

## THE CONTRIBUTION OF ANDHRA KESARI TANGUTURI PRAKASAM PANTHULU TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ANDHRA

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### Abstract

This paper is made to examine the contribution of Andhra kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu to Social development of Andhra. As a lawyer, journalist, freedom fighter, parliamentarian and administrator, he left an indelible imprint of his personality in every area he chose to tread in life.

The impact he made on the social life of Andhra is unparalleled. He pioneered a spate of revolutionary reforms inspired by the Gandhian constructive programmes involving, in particular, programmes relating to the uplift of Dalits, Handloom weavers and other deprived sections of the community.

The programme of rural development that he introduced came to be looked upon as a precursor of the community development project that was later to change the fate of rural India.

**Key words** : Andhra kesari

#### **1. Introduction:**

A many splendored personality Shri T Prakasam combined in himself the sterling qualities of a freedom fighter, eminent journalist, able administrator and statesman. He was the first in Andhra to give up legal practice at the call of Mahatma Gandhi and join the freedom movement.

The daily newspaper “Swarajya” that he established in 1921, became so popular that there were persistent demands for it to be published in other languages as well. His administrative abilities were reflected in his important decisions in manifold areas of statecraft.

The Zamindari Abolition Report prepared by him for Madras Province became the precursor of the government of India’s effort to abolish



the system in the rest of our country. Shri Prakasam's contribution to the formation of Andhra is a legend in itself. His life and deeds indeed constitute a new era of progress and prosperity not only for Andhra but also for the entire country.

## 2. **Objectives:**

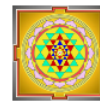
1. To study the contribution of Andhra Kesari TYanguturi Prakasam Panthulu (1872-1956) to social development of Andhra.
2. To examine the efforts of Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam panthulu for the upliftment, welfare, progress and development of the society.

## 3. **Methodology and Data Sources:**

This study is based on secondary data only. Secondary data is collected from Prakasam's autobiography titled Naa Jeevitha Yatra (My lifes Journey) 4 volumes, Pattabhi Seetharamiahs – The history of National congress, 50 years of Andhra Pradesh (1956-2006) centre for documentation, research Hyderabad, Lok Sabha secretariat report on Andhra kesari Prakasam Panthulu, The Madras Estates land Act committee.

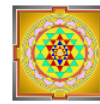
## 4. **Review of Literature:**

- D Sahadevudu pointed out that the period when Prakasam was chief minister of New Andhra state took many bold actions, which brought development and prosperity to the Andhra State by establishing Sri venkateshwara University and completing the road – cum –m regulator bridge over the Krishna river were the outstanding achievements of this period. Prakasam edited a journal called "law times". With the help of this journal he fought for the rights and privileges of barristers under the autocracy of the English judges. Prkasam elected as chairman of the Rajahmundry Municipality and played an important role in the development of Rajahmundry.
- Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi May 2000 report indicated that Andhra Kesari tanguturi prakasam was one of the outstanding leaders in the nation's socio-political firmament, the modern state of Andhra Pradesh is a shining example of his vision, his life and deeds indeed constitute a new era of progress and prosperity not only for Andhra Pradesh but also for entire country, His "Firka development" concept during the early 50's would continue to serve as the strong focal point for rural development



at the micro level, to be looked upon as the precursor of the Community Development Project that was to change the face of rural India after Independence. The uplift of the weaker sections, the popularization of the charka (Spinning Wheel), the establishment of producer-cum-consumer Co-operatives schemes were some of the most important measures introduced by him. Prakasam laid great emphasis on agriculture and the development of cottage industries to lift this country from the throes of poverty and the mire of backwardness.

