



DR. M. CHANNA REDDY  
Shashtipoorthi

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY

SHASHTIPOORTH

ABHINANDAN SANCHIKA

JANUARY 13, 1979

FELICITATIONS COMMITTEE

HYDERABAD

The B. N. K. PRESS PRIVATE Ltd.  
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Vedapalani, Madras - 600 026



# FOREWORD

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Dr. M. Channa Reddy is 60 today, January 13, 1979. Over the past four decades, he played a decisive role in the life of the people of the region from which he hails. The history of Andhra Pradesh will not be complete without significant mention of the multi-dimensional contribution of Dr. Reddy to its growth and development.

On the occasion of his 'Shashti-poorthi' this Volume is brought out by the Felicitations Committee as a token of appreciation of his services to the people.

The Committee is grateful to all those who have written for this Volume on various facets of Dr. Reddy's life, struggles and achievements both in his private and public life.

Since his entry into public life and now, Dr. Reddy endeared himself not only to the common masses as their champion but also to men of letters as their patron and well-wisher; to cine and stage artistes as a connoisseur of the arts; to Vaastu pandits and Yoga adherents as one who developed insights into those sciences; and to the Civil Services as one who understood their problems. In fact, people in every walk of life find in him a true friend. In times of need, they look to him for inspiration and guidance. All these qualities of Dr. Reddy have found expression in the "Appreciations" that have been presented in this Volume.

We are conscious that this tribute does not speak of all the qualities of Dr. Reddy which have won for him friendships not only within the State of Andhra Pradesh but throughout India. Perhaps volumes could be written about him, his noble ideals, his devotion to public duty and his disarming personal charm and friendship for everyone who comes in contact with him. We leave it to his biographers to do that job.

The Committee is grateful to the B. N. K. Press, Madras, for the excellent manner in which they printed this Volume in face of heavy odds within the short time available.

The Committee also places on record its appreciation of the services so voluntarily and cheerfully given to it by friends and well-wishers of Dr. Reddy in making this venture a success.

SHASHTIPOORTH  
FELICITATIONS COMMITTEE



# CONTENTS

	Page
FOREWORD	
MESSAGES	
DR. CHANNA REDDY—A PROFILE, <i>V. Kameswari</i>	1
A FINE PRODUCT OF HYDERABAD CULTURE, <i>Mir Akbar Ali Khan</i>	5
ADHERENT OF KISAN, MAZDOOR PRAJA IDEAL, <i>N. G. Ranga</i>	7
DR. REDDY AND THE TELANGANA REGIONAL COMMITTEE, <i>T. Hayagrivachari</i>	10
A FIRM BELIEVER IN DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALISATION, <i>M. Baga Reddy</i>	14
THE MAN AND THE MYTH, <i>K. V. Narayana Reddy</i>	17
MAN OF RESULTS, <i>K. V. Keshavulu</i>	18
DR. REDDY, AS I SEE HIM, <i>Gopal Rao Ekbote</i>	22
LEADER WITH A GOLDEN HEART, <i>V. R. K. Paramahansa</i>	24
A PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR, <i>Mallikarjun</i>	26
THE HOPE OF THE PEOPLE, <i>C. Narasimham</i>	30
ADMINISTRATOR WHO DOES HIS HOMEWORK, <i>P. N. Ramaswamy Naidu</i>	34
ARCHITECT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, <i>Zahir Ahmed</i>	38
CRUSADER FOR HOLY SHRINES, <i>K. Vasudeva Rao</i>	40
AGRICULTURE'S DEBT TO DR. REDDY, <i>J. Raghotham Reddy</i>	43
LEADER WITH DRIVE AND DYNAMISM, <i>Y. Nayudamma</i>	47
HARBINGER OF STATE'S IRRIGATION PROJECTS, <i>M. Gopala Rao</i>	48
HERO IN HIS OWN RIGHT, <i>P. D. Tandon</i>	51
LOVER OF CHILDREN, <i>K. Sarada Devi</i>	53
AN AGREEABLE SPORTSMAN, <i>O. P. Tandon</i>	55
"GOOD COPY" FOR A JOURNALIST, <i>S. N. Shastri</i>	57
LEADER WHO KNOWS HIS GOAL, <i>A. S. Raman</i>	61
VOTARY OF VASTU SASTRA, <i>K. Chandra Mouli Reddy</i>	63

	Page
A YOGA VISIONARY, <i>Yogacharya Seetharamiah</i>	67
A PERSON OF CHARISMA, <i>O. Pulla Reddy</i>	69
PATRON OF THEATRE ARTS, <i>P. Raja Ramdass</i>	71
DR. CHANNA REDDY AND THE CIVIL SERVICE, <i>A Civil Servant</i>	73
MAN OF THE ERA, <i>Aripirala Viswam</i>	77
JOB, NOT DOLES—DR. CHANNA REDDY'S PRESCRIPTION FOR EDUCATED UNEMPLOYED, <i>N. Bhaskar Rao</i>	80
TRUSTEE OF THE WEAK AND THE BACKWARD, <i>Tripurana Raghava Das</i>	82
AN ABLE DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR, <i>N. Janardhan Reddy</i>	85
MAN OF THE MASSES, <i>A. Eswara Reddy</i>	90
LUCK OR EFFORT, <i>B. N. Reddy</i>	91
DR. REDDY'S CONCERN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, <i>Roda Mistry</i>	93
DR. CHANNA REDDY WHOM I KNOW, <i>H. Syed Ali</i>	94
A GENUINE FRIEND OF MINORITIES, <i>Chandar Sriwastav</i>	96
A VERSATILE PERSONALITY, <i>R. Venkatavaradan Iyengar</i>	99
A TOTAL PICTURE OF COURAGE, <i>M. V. Narayana Rao</i>	100
TEN MONTHS IN OFFICE	103
APPENDIX—THE CONTRIBUTORS	109

*MESSAGES*



BOMBAY

*January 2, 1979*

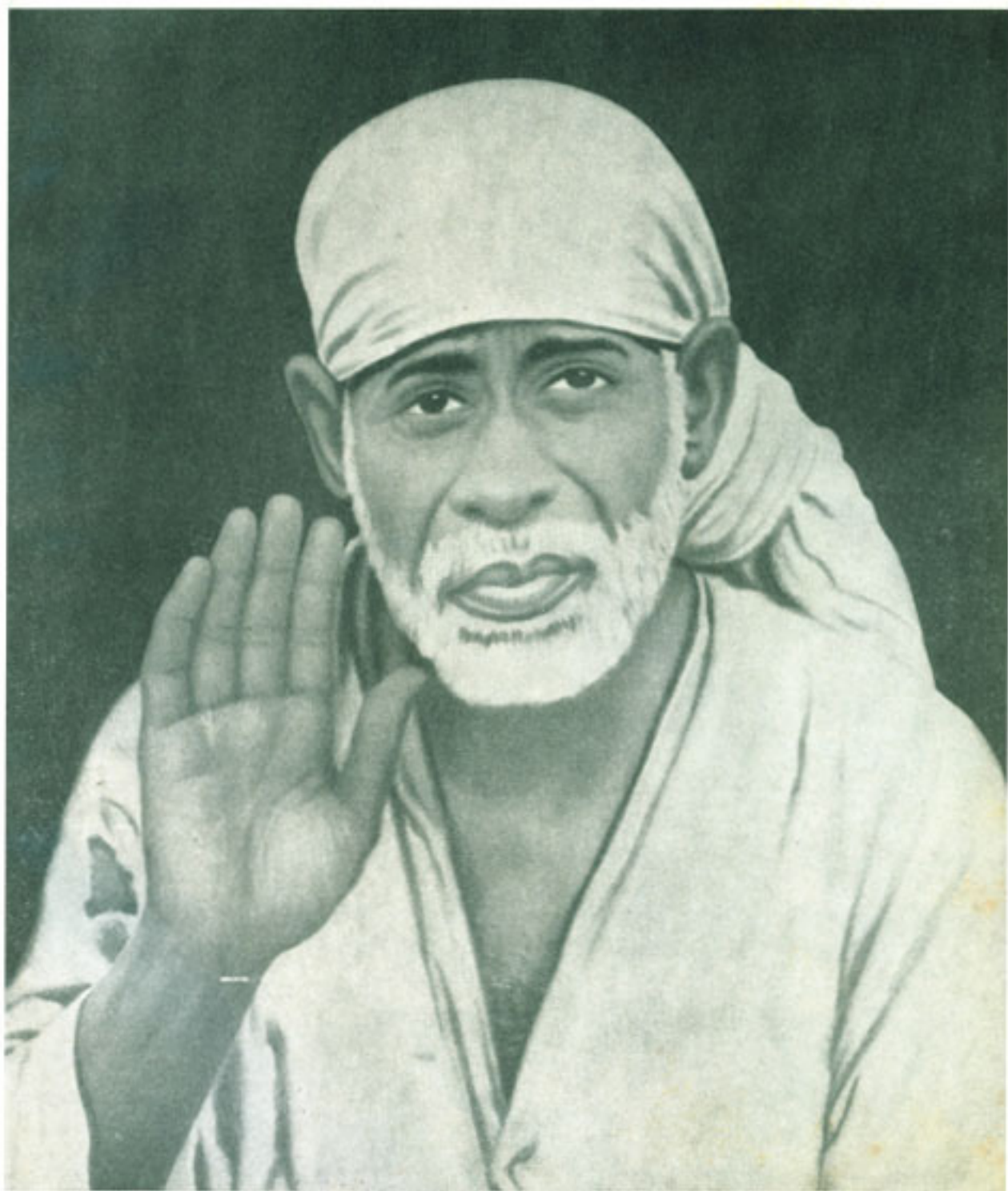
Illumine the moment of your birth by  
proceeding on the path to immortality. Success  
lies through actions in the form of Jana  
Janardhana Seva. May you live long to attain your  
cherished goal.

MAA ANAND MAI



Maa Anand Mai

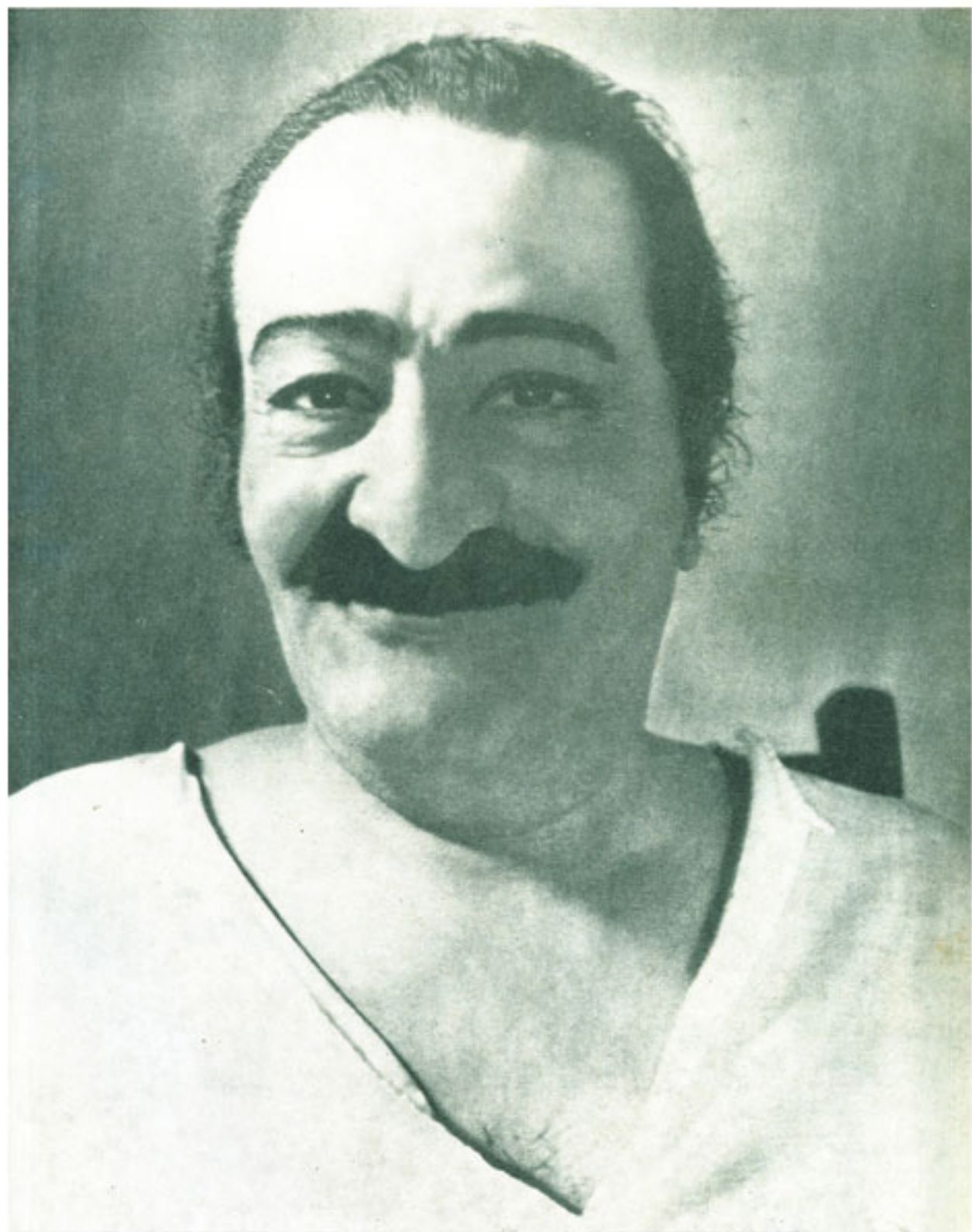
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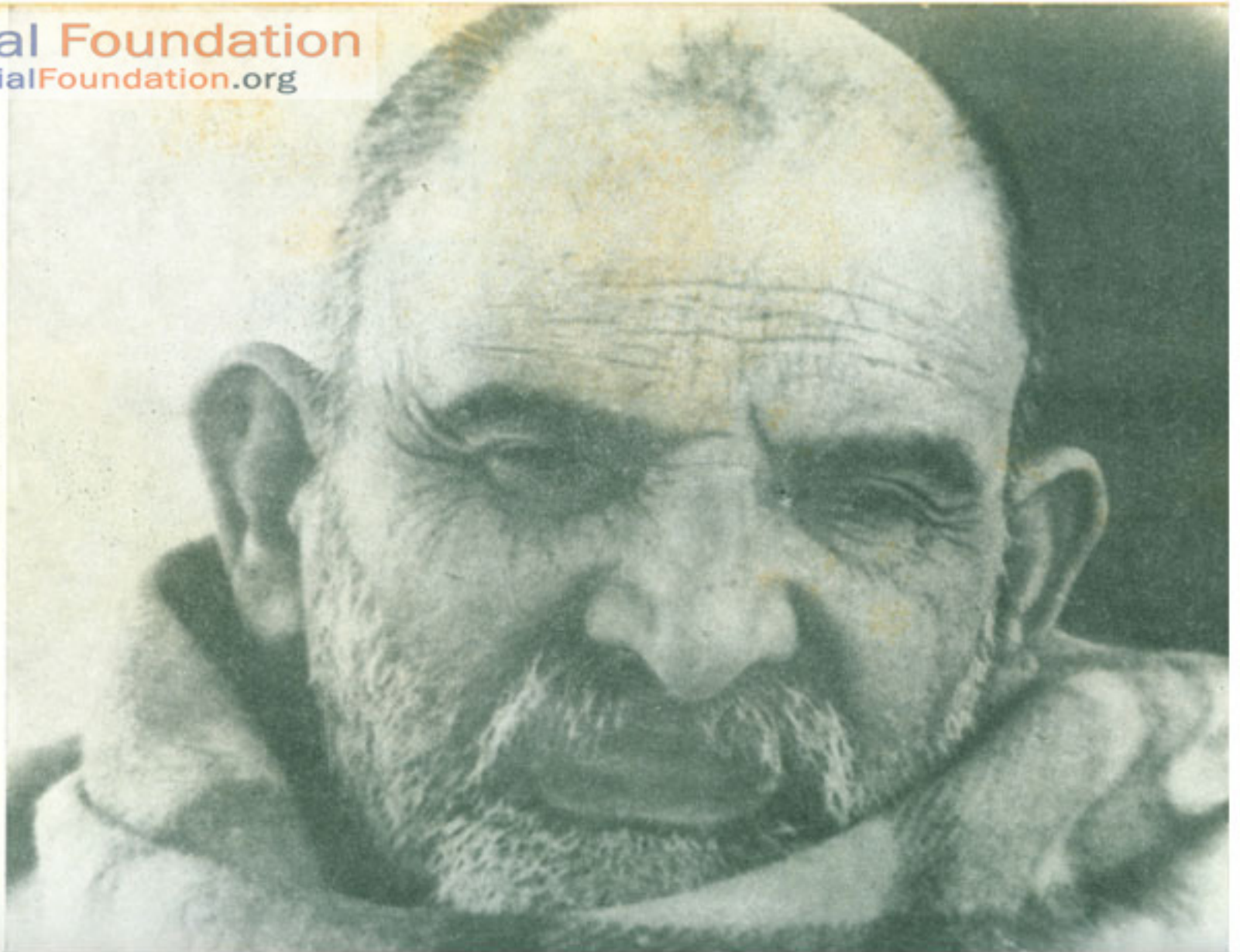




