

# **HISTORY OF TELANGANA LAND AND ITS PEOPLE**

# PART - I

# PRE HISTORIC AND PROTO HISTORIC TIMES

- 1) Geologically, the present day Telangana lands are situated atop the 'Gondwana Formations'. Tectonically, it is the most stable rock formation; free from earthquakes, oceanic turmoil or river shifts.
- 2) During the Tertiary Times (more than 50 million years ago), Dinosaurs roamed this land. Coal mines are later developments due to convulsion of earth crust.
- 3) Geographically, the Deccan plateau, bound by river Godavari and Krishna is studded with innumerable streams, jungles, caves along with a rich flora & fauna.
- 4) Archaeologically, the land has been home to various Ages in Palaeolithic, Mesolithic & Neolithic times.
  - Amrabad in Mahboob Nagar – All phases during Palaeolithic times
  - Rock Cave Art in Pandavula Gutta – 14,000 BCE
  - Nagarjuna valley – Microlithes – Mesolithic age – 8,000 BCE
  - Gauri Gundam, Dhulikatta, Kotilingala etc.– Neolithic age
- 5) Mythologically, the land and its people claim their association with Lord Rama & his family during Vanavasa – the Parnashala in Bhadravadi-Kothagudem district.

The rulers of Dakshinapatha (the route leading to south) are believed to have fought on the side of Pandavas during the Mahabharat.



Fig. 35. A mesolithic scene. A man is shooting an arrow tipped with a sharp microlith at an antelope. The other is throwing on a deer a spear tipped with a sharpened stone (Reconstruction from the Museum of Evolution of Life, Chandigarh)

# ANCIENT HISTORIC TIMES

- 6) Historically, the land has claims to the evolution of the earliest kingdoms. Sixteen Mahajanapadas during Pre Buddha period i.e., around sixth century BCE also mention 'Asmaka'. It was located in the middle Godavari basin.
- 7) Ideologically, Telangana lands had imbibed Buddhism & Jainism, even before the advent of Ashoka and his famous Kalinga war. Therefore, Ashoka did not think it necessary to depute his progeny for spreading Buddhism to these lands.
- 8) From 400 BCE till 1000 CE, the land had been ruled by Mauryans, Satavahanas, Vakatakas (in Godavari valley), Vishnukundis and Ikshvakus (in Krishna valley), Badami Chalukyas, Rashtrakuta & Kalyan Chalukyas (also called western chalukyas as against Eastern chalukyas, ruling from vengi).
- 9) Economy was a mix of animal keeping (sheep and goat), crop husbandry (jowar) and trade including export of 'wootz' and cotton textiles.
- 10) Agriculture and its management was good. Industries like textiles, metal & handicrafts were vigorous in domestic as well as export markets.
- 11) Roman coins have been unearthed in hordes in Deccan, including Telangana lands.

# KAKATIYA TIMES

- 1) It can be dated from 1000 CE till 1323 CE. From 1000 CE till 1158 CE, there was struggle for supremacy amongst various feudatories of Kalyan Chalukyas, when Kakatiyas came to the top. From 1158 CE till 1323 CE, it was the Kakatiya Imperium.
- 2) At its peak, they ruled the bulk of the present day Telangana lands along with part of lands located in the present day Andhra Pradesh. They did not control lands due north of the river Godavari.
- 3) Rudra deva, Maha deva, Ganapathi deva, Rudramba & Prataprudra were the important rulers. Polity was stable and power conflicts during the currency of a ruler were minimal.
- 4) Taxation on land followed the Rule of 'Shatabhaga' i.e., one sixth of the produce. The rest was left with cultivators. The state policy encouraged excavations of tanks and construction of temples.
- 5) The tank was the economic fulcrum and temples were the social fulcrums.
- 6) Sumuka i.e., commercial tax was 2.5%; customs were 1/30 i.e., 3.33% and Dashbandha i.e., water tax was 10%; pullari & illari were other taxes on animal flock and houses.

# **SOCIAL AMBIANCE DURING KAKATIYA TIMES**

- 7) The overall tax burden was gentle.
- 8) People had intense faith in rivers, mountains, Gods and more particularly, Goddesses. Nalla Pochamma, Batukamma, Katta maisamma, Poleramma & Durgamma are deity names, revered by the entire society.
- 9) Status of women was quite high in the family as well as society.
- 10) People lived in thousands of habitations with a couple of hundred population in each village, with a tank or a perennial vagu nearby. The pattern was similar in all Deccan lands.
- 11) Temple architecture in Telangana land has Chalukyan imprint. Similarly temple architecture in Andhra has Pallavan and Cholan imprints.
- 12) Temple architecture bloomed across India. Thanjavur, Madurai, Kailashnatha at Ajanta & Ellora, Dilwara and Vimlavash in Rajasthan & Khajuraho & Konark are living examples of the glory of those times.



