

# **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 Bhadradri-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.

# THE HISTORIC BACKDROP BEFORE AND DURING KAKATIYA TIMES

- From around 400 BCE till 1000 CE, the present day Telangana lands had been ruled by Mauryans, Satavahanas, Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas. All these rulers controlled the territories from the capitals lying outside Telangana, like Pratihthana, Vatapi, Manyakhed and Kalyana.
- Economy was a mix of animal keeping (sheep, goat), crop husbandry, (jowar, paddy) and trade including export of 'wootz' and cotton textiles. Roman coins have been unearthed in plenty in Deccan, including Telangana lands.
- Kakatiya times can be dated from 1000 CE – 1323 CE. From 1000 CE to 1158 CE, there was struggle for supremacy amongst various feudatories of Kalyan Chalukyas. Kakatiyas were one of the feudatories.
- Various feudatories were Chalukyas of Mudigonda (Khammam, Korvai); Polavasa Chiefs (Polavasa in Jagitial District); Kanduru Chodas (Jadcherla and Achampet); Pamara Jaggadeva (Kollipaka Province) and Kakatiyas (Anumkonda).
- In the end, Kakatiyas came to the top in this struggle for supremacy.

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- The resistance of Koya tribes under the famous Sammakka - Sarakka was subsumed in 1159 CE by Prola II, the imperial minded founder of Kakatiyas Dynasty. He silenced the voice of forests.
- The Kakatiya Imperium ruled from 1158 CE – 1323 CE. Rudradeva, Mahadeva, Ganapathi Deva, Rudramba and Prataprudra were the rulers. Polity was stable and power conflicts during the currency of a ruler were minimal.
- Feudatories of Kakatiyas were many and they belonged to various social background. Recherla chiefs were Reddies; Viriyala chiefs had matrimonial relations with Kakatiyas; Malyala chiefs; Natavadi chiefs; Cheruka chiefs; Kota chiefs (family from Dharnikota or Dhanyakataka near Amaravati); Kayastha chiefs (Kurnool – Kuddapah region); Induluri chiefs (Brahmins) and Padma velama (Rachakonda and Devarkonda) were other important feudatories during Kakatiya times.

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- In 1323 CE, the Kakatiyas were defeated by Ulugh Khan, the army general. However, Forts and Nayankara system of administration survived. Tanks were either destroyed or fell in disuse due to political upheaval. The Kakatiya imperium broke up. The territories north of river Krishna came under the sway of Padma Nayakas and south of Krishna came under the sway of Kondaveedu rulers.
- Victory has many suitors; defeat is an orphan. Pratap Rudra was in a similar situation in 1324 CE, when he took 'Jala Samadhi' on the banks of river Narmada while being escorted to Delhi.
- Reasons of Kakatiya defeat are as follows. Sustained attack at least 5 times between 1301 CE – 1313 CE by the imperial forces of Alauddin Khilji and Mohammed Bin Tughlaq. Internal conflicts amongst Deccan kingdoms, namely Kakatiya, Deogiri and Hoyasalas; social divide at the top in Kakatiyas's court; Fiscal supremacy of Delhi over Deccan Kingdoms, Technological factors due to availability of a swift fleet of horses over oxen and elephants of Kakatiya's army; Management of troops was decentralized, so its mobilization needed time. The Delhi's army was under centralized command and control.



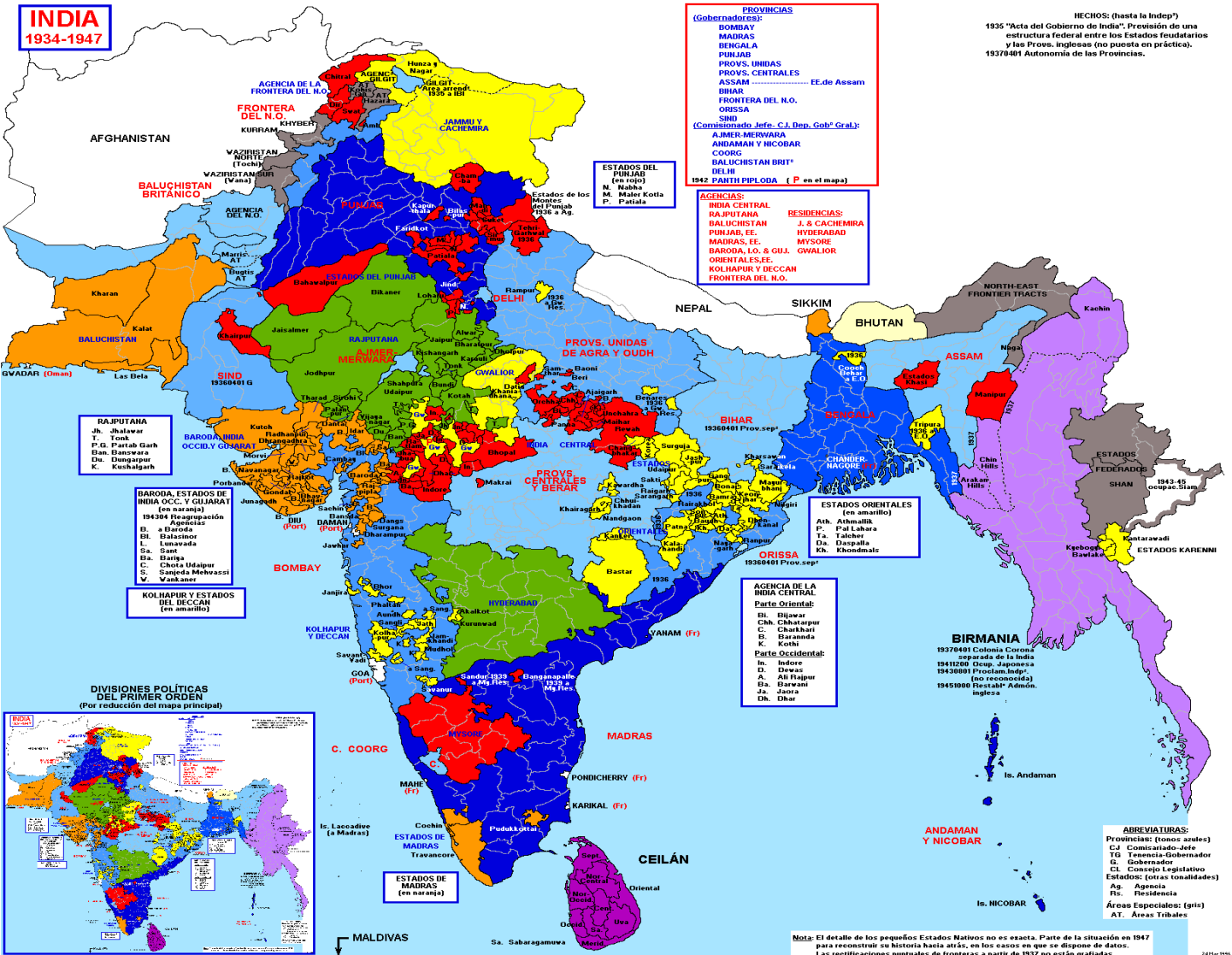


# ISLAMIC TIMES

- 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); Moghuls (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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# INDIAN POLITY ON THE EVE OF INDEPENDENCE



# 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.

You have to succeed to realise the dream of

**BANGARU TELANGANA**

**THANK YOU**