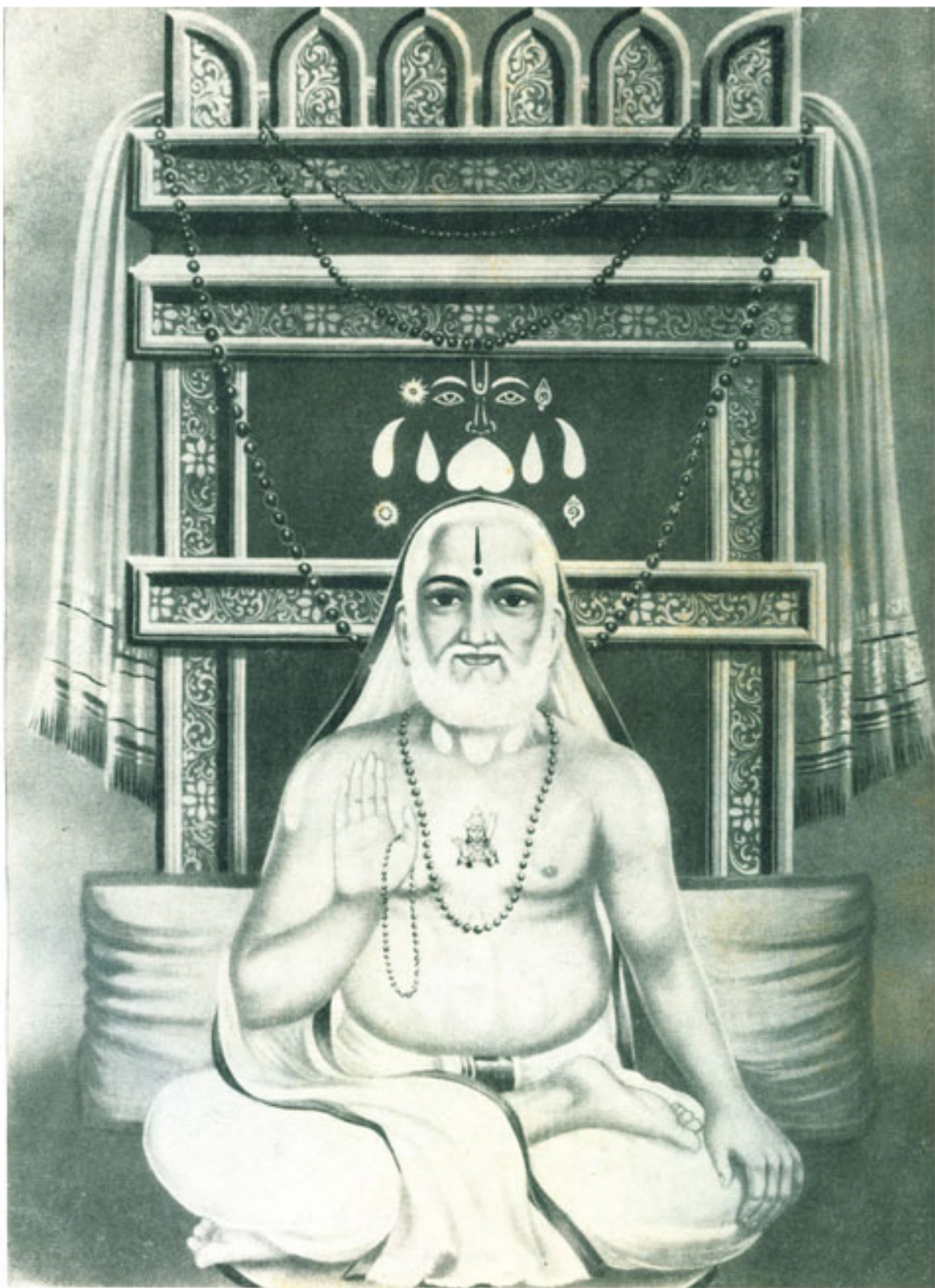
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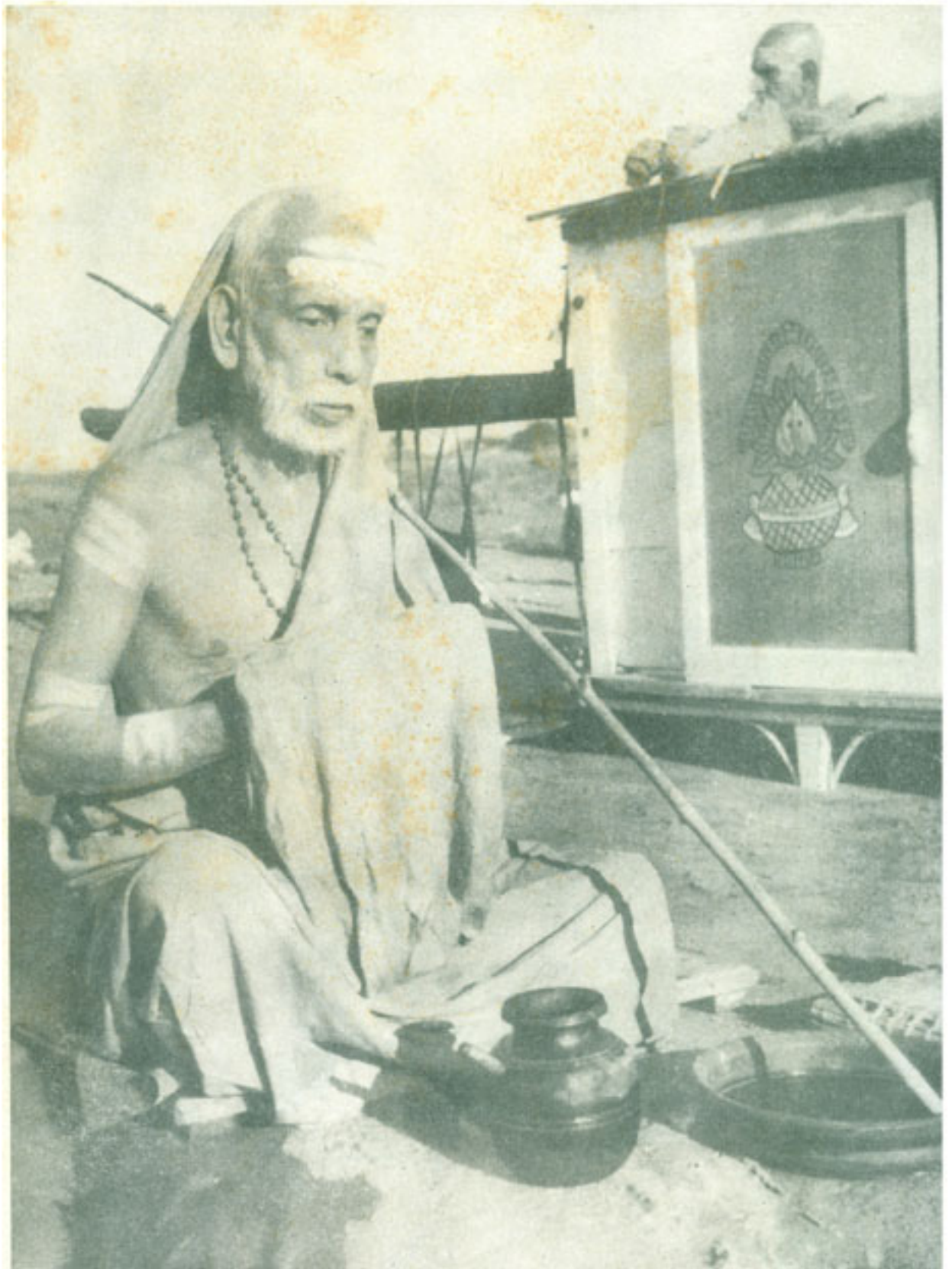






Sri Raghavendraswami





His Holiness Kanchi Kamakoti Pithadhipathi Jagadguru Sri Chandrasekhara Swami

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN  
NEW DELHI 110 004  
INDIA

*November 30, 1978*

I am glad to know that the friends and admirers of Dr. M. Channa Reddy will be celebrating his "Shashti Poorthi" on January 13, 1979. For over three decades, he has served his State and country ably and steadfastly.

On this happy occasion, I send my warm felicitations to Dr. Channa Reddy and wish him many more years of fruitful public service.

N. SANJIVA REDDY

*December 5, 1978*

I learn that it is proposed to celebrate the "Shashti Poorthi" of Dr. Channa Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, on January 13, 1979 and that an Abhinandana Sanchika will be presented to him on the occasion. I wish the celebrations all success and Dr. Channa Reddy many more years of fruitful service.

B. D. JATTI



JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

KADAM KUAN, PATNA-3  
BIHAR, INDIA

*November 19, 1978*

I am glad to learn that you are bringing out a souvenir on the occasion of Dr. Channa Reddy's "Shashti Poorthi". I pray for his long and healthy life and continued active participation in the affairs of the nation.

I convey my sincerest good wishes and kind regards.

JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

*December 15, 1978*

I have known Dr. Channa Reddy for at least two decades as Minister in Hyderabad and Andhra Pradesh Governments and later, when I was President of India, as my Minister for Steel & Mines. He has been a brilliant administrator and has rendered great services in political, social and cultural fields. I have also closely associated myself, as President of India, in his work as Governor of Uttar Pradesh. He was of great assistance to me in my work connected with BIJNOR and the help rendered by him in clearing the forests over there and settling retired soldiers' families and today, thousands of retired military men's families are settled in this colony. There are nearly a thousand good tiled houses built for them in this colony and Dr. Channa Reddy, as Governor, helped substantially by making lakhs of rupees grants and also the families were given lands to cultivate. Ramganga river has been channelised so that the whole area of thousands of acres which contained tigers and reptiles, today is turned into a big garden colony. With his assistance and of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and also of Irrigation Ministers of the Government of India and Uttar Pradesh, the colony produces huge quantities of wheat. Apart from it, a college has been built for the children of these retired soldiers and thousands of them are studying there.

Dr. Channa Reddy was always ready and helpful in attending to these matters with great promptness and the people of Uttar Pradesh are grateful to him. No wonder today he is the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and I expect that he will be able to do constructive work for the benefit of the masses over there. I am confident he will finish his century and render further services to the motherland.

V. V. GIRI

*December 20, 1978*

Age and maturity are the two inseparable sides of the same coin. But in a few exceptional cases maturity excels age and is mellowed with wisdom—wisdom which provides a deep insight into problems of humanity and the complexities of life. This is what makes a man great and gives him the ability to lead people along the path of light whatever be the field.

Dr. M. Channa Reddy has carved for himself a niche in the hearts of millions of Telugu-speaking people because of his natural flair for leadership and his capacity to organise. In my brief acquaintance with Dr. Channa Reddy, I have been deeply impressed with his keenness, energy and dynamic intellect, the way he is steering the State to greater heights of prosperity shows that service has become his very breath and pulse. His indomitable courage, spirit, dedication and above all, his vision par excellence are sure to give the State a proper direction and ensure its bright future.

On the auspicious occasion of his "Shashtipoorthi" I extend to Dr. Channa Reddy and Smt. Channa Reddy my cordial greetings and wish the celebrations all success. I offer my sincerest prayers to the Almighty to give him long life, ever-lasting energy and unbounded happiness and to shower His Blessings on this occasion to enable him to continue to serve the people for many years to come.

K. C. ABRAHAM



GOVERNOR  
TAMIL NADU

RAJ BHAVAN  
MADRAS - 600 022

*November 25, 1978*

I offer my greetings to Dr. M. Channa Reddy  
on the occasion of his Shashti Poorthi and wish  
him many happy returns of the day.

PRABHUDAS B. PATWARI



BHAGWAT DAYAL SHARMA  
GOVERNOR  
ORISSA

RAJ BHAVAN  
BHUBANESWAR

*December 22, 1978*

I am glad to know that Dr. M. Channa Reddy will  
be felicitated on the occasion of his Shashtipoorthi on  
January 13, 1979.

I send my greetings to Dr. Reddy for his good health,  
happiness and long life in the service of the nation.

BHAGWAT DAYAL SHARMA

*November 29, 1978*

I am happy to learn that Dr. M. Channa Reddy Shashtipoorthi Felicitations Committee is bringing out an "Abhinandana Sanchika" on the occasion of the 61st birthday of Dr. M. Channa Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Dr. Reddy is a great patriot and distinguished leader of modern India. Under his able and dynamic leadership the State of Andhra Pradesh is forging ahead in all fields – economic, political, social and cultural.

The unprecedented devastating cyclone in the State last year was a test of the Chief Minister's ability to muster resources to rehabilitate the affected people. The fact that the cyclone-hit Andhras are now resettled is ample proof of his effective stewardship.

On this auspicious occasion, I wish Dr. Channa Reddy a long life with good health and personal happiness.

COL. P. S. GILL

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR  
PONDICHERRY

RAJ NIVAS  
PONDICHERRY-605 001

*December 9, 1978*

I am very glad to learn that an "ABHINANDANA SANCHIKA" is being brought out felicitating Dr. M. Channa Reddy, on the occasion of his Shashti Poorthi on January 13, 1979.

A brilliant scholar and a dynamic leader, Dr. Reddy has rendered valuable services to the country in various capacities. On his Shashti Poorthi, I wish him many more years of health and happiness.

I send my best wishes for the success of the celebration.

BIDESH KULKARNI



B. B. LAL  
GOVERNOR OF SIKKIM

RAJ BHAVAN  
GANGTOK

*December 20, 1978*

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. M. Channa Reddy for a long time. He is a dynamic personality who has played an important part in the progress of the country in the last several decades.

On the occasion of his 61st birthday, I wish him many, many happy returns of the day and a long and fruitful career in the service of the country.

B. B. LAL



KARPOORI THAKUR  
CHIEF MINISTER  
BIHAR

PATNA

*December 21, 1978*

I send my greetings and good wishes to Dr. M. Channa Reddy, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh on the occasion of his Shashtipoorthi Mahotsava. May he live long, full of health and vitality to serve the nation.

KARPOORI THAKUR



SHASHIKALA G. KAKODKAR  
CHIEF MINISTER  
GOA, DAMAN AND DIU

SECRETARIAT  
PANAJI

*December 4, 1978*

I am happy to receive invitation to attend the "Shashti Poorthi" celebrations of Dr. M. Channa Reddy on January 13, 1979.

Due to various previous engagements it will not be possible for me to attend the function. I am, however, sending my felicitations for this significant day in the life of your Chief Minister. I wish him success.

SHASHIKALA G. KAKODKAR

*December 16, 1978*

I am happy to learn that the Shashti Poorthi of Dr. M. Channa Reddy, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, is being celebrated in a befitting manner.

The celebration of Shashti Poorthi marks a memorable milestone in one's life and in the case of so illustrious a person as Dr. Channa Reddy, it becomes an occasion for his friends and followers not only to bestow affection on him but emulate his qualities of head and heart which have endeared him to one and all.

Dr. Channa Reddy has a meritorious record of service to the state and the country in many capacities and, as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, he has given the state a sense of purpose and direction. His sterling ability and his passionate attachment to the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden will continue to be a source of great inspiration.

On this happy occasion, I wish Dr. Channa Reddy many, many happy returns of the day.

D. DEVARAJ URS

*December 12, 1978*

I am extremely happy to learn that Dr. Channa Reddy is to be felicitated on the occasion of his Shashti Poorthi on January 13, 1979. Dr. Reddy's contribution to the economic development and welfare of the people of Andhra Pradesh is well known. He has dedicated his long political life for bettering the lot of the common man.

On this occasion I send my good wishes to him for a long and fruitful life in the service of the people of Andhra Pradesh and the nation at large.

P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR



*December 4, 1978*

I am happy to know that you are organising a function to felicitate Dr. M. Channa Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, on the occasion of his Shashti Poorthi on January 13, 1979 and that a souvenir containing articles by distinguished persons on the life and achievements of Dr. Reddy is being brought out to mark the function.

Andhra Pradesh has been making headway in all directions under the able and dynamic leadership of Dr. Reddy. On this auspicious occasion, I convey my hearty greetings and best wishes to Dr. Reddy and wish him long, happy and prosperous life.

S. G. PAWAR

*December 10, 1978*

I am happy to hear that Dr. M. Channa Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, will be felicitated on the occasion of his 'Shashtipoorthi' on January 13, 1979.

As a matter of fact, Chief Minister of a State of the stature of Dr. Reddy does not need a message in words because his contribution during his 9 months and 4 days in office as a Chief Minister should be the real visible message for the people of the State and for his friends and well wishers.

In the present-day times, a Chief Minister should work for eradicating poverty and evil of un-employment and bring prosperity and equality of status among all citizens. I am sure Dr. Reddy, who is known for his administrative comprehension, political carpentry has been working sincerely to achieve this purpose. It is not necessary that one should belong to the same political ideology. We all have one ideology and philosophy, that is "SERVICE TO HUMANITY". We all are functioning and trying to work for establishing brotherhood and fellow feeling among all the citizens of India. The day is not far off when India will be second to none in the comity of Nations of the World under the service of Janata and for Janata.

I wish Dr. M. Channa Reddy, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh sweet health and good time in the service of the people of his State.

Y. SHAIZA

*December 23, 1978*

I am glad to learn that Dr. M. Channa Reddy will be felicitated on the occasion of his Shashti Poorthi on January 13, 1979. It is but proper that an eminent son of the Indian soil is being felicitated on his 61st birth day. His life has been one of outstanding achievements and valuable services to the Indian people and particularly to the people of Andhra Pradesh. He had held many offices both at the national level and at the State level with great distinction. It is now part of history how Dr. Channa Reddy organised the Students Congress movement in his early days and discharged his duties as the General Secretary of Andhra Maha Sabha and Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee. His services as Minister for Agriculture and Food, Planning and Rehabilitation is too well-known to be recounted. His knowledge of problems of Indian agriculture is immense and he had the distinction of having been the leader of Indian delegation to the World Conference of Agriculturists held at Rome in 1953 and had the honour of having been the Deputy Leader of the Indian Delegation to FAO Conference held at Rome in 1955. He had served his native state, Andhra Pradesh, in the capacity of Minister and now is serving as its Chief Minister. His experience in the field of administration has been varied and whatever post he held he had held it with a distinct mark of his own. His achievements as Minister for Steel, Mines and Metals, Government of India, though of short tenure, is still remembered. He had also rendered excellent service as Governor of Uttar Pradesh for some time, and now as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, he is playing a very noteworthy role not only in the politics of his state but also at the national level as well.

I wish him good luck and Godspeed in all his endeavours and also wish that he enjoys many more returns of his happy birthday to serve the cause of the Indian people.

M. G. RAMACHANDRAN



*December 1, 1978*

I am glad to hear that Dr. M. Channa Reddy will be felicitated on the occasion of his Shashti Poorthi on January 13, 1979.

Dr. Channa Reddy has had a chequered career as a freedom fighter and as a political leader in both the old Hyderabad State and later in Andhra Pradesh. It is through his tireless efforts and sacrifice that he has built up a large following in that part of India. He has a personal involvement with everything that he does and even those who are attached to him have a personal link and therefore it is, that many of those who follow him have kept to his leadership in all vicissitudes.

As a Minister in Andhra and at the Centre, Dr. Channa Reddy has left an indelible mark. Later, as Governor of Uttar Pradesh, he was able to build a rapport with all shades of opinion in Uttar Pradesh. He has an added advantage of being a prolific speaker in Urdu and Hindustani besides Telugu. During his career as a Congress Leader and as Minister and Governor, he has built up a large following all over India.

It must be said to the credit of Dr. Channa Reddy that although he led separatist agitations in Telangana, he responded to the call of a united Andhra Pradesh and today he heads that State with credit.

It is, therefore, gratifying to note that Dr. Channa Reddy will be completing sixty years of his chequered life and will be launching on his next phase of life from January 13, 1979. I join with many of our countrymen to wish him many more successful years of service to the Nation.

GODEY MURAHARI

December 12, 1978

I am glad to know that Dr. M. Channa Reddy is going to be felicitated on his 'Shashtipoorthi' on January 13, 1979.

On this happy occasion, I convey my best wishes to him.

BANARSI DAS



नारायण दत्त तिवारी  
नेता विरोधी दल

विधान भवन  
लखनऊ

दिसम्बर १९, १९७८

मुझे यह जानकर बड़ी प्रसन्नता हुई कि डा. एम. चेन्ना रेड्डी जनवरी, १९७९ में आपने साठ वर्ष पूरे करेंगे। यह भी कम प्रसन्नता की बात नहीं कि इस सुवसर पर एक ग्रंथ भी प्रकाशित किया जायेगा।

डा. रेड्डी ने जो प्रदेश और देश की सेवा की है वह स्मरणीय है। मैं उनके दीर्घायु होने की हार्दिक मनोकामना करता हूँ।

नारायण दत्त तिवारी

**E. M. S. NAMBOODRIPAD**  
MEMBER  
KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

TRIVENDRUM-1

*December 19, 1978*

I take this opportunity to extend my greetings and sincere good wishes to Dr. Channa Reddy on the occasion of his Shashti-poorthi.

**E. M. S. NAMBOODRIPAD**



**RAMA VARMA**  
Ex - MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE

KAUDIAR PALACE  
TRIVANDRUM

*December 5, 1978*

I am happy to learn that Dr. Channa Reddy, a distinguished person presently the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, will be felicitated on his SHASHTI POORTHI on January 13, 1979. Owing to other pressing engagements, I am unable to attend the function personally. I shall, therefore, be content by sending him my hearty greetings on the occasion and wish him long life and many more years of service to our country.

**RAMA VARMA**



S. RAMASSAMY  
Ex - CHIEF MINISTER

PONDICHERRY

*December 19, 1978*

I am extremely happy to note that Dr. Channa Reddy's 'Shashti Poorthi' will be celebrated on January 13, 1979. Dr. Channa Reddy has served the people in various capacities. Although, his love and service to the people was supreme.

