Hive off Hyderabad for higher gains

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Limbo and suspended animation are perhaps not the words one would associate with Hyderabad. A vibrant city once, it is but 'frozen in time' today - As the thawing rights are in the giant grip of a few, citizens are carrying on with their lives like androids in a science fiction.

While the protagonists of a separate state claim that Hyderabad had been nurtured in Telangana's womb, those from Seemandhra maintain that it is in fact their sperm that infused life into it. Even as the voice of logic is lost in the din of emotions, the 'State of our State' discussions have penetrated boardrooms and bedrooms alike.

Arguments can go on till such time a genetic profiling of the city is not done - But the question is how long can we suffer a dysfunctional city? Especially given it's potential.

Last week's data from the National Sample Survey (NSSO) indicates a "sectoral shift" in the Indian economy. The shift is away from agriculture towards manufacturing and services reaffirming the fact that cities are indeed the economic engines of growth and major contributors to national GDP. In the context of such a shift, a special administrative zone for Hyderabad will catapult the state into renewed glory.

Here's a snapshot.

Hyderabad can be carved into a bustling metropolitan city with a thriving economy; it can very well be the next Singapore or a Hong Kong.

A reconfigured administrative set up and a vision to capitalize on the capital and intellectual assets, tech and business incubators, skill development and digital inclusion can transform the area.

Creating an Economic Development Agency, Professional City Managers and Crowd Sourced City Planning protocol will do wonders to Hyderabad.

Financial and administrative autonomy along with a Metropolitan Planning Committees (MPC) envisaged under the constitution (through constitutional amendment act) can become a reality. They have been thrust areas under JNNURM too.

As shuttle negotiations with the state will not be necessary, infrastructure can be built faster transforming the entire region.

Given the huge presence of data scientists and other intellectual assets, Hyderabad can be carved as the "Data Science hub of India" or a manufacturing and services hub on the lines of Taichung City. Taichung in Taiwan is a manufacturing, service, logistics and transportation hub for not only central Taiwan but the surrounding Greater China region.

Hyderabad's prosperity will create ripple effect in the entire region of Andhra Pradesh and beyond.

The world has lost many a city in the past - the legendary Troy of Turkey or the Port Royal of Caribbean have indeed been victims of natural disasters and social upheaval. We cannot afford to have Hyderabad joining the league of "lost cities" surely.

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