

State Political Parties: With Special Reference to Telangana Rashtra Samithi



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Abstract

India has a multi-party system in national, state and district. Election Commission of India reviews this status periodically. Whoever political parties want to contest in elections whether it is local, state or national are required to be registered by the Election Commission of India (ECI). For upgradation of recognized national or state level parties, these registered parties fulfill some specific objective criteria. One party which is recognized, enjoys privileges like a reserved party symbol, giving input in setting electoral rules and regulations, and a consultation in setting of election dates and free broadcast time on state run radio and television. State party is the party that generally and exclusively operate within a limited geographical area with a state or which represents the interests of particular linguistic, religious, ethnic or cultural group, whose population may be concentrated in an area as small as a single assembly constituency or region. Their focus is usually restricted towards specific issues of concern to their membership only or at best to their region. In this paper I will talk about state parties and later on I will discuss specially on Telangana Rashtra samithi.

Keywords: State Political Parties, Regional Parties, Telangana Rashtra Samithi.

Introduction

State parties are belong to regions and regionalism is derived from the word region 'A region is homogeneous area with physical and cultural characteristics distinct from those of neighboring area. As part of national domain, a region is sufficiently unified to have a consciousness of its customs and ideals and thus possess a sense of identity distinct from the rest of the country. The term regionalism properly represents the regional idea in action as a social movement as an ideology or as the theoretical bases for the regional planning, it is also applied the scientific task of delimiting and analyzing regions as entities lacking formal boundaries. Thus, region represent more of an analytic category than geographical entity. The region is a socio-cultural concept. Regionalism in the Indian context is a vague concept and has both positive and negative dimensions: positively 'it embodies a quest for fulfillment on the part of an area'. In other words, the positive regionalism encourages the people to develop a sense of brotherhood and commonness on the basis of common languages, religion or historical backgrounds. 'Negatively, regionalism 'reflects a psyche of relative deprivation' on the part of the people of the area'... The negative regionalism is a great threat to the unity and integrity of the country. In Indian context generally the term regionalism has been used in the negative sense. Regionalism is predominating factor in the development of regional parties. Regional parties are one way the byproduct of regionalism. On the other side the emergence of the regional parties contributed to strengthen the regionalism and weaken the integration of the country. Different regional parties in different states became harbinger of the politics of regionalism.

According to the election commission of India any party aspiring to state or national party status must fulfil at least one of the concerned criteria. In addition, state parties have to fulfill these conditions for all subsequent Lok Sabha or State elections, or else they lose their status. As per latest publication from Election Commission of India, the total number of parties registered state parties was 50.

A party has to fulfill at least one of the following qualifications to be acknowledged as a state party.

1. The party has to win at least 3 seats or 3% of the seats in the state legislative Assembly.

2. It has to win minimum 1 seat in the Lok Sabha for every 25 seats or any fraction allotted to that concerned state.
3. In a particular election, the party has to bag at least six per cent of the total votes, and also win one Lok Sabha and two Assembly seats.
4. The status of a state party can still be bestowed upon an entity if it manages to win at least eight per cent of the total votes cast in the entire state, even if it fails to win any seats in the Lok Sabha or the Assembly.

Aim of the Study

A close observation of Indian political scene in recent years makes it clear that no party is able to get required majority seats on its own to form the government at the center. To form and run the government, any national party has to depend on other political parties, particularly state parties. The working style and continuance of the government at large depends on state parties. At the central level, state parties are playing decisive role as the very existence of government is depending on them. If one of the major coalition partners withdraws support, the government collapses. As such the study of state parties assumes greater importance in Indian Political System.

So, the aim of the article is the study of State Political parties specially Telangana Rashtra Samithi.

Telangana Rashtra Samithi is ruling party in Telangana. Because of this Party's effort Telangana state was formed. Which was the only objective of this party when it was formed. What is the position of this party in recent trends? how it is impacting national politics? What is the Historical background of this party? These kinds of such issues this article will cover.

State Parties in India

State parties play an important role in Indian politics. Some regional parties, such as the DMK in Tamil Nadu, the Shiromani Akali Dal and National Conference predate or emerged before the country's independence. They can also be called first generation regional parties. All of them are based on some concrete ideologies and commitments. The second generation of regional parties emerged in 1980s. The factors responsible for the emergence and growth of the regional parties are wide. Caste, class, community, ethnic issues, regionalism, factionalism all these factors played important role in deciding the fate of the regional parties. Sometimes one factor played predominant role others supplemented that. Hence, it is the combination and compound of the factors that led to the regionalized multi-party system in India.