His miraculous escape from Air crash on December 17, 1978 has proved that he will live to serve the people for many more years to come. Long live Dr. Channa Reddy.

S. RAMASSAMY



C. K. DAPHTARY

A-8, MAHARANI BAGH  
NEW DELHI-110 014

*November 25, 1978*

I am happy that the Shashti Poorthi of Dr. Channa Reddy will be celebrated on January 13, 1979.

I convey to him my felicitations and good wishes on the occasion.

C. K. DAPHTARY

## ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE

K. C. PANT, M.P.  
GENERAL SECRETARY

3, RAISINA ROAD  
NEW DELHI-1

*December 12, 1978*

I am very happy to know that a function is being organised to felicitate Dr. M. Channa Reddy on his 'Shashti-poorthi' on January 13, 1979.

I have known Dr. Reddy for many years and have seen him in many roles—as Central Minister, as leader of the Telangana Movement, as Governor of U.P. and now as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He is a man with a dynamic personality and drive and great organising capacity. I had prolonged and delicate negotiations with him during the Telangana agitation and was greatly impressed not only by the firm grip he had over the situation, but also by the fact that once he had given his word, he stuck to it, even in the most difficult circumstances. I hope, the Souvenir to be brought out on this auspicious occasion will succeed in highlighting his services to the nation.

I wish the function all success.

K. C. PANT

C. V. NARASIMHAN  
United Nations  
New York N.Y. 10017

CAMP: MADRAS

*December 6, 1978*

I am delighted to learn that a group of friends and admirers have organised a Committee to felicitate Dr. Channa Reddy on the occasion of his Shashti Poorthi.

Having been an admirer of Dr. Channa Reddy during the decades he has spent in public life, I have great pleasure in congratulating him on this happy occasion. In spite of his busy public life in the political arena, he has managed to find time for his social work and cultural activities. He approximates very closely to the ideal of a 'philosopher-king', a political leader, who does not go by the immediate exigencies of political life but has a philosophy and a code of conduct to guide his political activities as well as his personal life.

On this happy occasion, I salute Dr. Channa Reddy through this brief message and extend to him my warmest blessings and good wishes. I hope Dr. Channa Reddy will continue his great contribution to the political, social and cultural life, not only of Andhra Pradesh but of all India, for many decades to come.

C. V. NARASIMHAN



AHMAD SAID KHAN  
NAWAB OF CHATTARI

RAHAT MANZIL, MARRIS ROAD  
ALIGARH

*November 26, 1978*

I am very happy to learn about the felicitation to Dr. Channa Reddy on his "Shashti Poorthi" on January 13, 1979.

I had the privilege of knowing Dr. M. Channa Reddy for a long long time. I have known him as a minister in the Central Government, as Governor of Uttar Pradesh and now as a Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He has been endowed with great qualities of head and heart. He has very happy combination of being a great statesman and also a firm and strong administrator. He is wise and generous and he thinks of no evil. I think Andhra Pradesh is very lucky to have a gentleman of his quality as head of the administration. I wish him a long life with health, happiness and success.

AHMAD SAID KHAN

*December 8, 1978*

My association with Dr. Channa Reddy started in the year 1959 when I accompanied Poojya Rajaji to Hyderabad. And much later, when my wife Subbulakshmi and I were in Lucknow, we discovered that Poojya Ma Anandamayee was yet another tie that bound us to Dr. Channa Reddy. And on January 13, 1979, when he will turn Sixty, Dr. Channa Reddy could feel truly blessed in the thought that the Sage of Kanchi, in his 85th year, is now on Pada Yatra in the State of Andhra.

Dr. Channa Reddy is a lover of music and a great lover of our art and culture. His life is truly anchored to our great heritage and he is soaked in the essence of our sacred scriptures. I feel that it may be the Will of the Lord of Tirumala to make Dr. Channa Reddy the instrument for the fulfilment of the mission of His Holiness the Sage of Kanchi, to preserve our great Vedas, to promote the study of the Vedas and to support and sustain the few, but great, vedic scholars scattered all over our sacred land of Bharat.

Subbulakshmi and I convey our affectionate regards to Dr. Channa Reddy on the occasion of his Shashti Poorthi and pray that by the eternal grace of the Lord of Tirupati and the abiding blessings of the Sage of Kanchi, of Poojya Ma Anandamayee and of Bhagawan Baba, he lives the full span of one hundred years useful life in perfect health and happiness.

T. SADASIVAM

*December 4, 1978*

I am happy to know that Dr. M. Channa Reddy will be felicitated on January 13, 1979, on the occasion of his Shashti Poorthi.

I came in contact with Dr. Reddy during 1950-51. Although I did not share his views in many respects vis-a-vis the creation of a separate Telangana State since I was very much opposed to the formation of many small states, I found Dr. M. Channa Reddy a most daring and impressive personality. It was unfortunate that when he was elected to the Rajya Sabha and became a Cabinet Minister, he had to leave that office due to an election petition that was filed against him and which he lost. When he came as the Governor of this State, I found him very quick in the disposal of matters which came before him. He is most dynamic and his approach in almost all matters is pragmatic.

I wish him a long life and successful career.

C. B. GUPTA



*November 23, 1978*

Hinduism insists upon, as its ideal, dynamic goodness and almost condemns passive goodness. When passive nobility clashes with dynamic evil it is always the dynamic evil that succeeds. The Rakshasas represent dynamic evil and the Rishis performing Yagnas in Ramayana represent passive goodness. And we know that the Rishis had to run from pillar to post and at every place the goondas disturbed them mercilessly. It is then that Vishwamitra borrows an eight year old son of Dasaratha to stand as a guard at the gate of the Yagnashala. Where Rama stands as guard the Rakshasas retreat. When dynamic evil, Ravana, meets dynamic goodness, Rama—good alone wins, never the evil; Satyameva Jayate Na Anritam.

Dr. Channa Reddy has always struck me as one who is dynamically good. Amidst passive people he may seem to be a devastating storm, an inconvenient wind. But a nation on the stride has to come out of its passivity and in this process when our executives are not sufficiently dynamic in their actions, however great our aspirations may be, however noble our programmes may be, they never get fulfilled in time.

On this gracious occasion of the 61st birthday of Dr. Reddy, I heartily congratulate him and with great expectations I will look forward to an era of quick progress in the state.

SWAMI CHINMAYANANDA

*December 4, 1978*

I send my hearty felicitations and good wishes to the Chief Minister Dr. M. Channa Reddy on the happy occasion of his Shashti Poorthi. During the course of his political career, both as a leader of the people and as a minister, he became conversant with the problems of the people and more specially with the agriculturists. There are many personal followers of Dr. Channa Reddy in the Telangana districts.

Dr. Reddy is known for his dynamism and mass leadership. He is a fluent speaker in Telugu, English and Urdu and carries the audience with him. Though he experienced some setbacks in his career, Dr. Reddy always turned them, by his determination and courage, as stepping stones for his further career. He became a Cabinet minister in the Centre and then Governor of Uttar Pradesh. But he did not continue as Governor for the full term as he was anxious to be in active politics of his State. After the general elections in the State in March 1978, Dr. Reddy became the obvious choice for the chief ministership.

Dr. Reddy is deeply religious and is active in politics, though he was a medical man by training. Thus, he combined in his personality science, religion and politics. He can be fiery and peaceful. He can be an administrator and an agitator. To sum up, Dr. Channa Reddy has all the qualities of leadership.

I wish him every success in service of the people.

B. GOPALA REDDY

*December 1, 1978*

‘Shashti Poorthi’ is an event in one’s life. It is fitting that Dr. Channa Reddy should be felicitated on completion of sixty years of eventful life.

As an associate in public life and colleague in the Ministry, I know him for over two decades. He is dynamic and industrious, though abrasive at times. He was with me and against me; either way he is formidable.

As older to him, I bless him with success, health and vigour in future activities.

K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY



**CHANDRA SHEKHAR**  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(LOK SABHA)

3, SOUTH AVENUE LANE  
NEW DELHI-110 011

*December 1, 1978*

It is with pleasure that I send a message of greetings on the auspicious occasion of the 61st birthday of Dr. M. Channa Reddy.

Sixty years is a period that gives us a clear perceptive of the thoughts, aspirations and achievements of an individual in relation to society and the nation. We have many reasons to be grateful to Dr. Channa Reddy for his selfless dedication and qualities of leadership.

I know that all will join me in wishing him many more years of inspiring service.

**CHANDRA SHEKHAR**

S. K. PATIL

SHANTI KUTEER  
MARINE DRIVE  
BOMBAY-400 020

*December 20, 1978*

I have known Dr. Channa Reddy for almost a quarter of a century. From his very early age he has dedicated himself to the freedom of the country. He has played a very important part in the freedom struggle of erstwhile Hyderabad State. He has filled many important administrative posts with ability and distinction. He is a simple man, very well educated and with charming manners. I was very happy when he became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He has quite a long life before him to serve his people particularly Andhra Pradesh. I am sure he will make a mark in the democratic life of this great land of ours.

S. K. PATIL

*December 8, 1978*

I have known Dr. M. Channa Reddy for the last many years. Apart from his politics, he has convinced the public that he is a man of strong conviction. He has always stood for the neglected masses and regions. His life is a life of struggle which he has lived patiently and cheerfully.

Completion of 60 years was a great event in Indian life some years back. But now the situation is changed. Sixty years is now the age of a youth. In fact I look upon Dr. M. Channa Reddy as a youth since I am now 80 and am still active. However, "Shashti Poorthi" is a great event in one's life and it is observed with all solemnity by the members of one's family. Dr. Channa Reddy's "family" is very large. In fact not only the province where he works but outside too he has extended his relationship. Naturally, therefore, his "Shashti Poorthi" should be observed in all solemnity. Along with others, I offer prayers to Almighty for his long useful life in the interests of the common people.

HARE KRISHNA MEHTAB



*December 21, 1978*

I am glad to learn that Shashtipoorthi of Dr. Channa Reddy is being celebrated on January 13, 1979. I have known Dr. Channa Reddy since the Constituent Assembly days. He has steadily risen in public life due to his devotion to public causes and service to the country. He is now occupying a key position as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. I am sure, under his leadership the Andhra Pradesh will march forward on all fronts; economic, social and political. I, along with his numerous admirers and well wishers, wish him many more years of useful service to the nation.

C. SUBRAMANIAM

*December 13, 1978*

I am glad to hear that Dr. M. Channa Reddy will be felicitated on the occasion of his 'Shashtipoorthi' on January 13, 1979. I have known Dr. Reddy for many years. I had occasion to move with him closely when he was Minister for Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Reddy comes from a distinguished family in Telangana. He has travelled abroad and has specialised in problems of agriculture and is quite competent to deal with rural problems. He is just the man wanted for Andhra Pradesh and it is a matter for gratification that he is guiding the destiny of Andhras as their Chief Minister. He is dynamic and resourceful. He has valuable experience as a Cabinet Minister in the Central Government and as Governor of Uttar Pradesh. He is eminently fitted to organise the farmers in the country and take them on their onward march. Dr. Reddy has immense faith in the potentialities of the Indian National Congress. I have no doubt that his stewardship of the Andhra Pradesh will be marked by phenomenal success. I offer to him my warmest felicitations and best wishes.

M. BHAKTAVATSALAM

*December 7, 1978*

When we turn the pages of Indian history, we find that just as the mighty kings of Vijayanagaram stood as the solo custodians of the culture and civilisation of the vast area south of Vindhya, many of the valiant and praiseworthy leaders of Andhra relentlessly strived hard for the preservation of the culture and political awakening in the then composite State of Madras.

I have realised on many an occasion that Dr. Channa Reddy, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, like the traditional leaders of Andhra, has been evincing much interest in the welfare and wellbeing of both Tamils and Andhras.

Dr. Channa Reddy is quite familiar with the rights and sentiments of the Tamil people and I do hope that his continued help and cooperation to the just cause of the Tamils will always be there.

On the happy occasion of the Shashti Poorthi of such an exalted leader like Dr. Channa Reddy, I sincerely wish him long life, health and courage to continue his noble and patriotic services to the nation in general and the South in particular.

M. KARUNANIDHI



*December 3, 1978*

There is a saying that service to people is service to God. It is a pleasure to see Dr. M. Channa Reddy following this motto in his variegated public life right from the beginning. As a humble worker, as a politician and as an administrator for over forty years of his public life, Dr. Reddy has had ample opportunities of rendering dedicated service to the people not only of his home state but to the people of the country as a whole. Even now, at the age of sixty, he is continuing to do the same service with deep-seated devotion and earnestness of purpose, keeping in view the high moral, cultural and spiritual values which he cherishes the most.

On the auspicious occasion of his Shashti Poorthi, His Holiness confers his blessings on Dr. Channa Reddy for many many more years of such useful service based on Hindu Dharma and Culture. May the Divine Grace of Goddess Kamakshi and Maha Tripurasundari and Lord Chandramowleeswara be always with him !

శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ జగద్గురు పుష్పగిరి శంకరాచార్య స్వాములవారు,  
 శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ జగద్గురు పుష్పగిరి మహాసంస్థానము,  
 పచ్చగిరి—కడపజిల్లా

కాంపు 10, పద్మరావ్ నగర్  
 సికిందరాబాదు,

డిసెంబరు 4, 1978

డాక్టరు మణ్ణి చెన్నారెడ్డిగారికి షష్ట్యబ్ది పూర్తి మహోత్సవము జరుపదలచి ఆ సందర్భమును పురస్కరించుకొని అభినందన సంచిక నొకదానిని వెలువరించ దలచుట సంతోషజనకము.

శ్రీ చెన్నారెడ్డిగారు స్వయముగ నైద్యులై యుండి, రాజకీయ రంగమున ప్రవేశించి, ఈ కాలంలో గల రుగ్మతలను బోగొట్టి, దేశమున శాంతి సౌభాగ్యముల వెలకొల్ప బద్ధకంకణు లగుట హర్షజనకము. శౌర్య పరాక్రమ పాండిత్యాదులు ఎన్ని యున్నను, దైవానుగ్రహము లేనిదే శోభించి ఫలజనకములు కాజాలవను ధర్మసూక్ష్మమును గుర్తెరిగిన శ్రీ రెడ్డిగారి ధర్మపరాయణతయే వారిని ఇంతవారినిగ చేసినది. వారి ధర్మదీక్ష ఆస్తిక్యము వలన ఆయన పరిపాలనలో ప్రజలు కూడ ధర్మతత్పరులై భగవదారాధనాసంజనిత సుఖ శాంతులు గలవారు అగుదురుగాక !

మణ్ణి పృక్షము అనంత శాఖోపశాఖలుగ విస్తరించునట్లు శ్రీ మణ్ణి చెన్నారెడ్డి గారి యశస్సు విస్తరిల్లుగాక. సకల ధార్మిక కార్యములందు సహకరించును సహధర్మచారిణి యైన వారి ధర్మపత్నిగారు చిర సౌభాగ్యముతో వర్ధిల్లుదురు గాక !

శ్రీ రెడ్డిగారి షష్ట్యబ్దిపూర్తి సమయమున వారికి, వారి కుటుంబ పభ్యులకు శ్రీ శారదా చంద్రమౌళీశ్వరులు తమ కటాక్ష కృపావీక్షణముల ప్రసరింపజేయుదురు గాక !

ఇతి

నారాయణస్మృతయః

శ్రీ విద్యా నృసింహభారతీస్వామినః

శ్రీమ త్సుబ్బయ్యారెడ్డి శ్రీపాదులవారు,  
శ్రీ రామచంద్రస్వామి మఠము,

మంజులాయము-518345

అదోపి కాదాకా

కర్నూలు జిల్లా—అం. ప్ర.

డిసెంబరు 6, 1978

ప్రజాహితాసక్త బిరుదాంకితులును, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ ప్రభుత్వ ముఖ్యమంత్రియగు గౌ. డా. చెన్నారెడ్డిగారికి షష్ట్యబ్ది పూర్తి శాంతి మహోత్సవము 1979 జనవరి, 13 నాడు జరుగుచున్నదని తెలిసి సంతసించుచున్నాము. ఈ సందర్భమున అశీః పంచరత్నములను పంపించుచున్నాము. వారికి పకలైశ్వర్య ఆయురారోగ్యాభివృద్ధి కలుగు కొరకు ఆస్మదుపాస్య శ్రీ మూల రామదేవునియందును శ్రీ రామచంద్ర స్వాముల వారి యందును విశేష ప్రార్థనలు చేయుచున్నాము.

నారాయణ స్మరణములు



అశీఃపంచరత్నములు

విజయస్య మహాప్రాజ్ఞ వేదశాస్త్రాభివర్ధక

ఆంధ్ర ప్రధాన సచివ చెన్నారెడ్డి మహోదయ.

(వేదములను శాస్త్రములను వృద్ధిపరచెడి ప్రజ్ఞాశాలియగు, ఆంధ్ర ప్రదేశ్మునకు ముఖ్యమంత్రియగు శ్రీ చెన్నారెడ్డి సర్వోత్కర్షగా వర్ధిల్లుగాక!)

తృప్తరమపాలనం ధీర రంజయ తృణిలాః ప్రజాః

సన్నతిర్హి తనాభ్యాతి భవిష్య చ్చుభ యోగ్యతామ్.

(ధైర్యశాలియగు చెన్నారెడ్డి మహోదయ! మీరు ధర్మమార్గమున పరిపాలించుచుంటిరి. ఆట్లు చేయుటవలన ప్రజలను రంజింప చేయుచున్నారు. మీయందు గల వినయసంపద మీకు భవిష్యత్తులో గూడ శుభములను కలిగించునట్లు సూచించుచున్నది.)

ప్రజాక్షేమాయ కల్పన్తాం సర్వా వ్యాపృతయో మమ

ఇత్యేవ సర్వం కురుషే చెన్నారెడ్డి మహాశయ.

(విశాలమగు హృదయము గల చెన్నారెడ్డిగారు! మీరు—“నేను పనిచేసిన ప్రజాక్షేమము కలుగవలెను; ప్రజాహితమే నాకు లక్ష్యము”—అను సంకల్పముతోనే ఎల్ల కార్యములను చేయుచున్నారు.)



త్యయా ధర్మవతిష్ఠానం శుభకార్యాణి కారయన్  
శ్రీమూలరామః కోదండపాణి స్త్వం పాతు సర్వథా.

(శ్రీమూలరామదేవరు మీచే ధర్మమును ప్రతిష్ఠింపజేయుచు, శుభపరంపర చేయుచును  
కోదండమును బూని, మిమ్ము నిల్చి విధముల—అనగా శ్రీ తువులవలన బాధలు కలుగకుండ—  
రక్షించుగాక !)

లక్ష్మీపతేః కరుణయా లోకకల్యాణ హేతవే  
శతాబ్ద పూర్తిం సంపూర్ణ మవాప్నుహి సుధార్మిక.

(డాక్టరు చెన్నారెడ్డిగారు ! మీరు ఇప్పుడు షష్ట్యబ్దపూర్తి ఉత్సవము చేపొనుచున్నారు.  
మీ ద్వారా లోకములకు కల్యాణపరంపర జరిపించుటకై శ్రీకాంతుడగు శ్రీ మహావిష్ణువు  
మీకు శతాబ్దపూర్తిని కలిగించుగాక ! “శతాయుః పురుషః” అను శ్రుతిని బట్టి నూరు  
సంవత్సరములు పురుషునకు పరిపూర్ణాయుష్యము. అట్టి ఆయుష్యము మీకు విష్ణువు  
ప్రసాదించుగాక !)



