

**JOIN INDIAN UNION MOVEMENT IN WARANGAL DISTRICT (1946 – '48)****Dr.M.Brahmaiah**Dept. History&MTM,  
Kakatiya University,  
Warangal – Telangana State.**INTRODUCTION:**

The Nationalist Movement in India is one of the popular movements in the history of the world. It encompassed almost every part of the country and its echo had been felt in the Nizam State. The Freedom Struggle had certain common features throughout the country, but in a state like Nizam it had its own peculiarities. The Nationalist Movement in Hyderabad State had to reckon with two important peculiarities. The first peculiarity was that it was started in a princely state, where the sovereignty of the British had been accepted by the Nizam. Hence, the Nizam had been curbing all activities of the Nationalist Movement that culminated in Freedom Struggle. Another peculiarity of the movement was that it had to galvanize the politically conscious masses in a state, where the educational system had not struck deep roots as in British India. Among other features, the fear of Nizam was that he might be thrown out of power once the British leave the country had also acted as a deterrent to the movement.

As this state had a peculiar agrarian structure, where in, there had been severe oppression of masses by Jagirdars, Deshmuks and Deshpandyas, it took a lot of time to take the shape of a struggle involving the masses. At that time the situation in Hyderabad State had undergone a catalytic change creating opportunities for the Congress leaders in the state to organize the masses, and the movement took its roots in various parts of Telangana.

The entry of Swamy Ramananda Theertha in the freedom struggle as the founder member of Hyderabad State Congress had a great impact on the nature of the struggle. Since his advent into the political arena, a massive people's movement was launched under his leadership. The movement has spread to different parts of the Hyderabad State and the struggle was vigorous in Warangal district.

The activities of Andhra Maha Sabha, which was under the aegis of the Communists, were also against the Nizam rule. The cultural revival in the state has been a catalytic one in mobilizing the masses for their struggle, but the freedom struggle drew its strength from the Nationalist Congress Party as it was aligned with it.

### **THE THEN POLITICAL CONDITIONS:**

After 1946, the political situation was fast changing and organizations like the Hyderabad State Congress, the Communists and the Razakars intensified their activities in the state, particularly in the border districts like Warangal. (Karimnagar and Nalgonda). Along the lines of political ideologies and programmes of action, the freedom struggle had developed into two separate streams under the Congress and the Communists. The objectives and the strategies of these organizations were contradictory to each other leading to political disturbances and communal tensions in Warangal district. The Nizam's Government had decided to lift the ban on the Hyderabad State Congress and to impose it on the Communists towards the end of 1946.

With the formation of Interim Government in the British India, the political climate had changed and India's Independence was offing. Naturally, this had its impact on the states like Hyderabad. The Nizam of Hyderabad wanted to remain as an Independent ruler of Hyderabad, after the withdrawal of the British. At the same time, Ittehad-Ul-Muslimeen had also pledged to save the independence of the Hyderabad, by organizing a private army called the Razakars to defend the borders. They also indulged in all sorts of atrocities on the people in the rural areas of Telangana, especially in Warangal district.

The Hyderabad State Congress launched a 'Satyagraha Movement'. The Razakar's began to suppress the movement with violence<sup>1</sup>. The State Congress and the Communists joined together as a united front to fight against the Nizam<sup>2</sup>. Many prominent leaders like Muralidhar Rao, Achuta Rao Deshpande, M.S.Rajalingam and Pandit Narendra were arrested by the Nizam Government to curb the political activities.

The State Congress meeting was held at Chikkadapally in May, 1947 under the chairmanship of Swamy Ramananda Theertha in which it was decided to over throw the Nizam Government. To

achieve this objective, the Hyderabad State Congress decided to launch a people's struggle and form a Committee of Action under the presidentship of D.Bindu. Mean while, after the discussions with the Cabinet Mission, the Nizam's Government declared its intention to remain as an independent state outside the Indian Union. The Nizam also declared his independence and issued a 'firman' on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1947 that after the end of the British Rule, the Nizam would become a Sovereign monarch<sup>3</sup>. The people's movement may be divided into two parts, (1) to launch Satyagrahas and organizing processions, meetings and fell toddy and palm trees in the state, (2) to organize armed camps on the border to fight against the Nizam's forces. Therefore, to achieve the above said objectives, the Hyderabad State Congress launched the Satyagraha Movement on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1947 and Swamy Ramananda Theertha was the first to Stage the Satyagraha.

### **JOIN INDIAN UNION MOVEMENT:**

The Hyderabad State Congress President Swamy Ramananda Theertha gave a call to **observe 7<sup>th</sup> August as the Join Indian Union Day**<sup>4</sup> by holding public meetings and processions despite the prohibitory orders. This was the beginning of the Join Indian Union Movement in Hyderabad State. Nizam was restless and banned the hoisting of Indian flag by issuing an order on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1947. Swamy Ramananda Theertha, President of the Hyderabad State Congress, declared this order as a challenge to the people of Hyderabad State<sup>5</sup>. The people of Hyderabad State responded to the call and hoisted the Indian Union Flag in Public Places on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1947. With the result, Swamy Ramananda Theertha, G.S. Melkote, Krishnamacharya Joshi and Jamalapuram Keshava Rao were arrested and imprisoned, that there would be none to hoist the Union flag in the Hyderabad State. But to their dismay, the flag was hoisted not only at Hyderabad but also in dozens of towns and hundreds of villages in the State<sup>6</sup>.

### **IN WARANGAL DISTRICT:**

Warangal was formerly a Suba head quarters in the erstwhile Hyderabad State. The people of Warangal district actively participated in **"Join Indian Union Movement" (1946-'48)** which was organized against the decision of Nizam of Hyderabad State to remain independent after the withdrawal of the British Rule.

