

Amazing role model Tripuraneni Hanuman Choudary!

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Primepost, Oct. 18, 2021

Truly, THC has been an amazing and inspiring role model. But he is much more at national level. He is a multi-faceted personality and an all-rounder in his preoccupation. His pursuit has been think beyond, think about people and villages and of the country. No wonder he remains legendary. That is for 60 years.

As a Tripuraneni, he is radical and reformer, named as Hanuman he is daring and determined and remained a Chowdary with gross roots concern and demonstrated that one could even swim through the current and go against the wind and come out gracefully too. He is both a path maker and breaker.

Much before any one realised in the country the scope and potential of telecom, fifty years ago, it was TH Chowdary who showed the golden path to reach out even beyond subscribers, knit and network them irrespective of their socio economic status and work or location at a same cost anywhere to anywhere. As Dr Vikram Sarabhai pursued with the idea of using satellite for television broadcasting wide across and simultaneously, THC pursued democratising technology, making it no discriminative and a level player truly.

He motivated linemen to technocrats to bureaucrats to ministers in the states and in New Delhi on how to deal humanly, simply, sincerely and humbly. All with a **Namaskaram**. No one in the Telecom family would have done so much as THC in documenting the field scenario and successes. He must have founded over a dozen publications over the decades. He is a voracious reader and a prolific writer.

THC is on Khoz mission (quest) on so many aspects of past, present and future. Not all his initiatives and innovations are acknowledged. But that mattered least to him. His outlook is beyond, never hesitating to advocate what he believed.

THC made a mark where ever he worked in whatever capacity. In Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Pune, Hyderabad, Mumbai and including in New Delhi. Local people and their culture and concerns were his too. He left behind good memories. Unlike the mandarins of Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, his contribution in so many places he worked is not forgotten todate.

Thirty years ago going across the country as national convenor of Social Audit Panel of the Ministry of Postal and Telecom, I had seen the kind of difference THC has made in the telecom operations. Justice P N Bhagwati former Chief Justice of India, B. G. Deshmukh, former Cabinet Secretary of India and the famous author Kushwant Singh were with me in these field visits and in interacting with the public. I recall Justice Bhagawati recalling how when he was the Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, he had seen THC model of dealing with public and staff as GM of Ahmedabad telephones.

As a crusader he remained a one-man institution. Of course his wife, Mani, remains his strength even after her death a decade ago. Ms. Sujata, an associate of THC over the decades deserve to be acknowledged for keeping THC abreast. I pray for his good health so that we continue get inspired. He is already a blessed soul backed by prayers of many across the country.

I first heard of THC as a student 60 years ago for revolutionary ideas he was experimenting taking telecom to villagers. Then I saw him motivating my villagers why they should go for an exchange in the village and a phone in their home. He advocated as long ago that a phone call anywhere within the district is local and on dial. I never forget reading what he wrote forty-fifty years ago narrating incidents how Telecom was changing life in villages and towns and analysing and envisioning then what we are seeing today.

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