SRI SWAMI OMKAR

TOTAPALLI HILLS  
EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT

November 29, 1978

On the happy occasion of 'SHASTIPOORTHI' of our  
dear ideal and devoted Chief Minister, Dr. M. Channa Reddy,  
all the members of Ashram and the Gurukul children send  
their prayers for the health and peace of Dr. Reddy, his wife  
Savitri Devi and their children.

Santi Ashram will be celebrating the occasion with  
prayers to invoke the choicest blessings on Dr. Reddy's  
family.

SWAMI OMKAR

*December 18, 1978*

It is indeed a happy news that Dr. M. Channa Reddy will complete 60 years of his fruitful life on January 13, 1979 and on this happy occasion I felicitate him.

I am perhaps one of his many good friends, who have the privilege both of close association with him and of sharing his confidence. Many in this part of India, who have viewed him as Governor of Uttar Pradesh, might have found him a ruthlessly efficient head of the State, who not only did things himself as his good conscience permitted him but also made others do things as they might do solely in the interests of the welfare of the people of this State. From my privileged place of close friendship with him, I not only saw him as many had seen him as one of the most efficient administrators of the Government in Uttar Pradesh from atop but also experienced the touch of tremendous humanism in whatever he did. He belonged both to the Occident as well as to the Orient. His deep faith in Ramayana and Mahabharata and the heroes thereof, Shri Rama and Shri Krishna, his application of the trite sayings of the Upanishads to everyday life of modern India and his abiding belief that the "Vedas" contained the quintessence of whatever could be expounded by humans as knowledge and truth, made him comfortable and happy in any society and in his eyes, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Parsees and others were all 'Hindus' following human ways of life under different garbs. Because he was a man of integrity with a cosmopolitan approach to human life, he showed that idleness and inefficiency anywhere and everywhere must be eschewed. These qualities of his are well known to his intimate friends who still amuse themselves, when some people choose to call him a 'ruthless administrator'. God's hand could be seen working unobtrusively whenever he had been put to difficulties by men's hands. To prove this single aspect of his faith, he had lived through ups and downs in his political life. There will not be a person who will ever wish ill of him on this occasion of his "Shashtipoorthi".

I, as a close friend of Dr. Channa Reddy, sharing his humility, will always pray "Oh God! bestow on him 'Poorna Purusha Ayush' so that he may be of service to the mankind through your benediction".

GAURHARI SINGHANIA



*December 20, 1978*

It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction to learn that the people of Andhra Pradesh propose to celebrate the Shashtipoorthi of their acknowledged leader and Chief Minister, Dr. Channa Reddy.

It has been my personal privilege to have known Dr. Reddy very intimately since his tenure as a Central Minister. I have been a keen observer of the administrative skill and the quality of leadership of Dr. Reddy and have been immensely impressed.

It is but natural that we all should wish a long purposeful life for a person like Dr. Reddy who has made service to Society his mission of life. I join the people of Andhra Pradesh in felicitating Dr. Reddy on Shashtipoorthi occasion.

HARIDEV JOSHI



*December 21, 1978*

"I believe in Advaita, I believe in the essential unity of man and for that matter all that lives". (Young India December 4th 1924) It was from this profound intuition of the Truth that the Mahatma was able to practise love, forgiveness and non-violence with such conviction and effectiveness. It was not only conviction and devotion which made the acts of that Great Soul so powerful, it was the Truth which found in him a transparent instrument. So selfless was he that the power of justice and righteousness just flowed through him watering this parched land with the refreshing rains of freedom. But, as we all know, this freedom did not come to us without great sacrifices and suffering. The Mahatma was the first to suffer and bear the immense sacrifice which was needed, but he was not alone. If he achieved what he did it was also because of the association with him of such heroic and dedicated people as Dr. M. Channa Reddy whose Shashti-abda-poorti is being celebrated.

May the Great Consolidator of Advaita, the Advaita Mahatma Gandhi followed so diligently, viz., Adi Sankara shower his Grace on the respected Sri Reddy and bless his new period of life with continued success in the wonderful work he is doing.

T. M. P. MAHADEVAN

*December 21, 1978*

I take this opportunity to offer my sincere greetings and best wishes to Dr. Reddy for his long life full of success and achievements in the service of our motherland.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. M. Channa Reddy for over 30 years. I believe both he and I belong to that circle of friends and comrades who came to be associated at one time or the other with the late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai and have ever since been called in a lighter and affectionate vein as "Raffians". We have seen and experienced, a little from close quarters, the great human qualities, dignity and charm with which Rafi Saheb was endowed—his deep love for his country, his spirit of selfless services to his fellow countrymen, his unfailing readiness to suffer and sacrifice for his friends and for the causes that he espoused or held dear and that total absence of egoism, arrogance and selfishness that marked him out as a prince amongst patriots and a paragon of virtues and human qualities. I trust Dr. Channa Reddy has undoubtedly imbibed the irresistible influence that Rafi Saheb cast on his friends and followers and has surely ingrained many of the qualities and virtues that exuded from that great man.

It stirs up mixed feelings in my mind to realise that even a young man of yesterday like Dr. Channa Reddy has already completed 60 years and can no longer be called 'Young'. But that is the inexorable way of life; and so we pray to God Almighty that he may grant Dr. Reddy a long life full of health and vigour and may Dr. Reddy continue to serve our great country, truly selflessly and effectively for many many years to come.

RAJ BAHADUR



*December 27, 1978*

I came into contact with Dr. Channa Reddy about 10 years ago when he was Finance Minister of Andhra Pradesh, though I had heard of his promise and potential earlier also. Since that first meeting, our acquaintance gradually but steadily developed into personal friendship and political comradeship which has stood the test of time. Dr. Reddy has courage of his convictions. He is deeply devoted to the cause of the all-round and full socio-economic development of Andhra Pradesh. He is as keen for securing the progress of Telangana (for which he took bold initiatives and risked misunderstanding) as for the other regions of the State, namely, Rayalaseema and the coastal districts. Where he enters into a public commitment, he finds it most difficult to compromise his stand. Indeed, as far as I know, he has hardly ever done so. He possesses the qualities of leadership. He is an experienced and efficient administrator. He has the drive which enables him to deliver the goods.

If Dr. Channa Reddy can preserve and promote the good will of the various political, social and economic groups, castes and classes and their changing spokesmen, which I believe he has already secured in full measure, then I have no doubt whatsoever that his regime will be characterized by such comprehensive and enduring development commensurate with the genius of the talented people of Andhra Pradesh, giving him a memorable place in the history of India.



*December 26, 1978*

I am happy to learn that Dr. M. Channa Reddy's Shashtipoorthi will be celebrated and a Souvenir is being published on the occasion.

Dr. Reddy started his public life during his young age when he founded the Andhra Yuvajana Samiti and Students Congress. He was Minister for Agriculture in Hyderabad State and was leader of the Indian delegation to world conference of Agriculturists at Rome in 1953 and was Deputy Leader of the Indian Delegation to F.A. O. Conference at Rome in 1955. He was Cabinet Minister in Andhra Pradesh and was Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Metals. He later became Governor of Uttar Pradesh and is now the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Reddy has thus served the State and the Country in various capacities and I wish him a long and healthy life in the service of the country.

BABUBHAI J. PATEL

*December 23, 1978*

I am very happy to know that Dr. M. Channa Reddy is completing Sixty years, and a commemoration volume is being brought out on this occasion.

Traditionally, sixty is the age when an individual is free from his personal and family responsibilities and with his maturity and experience can devote himself entirely to social welfare work. A healthy man of sixty is, therefore, a social asset, and in a personality like Dr. Channa Reddy, it is a very valuable social asset.

I take this opportunity to wish Dr. Channa Reddy good health and long life.

MOHAN DHARIA



RAVINDRA VARMA  
MINISTER OF  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR  
INDIA

NEW DELHI - 110 001

*December 23, 1978*

I am glad to know that the Shashtipoorthi of Dr. Channa Reddy will be celebrated on the 13th January, 1979.

I pray God to give him good health and long life so that he may continue to serve the people of our country with distinction.

RAVINDRA VARMA

*January 3, 1979*

Any amount of praise is less to describe the dynamic personality of Dr. M. Channa Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, who is the patriotic leader of the masses and a great devotee of God.

I hope, with his vast experience, he will lead the citizens of Andhra Pradesh to a better and higher state of living.

May the Lord bestow on him extra strength and vigour to serve our holy nation.

My sincere prayers unto Lord Shirdi Sai Baba to shower His choicest blessings upon Dr. Channa Reddy and Smt. Savitri Reddy for their highest welfare.

K. SAI KUMAR  
(*Shirdi Sai Pada Bhakta*)



*December 23, 1978*

I am very happy that my good friend, Dr. Channa Reddy, is completing 60 years on January 13, 1979.

Dr. Channa Reddy took to medical education obtaining M.B.B.S. Degree and worked for sometime for public good in free dispensaries which he opened in Hyderabad. Even as a student, he was trained fully and was attracted by virtuous living as laid down in our Ithihasas, Puranas like Ramayana and Mahabharatha which knowledge even now he is exhibiting as a religious person. He is a great Bhaktha of Sankaracharya. He is upholding the culture of our ancient India with service to our country without distinction of caste, creed or community. He fought hard the Nizam's regime and the Razakar movement till Hyderabad was merged with the Union of India.

Dr. Channa Reddy was chosen to represent Hyderabad in the Provincial Parliament and caught the eyes and hearts of senior politicians like Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.

In the first general elections, he was elected to the Hyderabad State Legislature and served the State as Food and Agriculture Minister at a very hard time when there was food scarcity.

He worked hard in the internal conflicts between Telangana and Andhra and remained outside government from 1957 to 1962. After the 1962 elections, he rejoined the State Cabinet. However, he was soon called upon by Srimathi Indira Gandhi to join her Government at the Centre as cabinet minister in charge of Steel and Mines. He had to resign his ministership in 1968 owing to the judgment of Andhra Pradesh High Court.

In 1974, Dr. Reddy became Governor of Uttar Pradesh, the largest State in India, in deference to the wishes of Srimathi Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister. His services as Governor of the state are too well-known.

He relinquished his governorship in October 1977 to re-enter active politics. After the Assembly elections in 1978, he became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Wherever he was and whatever posts he held, he has always been working for the others' cause without any animous against any party or person. He always keeps politics apart from his personal friendship and is of amiable disposition.

I wish him many more years of active political life for the benefit of the country.

M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIAR

*December 24, 1978*

It was sometime in 1940-41 when I visited Hyderabad and met my esteemed friend the late Dr. Bahadur Khan, the then Professor of Surgery in the Osmania Medical College, in his office, where I first saw a young medical student coming in to talk to his Professor. When he left, Prof. Khan told me in his good humour that this medico was Channa Reddy and mentioned that he was an intelligent student who took part in various extra-curricular activities, in all games and sports, and was a good organiser.

Later on, I learnt from my friends and colleagues from Hyderabad that Dr. M. Channa Reddy had taken to medical practice and was keenly alive to the political currents in the country. Dr. Channa Reddy hailed from Telangana under the Nizam's regime, which was considered backward educationally, socially and economically. Dr. Reddy had successfully finished his education with a brilliant academic career winning many scholarships and prizes. He passed his MBBS in 1941 at the age of 22 years, and had a bright future in the medical profession. In those prospective days he entered the political field and extended his services to the educational, social and political spheres. He was an active journalist in his early political career and later on became an MLA, state minister, central minister and then the Governor of Uttar Pradesh and now decorates the chair of the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, with a good reputation of an administrator and a statesman.

I came in closer contact with him, during his term of office as Governor of Uttar Pradesh and as Chancellor of our State Universities. I found him a non-conformist inasmuch as he did not contribute to any partisan chauvanism or obscurantism.

In university affairs, there was often a flare in his academics, which he put forward, sometimes with vehemence;



but he always listened to and discussed different views before taking a final decision. He realised the intricacies of the problems of education in general, and medical education in particular, in U.P. and took studied action in upholding not only the standards of education but also the dignity and the autonomy of the universities.

He had some purposeful ideas in relation to medical education and often discussed with us the strategy of the fullest cooperation amongst the teachers and the other members of the medical profession and the public in the implementation of the rural health delivery programme. He visited different areas in the State with the medical teams. His keen interest in public health was a stimulant to the medical men as well as to the administrators.

As Governor of U.P., Dr. Channa Reddy was the President of the Indian Red Cross Society, U.P. Branch. He energised it and initiated various schemes to improve the financial and the organisational positions, and expanded the services of the Red Cross to every district of U.P. This has been a landmark in the U.P. Red Cross Society.

Some of his other activities involved active thinking on various civic and social affairs. He thought of the proper management of various religious institutions in the State. He had his own suggestions for the improvement of the management of the very many temples in U.P. I wish this scheme had taken proper shape.

Perhaps many people do not know that Dr. Reddy is a man of religion, an example of moral and spiritual training which characterises his individuality. He believes in discipline and devotion and is dedicated to the concept of secularism—that is no neglect or indifference to any faith, but respect for all, to uphold the dignity of mankind in keeping with the basic tenets of civilisation, and the cultural heritage of India, in the philosophy of toleration and compassion. As such Dr. Reddy contributed for the removal of inequality—economic, social and religious. I believe that the approach to religion has the metaphysical, logical, spiritual and psychological aspects, which is progressive and emergent and I found Dr. Reddy an ardent follower of these values.

I remember having had his kind invitation to the *Maha Kumbh Mela* at Prayag during his stay in U.P. and it was gratifying to see the relevance of his practice and sentiments on this occasion.



The Osmania Medical College Golden Jubilee Celebrations held on June 2, 1978, which I had the privilege of attending, showed the patience and the toleration of the Chief Minister Dr. M. Channa Reddy, who kept on watching the demonstrations of the college students throughout the programme till his chance of addressing the assembly came. He gave such a befitting and sagacious reply that the entire student body became disciplined and repentant about their behaviour. It was a real tactful handling by the chief minister.

The impact of Western thoughts, the essential international contact, and the renaissance in the literatures of Indian languages, demand that we should learn as many languages as possible to appreciate the soul of India. No wonder Dr. Channa Reddy expresses himself in different languages and appreciates the national requirements of linguistic communication in independent India.

I see in Dr. M. Channa Reddy a gentleman of erudition with aesthetic and ethical values, courtesy and consideration for every one from different strata of society. I may mention here that on the Independence Day and the Republic Day parties given by the Governor, he used to go round and meet every invitee who relished this gesture of the Head of the State and felt as a welcome guest.

Dr. Reddy has a happy home and his gracious wife acts as a hostess on various occasions justifying the maxim "The glory of the House is hospitality, the Crown of the House is Godliness".

Greatness is the product of ability and opportunity; and for a person like Dr. Channa Reddy who has a rich, rewarding, multifacet career, I convey my sincere good wishes on his 61st birthday and pray that he may have the bounty of the *Almighty* to serve the people of this country and make his significant contributions in the very many years to come, with courage and conviction.

I congratulate the organisers of Dr. M. Channa Reddy Shashtipoorthi Felicitations Committee in holding this function.

B. N. SINHA

జనవరి 1, 1979

మన ప్రేయతమ నాయకుడు డా॥ మర్రి చెన్నారెడ్డిగారికి జనవరి 13, 1979 నాడు షష్టిపూర్వార్థవం జరుగుతుందనీ, ఆ సందర్భంగా ఒక ఆభినందన సంచికను వెలువరిస్తున్నారనీ తెలిసి చాల సంతోషించాను.

దాదాపు మూడు దశాబ్దాలుగా ఆయన నాకు పరిచయం. వీనాడో, నేను ఆయనను హైదరాబాదులో కలుసుకున్నప్పుడే ఆయనలో ఒక మహానాయకుని లక్షణాలు గమనించగలిగాను.

ఆయన ఎంత ఆవేశపరుడో అంత ఆలోచనాపరుడు. ప్రజా సేవాభావం, స్వేచ్ఛా స్వాతంత్ర్యం, నవనమాజ నిర్మాణ దృక్పథం ఆయనను ఇంతవాణ్ణి చేసినవి. ఆరుకోట్ల తెలుగుప్రజలకు ఎనలేనిసేవ చేయటానికి కలిగిన అవకాశాన్ని రాష్ట్రసర్వతోముఖాభివృద్ధికై వినియోగిస్తారని ఆశిస్తున్నాను.

ఆయన కున్న ప్రతిభ, గట్టి పట్టుదల, ప్రజాసంకల్పం—ఆయనకు ఉజ్జ్వల భవిష్యత్తును ప్రసాదించగలవని నమ్ముతున్నాను.

వయసులో ఆయనకంటే పెద్దవాడిని కావటంచేత ఆయనను—షష్టిపూర్తి శుభ సమయాన—అయురారోగ్యైశ్వర్యాలు కలగాలనీ, మరో షష్టిపూర్తి చేసుకొనేంతవరకూ ప్రజాసేవ కొనసాగించాలనీ, మనసారా ఆశీర్వాదిస్తున్నాను.

కడప కోటిరెడ్డి



ఆదిత్య 10, 1978

ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ ముఖ్యమంత్రి డా. నరసింహారెడ్డిగారి షష్టిపూర్తి మహోత్సవం జరుపుతున్నారని వివిధ ఇక్కడ నివసించే ఆంధ్రులంతా ఎంతో ఆనందిస్తున్నారు. చిన్ననాటి నుంచీ రాజకీయ నాయకులుగా వ్యవహరించిన భారతదేశంలో అనేక బాధ్యతాయుతమైన పదవులను చాకచక్యంతో నిర్వహించి, ఆంధ్రజాతి జాతీయతకు తోడ్పడిన శ్రీ నరసింహారెడ్డిగారి కృషి ఆంధ్ర రాజకీయ చరిత్రలో సుస్థిరంగా ప్రవేశిస్తుంది. తిమ్మరుసు, చాణక్యడు, సర్దార్ వల్లభాయి పటేల్, టంగుటూరి ప్రకాశంవంటి సుప్రసిద్ధ భారత మంత్రి పుంగవుల కోవకు చెందిన ధీశాలి శ్రీ నరసింహారెడ్డి. ఆయన షష్టిపూర్తి శుభసమయంలో మా ఆంధ్ర సంఘం (యు. కె.) సభ్యుల తరఫున నా శుభాకాంక్షలు ఇందుతో అందిస్తున్నాను.

విశ్వనాథ శ్రీకృష్ణదేవరాయలు

అధ్యక్షుడు

ఆంధ్ర సంఘం (యు.కె.)



DR. M. CHANNA REDDY  
SHASHTIPOORTHY ABHINANDAN SANCHIKA

*ENGLISH SECTION*



Dr. M. Channa Reddy and Shrimathi Savitri Devi





Dr. M. Channa Reddy with his family





M. Ravindra Reddy and his wife Shrimathi Sarala



M. Shashidar Reddy with his wife Shrimathi Indira and their son Aditya



Shrimathi and Shri K. Sudarshan Reddy and their children

(Colour Transparencies by Pketti Sivaram)



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# DR. CHANNA REDDY—A PROFILE

V. KAMESWARI

The rise of Dr. Channa Reddy from the humble beginnings in a lower middle class farm family to the position of the head of the state government of Andhra Pradesh is a fascinating saga.