- N Chandra Babu Naidu (former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh) stated that Shri Prakasam Panthulu has been the colossus on the political firmament of the country and a zealous protector of the rights and interests of the Telugu speaking people. As the first Chief Minister of the then Andhra state, he inspired a generation of leaders in public life. He was a role model politician of all times. An architect of modern Andhra, Prakasam panthulu strode the political scenario like a colossus with strong will power and perseverance and identified himself with the trials and tribulations of the state to such an extent that his life was entwined with the history of Andhra. Hailing from a poor family, he rose to dizzy heights as the most accomplished legal luminary, distinguished editor of Swarajya, a staunch freedom fighter and a veteran parliamentarian. His “Firka Development” concept during the early 50’s would continue to serve as the strong focal point for rural development at the micro level. Andhra Kesari Prakasam left an indelible impression over the public life and his life itself was a message for generations to come.
- Sonia Gandhi (former leader of opposition, Lok Sabha) stated that Andhra Kesari Shri T. Prakasam was one of the giants of the Freedom Movement, a highly esteemed follower of Gandhiji's and a towering source of strength to the Congress in South India. A distinguished lawyer, who sacrificed his promising career to the cause of the Independence of his Motherland, Shri Prakasam combined unremitting patriotism with outstanding organizational abilities, rare courage, sharp political acumen, a brilliant mind and a facile pen. His powerful advocacy took him to the editorship of Swarajya. He earned rich accolades becoming, in succession, President of Andhra Pradesh Provincial Congress Committee, Chief Minister of the erstwhile composite State of Madras, and later first Chief



Minister of the new State of Andhra. He dedicated his life to the service of the people and they, in turn, gave him abundantly of their affection and esteem. It is a privilege to pay my tribute to his memory,

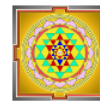
- Najma Heptulla (former Deputy Chairperson Rajya Sabha) stated that Tanguturi Prakasam, popularly known as Andhra Kesari, had a multi-faceted personality. He was an eminent freedom fighter, astute politician, great journalist and an able administrator. He endeavored all his life to change the face of rural India. People hold him in high esteem. He is remembered for his heroic deeds and unparalleled sacrifices made by him for the cause of the poor people.
- Krishna Kant (former Vice President of India) stated that Shri T Prakasam was one of the tallest personalities of India's freedom movement and post Independence India. A staunch patriot, legal luminary, journalist and above all a tireless champion of the masses, Shri Prakasam's life was an inspiring saga of service and sacrifice for the nation and its people. As the first Chief Minister of Andhra, Shri Prakasam established an efficient, responsive, honest and people – friendly government.
- Archibald Nye (former Governor of Madras) mentioned in an Appreciatory letter after Prakasam resigned as Premier that "No man could work with you as I have done without appreciating your generosity, your integrity and above all, your courage, you have never prepared to compromise on the principles for which you have stood and I feel sure you will never do so till the end. I am convinced that in everything you have done you have put in the background your own personal interest and in the foreground what you have honestly conceived to be the best interest of the people. I feel indeed that you are fortunate man in that it can be said of you, as an English poet once wrote:

**" THIS MAN IS FREE FROM, SERVILE BONDS**

**OF HOPE. TO RISE OR FEAR TO FAIL.**

**LORD OF HIMSELF THOUGH NOT OF LANDS,**

**AND HAVING NOTHING, YET HATH ALL".**



- G B Pant (former minister of Home Affairs) said that Shri Prakasam's life was devoted to the service of the country. He took a prominent part in the struggle for the Independence, suffered privations and hardships and was always in the vanguard of the struggle.
- Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu in his autobiography " Naa jeevitha yatra" (My lifes journey) explained the role of Indian national Congress in the nation building in his statement on the 27 Jun 1942 Indian National Congress was founded 57 years ago in 1885 both by the Muslim and Hindu leader. It is with great effort that the Indian nation has been built up for centuries before 1885 and particularly during the last 57 years. It has succeeded in convincing the world and even Britain that the people of India constitute one nation.

### **5. Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu – social contributions:**

Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu has immensely contributed for the social development of Andhra Region.

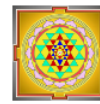
Govind Vallabh Panth, Union Home Minister described the role of Andhra Kesari in the social sphere as " Prakasam is the architect of modern Andhra desa. He has a genius for conducting constructive programme. Every moment of his life, he spent in the service of India".

