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PARAKALA PATTABHI RAMA RAO "The Freedom Fighter, Student Leader, Writer, Journalist"

Dr PSNH Ramachandara Rao HOD of Chemistry, Sri YN College(A), Narsapur

Born in the Village of Kavitam, Narasapuram Taluk, West Godavari District, to the humble parents, Suryanarayana Swamy and Manikyamba, on 16th November, 1920, Pattabhi Ramarao had experienced a coveted meteoric rise in his life of adventures, also being a beacon to the multitudes of student community of both East and West Godavari Districts.

He had drawn the political inspiration from Evaturi Sarabha Raju, the renown freedom-fighter of Kakinada, E.G.Dt, on several historical occasions, Pattabhi reacted with patriotic zeal, gathering the student community, during his high school studies at-Maruteru (W.G.Dt) as well as at kakinada (E.G.Dt.) Maharaja College, inculcating in them the zeal of patriotism and the spirit of Nationalism, also inciting them to participate in the Freedom Movement of India.

Pattabhi Ramarao was enamored with the enthusing and enlightening speech (encouraging all Indians to necessarily opt for Khaddar wear as well to help sustenance to the weaver -comuunity's production of Khaddar being their cottage—industry) of Mahatma Gandhi, during his visit to Kavitam Village, as part of his "Khaddar Yatra" in 1929¹. Gandhi's message roused the feeling of Nationalism, deeply and fervently in him.

While studying in Kakinada, his leadership qualities had put him on the pedestal of President ship of the 16th Mahasabha of the Andhra Rashtra Vidyardhi Federation, which position had bestowed upon him 'the chance of receiving and honouring Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (Bose's historic visit to Kakinada) on the rostrum of Public meeting in Sept, 1939².

At Kakinada itself, Pattabhi Ramarao was drawn to the charishma of Communism and its ideals, whereupon he involved in the betterment and uplift of the labourers and workers of both coir industry and rice mills, in and around kakinada region³.

He stubbome raised hue and cry against the British Govt's decision to partake in the Second World War (started in 1939) joining hands with the allied forces, to fight against Nazi Hitler, for, such war — mongering move would cause collossal harm to India. Protesting the same, he launched a massive "Vidyardhi Andolan" combining and comprising of college students in large numbers, from both of the Godavari District⁴.

As a result of this, the British Rulers tried to arrest and sentence him to prison. But Pattabhi Ramarao was at large to the chasing police, going underground (1940-1942), the curcial years of Communist Party Ban by the British rulers of Delhi⁵.

During these years of underground, he secretly addressed student gatherings in about eleven high schools, as the leader of Student Federation. Howsoever, the police arrested him on 23rd J an. 1943 and put him behind the bars.

He also led the protestors, against the Gopalapuram Zamindari atrocities on land-tillers, 1946-48. But Pattabhi Ramarao once again went underground (1948-1952) between avoiding himself from thei 'Police Julum⁶.

Pattabhi Ramarao essentially endeavoured, as a noteworthy 'Social reformer" to cut short and even eliminate the caste barriers of utter prejudicial hate. He is the bold and brave architect and idealist of promoting inter—caste social marriages, beginning it within his family members. He personally performed one such marriage (the marriage of his own brother, Ramana Rao,) though both, were born in an orthodox Brahmin Family!

He encouraged most of the women members of his family to practically participate in

the Reformist Women organisation (Mahila Chaitanya Vudyamamu). His wife Ahalya Devi, his sister Goparaju Sita Devi and his brother's spouse Suseela are worthy of mention. Unfortunately, his idealistic adventures roused ire, among the bigwigs of Brahminism, who imposed the rigid 'Social Boycott' on his joint undivided family, the heinous blot of social disgrace⁸. Yet Pattabhi Rarnarao stood stout, hearted against such odds of his political and reformist carrer, stepped ahead, never retreating!

As a regular journalist, he worked for Praja Sakti, found place in the Editorial board of Visalandhra, both are the Party organs of the Communist party of India, and as the Editor of 'Com— munism' monthly all these tenures had enriched his astounding Journalistic calibre, duly earning him tons and tons of laurels and accolades?

Pattabhi Rarnarao was honoured with the 'Soviet Land Nehru' Award in 1981, by the Government of Soviet Russia. Earlier he had visited Russia, having been invited by the Russian Governmennt as its guest of honour.

At present, he is immensely occupied with the writing his 'magnum opus; "The movement of Communism and the Communist Party of India, in West Godavari", which many soon reach the hands of all scholars each and every voracious reader. In his earlier literary works, he chieûy dwelt and dealt with the cause of men, maters and society,' pertaining to the superstitions among people versus cultural renaissance, women movements to attain betterment with equality, the impact of National movement upon the Indian Philosophical Thought, Uplift of the Indian Women, Budhdha's relevance to the Indian Thought, in all, a sum total of thirty books of scholarly volumes of great value¹⁰.

Pattabhi Ramarao's unending and relentless endeavours of a sacriûciing life, is certainly a worthy model of a freedom ûghter cum socail reformer cum writer and Journalist, to be cherished by the posterity. Pattabhi Rama Rao had breathed his last and attained the lotus fee of Lord on Jan, 23rd 1913.

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