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(The National Academy of Letters, India)

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Invites you to

meet the author

Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu



'Sri Ramachandrudu's profundity in Vyakarana which he imbibed from his father, his equal mastery of Vedanta and all the allied Sastras, his exposure to English literature, Hindi Literature and Ancient Indian History all made his multi dimensional scholarship.'

-Prof. Venkatachalam, Former V.C. Sampoonanand Sans. Uni. & Former Chancellor L.B.Sastri RSV

Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu is an authority in almost all the branches of Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy. Mahamahopadhyaya Professor Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu was born on 23rd October 1927 in Indupally, a village in Amalapuram taluk in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. His father Sri Pullea Satyanarayana Sastry and mother Shrimathi Satyavati would have never expected their son to become such a great scholar. He studied Vyakarana under his father and Sri. Kompella Subbaraya Sastry.

The basic foundation laid by them gave Sri Ramachandrudu a deep love for Sanskrit language, which led him to attain his 'Vedanta Siromani' the highest examination in Madras University for Sanskrit from Madras Sanskrit College in first rank getting gold medals. He studied Vedanta and allied subjects under the great masters like Sri. T.R.Ramachandra Dikshitar, Sri Polagam Rama Sastrigal, Sri. S.R.Krishna Murthy Sastrigal and Sri Lakshmana Sastrigal. His thirst for education was not satiated just with it.

He continued to get his Telugu 'Vidwan' degree from Madras University, pursuing on in getting three M.A. Degrees (Sanskrit, English and Hindi) from Banaras Hindu University. His thesis on 'The Contribution of Pandiaraja Jagannatha to the Sanskrit Poetics' earned him his Ph.D.

All of them made him specialized in three Sanskrit Sastras, Vyakarana, Vedanta and Alankara. A close study of his life will find his relentless service as a teacher and a writer for a long period. He started his teaching career in a humble

way on 1948, becoming A.F.D.T High School Sanskrit teacher in Malikipuram, and then switching over to a College lecturer at S.K.B.R.College, Amalapuram. From there he went to Osmaniya University Hyderabad, serving as a Professor till 1987. He is a voracious reader with unquenchable thirst of unceasing inquisitiveness for exploration of wisdom.

After his retirement, Sri Ramachandrudu was honorary Professor at Central University, Hyderabad for three years. His contribution for propagating Sanskrit in Andhra Pradesh is highly meritorious; being secretary for Surabharati Samiti, and now as one of its Vice Presidents he served his best for the cause. Serving as Upakulapati for eleven years and then being the Kulapati of the Sanskrit Basha Pracara Samithi, Hyderabad, for 20 years he helped about 250000 students to get their certificates in Sanskrit by conducting different annual examinations at various levels in many centres of Andhra Pradesh.

Sri Ramachandrudu's focus of service for Sanskrit as well as Telugu is two fold, one in translating important works in Telugu and contributing original works in Telugu and Sanskrit oriented over the many facets of the language. They include exhaustive commentaries, dictionaries, compilation of Idioms and phrases from Sanskrit to English. Andhra Pradesh and Indian nation have acclaimed his relentless toil by awards after awards, rewards and honours.

Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu departs from strait jacket traditional interpretation and expresses his views freely. He is good example for inquisitiveness, arguments and refutations and healthy disagreements. Sri K.Aravinda Rao, additional D.G.P of police opines that, Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu was unhesitant to refuse some untenable inconsistent concepts.



Receiving Sivananda Murti - Eminent Citizens Award in the Presence of Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister - 2000



Telugu Atma Gaurava Puraskar from Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu, C.M. of A.P. in 2001

His great regard on Arthashastra is expressed as, 'it is as relevant today as it was when written. On matters like administration, justice, law and order and financial control, there are plenty of lessons for us to learn. Chanakya gives a wonderful example for the present day financial experts: "it is as difficult for a person not to embezzle cash when surrounded by it as it is for a person with a drop of honey on his tongue and ordered not to swallow it!"

His awareness of distinction between translation and commentary is significant to be followed by the future scholars. He explains, "in case of translation you have little freedom to expand. You are constrained to convey the meaning as it appears. There is no scope for your ideas to creep in. In a commentary however, you can bring in subtle changes. And yet, you have to be faithful to the original work."

He gives succinct analogy. "If you ask an archer to hit an arrow at a tree, he does it with relative ease. Hitting another arrow at the same spot where the earlier arrow was hit is somewhat more difficult. This is roughly the difference between an original work and a commentary"

Sri Ramachandrudu refuses to accept the school of thought that feels that whatever way it is spoken is correct and grammar is in-built in speech. He condemns it, you cannot accept a language in whatever way it is spoken or written. Some rules and stipulations (grammar) need to govern it. That is why Chinnayya Suri's Vyakararamam is respected and relevant today.

