

The Freedom Struggle Movement in Hyderabad Karnataka Region: An Analysis

Dr. Shekar Naik

Associate Professor of History, Government Arts, Commerce and P.G. College - Autonomous, Hassan, Karnataka

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the Freedom Struggle in Hyderabad-Karnataka. It was an exceptional merge of anti-Nizam movements and the larger Indian independence struggle, marked by resistance against tyrannical rule, cultural declaration and finally, a demand for integration with the new Karnataka state, culminating in the region's liberation from Nizam's rule in 1948. The important freedom fighters like Pandit Taranath, Janardhan Desai, and organizations like the Hyderabad Congress and Kannada Sahitya Parishat led campaigns, protests, and Satyagrahas against the Nizam's oppressive taxes and rule, fighting for linguistic rights, regional disparity and political freedom.

Keywords: Unification, freedom, struggle, British, imperialism, independence, movement and rule

INTRODUCTION

The principality of Hyderabad was a strong hold of British imperialism. The Nizam, who was the sovereign lead of the state, was only a stood in the hands of the British Resident. Through the Nizam, the British firmly clamped the imperialism on the State. The Nizam was openly hostile to the national movement and did everything possible to prevent the spread of nationalistic ideas in the state. The Liberation of Hyderabad Karnataka Struggle of 1948 stands as a crucial stage in India's struggle for independence, it was historical consequence.

During the great uprising of 1857 Zamindar Veerappa of Koppal, Bhima Rao of Mundargi and Venkatappa Nayaka of Surapur revolted against the British, only to lay down their lives. At the dawn of 20th century, Hyderabad-Karnataka region was influenced deeply by the patriotic fervour of Tilak. A number of national schools like 'Hamdard School of Pandit Taranath at Raichur, 'Vidyananda School at Kokanoor and 'Nuthana Vidyalaya' at Gulbarga spread the gospel of nationalism. These schools prepared thousands of volunteers for the nationalist agitation in 1934 the leaders of the region founded the Hyderabad Karnataka parishat. The Parishat popularized the ideas of the Congress and created lot of political awakening in the State. The Parishat worked with sister organizations like Andhra Mahasabhe

Maharashtra Parishat. All the three bodies felt the need for common platform form for the three linguistic groups to organize the nationalist struggle. In 1938, Hyderabad came into being. Even before the formal announcement of it's a bad State Cong formation, the Nizam's government banned it. Workers like Janardhana Rao Desai of Karnataka, Srinivasa Rao Borikar of Maharashtra, Ravi Narayana Reddy of Telangana and Ramakrishna Dhooth of Hyderabad broke the ban orders of the government under the leadership of Nanal Govinda Rao About 400 Congress workers were arrested by the government On the advice of Gandhiji the State Congress leaders suspended the agitation.

The students of the region started a new movement. viz, 'Vande Matharam agitation' protesting the ban imposed by the government on singing of 'Vande Matharam song Hundreds of students all over the state boycotted schools and colleges. Dr. Padmanabha Puranik of Gulbarga and Narendra Dutt of Bidar were the leaders of the movement. This agitation had a strong impact on the Nizam's government. "Oppression by the Nizam: The region suffered under the Nizam's rule, characterized by heavy taxes, communal favoritism (Hindus paying more taxes), and suppression of local culture, especially Kannada language" (Unification of Karnataka)

After the Second World War a British Cabinet Mission came to India to solve the political stalemate of the country At that time Pandit Nehru wrote to Nizam Mir Usman Ali Khan to lift the ban imposed on the State Congress. Swami Ramananda Thirtha of Gulbarga constituted a committee to start the 'Satyagraha The government agreed to withdraw the ban. Very soon Hyderabad-Karnataka Parishat, Maharashtra Parishat and Andhra Mahasabha merged together to form the Hyderabad State Congress. Swami Ramananda Thirtha was elected as the first president of the State Congress. Its first session was held in July 1946.

Two resolutions were passed by the session urging the Nizam to: 1) merge Hyderabad with the Indian Union: 2) grant responsible government. "Ironically, the state of Mysore and several politicians opposed unification of Karnataka, on the pretext that Mysore state has fertile lands, more developed and present North Karnataka was not developed with large area of dry land" (Pattanashetti, Girish 2014)

The year 1946 opened a new chapter in the history of nationalist agitation of Hyderabad state. The Nizam decided to remain independent and not to join the Indian Union. On August 13, 1946, the Nizam issued an order prohibiting people from hoisting the tri-colour national flag in the State. Swami Ramananda gave a call to the people to hoist the national flag at any cost. On August 15, 1947 the Nizam's government arrested the president of the State Union of Congress Swami Ramananda and his associates like Dr. Molkote and Krishnacharya Joshi under Preventive Detention Act. The same day hundreds of Congress workers were arrested all over the State. Among them Ekkhollikar Srinivasa Rao of Bidar, Hanumantha Rao Kakkeri of Gulbarga, Gudihal Hanumantha Rao of Raichur were prominent. This agitation started by the Hyderabad State Congress lasted fourteen months.

About 20,000 people were imprisoned.

