



DAMODARAMSANJEEVAYYA, FIRST DALIT CHIEF MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH AND HIS CONTRIBUTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAYALASEEMA

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Abstract

DamodaramSanjivayya was known for simplicity and good character. He (14 February 1921 8 May 1972) was the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, India from 11 January 1960 to 12 March 1962. DamodaramSanjivayya was born in a dalit family in Peddapadu village of Kallur Mandal in Kurnool district. His father died when he was young. He was a brilliant student at the Municipal school and he took a bachelor's degree in law from Madras Law College. Even as a student, he actively participated in the Indian freedom movement. Coming from a poor Dalit family, Sanjeevaiah was a brilliant student of Municipal High School. One of his friends recalled that throughout his school days he brought only one dish for lunch - jowar roti and chilli powder and most of the times came poorly dressed. Yet, he excelled in education.

He was Minister in the composite Madras State. He was the member of the provisional parliament 1950-52. In 1962, Sanjivayya also became the first dalit leader from Andhra Pradesh to become All India Congress Committee president. He was Minister of Labour and Employment under LalBahadurShastri between 9 June 1964 and 23 January 1966. A brilliant political strategist, Sanjeevaiah closely worked with Jawaharlal Nehru at the national level. He had the distinction of being among the first Harijans to have shouldered such high responsibilities in the cause of service to the Nation. He was known for his administrative ability and for his uprightness of character. He was a voracious reader and writer. He wrote a book on Labour problems and industrial development in India, in 1970 published by Oxford and IBH Pub. Co., New Delhi.

Key words : Madras State, Dalit, Chief Minister, Development

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Sanjeevayya was studied primary education at Peddapdu village of Kurnool dist and he was joined in fifth class into A.B.M School, Kurnool. Sanjeevayya passed tenth class from the Municipal Highschool of Kurnool. He was the classmate of Chndra Pullareddy, leading communist leader of Andhra Pradesh. He was completed his Intermediate and B.A. from Arts and Science college of Anantapuram, under the control of Madras University.

Employment

After his Graduation he tried for Government jobs. With the help of Shivaraj, Mayor of Madras he got civil Supplies Inspector post . it is gazetted officer post. After one year the post was abolished by the central Government and sanjeevayya left Bellary and he wants to study B.L. at Madras. During Law studies he was worked as part-time teacher and getting 90 rupees per month. This amount is very helpful to sanjeevayya due to scholarships not available at that time. After few months Madras government sanctioned scholarship to D. Sanjeevayya and he was the first person to receive the scholarship in post graduation Level.

Law Practice

After completion of Law course enrolled . his name into Madras court and worked apprentice under Ganapati and jasti sitamahalakshamma. Kotla Vijaya Bhaskarreddy, Ex. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh also practiced in Madras court.



Chief Minister -Contribution to the Development of Andhra Pradesh

Sanjeevayya Elected for Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in 1960 January 11. This is great Event in the History of Andhra Pradesh and First Dalit Community Person Elected as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Sanjeevayya worked relentlessly for the development of State.

He was run the Government for two years successfully and he was responsible for winning of 1962 general elections of Andhra Pradesh. Communists are strongly opposed the Congress Party, but due to effective leadership qualities of Sanjeevayya congress won majority seats and form the Congress Government in Andhra Pradesh. Sri Neelam Sanjeevareddy Elected as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

1. During his time he approved State Law Commission, which is very useful to amend the Laws and implement the effectively. This is first in India and it was started by Governor of Andhra Pradesh
2. He inaugurated first Polytechnic College for girls in India. The college was named as Kamla Nehru Girls Polytechnic college.
3. He distributed 6 lakhs of Acres of land to landless People. Punnaiah Retired High court Judge appreciated the land reforms of Sanjeevayya.
4. he was the responsible for Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Before that there was two Municipal Corporations one for Hyderabad another one is Secundrabad.
5. He instructed to all the departments to answer the people in Telugu language and he worked for the development of Telugu literature
6. He implemented Prohibition of liquor in the state and proved the true follower of Gandhi
7. one of the great contribution to Sc,s and ST's is to approved Go MS no 559 on 04-05-1961. According to this Reservation will be implemented in Government jobs.
7. In 1961-62, Compulsory Primary Education act enacted for all childerens of 6 to 7 years age group
8. During his period Sarojini Eye Hospital bifurcated from the general medicine and sanction separate budget for eye hospital.
9. During his time Lalita Kala Akadami established and it was inaugurated by Sanjeevayya in 1961 (September 18).



Sanjeevayya as President for All India Congress Committee

Sanjeevayya elected twice for AICC President during his life. After Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, Smt Indira Gandhi has proposed Sanjeevayya name to AICC president and Y.B. Chavan Supported to his candidature. Sanjeevayya elected unanimously. This is great honor for Andhra Pradesh. During his president ship China attacked over India in 1962. He advocated to youth to fight against China and serve the Nation. Kamaraj Plan also implemented during his president ship. As per this Important leaders to resign their positions and serve the country. Nehru recommended the resignations of Morarjidesai, Lalbahadur Sastri, N.K.Patel , Bezawada Gopala Reddy etc. Sanjeevayya successfully completed his two year tenure from 1962-1964(Jan-4th) total period 19 ,months.

In 1967 he was lost Loka sabha Seat from Kurnool. He was also cabinet minister for industries during the elections and unfortunately he met accident between Vijayawada – Hyderabad Road and he was unable to meet the people to vote for his candidature. Some of the Congress Leaders also worked for against of the Sanjeevayya and he was lost elections and resigned to Cabinet Minister Post.

He was elected President for AICC for second Time in 1971 April 3rd. He was supported by Jaggivvan Ram and Sri Kasu Brahmananda Reddy and elected unanimously. During his time India Celebrated Silver Jubilee Indian Independence Celebrations. In 1972 Midterm Elections were held and majority of seats won by the Congress. During this time Congress face crucial Problems due to Political situation of the Country.

Demise

Damodaram Sanjeevayya was died suddenly in 1972 May 7th at Delhi at the age of 51 due to Cardiac Arrest and his body taken Hyderabad and funeral conducted on the bank of Hussain Sagar. Smt. Indira Gandhi, appreciated his service to the nation and observed condolence in Lokasabha. The Nation has Lost Great Dalit leader after Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Babu Jagagivan Ray.

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