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# Formation of Andhra Pradesh: Historical and Political Background

The formation of Andhra Pradesh, India's first state created on a linguistic basis, stands as a landmark in Indian political history. This process was rooted in the struggle for regional identity, economic development, and linguistic recognition.

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## Historical Background

### *Pre-Independence Period*

1. **Andhra Identity under British Rule**:
    - The Telugu-speaking regions were part of the Madras Presidency under British India.
    - Telugu-speaking individuals felt marginalized due to the dominance of Tamil speakers in administrative and cultural spheres.
2. **Rise of Linguistic Consciousness**:
    - The late 19th century witnessed growing awareness among Telugu speakers about their cultural heritage and language.
    - Leaders like Kandukuri Veeresalingam and Gurajada Apparao were instrumental in fostering pride in Telugu literature and identity.

### *Demand for a Separate Andhra Province*

- **Swaraj Movement**:
    - During the Indian freedom struggle, leaders like Tanguturi Prakasam and Pattabhi Sitaramayya advocated for a separate province for Telugu-speaking people.
    - The demand gained momentum in the 1920s when the Congress Party recognized linguistic groups for its provincial committees.
- **Simon Commission and Aftermath (1927)**:
    - The Simon Commission's exclusion of Telugu aspirations deepened the demand for autonomy.
    - In 1937, Telugu leaders proposed the separation of Andhra from the Madras Presidency.

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## Post-Independence Developments

### *Integration of Indian States*

- At the time of India's independence in 1947, the Telugu-speaking regions were spread across:
    1. Madras Presidency (Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema)
    2. Hyderabad State (Telangana)
- Integration efforts by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel resulted in Hyderabad State merging into the Indian Union in 1948. However, Telangana was retained as a separate entity under Hyderabad State administration.

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## Key Movements Leading to Andhra Pradesh Formation

### *1. Potti Sriramulu and the Andhra Movement*

- **Satyagraha for Andhra State**:
  - Potti Sriramulu, a Gandhian activist, began a hunger strike in October 1952 demanding a separate Andhra state with Madras (now Chennai) as its capital.
  - His death on December 15, 1952, after a 58-day fast, led to widespread protests and unrest across the Telugu-speaking regions.
- **Impact on the Government**:
  - The central government, led by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was compelled to concede to the demands.
  - On October 1, 1953, the Andhra State was created with Kurnool as its capital. However, Madras city was not included.

### *2. State Reorganization Commission (SRC)*

- **SRC Formation**:
  - In 1953, the Government of India appointed the State Reorganization Commission, headed by Fazal Ali, to address demands for linguistic states.
- **Recommendations for Andhra Pradesh**:
  - The SRC recommended merging the Telugu-speaking Telangana region of Hyderabad State with Andhra.
  - However, the SRC highlighted Telangana's economic backwardness and cultural distinctiveness, suggesting that its merger should only happen with the consent of the Telangana people.

### *3. Formation of Andhra Pradesh (1956)*

- **Gentlemen's Agreement**:
  - Leaders from Andhra and Telangana reached an agreement to ensure safeguards for Telangana in matters of employment, education, and resource allocation.
  - The agreement included provisions like a regional council for Telangana and assurances of equitable resource distribution.
- **Merger and Official Formation**:
  - On November 1, 1956, Andhra Pradesh was officially formed by merging Andhra State with Telangana. Hyderabad was designated as the capital of the newly formed state.

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## Key Political Challenges Post-Formation

### *Economic and Developmental Issues*

- Telangana leaders alleged that promises made under the Gentlemen's Agreement were not fulfilled.
- Concerns arose over the diversion of resources from Telangana to Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema.

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### *Cultural and Linguistic Struggles*

- The distinct identity of Telangana, shaped by its Deccan culture and Urdu influences, often clashed with the coastal Andhra-centric narrative.

### *Political Movements in Telangana*

- Movements like the 1969 Telangana agitation and the 1972 Jai Andhra Movement highlighted growing dissatisfaction with the unified state structure.

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### Bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014

The simmering discontent over unequal development culminated in the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. Telangana became a separate state, with Hyderabad serving as its joint capital for ten years.

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### Legacy of the Formation

The formation of Andhra Pradesh was a milestone in Indian federalism, marking the success of linguistic reorganization of states. However, it also highlighted the challenges of balancing regional aspirations with economic and political unity.

## Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, marked a significant event in India's political landscape. It led to the creation of Telangana, the 29th state of India, by bifurcating the existing state of Andhra Pradesh. This act was the culmination of a long and often turbulent movement for a separate Telangana state, rooted in perceived historical injustices and developmental disparities.

**Key Provisions of the Act:**

- **Formation of Telangana:** The act formally recognized Telangana as a new state comprising ten districts from the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh. These include Adilabad, Karimnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, Warangal, Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Mahbubnagar, Khammam, and Hyderabad.
- **Hyderabad as a Shared Capital:** A unique aspect of the act was the designation of Hyderabad as the shared capital of both Telangana and the residuary Andhra Pradesh for a period not exceeding ten years. This provision aimed to provide a smooth transition and allow Andhra Pradesh time to establish its new capital. Hyderabad eventually became the permanent capital of Telangana, while Andhra Pradesh chose Amaravati as its new capital.
- **Division of Assets and Liabilities:** The act outlined the framework for the division of assets and liabilities between the two states. This included government properties,

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