#### **Tanguturi Prakasam – Rural development:**

He pioneered a spate of revolutionary reforms by the Gandhian constructive programmes involving, in particular, programmes relating to the uplift of Dalits, Handloom weavers and other deprived sections of the community.

#### **Firka Development:**

His Firka development concept during the early 1950's is a programme of rural development that he introduced came to be looked upon as a precursor of the community development project that was later to change the fate of rural India.



### **Village Republics:**

T prakasam being an ardent follower of Gandhiji, proposed the village republics should form the basis of the constitution. He believed that village republics, if organized on the basis of self sufficiency and if made self governing, could control inflation and stop black marketing. He empathetically held that village republics could establish peace in India.

### **Zamindari Abolition:**

T Prakasam as a Revenue minister chaired the Zamindari Enquiry committee and looked at the structural distortions in agriculture perpetrated due to the zamindari system followed by the British Government. The zamindari abolition report prepared by him for Madras province became the precursor of the government of India's effort to abolish the system in the rest of our country.

### **Land Reforms:**

He was the first one to propound the thesis that land should belong to the tiller. His ideas on land reforms are as relevant today.

### **Andhra Kesari as Aparabhageeratha:**

T Prakasam has solved the water problems in Krishna Delta area by completing the barrage on the river Krishna ( later the barrage was renamed as Prakasam barrage). For his tireless efforts a bronze bust was set up in Vijayawada on 23 July 1951.

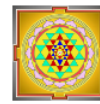
### **Prakasam – Man of masses:**

Earning the encomium “Andhra Kesari” he endeared himself to the people by the sterling qualities of his personality – unimpeachable integrity, courage of conviction, firm determination, untold bravery and a generous disposition. His frequent tours in various districts and taluks of Andhra, he expressed that , every village and hamlet belongs to him. He established an instant rapport and a close identity with the people.

By spending the last pie he had earned, Prakasam without losing balance, roared :

“ People gave me money and I gave to the Nation,

Prakasam is Andhra and Andhra is Prakasam”.



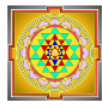
He donated his land and building near Ongole to the nation to establish a rural university especially for rural youth to be trained on self-sufficient and self-reliant generation. He was the only Chief Minister, probably who died homeless.

## 6. Conclusion:

Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam contributed to the society for its welfare, progress, development and its overall wellbeing. His ideas on land reforms and cooperative movement are even relevant today. His Firka Development concept during the early 1950's would continue to serve as the strong focal point for rural development at the micro level. He endeavored all his life to change the face of rural India. He dedicated his life to the service of the people and they, in turn, gave him abundantly of their affection and esteem.

Andhra Kesari was one of the outstanding leaders in the national Social firmament. By his limitless courage, infinite wisdom and inimitable pragmatism, he endeared himself to the people of the country and remained an idol of the masses.

Shri T. Prakasam's life and work will continue to inspire the coming generations of people of our country who will remember with gratitude the magnificent services he rendered first as a great freedom fighter and then a distinguished administrator.



A TRIBUTE TO

**ANDHRA KESARI**

*on his Birthday*

*by*

**VISWANATHA SATYANARAYANA**

(Poet Laureate and Gyanpeeth Award Winner)

Of all the towering personalities that the Land of Andhra  
has given birth to,  
Prakasam shines as the personification of all the glory  
That the Telugus cherish and pride themselves in.

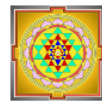
Today, Prakasam stands as a glittering Emerald  
Alongside Jawahar in the struggle against Imperialism.

At long last, after many hardships,  
When the Fragrance of Freedom is in the air,  
Our seventy-five year old Premier walks tall as  
a shining example of courage.

This is the story of Freedom,  
our story also is a saga of our struggle for Freedom.

This tribute is an emotion sweeping all through  
The Land of Andhra as a sweet memory





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