

EMINENT PERSONALITIES IN THE FIELD OF ARTS AND LITERATURE

ARTS

The history of Guntur District speaks volumes about the inherited arts as this district has given birth to so many stalwarts on the sphere of arts like stage arts, Music, Singing, Cinema, Poetry, Eloquations etc.,

The films actors born in this district reigned the film Industry over the years by virtue of their talent shown through different characters.

Drama

Hari Prasada Rao: Member in Hindu Drama Samaj Company 1882-1912. A famous Dramatist. Played - Ramdas, Padmavyuham, Harichandra, Vishadha, Sragandhara, Abhinava Shakuntala are some of his master pieces.

Sthanam Narasimha Rao: A famous folk and historical dramas played female role in 3000 demonstrations.

Vemuru Gagayya: Born in Vemuru village in Tenali taluk - a popular artist, his remarkable performance in Yamudu, Krishna leela, Jalandhara are worth to mention.

Kopalle Hanumantha Rao: Six decades of service in the Drama field. Played Harichandra also female roles. Pandit Nehru appreciated his action in Harichandra, Viswakavi Ravindranadh, described him as *Andhra Nightingale* for his sweet voice.

Abburi Ramakrishna Rao: Famous Drama writer - hailed from Guntur District – his first performance in Bhisma as Krishna is unforgettable – A self styled playback singer – a popular drama artist.

FILM SECTOR:

Ch.S.Anjaneyulu : Hailed from Ponnuru village in Guntur District. A famous character artist in Telugu Cinema industry, his first appearance in Bhisma a popular role as Krishna. A self playback singer. A popular drama artist.

Kanchanamala : Chittajallu Kanchanamala was born in Tenali. Kanchanamala was the first actress to be called glamorous. Her most remarkable role was a heroine in Malapilla directed by Ghudavalli Ramabrahmam.

S. Janaki : S.Janaki was born on the 23rd April, 1938 in the village Palapatla in Bapatla Taluk of Guntur District. She is playback singer. Winning second prize in All India Radio Music Competition in 1956, she received the prize from the President Rajendra Prasad and joined AVM Studio. The same year she sang 100 songs in six languages. She rose to be one of the leading playback singers of South with total of about 15000 songs in fifteen languages.

Sarada : Born ‘Saraswathi’ in Tenali in Guntur District. Sarada gained recognition as a stage actress with her lead role in Raktakanneeru. Which ran all over Andhra for several thousand performances. Her brilliant performance in Tulabaram, which earned her her first “Urvashi Award” and brought her national recognition. Swayamavaram in Malayalam and Nimajjenam in Telugu, making her the only actress to have won the “Urvashi Award”, a national award for excellence in acting three times.

Dhulipalla Seetharamasastry : Popularly known as 'Dhulipalla' born in Dachepalli village in Gurazala taluk of Guntur District. Strated his career as stage artist and joined Cinema field, gained recognition as successful Cinema character arist.

Gummadi Venkateswara Rao : Hailed from Tenali. He is very good character artist. He has been in the Cinema field for so many years.

Ghattamaneni Krishna : Hailed from Burripalem village of Tenali Taluk. A popular hero, started his film careeer for Tenemanasulu, a producer, Director and proprietor of Padmalaya Sutdio.

Jamuna : hailed from Duggirala village of Guntur District. She is glamorous heroine here mast piece in Mugamanasulu.

Krishna Kumari : A famous yesteryears heroine. Hailed from Guntur.

Others : Shavukaru Janaki, G.Varalakshmi, Brahmanandam and A.V.S.

LITERATURE :

The language of the Andhra is also called Telugu and its literature is in many respects a continuation of Sanskrit literacy thought and tradition. Place midway between the North and the South, i.e., the so-called Aryan and Dravidian cultures, Andhra developed wonderful and fine blending of both. Having a Dravidian origin in its basic vocabulary and structure Telugu imbibed the vigour of Sanskrit thought and expressing and thus created a new style with the

best elements of both. Seats of Sanskrit studies also moved from Kashmir and Kanouj, Ujjain and Benares to Warrangal and Vijayanagara, Rajahmundry and Nellore so much to that every Telugu poet felt himself a descendant of Vyasa or Valmiki, Bhasa or Kalidasa and translations of great Sanskrit works were made and read out to vast audiences who heard with rapt attention, by eminent poets who had an excellent command over both Sanskrit and Telugu. The Telugu poet took his inspiration from and looked for guidance to Sanskrit masters and the Telugu epic or Kavya, Nataka or Champu was shaped after the Sanskrit models. Telugu grammar followed the Sanskrit method while Rhetoric was complete importation from Sanskrit. Telugu poetic thought is almost a logical continuation of that of the Sanskrit poets and in fact many of descendants of the Sanskrit masters rendered their thought into Telugu. In all technical studies, dance and music, art and science the Sanskrit marga system formed the basis for the later desi superstructure, the terminology and guiding rules being Sanskrit while the execution i.e., way of expressing or presentation, was moulded by the local or regional styles.