Born 60 years ago in Siripuram, a small village in Vikarabad taluk of Hyderabad district, to Lakshma Reddy and Shankaramma, Channa Reddy, the only son of his parents did not receive any extra attention from his parents as it was a fairly big joint family. But the parents had one burning desire—the desire to give their son the best of education available in the State then. They, therefore, sent their son to his maternal uncle, Shri K. V. Ranga Reddy who was then a practising Vakil in Hyderabad city, at a very tender age. Channa Reddy began his schooling under the watchful eyes of his two maternal uncles, Shri K. V. Ranga Reddy and Shri K. V. Narayana Reddy.

Even as a child of 9 years old, Channa Reddy nursed a secret ambition to study for medicine so that it would make him economically independent to pursue his political work. He began to throw sparks of his inborn organising abilities when, along with, some of his friends not only in the same age group but also those older than him, organised a Debating Association in his locality. To the astonishment of everyone, the maiden speech of Channa Reddy was on "Truth," a quality which has, in later years, become a passion with him both in his public and private conduct. The activities of this Debating Association were not confined only to organising "debates." They were extended to organising a library and Channa Reddy was the natural choice for the Secretaryship of the library. He saw to it that books dealing with Ramayana, Mahabharata and other mythological stories were collected and given to the members for reading and assimilating the benefits of virtuous living. This early grounding in what our great epics have taught, made Channa Reddy a great adherent of the noble ideals set by them. In the later years of his life, these have found expression more than eloquently whether it was at home or in his service to the people.

The extra-curricular activities in which Channa Reddy involved himself right from his elementary school days did not divert his attention from his studies, the purpose for which his parents had sent him all the way to Hyderabad braving all the parental agony of living away from their darling son. He began to win laurels in all the examinations he took including the M.B.B.S.—his sole ambition to sustain him in public life.

Having taken the M.B.B.S. degree from the Osmania Medical College with a praise-worthy rank, Channa Reddy—now Dr. Channa Reddy—straightaway joined the State Medical Service as at that time the house-surgeoncy was not instituted. Within a couple of month's time, he left the service to set up two nursing homes in the city of Hyderabad. His nursing homes were known more as free nursing homes than as ones where the services had to be paid for. He gave up this "service" to the people after a couple of years in order to honour the higher call of the freedom struggle.

Alongside the studies in the school and college, Channa Reddy was also busy either in organising or captaining Seva Dal Corps or taking part in political conferences as a delegate. His intense political awareness soon compelled him to join the ranks of those leaders who were fighting for the cause of the people against the Nizam. He



braved many a critical situation in such “fights” and came out with flying colours to the great satisfaction of many of the then stalwarts, quite a few of, whom had seen in him the future hope of Hyderabad State’s dumb toiling millions. He became a rallying point—whether it was in Andhra Mahasabha, the earlier version of the State Congress, or in the State Congress and the various struggles it had launched. In 1946, when the Hyderabad State Congress organised its state-wide conference, Dr. Channa Reddy was the obvious choice for the general secretaryship of the Reception Committee. This conference laid the foundation for the “final” onslaught of the Hyderabad people against the Nizam and his autocratic rule.

It was the anxiety of Dr. Reddy that the whole fight against the Nizam should be conducted on Gandhian lines. He drew inspiration from the Congress stalwarts outside like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Rajendra Prasad. He journeyed all the way to Delhi to meet Mahatma Gandhi and seek his blessings for the manner in which the state’s fight against the Nizam was being carried on.

Soon the movement against the Nizam entered the “intensive” phase and, as a natural corollary, the top leaders of the movement were imprisoned by the regime among whom Dr. Reddy was one. After a short spell of imprisonment, the Nizam’s Government released the eight top leaders of the State Congress—of whom Dr. Reddy was one and also the youngest—with a view to exploring the possibility of negotiating a settlement with them. The negotiations having failed, the “regime” encouraged a para-military organisation, the Razakars, to loot and terrorise every anti-Nizam element in the state. This compelled the leaders of the State Congress to think of alternative strategy in order to sustain and reinforce the freedom struggle against the Nizam. As a tactical move, some of them “established” themselves outside the borders of the state and intensified the struggle. Dr. Reddy, on his part, began publishing *Hyderabad*, a weekly, from Vijayawada and smuggled its copies into the state. This campaign yielded dividends in that the highly explosive writings of Dr. Reddy fired the imagination of many inside the state and the fight against Nizam became more militant.

Happily when the Government of India launched “police action” against the Nizam of Hyderabad, its success marked the beginning of a new Chapter in the history of Hyderabad’s integration with the Indian Union. As a consequence, Hyderabad came to be recognised as a state of the Indian Union and its representatives were invited to join the Provisional Parliament of India. Dr. Channa Reddy was one of the members who thus came to represent Hyderabad State in the Provisional Parliament. Within hardly eight days of his joining the Congress Party in the Provisional Parliament, Dr. Reddy’s dynamic qualities and his fiery speeches on the situation in Hyderabad attracted the attention of Jawaharlal Nehru and Rajaji, who were quick enough to press him into service as one of the whips of the party. The speeches of Dr. Reddy in the Provisional Parliament were so eloquent and penetrating that they attracted the front-page attention of leading newspapers like the Hindusthan Times, New Delhi. This position of Dr. Reddy in the Provisional Parliament won him many enduring friendships with stalwarts like Rajaji, Moulana Abul Kalam Azad and others which stood him in good stead in the later years of his political life.

Then came the first general election in the country to usher in elected governments, based on universal adult franchise, in all the states of the Indian Union. In this election Dr. Reddy won a seat in the Hyderabad State Legislature and he became the inevitable choice as Minister for the difficult portfolio of Food and Agriculture when the State was experiencing total rationing. His work as Minister is a record which every politician-administrator envies to this day. He brought in many a reform in the set-up—such that they benefited the toiling masses. During his term as Food and Agriculture Minister of the State, Dr. Reddy led the Indian Delegation to the Conference of International Federation of Agricultural Producers held in Rome in 1953, and as Deputy leader of the Indian Delegation to the FAO Conference also at Rome, in 1955. He took advantage of these visits abroad to study the agricultural and industrial economies of 13 European Countries among whom were France, West Germany, England and Switzerland.



During 1957-62, when Dr. Reddy remained outside the Government he, as an important member of the Telangana Regional Committee did yeoman service to the cause of the region by carrying on an incessant battle for the economic and social uplift of the region. Some of the major irrigation and power projects which have now reached the fruition stage were the result of his farsighted efforts put in then. He firmly believes that for all the "differences" and "internal conflicts" among the people of Andhra Pradesh, the basic cause is economic disparities and consequent social imbalances and if these are removed through a balanced development of all the regions, the emotional integration would automatically come. He, more than once, emphasised that he had no acrimony or ill-will against people of any region. As Chief Minister for the past few months, Dr. Reddy more than proved this point.

In the 1962 elections, Dr. Reddy retained his seat in the Andhra Pradesh State Legislature and joined the State Cabinet and held important portfolios like Planning and Panchayati Raj, Industries and Finance. In 1967, after the fourth general election, soon after he joined the State Cabinet, he was called upon by the then Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi to join her government in the Centre as Cabinet Minister in charge of the important portfolio of Steel and Mines. Within the short period he remained in the Centre, Dr. Reddy effected several far-reaching changes in the set-up of the steel industry in the country which till today is retained in essence. He resigned his central ministership in April, 1968 owing to the judgment of the Andhra Pradesh High Court in an election petition.

Soon after his return to Hyderabad, Dr. Reddy found discontent simmering among the Telangana people against the manner in which the legitimate interests of the people of the region were being trampled upon by the government. The students and youths started an agitation for redressal of the grievances of the Telangana people. As one who always stood by the just cause of the people, Dr. Reddy could not resist the demand of the people of Telangana to lead them in the hour of their distress. When this agitation was sought to be put down through "force," Dr. Reddy rebelled and wanted a separate statehood for Telangana so that the people could achieve fulfilment of their aspirations under dispensation of "their own." As always happens with such agitations, the interested persons gave wrong and harmful interpretations to the whole movement which then unfortunately took a violent turn. In spite of repression, the people of Telangana stood their ground and, in 1971 parliamentary elections, vindicated their solidarity with Dr. Reddy by electing his candidates from all but three constituencies in the region. This glorious victory of Dr. Reddy in the cause of Telangana people opened the eyes of the central leaders and soon they took steps to come to terms with the demands of the Telangana people. In the six-point formula that was evolved as a solution by the central leaders in consultation with and approval of Dr. Reddy, steps were taken to safeguard the legitimate interests of the people of Telangana.

When the tempers were cooling down the unwise handling of the post-agitation situation sparked off again an agitation—this time from the people of Andhra region demanding separation from Telangana. The people of Andhra region were dissatisfied with the way things were being handled by the state government. There was disappointment in the Telangana region too that they were still being given a step-motherly treatment. There was crisis in both the regions. Dr. Reddy was convinced that the lurking fears of the people in both the regions should be cleared if the State's integrity was to be maintained; otherwise separation should take place to the satisfaction of people in both the regions. At this juncture, the Central Government had no alternative but to seek the statesmanlike assistance of Dr. Reddy to resolve the crisis. When after prolonged discussions, the Centre came up with yet one more six-point formula, Dr. Reddy offered to give it a "trial."

In 1974, Dr. Reddy accepted the office of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, the largest state in India, on the insistence of Smt. Gandhi, the then Prime Minister. Till he demitted this office in October 1977, as Governor, Dr. Reddy took up many a good public cause



with the cabinet of the State—the most important of them being the reorganisation of the administration of the temples and religious institutions in the state. During the short period of President's rule in Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Reddy, unaided by the usual retinue of "advisers," took quick and effective measures to tone up the administration which won encomiums from all including those from the Fourth Estate.

On return to the state politics, Dr. Reddy had to contend with political forces with conflicting interests—interests not of the people, but of their own—and decide on the course of action in order to steer clear of the forces of reaction and champion, as has been his wont, the cause of the weaker sections and the oppressed and the depressed. He played a decisive role in clinching the "issues" which led to the break up of the Indian National Congress. He then joined hands with Mrs. Gandhi and carried the party to victory in the general elections to the State Assembly held in February, 1978.

As the inevitable choice of his party, he has accepted the office of the chief ministership in all humility. If the 10 months in office are any indication, the people of Andhra Pradesh can expect their beloved Chief Minister Dr. Channa Reddy, to "deliver the goods."





# A FINE PRODUCT OF HYDERABAD CULTURE

MIR AKBAR ALI KHAN

I am glad that the people of my State are celebrating the sixtieth birthday of my dynamic friend Dr. M. Channa Reddy. I was rather reluctant to accept the vice-Presidency of the Felicitations Committee because, I felt that when somebody is in power, such a thing should not happen; but I felt there are occasions when we have to appreciate our people so that they might be encouraged to do better things and dedicate themselves more to the service of the people of this country. With this idea, I accepted the Vice-Presidency of the Committee in order to express my affection and give my blessings to Dr. Channa Reddy.

Dr. Reddy started his career as a medical practitioner, but his heart was in politics. I think it was the case with some of my friends among whom Dr. Rajbahadur Gour was one. I persuaded him to take up the profession when his father brought him to me. Though he said 'yes, yes' to me, he continued to be active more in politics than in his profession. It was the case with Panditji too. When Panditji became a barrister and came back, Motilalji put him under Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, whose junior I also had the honour to be. But Jawaharlal's heart was not in legal practice but in politics. So, Dr. Channa Reddy belongs to this category of people.

When there was a question of reorganisation of the States and the team under Fazal Ali with Pandit Kunzru, a very respected friend of mine and Dr. Panikkar, who happened to be my teacher at Aligarh, as members had come to Hyderabad, this group under Shri Ranga Reddy and some others was not prepared to have Hyderabad divided into three. But the general feeling at that time particularly in Marathwada region, was so strong that there was no alternative for the Commission but to recommend the division of the State. Then we felt that we too could have a small State of Telangana and in that situation Shri Ranga Reddy should be our leader. Dr. Reddy was with us in the movement and there was a general feeling in Telangana that we should remain separate; but our friends from Andhra were very anxious that we should join immediately; other wise, complications would arise. Anyhow, under the leadership of Sri Ranga Reddy, we visited Delhi many a time and I took part in almost all those discussions which took place with Panditji, the Prime Minister, with Dhebar, the Congress President, with Pantji, the Home Minister, with Moulana Saheb as one of the very powerful members of the Congress Working Committee and a senior Minister. Of course, things dragged on and our respected ex-President Dr. Radhakrishnan, was very much in favour of forming Andhra State. Opinion was divided on the question whether big States were good or smaller States. At that time the opinion was that big States were better. So, under those circumstances, we had to yield to the dictates of the High Command, Panditji and others. But I distinctly remember that when for the last time, Dr. Channa Reddy and I met Panditji, he mentioned to us the suggestion at the Congress Working Committee that Bihar and Bengal should be combined. He, therefore, pleaded with us not to insist on a very small state, which will hamper economic progress. So, we came back to Hyderabad House in Delhi where Shri Sanjeeva Reddy and his colleagues from Andhra, and Shri Ranga Reddy, Shri Ramakrishna Rao, Dr. Channa Reddy and their colleagues from Telangana discussed mutually and signed an agreement under which certain safeguards were provided for the development of Telangana.

The people of Telangana consider Dr. Channa Reddy as a product of old Hyderabad culture and traditions—traditions which meant brotherhood among all communities, love



and affection among all castes, and maintaining greater affinity in social, cultural and political matters. Whether it was a marriage, or any other ceremony or festival, we never felt that the festival of one community or caste was different from those of others. I never felt that a marriage in Dr. Reddy's family was something different from one in my own family. We were just like very close friends and brothers. This tradition, I am glad to say, is being kept up to a great extent by Dr. Channa Reddy. That was also one of the reasons why I accepted to be the Vice-President of the Felicitation Committee. We have won our freedom through the sacrifices of our great leaders. The question now is, how to preserve this freedom and utilise it to achieve social and economic freedom and justice especially to the poorer and backward sections. For this, it is necessary for us to have a dynamic man as our leader. It is also necessary that this leader should be respected by all the communities and I feel that Dr. Channa Reddy enjoys this privilege and he has in him the necessary drive to take the whole State on progressive lines and accomplish things which will be in the best interests of the people, particularly the poorer sections. I wish him best and I do hope that when he leaves his present post, the people will say that Channa Reddy has really accomplished what many others did not. That is what I am looking for and I am sure this tribute by the people will encourage him, will help him to accomplish many things in the interests of the state.

I would like Dr. Reddy, as Chief Minister to concentrate the efforts of his government on the poorer sections belonging to both the regions. The criterion should be the economic backwardness.

Secondly, I would like him to consider how best he can help the growth of Urdu language. I concede Telugu language as my State language. Every one born in my State should learn Telugu; but after that, I would give precedence to Urdu, because in this region, and in a way in the whole of India, it is the spoken language. By helping Urdu, we will be helping Hindi. By helping Hindi, we will be helping Urdu. The antagonism that was created between Hindi and Urdu was an imperialistic move as it was to create differences between Hindus and Muslims, between Urdu-speaking people and Hindi-speaking people, between Harijans and Brahmins, and so on. We have to do our best to remove these antagonisms.

As Chief Minister, it has fallen to the lot of Dr. Channa Reddy to tackle the problem of unemployment among youth. The youths feel that there is no future for them. It is for the Chief Minister to create conditions so that our young boys and girls do not fall a prey to the anti-social elements and become, in the real sense, an asset to the State in its march towards prosperity for all. So is the case with our village artisans. I am aware Dr. Reddy has all sympathy and consideration for the plight of these artisans who, before the advent of the British, flourished as a prosperous community. I am sure under his dynamic leadership, his Government will do everything possible to bring happiness in the homes of these thousands of artisans spread all over Andhra Pradesh.

His experiment in introducing Abhyudaya Education right from the primary level, is a novel effort. If it succeeds, in the years to come, we will have boys and girls who have a purpose in life and who are disciplined to march forward. Even in the matter of school timings, Dr. Reddy's idea of having the schools from 7-00 in the morning upto 12-00 noon is worth experimenting. It will leave the whole afternoon for the children to do their homework and attend to other needs of their homes. I feel it will also improve the health of our children.

In the present political context, Dr. Reddy, who is heading a Congress (I) Government in the State, will have many problems with the Central Government to sort out in order to usher in an era of prosperity in the State. His excellent command over Urdu and Hindi would stand Dr. Reddy in good stead to establish the much needed rapport with the people in the North and with the Central Government.

On the happy occasion of his completing 60 years on the 13th January, 1979, I offer my good wishes for the health and strength of Dr. Reddy. I give him my blessings for the fulfilment of the tasks he had taken up as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.



# ADHERENT OF KISAN, MAZDOOR PRAJA IDEAL

N. G. RANGA

It was in 1947-48 that I came across Dr. M. Channa Reddy at the Hyderabad State Peoples' Conference soon after I returned from my second world-tour on behalf of the Indian peasantry. I could see in that bright young doctor the potentialities of a dynamic leader. I was told that he hailed from a Kisan section of the rural community and was impatient with the feudal inclinations of the upper cadres of Reddies. He made it clear to me how much he admired the Kisan-Mazdoor rural orientation that I was trying to give to the Congress thanks to Mahatma Gandhi's support.

He was bold enough, even in 1947, to declare himself as an adherent of the philosophy of Kisan Mazdoor Praja Raj ideal which was blessed by Mahatma Gandhi in 1944. The leadership of Hyderabad State Congress was based much upon urban peoples and their interests. Dr. Reddy founded the K.M.P. Raj Party and sought the cooperation of Shri K. Obula Reddy, the then General Secretary of the Andhra Provincial Congress. On my return from Europe after attending the World Food and Agriculture Conference, I was able to bring him into contact with Sardar Patel and persuade him on one side to work through the State Congress and the late Swami Ramananda Tirtha, and on the other to welcome the rural orientation that Dr. Reddy stood for. During the Razakar days, Dr. Channa Reddy and so many of his colleagues had to take shelter in Vijayawada and other places and our Provincial Congress and Shri Obula Reddy gave them full political support. Like so many such other patriots, he too had to undergo many a hardship due to Razakar repression. After the liberation of Hyderabad, Dr. Reddy was taken into the State Congress Working Committee. When the opportunity came for the Hyderabadis also to join the Provisional Parliament, I was glad to have been able to persuade the Sardar and the Swami to include both Dr. Reddy and Sri Harischandra Heda among the Hyderabad contingent to Parliament. Both of them proved to be good parliamentarians, the Doctor being accepted as one of the whips of the then most powerful Congress Party and thus joining the ranks of those of us who constituted the leadership of the Party around Jawaharlal in Parliament. When the Hyderabad State Government was formed after 1952 elections, the Doctor, who had by then gained his spurs in the state leadership was invited into the Cabinet as Minister for Food and Agriculture. By that time, I left the Congress to found the Krishikar Lok Party in order to develop separate political leadership for the rural people. In spite of my being away from the Congress, Dr. Channa Reddy was good enough to heed my demand for removal of controls over foodgrains thanks to the initiative shown by Rajaji in Madras. He was also courageous enough to invite me to inaugurate their State Farmers Forum, sponsored by himself and the late Ramakrishna Rao, the then Chief Minister.

It was during that period that our Federation of Rural People's Organisations sent him as its delegate to the Conference of International Federation of Agricultural Producers held in Rome. Again, his cooperation was available to me in 1957 when both of us were in the Congress, in our struggle against Gram Dan campaign, which aimed at the abolition of self-employment of peasants and the proprietorship of their holdings, and also in 1959 against the cooperative farming campaign. Such have been his contacts with our Kisan movement.