The Congress leaders and the people of Warangal district responded to the call of Hyderabad State Congress leader Swamy Ramananda Theertha and observed 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1947 as the '**Join Indian Union Day**' they organized Join Indian Union Satyagraha in Ghanpur, Dharmasagar, Wardhannapet, Fort Warangal, Vasanthapuram, Dharmaram, Vanchanagiri, Gadipalli, Kuntapally, Mogilicherla, Kaniparthi, Katrapally Anantharam Gopanapelli, Nallabelli, Upparapalli, Lebarthy, Kothuru, Parvathagiri, Bandauthapuram, Nandanam, Inavolu, Illandu, Panthini, Gannaram, Bollikunta, Ashalapalle, Vangapahad, Hasanparthy, Rampuram, Thammadapally, Konduru, Thirumalayapally, Zafferghad, Narsampet, Chennaraopet, Manukota, Parkal, Issipeta, Narlapur, Regonda, Rangaihpally, Nagaram, Laxmipuram, Rangapuram, Bairanpalli, Reddypalem, Kalikota, Siripuram and other places.

In Warangal town, this Satyagraha was held under the leadership of District Congress Committee President, Kolipaka Kishan Rao<sup>7</sup>. Satyagrahis were beaten up by the police and many people were arrested. This programme continued for months. In order to suppress the movement, many Congress volunteers were jailed without trial in the Warangal district under section 25 of Defense of Hyderabad Rules (DHR) and under section 82 of the Asafia Penal Code (Sedition) <sup>8</sup>. The Satyagrahis like K.Srinivas Rao, P.Ramakishan Rao, M.Kotaiah, Vasireddy Anantha Ramaiah, G.Upender Rao, B.Nageshwar Rao, Gella Keshava Rao, G.Gopal Rao, G.Rangachary, Sudharshan Reddy, Heeralal Moria and others submitted a joint petition to the Jail Superintendent of Warangal on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1947 <sup>9</sup> in which they complained about their illegal arrest and detention in prison without trial. In their exhaustive petition, they protested against treating them on par with the criminals and serving the same food which was served to the criminals<sup>10</sup>.

The students of Warangal observed the **Hyderabad Day** (15<sup>th</sup> September, 1947) on the call of Hyderabad State Congress and organized protest meetings. The role of Warangal students in Join Indian Union Movement is note worthy. They actively participated in the anti-Nizam Struggle under the leadership of Chakradhar Rao, Yadava Reddy, G.Narayan Rao and Raja Reddy etal. They protested against the Nizam Government's measures to weaken **the 'John Indian Union Movement'** by arresting the leaders and the students<sup>11</sup>.

They established an Action Committee in order to fight the tyrannical rule of Nizam the Action Committee gave a call for boycotting the schools and colleges and obstructing government activities till the state joined the Indian Union. The District Congress leaders, and the students like P.Kishan Rao, Rajanna and C.Ramaraju etal encouraged the people to fight against the dictatorial rule of the Nizam. As a result, the Warangal people stopped paying taxes and started non-co-operation. Then, the police

started committing atrocities on the people by confiscating their property. While the police continued such brutal acts, there was no respite from the offensive acts resorted to by the Razakars. Many villages in Warangal district were the target of the Razakar attacks. There was no protection to the life and property of the people. The Razakars and their agents attacked on Konkapaka and Chautapally villages and indulged in all sorts of crimes including burning entire village and murdered about 40 people. Tammadapally also had similar experience with the Razakars.

The Razakars haven't spared even Warangal town from their attacks. Especially on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1947 a person called Ravva Lingaiah and his house was attacked. It is near Intezar Gunj Police Station, and the property worth 3 lakhs was robbed. His house was burnt down<sup>12</sup>. But the first Taluqdar of Warangal denied it in his weekly confidential report, noted that his house had caught fire due to short circuit of electricity<sup>13</sup>.

Similarly, on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1947 at Yellam Bazar, in Warangal town, Bysa Laxman Singh's shop was looted which was four furlongs from the nearby police station<sup>14</sup>. The police didn't bother to look into this incident. People realized that the Government won't protect them from the Razakars. Hence, under the aegis of the State Congress, some volunteers were trained in the border camps of Vijayawada Zonal Office and they protected the life and property of the people from the attacks of the Razakars. At the same time the Hyderabad State Congress established border camps in Warangal district to protect the people. Communists started Armed Struggle to rescue the people from the Feudal oppression and also from the attacks of the Razakars. The Communists ransacked the houses of the Feudals and Police stations and collected arms and ammunition.

### **THE MOVEMENTS IN RURAL AREAS:**

**Ghanapuram:** Kuravelli Veeraiah, Minumula Venkatram Narasaiah, Chiguru Venkataiah, Santapuri Janakiram Rao participated in the Satyagraha under the leadership of Pendyala Ramanuja Rao and were sent to jail.

**Rampuram:** Ch. Ramakrishna Reddy, T. Hanumantha Rao from Rampuram village organised Satyagraha and were arrested by the policemen.

**Dharmasagaram:** Congressmen toured many villages and motivated the people to participate in Join Indian Union Movement, and organised the civil disobedience movement under the leadership of

Bakka Mallaiah. Patels and Patwaries were forced to resign. People were stopped from paying of land revenue and excise duty. Congressmen were arrested by the police and sent to jail.

**Thammadapally:** Kurapati Rajaiah, Nakka Poshaiyah, Sakali Bheemaiah, Kammari Narayana participated in the civil disobedience movement under the leadership of Ratna Reddy on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1947. They organised agitation in Ogulapuram, Divitipalli, Suraram villages and broke toddy pots to disobey the Excise Act. The police raided on Tammadapalli village on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1947<sup>15</sup>. The Congressmen resisted the policemen. Mangali Venkata Mallaiah was killed by the police and Rangu Rosaiah was also wounded.

**Konduru, Katrapalli, Thirumalaya Palli, Gannaram:** J. Raji Reddy, Nazar Mohammad worked under the leadership of K. Ramachandra Rao against Nizam Government. They involved in cutting of toddy trees and forced Patel and Patwaries to resign. They were arrested in Gannaram Village on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1948 and tortured by the Sub-Inspector of Police Nasim Ahammad in Wardhannapet Police Station.

