

# Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu Role in Socio, Political Movements in Nalgonda District

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**Abstract:** The Telangana freedom struggle was the first of its kind in India that shook the Nizams region of the day. The Telangana Movement was native in its Origin inscope and nativism wide in impact- A cultural Organization that was founded for Cultural Movement of Telangana was Successfully transformed in to a strong political Movement by the then undivided Communist party of India. The prominent Organisations which led the Movement were Aryasamaj, State Congress and Andhramahasabha led by the Communists Organisations were consecutively socio-religious, political and militant in essence. A prominent name in united of Nalgonda district, Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu was active in Hyderabad liberation Struggle alongside. Swamy Ramananda Tirtha, and was an Activist with Acharya Vinobha Bhave in Bhoodan Movement in 1951, Pochampally in the Nalgonda District. His Activities were crucial in Telangana Freedom Struggle.

**Keywords:** Communist, Peasant armed Struggle, Revolution, Resistance, Razakars, Glorious, Voilance, Anarchy, Satyagrahis, Ironic, Bhoodan.

## 1. Introduction

Sri Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu, A unique benefactor and an epoch making dignitary, a real Congress Leader. Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu (102) was born in Janampally village, Ramannapeta mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana State. Recently he was passed (October 21-2021) away. Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu having got attracted to the Aryasamaj Ideology during his School days he joined the "All Hyderabad Student Union, " Earlier as a Student Leader he boycotted the "Silver Jubilee Celebrations" of the Nizams Coronation inspired by School headmaster. Even as a Student he ran a Students Hostel in Nalgonda, which was a Training Centre for Students to inculcate patriotism and also to fight against the Social evils of those days. Formar Misister V.Purushotham Reddy, leader Mallu Venkata Narsimha Reddy, and several others were the products of his hostel. After India attained Independence in 1947.

While underground, he organized different Student Actions, like hostage the Indian flag on Independence Day, 15th August as well as the training Students for the armed Struggle of Telangana, In 1948, he got Elected General Secretary of the "All Hyderabad Students union" in Nalgonda district. Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu was member of the Freedom

fighters screening committee appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India from 1996 to 1998 and was Instrumental in achieving pensions for freedom fighters of the Telangana rebellions. He was also working for the Freedom fighters general Secretary of Telangana State. The prominent Organizations which led the Movement were Arya Samaj, State Congress and Andhara Maha Sabha led by the Communists organizations were consecutively socio-religions, political and militant in absence. Similarity, they mobilized the people against the Nizams regine based on their Ideological grappling. The Aryasamajists pursued theological was of movement for the protection of Hindu communists and chose passive resistance with 'Shuddi' (Religious conversion) programme.

The State Congress embraced a Nationalistic respective in concordant with the Indian National Congress with political agenda at core. It followed peaceful and Non-voilent methods and 'Satyagrahas' with the political strategy of war of position. It established border camps for engineering the support from Border States-Maratwada, Kannada, Andhra regions, since they were driven out from their villages by the Razakars and Nizams Army.

On the ground, the Communists launched frontal attack on the Nizams army with a strategy of underground warfare, raising gradually as a 'dress rehearsal' for the future democratic socialist revolution in India. There was no Razakars violence in areas where the Communists were a force to reckon with echoing the influence of Communists in Telangana. When Nehru were gagged at the time of all India Congress Committee Meeting why the arms should not be supplied to the people of Hyderabad to fight against Nizams army and Rajakhars? Nehru quipped that "giving arms to the people would strengthen the Communists hence this cannot be given!

## 2. Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu was a Arya Samajist

Swamy Ramananda Tirtha's original name as Venkatrao Khadgekar. He was born in Chikmalli Jagir of Gulbarga district and completed education from Pune. During those day, Pune was a Major centre of National Movement. Ramananda Tirtha was inspired by the speeches of Gandhi and other national leaders and decided to dedicate his life for freeing India from the shackles of British and participated in Non-co-operation

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movement.

M.N. Joshi, president of 'All Indian Trade Union Congress' conducted an essay competition on the theme 'Investment - Labour', to select right candidates to fight for the rights of Bombay industrial labourers. Swamy Ramananda Tirtha's essay impressed M.N. Joshi. M.N. Joshi called Ramananda to Bombay, appointed him as his personal assistance and also entrusted him with the task of coordinating with textile mill labour association. During this period he had close contacts with high level labour Organisation leaders like, Jabwala, Dinwala, and Saklatwala. Ramananda Tirtha toured Delhi, Ahmadnagar, Bombay and Sholapur educating and inspiring the factory labour regarding their rights. When British Government intrigued to arrest key labour leaders on the pretext of their involvement in Meerut Conspiracy, Ramananda Tirtha narrowly escaped arrest with the intervention of N.M. Joshi. As his health was deteriorating, Ramananda Tirtha left labour movements and joined as headmaster in Osmanabad of Hyderabad state. From then onwards he started studying the writings of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swamy Vivekananda, Swamy Rama Tirtha and other spiritual figures, with their influenced changed his name from Venkatrao Khadgekar to Swamy Ramananda Tirtha.

