



# THE HINDU CENTRE

for

Politics and Public Policy

## DEALING WITH THE COSTS OF DIVISION

*A Dialogue Towards Reconciliation*

Opening Remarks by Dr. Malini Parthasarathy, Director

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### Opening Remarks by Dr. Malini Parthasarathy Director, The Hindu Centre

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to The Hindu Centre's first ever consultation on one of the most critical issues on the national agenda—the formation of the state of Telangana. The Hindu Centre which is an initiative of the publishers of The Hindu is committed to nation-building and strengthening the political institutions of this country and making democracy meaningful. We believe that we can make a contribution to the public understanding of politics and bridge the increasing gap between the political system and the people. Today's effort reflects this commitment. Telangana is a burning issue on the national agenda; the implications and consequences of statehood are being fiercely debated and hotly contested. The idea today is to bring together the different voices, all undoubtedly genuine in their concern, to see if common ground can be made between the various positions.

We are deeply grateful that we have here leading politicians, academics and senior administrators whose insights and rich experience have greatly benefitted the nation. We are honoured that they have come from all over the country to share their understanding and shape this major exercise undertaken by The Hindu Centre.

We have three sessions today, thoughtfully arranged so that the entire gamut of experience, wisdom and practical knowledge can be woven together to produce at the end of the day the elements of a consensus that can take forward the challenging task of meeting the aspirations of the different parts of the State, including the formation of a separate State of Telangana. We invite the politicians from the different regions of the State of Andhra Pradesh to offer their views of how common ground can be forged between the opposing positions on statehood. The second session looks deeply at the status of Hyderabad and the complex consequential question of the state capital. Finally we have a session examining the implications and requirements of sharing resources of the State of Andhra Pradesh between the new states.

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We have senior administrators who were involved in similar exercises when three States, Jharkand, Uttaranchal and Chattisgarh were formed in 2000.

I now request Prof Yogendra Yadav to take the chair for the first session.