

East Godavari Agency Girijana Sangham Conference

The Agency Girijana Sangham was first formed in 1968 at 'Maredumilli' a hilltop village of East Godavari Agency area. It adopted a 10 point programme, of which all cultivable land should be in the hands of oppressed tribals who were forcefully evicted by landlords of plain areas; zoom cultivation (shift cultivation of forest lands) - the birthright of tribals; opposing money lender's oppressive measures; for abolishment of the colonial 'Mutadari' system which was burden upon tribals; and tribal self-rule- were prominent among those 10 points. The Agency Girijana Sangham was the continuation of heroic tribal movement of Srikakulam, and continued from where that Srikakulam movement was set back.

From 1968 the Adivasis of East Godavari had fought many struggles under the banner of Girijana Sangham. They reoccupied their encroached lands from non-tribal landlords. They occupied forest lands, violating the fences of Forest Department as Reserve lines. The cruel usuary practices were abounded by Adivasis. For this just cause and deeds they faced enormous repression from state and landlords. So many leaders of communist revolutionary movement were arrested like Com Viswam (who is the leader of Kondamodalu tribal movement since 1969) K.P. Santhi Raju, M.Somachari (both are Martyrs) etc., were incorporated as accused in Hyderabad Conspiracy Case (T.Nagi Reddy conspiracy case). Hundreds of tribals were arrested beaten and put in prisons. All the Kondamodalu land occupied tribal cases were added in that conspiracy case as evidence that the communist revolutionaries declared "Immediate Programme" to achieve revolution. Thus, the Movement of 1969 got a setback, and again reorganised from 1973, and again faced severe repression in 1975, during the period of internal emergency. So many comrades were arrested on the plea of East Godavari Conspiracy case. After Emergency the tribal movement took struggle path. The movement has been continued from Kondamodalu Centre. Tribals continued their land struggle and when it reached a momentum, on 29th Nov 1982, there was police firing, two of tribal movement beloved sons Com. Kunjam Rajulu, Madem Lakshmayya died in that people's resistance struggle. After that under severe repression also the movement for lands never ceased. In later period the tribal movement extended to various other tribal areas of West Godavari and Khammam Districts. In West Godavari, at Manugopula tribal village, Com Karam Parvathi was killed by landlords and police in a resistance struggle for lands. During all these periods 'The Agency Girijana Sangham' under the leadership of communist revolutionaries implemented the correct concept and practice of Mass line.

At this juncture the Polavaram Project was declared to commence in 2004. After that the adivasis' struggle for land has converted into struggle for survival. Retaining the lands in their hands the tribals continued struggle for scientific rehabilitation. Struggle for survival and struggle for dignity are interlinked with struggle for lands. With this concept the tribal movement of Godavari Agency is going on.

In the continuation of struggles of the past half a Century, The Agency Girijan Sangham conference was held successfully at 'Kondamodalalu R&R Peda Colony' (Now Alluri Sitaramaraju District) on 8-8-2023. Agency Girijana Sangham Flag was hoisted by Com. Illa Ramireddy (President AGS), and RCS flag was hoisted by Com. Prasadanna, the AIKMKS leader. After placement of Activity Report and Financial Report, the Conference discussed and adopted them. A new Committee was formed and Com. Illa Ramireddy as Honorary President and Com. Vetla Vijaya as President along with 36 members Executive Committee was elected.

In the inaugural and concluding speeches, Com. Jhansi, State President RCS, has said "that the tribal movement Godavari Agency areas comprising of erstwhile West & East Godavari Districts, and some parts of Khammam district which has been continuing since 1969 as Kondamodalalu centre, has crossed 54 years mark. In all these periods so many ups and downs are faced by our people. In every crucial juncture under the guidance of our leadership, the collective discussions and united actions secured our positions. So, there are so many problems we must face in the coming days. Let us unite our families, our organisation, our villages more concretely and continue our struggle for land, rehabilitation and for forest rights". She also said that "we are going to inaugurate the book of 'Kondamodalalu Tribal Movement – More than Half a Century Journey that Overcome Many Obstacles' on the eve of international indigenous peoples' day.

Comrades DVN Swamy, of AIFTU (New), M.S.Nagaraju, Lalitha, D.Varma, Bhasha, Srinu Naidu and others of RCS delivered their speeches and greeted the delegates for the success of the Conference.