

EFFORTS TO REFORM POTHARAJUS/JOGIN IN NIZAMABAD, ANDHRA PRADESH

- ❖ 1988 Two Jogin marriages were held in presence of Smt. Kumudben Joshi, the then Governor of AP.
- ❖ 1991 Two Jogin marriages were held in Chelli Nilayam, Varni.
- ❖ 1991 6 Potharajus of Borlam Village, Banswada came out of their profession and cut their hair in presence of the then Collector.
- ❖ 1999 Marriage of Bojamma with Anjaiah held at Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad in presence of Lady Governor Smt. Haripriya Ranjgarajan.
- ❖ 2001 June 9th marriage of Rajubai with Mallesh held in the presence of ministers Sri. Mandava Venkateshwer Rao, Sri Pocharam Srinivas Reddy & Sri Asok Kumar, District Collector.
- ❖ 2001 June, 21st, two hundred (200) Potharajus voluntarily removed their tuft of hair in the presence of Sri Asok Kumar, District Collector in a function held at the Collectorate ground.
 - Press described it as a “**Historical Social revolution**”
- ❖ 2001 October 28th, ten (10) Joginis were got married.
- ❖ 2001 October 28th, thirtyone (31) Potharajus voluntarily removed their tuft of hair in the presence of Dr.C.Rangarajan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, and Sri G.Asok Kumar, Collector.

All these Pothurajus have been rehabilitated under various schemes of AP SC Development Corporation by the district administration.

- ❖ Justice Dr.K.Ramaswamy, Member of the National Human Rights Commission in his report dated: 12.11.2001 to Chairman of the *National Human Rights Commission* appreciated the steps taken for the rehabilitation of Jogin & Pothurajus. In his report he wrote. “The NHRC activity associates itself with all these humanitarian and humane programme of action under taken by the District Collector, Asok Kumar and I *congratulated him for taking such bold measures for their emancipation*”.
- ❖ 2002 August 1st, forty one (41) Pothurajus removed their tuft and another **235** relinquished their trinkets, lashes and whips in presence of Sri. Asok Kumar, Collector to join the main stream.

With these steps almost all Pothurajus have been mainstreamed and it is possible to say that Pothuraju system is almost wiped out from the district.