



Research Paper

Spirit of Telangana – Prof. K. Jayashankar

M. Samuel Praveen Kumar
Asst. Professor of Political Science
Government Degree College for Women
Karimnagar – Telangana.

Ms. Jabeen Sulthana
Lecturer in Political Science
Government Degree College for Women
Karimnagar – Telangana.

Abstract

Telangana ideologue Prof. K. Jayashankar was an intellectual who dreamt about self-governance in Telangana and strove for separate Statehood to the region throughout his life. An academician and social activist who gave a philosophical and rational foundation to the cause of Telangana. He analysed that the underlying cause for the distress of the people of Telangana regions is the unequal and unjust distribution of river water, resources and jobs. In many ways, Prof Jayashankar revealed a Gandhian approach in his working. From the very beginning, starting from the Mulki agitation of 1952, he had a steadfast belief in the justness of the cause he was espousing. Like Gandhi, he was fearless and fully confident of facing and convincing his adversaries on the relevant issues. The present study endeavours to give an analytical understanding of the role of Prof. K. Jayashankar as an ideologue of Telangana movement.

Received 25 Oct., 2022; Revised 04 Nov., 2022; Accepted 06 Nov., 2022 © The author(s) 2022.

Published with open access at www.questjournals.org

"If the educated classes are silent on social issues and indifferent to the people's problems, then the situation will be worse than the terrorism" was the insight of Prof. K. Jayashankar, an eminent educationalist, scholar, social worker and futurist. He was a fierce champion of pragmatic and positive federalism, and was a dedicated worker for people's empowerment in Telangana. Prof. K. Jayashankar was like an intellectual beacon light which stood high with a vision and clarity of the goal to achieve for the people of Telangana. He was the ideologue, revolutionary and a visionary who gave a strong substructure for the future superstructure of people's dreams, that can stand the quakes of casteism, communalism and exploitation. It was due to the scholarly writings of Prof. K. Jayashankar that most of the people got literally educated on the very issue. He had the perceptiveness to understand that, the unequal distribution of river waters was the root cause of separate Telangana Movement. A pronounced persona Prof. K. Jayashankar till his last breath stood for social justice, and as a committed torch bearer has run the last lap of Telangana Movement with impeccable honesty and handed over the torch to the future generations to live in a paradise of his dream and bid adieu to his earthly journey on 21st June 2011.

As 'a dying seed promises a new life' Prof. K. Jayashankar filled his vision into the Telangana movement to make it a mission of future rulers. As a pillar of cloud led Moses in wilderness, Prof. K. Jayashankar remained as the philosophical pillar that showed a direction to Telangana's cultural and political movement for six decades. He gave life blood to the school of thought that supported small states as the solution for development. The unfolding of the papers of the life of Prof. K. Jayashankar remains as a great inspiration for millions. Born in Akkampet, a small hamlet in Warangal on 6th August, 1934, he climbed the ladder of his life as a student leader, scholar, professor, Registrar, Vice-Chancellor and social worker. Prof. K. Jayashankar, as the Principal of CKM college, Warangal, has exhibited his profound and efficacious administrative skills in streamlining the disturbed atmosphere of the college during emergency crisis. This brought a great recognition to him from the higher ups in the government. The constructive academic reforms and unparalleled administrative contributions of Prof. K. Jayashankar in capacity of Registrar of CIEFEL, Hyderabad and Vice-

Chancellor of Kakatiya University, Warangal are monumental. As the leader of Government Lecturers Association, he addressed many gatherings at national level, and tried his might to rescue the declining standards of education system. His towering contribution is the assimilation of the aim of teachers and lecturers' associations from individual motives to people's movement.

As the mighty waters flowing from a cascade, form into a river of eternity and bring to life the soil it touches, so also Prof. K. Jayashankar who originally was an economist imbibed the principles of social evolution and sacrificed his everything for the social cause. He was always there to support the movements for safeguarding human rights. He is a true manifestation of a guardian dreamt by Plato for his ideal state. Though he adorned the prestigious post of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. K. Jayashankar was always down to earth and never concentrated on accumulating properties. He was magnanimous in nature and crystal clear in heart to treat the Prime Minister and an ordinary person on equal terms. Though very closely acquainted with the then Prime Dr. Manmohan Singh he never exploited the same for his personal motives. A witness to the processes and forces of exploitation under Nizam and also in the post 1956 phase, he concluded that a region like Telangana needed a regime and system which is free of exploitative character and which can foster development on an egalitarian path. He led several agitations since 1962 for protection of the interests of Telangana region, and transformed it into a mass movement after 1969 agitation. He was a great disciplinarian who sincerely fulfilled his professional duties and also staunchly participated in people's movement.

"There is no greatness where there is no simplicity, goodness and truth" said Leo Tolstoy. All these three attributes made Prof. K. Jayashankar a great man. His simplicity and goodness allowed him to talk about the discrimination and exploitation without resorting to high decibel and noisy expositions. He was successful in leading the movement on the path of truth without letting it go astray. His ideology was like a string in the garland of Telangana movement which bound diverse groups, and contradicting views to one cause. He was able to convince the people in India and abroad about the viability of small states. He carried forward Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's philosophy that 'development is possible through decentralisation'. He also reiterated that the role of backward classes is instrumental in reconstruction of Telangana. He argued that the Backward Classes and Dalits should have equal opportunities in political process and various other sectors. He had the insight to predict that, only when the Backward Classes are empowered, only then an ideal Tealangana state can be established which is free from the clutches of corporate sector.

Prof. K. Jayashankar was a witness to Telangana movement from Fazal Ali Commission (1953) to Srikrishna Commission (2010). He was a part of the movement since 1956, the year the movement began, and he was very clear in what he wanted. He had made it clear that there was no other option but to give Telangana, and no other stop gap arrangement would ever solve the problem. Besides political process, Prof. K. Jayashankar reiterated the necessity of spread of the ideologue of Telangana movement among the masses. Argus-eyed towards the cultural expansion, and political exploitation of Seemandhra capitalists, Prof. K. Jayashankar played a historical role by giving a strong philosophical foundation to Telangana movement. He gave new life to the Telangana Movement by penning hundreds of articles and by addressing in numerous gatherings throughout Telangana. Prof. K. Jayashankar was strategic in enlightening the people about the deceitful motives of Seemandhra leaders in violating the Gentleman's Agreement, 5-point formula and 8-point formula. Proficient in mosaic of languages like Telugu, Urdu, English and Hindi, he was successful to garner peoples support by his convincing argument and enlightening discourse, even in Seemandhra and abroad, towards the necessity of formation of small states for economic development.

The long-cherished dream of 3.5 crores of Telangana people would not have come true without untiring and sincere efforts of Prof. K. Jayashankar. He could not wake up to see his dream come true, but was like a messiah who sacrificed everything for realising the dream of his people. On his 81st birthday, we pray tributes to the great soul. True tribute to Prof. K. Jayashankar and his life mission is when we build up our newly formed state in accordance his vision. "If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live" said Martin Luther King Jr. Prof. K. Jayashankar had a cause to die for, a cause that gave birth to 29th state of India.