It is true that he favoured the implementation of the recommendations of the States Reorganisation Commission for the separate existence of Telangana for such time that it made enough socio-economic progress and modernisation of administration, before it could think of merging with the greater Andhra. I too thought that such a move



would be beneficial to both Telangana and Andhra people. But the late Ranga Reddy and Ramakrishna Rao, the Telangana elders, agreed on the compromise proposals offered by Nehru and Pant. So, when after 20 years of experience of merger, the Telangana people wanted separation and sought his leadership, long after their earlier violent outbursts were over and their movement was sagging to dead stop, Dr. Channa Reddy provided just the competent leadership that was then needed. During his period of leadership, there were no more excesses. But he had to go to jail along with a few of his associates. It must be said that due to his statesmanlike leadership, the separatists gained a large number of seats in Parliamentary election of 1971. When, however, compromise formula was sponsored by the Centre and integrationists, Dr. Channa Reddy was wise enough to accept it and thus paved the way for unity between the two regions. It should also be remembered that when later the Andhra Separatists were aggressively demanding separation from Hyderabad, Dr. Channa Reddy did not play any active role on either side and allowed the integrationists to have their triumph and the Andhra Pradesh to remain intact. Such has been his statesmanship.

Like all post-independence political leaders, Channa Reddy has been patient, with all his temperamental impetuosity, and wise, despite his occasional outbursts, in playing a leading role in parliamentary politics of power. He too has had his share of disappointments. When he was unseated for six years because of electoral malpractices, he was not helped, as he deserved to be, by Indiraji's administration to get over that disqualification by suitable amendment of the relevant laws.

When Channa Reddy was appointed Governor of Uttar Pradesh, most of his friends all over India felt disappointed that he was being sent into political quietude. But he began to display his innate drive for constructive work; he soon took a measure of the needs of that State and his opportunities for good work.

One of the most outstanding of such a public need that was crying for attention was the reform of the control and management of tens of thousands of Hindu religious Maths, temples and other centres of popular worship. Dr. Reddy, who has known how the South Indian religious institutions have come to be managed through statutory authorities for forty years, soon visualised his opportunity to make a progressive contribution to the Hindu religious institutions. He succeeded in persuading the Cabinet on the urgent need to regulate and control the management of finances and the day-to-day working of the U.P. Religious Endowments. On his advice, the U.P. Cabinet arranged for studying the working of the Hindu Religious Endowment Acts of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka States. He was able to speed up the processing of the reports obtained on such studies during the few weeks of President's Rule in the State. The happy result of these initiatives and his success in persuading the Cabinet in this constructive direction was the promulgation of an Ordinance for constituting a statutory body to control, regulate, manage or/and utilise the resources, properties and activities and establishments of the Hindu Religious Endowments in U.P. It was indeed a unique but long-awaited achievement. It was universally welcomed. Dr. Reddy has thus demonstrated what a dynamic, democratic and a progressive Governor can do even when the institution of Governor is considered to serve as the figure-head.

Channa Reddy has now gained the much valued opportunity to serve the five crores of Andhras, as their Chief Minister at the head of the Congress (I) Ministry of Andhra Pradesh. He has attained this high position after twenty years of experience in the ministerial sphere. He has already placed Andhras in the vanguard of the post 1972-77 Garibi Hatao movement. If the Twenty-point Programme has placed a high accent on the service to Dalit Lok, and the Kerala Government tried to build a lakh of houses for Harijans and other homeless people, he has offered to build one lakh houses every year and five lakhs in this period of five years, at the enormous cost of Rs. 125 crores. If the Janata's new orientation to the national planning has offered to favour rural development, he has gone several steps forward by offering to spare more than 50 per cent of the state's resources for various services and developmental activities catering to rural people. He responded to our long-time demand for tax-relief to the poorer peasants by exempting



their small holdings from land tax. If the Janata's educational plans have begun to lay special emphasis on anti-illiteracy and adult education campaign, he has already begun not only to implement them more vigorously, and quickly on a broader scale but also offered to convert the maximum number of elementary schools into model schools after the fashion of non-denominational but morally forward-looking Vivekananda-cum-Whitefield Gurukul Schools.

These are points to his pro-kisan, pro-Dalit Lok and pro-Grameen approach and let us hope that the whole-hearted support of the State Cabinet and the legislature, he would be able to usher in a truly rural-oriented Kisan Mazdoor Socio-economic regime.

Dr. Channa Reddy is a man of imagination, initiative and dynamism.

He has to gain the cooperation of the ever-expanding and multi-sided administration. Rajaji and Sardar Patel knew how to gain its enthusiastic support and constructive comradeship. I trust that with all his varied ministerial experiences in the State and Union Ministries, and also as a Governor, he would find it possible to win its confidence and respect and succeed in humanising and maximising its services to the general public.

Ours is a country of caste-minded public and official folk and it is extremely difficult to help the administrators to overcome their caste prejudices and predilections and be patient with all the compromises that the political leaders have to make in order to help the Backward classes, Harijans and Girijans and make up for the past neglect of their interests in the official hierarchy. The upper caste officials have to be persuaded, in a considerate manner, to learn to accept their comparatively junior colleagues as their equals, and sometimes as their seniors. This is an extremely sensitive side of our present-day politics.

I hope that Dr. Channa Reddy will succeed in steering clear of the usual assumptions of Chief Ministers and the Prime Minister of themselves being so much more competent, responsible, responsive and wise than their colleagues and burdening themselves with the need to make all the decisions on both the big and petty issues and thus enervating just the supports and sources of inspiration and comradeship of their Cabinet colleagues. He should hold before him Jawaharlalji's excellent example of inspiring his colleagues to make their best contributions. He should also try not to allow the so-called favourite friends to clutch the approaches to him as had troubled Jawaharlalji.

Cabinet colleagues have to be helped to grow into competent and constructive colleagues with security of tenure for all obviously popular, honest, energetic and efficient ministers. Since Dr. Channa Reddy has himself had the experience of what it was like to be a minister under so many different chiefs, I hope he would be able to inspire his colleagues with the necessary zeal and confidence and ennoble his cabinet in its service to the people and especially the Dalit Lok.





# DR. REDDY AND THE TELANGANA REGIONAL COMMITTEE

T. HAYAGRIVACHARI

Now that Dr. Channa Reddy is the Chief Minister of a state that continues to be united, some may wonder whether it is appropriate to discuss, let alone extol, his role and achievements in the Telangana Regional Committee and, in particular, as Chairman of one of its important committees. Such people do not evidently understand the processes of social integration. The integration of the strong and the weak in a social situation cannot take place without an initial period of struggle and if it does, it will result in submergence and assimilation of the weaker to the detriment of their individual interests and personality. If one sees a picture of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers with the Queen, one cannot fail noticing that all the present Prime Ministers at one time or the other were in Her Majesty's prisons. An enduring process of social integration has to go through the stages of struggle, recognition and redressal. In the initial stages of the existence of Andhra Pradesh, the Telangana Regional Committee was a step necessary towards the full integration that has been subsequently achieved. This is not to say that the process followed a correct path or that mistakes had not been committed on one side or the other. It is only to assert that this was a necessary stage and however much one may regret certain aspects or developments, historically this stage cannot be either overlooked or forgotten.

At that critical stage, Dr. Channa Reddy was ideally suited to play an active role in the evolution of this particular institution. Institutions acquire a character and a life of their own from the type of leadership that is available to them in their formative periods. We have had too many examples of institutions, intended to be sentinels under the Constitution, becoming weak and ineffective because those at their head happened to be themselves indecisive and supine. It was the dedication to a cause and the dynamic leadership provided by Dr. Channa Reddy in the functioning of the Regional Committee in its early formative stage that gave it its strong character. Dr. Channa Reddy is by nature a champion and a crusader and he found a natural opportunity for these qualities in the problems which the Regional Committee confronted in its earlier years.

According to the terms of agreement entered into by the leaders of Andhra and Telangana regions at the time of formation of the Andhra Pradesh State, known as the 'Gentlemen's Agreement', there was to be a Regional Standing Committee of the State Assembly for the Telangana region consisting of the members of the State Assembly belonging to that region including the Ministers from that region but not including the Chief Minister. The expenditure of the new State on central and general administration was to be borne proportionally by the two regions and the balance of income from Telangana was to be reserved for expenditure on the development of the Telangana area. The Andhra Pradesh Regional Committee was accordingly constituted in February 1958 by a Presidential Order under Art. 371 of the Constitution. It had three Sub-Committees—on Local Administration and Public Health, one on Education and another on Planning (later changed as Development).

Dr. Channa Reddy was the presiding-member of the Sub-Committee on Planning and Development for the period from 1958 till he became Minister in the State Cabinet after the General elections in 1962. He was also presiding-member of the Sub-Committee on a "White Paper on Telangana" in 1961.



As presiding-member of the Sub-Committee on Planning and Development he had submitted 35 reports including supplementary reports covering the entire Plan and its financing and also individual reports on each sector of development included in the Plan. These reports, submitted continuously, included two each on Pochampad Project and development of the capital. He also led a delegation to the central government for inclusion of Pochampad Project in the Plan which was vital for the economic development of Telangana region. This paved the way for the subsequent inclusion and execution of this project under the Plan. In addition to the 35 reports on Planning and Development, he had also submitted four reports including three supplementary reports on "White Paper on Telangana." Thus, in all, he had submitted a record number of 39 reports almost continuously during the period from 1958 to 1962. He championed the cause of Telangana services in the first and third supplemental reports of the Sub-Committee on White Paper on Telangana.

He was also a member of the Sub-Committee on Education from 1959 to 1962 and was responsible for several of the decisions of the Committee especially on reservation of seats in technical educational institutions in Telangana region. He also strived for the development of the Osmania University by arranging Rs. 3 crores for its Foundation Grant from the Telangana surpluses.

During this period, he was also a member of the Estimates Committee for 1959-60 and later its Chairman for 1960-61 and 1961-62 and submitted twelve voluminous reports covering all important projects and schemes ranging from Nagarjunasagar Project and Allwyn Metal Works to the Printing Department.

One need not dwell here on the various intricate issues connected with the Telangana surpluses such as what exactly constituted a surplus; whether these were to be taken only as Revenue surpluses and if so whether they were to be set off against the capital expenditure; what should be the method of allocation of state-wide schemes, etc. With the abolition of the Regional Committee and the non-maintenance of accounts separately for Andhra and Telangana these have become now academic issues of purely historical interest. But the basic issue involved viz., that each area should get its due share in the developmental plans giving due weightage to the relative backwardness of the different areas concerned remains an important issue in planning even today. It is an issue that is important not only for our State but at the All-India level also, whether it be in the division of central assistance between the states or the devolution of taxes by statutory commissions or the allocation of other funds for developmental purposes. The major issue that has to be faced and resolved is the issue of weightage for backwardness.

Arising out of the issue of surpluses raised by Dr. Channa Reddy's Committee at that time, the surpluses were finally determined as a total amount of Rs. 45 crores and these became available to the Telangana region during the Fourth Plan period over and above its normal share in the developmental expenditure of the state. In the Fifth Plan period, this procedure was replaced by the Six-point Formula and once again the Government of India were good enough to allocate additional funds for backward areas. This time such areas were to be identified not only in the Telangana region but in all the three regions of the state and a total amount of Rs. 90 crores given by the Government of India was divided between Telangana, Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra in the ratio of 5:3:2. Thus ultimately, the backward areas in the entire state benefited by an idea and a trend which was launched by Dr. Channa Reddy as chairman of the Sub-Committee of the Telangana Regional Committee.

The other two major issues that used to agitate the members of the Regional Committee at that time were matters relating to service conditions of Government employees in the different regions and rules for admission to educational institutions. As mentioned earlier, Dr. Channa Reddy in dealing with the White Paper on Telangana and as a member of the Committee on Education was intimately connected with the resolution



of these two issues also. Insofar as the service matters are concerned, it was not merely a question of reserving jobs in the region for people from that region but also one of redressing certain grievances that had arisen and creating an atmosphere of confidence. In regard to education, the safeguards were essentially intended to protect the interests of the people of the region who were backward educationally and who could not therefore straightaway face open competition. In these two cases also, the Six-point Formula replaced the then existing situation and the basic principle, viz., protection of the interests of the people belonging to a particular region in regard to opportunities arising in that region both in matters of employment and education, has been accepted and extended to all regions of the State.

Another aspect which was initiated in a sense in those days and which is reaching its fruition now is the development of the capital city. There used to be in those days a great deal of bickering as to how expenditure on the capital city was to be allocated between the regions. This has fortunately given place now to a feeling of partnership and common belonging in the city which is after all the capital of the entire state. The development of the capital city also received a fillip due to the additional assistance of Rs.10 crores made available for it by the Government of India during the Fifth Plan period.

In the case of any other person it could have been stated that the experience in the Regional Committee and its Sub-Committees was a good training ground for becoming a minister. But this could not be said of Dr. Channa Reddy as he had already been a minister in the State of Hyderabad. But this work did help him inasmuch as when he joined the administration he could bring to his work an intimate knowledge of these problems which could not have been gained but for his working in these Sub-Committees.

When one reviews historical events, it is always interesting to speculate as to what might have been if the events had taken a different turn or certain individuals had adopted a different role. Dr. Reddy was not part of the administration and was an active leader of the Regional Committee during the first years of the formation of the new State of Andhra Pradesh. One may be tempted to speculate as to what would have been the position if this were not so. On balance, it would appear that events as they actually took place gave him a better opportunity of service and for the unfolding of his talents than otherwise. The issues the Regional Committee tackled were important issues and it would have lacked proper leadership if at that moment Dr. Channa Reddy was not available because of his having been forfeited to the administration. The shape that the Regional Committee took and the strength it acquired would also have not been there but for him.

Nor perhaps would a position in administration at that juncture and in that combination of circumstances have given him an equal opportunity for the development of his own personality. As mentioned earlier, Dr. Channa Reddy is by temperament a champion of and a crusader for causes. It is the struggle for a cause that brings out the best in him and permits the full development of his various talents. The Regional Committee provided a forum for this aspect of his much better than administration would have at that stage. To be in administration is to accept limitations. More time is spent in delivering and defending than in crusading. Administration in the best sense has place for vision; but even in that sense it has no place for a visionary. Dr. Channa Reddy accepted these limitations earlier and later. But that interregnum was perhaps essential both for him and for the Regional Committee.

Dr. Channa Reddy ultimately joined the administration at a more propitious time and during a period when development was picking up in the state. 1964, when he was Planning Minister and later Finance Minister has a peculiar place in the history of Andhra Pradesh. Agricultural production and per capita income reached the highest level that year—a level which was not reached again for several years thereafter. Due to various

unfortunate circumstances, this momentum began to be lost just about the time when he left the State administration and did not pick up again till 1974. When Dr. Channa Reddy returned to the state it was again at a time when the development of the state had gathered unprecedented momentum and was in its upswing. Looked at in this perspective it would appear that the initial work of the Regional Committee under the leadership of men like Dr. Channa Reddy was a necessary step in the direction of enduring integration which was subsequently achieved. Similarly in Dr. Channa Reddy's own career this was a necessary experience which had its own contribution to make in the acquisition of mature experience and the evolution of a dynamic personality that was destined to lead the state at a later and higher stage of its development.





# A FIRM BELIEVER IN DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALISATION

M. BAGA REDDY

As one who has been closely associated with Dr. M. Channa Reddy who leaves the stamp of his personality and makes enduring contributions in whatever field he chooses to tread, it was a little difficult for me to make a choice of what I should write on the happy occasion of his 'Shashtipurthi'. My association with him dates back to my student days when he was already the youngest Minister in the first popular Ministry headed by Dr. Burugula Ramakrishna Rao in the erstwhile Hyderabad State.

Community Development has been defined as "a movement to promote better living for the whole community, with the active participation and, if possible, on the initiative of the community, but if this initiative is not forthcoming, by the use of techniques for rousing and stimulating it in order to secure its active and enthusiastic response to the movement.....It includes the whole range of development activities in the districts where these are undertaken by government or unofficial agencies". Few persons at the helm of affairs of the state have understood better the fact that people's participation and initiative is the preponderant aspect of community development and that without their active participation and full involvement nothing tangible can be achieved in transforming the rural economy of this vast country and to lead it speedily in the path of democratic economic growth. During his tenures as the first minister in charge of Community Development and then of Panchayati Raj, he was instrumental in generating unforeseen popular initiative and active public participation in rural development programmes.

Dr. Reddy, by his actions, appears to have been convinced also of the statement of Ensminger that "the success of community development must be judged not by the achievement in the short run of targets, but rather in the long pull by the evidence of growth and development of the competency of the people of increasingly looking to themselves for leadership, institutional competence and most of the resources to solve most of their problems". Doubtless Dr. Reddy has striven hard to develop the confidence of the people in the rural areas and to develop traits of leadership in them.

The concept of community development was widened with the introduction of Panchayati Raj. Through its introduction, as Nehru said, the foundation of the real democracy was laid. As a true democrat, Dr. Reddy fully understood the fact that community development is the object of which the real instrument is the Panchayati Raj. Dr. Reddy is one who has undiminished faith in the efficacy of this instrument in transforming the rural economy in spite of the general weakening of this faith all over the country in the recent past after the initial euphoria, and the mounting criticism of the Panchayati Raj.

While delivering the valedictory address to the Southern Regional Seminar on Panchayati Raj held at Hyderabad in August 1978 Dr. Reddy observed: "When we say that power should be passed on to the people, it is not merely out of our love for them. Not that to have love for them is anything bad. In addition, we feel that a system can be built in the country where people can be involved to look after their own affairs.... The best prime minister, the best chief minister, the best leader of dignity is not the one who keeps on passing orders, but the one who can get everything done by all the concerned and by involving all people. Panchayat is not that old conservative type of a thing. Panchayat, I would consider, is the greatest representative system.



What is needed is how many people are we asking to take responsibility for the welfare of their fellow citizens. Without creating this type of feeling, whatever orders we might pass, whatever action and amendments we might do, whatever administrative staff and structure we might create, and whatever training institutions we might establish, they will not fulfil Gandhiji's thoughts about the panchayats."

We have also people in our administration, the ministries, in the assemblies and in the Parliament, who say that we cannot entrust zilla parishads and panchayats to the inexperienced people from villages. What is the difference between these people and the British? The truth is that the British did not want to part with power. The same kind of vested interest, the same kind of want of conviction seems to be pervading through our people in position now. If we look back, even Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel were at one time the presidents or the chairmen of municipal corporations or the councils either at Allahabad or Ahmedabad. All the great leaders of our country, at one time or the other, had occupied positions in the local bodies. Some of our Chief Ministers and Ministers were at one time or the other either the panchayat presidents or the zilla parishad chairmen. It is an irony of fate, that the same persons have no confidence or boldness to pass on power to others. People ask whether the chief ministers and the prime minister and the ministers were immune from committing mistakes. Are we not committing mistakes? Are we perfect? Who has given us this certificate? What excuse have we to think in those terms? Therefore, I would say that we have our masters, and they are the people. We talk in their name; we talk of democracy. It springs from the people. Therefore, you hand it over to them, you talk to them, you ask them, you subject yourself to them. We have to think on the lines of complete reorganisation of the panchayati raj set-up. There are many experts who can work out the details on what powers should be given, etc. But about one thing we should all be clear. Powers should be given to these bodies. That's all. What power should be given is a matter to be thought of. And I am not one of those conservative type of people with fixed ideas and views. If tomorrow morning I find even after the experts tell me that a particular thing is not really in the interests of the people, I shall not hesitate to scrap it and end it all and try to give more powers to the people and ask them to take more responsibility. That should be our approach."

