Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University

Hyderabad

CITATION

Read by the Director, Academic

In Presenting

Shri. Gorati Venkanna

to

His Excellency Shri. **JISHNU DEV VARMA**

Chancellor

For the award of the Degree of

DOCTOR OF LETTERS

(Honoris Causa)

at the

TWENTY SIXTH CONVOCATION

held on Tuesday, 30th September, 2025

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JUBILEE HILLS, HYDERABAD.
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Chancellor Sir,

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Members of the Executive Council, it is my proud privilege to present to you Shri. Gorati Venkataiah, known to the world as Gorati Venkanna, a peerless poet in Telugu Literature personified by nature per se.

Shri. Gorati Venkanna, born in Gowraram village of Mahaboobnagar district, is a people's poet and a nature poet par excellence. A true vaggeyakara—poet and singer alike—he carries forward the timeless legacy of Annamayya, Tyagaraja, Seshappa Kavi, Dunna Iddasu, and Vepuri Hanumaddas.

His poetry paints the fragrance of earth and the music of toil. He gave voice to the fading rhythms of rural life—the harmony once shared by artisans and farmers, and the sorrows left behind by a broken rural economy.

Shri. Gorati Venkanna, in essence is an extraordinary lyricist. His language is aural and visual, takes infinite forms with ease, like clay in a potter's palm—effortless, infinite and alive. His language is not only heard but also seen; it flows through the ear and lingers before the eye. His verses stretch across the vast rural canvas, alive with subtle hues and intricate detail. His lyrics depict the huge rural canvas with all the intricacies and variations embedded intricately within.

His songs echo his philosophy of life. Mystic in vision, Sufi in spirit, his world is touched by the wisdom of Kalagnani Veerabrahmam and Vemana, and coloured by the romantic sensibilities of Devulapalli Krishna Sastry, Nanduri Subba Rao, and Konakalla Venkataratnam. His narrative style bears the imprint of Yakshaganam, and the very first

strains of his art were learnt at the knee of his father, Narsimha, a wandering balladeer.

For his luminous contribution, he has been honoured with many laurels: the prestigious Hamsa Award from the Government of united Andhra Pradesh, the Literary Award of Telugu University for Relaputhalu, the Lankesh Memorial Award of Karnataka, the ATA Award in the United States, and the TAAL Award in London. His song "Palle Kanneru Peduthundo...", a cry from the heart of the village, crossed oceans and languages to find its place in the publications of Oxford University.