State or regional parties must satisfy three specific criteria. The first criterion is, naturally, be the territorial differential. By its very nature, a regional party restricts its area of action to single region which, in the prevailing Indian situation, means a state. When one party extends its electoral concerns and organizational network over more than one states then it becomes cross regional and, in proportion to its territorial extension, its regional commitments gets diluted since it may have to sort out the conflicting interests of its various state units. On the contrary, a

crossregional party does not have predominantly or an exclusively regional commitment per se though no political party, cross regional or all India, can always be indifferent to regional pressures. At times, and particularly in respect of electorally sensitive area specific issues, every party is prone to swim the regional tide. The leftist parties are the best examples of this category. The second criterion of a regional party is that, typically it articulates and seeks to defend a regionally based ethnic or religio-cultural identity. Thus, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) as the voice and champions of Tamil 'cultural nationalism' against the inroads of what is perceived as Aryan 'imperialism' of the North. In the third place, this is very obvious nature of a regional party to be primarily concerned with exploiting local sources of discontent or pressing a variety of primordial demands based on region, language, community or caste. This is so because the electoral destiny of these parties is inseparably linked with their respective regions. Akalis in Punjab and Shiv Sena in Maharashtra are the examples of this category. In India, ethnic or religio-cultural identity has been the persistent factor for the emergence of regional parties. Akali Dal and DMK emerged before the independence. BSP, various factions of JD later emerged as regional parties, SP and NCP, PMK, DMK, MDMK all these parties fall in this category. Generally, they are offshoots of some national or regional party. Later due to factionalism in the party, they formed their own parties and exploited the local interests.

At present there are around 50 state parties, which includes:

Andhra Pradesh

1. Telangana Rashtra Samithi
2. Telugu Desam Party
3. Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party

Arunachal Pradesh

1. People's Party of Arunachal

Assam

1. All India United Democratic Front
2. Asom Gana Parishad
3. Bodoland Peoples Front

Bihar

1. Janata Dal (United)
2. Lok Jan Shakti Party
3. Rashtriya Janata Dal
4. Rashtriya Lok Samta Party

Goa

1. Maharashtrawadi Gomantak
2. Goa Forward Party

Haryana

1. Indian National Lok Dal

Jammu & Kashmir

1. Jammu & Kashmir National Conference
2. National Panthers Party
3. Peoples Democratic Party

Jharkhand

1. AJSU Party
2. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha
3. Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajantrik)
4. Rashtriya Janata Dal

Karnataka

1. Janata Dal (Secular)

Kerala

1. Janata Dal (Secular)
2. Kerala Congress (M)
3. Indian Union Muslim League
4. Revolutionary Socialist Party

Maharashtra

1. Maharashtra NavnirmanSena
2. Shiv Sena

Manipur

1. Naga Peoples Front
2. People's Democratic Alliance
3. National People's Party

Meghalaya

1. United Democratic Party
2. Hill State People's Democratic Party
3. National People's Party
4. People's Democratic Front

Mizoram

1. Mizo National Front
2. Mizoram People's Conference
3. Zoram Nationalist Party

Nagaland

1. Naga Peoples Front
2. Delhi
3. AamAadmi Party
4. Odisha
5. Biju Janata Dal

Puducherry

1. All India Anna DravidaMunnetraKazhagam
2. All India N.R. Congress
3. DravidaMunnetraKazhagam
4. PattaliMakkalKatchi

Punjab

1. Shiromani Akali Dal
2. AamAadmi Party

Sikkim

1. Sikkim Democratic Front
2. Sikkim KrantikariMorcha

Tamil Nadu

1. All India Anna DravidaMunnetraKazhagam
2. DravidaMunnetraKazhagam
3. DesiyaMurpokkuDravidaKazhagam

Telangana

1. All India Majlis-e-ittihad
2. Telangana Rashtra Samithi
3. Telugu Desam Party
4. YuvajanaSramikaRythu Congress Party

Tripura

1. Indigenous People's Front

Uttar Pradesh

1. Rashtriya Lok Dal
2. Samajwadi Party

West Bengal

1. All India Forward Bloc
2. Revolutionary Socialist Party

State parties are inevitable development in India and they have a definite influence and impact upon the body politic. In fact, minor parties may be said to condition and modify the major parties, as the habitant of an organism determines its characteristics. The different linguistic states represent not only administrative regions but they stand for different

regional nations. Over and above these regional nationalities exists the 33 newly fostered all India Nationality. While the regional loyalties are strongly rooted, the All-India Nationality is a compromise of these regional loyalties.