One of the legitimate criticisms of the panchayat raj system, we all know, is that the rural elite who assumed authority through this, tended to ignore the interest of the weaker sections and buttress the political hold of the vested interests. But Dr. Reddy, being one who has wholesome respect for democratic political process, continues to "counsel faith in the self-correcting mechanism of democratic politics". Being one convinced of the fact that community development has "a definite input of the democratic values, principles and procedures", he has set about correcting the weak links. I am referring to the recent amendments which the Government of Andhra Pradesh have brought to the Panchayat Raj legislations taking the 1976 amendments as the starting point. The Acts have now been further amended to make the panchayat raj institutions more democratic and broad based by altering the structure of the set-up, by providing franchise to persons above 18 years of age, introducing reservations in favour of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the membership of the Panchayat Samithis and the Offices of Presidents, Panchayat Samithi and the Chairmen, Zilla Parishads. These measures are calculated to reduce the hold of the rural elite and the vested interests on these institutions and to protect and promote the interests of the weaker sections.

Dr. Reddy has also been seized of the need for adapting the bureaucracy to the democratic ethos, and making it an effective instrument of development. In the words of Sri S. K. Dey "we know, Dr. Reddy, that the yet struggling child of panchayati raj is utterly safe in your hands and will receive all the care it deserves. We feel confident, panchayati raj in Andhra, under your stewardship, and in the emerging context of India, will surge forward in consonance with the position this great state occupies in India."

Under Dr. Reddy's stewardship my mission, as minister for Panchayati Raj will be



to prove that the panchayati raj system is the most important "political innovation of Independent India."

Before I conclude let me quote from Gunnar Myrdal: "the simple truth is that India badly needs to make rapid progress in the whole vast countryside by changing all undesirable conditions." Judging by the programmes which have been initiated by Dr. Reddy and the instrument he has chosen to achieve this I have no hesitation to say that he has understood this simple truth well. The tasks he has set for himself are those of a statesman and he has shown himself to be one. I wish and pray godspeed in his life's mission.



# THE MAN AND THE MYTH

K. V. NARAYANA REDDY

Few men in public life have been able to accomplish a number of things, each different from the other, and fewer still have become a legend or a myth in their life-time. It is not difficult to explain how a public figure becomes a myth, since it is invariably due to a fortuitous congruence of certain qualities in the man that turns him into a symbolic figure in the public imagination. Very often the myth becomes an excuse for neglecting the man and the man an excuse for investing the myth with a sentimental appeal. It is, therefore, necessary to separate the man from the myth in order that justice may be done to him:

To be an astute politician and parliamentarian, a distinguished and dedicated minister of government, an eloquent speaker, a successful Governor and an unflinching champion of the down-trodden and under-privileged classes would seem too idealistic to be realisable. Yet, such is Dr. Channa Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, and his present position is but yet another milestone in his distinguished political career spanning over four decades. He has, indeed, become a myth because, unlike many other politicians, he has not made just a splash and disappeared, nor does he owe his success to any tell-tale manipulation of provincial or regional passions and group loyalties. Even his severest critics—there are quite a few of them—concede that there is at the base of all his public activity incredible courage, generous impulses, a fierce hatred of humbug and sham and, above all, a tenacity of purpose that brooks no interference from any quarter.

Ever since he became General Secretary of Andhra Mahasabha way back in 1942, he has not looked back; and it became apparent even at that time that Dr. Channa Reddy might be denied due political recognition but could never be ignored. The qualities of leadership that have found such an eloquent expression in his political career have created what may be called the Channa Legend, which has been haunting the conscience of his admirers and detractors alike. This explains why he has been hailed by the Public at large despite his advocacy of opposing attitudes and views. It may seem ironical that one who opposed tooth and nail the creation of the integrated State of Andhra Pradesh should now lead its government. But to those who have known the man and who have not fallen under the spell of the myth, it would not cause any surprise, since Dr. Channa Reddy's principal concern has not been and is not with any particular governmental or administrative set up but with the well-being of his people to which everything else is subordinated. His charisma, indeed, is no more than his ability to focus public attention on what relates to latent questions of survival or security and has little to do with messianic aura.

Though trained for the medical profession, Dr. Channa Reddy was too restless to keep himself from entering into the pulses and passions of the political life. Believing that he had a part to play in the world of public affairs, he unhesitatingly plunged into its very mainstream. What amazes his political opponents is his extraordinary resilience and his uncanny ability to make his presence felt even when he is seemingly espousing a lost cause—be it a separate State for Telangana or the Congress-I. Their amazement stems from paying too little attention to the man and too much to the myth. Dubbed a stormy petrel fairly early in his political career, Dr. Channa Reddy has shown a rare courage to make any sacrifice in the achievement of his objectives, which in historical retrospect appear impeccable in that they have tended to promote virtues, which the people could ignore only at their peril—virtues like self-sacrifice, self-respect and sense of justice. His political success has not been 'a flash in the pan' but the outcome of an agonizing, unremitting struggle for the realisation of what in the ultimate analysis would make for dignified and progressive living for the people at large. If he has been one of the most misunderstood men of our time, it is because of the sedulous propagation of the myth, which highlights the authoritarian and the ambitious as against the generous and the self-sacrificial that expresses the man.



# MAN OF RESULTS

K. V. KESHAVULU

A leader should be able not merely to receive change but also anticipate it or even forecast it. But what distinguishes him most and marks him out from others is his ability to create change and, above all, to manage it successfully. And change not for its own sake. Dr. Reddy belongs to that category of leader-statesmen for whom change is, to use Plato's language, the pursuit of virtue; change that will materially alter the quality of life. For him change is achievement, results, a Promethean passion embracing every activity, every idea. And, in that passion, every moment for him becomes a lifetime and every milestone yet another challenge.

In this pursuit of change, power to Dr. Reddy is a means for its attainment, not a goal in itself. If power was an end in itself, Dr. Reddy would not be spending restless days and nights to achieve results as if time was fast running out, but resting on his laurels.

This desire to change things for the better has guided his endeavours throughout his political career. In this pursuit, he has always displayed a highly practical and pragmatic approach. Ideology has not blinded him, nor theories clouded his vision. He asserted recently at a function releasing a new range of domestic appliances, some of which are considered items of luxury, "Socialism for me does not mean distribution of poverty. In a Socialist state of my dreams, I would like prosperity to reach every home." This statement in a way sums up his social and political philosophy. Very few political leaders would have the courage to make such categorical statements which can easily be distorted. Courage, Kennedy has said, is the stuff of which leadership is made. Courage of conviction, courage to take the leap forward, courage to take two steps backward when necessary, courage to accept reality, courage to pluck success from failure etc. Courage in all these meanings, is one of the highlights of Dr. Reddy's character.

This highly pragmatic approach to the affairs of the State and Society may be described, in respect of its strict discipline, as "the enlightened industrial culture". Such culture is associated with objective results, contribution, yardsticks, accountability, quantification, costs and benefits, productivity, quality, an open intelligent mind and modernity of ideas and is reflected in various fields of activity he is concerned with.

Dr. Reddy's greatest contribution as Minister of Industry in the State during 1964-67, as Union Minister of Steel and Mines subsequently, and now as Chief Minister in charge of industry is not so much in respect of new industries and projects he has helped to promote, though these are in plenty, but the 'industrial culture' that he has fostered around himself and in the ministries under his charge. This culture is built on the bed-rock of results and those who have worked with him remember him for this contribution. Such a culture is bound to be associated with 'strictness'. That explains Dr. Reddy's impatience and abhorrence for laxity and sloth.

As a man of results, he is naturally attracted by quality and effectiveness, rather than by quantity and numbers. The multiplier effect was possible in small industry he realised, by encouraging the growth of units which would act as catalytic agents for, there is nothing more infectious than an example of success. It is for this reason that he always, during his tenure as Minister of Industries from 1964-67, laid stress on growth of ancillaries, industrial estates and intensive industrial promotion campaigns. The growth of ancillaries, especially around major public sector industries was given a big



push. In addition to normal industrial estates, co-operative and technocrats' industrial estates were conceived and given shape. One of the most successful intensive industrial promotion campaigns in the country was implemented during this period. This was practically the first intensive attempt to identify feasible projects throughout the State and locate and persuade entrepreneurs to establish these. Almost 15 years back, this was the first entrepreneurship campaign which swept across the State and it is gratifying that some of the units which were set up during that time have gained maturity.

It is again because of this stress that the Directorate of Industries was asked to prepare a number of project profiles based on local potential. Export potential surveys were also carried out. A Technical Cell was specially set up in the Directorate of Industries for this purpose. The Directorate was reorganised with regional offices under senior officers equipped to render local advice. Industrial Development areas, the nuclei of today's Infrastructure Corporation, were extensively developed with full facilities to attract large and medium industries. The major projects located in Hyderabad today, i.e., IDPL, HMT and BHEL were set up during this period. Realising the importance of agro-based industries, the Agro-Industries Corporation was formed.

Industry to Dr. Reddy was not a question of adding prestigious units in the State but an instrument of employment, upgradation of skills and multiplying social benefits. It is because of the early foundations laid during this period that the State can today boast of substantial progress in industrial field with 262 medium and large industries with an investment of Rs. 478 crores and employing more than 2 lakh persons.

The problem of unemployment, particularly in the old city, drew his special attention and a number of schemes were implemented under his guidance. With his elevation as Chief Minister, this is receiving added attention. This is another proof that his philosophy, his thinking is basically rooted in the welfare of the people.

The inadequate exploitation of the mineral wealth of the State was a matter of pain with him and is so even today. He is, therefore, rightly encouraging the growth of both private and public sector effort to ensure its speedy exploitation without allowing public sector to sit on resources without being in a position to exploit them. Thanks to him, a major project, based on exploitation of bauxite—one of the richest deposits the country has—is being located near Visakhapatnam.

It is because of his initiative that the question of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, which was hanging fire for quite sometime, has now been settled. The Nagarjuna Fertilizer Plant with an investment of 232 crores has also been cleared by the financial institutions. Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation and other developmental and promotional agencies and public sector companies have come to be invested with a new zeal to promote new labour-intensive as well as high-technology industries in the State. The growth of ancillaries has been given a fresh impetus. In order to exploit its extensive marketing infrastructure, Hyderabad Allwyn has launched an intensive campaign to sponsor a number of ancillary industries in various fields such as domestic appliances, electronics, machine building, entertainment equipment, light engineering, electrical goods, etc. Plans are afoot for a second coal-based fertilizer plant in Kothagudem belt. Two large paper plants are being put up, one at Kurnool and another at Bhadrachalam. New cement factories are being promoted. Electronics Development Corporation for promotion of high technology industries is being set up.

As a creative leader and administrator, he is deeply aware of the importance of organisation in a large organised society. A properly shaped organisation is the prerequisite of successful action and achievement of objectives. One of his most important contributions as Union Minister of Steel and Mines was the reorganisation of Hindustan Steel and other major public sector organisations under his control which he set in motion. For this purpose he visited United Kingdom and studied the steel and coal industry there.

It is once again this industrial mind which makes him seek "resource optimisation" in every walk of life. It is a tragedy of our daily life to witness the wastage of resources



or their sub-optimal utilisation—material, financial, human, etc. Our country would have achieved many a revolution had we introduced an element of greater discipline in our resource utilisation, the discipline of cost effectiveness. When such laxity begins from the top, whether in the name of ideology or otherwise, the rot is endless and those whose duty it is to point out the pitfalls become most subservient partners in Sin. It is, therefore fortunate to see that Dr. Reddy not only reflects this attitude in his own thinking but demands it of others. In this regard, therefore, he is a builder of modern Government.

Productivity is a common casualty in our life. While talking of the volume of production, we often forget the contribution in terms of unit of input. Pursuit of productivity provides the best means of self-appraisal. But very few in political life have the courage to allow themselves to be subjected to such discipline. It is gratifying to see a Chief Minister recommending optimisation of resources through cultivation of inter-spaces between trees in reserve forests, intensive research for increasing the productivity of dry lands, water conservation etc. These may appear small things but they display the sharpness of the mind of Dr. Reddy who wants to get the optimum from the minimum. What a transformation can be brought about if such an attitude of mind permeates every sphere of economic activity and every layer of administration! If poverty has to be banished from our country and—quickly—it is this scientific mind that is necessary in leadership at every level, in every office and factory, every field and home. Dr. Reddy is richly endowed with such a mind. His emphasis on optimum utilisation of industrial capacities set up either with public or private funds is an extension of the same spirit. His scheme for extension of bus to every village should be viewed not only as an instrument of providing transport facilities but—what is more important and which only a leader with economic discipline can see—also of vast social benefit through inter-connection of markets and production centres and its multiplying effect on generating employment and economic activity. This is another attempt to optimise the use of resources by bringing out the potential of areas and the people who inhabit them. His proposal to dispose of extensive temple lands and use the receipts for financing educational programmes in villages is another example. Here again, his conception is that it is through education that we can harness the best of human resources.

The modernity of outlook is displayed in his eagerness to receive and try new ideas and techniques. He has opened all the windows on the Secretariat—the traditional bastion of status-quo, with a view to make it more result-oriented.

In doing this, he has adopted once again the industrial approach of asking external consultants, i.e., the Administrative Staff College of Hyderabad to look at its organisation and practices. He has encouraged a number of public sector industries to let their organisations be studied by competent outside consultants. This external assistance, he believes, is not a sign of lack of faith in internal competence but an extension of the thinking process within, the process of self-appraisal and self-improvement which constantly should go on in any living organisation. It is, on the contrary, a sign that it has nothing to hide and that is prepared to be told what it may have missed to see. Organisations, Dr. Reddy is aware, tend to inbreed, are apt to construct walls around themselves, to defend and perpetuate themselves and even to delink themselves from the purpose for which they were originally created. Organisations are created, Dr. Reddy keeps constantly reminding, to serve people and it is their changing, dynamic needs and interests that should govern their structure, shape and purpose. And it is in the interest of their creator—the people—that fresh breeze of ideas should constantly be blowing across its doors and windows.

Pursuit of excellence is another attribute of leadership. In our mistaken interpretation of egalitarianism we are apt to level everything down. All great scientific achievements, discoveries and inventions have been results of individual excellence and merit. The promotion of such individual excellence through selection is not an antithesis of socialism but is necessary for its success. What is needed, as Dr. Reddy has been emphasising, is the widening of the base of such selection so that as large a number

as possible can get equal opportunities for growth. This is the motivation behind his idea of extending the Public School system to villages. In keeping with this thinking, he has suggested that a managerial cadre should be built for management of public sector units through a process of independent selection.

Dr. Reddy is a visionary, a dreamer. This is necessary to be able to do great things. To have one's feet on the ground is not an excuse for not having one's eyes fixed on the stars. That alone provides a measure of one's challenge and the worlds one wants to discover or reach. In our obsession with realism we may often sell our souls away to pettiness. People who may call him impractical should look at the breadth of his vision. Great things are possible only with visions. Those who do not have dreams can never achieve big things.

Dr. Reddy is a rare combination of a thinker, a visionary, a manager, an administrator, a politician, a statesman. This is what marks him out as the Man of Destiny.





# DR. REDDY, AS I SEE HIM

GOPAL RAO EKBOTE

Lear is made by Shakespeare to say *Age is unnecessary*. And how true it is in the case of Dr. M. Channa Reddy! He completes his 60th year on the 13th January, 1979 and yet there are no signs of any decay or decline in his enthusiasm and energy in serving the people, though a white patch of hair appears on the front part of his head betraying a little of his age.

Dr. Reddy entered active politics when he was 23 years old. It was the time when he was unanimously elected as the General Secretary of Andhra Mahasabha, essentially a political organisation albeit, in view of peculiar circumstances then prevailing, it had put on the mask of a socio-cultural organisation working for the welfare of Telugu-speaking people of the erstwhile Hyderabad State.

Frank Collins, in one of his books, says that when any member of a society behaves unjustly, the balance and its health get disturbed. It is restored only when the person, however high or low, causing injury to the society is punished in one form or the other. If nobody cares to come forward to annihilate the social injustice, a person or a group of persons who has social conscience must consider it his duty to punish the guilty and set right the social imbalance so caused. To take law into one's own hand is considered sinful and uncivilized, but in extraordinary situations the society has to organise peaceful resistance with a view to bringing about a change in the social order.

Andhra, Maharashtra and Karnataka Mahasabhas were organised to check the misrule of the Nizam and compel him to allow the three regions and their people to enjoy their social, cultural, economic and political rights. These three organisations were subsequently merged into Hyderabad State Congress, a purely political organisation which was banned by the Nizam before it actually took its birth.

True to the axiom that a man is shaped and fashioned by what he loves, young and vigorous Dr. Channa Reddy, who loved politics, moved fast into the political field. In 1946, he became the Secretary of the City Congress Committee. After we obtained our freedom from the Nizam's rule, Dr. Channa Reddy became a member of the Provisional Parliament and served the Congress Parliamentary Party as one of its whips.

In the first general elections to the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly in 1952, Dr. Reddy was elected from Vikarabad Constituency. He was taken into the first ever popular ministry with Dr. Burugula Ramakrishnarao as the Chief Minister. He was the youngest minister in the Cabinet. I joined the cabinet at a late stage and had the occasion to work with Dr. Channa Reddy in the cabinet and in the Congress Legislature Party. Dr. Reddy efficiently and successfully handled several portfolios. These were some of his very fabulous achievements.

In spite of strong opposition and even flying in the face of the recommendations made by the States Reorganisation Commission, Telangana was merged with Andhra and they together constituted Andhra Pradesh from the 1st November, 1956. Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddy formed the first government in Andhra Pradesh in which however, Dr. Channa Reddy could not find a place.

The Telangana Regional Committee was, however, constituted. Dr. Channa Reddy took a very active part in various sub-committees. He made a perceptible and notable contribution as chairman of the Development Sub-Committee of the Telangana Regional Committee. I



had occasion to work with him in several sub-committees of Telangana Regional Committee. Numerous reports presented by the Regional Committee highlighted discriminatory treatment meted out to various sections of Telangana people, in spite of several promises and agreements. It looked as if we had forgotten the lesson of History that discrimination leads to frustration and frustration inevitably leads to violence. As a result of the discriminatory treatment, an unpalatable atmosphere was created. Incendiary articles were written and inflammatory speeches made in one region were repeated in the other region. The process of stirring up hatred, suspicion, and fear reached such an extent that it revived the demand for separate Telangana State in 1969, and its counter production was the agitation carried on in the Andhra region in 1971 for the establishment of a separate Andhra State.

Although Dr. Channa Reddy had led the separatist movement, he had not lost his balance in his political thinking. At a time, as was then prevailing, forbearance and calm counsels, accompanied by a spirit of fairness and give and take, had to prevail. The leadership both at the Centre and in the State showed magnanimity and a compromise was evolved. As a result, the integrated Andhra Pradesh State continued. It is, however, difficult to state whether the process of emotional integration was rightly evolved and its implementation is taking firm roots in both the regions.

Dr. Channa Reddy moved on to the Centre and dealt with an important portfolio like Steel and Mines in the Union Government. He subsequently worked as Governor of Uttar Pradesh. Returning to the state politics, he has now become the Chief Minister of the integrated Andhra Pradesh. It is really creditable for him to have earned the goodwill and confidence of the representatives of both the regions of Andhra Pradesh.

This, in brief, has been the rapidly moving career of Dr. M. Channa Reddy. Much has been said all these years and much will certainly be said on the occasion of celebrating his 61st birth day, of the many achievements in the long course of his public service. One may, however, dwell for a moment upon one single pervasive quality which he has possessed throughout the four decades of his political career. It is his tremendous courage. Never in public affairs did he shirk from taking the unpopular side, but trusted his faith in the rectitude of his own convictions. That has been an integral part of his vigorous nature.