**Zaffer Ghad :** Police and Razakars raided on Zafferghad village on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1948 burnt the houses of Duddula Narsaiah, Kurapati Rajaiah, Chada Narsimha Reddy and Kammari Narayana. The Congressmen had also raided on Zafferghad police station and took away the guns under the leadership of G. Mohan Reddy. After that, Razakars' army, police and Subedar collectively raided on the village and Chada Ananatha Reddy, Bakka Ramaiah, Donturi Mallaiah, Diddi Perumallu, Duddela China Narsaiah, Chadala Narsimhulu, Manukota Narsaiah, Marri Rajaiah, Kunti Sailu, Gantla Kunta Narsaiah and other ten men were hanged to toddy trees and gunned down by the policemen. Dudekula Nazar, Cheripalli Komuraiah, Dudekula Pedanazar, Rangu Rosaiah got injured. Kammari Narsaiah, Bejjala Narsaiah, Velupula Rosaiah, Bejjam Mallaiah, Gurrapu Laxminarsu, Nandyala Laxmi Narsaiah, Gujjari Ramulu, Gade Ramulu, Ilaiah, Mera Veeraiah, Cheripalli Ilaiah were arrested by the policemen. But Duddela Narsaiah, Ratna Reddy, Kurapati Rajaiah, Raparthy Bhadrarajah Chada Venkat Reddy, Nakka Poshalu, Kammari Narayana, VadlaKonda Rosaiah, Duddela Veeraiah, Rangaiah, Ramulu, Venkataiah, Pedduri Bakkaiah, had escaped from police arrest and organised the movement.

**Parkal :**According to the State Congress resolution, in Parkal taluq also the Congress organised Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience Movement against the Nizam Government on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1947 Congressmen organised National flag hoisting ceremonies in many villages under the leadership of S. Manohar Rao, Secretary of Parkal Congress Committee. They decided to observe the 'Join Indian

Union Day' and at a meeting held at Kummariwada in Parkal under the Presidentship of Katanguri Keshava Reddy, K.V. Narsinga Rao, S. Manohar Rao and other leaders gave a call for individual Satyagraha. According to the call, Surineni Chander Rao did Satyagraha against the State Government. At that time Nagaram Police Patel Rama Dasu worked as courier to policemen whom did Parkal Police Patel Rajanna appoint. Parkal Police, who refused to give information about that meeting, arrested one Dattu Veeragopal Rao. Nizam Government issued arrest warrants on S. Manohar Rao on that day. Congressmen opened Adult Education Centers in many villages.

From Narsakkapally the Congress men under the leadership of Suram Anand Rao, Amudapuram Chinna Veeranna organised a rally. After that they participated in a flag hoisting programme which was opposed by the Razakars, but the programme was successfully organised by S. Chander Rao, Padi Narsi Reddy, Rajeshwar Rao and Chinna Veeranna. Before this meeting, they also had a flag hoisting at Sura Rangaiah home. According to Parkal Taluq Congress Committee Resolution, all the taluq leaders organised the people to participate in the Satyagraha and flag hoisting on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. After that, the policemen and officials raided many villages and arrested the people, who participated in flag hoisting programmes.

**Issipeta:** According to the State Congress Resolution, Issipeta People participated in a National flag hoisting ceremony at the house of Yara Yerraiah under the leadership of Vanam Venkataiah from Huzurabad and Yara Kanakaiah from Issipeta and they sung the National Anthem. Medarapatla, Pidisilla, Mogullapally people had attended the meeting. After that S. Manohar Rao, K. Keshava Reddy visited Issipet and organised Satyagraha at an open place Thotaperadu. Cheruku Ananda Rao from Jookallu; Kaluvala Manohar Rao, Indurthi Srinivasa Rao from Issipeta had made their addresses in that meeting. Mogullapally Police arrested them at the house of Kaluvala Manohar Rao.

Routhu Narsimha Ramaiah, Yara Kanakaiah, Gajula Parusha Ramulu, Penthala Komuriah, Ponnala Chinna Ramaiah, Yara Muthilingaiah, Malyala Kistaiah, Penthala Rajaiah, Lade Veeranna, Ponnala Lachi Reddy, Yara Komuraiah, Routhu Rajaiah, Narsaiah, Yara Venkat Reddy, Ponnala Mallaiah, Sunar Kanthaiah, Singi Reddy Lachi Reddy, Sirimalla Shankaraiah, Saraswathibatla Ragavaiah, Ponnala Pedda Yellaiah, Routhu Sayanna, Buchaiah, Kasaboina Sammaiah were also arrested by the Nizam Police in Issipeta Village.

**Narlapur :** Congress leaders K. Keshava Reddy, S. Manohar Rao decided to organise the flag hoisting ceremony in Narlapur on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1947. Parkal "Makthedar" Akbar Pasha tried to stop the

meeting with the help of Razakars and Mogullapally police. People from Nadikuda, Kamalapuram, Shanigaram, Godishala, Vellampally, Dandepally, Jagir, Madipally Elkathurthy, Kaniparthi, Uppula, Vemulapally villages gathered at Narlapur and organised a rally. When opposed by Makthedar Akbar Pasha, with armed Razakars, the people assembled at Akbar Pasha's Gadi (Bungalow). After a long time the Razakars left from that place. Then the people hoisted the National flag on a neem tree at Akbar Pasha Gadi and also hoisted the flag on the houses of Chennamallu, Banda Rajaiah.

**Revenge:** Makthedar Akbar Pasha raided on Narlapur with the help of police men and the Razakars. They looted the houses of Bairagani Chennamallu and caught Banda Rajaiah and tortured him, then all the flags were removed by them. The Policemen and Razakars got the information that all the Congressmen took shelter at Charlapally. The policemen rushed to Charlapally and arrested the Bairagani Chennamallu, Mankaiah, Komuraiah, Komuravelli Narayana, Shanigarapu Sailu. One Bairagani Venketappaiah escaped.

**Regonda-Rangaiah Pally:** In Regonda village of Parkal taluq the Congressmen hoisted the National flag at Grama Chavadi under the leadership of Enugu Veeraiah, Danthula Bakkaiah. On the same day in Rangaiahpally also the Congressmen hoisted the National flag at 'Chowrasta' under the leadership of Polaneni Narayana, Kanthala Peddi Reddy, Narsi Reddy and Chakilam Bakkaiah.

After that, the Congressmen from these two villages involved in the civil dis-obedience movement and had cut palm and toddy trees. They were arrested by the police and later released by the Regonda Malipatel Edunuthala Seethaiah. Policemen forced them to withdraw from the movement.

