

Red Salutes to Comrade Peddanna !

Comrade Peddanna was born into a poor and oppressed caste of washermen (rajaka caste). He emerged as the leader of the downtrodden in Anantapur district. He stood by the communist party, resisting the tyranny and powerplay of the feudal heads. Peddanna's father and maternal uncles stood firm in the protest struggles



unleashed by Com T.Nagi Reddy (T.N) against the atrocities and injustices committed against poor, downtrodden castes and tribes by Pedaredlu (affluent upper caste Reddy community people) in Anantapur district. After the death of the father in the family, while continuing the occupation of washerman alongside his mother, he completed his graduation. He joined as a clerk in a government office. He owned the communist party as the party of the downtrodden. He revered Tarimela Nagireddy as a great leader in his heart at an age when he was unaware of the differences on ideological issues. He continued his journey as TN's follower.

When Com Nagi Reddy came out on bail after his appeal in a sentence in the conspiracy case in May 1972, a small group of young men in Anantapur stood as support for him. It was a group that upheld party politics as a communist revolutionary political group. They're all young people and students, and one of those youths in the group was Com. Peddanna.

Peddanna was a good theatre artist. He transformed that theatre group also to support the party. Com T.N. used to publish 'Janasakthi' magazine from Anantapur. This young group worked tirelessly to bring the magazine and mobilise for its finances. Com T.N. did not keep this group around him. He wanted them to go into the people. He encouraged them to take part in peoples' programmes with a perspective on their growth as peoples' leaders and party activists. He set the perspective of building oppressed peoples' movements in trade unions, among urban people, and among oppressed people in rural and forest areas. The

majority of youth in this group walked in the path set by Com T.N. and Peddanna was one amongst the group of comrades who gave a massive boost to the democratic rights movement, literary and cultural front, and teachers movement.

To build houses for the homeless poor, the comrades gathered the poor and took up the program to build a colony on government vacant lands. The comrades named the colony Yuvajana Colony. The wretched emergency has pushed Com. Nagi Reddy to go underground and imprisoned Com. Peddanna and Com. Imam. The programs that were in progress from late 1972 until June 1975 were disrupted. A.V. Ramireddy got away with the arrest as he joined the East Godavari tribal movement. Imam tried to translate Com Nagi Reddy's court statement while in jail. Along with N.Venkata Rao, he completed it in prison. Com Nagi Reddy's death in emergency in 1976 watered down the hopes of the Indian revolutionary movement, the Andhra Pradesh revolutionary movement, Anantapur district peoples' movement, and the emerging group of youth.

After the printing of the English version of the court statement, Tarimela Nagi Reddy Memorial Trust was established with a huge donation from Mrs. Lakshmikantamma. Com T.N.'s house in Sarada Nagar, Anantapur, was converted into a public library with the books from Nagi Reddy's personal library. Com T.N. Memorial Trust was established with Martyrs Com Peddanna, K.V.Ayyar, Prathibha, Jaswanth Rao, Mandla Subba Reddy, Manam Rama Rao, and Surapaneni Seshagiri Rao; K.V.Ayyar was appointed as the President and Com Peddanna as the Secretary of the Trust. After the emergency, the democratic rights movement, youth organisations, literary and cultural organisations were established, and activities were intensified.

During the split in the party in the early 1980s, he upheld the party under the leadership of Com. Mandla Subba Reddy. During this period, Peddanna's political life went through many ups and downs. However, as a peoples' leader, he continued to work as the leader of the state union of pump mechanics and the state rajakula (washermen) union, but he remained steadfast without losing faith in revolutionary politics and returned to active responsibilities in the party. Along with the employees union, rajaka union and pump mechanics union, he also built an auto drivers' union, and colonies - Janasakthi Nagar, Rajaka Nagar, Stalin Nagar, the HLC colony beside the railway line, and Mandla Subba Reddy (MS) Nagar. He worked as the CPI(ML) party district secretary, Rayalaseema region committee member and state committee member; state president of AIFTU (New) and All India committee member. Together with Martyr Com. Timmareddy he built struggles on the Shrotriyam land issue, construction of houses for the poor in Kanekal and handloom workers issue in Rayadurg, Bhagat Singh colony, and carried out other activities. He mobilised many organisations and democrats in the wake of the massacre of the rural poor by the feudal landlords in Bommanahalli, who attacked the poor in a planned manner with daggers and axes. He achieved the cooperation and conciliation of the party committee members, villagers, family members of Sri Rama Reddy in the construction of the martyrs' column of Nagi Reddy, its renovation, and hall construction. He played a major role in the

construction of the hall and the martyrs' columns of Com CP Reddy and Com MS Reddy in Velugodu.

Comrade Peddanna is generally soft-spoken but sometimes he acts tough. If he was told not to behave like a Pedareddy, he would feel a lot and think to himself, "Am I acting like a Pedareddy?" He would think to himself that he had to grow ideologically and would work hard in that direction. He stood steadfast against extremism and revisionism, with clarity on the party program and tactics.

In 1998, he resigned from his job as per the party's decision when the party wanted to nominate a candidate for parliament with a political outlook. Even while working, he was immersed in the activities of people's movements.

Peddanna was active, loved people, and stood up for them. He continued party activities until his last breath. Despite his illness, listening to the doctors' advice, he continued to move due to his nature of not sitting back.

Wife passed away. His son passed away. These two incidents continue to disturb him. He took on the responsibility of the children he had with a new partner. Peddanna worked as a persistent worker without any disturbance to the party and people's activities in the midst of ups and downs in his personal life. The party should stand tall, and Com Peddanna was very confident that those who would hold the party high were getting ready. Com Peddanna breathed his last with the strong belief that Anantapur would become a platform for communist revolutionary politics. The ambitions of martyred comrades must be upheld. The party believes that the youth and toiling women will shoulder that responsibility.

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With Revolutionary Greetings
Viswam, CPI(ML)