Any one would learn his special message from his own life conveying a lofty ideal, unspoken, silent and serene.

"Do not confine yourself for one direction alone, one language alone, one outlook alone; be Universal at the same time don't lose your grounds of your ancient culture and its many dimensional facets. Devote your life for a greater purpose; for greater pursuits; then automatically your life fetches its meaning and depth. Serve your country; serve your mother tongue; at the same time don't forget the great language which contributed a lot to it; serve it ; serve in all possible ways." When we look back at his laborious life we finally conclude that it is what Sri Krishna refers in Bhagavath Geetha . Surrendering oneself. Indeed Sri Ramachandrudu did it in his own way.

His admirers range from the Ex Vice President Krishna Kant to several present day IAS and IPS officers Judges and leading personalities who considered him as their Gururji. Prof.M.Gopal Reddy of Osmania University prefers to call Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu as 'The Appayya Dikshitha' of modern age for his prolific writing.

On writing about the multi-faceted personality of Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu Ambadi Venugopalan points out, 'there is hardly a discipline in which he not either written a book or authored an exhaustive commentary on an authoritative text. His range is incredible and yet he maintains the exacting requirements of scholarship in the Patasala tradition. 'A great scholar being a good poet is not a rare occurrence in the history of Sanskrit. But a great scholar and a good poet being a competent Play Wright is rare and to add this trinity lexicography is unique. His love of Mathrubhasha and Deva Bhasha have joined hands in scholarly synthesis.'



*Receiving Kalidasa Jivana Vratī Puraskar
from Sri Krishna, Governor of Maharashtra*

On translating Gitanjali into Sanskrit Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu used The *Mandakranta* metre used by Kalidasa with so much effect with fresh life by his skillful use of it. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Retd. Professor of Presidency College, West Bengal Senior Education Service praises Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu's careful study of Tagore's mysticism and opines that Tagore would have greatly appreciated his Gitanjali translation into Sanskrit if he had lived and this rendering work is dedicated to Jawaharlal Nehru.

Dr. S. Raghavan, Retd Professor of Physics points out Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu's greatness as 'a refreshingly rare quality of Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu is that he has never hankered after or "tried" for any post or position.

Prof. Venkatachalam, Former Vice Chancellor, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University and Former Chancellor, L.B. Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth highly values Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu's knowledge and scholarship.

'Sri Ramachandrudu's profundity in Vyakarana which he imbibed from his father, his equal mastery of Vedanta and all the allied Sastras, his exposure to English literature, Hindi Literature and Ancient Indian History all made his multi dimensional scholarship.'

Hon. Justice Alladi Kuppaswami, Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court (Retd) remembers Sri Ramachandrudu's service as a secretary and Vice President for 22 years of Surabharati, the association for the promotion of Sanskrit as of an amiable disposition and helpful to those who seek his advice.

He is the recipient of a number of prestigious awards, titles and honours and has served with distinction on many policy making committees and Boards connected with Sanskrit. His monumental translation works stand out as a remarkable contribution to the realm of Telugu Literature.

All these have in no way affected his intrinsic simplicity, unassuming manners and cordial relationship with all.

Sri Ramachandrudu's monumental work was The new Sanskrit dictionary compiled by him in which we can find Sanskrit Idioms, Phrases and Suffixational Subtleties, about which Prof. V. Venkatachalam remarks that 'this new Sanskrit Dictionary is the culmination of his life-long Tapasya in the form of in-depth study of the text of Nirukta, Vyakarana and Kosa'.

The aim of the said book being to illustrate the legitimacy of usage of so many idioms and Phrases that have been drawn from eighteen standard sources which include grammatical works, dramas, panchatantra and scientific treatise like Arthasastra. Prof. V. Venkatachalam has given the prologue in which he applauded that this book is the first of its kind in this genre which none dared to attempt before.' Being a versatile genius, he is a role model for excellence with exemplary conduct and sterling principles. His yeoman service to the cause of Sanskrit Literature is ineffable and immense.



After receiving Viswabharathi from Sri Motilal Bora, Governor of U.P. 1994

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

The awards, titles and honours themselves would prove his meticulous service to Sanskrit and Telugu languages. To mention few of them:-

(1) The title Vedanta Visarada conferred by the Sanskrit College, Madras.

(2) The title Mahamahopadhyaya conferred by the Lalbahadoor Sastri Rashtriya Sanskrita Vidya Peetha, Delhi (Deemed University).

(3) Awarded Cash prize by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the Sanskrit Translation of Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali, the nobel prize winner.

(4) Awarded Cash prize by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the Sanskrit drama 'Susamhatabharatam'.

(5) Honoured as a good scholar of Alankara Sasthra in Andhra Pradesh by Andhra Pradesh Sahitya Akademi.