**Nagaram:** Flag day was observed by the Congressmen under the leadership of S. Manohar Rao National flags were hoisted at the houses of Daggi Veera Gopal Rao, the Congress Village Committee President, Mendu Kanakaiah, Committee Secretary and Bhoolaxmi. Nearly 100 Congress men participated in civil disobedience movement and had cut twenty five toddy and palm trees. They were arrested by the police and sent to Warangal jail.

**Laxmipuram - Rangapuram:** National Flag was hoisted on the houses of Chandupatla Malla Reddy, Janardan Reddy, Ram Reddy, Pinninti Mutthaiah and Amudalapalli Narsaiah. After five days fifty Congressmen organised an agitation and cut ten plam trees and were arrested by the policemen in Laxmipuram.

The Congressmen hoisted the National Flag on the neem trees of Peda Buchaiah and Brahmins in Ranga Puram village. This news heard by policemen and they came to Rangapuram. They were attacked by the Congressmen under the leadership of Surineni Seethaiah, Balukuri Buchaiah.

**Jaliyanvalabagh of Parkal:** The call of State Congress, Parkal Congress Committee decided to organise the agitation against the Nizam Government and National flag hoisting in Parkal on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1947<sup>16</sup>. Katanguri Narsimha Reddy, Prakash Reddy, Chada Vasudeva Reddy, D. Veeragopal Rao, Medipalli Mallaiah sent a circular to every village and every home to hoist the National flag under the leadership of S.Manohar Rao who was the Secretary of Parkal Congress Committee because the Parkal Congress Committee President was arrested by the policemen.

The Parkal Police arrested the Congress leaders namely, Katanguri Raghava Reddy, Thonupunuri Kotaiah, Kunduri Joga Reddy on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1947. The Congressmen came to Paidapalli palm garden (tati vanam) from around twenty five villages like Nagaram, Kanaparathi, Nagurlapalli Regonda, Rangaiahpalle, Rayapalli, Roopreddypalli, Damaranchapalli Dammannapet, Challagariga, Thirumalagiri, Pochampalli, Lingala, Bhagirthpet, Narayanpur, Ravulapalli, Dumpillapalli, Gudeppalli Venkatapuram, Ibothupalli, Rayaparathi, Sanigaram Govindapuram. The Congress leaders did not attend the meeting because they were already arrested by the policemen. In the absence of the leaders, Dagguveeragopala Rao who came from Nagaram led that rally for three kms in which nearly four thousand people participated. And they demanded that “Hyderabad Samastanam Bharata Unionlo Kaluvali” with flags in the hands. After that the rally reached the Parkal garden.

On that day, the armed police and Razakars came to the garden to stop that meeting along with Vishnudeveswara Rao Megistrate and Thehseldar of Parkal and the Circle Inspector of Police Zilla Ulla. When the rally was in progress some of the agitators were about to enter the ground, where flag hoisting was to take place, the armed vehicle of the police forcibly entered the ground to disperse the mob. As a result, the people who were on their way fell on the thorny fencing at the site. Because of the stampade some of the agitators fell into the nearby well. Some of them got broken their limbs and were seriously injured. Under those circumstances, one activist, named Sri Shailam was running with a National flag in his hands to hoist at the site. Immediately, he was shot dead by the police on the orders of the Thehseldar. There after, military and police opened fire indiscriminately on the mob. The Razakars also attacked the people with country made weapons, swords and caused bloodshed. The people who could not escape, had lost their lives and the ground was mostly covered with blood and dead bodies in that ghastly incident. In that clash, the Congressmen Batthula Somaiah, Kota

Ilaiah, Gaddi Parvathalu, Jadarapu Veeranna, Mekala Pochaiiah, Manthini Kedari, Pothuganti Peddulu, Gundarapu Komaraiah, Deatupalli Rajaiah, Gelle Katta Mallu, Musalaiah, Thonuguru Poornasingh, and Kaluvala Ankush lost their lives. Historians described that incident as Jalianvalabagh of Parkal.

### **Bairanpalli Tragedy:**

There were camps of Police and Razakars in Mustyala Madduru, Laddunuru, Cherial villages in Jangoan Taluq. Police and Razakars raided on the villages, which involved in an anti-Nizam agitations. So, Jangoan Taluq village people have taken necessary protective measures against the Razakars and policemen. Village people took cover on Buruzu to fight against the attacks of the Razakars and Police, Mustyala, Laddunuru camp Razakars and police raided on Bairanpalli village for five times and were driven away by the villagers.

For the first time, Mustyala camp Police and Razakars raided on March 1948 with sixty Policemen and Razakars. The villagers resisted them with guns, swords. They were stunned by the sudden retaliation on them from villagers and returned.

After two weeks, for the second time Mustyala Laddunur camp Police and Razakars with eighty members raided on Bairanpalli village and were driven away by the villagers with the help of neighbouring villagers of Lingapuram, Kutigallu.

For the third time, they raided on the village at 8.00 a.m. with 200 members. They were resisted by guerilla troops of Immadi Raji Reddy, Jaggam Hanumanthu, Chella Narsi Reddy Mota Poshalu, Thota Ramulu, Immadi Ram Reddy, Balraju, Raja Lingam, and Balaje Razaiah and five Rajakars were shot dead.

For the fourth time also, they raided with 400 members on Bairanpalli village under the command of the Deputy Collector of Bongir Ekbal Hasshim. Villagers successfully resisted them. In that clash, one police officer and eight Razakars were gunned down by the villagers and returned.

Fifth time, one Police Officer was shot dead by the villagers. Deputy Collector of Duvvam Taluq Halem intended to take revenge on Bairanpalli villagers. So, he gathered Razakars and Police from neighbouring camps and collected modern weapons and raided on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1948. A Brahmin Priest observed this and he ran into the village to pass the message. Villagers fought against Razakars and Police but Mota Poshalu, Mota Ramulu and Balaje Nagaiah were gunned down by the Razakars in

that clash. Police and Military burnt the village with the bombs. Nearly ninety villagers were caught by the police and were gunned down<sup>17</sup>.

### **ANOTHER AGITATION BY THE CONGRESS:**

As the Satyagraha programme could not force the Nizam's government to accede to the Indian Union, the Hyderabad State Congress launched another programme to paralyse the administration of the State and to force the Nizam for the merger of the state into the Indian Union.

