

Brief Profile of Prof. Dr. Ghanta Chakrapani

Prof. Dr. Ghanta Chakrapani (b. 1964) is a renowned academician, administrator, public intellectual, and the Founding Chairman of the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC). He is widely respected for his commitment to education, social justice, and advocacy for the Telangana statehood movement. His extensive career reflects a deep understanding of India's socio-political landscape, with a particular focus on Telangana. His association with Open and Distance Education is more than 32 years.

Born into an agricultural family in Yaswada Village, Karimnagar District, Telangana, Prof. Chakrapani is the son of Mogilaiah and Janani. Following the submergence of their village under the Lower Manair Dam (LMD) project, the family migrated to Dhulikatta Village in Peddapalli District. His early education took place in government schools in Yaswada, Elagandal, and Ramagundam. He completed his junior college education in Sultanabad and pursued his undergraduate degree in Karimnagar before advancing to Osmania University, Hyderabad.

At Osmania University, he earned an **M.A. in Sociology** (Gold Medalist, 1990), a **Post-Graduate Diploma in Communication and Journalism** (1992), and a **Ph.D. in Sociology of Religion** (2001). He was also the first UGC Junior Research Fellow (JRF) in Social Sciences from Osmania University, a significant milestone in his academic journey.

Prof. Chakrapani began his professional career as a journalist in 1985 before transitioning to academia in 1992, when he was appointed as a Lecturer in Sociology at Kakatiya University (KU). Under the mentorship of Dr. K. Jayashankar, the then Vice Chancellor of KU and a prominent advocate of Telangana's identity and statehood, he deepened his commitment to education and social justice.

In 1994, he joined **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU)**, where he served in several key roles, including Registrar, Director of Academics, Director of the Center for Staff Training and Development, Director of the Center for Social Empowerment, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Head of the Department of Sociology. He played a pivotal role in expanding the university's academic offerings by introducing innovative courses in Sociology, Political Science, Human Rights, Women's Studies, and Mass Media. After over three decades of dedicated service, he retired as a Senior Professor in Sociology in January 2024.

Prof. Chakrapani is also a prolific scholar. He has authored **17 books**, published numerous research papers, and written thousands of op-eds on topics like social justice, human rights, and regional identity. As the founder President of the Telangana Sociological Society, he has been instrumental in promoting sociological research. He is a former member of the **Sahitya Academy** (New Delhi, 2009–2012) and has received several awards, including the **State Best Teacher Award (2014)** from the Government of Telangana and the **Potti Sriramulu Telugu University Literary Award (2015)** for his book *Telangana Jaitrayathra*.

During the **Telangana statehood movement**, Prof. Chakrapani played a critical role as a liberal intellectual. His weekly columns, public speeches, and television appearances provided intellectual support for the movement. He continues to address key regional issues through his YouTube channel, *Ghantapatham*.

Prof. Chakrapani also served as the Convenor of the **Peace Initiative Committee** and the **Ceasefire Monitoring Committee**, mediating historical peace talks between Maoists and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, highlighting his dedication to conflict resolution and social harmony.

Internationally, Prof. Chakrapani has been recognized through prestigious fellowships, including the **India China Institute Fellowship 2006-08** (The New School, New York), the **European Union Fellowship 2009** (Salzburg, Austria) and the **JAPSS Fellowship 2009** (USA), and Prof. Chakrapani associated with Commonwealth of Learning, Canada to contribute a chapter to the upcoming Routledge “**Handbook of Open Universities around the World.**”

As a liberal intellectual Chakrapani represented India at the **World Conference Against Racism** (Durban, South Africa, 2001) under the aegis of the **United Nations** and was actively involved in anti-globalization and social justice forums such as the **World Social Forum** (Brazil, 2001), European Social Forum, (Italy-2002) and he organized the **Asian Social Forum** (Hyderabad, 2003) and **World Social Forum** (Mumbai 2004).

Academically and collaborated with Commonwealth Education Media Center for Asia (CEMCA) associated with international agencies such as the **United Nations (UN)**, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Indian Labor Organization (ILO), Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Hague, Center for International Sustainable Development Law, World Bank, SAFLI (South Asia Foundation Learning Initiative and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI). At the National level associated with University Grants Commission (UGC), Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Distance Education Council (DEC), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), and member of Academic boards at more than 12 National Institutions, Central and State Universities.

As the Founding Chairman of Telangana State Public Service Commission **TSPSC** (2014-2020), Prof. Chakrapani's contributions to governance and public service were transformative. Under his leadership, TSPSC was recognized as the most transparent recruitment agency in the country. He introduced IT-enabled reforms, including the **Computer-Based Recruitment Test** (a first in India), setting new benchmarks in transparency and efficiency. For such initiatives, the TSPSC received prestigious honors such as the **SKOCH Smart Technology Award (2015)** and the **SKOCH Order-of-Merit Award** for exemplary governance. It attracted UPSC and the Government of Mauritius, Mauritius PSC sought his advice to reform its Public Service Commission. He was elected twice as the Chairman of the Standing Committee of State PSCs at UPSC, in his Four years tenure he initiated significant recruitment reforms at the national level.

Prof. Chakrapani Retired from BRAOU on 31 January 2024 as Senior Professor where he served for 30 years introduced, he introduced 5 new academic programmes edited 08 Courses, coordinated 21 Courses and written 70 lessons in his career,