

# **Condolence for the Death of the Champion of Peoples' Culture Comrade Gaddar**

Gummadi Vithal Rao, born in a Dalit family, took the name of Gaddar in 1975 after resigning his job as a bank employee and dedicated his life for revolutionary cultural activities. He died in his 74<sup>th</sup> year on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023 after a heart operation in Hyderabad.

In his long life of revolutionary cultural movement Gaddar influenced immensely both his friends and foes. He was a rare artiste, an extempore poet and singer. With the attire of a common peasant he gave thousands of performances of folklore art against the oppressive governments and feudal society. He dedicated his life to propagate the politics that he embraced. He integrated as a soldier of cultural squad in the peasants revolution of Jagityala jaithra yatra.

Gaddar worked untiringly against state violence of all kinds. He popularised secular culture against the communal fascist ideology, scientific spirit against age long superstitions, national culture against imperialist culture and democratic culture against feudal culture.

A futile attempt was made to murder Gaddar on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1997 and there is a bullet in his spinal cord until his death. A state wide bandh was observed protesting this attempt of murder. The governments that came to power in due course did not take interest in finding out the names of miscreants who attempted to murder him. But at the death of Gaddar the ruling parties for their own interests competed in paying tributes and holding state funeral to him.

It is sad to note that Gaddar deviated from his dedicated goal of peoples' cultural movement in his last days. Jana Sahithi had a different opinion about his activities after his deviation. Yet considering the unique role played by him in building and propagating the new democratic culture Jana Sahithi expresses its deep condolence to his death.

**JANA SAHITHI**

**07-08-2023**