#### ***The programme was intended to***

1. Paralyse the Village administration by forcing the Patel and Patwaris to resign their posts and handover the records to the Government.
2. Cut toddy and palm trees to deprive excise revenue to the Government and;
3. Refuse to pay grain levy and land revenue to the Government.

The programme gave the Communists an opportunity to join hands with the Congress in its struggle for the merger into the Indian Union. Thus, the Communists made it a huge mass affair drawing thousands of people to participate in it. The Communists along with the Hyderabad State Congress workers raised voluntary squads in the villages and employed them to safeguard the villages from the Razakar's attacks. The battle ranks to fight against the Nizams rule.

The leaders of anti-Nizam struggle launched the mass mobilization programmes in Warangal and constituted 'Firka' committees to that effect. Pendyal Ramanuja Rao in Ghanpur area, Dugyala Madhava Rao in Wardhannapet area, B. Ranga Nayakulu in Sangem area, Rudra Dev in Mahabubabad area in Warangal district, and Katamguri Keshava Reddy in Parkal area in Karimnagar district led mass movement and effectively provided leadership involving the people in the movement. To implement the Congress programme, they went round the village after village and exhorted the people to cut down toddy trees and motivated the village officials, Patel and Patwaris to resign their jobs and

to hand over the records to the government. Thus, they wanted to paralyse the village administration in the state.

The movement had its own impact on the country-side and in many villages throughout the Warangal suba, the Congress programme was implemented. When the people's upsurge gained momentum in Telangana, the Razakars and the Nizam police launched large scale raids on the villages to create terror among the people by beating and torture, mass rape and plunder and other brutal methods to demoralize them. But this situation had forced them to organise themselves to protect against the Razakars' atrocities. They formed village squads to safeguard the villages from the Razakars' attacks. But at the same time, some volunteers, after training at border camps, came back to the villages and organised non-cooperation movement in Warangal. Satyagraha movement was organised at many places. In Fort Warangal this was led by Bethi Narsaiah and Sankarabhoina Kanakaiah and others. Bandauthapuram Village in Wardhannapet taluka also played a significant role in the non-cooperation movement which was led by V. Srinivasa Rao, who toured many villages to educate the people about the non-cooperation movement. Similarly Satyagraha and non-cooperation movements were also organised in Karimnagar. The Satyagraha and non-cooperation movement helped to mobilise the people in the state as the pro-Nizam forces intensified their attacks on rural areas of the State.

The people joined the non-cooperation movement and refused to pay land tax and grain levy. The Razakars and the Nizam's police jointly attacked many villages and committed brutal atrocities in the villages. S.Jagannadham organised the peasants against the landlords in Wardhannapet taluka but the feudal lords of Turkala Somaram and Jamalapuram invited the Razakars and police to take revenge against the peasants. Thus, the Razakars perpetrated heinous crimes in Konkapaka and Chautapalli villages and indulged in all sorts of crimes including burning the entire Village and murdering about 40 people. Tammadapalli also had a similar experience with the Razakars. Therefore, this situation

had forced the local people to adopt their own methods to protect themselves from the Razakars. This led to the formation of guerilla armed squads in the district. Encounters took place between the Razakars and the Nizam police on one side and armed squads on the other at Nagulavancha and Periked, Siripuram in which Amaranth, Manukota Surayya, Itoori Venkateshwar Rao, Gadhe Venkat Reddy and Papa Rao and others played a significant role by foiling the evil designs of the Razakars and the Nizam's Police.

### **STAND STILL AGREEMENT:**

After protracted negotiations with the Union Government, at last, the Nizam concluded Stand Still Agreement on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1947 to gain breathing time and to pull the strings further, for more concessions from the Union Government. The aim of the agreement was to work together in close association for the mutual benefit<sup>18</sup>.

The Nizam's government tried to violate the agreement by transferring to Pakistan Rs. 20 crores worth of Indian Government securities. Strengthened by a years respite, the Nizam began plans for consolidating his position and suppressing the peoples' upsurge by making the necessary preparations in contacting Pakistan for arms and building up army with young people and training irregular Sarf-e-Khas troops, numbering about 16,000 into regular army. Similarly, Kasim Razvi had his own plans of direct action and exhorted the Muslims to be prepared to die. He called upon even the middle school boys to be ready to respond whenever the call was given. The Razakars' were openly given military training at a number of centers both in the city and the towns. After procuring the arms and ammunition from different sources, the Razakars started direct action in the State, which was the culmination of the Razakars' naked vandalism against the unarmed people.

**BORDER CAMPS:**

The Congress and the Communists organised border camps and village squads to resist the Razakars' atrocities in the state, particularly in Warangal and Nalgonda districts of Telangana region. Border camps were established in Telangana; 23 in Warangal district, 8 in Nalgonda, 2 in Karimnagar and one in Adilabad district<sup>19</sup> to give protection to the people. At this stage, the Communists also decided to organise village squads to resist the Razakars and the Nizam's police. When the Razakars and the Communists intensified their activity, a large number of people, especially the upper strata like the landlords, moneylenders and other wealthier people left for the Union territory for protection. The border armed camps established by the Congress and the Communists, despite the differences in their approaches, created a sense of confidence in the people. At the same time, these camps acted as checkmates to the Razakars. By forming village squads and village committees, the Communists did a commendable job in protecting the villages from the Razakars in Nalgonda and Warangal districts which were worst affected in Telangana region.

After the arrest of Jamalapuram Keshava Rao, Hayagreeva Chary was made incharge of the movement in Telangana. The organizers knew that it was not easy to force the Nizam to accede to Indian Union. It was a long drawn process. Thus, the Hyderabad State Congress decided to plan a programme to sustain for longer period, for that Telangana was divided into four zones, each zone had a head-quarter with a camp incharge. The four zones were 1) Kurnool-Paga Pulla Reddy, 2) Chanda-K.V. Narsinga Rao, 3) Repala-Kodati Narayan Rao and 4) Warangal-Pingali Thirumala Rao. Apart from these zones, a central office was located at Bezwada and Hayagreeva Chary was made incharge for it and Madapati Ramachander Rao, Vattikonda Rama Koteswar Rao, Pandit Ram Dev, Bommakanti Satyanarayana and V.B. Raju were prominent among those who were associated with the central office. This grave situation forced the Hyderabad State Congress to organize the armed struggle

against the Nizam and border camps were established at different places to co-ordinate the struggle. The border camps of the Congress were also converted as armed struggle camps with Vijayawada as their head-quarters. Entire armed struggle was managed from the main camp.

