

Formation of Madhya Pradesh : A Study

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1st November 1956 a date of significance, when the newly formed state of Madhya Pradesh came into existence. This so called heart of India was formed into a new state by the merging of Mahakoshal, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal. These above mentioned territories which had been under different administrations, have been bound into the gentle yet beautiful bonds of cultural coordination, common language and similar social traditions to fulfill the strong ambitious objectives of well organized economic development, ease of administration and national unity and strength.

1 November 1956, a new chapter in the history of India, that gave shape to many dreams and erased the existence of the old states. The states took a new form and the boundaries of the states took a new turn on India's stage. Amidst such a dramatic turn of events, a surge of unwavering unity emerged to bind the people of Bharat with each other more strongly and thread them all into One Nation. The newly created boundaries of the states had the potential to accommodate the diversity of different states of the country. According to the recommendations of the State Reorganization Commission, a new chapter in Indian history had been written by reorganising the boundaries of the state in the country.

The organisation of the State Reorganisation Commission, itself has an inherent history. The reorganisation of Indian states was a historical process and not an accidental coincidence. The State Reorganisation was the embodiment of the desire which was born during the reign of the Britishers. In fact, scientific reorganisation of states was inevitable in India. It can be said that the formation of the former states in India was not done on any systematic basis; in fact the boundaries were formed on the basis of the extent of the territories of the rulers. In the earlier times, the rise and formation of different states of India had been the direct result of the factors like:- the selfish interest of the the Maharajas and the Nawabs, the greed to acquire more territories and also the various alliances

between the rulers. In this way neither the wishes or the sentiments of the people were respected, nor were the feelings of national interest given any importance. As a result, the states neglected the National interest and were born with the gluttony of state expansion. The rulers did not make effects to promote happiness and upliftment of the common people; in fact they were engaged in satisfying the selfish motives of the foreign rule. During the British rule, even the Governors did not think that welfare of citizens, needed attention. This means that till the eve of Independence, the basic foundation of state building- such as culture, language and economic upliftment were not considered important at all. But after independence, how could the popular and elected democratic government of the country remain indifferent in the regard?

After the attainment of Independence the spirit of restructuring of states got stronger. The basis for the reorganisation of states was initially the monopoly of monolithic states however, for the greater interest of the nation, administrative convenience and utmost welfare of the society, the question of language for the reorganisation of state as well as the form of bilingual- speaking states came up. At the core of it, was the motive to provide more facilities for the upliftment of the people of the state by arranging the state on the basis of one language and culture. One the other hand, the foundation of the welfare state was to be light on the basis of strong Nation unity, efficient and orderly administration and economic development of the country.

To achieve this board objective of National Welfare, the Government of India appointed the **State Reorganisation Commission** which after extensively studying all the questions related to state reorganisation presented its recommendations to the Government of India, Based on the above recommendations, a bill was presented in the Indian Parliament which was passed and enacted as the **State Reorganisation Act 1956**. According to this act, on 1st November 1956, new states were established and consequently located under the rule of Vindhya, Satpura and Aravali and Chambal Narmada, Son, Betwa, Shipra, Cane and Mahanadi- with the manpower of 261 million people, the state of Madhya Pradesh was created, spread over an area of 171 thousand square kilometres.

On the same day, along with the creation of a new Madhya Pradesh arising out of the annexation of Mahakaushal, Vindhya Pradesh, Central India, Bhopal and Sironj such divisions were also created. Efforts were successful and dreams were changing into reality. The new Madhya Pradesh and its subdivisions were Hindi speaking regions. During the course of its development, Madhya Pradesh, with its rich and vast expanse of nature

resources, provided suitable conditions for many new industries. With a promising future and full of future developmental possibilities, Madhya Pradesh established a strong administrative system. Surely, the creation of new Madhya Pradesh was a glorious pageant of the culture of the region situated in the heart of country.

The inclusion of constituent areas in the newly formed Madhya Pradesh had resulted from the recommendations of the State Reorganisation Commission. On one hand, the new Madhya Pradesh presented diversity of culture and language, on the other it had a strong economic base. At the same time, there were infinite possibilities of development in the state due to the multiplicity of economic growth and natural resources. The State Reorganisation has expressed its view in the regard - By our estimation, Madhya Pradesh will have a new financially substantial revenue savings. Ultimately, it can be said that the newly formed government will have least financial difficulty. In addition to this, the State Reorganization Commission had written - As a result of the separation of eight Marathi districts of Uttar Pradesh, the question of the future of the remaining 14 districts come to us. We had to think on this question with the future of other Hindi- speaking states - Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal. The following conclusion of the Commission is important in favour of the merger of the remaining constituent areas- Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal which together from the Mahakasha region :-

"We made a thorough examination of the proposal of keeping Central India a separate state with the current form or border changes. Clearly we feel that the arguments presented against the merger of Middle India are not as substantive. Also, there are many more important reasons that prove that it would be desirable to build a large unit in the long-term".

Regarding Vindhya Pradesh the Commission has written - "this state was in initially designated as 'B' category state. However, it was later converted into a centrally administered unit, as it was thought that due to political and economic backwardness of the state, it could not be administered in the same way as the 'B' category states. In this regard, when the Central government had to take the decision, the idea of the government was to divide Vindhya Pradesh and merge it with neighbouring states. The Government of India had decided not to keep Vindhya Pradesh as separated entity, due to various reasons; they are of equal importance even today. The Commission, while expressing its determination regarding the merger of Vindhya Bharat and Bhopal, has written about certain so - called inconveniences- " There is no doubt that the benefits of making Vindhya

Pradesh and Bhopal are a part of a prosperous state will be able to compensate for some initial inconveniences caused by this solution".

Discussing the situation of Bhopal, the Commission had written - "The existence of the separated state of Bhopal is due to the promise made at the time of the merger of the state, which had the provision of keeping the state administration under the control of the Chief Minister for five years". In this regard, Minister of the State, Shri. N. Gopalaswamy Iyengar had said in the Parliament - "There is a small section of Bhopal which is not in favour of merger and is in favour of keeping Bhopal as a separate entity but at the present time I believe that most of the people want the merger of Bhopal. As of now, we will not merge due to our promise and till then I can prepare the Nawab of Bhopal for the merger before this period, the Bhopal administration should keep the present administration. The State Reorganisation Commission has further written - "This period (of 5 years) is now over so the problem now also does not come in the way of Bhopal's merger. One benefit from the merger of Bhopal will be that maximum development of this area will be possible. In many places, the river Narmada sets the boundary of Madhya Pradesh and Bhopal and many schemes are going on, or are going to start at many places on this border; but these schemes are located on the border of Madhya Pradesh. We have come to know that a big dam is being built on the Narmada River near Jabalpur. A large part of Bhopal will be benefited from one of the two major canals originating from the dam".

With the above findings of the State Reorganisation Commission, in relation to the former Central India, East Vindhya Pradesh and East Bhopal, the need for the reconstitution of the present form of the state with other constituent states make the advantages more clear.

In relation to the prosperity and future of newly formed Madhya Pradesh, the opinion of the state Reorganisation Commission holds a lot of relevance, in which it is said :- "The creation of such a state in this part of the country and the division of Madhya Pradesh that has been going on since 1861 will result in some administrative problems in the initial and operational period, but there is no need to increase the inconveniences. In the long term, the benefits of building a well organised and advanced unit in the middle of the country will be so much that we do not have any hesitation in recommending the creation of a new state with the proposed boundaries". It is clear from the study of recommendations and opinions to the State Reorganisation Commission that the new state will be an advanced and prosperous state without any doubt.

Referoncos

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