Telangana Rashtriya Samithi

Here I am focusing my paper specially on Telangana Rashtriya Samiti. On 27th April 2001 Telangana Rashtra Samithi, which is popularly known as TRS party, was founded by Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). TRS Party's one and only objective then was to achieve a separate statehood to Telangana. With its uncompromising spirit to make aspirations for Telangana a reality, TRS Party played a pivotal role in carrying forth a sustained agitation to achieve statehood for Telangana.

Telangana Rashtra Samithi	
Abbreviation	TRS
President	K. T. Rama Rao
Chairperson	K. Chandrashekar Rao
Lok Sabha leader	A. P. Jithender Reddy
Rajya Sabha leader	K. Keshava Rao
Founder	K. Chandrashekar Rao
Founded	27 April 2001
Headquarters	BanjaraHills, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.
Student wing	TRS Vidyarthi (TRSV)
Ideology	Conservatism Regionalism Economic liberalism Populism
National convener	K. Chandrashekar Rao
Seats in Lok Sabha	10 / 545 (currently 520 members + 1 Speaker)
Seats in Rajya Sabha	6 / 245
Websites	www.trspartyonline.org
Election Symbol	Car

In Telangana Assembly Election, 2014 TRS won the majority of seats and formed the Government in Telangana State. After winning in Telangana K. Chandrashekar Rao became the first chief minister. In the 2014 general election TRS came up as eighth largest party in Lok Sabha. It got 11 seats in Lok Sabha. It also won 3 seats in Rajya Sabha.

2018 Election and TRS

On 7 December 2018 Telangana Legislative Assembly election was held. This was second legislative assembly in Telngana. Indian National Congress, Telangana Rashtra Samithi, Telugu Desam Party and Telangana Jana Samithi are considered to be the main contestants in the election. 'Mahakootami' (Grand Alliance) was made by four opposition parties in the state, the INC, the TJS, the TDP and the CPI with only one agenda of defeating the ruling TRS in the elections. In 2018 because of development of Telangana K. Chandrashekar Rao resigned nine months (on 6th September 2018) before the completion of his term and went for early elections. According to the 12 October 2018 final

electoral rolls, Telangana has 2.82 crore less voters than 2014 Telangana assembly elections. This time 2,80,64,680 voters was in Telangana. In the voters list there were around 2,600+ transgenders. After dissolving the state assembly on 6 September 2018, The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) has announced a list of 105 candidates for elections and won the assembly elections with massive majority. TRS Won with 88 constituency seats which is more than 70% of 119 seats.

Background to Telangana Statehood Struggle

Telangana statehood struggle had begun in early 50s and has reached its goal in February 2014. This struggle is one of the longest peoples' movements in the world. It was six decade struggle. In 1950s The first statehood movement happened. In 1955, States Reorganization Commission itself recommended the Telangana state (then called Hyderabad State) but after intense lobbying of Seemandhra political leaders, in Nov. 1956 when Andhra Pradesh state was forming Telangana being forcefully merged with Andhra state. Telangana leaders was suspecting that Andhra region would dominate Telangana in all aspects that's why they insisted to give certain guarantees to Telangana before getting merge. Therefore, For safeguards to Telangana region a "Gentleman's Agreement" was signed by leaders of both the regions. But, even before the ink dried up of the Gentleman's Agreement, Andhra leaders broke all promises made to Telangana region and flouted all safeguards. Telangana was discriminated in budgetary allocations. Telangana region's educational opportunities and job were usurped by Andhras. In 1969 employees and students of the region rose up in an agitation demanding separate Telangana state. However, state and central governments suppressed this movement for statehood. Police gunned down brutally about 370 youngsters. In May 1971, Telangana Praja Samithi Party won 10 of the 14 Parliament seats in Telangana region which was headed by Marri Chenna Reddy. But, very soon Telangana Praja Samithi got merged with Congress party by Chenna Reddy.

TRS and struggle of Telangana State

It took sometime before they found the right platform to intensify the agitation, but the statehood aspirations were alive in people. For the Telangana statehood issue, several peoples' organizations started conducting meetings and seminars in mid 90s. In early 2000 that time deputy Speaker of Andhra Pradesh State assembly, Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), had started background work on Telangana issue. KCR had resigned to the posts of Deputy Speaker and MLA after deliberations and detailed discussions with many Telangana intellectuals. On 27th April 2001 KCR announced the launch of Telangana Rashtra Samithi Party. The ideologue of Telangana statehood movement Prof. Jayashankar, extended his support to KCR.