Those who were incharge of border camps in Warangal and Nalgonda districts were Jalagam Vengal Rao, Kodati Narayana Rao, Komaragiri Narayana Rao, V. Satyanarayana, Jupalli Ranga Rao, Buchi Rama Rao, Madiraju Ramakrishna Rao, Kotari Appa Rao, Veeramallu Prasad Rao, Vanam Narsimha Rao, Kanaji, Satti Reddy, Kodanda Rami Reddy, Routhu Papa Rao, Routhu Rajeshwar Rao and Routhu Rama Rao. They did commendable job in organizing the camps and protecting the life and property of the oppressed people of this region. The Congress armed camps counter-raided the Razakars and the Nizam's police and attacked the customs out-posts<sup>20</sup> on the borders.

There were many young and energetic youth who volunteered themselves to work in the border camps from Warangal. Under the leadership of Amarnath, about 200 volunteers went to the border camps to receive training, where they met Rudradev and T. Hayagreeva Chary. They were all sent to Pallampalli Camp and Tankasala Narsimha Rao gave them the training. Later on, trained volunteers were sent to different camps to give similar training to youth. Some of them were Gangu Satyanarayana, Jadala Venkatapathi, Venkata Narayana Yadav, G. Raja Veeraiah, Itoori Venkateshwar Rao, M. Yadagiri, Eligandula Vaikuntham, Veerendra Babu, G. Babu Rao, Matoori Narsimha Rao, Ch. Laxminarayana, Macherla Lingaiah and many others. Mention may be made of Dugyala Madhava Rao, S. Ramachary and B. Ranga Nayakulu and others, who came back from the border camps after undergoing training to organize non-co-operation movement in the villages. They provided arms and ammunition to all the camps in the district.

When the State was engulfed in communal tensions, the law and order was totally seized by the Razakars in the state. The life of the common man became miserable. Some of the youth from the

region came under the influence of terrorist ideology of the Arya Samaj. Naryana Rao Pawar, Gangaram, B. Narayana Swamy, Jagdeesh, Balakishan, Pandit Viswanath and two others planned to murder the Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan, by throwing a bomb at him during his usual evening visit to his mother's tomb in Hyderabad. They thought that the Hyderabad State would become a bone of contention between his sons, Azam Jah and Mukaram Jah after the death of the Nizam. One of his two contending sons might seek the assistance of the Union Government. The group had organized themselves as a suicidal squad and procured about 6 bombs through Goa by paying Rs. 900/- to one Didshit Maharaj of Bombay. The squad also contacted Konda Laxman Bapuji who was at Sholapur for assistance. But the plan was abortive and the Nizam escaped unhurt when Narayana Rao Pawar threw a bomb at his car on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1947. He was arrested along with one of his associates Jagdeesh. Narayana Rao Pawar was sentenced to death while Jagdeesh was sentenced to imprisonment for life. Both of them were released some time after the Police Action (Operation Polo). This incident was popularly known as Nizam Bomb Case<sup>21</sup>.

Meanwhile, K.M. Munshi was appointed as the Agent General to Hyderabad. While addressing a meeting at Bezwada on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1948 <sup>22</sup>, he said that the Nizam and his followers were in a medieval set-up and his followers were preaching communal supremacy in the state. He understood that Ittehad-Ul-Muslimeen and its Razakars were being financed by the Nizam, who was treating this body as his additional force<sup>23</sup>. So, he pleaded for the ban of Ittehad-Ul-Muslimeen and its auxiliary wing, the Razakars.

With the arrest of Swamy Ramananda Tirtha on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1948 the anti-Nizam movement gained momentum in the State. Particularly, the border districts connecting Coastal Andhra had reeled under political agitations. Infact, this was the first time that entire rural population of Warangal, Nalgonda and South Karimnagar revolted against the Nizam's rule. This was spontaneous one and people irrespective of their caste and economic disparities, joined together to fight against the Nizam

and his local supporters. Surprisingly, a very few landed gentry also extended their support to it. The courts were boycotted, peasants refused to pay the land tax and grain levy to the government. Merchants observed bundhs, Patel and Patwaris resigned their jobs, legislators resigned their positions and Balathadars refused to do Vetti to the government officials.

When the Nizam adopted more repressive measures to safeguard his rule by using army and the Razakars, the Committee of Action of Hyderabad State Congress had decided a counter strategy by attacking police and railway stations, customs out posts and other government officials to force the Nizam to accede to Indian Union. The Congress decided to paralyse the transport system by attacking the railway stations, so that it could be a problem to the state to maintain law and order. Further, it would disrupt the flow of essential commodities, the volunteers of various camps started attacking the railway stations<sup>24</sup>.

Apart from attacking railways, the organizations of border camps decided to attack the Police 'Nakas' (out-posts) also to demoralize the police and the Razakars. Rayakal in Huzurabad Taluka, Rompikunta in Peddapalli Taluka, Kaleshwaram and Mahadevapur 14<sup>th</sup> September 1948, police stations in Manthini taluka, Lonavelly in Adilabad were attacked by the armed squads of the Congress, who seized the arms and ammunition from the 'Thanas'. The Congress armed squads launched their onslaught on the Nizam's government's offices also. At Muttaguda near Tiruvur, Krishna district, the Customs Amin's office was attacked, the office records and furniture were burnt and a customs Jawan<sup>25</sup> was killed. Gundratimadugu railway station was attacked on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1948 and the telegraph lines were cut-off and the railway station building<sup>26</sup> was set on fire.

All these incidents clearly indicate that people's participation was on a large scale, and any amount of repression could not stop their participation in the Join Indian Union Movement.