He was, for quite some time, misunderstood by his contemporaries, but has grown in reputation with the years. He is accessible to everybody and keeps an open mind in all issues. Recognition of the work of others, courtesy to all who had dealings with him and modesty concerning his own achievements of some of his enduring qualities which those who know him will not forget.

The Indian society is casting off its old garments, standards, aims and institutions which were generally accepted even a generation ago. Old motives are weakening and new forces are springing up. Anyone who has an insight into the mind of the changing age is vividly conscious of its restlessness and uncertainty, its dissatisfaction with the existing economic and social conditions and its yearning for the new social order which is yet to be realised. It is in this context that one has to look at the 'impatience' or 'restlessness' of Dr. Channa Reddy. He has an uncanny knack of combining knowledge that delves into the past with a large and free outlook that would make the past a tributary to service of the present and the future.

It only remains for me to wish Dr. Channa Reddy a long and healthy life, with happiness and honour. Live on for the sake of service to the people. Many problems of great significance still await determined solutions. People need services of persons like Dr. Channa Reddy to better their socio-economic lot. It is said that those who have no past have neither a sense of responsibility nor future. I have no manner of doubt that the future of Dr. M. Channa Reddy will be worthy of his eloquent past and he will continue to serve our country with devotion and sacrifice.



# LEADER WITH A GOLDEN HEART

V. R. K. PARAMAHAMSA

When I read in the newspaper that a Committee comprising well-known personalities has been constituted to felicitate Dr. Marri Channa Reddy on his completing Sixty years, I, a non-entity in political reckoning, but one who had enjoyed, over the past Thirty years, the warm friendship of this great son of Andhra Pradesh, thought that I should tell the people of this country what a gem of a person that Dr. Reddy is in personal relations.

It is said that politicians make friends or foes according to the dictates of their political opportunities and personal advancement and, in the process, their finer qualities get blunted and they lose their soul in the art of playing politics and politicking. But, Dr. Reddy, by all accounts, is an exception. In the daily din and dust of political controversies and exchanges over the past four decades of which he was always at the centre, Dr. Reddy retained his soul and personality intact. He never appeared any time to hit his political opponents below the belt. His politics is an open book.

Even in the thick of his political activities, Dr. Reddy never forgot his friends who, he thought, needed his help to get over their personal difficulties. He always took time off from his busy official and political schedules—if it was midnight—to drop in at any of his friend's house and offer a word of cheer and encouragement in times of need.

Those were the days of Telangana agitation and, as who was leading the movement, he had no time perhaps even to sit for a while and breathe. I was laid up with a severe ailment at my residence and desperately needed someone to put courage and hope of survival in me. Even my close relatives forsook me and there were only my mother and wife to look after me. Dr. Reddy somehow, came to know of my plight and, one midnight, straight dashed to my residence to see how I was and what I needed. As soon as my wife and I saw him, tears welled from our eyes and we became speechless. He wiped our tears, consoled us, assured us that I would be all right soon and said he would arrange medical assistance. Next day, in the morning, we found a group of top doctors in the city, accompanied by his son and wife, entering our house. The doctors examined me and prescribed several injections and medicines. Dr. Reddy's wife and son sensed my agony. They did not say a word. But, in the evening when the first injection was to be administered to me, there was Dr. Reddy present along with the doctor to assure me that nothing would happen and he was always there to give me everything. From then on, in spite of his pre-occupations, Dr. Reddy somehow found time to see me often and watch my progress to normalcy.

I could hardly remain in bed for two months when my official chores demanded my presence in the office. Though I was very weak, the first day I managed to reach my office in a bus which, of course, was a strenuous one. As I hardly settled down in my office, there came a phone call from Dr. Reddy chiding me for not informing him about my having to go to office and offered his only car to take me to office daily and bring me back. When I feebly protested, Dr. Reddy rebuked saying "If not now, when else you would use my car? We would take care of ourselves. The car will go to your house everyday morning with the petrol put in, you go to your office, keep it till evening, and after returning home, send it back to me." I utilised his car for nearly two months during which period I knew how much he and his family members suffered for want of a transport. But neither Dr. Reddy nor his family members felt a thing about it. A sacrifice they made for a person of no consequence, but a mere friend.

To the misfortune of Andhra Pradesh, the genuine aspirations of the Telangana people for growth and development were grossly misunderstood and the whole movement, which

Dr. Reddy was leading, was sought to be discredited. Consequently, it took a violent turn, as always happens with movements of such mass character. As a result, Dr. Reddy and a few of his associates were taken into custody and lodged in Rajahmundry Central Jail. Even during the period of his imprisonment, Dr. Reddy did have time not only to think of the sufferings of the Telangana agitators, but also of the welfare of his friends like me. In a heart-warming letter from the Jail, Dr. Reddy enquired about my health, what medicines I was taking, regretted his physical inability to be with me and assured me that though he was in the Jail at a distant place, his thoughts were always with me. Such was the consideration that Dr. Reddy has for his friends.

It is indeed a happy event that the Shashtiabdipoorthi of this man with a golden heart is being organised and my wife and I offer a thousand prayers to the Almighty to give him a long and healthy life so that he would not only serve the political cause he has taken up, but also remain a source of succour to his friends.





# A PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR

MALLIKARJUN

Traditionally, the office of Governor is taken to be rather quiet and sedate—the Governor being looked upon as a figure-head whose main role is ceremonial in character. Many of those who had known Dr. M. Channa Reddy wondered how a person as active as he always is would fit into an office of this nature. But Dr. M. Channa Reddy, who was sworn in as Governor of Uttar Pradesh on the auspicious Vijayadasami day in 1974, had himself a very clear idea of his role and the type of Governor he was going to be.

Dr. M. Channa Reddy was not an unknown person in the national political scene. People all over the country had heard of his dynamic and dashing leadership of the separate Telangana movement and of his vast administrative experience as a Minister in Andhra Pradesh and as Minister for Steel and Mines at the Centre. He was, incidentally, the youngest incumbent of this gubernatorial office of the biggest state in the country, after independence.

In his message to the people of Uttar Pradesh, after being sworn in as Governor, Dr. Reddy said: "As the first citizen of the State, I shall do my very best to serve the people of the State.....". In the three years of his tenure as Governor, he gave full testimony both, in word and deed, to what he meant by this.

Uttar Pradesh, according to Dr. Reddy, represents the soul of India. The size of the State is so overwhelming that not many of the politicians and administrators of the state were brave enough to visit the entire width and breadth of it. This did not deter Dr. Reddy. Unmindful of the problems of transport, he undertook the long and arduous journeys to the nooks and corners of the State within the very first year of assumption of office. This was the first time that a Governor had imposed on himself such a physically exhaustive assignment. Travelling day and night, he would begin his day at 7 O'clock in the morning and would return only in the early hours of the next morning. In a way, his programmes and visits were round the clock and he had a keen eye to every detail of what was happening in the places he visited. This endeared him to the people and they poured out their heart to him. In every function that he attended and meetings addressed, he left a lasting impression of full involvement in the life of the people. Be it a prize distribution ceremony or a visit to the Ghats or temples of Varanasi, or a function of the Rotary or Lions' Club, or a dialogue with students, teachers and officials or a visit to a school or to an industry or to a village, Dr. Reddy had always new ideas which manifested new dimensions of his personality and versatility. On all such occasions, very much unlike a Governor, Dr. Reddy assiduously took notes of the grievances of the people and, on his return to the State capital sent appropriate notes to the concerned departments of the state government. He did not remain content with this; he always kept a watch on how expeditiously the grievances were redressed by the government. He always demanded information from the government on these matters. He would assert that this was not interference. He felt, as the first citizen of the state, that it was his duty to hear the grievances of the citizens and they had a right to expect redressal when they represented to their Governor. These visits of Dr. Reddy to different parts of the state and the intimate contacts he developed with the people made them aware of the real role of a Governor. His personal character and courage of conviction became widely known in different parts of the state. As a result, the people's esteem for Dr. Reddy was so overwhelming that in the second year of his office, his office was flooded with invitations from different parts of the state to visit them a second time. His involvement in people's problems and his anxiety to find solutions to them was unparalleled.

As Chancellor, he provided unique leadership to the 17 universities in the state. Meetings with the vice-chancellors of the universities became a regular feature. Both the teachers



and the students found in him a friend who was always willing to look into all their difficulties. He streamlined the process of selection of university teachers and minimised the chances of nepotism in the matter of such selections. It was widely known that every appeal or representation against any selection was personally looked into in detail by the Chancellor himself.

The voluntary organisations in the state found in Dr. Reddy a true friend and patron of their activities. He wanted voluntary organisations to take one or two concrete programmes which would make an impact on the society as a whole. He felt aghast at the fact that people had to buy blood in hospitals. He wanted the Red Cross to make it its sole objective to provide blood free of cost to the needy. In a philosophic mood he would exhort "a race becomes really great when individuals are prepared to shed blood for its survival". Many voluntary organisations responded to his call and there were quite a few districts where blood banks were opened at their initiative.

As a lover of children, Dr. Reddy was always keen for more vigorous attention to building character of children from an early age. He felt that ordinarily in schools it was not possible to provide all the facilities which a child might require for development of its potential and aptitude. He strongly advocated, therefore, the programme of setting up *Bal Bhavans* all over the state to provide such facilities. "Let the child have the environment to development what it wants; then alone it would get the confidence to come forward boldly and make its contribution to the entire society", he always asserted. He appealed to the exhibition societies in the districts to have a *Bal Bhavan* attached to them. The scheme was started in the state with his blessings.

Being deeply religious, Dr. Reddy was appalled to see the condition of the temple of Vishwanath in Varanasi and the dirty surroundings and its slovenly upkeep. He took an oath not to visit the temple again unless he had done something positive to see that the management of the temples in the state was organised on a rational basis. He was of the view that the devotees should have all the necessary facilities to visit the temple and feel the awe-inspiring presence of Vishwanathji, and their devotion was manifested in their deeds and character. He conveyed his views to the state government and prepared a draft bill for the better management of the Charitable Institutions and Hindu Religious Endowments.

Dr. Reddy's rich administrative abilities came into full play in Uttar Pradesh when the reins of administration came into his hands consequent on the imposition of President's Rule in December, 1975 which lasted 55 days. These 55 days saw a sea of change in the administration of the state. When the President's rule was terminated, the Lucknow-based newspaper *Pioneer*, paid handsome complements to Dr. Reddy's handling of the affairs of the state thus:

"GOVERNORS ceased to be 'prancing proconsuls'—as Lord Hailey described the breed—with the advent of Independence. The constitutional limitations on their powers incline many people to the belief that the office is one mainly of ceremonial and dignity and that outside its social obligations, there is very little to do. This is taking too narrow and technical view of the matter. Much depends on the calibre of the person holding this high office. There is, however, no denying that the ability and integrity of the Rajyapal are fully tested when he has to bear the sole responsibility of administration after the State comes under President's rule. Uttar Pradesh has been no stranger to this kind of interregnum. Without in any way detracting from the ability and worth of Rajyapal, Reddy's predecessors in office, it should be placed on record, that never was so much done for so many in such a short time at the instance of a single individual.

"Dr. Channa Reddy, it is common knowledge, came into a difficult legacy when the largest unit in the Indian Union with a population exceeding 90 million came under President's rule on November 30 last. The Ministry had prepared an admirable blueprint where the programme was concerned; what was grievously lacking was its speedy and effective implementation. Reddy stepped in to supply the vigour and drive needed to galvanise the administration. With his unerring finger on the pulse of the State, he evolved—or should we say prescribed?—a time-bound programme for a complete face-lift of Uttar Pradesh. He concentrated first on streamlining and shoring up the administration,



which must necessarily be the instrument for implementing the 20-point programme presented to the Nation by the Prime Minister.

"The Rajyapal got this 20-point programme nailed, figuratively speaking of course, on the masthead of the Ship of State the day he took charge and started giving orders from the captain's deck. His order of the day to the Secretaries of the various departments and others in the higher echelons in the services was to get the feel of the people and their problems, sheer through yards of red tape, chop off all the dead-wood in the various departments and nurse the people at the grassroot level. The tempo of work and the disposal of files were accelerated not so much by the Rajyapal's judicious use of the big stick as well by the carrot of incentive as by his own personal example and dedication to hard work. Even his detractors—no person is worth anything if he has no opponents and critics—grudgingly admit that "he worked like a galley slave" for 15 to 16 hours a day.

"It is no mean achievement that under Dr. Reddy's inspiring guidance the Augean stables' of the Secretariat have been cleared and cleaned within six weeks. Cultivators and farmers have been his first concern. They will benefit most by his sterling work in the sphere of distribution of land and house sites. The weaker sections have benefited similarly from the implementation of his stern directives in their favour. His relentless drive against profiteers, hoarders and other corrupt elements is reflected in the marked improvement in the distribution system and the very welcome fall in commodity prices. In the sphere of education he blazed a new trail by mooted the idea of a University Service Commission at the Vice-Chancellors' Conference. The law and order situation which was at the point of caving in when he took over, has undergone a sea-change for the better.

"Apart from the administrative and Governmental affairs, Rajyapal Reddy, despite his multifarious duties, he continued to take an active and deep interest in art, literature, sport and in other cultural and social activities. All this is being said not to lay it thick on Rajyapal Reddy but to put the record straight on the eve of the restoration of popular ministry in the State. Reddy has had his innings, scoring quite a few sixes, and now that he is returning to the pavilion with bat in hand, it is only fair to salute him with the greeting: 'Well done!'"

The deep insights that Dr. Reddy developed as a minister for a number of years in his home state of Andhra Pradesh has left him with a deep conviction that the Revenue Department in the states,—for historical and other reasons, constitute the backbone of the state administration and, amongst the officers, those at the district level carried on their shoulders the burden of administration. He often recounted the powerful position which the Board of Revenue enjoyed in the southern states and also the way in which administration at the district level had been strengthened there. On the other hand, the Board of Revenue in Uttar Pradesh, he felt, hardly enjoyed any comparable status. The institution of Commissioners did not exist in the southern states. Dr. Reddy was aware of the factors distinguishing Uttar Pradesh, from others, but humourously referred to them as "cows without milk". He also felt that, in many respects, the administration at the district level in the state rested on very fragile crutches. He did not hide his feelings about the growth of departments and personnel in the true fashion of Parkinson's law when he remarked that the entire administrative structure in the state was a veritable pyramid without a foundation. He was keen to remedy the situation as best as he could within the existing framework, and lost no time in taking several decisions of far-reaching character. His first major decision was to bring the work relating to consolidation of land under the purview of the Board of Revenue. The work relating to consolidation of holdings had been initiated in the state more than two decades ago under the administrative supervision of the Consolidation Commissioner who worked directly under the state government. The result was that, very often, this important programme of land reform suffered from undue interference from the state government. The Board of Revenue, on the other hand, had a certain autonomous structure and since that was the continuing body for the maintenance of land records, the decision of Dr. Reddy to transfer this work to the Board of Revenue was widely welcomed all over the state. He also wanted the Board of Revenue to act as the main agency for coordinating the collection of all taxes within the state. He also brought about greater decentrali-



sation and devolution of the judicial functions of the Board of Revenue through a number of measures. He devolved the administrative powers of the Board of Revenue on the Divisional Commissioners. Working downwards, Dr. Reddy's immediate objective was to strengthen the administration at the district level.

Dr. Reddy often referred to the fact that after the achievement of independence, the core of administration at the grassroots had suffered from neglect. The administrative pandits had tried to differentiate between regulatory and developmental administration. Though the latter was the bedrock of administration in the past, it now got branded as a colonial antiquity and an obsolete institution. The result was that in bringing about a change in the administration, the tendency was more in terms of developing a new hierarchical structure which was expected to respond better to the requirements of a development administration. The Revenue Department, the judiciary and the police were not given as much attention as was showered on the departments dealing with community development, social reforms, etc. New buildings were constructed for the latter departments and also accommodation provided for the staff. On the other hand, adequate attention had not been paid to the people, and upkeep of the old departments and their infrastructure. Again, in the matter of training, the traditional departments had been badly neglected. Dr. Reddy often repeated that this situation had been reached only due to incorrect understanding of the real implications and role of development administration. According to him, it was the core administration which, with proper orientation, should have been strengthened further to meet the new challenges. Efficiency alone had been the prime factor in administrative thinking. The basic approach now required change. Administration had to be reoriented to go to the masses and not *vice-versa* as of yore. To achieve this objective, Dr. Reddy, a great visionary, had a number of measures initiated which infused a new life into the administration of the state.

The tenure of Dr. Reddy as Governor of Uttar Pradesh, though short, has left a deep and abiding impression on the high and the low, and they cherish their contact with him for a long long time to come.





# THE HOPE OF THE PEOPLE

C. NARASIMHAM

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*"The only question that a lover of India and humanity has to address himself, is how best to devise practical means of alleviating India's wretchedness and misery"—GANDHI.*

India's Five-Year Plans had aroused considerable interest all over the world because of the attempt to carry out planned economic development in a political set-up based on parliamentary democracy within a federal structure, and that too in a country of continental dimensions and having a level of national income that was one of the lowest in the world. The Planning Commission, the principal instrument for devising Indian Plans and the planning machinery in the States have become one of the major topics of public thinking and discussion in India. As a result, the Planning Commission and the State Planning Bodies have also come to receive special focus in public debates. The discussion and evaluation have ranged all the way from fulsome praise to severe condemnation.

In 1956, the Planning Commission was still considering how best the problem of planning in a federal set-up for the whole country should be solved and how the consent and cooperation of both the Central and the state governments should be secured. The solution offered was to establish the National Development Council. When Dr. Channa Reddy became Planning Minister of Andhra Pradesh in 1962, the Planning Commission did not yet fully evolve its systems for national planning.

When he took over Planning and Panchayati Raj Department, he brought to bear upon it his undoubted knowledge and practical experience of administration as minister in the erstwhile Government of Hyderabad, particularly in the fields of Planning, agriculture, rural development, etc. He had the unique experience of implementing in the very early stages, the community development programmes launched for the integrated development of villages. At 44, he was young, energetic and bursting with enthusiasm to change the face of rural India, to use the words of Pandit Nehru who swore by this movement. Dr. Reddy's prodigious memory and amazing knowledge of the conditions then obtaining in the state stood him in good stead. It was not, therefore, surprising that he proved a conspicuous success as Minister for Planning and Panchayati Raj.

The basic objective of our Plans has always been to eliminate poverty. This was recognised even on the day when we became independent. In his historic speech at the midnight ceremony on the 14th of August, 1947, Pandit Nehru said: "The future is not one of ease or resting but of incessant striving so that we may fulfil the pledges we have so often taken and the one we shall take today. The service of India means the service of the millions who are suffering. It means the ending of poverty, ignorance and disease, and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe out every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us. But as long as there are tears and suffering, our work will not be over." The same objective has been repeated in successive Plan documents.

Dr. Channa Reddy was well aware of this main objective and constantly referred to the resolution adopted by Parliament at the instance of Pandit Nehru in December, 1954, which said that India should move towards a socialist pattern of society. The meaning of this was spelt out in the Second Five Year Plan published in 1956. It was made clear that there must not only be an increase in the national income and employment, but also greater equality in individual incomes and wealth. The benefits of economic development must accrue more and more to the relatively less privileged classes of society and there should be progressive reduction in the concentration of incomes, wealth and economic power. In the formulation of the State Plans Dr. Channa Reddy was mainly guided by the national objectives. His one passion was