

PROFESSOR KODANDARAM BIOGRAPHY

Muddasani Kodandaram Reddy (born 1955) known as **M. Kodandaram** is an Indian political activist fighting for the separate statehood for Telangana region. He is also the convener of all-party Telangana Joint Action Committee (JAC). He is a professor in osmania university.



Early life : Born in Manchiryal in Adilabad district. He did his major part of education in Warangal. After completing his degree from Warangal government college, he joined Osmania University in 1976 to pursue his post-graduation in political science. He completed his M.Phil in political science in 1980 and returned to the state and joined Hyderabad Central University as a research scholar. After few months, he returned to join Osmania University to join as a lecturer in political science. He obtained his doctorate from Osmania University in 2003.

Career:

M. Kodandaram worked as a civil liberties activist in the 80s.

Telangana movement: From 1996, he started organising seminars on the Telangana issue and after joining Telangana Vidya Vanthula Vedika, was elected its president in 2004. He has been a key adviser to the TRS party chief, K.Chandrashekar Rao since he launched his party in 2001.

He is also an activist on Polavaram displacement issues.

Personal life:

M. Kodandaram is married and has a son and a daughter.

Kodandaram, who? was the first reaction of many not closely associated with the Telangana movement, when he was named the convener of the joint action committee of political parties to champion the separate state cause that was constituted on December 24 last year. The Telangana political JAC was formed a day after the Centre diluted its earlier stance of December 9 and said wide ranging talks were needed on the issue.

Those associated with the Telangana movement and the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) know M Kodandaram as one of the key advisors of the TRS chief when the latter launched the party in 2001. "He had a reputation as being a troubleshooter, and K Chandrasekhar Rao would consult him during times of crisis and even when he wanted ideas as to how to

intensify the movement," said a TRS leader.

The son of a farmer from Manchiryal in Adilabad district, Kodandaram was born in 1955, did the major part of his education in **Warangal**, then considered the epicentre of the Telangana movement. After completing his degree from Warangal government college, he joined Osmania University in 1976 to pursue his post-graduation in political science.

As was the path of many who were Left-oriented in the late seventies, Kodandaram migrated to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi, then a red bastion whose student body elections and the fierce debates that preceded it used to be followed by the national media. He completed his M.Phil in political science in 1980 and returned to the state and joined Hyderabad Central University as a research scholar. However, within a few months, he returned to join Osmania University where he was appointed as a lecturer in political science. He finally obtained his doctorate from OU in 2003.

It was in the early eighties that Kodandaram plunged into the civil liberties movement full-time. From 1996, he started organising seminars on the Telangana issue and after joining Telangana Vidya Vanthula Vedika, was elected its president in 2004. The Kodandaram couple have a son and daughter both of whom are pursuing engineering.

Described as a soft-spoken academic, the next few days will test the organisational skills as well as the depth of his commitment to the Telangana cause as the JAC he is heading is splitting on party lines leading to the possibility of it being representative only of the TRS and minor players like the BJP, CPI and Telangana PRP.

"As JAC convenor, Kodandaram would have to play a crucial role in ensuring that the JAC stays intact, which in the present circumstances, is a very challenging task," said one leader. Like for many leaders who were children of the first Telangana movement of the late sixties, this may perhaps be the last battle to realise the dream that they have literally grown up with.