Between March and June, 1948 several atrocities were perpetrated and armed encounters took place between the Razakars and the Nizam's police on the one side and 'Kisan Dals' and the Communists on the other side. While inaugurating the Hyderabad Weapons Week, Kasim Razvi said on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1948, that ""Hyderabad is an Islamic State ..... the time is not far off when we may have to throw our entire weight to maintain the integrity of this Islamic State ..... A Hindu can never understand the potency of Islamic brotherhood, naked sword is the only answer to them<sup>27</sup>." This inflammatory speech led to many communal clashes and many border incidents took place on all sides of the State and the Razakars and Nizam's army adopted more repressive measures to curb the anti-Nizam's struggle in the State.

Meanwhile, the Nizam's Government withdrew the ban on the Communist organisation in April, 1948<sup>28</sup> but the Prime Minister of the Nizam's Government said that Government would firmly maintain law and order and would spare no element, regardless of caste, creed or ideology, if they indulged in any unlawful activity<sup>29</sup>. For obvious reasons, this threat was addressed only to one community, which was confirmed by the later developments in the state. Border raids by the government, Razakars' increased in number and severity. In the three months from May to August 15, 1948 alone there were 275 raids<sup>30</sup>, involving the death of 235, wounding of 112 and kidnapping of 122 and not to speak about looting, burning and mass rape in the rural areas...., Thus, the situation in the state, particularly the border districts like Warangal, Karimnagar and Nalgonda were worst affected and therefore, the Congress and the Communist squads fought with full vigour to safeguard the life and property of the people.

The Nizam's Government adopted a peculiar strategy of using the military and other forces to suppress the people's movement on one side and tried to internationalise the issue with the advise of Laik Ali the Prime Minister of Hyderabad State on the other. The Congress Council for Action understood the strategy of the Nizam and advised the active volunteers to go to the border villages for

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safety and to continue armed struggle. Once again armed struggle was intensified by both the Communists and the Congress against the Nizam's forces, which may be considered as final lap of the Join Indian Union Movement in the Hyderabad State.

There was a total political crisis in the state. The 'Razakars' and the Nizam's army had a tough job in facing the combined onslaught of the Congress and the Communists. Virtually northern Telangana became a battle-ground between pro-Nizam and anti-Nizam forces and there was no administration at all. Nearly 8,000 people were arrested in the Satyagraha movement, 4,00,000 toddy and sendhi (Date) trees were cut down, 8,000 Andhra Students boycotted schools and colleges, 350 pleaders suspended their practice in the courts, 270 customs out-posts were destroyed and at 350 places the army, police and Razakars' camps were attacked by the Congress squads during the struggle period<sup>31</sup>. The Communists in the Telangana also did similar work.

#### **FINAL STAGE IN THE MOVEMENT:**

The state was totally in political crisis. The Razakars and the Nizam's army had a tough (time) in facing the combined onslaught of the Congress and Communists. Virtually, Northern Telangana became a battle – ground between pro-Nizam and anti-Nizam forces and there was no administration at all. Nearly 8,000 people were arrested in the Satyagraha Movement, 4 lakhs toddy and sendhi (Date) trees were cut down, 8,000 students boycotted schools and colleges, 350 pleaders suspended their practice in the courts, 270 customs out-posts were destroyed and at 350 places the army, police and Razakar's camps were attacked by the Congress squads during the struggle period<sup>32</sup>. In Warangal, being a part of the Northern Telangana, normal life was completely paralyzed in such a political scenario. T.Hayagreeva Chary, who was the Secretary of the Hyderabad State Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, submitted a report to the Indian National Congress on the existing situation in the Nizam State<sup>33</sup>. In the report the then prevailing situation in Warangal was mentioned.

A clash between the Indian army personnel and the Razakars at Nanaj, a village in Osmanabad District was the climax of the deteriorating relations between the Nizam's Government and the Indian Union. In those days of grave law and order problem, Shoebulla Khan, the editor of Imroze (News

Paper) was murdered on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 1948 by the Razakars for pleading accession of Hyderabad State to the Indian Union.

Laik Ali, the Prime Minister of Hyderabad State was trying to represent the matter in the UNO with the support of Pakistan. At the same time Kasim Razvi appealed to the Muslims to march forward with the 'Koran' in one hand, sword in the other to eliminate the enemy from the state. Sir Mirza Ismail, an eminent statesman, observed that the Nizam was more or less a prisoner in his Palace and was unable to act independently. The only way left was to get him out of the clutches of Razvi and his satellites<sup>34</sup>. This observation clearly reflects the state of affairs in Hyderabad State which eventually led to the "**Police Action**" (Operation Polo) on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1948; this marks the end of the Nizam's rule in the Hyderabad State.

### **Conclusion:**

This relentless struggle of the Warangal people ended successfully on **September, 17<sup>th</sup>, 1948** with the '**Police Action**' on the Hyderabad State organized by Sardar Vallabai Patel the Home Minister of the Independent Indian Government<sup>35</sup>. The Join Indian Union Movement had exerted pressure over the Nizam (Meer Osman Alikhan) to surrender to the Armed forces of the Indian Union after the 'Police Action'.

Thus, the people of Warangal have earned a distinct place in the Indian history, especially in the Hyderabad State and particularly played an important role in the **Historic Join Indian Union Movement** in Warangal District.

**APPENDIX - i**

List of Police out-posts attacked by the Communists in Warangal district :

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the village and Police Station</b>	<b>Date of occurrence</b>	<b>Details of incident</b>
1.	Parityal Jagir, Warangal district.	8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> December 1947	Head constable and two constables at the out-post be laboured and armes carried away.
2.	Posad P.S.Madhira, Warangal district.	16.12.1947	The out-post was attacked and two constables were injured.
3.	Parvathagiri P.S. Wardhannapet, Warangal	20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> December, 1947	The wooden articles in the out-post, the office. Records and the thatched roof of the chaori were all burnt.
4.	-alanpahad P.S. Chinthakani Warangal district.	25.12.1947	A party of 100 armed communists attacked and set fire to the out-post.
5.	Sathupalli P.S. Vemsoor, Warangal district.	11.01.1948	The Police out-post was burnt

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**Source:** Appendix 'C' page 38 of File No.13/Com/1357 Fasli, (1948) Home

Department (Confidential), H.E.H. Nizam's Government, Hyderabad.