# ISLAMIC TIMES

- 1) It may be dated from 1323 CE till 1948 CE. It was an Islamic Polity with various dynasties ruling like Bahamani (1347 CE -1512 CE); Qutb Shahis (1512 CE – 1687 CE); Mughals (1687 - 1724 CE) and Asaf Jahis (1724 CE – 1948 CE).
- 2) The taxation was the uniform canonical Al-Kharaj i.e. 50% of the gross produce. It was mandated to be taken from all farmers by the state. Default was met with stringent measures. Taxation was the same throughout various territories in the entire sub-continent under Islamic rule.
- 3) Penetration of new rulers from outside the sub-continent brought a new religion, a fresh taxation and a new different world view.
- 4) People of the land, especially peasantry was left with just subsistence wherewithal to make their ends meet. Economy slowed down relative to global averages and famines started visiting different parts of the subcontinent, including Telangana frequently.
- 5) People got emaciated, crops were desiccated and animals lost their vigour.

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# SOCIO ECONOMIC AMBIANCE DURING ISLAMIC TIMES

- 6) Persian remained the official language from 1347 CE till 1883 CE. Urdu was made the official language from 1883 CE – 1948 CE. All the books were written by experts in calligraphy. Printing press arrived in Europe in 1459 CE, but arrived in India quite late in the nineteenth century. Books were not available on a large scale. The literacy could not become a mass phenomenon.
- 7) Policies of East India Company from 1757 CE onwards and British rule from 1857 CE onwards destroyed textiles industry in India, including Telangana, weavers perished. “The bones of weavers are bleaching the plains of India (Metcalf)”.
- 8) The literacy in 1950 CE was 8.2% in Hyderabad State vis-à-vis 16.2% in British India. In various other princely states like Baroda, Mysore and Travancore, the literacy was higher.
- 9) The irrigation was 18% in India vis-à-vis 9% in Hyderabad State.
- 10) Innumerable public utilities like, Darulshifa, Hussain Sagar, Falaknuma, Public garden and several other buildings and palaces were constructed during Islamic rule.
- 11) Hyderabad as the capital city was conceived, grew decorated and beautified by the successive rulers. It was known as Uroos-al-Balad (The Bride amongst cities).

# PART - II

# THE ANDHRA PRADESH TIMES

- 1) In 1950 CE, the erstwhile Hyderabad State became a part of the Indian Republic. In 1952 CE, the first democratically held elections brought new rulers. Burugula Ramakrishna Rao became the first Chief Minister of the Hyderabad State in 1952 CE.
- 2) In 1956 CE, a new state of Andhra Pradesh was formed. All the Telugu speaking districts of the erstwhile Madras Presidency and Hyderabad State were merged.
- 3) From 1956 CE till 2014 CE, several elections at periodic intervals have been held. But the people of Telangana have been articulating their grievances against injustice from time to time.
  - 1952 – Ghair Mulki, Go Back.
  - 1969 – Jai Telangana Movement.
  - 2001 onwards - Jai – Jai Telangana Movement.
  - 2014 – Creation of Telangana as the 29<sup>th</sup> state in the Indian Union.

# THE TELANGANA STATE

- 1) With a new political dispensation from 2014 CE onwards, reinforced, yet again in 2018, the economic growth of Telangana is significantly higher than the Indian averages.
- 2) The historic challenges of law and order and power shortages have been tackled. Peace and social harmony are evident. Power supply to farms, factories, offices, homes, schools & hospitals is assured on 24x7 basis.
- 3) All welfare schemes are reaching all sections of society, based on a single economic criteria.
- 4) Mission Kakatiya & Mission Bhagiratha along with the Mega Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) have been completed. Benefits are likely to flow soon.

# THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

- 1) Public health, public education and nutritional challenge are on the governmental radar. The challenge of human development is before all the public functionaries, especially elected representatives.
- 2) These are also the challenges before public servants, like the galaxy of MSO's and ASO's undergoing training in MCHRD.
- 3) In 2018, with a population of around 4 crores, Telangana is comparable to a medium sized European Union country like Spain. Its capital Hyderabad with 1.2 crore population is even bigger than Madrid. The economic growth of the state & especially its capital city is quite capable of lifting the state in the league of those European countries during the next 15-20 years. Evolution of Hyderabad as a 'Vishwanagara' is an achievable dream.

You have to succeed to realise the dream of

**BANGARU TELANGANA**

**THANK YOU**