Congress party and TRS entered into a poll alliance in 2004. The AP state Assembly TRS party won 26 MLAs and in Lok Sabha TRS party won 5 MPs. In UPA-1 Common Minimum Program, Telangana issue found a place. President Abdul

Kalam and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh are also mentioned this issue in their respective speeches in the parliament. Initially in union cabinet the Shipping portfolio was allotted to TRS president KCR. However, DMK, which was another ally party of UPA demanded Shipping portfolio and threatened to walk out of the coalition if its demand was not met. To save the fledgling UPA-1 government KCR voluntarily relinquished the Shipping portfolio. For a while KCR remained as a Union Minister without portfolio before being given the portfolio of Labour and Employment. KCR resigned to his ministry in 2006 as the UPA government did not show any serious interest in respecting the decades old demand for Telangana state. In September 2006 a Congress leader made a belittling statement on the statehood movement then KCR resigned to the Karimnagar Lok Sabha seat. KCR won this seat again in by-election with a thumping majority. In that election massive majority of KCR proved the strong statehood aspirations in the region. That time Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Rajasekhara Reddy, used all kinds of illegal inducements to split the TRS party. A few MLAs left the party during this time. Despite many political setbacks and odds, TRS continued its struggle. TRS party MLAs resigned in April 2008 and against the inordinate delay in Telangana formation, they walked out of the state government to protest. But, TRS could retain only 7 MLA and 2 Lok Sabha seats in this by-election. TRS allied with TDP after TDP agreed to extend its unconditional support to separate Telangana in 2009 elections. However, Telangana vote got split between TRS, Congress, PRP and BJP and the grand alliance did not yield the desired results. In the end, TRS could win only 10 MLA seats and 2 MP seats.

Telangana Movement

KCR had announced an indefinite hunger strike demanding statehood to Telangana on 29 Nov. 2009. But he got arrested by state police and sent to Khammam sub-jail. The movement spread like wildfire with peoples', students, organizations, employees plunging into it. The whole of Telangana region came to a standstill in the next 10 days. On 7th December the state government had called for an all-party meeting. If this issue was tabled in the state Assembly then they would support a Telangana statehood resolution, this promise was made by leaders of TDP and PRP parties. On Dec. 2009 the UPA government, announced that the process of statehood for Telangana would be initiated as KCR's health was deteriorating very fast. But Seemandhra lobby succeeded in making the UPA backtrack on this issue within 2 weeks. Then to form the Telangana JAC—an umbrella body of several organizations and parties, KCR brought all political forces in Telangana region together with Prof. Kodandaram as its Chairman. When TJAC launched several agitations protests then TRS cadre and leaders actively participated. After 4 years of powerful and peaceful protests, in July 2013, the UPA government started the statehood process and in Feb 2014 concluded the process by passing the statehood bill in both houses of Parliament.

Formation of Telangana state in 2014

Formation of a separate Telangana state. The bill was placed after various stages in the Parliament of India in February 2014. Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 bill was passed by the Parliament of India in February 2014. For the formation of Telangana state comprising 10 districts from north-western Andhra On 30 July 2013, the Congress Working Committee unanimously passed a resolution to recommend the Pradesh. On 1 March 2014, The bill received the assent of the President and published in the Gazette. On 2 June 2014 The state of Telangana was officially formed. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi party secured majority and Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao was elected as the first chief minister of Telangana. For a period which would not be more than 10 years, Hyderabad will remain as the joint capital of both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh after that there shall be a new capital for the State of Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad shall be the capital of the State of Telangana. Andhra Pradesh picked Amaravati as its capital. In 2016 its legislature and in March 2017 its secretariat moved to its new capital.

Conclusion

Regional party can be defined as a sub-national organization formed to represent the specific interests of the particular segment of the society. In India the phenomenon of regional parties prevailed during the pre-independence period. Regional parties basically no longer advocate secession from the Indian union. They are inevitable for development and they have a definite influence and impact upon the body politic. They have made another useful contribution by their very nature of functioning. These parties draw their influence from two major sources - (1) Concentration of the supporters in a particular Area (2) Influence from the stability they enjoy. State parties have awakened the consciousness of the people in their very different statutes and locals. They have often been referred to parochial or particularistic parties in India as they have mostly represented the parochial or particular interest of certain sections of population. When it comes to Telangana Rashtra Samithi then we can see that TRS has achieved its single point agenda of creating a separate state with Hyderabad as its capital. In 2018 once again TRS has proved its popularity after winning in the legislative assembly election.

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