**APPENDIX - ii****List of the Communists' attack on Patels, Patwaris and Village officials in Warangal district:**

Sl. No.	Name of the village and Police Station	Date of occurrence	Details of incident
1.	Vangara P.S.Chinthakani group	4/5 <sup>th</sup> December 1947	Indian Union flag hoisted and records forcibly seized by a group  Of communists from the police patel.
2.	Dharmaram P.S.Sublad and	13.12.1947	A party of 150 communists attacked the house of the Patel  forcibly seized records.
3.	Olepalli P.S.Sublad	13.12.1947	Records of Patel and Patwari seized by 150 Communists.
4.	Thorrur	15.12.1947	Entered the house of Police Patel intimidated women folk and records.
5.	Permandla 150 P.S.Sublad	18.12.1947	Records burnt by about 150 Communists
6.	Gulapudi P.S.Madhira	18.12.1947	Office records of village officials by 50 burnt Communists
7.	Rajaram	-do-	-do-
8.	Tarshettipalli P.S.Kalloor	19/20 <sup>th</sup> December 1947	Records seized from Police Patel.
9.	Paladugu P.S.Madhira	20.12.1947	Office records taken away
10.	Raipalli P.S.Madhira	20.12.1947	Office records of Police Patel taken away
11.	Choutapalli P.S.Geesugonda	21.12.1947	Records of Patel seized and burnt.
12.	Annaram Sharif P.S.Wardhannapet	22.12.1947	Office records of the Police Patel taken away.
13.	Madnoor P.S.Kalloor	02.12.1947	About 20 armed communists belaboured the police patel during day time.
14.	Anatharam P.S.Khammam	24.12.1947	50 Communists broke into the house of the Patwari snatched and burnt his office records
15.	Lachaguda P.S.Chinthakani	25.12.1947	Records of Village Officials burnt

16.	Munagalaveedu P.S.Nellikudur	25.12.1947	Records of Police Patel seized by a band of Communists.
17.	Nagaram Police P.S.Neckonda	28.12.1947	25 Communists attacked the patel's house, snatched and burnt his records.
18.	Nagulancho P.S.Chinthakani away office	30.12.1947	Police Patel of the village is reported to have been taken raiders along with his records to Pallampalli, Indian territory.

**Source:** Appendix 'E' page 44 and 45 of File No.13/Com/1357 Fasli, Home Department (Confidential), H.E.H. Nizam's Government, Hyderabad.

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3. Raj Bahadur Gour, op.cit., p-2.
4. Desai, V.H., *Vandemataram to Jana Gana Mana Saga of Hyderabad Freedom Struggle*, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, 1990, p-107.
5. N.Ramesan, *Freedom Struggle in Hyderabad*, Vol.IV, op-cit. p-284.
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12. File No. H-11/C-396, Political Secretary Office, H.E.H Nizam's Government Office, Hyderabad (Undated) Andhra Pradesh State Archives, Hyderabad.

13. D.O.No.2606, dated 7<sup>th</sup> Tir, 1357 Fasli (1948) First Taluqdar Office, Warangal. Andhra Pradesh State Archives. Hyderabad.
14. File No. H.11/L, 502, External Affairs Department, H.E.H Nizam's Government, Hyderabad (undated).
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16. Narasimha Ramulu, Repala, Swatantra Samaramlo Maro Jalianwalabagh, Parakala, Vishwajothi Publishers, 1990, pp.63-71
17. Vishwanatham, Chowdavaram (ed), Swatantriya Samara Yodhula Sanchika, Poratamlo Warangal Zilla, Freedom Fighters Association, Warangal, 1976, pp.19-2
18. File No. 523, Constitutional Affairs Secretariat, 1357 F(1948), H.E.H. Nizam's Government, Hyderabad, p-92-C.
19. Camps in Warangal district are Tiruvur, Tunikipadu giosaveedu, Partala, Ganginenipalem, Chenukubonda, Gurubttagudem, Chikuru, Jonnalgadda, Machilinenipalem, Bhadra chalam, Dummagudem, Gauridevipata, Peddaram, Jayanti, Jangareddy gudem, Vemulanarava, Polampalli and Venkatapuram and Repala, Tadipalli, Nelammari, Singavaram, Kokkinenei, Siripuram, Pullareddigudem and Jammlamadaka, in Nalgonda district and Chanda and Siruvancha in Karimnagar district and Balarsha in Adilabad district.
20. The customs out-posts are created to collect levies on any article entering or leaving the Hyderabad state.
21. Narayana Rao pawar, Nizam Bomb Case, Swatanthriya Samarayodhula Sanchika, Hyderabad, 1981, pp-36&37.
22. File 221/1357 F (1948), constitutional Affairs Secretariat, H.E.H., Nizam's Government, Hyderabad.
23. K.M. Munshi on 26.3.1948, File 249/57 F(1948) constitutional affairs Secretariat, H.E.H. Nizam's Government.
24. Mention may be made of a few important incidents;

1. Attacked Ramagundam Railway Station and destroyed nearly three furlongs rail track under the leadership of C. Rama Raju, P. Shankaraiah, B. Rama Rao, B. Jagannadham and others.
2. Uppal station was attacked on the same night (26<sup>th</sup> February, 1948) by Manohar Rao, M. Mohan Rao, K. Narasimha and others and another batch attacked the railway track in between the Jammikunta and Potkapalli stations on the same day.
25. File No. 19/1357 F (1948) Vol.A. Constitutional Affairs Secretariat, H.E.H. Nizam's Government, Hyderabad.
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28. File No. 523/1357 F (1948), Constitutional Affairs, Secretariat HEH, Nizama's Government, Hyderabad, p.26.
29. Ibid..., pp.26 and 27
30. File No. 523/1357 Fasli (1948) constitutional Affairs Secretariat, H.E.H. Nizam's Government, Hyderabad.
31. T. Hayagreeva Chary, Secretary of the Hyderabad state Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, Submitted a report to the INC'S working committee and the Hindu Published it on 11.8.1948.
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33. *The Hindu*, (Daily News Paper), 11-8-1948.
34. N.Ramesan; *Freedom Struggle in Hyderabad* Vol. IV op.cit. p-289.
35. Pulla Reddy, Paga, *Hyderabad Congress Samaram Kurnool Shibira Nirvahana*, Swatantra Samara Yodhulu, Hyderabad, 1989, p-87.