A band of armed terrorists viz.. Razakars unleashed a reign of terror to terrorize the nationalist agitators and in support of the Nizam's separatist ideology. The Razakars were the members of a highly fundamentalist organization viz... "Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen" founded by the famous lawyer of Latur called Kasim Rizvi in 1940. The president of this body Bahadur Yarjung was directing the brutal attacks of the Razakars. Untold brutalities were perpetrated by them on the innocent Hindu civilians of the State. Chaos reigned supreme in the State. Law and order broke down completely. Finally Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel undertook 'Police Action' on 13 September, 1948. On 17 September Indian troops entered the city of Hyderabad. The Nizam surrendered on 18th September 1948. The rule of Asaf Jahi family ended and Hyderabad became a part of Indian Union. "Post-Merger Struggle: Even after integration, the fight continued for the region's rightful place and merger with the larger Karnataka state, a goal achieved later through the States Reorganisation Act, uniting Kannada speakers" (Unification of Karnataka)

In 1951 the first general elections of Hyderabad province were held and a responsible government was formed. B. Ramakrishna Rao was the head of the first responsible government of the province of Hyderabad. On November 1, 1956 when the States re-organisation took place the three Kannada districts of Hyderabad viz., Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur were merged with Mysore State. "Operation Polo: The Indian Army's military intervention in September 1948 led to the Nizam's surrender and the region's integration into India, marking its liberation from autocratic rule" (Unification of Karnataka)

"Under his Presidentship itself, the Bidar Congress session was held and it gave a new dimension to the freedom struggle. In 1942-43, the struggle continued in North Karnataka and nearly 7000 volunteers were

arrested. Among them were Swami Ramanand, Vishwanath Mudgal and others. In the year 1939 when World War II broke out the British wanted Indians to support them in the war efforts. But, the Provincial Congress Governments established under the Government of India Act, 1935, resigned and many people" (psnotes)

Phondji (Dhondia) Wagh was a Maratha soldier who had served in the armies of Patawardhan, king of Miraj (Miraj) and the Chhatrapathi of Kolhapur. Later he joined Hyder's army. When Tipu became the ruler of Mysore, he imprisoned Dhondia on some pretext but set him free, Dhondia, then and took possession of villages. He had the support of petty travellers over Ikkeri, Shimoga and the neighbouring districts chieftains like Gopalanayaka of Shivaganga in Tamilnadu, Keralavarma of Malabar, and others. He waged a revolt against areas of Bidanur. He conquered the forts of Jamalabad in the British. In 1800 he extended his activities to the nearby Dakshina Kannada, Sode in Uttara Kannada, Ranebennur, Savanur, Hanagal and Dambal in Dharwad district, Munoli in Belgaum district and Harapanahalli in Bellary district. Very soon he became a power to be reckoned with. The English allied with the Nizam and the Peshwa to deal with Dhondia. In a battle fought near Londa Dhondia defeated and killed Peshwa's commander Dhondopant Gokhale who came to the assistance of the British. However, the British started a massive military operation against Dhondia under the leadership of the famous commander Arthur Wellesley. Dhondia was killed in an encounter which took place on September 10, 1800 at Konagal near Koppal in Raichur district.

During 1857-58. Surapur in Gulbarga district showed staunch opposition to the British ruler. Surapur was suffering from paying heavy payments of tribute to the British, Nizam and Marathas. When Venkatappa Nayaka became the ruler in 1841, he came in contact with Nana Saheb and gathered other local zamindars against the British. Then he began to prepare for war against them. The British captured the Surapur fort in 1858 and Venkatappa Nayaka escaped. While trying to regain his fortress, he was caught and imprisoned. On his way to jail. Venkatappa shot himself dead.

"While Karnataka became independent with the rest of the country on 15 August 1947, this did not occur in some parts of the state that were under the rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad. Hyderabad consisted of large portions of what were later to be the north eastern districts of Bidar, Kalaburagi and Raichur of Karnataka state. The Lingayat minority in these regions also largely believed that they had been neglected and resented the oppression of the Nizam and the Razakars. The Nizam refused to accede to India until his rule was overthrown by force. Following the 'police action' against the Nizam, Hyderabad province and its citizens became independent

on 17 September 1948. This day is celebrated by the Karnataka government as the Hyderabad-Karnataka liberation day” (The Hindu)

One of the first to resist the British after the death of Tippu Sultan was Dhondji Wag who had built his own principality round Bednur and Shikaripur region. He contacted a number of disaffected chief and collected an army of 5,000. He occupied places like Jamalabad, Sode, Savanur, Hanagal and Harapanahalli and was supported by Krishnappa Nayaka of Aiguru. Dhondji rebellion started in 1800 and the British were forced to seek the help of the Nizam and the Peshwa. Finally, Wagh was defeated by Arthur Wellesley and killed at Konagal.

In 1819 Zamindar Veerappa rose in revolt in the Koppal area. In 1820 a widespread insurrection broke out in the Bidar district which came to be known as the 'Deshmukhs Rebellion' (led by Rao Deshmukh). The British were able to suppress this revolt. In 1920, Pandit Taranath of Hamdard National School at Raichur in the Hyderabad Karnataka area was banished by the Nizam, who was on the side of the Britishers. Hyderabad Karnataka Parishad was formed under the leadership of Shrinivas in 1934 and it started the Satyagrah. Later in 1938, this Parishad joined the Hyderabad Congress party and it continued its satyagrah under the leadership of Janardhan Desai “Cultural & Linguistic Assertion: A strong element was the fight to preserve Kannada identity against the imposition of Urdu, strengthening regional pride and linking it to the broader freedom goal” (Unification of Karnataka)

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Prince Venkatappa Nayaka of Surapur was another leader of the 1857 movement. He was in league with Nana Saheb Peshwa and his agents attempted to instigate the sepoys in the British army's to revolt. The English captured the fort convicted to imprisonment Preferring death to disgrace, the of Surapur and later Venkatappa was arrested, tried and prince committed suicide in 1858.

CONCLUSION

Kalaburagi and Ballari are the largest cities of this region. In 1948, when the Hyderabad State was officially merged into India, some portions of it were incorporated into the state of Karnataka. As India achieved independence, the Nizam oppose joining, leading to heightened conflict with the Razakars (Nizam's private army) create turmoil. Finally, the people of Hyderabad, Karnataka region, they were struggled to fight for their independence not only against the British but also Hyderabad Nizam who supported the Razakars.

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