Though Telugu poetry appears to have had its start at about the seventh or eighth centuries A.D., as found in inscriptions, the first available book is that of Nannayabhatta, the Andhra Mahabharata, composed in the middle of the eleventh century (A.D. 1050-1061), based on the Sanskrit original. Every later writer considered Nannaya as the “Adikavi” or the first Telugu poet and vak-anusasana or ordainer of the languages. Probably there was no kavya worth the name before him and he gave best model for poetical composition and set up a standard for fine style. All the Sanskrit Itihasas, Puranas, Kavyas and chapus were rendered into Telugu.

Vemana : Born in a Royal Family was a great Telugu poet and thinker. Vemana is the name of an author that appear in classical Telugu literature. Different tales are told about Vemana. He was born to a ruling king and after youth of play boy pleasures he turned into Yogi.

Gurram Jashuva : Born in Chatragaddaapadu village in Vinukonda Taluk, on 28th September 1895. He was famous Poet and Critic, He was popularly called as Kavi Chakravarthi and Kavi Visaradha. His popular writing is “Gabbilam” in which he highlighted Social problems prevailed in those days. He fought for the removal of Social evils through his writings.

Tallavajjula Sivasankara Sastry : A famous writer. Born in Guntur District, a distinguished Scholar in Multi Languages - Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali, Latin, Parsee, Hindi, Bengali and Kannada. He is the founder of Sahiti Samiti and Sahiti News Paper.

Tikkana : He is an outstanding Poet. He stands eminently in the highest place in the literature and he also known all over as the ***Kavisamrat***. He completed to a great extent the great book of Mahabharatam. Which Nannayya Bhut had begun. He belongs to ‘Vibhu’ family in Guntur.

Bajilepalli Lakshmikantham: Was a member of 1st Company otherwise known as the Senior Hindu Theatre. He was himself a very good actor and author of several dramas, became very popular. Such of their and Satya Harichandra and Buddimali Vilasam. He was also a Cinema actor and wrote several Dramas.

Madabusi Vedantam Narasimha Charyulu: He was a great pandit of 19th Century in Tarakam and Vyakaranam. He is a great poet in Sanskrit and Telugu. His intellect in the arts Ashtavadhanam and Sathavadhanam was

unparalleled. When Col. Olcott and Madame Balavateky came to Guntur 1888. He gave a performance in their presence. They gave a Russian poem in parts to be reconstructed and he did it very correctly and they were amazed at it. He was a author of 'Ramavadhuti'.

Acharya Nagarjuna : A Philosopher, a writer and Scholar who equally respected on par with "Budda" in the world. Born in Sriparvata Area in Palnadu of Guntur District. The Buddhist sage Nagarjuna lived here and propounded the philosophy of Shunyata - the void - in the Andhra kingdom of Vijayanagar around the 2nd century BC.

Kalaprapurna Tummala Seetha Rama Murthy Chowdari : Awarded Abhinava Tikkana and Telugu Lenka. A famous Poet, native of Guntur District.

Karuna Sree "Jandhyala Papayya Sastry" : Born in Kopparru village of Pedanandipadu Mandal in Guntur District on 4th August 1912. He is a famous Poet and very good speaker. His popular writings "Pushpavilapam", Udayasree, Karuna sree and Vijaya sree.

Rayaprolu Subba Rao : He was born in Gorlapadu village in Guntur District on 17th March 1892. Started writing of Poetry from his early school days. Translated the famous English writer Goldsmith's, Hermit as Lalitha , Tennysons Dora as "Anumathi".

HARI KATHA

An art of telling stories in the form of songs coupled with words in a lucid manner which would be understandable by various sections in the society on Mythological Stories, Historical events, Histories of noble kings and

on different themes of innovation of Gods and their stories is called in local language as “Harikatha” which is well received by the people as this art was used to give good message for ensuring orderly life in the society. The prominent persons on this discipline who hailed from Guntur District are

Sri Nazar

Sri Thumu Narasimha Dasu,

Sri Duggirala Gopala Krishanaiah,

Sri Karooru Krishna Das,

Sri Prayaga Sangameswara Sastry,

Sri Muppavarapu Venkata Simhachala Sastry Bagavatulu,

Sri Buddavarapu Veeraneswara Rao,

Sri Pathuri Madhusudana Sastry,

Sri Pillalamarri Ramasastry,

Sri Kuppa Veera Ragavaiah,

Sri Mulakutla Sadasiva Sastry,

VOCAL MUSIC

Guntur District has its own identity in producing the famous vocal musicians who inspire the galaxies of different sections of the societies with their melodious tones in singing the songs of different nature which includes patriotic songs, Folk and cine songs. Some of the stalwarts who proved their metal on this sphere with their unmemorable performances are

Sri Janaki Ramaiah,

Sri Prayaga Tirumalaiah,

Sri Niraghatum Rama Krishnaiah,

Sri Narumanchi Seetharamaiah,

Sri Ambadipudi Subbaiah,

Sri Parwathaneni veeraiah Chowdary,