

Prajanayakudu Prakasam - Rasa Ranjani's tribute to Andhra Kesari

August 2

RASA RANJANI, the experimental theatre group, has arranged to stage their two-year old production, Prajanayakudu Prakasam, to mark Andhra Kesari's 129th birth anniversary, at New Delhi in the Sri Ram Centre Theatre. Besides presenting the play at Ravindra Bharathi on August 16 and 17, the play will also be staged at different important theatre centres in the state, to wit, Rajahmundry, Guntur, Vijayawada, Eluru, Visakhapatnam, Ongole, etc. Of these, Ongole and Rajahmundry are the places where Prakasam grew up as a boy, as a stage actor, a leader, a local administration leader and eventually to become a London-educated barrister, a leading lawyer at Madras, to throw all this

away to fight for the country's freedom, braving the British bullets and to become the Madras Premier and after Independence, the first chief minister of Andhra in 1953.

He was a fearless leader who did not even hesitate to oppose Mahatma Gandhi when the need arose to stand by his conscience. The play was written by Dr Modali Nagabhushanam, former Head of Depart-

ent, Theatre Arts, Osmania University and writer and director of several landmark plays in Telugu. A 60 member troupe will present the play on August 23 at Delhi, to mark Prakasam's 129th birth anniversary.

Speaker of Lok Sabha, G M C Balayogi has agreed to be the chief guest on that day, Dora said. Giving these details to the press at Ravindra Bharathi this evening, H J Dora, D G P. and Honorary President of Rasaranjani said that the theatre, established in 1993 has made progress in these eight years



A scene from the play 'Prajanayaku Prakasam' to be staged at Ravindra Bharati this month.

and succeeded in awakening people's interest in theatre. There was much more to be achieved yet but what has been realised is heartwarming enough, encouraging the theatre group to go ahead with its bold experiments, regardless of cost and effort despite its shoe-string budget.

K V Ramana, Commissioner, Khadi and Village Industries Board, who is another active

honorary functionary of Rasa Ranjani, who has been standing solidly behind the theatre group's adventure, said that Rasaranjani's school of acting is about to complete its first batch of one year's course and in this duration, it has produced and presented two excellent plays, Siddhartha and Lanka Lakshmi with excellent results. Its cast entirely comprised of its own students. Rasa Ranjani received solid support from several sources, like Aswini Group headed by B Ch V Subbarao, vice-president of Rasa Ranjani being one of the

most prominent supporters.

G Ramamurthy said the National School of Drama, New Delhi, has been watching Rasa Ranjani's productive activity and decided to respond positively to Rasa Ranjani's suggestion to hold a six day Hindi Drama Festival at Hyderabad. The A P Department of

Culture and South Zone Cultural Centre, will jointly support this venture, he said. Chatla Sreeramulu, Rasa Ranjani's Training Expert, Dr Modali Nagabhushana Sarma, were the others who addressed the press meet and expressed their happiness at the general support received from the local and National Media.

-Chaganty