Solution

- **Growing Agitations Nationwide:** Separate state demands were becoming **politically sensitive flashpoints**, risking national unity and stability.
- Pressure mounted on the central government to find a **rational, uniform, and non-partisan method** of reorganizing states.
- **Ad Hocism of Early Decisions:** The creation of Andhra was seen as **reactionary**, not policy-driven. A commission was needed to **bring consistency and legitimacy** to the process.

V. Special Regional Complexities

- **Vishalandhra Debate:** The proposed **merger of Andhra and Telangana** raised significant cultural and economic concerns.
- The SRC was tasked with evaluating such proposals with **objectivity and socio-economic foresight**, especially given **Telangana's fear of marginalization**.

Conclusion:

The creation of the SRC in 1953 was a response to the **growing pressures of linguistic identity, political unrest, and regional imbalance** in post-independence India. It reflected the Indian state's attempt to balance **national integration with regional autonomy**. The SRC's recommendations, though not fully implemented in spirit (especially regarding Telangana), laid the foundation for the **linguistic reorganization of Indian states in 1956** and remain a landmark in India's federal evolution.