

## N.T. Rama Rao

Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, also known as NTR, was born in 1923 in a well-to-do family in Andhra Pradesh. He showed interest in acting and singing from his childhood. During his higher studies he met Jaggayya at the Andhra Christian College (of Andhra University) and they became friends. Both of them participated in several college dramas.



After graduating from Andhra University, he founded a drama company called "National Art Theater (NAT)" and started staging the plays. Savithri also worked with NTR in his theater group. In 1949, Rao had an opportunity to star in a supporting role in the Telugu film "Mana Desham," directed by L.V. Prasad. The very next year he appeared with Akkineni Nageswara Rao in "Samsaram". When this movie became a huge success, there was no turning back for NTR. With good looks, he established himself as a force in the Telugu film field.

What made NTR particularly popular was his portrayals of mythological characters. He appeared in so many movies depicting either Rama or Krishna that people started hanging his pictures from these films on their

walls at their home as if he was the real Hindu god. Rao had a prolific acting career, and by one estimate, acted in over 300 films. He also produced and directed films and wrote screenplays.

In 1982, NTR decided to enter the political arena. He founded the Telugu Desam Party and campaigned tirelessly to overthrow the then Congress Government that was in power in Andhra Pradesh state for many years. He won the elections easily and became the Chief Minister. He was elected three times as Chief Minister, but lost his post as the head of the state due to a power conflict with his own party.

Rao passed away in 1996 after a massive heart attack.

Savithri and Rama Rao acted together in the following movies:

1. Samsaram (1950)
2. Patala Bhairavi (1951)
3. Pelli Chesi Choodu (1952)
4. Palleteeru (1952)
5. Chandraharam (1954)
6. Parivarthana (1954)
7. Missamma (1955)
8. Kanya Sulkam (1955)
9. Charana Daasi (1956)
10. Maya Bazaar (1957) (Tamil)
11. Maya Bazaar (1957) (Telugu)
12. Kutumba Gauravam (1957)
13. Bhale Ammayilu (1957)
14. Inti Guttu (1958)
15. Appu Chei Pappu Koodu (1958)
16. Banda Ramudu (1959)
17. Vimala (1960)
18. Sri Venkateswara Mahatmyam (1960)
19. Deepavali (1960)
20. Kalasi Unte Kaladu Sukham (1961)
21. Kalimilemulu (1962)
22. Gundamma Katha (1962)
23. Raktha Sambandham (1962)

24. Atma Bandhuvu (1962)
25. Karnan (1963) (Tamil)
26. Karna (1963)
27. Narthanasala (1963)
28. Devatha (1964)
29. Pandava Vanavasam (1965)
30. Naadi Aada Janme (1965)
31. Ummadi Kutumbam (1967)
32. Kanchu Kota (1967)
33. Vara Katnam (1968)
34. Vichithra Kutumbam (1969)
35. Pettandarulu (1970)
36. Nirdoshi (1970)
37. Maathru Devatha (1970)
38. Petthamdarlu (1971)
39. Deshodddharakulu (1973)
40. Circus Ramudu (1980)