

A Brief Profile of **SRI M. BALARAMA REDDY**

(06.4.1926 – 19.1.2010)

Sri M. Balarama Reddy was unique in several respects. He lived a life devoted to values, spiritual, social, moral and ethical. All adored him as the conscience of Tirupati. His punctuality, care for his friends, and admirers, his steadfastness, discipline, self-respect, uprightness and honesty are the things that his contemporaries always remembered with respect.

Born in an ordinary agricultural family and attracted by the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi while a student, Sri M. Balarama Reddy devoted all his life as a bachelor, to the promotion of education, spiritual fervour and social justice. His dedication to promote education in backward region of Rayalaseema and for furtherance of poor and underprivileged of all castes and faiths are well known. Not only had he served Sri Venkateswara University with distinction as a member of first Senate for many terms and member of the Syndicate for several years but also made every effort to bring the institution fiscally sound. His association with the academic activities of the University was so profound that he was popularly known as ‘Syndicate Balarama Reddy’ in Tirupati and Rayalaseema districts. He was an admired Social worker at SVIMS, he was an active member of a voluntary group, ‘Friends of SVIMS Society’, which assist the incoming patients in getting the precise medical help. Balaji satsang and Tirupati Forum are the two platforms he established to spread human values, spiritual perception and the prominence of the Indian Culture and traditions that are vital for the advancement of overall human personality. He was the Founder – President of Sri Aurobindo Society, Tirupati Branch and Sri Chinmaya Mission, Tirupati Branch, which are actively propagating Dharma and culture of India through several activities. His commendable link with Gandhi Trust of Tirupati town and his lectures on Mahatma’s life and philosophy on Gandhi Jayanthi every year till his last breath are well reminisced.

He dressed in milk white khadi jubba and dhoti always as an insignia of unalloyed patriotism following his master, Mahatma Gandhi. He was an esteemed citizen of Tirupati town who never aspired public positions for personal fame and material gains. His simple living and high intellectual pursuit was indeed a ‘Role model’ to the young and the old alike.