### 3. Association with Gandhiji

He met many leaders of Andhra Mahasabha and he played a key role in establishing Maharashtra Parishath, on the lines of Andhra Mahasabha and also played key role in establishing Hyderabad State Congress with an aim to secure good number of jobs to Hindus in Hyderabad State. Swamy Ramananda Tirtha had personal contact with Gandhiji. Ramananda Tirtha was the first individual 'Satyagrahi' from Hyderabad state. On 11th September 1940, at 10-00pm, police introduced into Hyderabad State Congress office, which was located in Sultan Bazar and arrested Ramananda Tirtha.

Join India Movement: On 7th August 1947, Ramananda Tirtha started "Join India Movement". Ramananda Tirtha was arrested for participated in Indian National Flag hoisting ceremony on 15th August 1947. Taking his call, Vemavarapu Manohar Panthulu hoisted national flag in Nalgonda on the same day. For this Nizam government suspended Manohar Panthulu from school and imprisoned him for three months in Nalgonda sub-prison. By that time, Manohar Panthulu was active in anti Nizam activities as the secretary of 'All Hyderabad Students' Union'. Nizam government released him in the month of November and planned to assassinate him secretly. Manohar Panthulu got the news of Nizam government intrigue to assassinate him and escaped from his village burning all documents and being in undercover he continued non-cooperation to Nizam government and educated the people not to pay taxes to the government.

Politically conscious Arya Samajists rose to prominent leadership positions in the State Congress. Swami Ramananda Tirtha was Instrumental in for going alliance with the Communists culminations in to a united front, The Orthodox elements in the state congress such as Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, Madapati Hanumantha Rao, and K.V Ranga Reddy in

taking a position against Communists.

Initially the alliance takeoff with mutual distrust and subsequently the state congress moved away from the alliance opposing communists violent activities and its widen agenda- The state congress confined to peaceful struggle direct confrontation with Nizams army and his volunteers leaving the ground field masses to be led by communists a huge Telangana proletarian led by communist leaders like Ravinarayana Reddy, Baddam Yellareddy, Arutla Brothers, Malluswarajyam, Kondveeti Gurnatha Reddy, Jaganmohan Reddy, Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu mobilized huge masses in Telangana. In the anti-feudal agrarian revolt. But the rank and file were not directly engaged in the fight for integration of Hyderabad state taking anti-Nizam struggle as a byproduct of their fight for the thralldom from vetti (Forced free labours) and for the land with the series of perilous events unfolding in Hyderabad state, government of India sent its troops on September 13, 1948. Seeing the unprecedented retreat of Razakars and his armed forces, Nizam sent a message to the union government that he had ordered ceasefire, disbanding of Razakars and the withdraw as of Hyderabad issue from the united nations. Communists who sacrificed their lives and braved the brunt of brutal torture of Nizams Army and Razakars for accession of Hyderabad princely state were neither given the status of freedom fighters nor did they seek for the same. The congress Satyagrahis anti-Nizam movement was a distant shadow waiting for the intervention of the union army, the state congress leadership and followers were accorded the status of freedom fighters it is ironic that Hyderabad liberations struggle, became legacy of the state congress.

### 4. Vinobha Bhave's Peace Mission

Vinobha bhave, a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi undertook visits many interior areas of Telangana on a peace mission based on their visits, he had categorically told the government that the land issue was the only cause for the Telangana armed struggle and that the government should see the issue in that angle. Vinobha bhaves peace mission evolved a partial response in Telangana region resulting in bhoodan (Land donations) on a considerable scale.<sup>47</sup> Ideological shifts of the party and the four pronged strategy of the government considerably weakened the communist's movement during 1951.

Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu a prominent name in united Nalgonda district, he was active in Hyderabad liberations struggle alongside Swami Ramananda Tirtha, and was an activist with Acharya Vinobha Bhave in bhoodan movement 1951 in pochampally village in the Nalgonda district. Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu activities were crucial in telangana freedom struggle and he later served as Sarpanch of Janampally village for nearly two decades and remained the district president for freedom fighters associations till recently.

### 5. Conclusion

Venerable and admiring personality Sri Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu had been political, Social, Educational services in Nalgonda district and did yeoman service, his

service to the party when it became weak are second to none. Formers were benefitted by his unnerving service getting water plants, bore wells, electric, drainage system, roads etc. Bank loans were his boon to the formers. Even at this age with grey hair, Gandhi hat. He always thinks about the good of the society and extends his sections to society, to the leaders in particular Vemavaram Manohar Panthulu is popularly called as “Ramannapeta Gandhi” and “Janam Manishi”. Recently he was passed away. (October 21, 2021).

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