(6) Awarded President's Certificate of Honour by the President of India.

(7) Honoured as a Good scholar in Sanskrit by Telugu University, Hyderabad.

(8) Awarded Viswabharati (Rs.1,00,000 award) by the Samskrita Sansthan Uttar Pradesh.

(9) Awarded the Translation Award by Central Sahitya Akademi.

(10) Received Guptha Sahitya Award.

(11) Received Siddhartha Kalapitam Award.

(12) Received Sivanandaguru Eminent Citizen Award.

(13) Received Telugu Athmagaurava Puraskar from Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

(14) Received the award for original work in Sanskrit from Central Sahitya Akademi.

(15) Sanskrit life achievement National Award from Kalidasa Sanskrit University, Ramtaka.

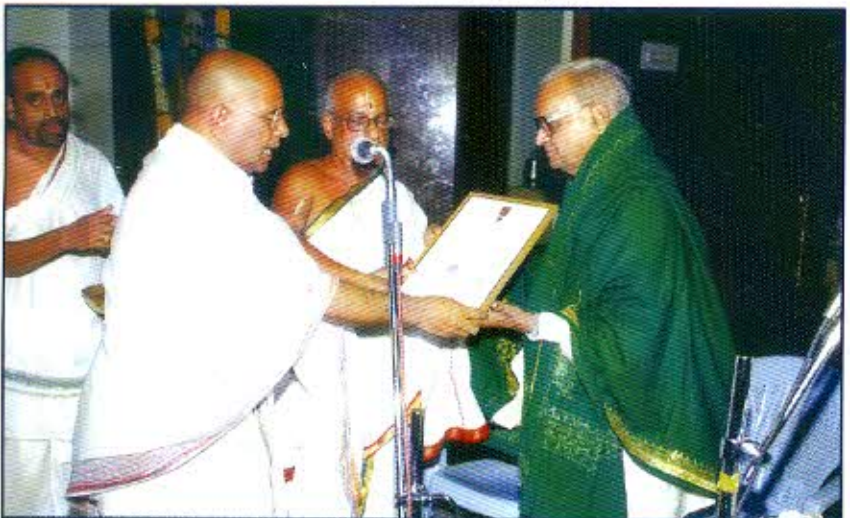
(16) Received Vacaspathi Puraskar of Rs.100000 from Birla Foundation

(17) Kalidasa Gnana Rathna Puraskar, Hyderabad.

(18) Sri Raghunatha Desika Award, Warangul.

(19) Ajo Vibho/Kandalam/Puraskar (Rs.1,00,000).

(20) Prajna Puraskar.



Receiving Vedanta - Sagara Title from Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham at Vedabhavan, Hyderabad in 2007



Receiving President's Certificate of Honour From Sri R.Venkatraman 1987

Publications

Dr.Sri Ramachandrudu has published about 100 articles on subjects connected with Sanskrit Literature.

He has published 120 works in big and small sizes of which the following are found important.

Commentaries in Telugu on Alankara Sastra.

(1) Kavyalankara, (2) Kavyadarsa, (3) Kavyaprakasa, (4) Dhvanyaloka Locana, (5) Kavyameemamsa, (6)Vakroktijivita etc..

(2)Word to word meaning and tatparya of Valmiki Ramayana(10 Volumes about 8000 pages.

Commentary on Brahmasutra Bhashya and Gitabhashya of Sri Sankaracharya.

History of Western Philosophy written in Sanskrit under the title 'Paaschatya Thattvasastra Itihasa' about 556 pages (First of its kind).

As very exhaustive would be the list of the books written and published by Sri Ramachandrudu, the number of titles as per languages is given below:

Sanskrit Works-45

Telugu commentaries on Sanskrit works-42

Telugu original works -25

English works-2

Sanskrit- English works-2

Hindi-Telugu works-2

Sanskrit-Telugu work -1

Apart from these illustrious activities Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu has served in many Academic Bodies and institutions such as Sahitya Akademi, Advisory committee, Andhra Pradesh, U.G.C nominated member of Project-Committee for the Sanskrit Dictionary Project, Deccan College, Poona, Central Sanskrit Board, NewDelhi, Executive council member in Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapith, Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapith Tirupati and the Chairman of the Publication Committee of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati. Presently member of the Executive Board, Central Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi.

His daughter Ms.Sathya serves as Principal, Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan School, Hyderabad, his son Mr.Satyanarayana Sastry serves as C.F.O. in a I.T. Company in Hyderabad. Dr. Sri Ramachandrudu lives with his devoted wife Subbalakshmi and his offsprings at Hyderabad.



With Daughter Smt. P. Sathya, wife Smt. P.Subbalakshmi and Son Sri. P.S. Shastry.