



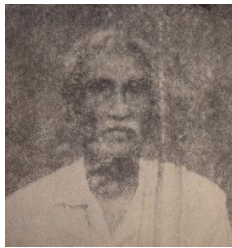
MAHAMKAVI DASU SRIRAMULU SMARAKA SAMITI

The Smaraka Samithi was formed in 1973 with the sole purpose of bringing into light the works of the Mahakavi Dasu Sriramulu garu and create larger awareness of his contribution to literature, Arts and Culture and avoid all his contributions pass into oblivion. The great poet wrote **4 Swarajitulu, 26 Devatakrutulu, 23 Padamulu, 24 Jaavaleelu, 1 Thillana, 2 Mangala Haratis, 26 books including the great epic Devi Bhagavatam and 6 Satakas**. Out of these through the efforts of the Samithi 11 books including Devi Bhagavatam and a book containing his musical compositions (Kruthis, Padams, Javalis) with musical notations could be printed and released. The achievements are highly commendable. Here is the story about the samithi and its members .

*W*ay back in 1973 two literature buffs attending a meeting at Hyderabad's famous Sri Krishnadevaraya Andhra Bhasha Nilayam, surveyed the photographs of prominent men and women of letters dotting the Hall of Fame and noted that the portrait of one eminent figure was conspicuous by its absence

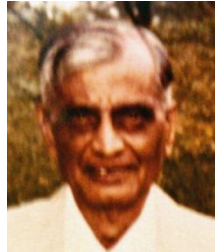
The portrait that ought to be there was of Mahakavi Dasu Sreeramulu, the 19th century multi-faceted genius and author of Devi Bhagavatham in Telugu. The young men, Dasu Atchuta Rao (II) and Dasu Damodara Rao (II), great grandsons of the mahakavi, brought this to the notice of the Bhasha Nilayam authorities who said they would be too happy to have Sreeramulu's photo adorn the Nilayam .

The ready response spurred bigger and more ambitious ideas in the minds of Atchuta Rao and Damodara Rao who decided not only to provide the portrait but to bring to light the works of Srirama kavi for the benefit of the younger generation and to create larger awareness of his contribution to literature, arts, culture and social reforms. Soon, the idea transformed into their brainchild, the **Mahakavi Dasu Sreeramulu Smaraka Samiti (MDSSS)** with Dasu Padmanabha Rao(I) as the president, in 1973. The other following office-bearers were:



Dasu Padmanabha rao

President



Dasu Sreeramulu (II)

Vice President



Dasu Atchuta rao (II)

Secretary & treasurer



Dasu Damodara rao(II)

Joint Secretaries



Dasu Sankarshana rao(II)

The samiti took up a number of activities to highlight and perpetuate the accomplishments of Dasu Sreeramulu such as retrieval and reprinting of the works, besides organizing literary and cultural meetings. Following is the chronological enumeration of the activities.

1973: Commencement of the activities

The ball was set rolling with the unveiling of Mahakavi Dasu Sreeramulu's portrait at Sri Krishnadevaraya Andhra Bhasha Nilayam (శ్రీ కృష్ణదేవరాయ ఆంధ్రభాషా నిలయం) on December 8, 1973. Mr.Devulapalli Ramanujarao, Secretary Andhra Pradesh Sahitya Academy, presided over the meeting where other notable Telugu literary figures Dr. Diwakarla Venkatavadhani, Dr.Patibanda Madhava Sarma, Dr. Pramod Lale (Reader Osmania University) and Dasu Padmanabha Rao (President of the committee). Mr. V.V Giri, the President of India, sent a message. Dasu Vamana Rao, the oldest living grandson of the mahakavi, in his classic message said Saint Tyagaraya's ' rAma nee SamAnamevarura' (రామా నీ సమాన మెవరూ) would be an apt tribute to the mahakavi.*** Excerpts from the letter are given at the end.(below) A photo representation of the event is shown below



Ramanuja Rao unveiling



Dr.G.V.Subrahmanyam,Dr. Pramod Lale,Prof Divakarla Venkatavadhani, D.Ramanuja rao

Srirama Kavi's portrait

M.L.Narasimha Rao & Dasu Atchuta Rao (Hon.Secretary)

Having achieved this, the committee then plunged into the more challenging activity of printing the works of the great poet. With a stalwart in the printing and publishing field, like Dasu Padmabha Rao as the president, it took the help of Dasu Narasimha Rao (I) another doyen in the field. Chronologically here is the list of activities undertaken by the samithi and completed successfully

***** Excerpts from the letter of sri Dasu Vamana rao:**

“దాసు శ్రీ రామ పండితుడు మహా కవి మాత్రమే కాదు సకల శుభ లక్షణ సమంచితమైన గొప్ప అదృష్ట జాతకుడు..... ఛందోబద్ధ కవిత్వ లోలు డగు నీ కవిజనాగ్రణి హావభావాదిగా విన్యాసలయ తాళ స్వరరాగ సంకోభిత సంగీత నాట్యాభినయ కళాప్రవీణుడు లోక్యసరణిఘన నిపుణమణి యని వినుతిగనిన దొడ్డ న్యాయవాది జగమెరిగిన ఋజువాక్యము “శీలంబున్ కులమున్ శమంబు దమమున్” సమకూరిన సత్పురుషుడు ఆలేఖ్యతనూ విలాసుడైన ఆజానుబాహువు..... 19శతాబ్దమున నుదయించిన ఆంధ్ర కవులలో నిట్టికవి మృగ్యుడు..... “రామ నీ సమానమెవరు” అను సంకీర్తనకు పాత్రుడైన ధన్య జీవి యీ కవి యనుట వాస్తవమేకాని స్తవము కాదు. శ్రీ దాసు శ్రీరామపండితుని ఛాయాపటము క్రింద సగౌరవంగా లిఖింప తగిన శుభస్పద వాక్యమొక్కటి యుక్తముగా స్ఫురించుచున్నది “ ఆ శ్రీరామకృతి మాకు నిచ్చులఘు శ్రీ సత్య వాగ్యద్రములే”---

1974

1. A reprint of '**Telugu Nadu**' (sixth edition) was released by Ramanuja Rao (photo below) at a function organised by M.L. Narasimha Rao , honorary secretary of the Bhasha Nilayam , on May 8, 1974. Dr. Diwakarla Venkatavadhani presided over the meeting in which Iriventi Krishnamurthy and G.V.Subrahmanyam spoke.



2. **ABHINAYA GADYA PRABANDHAMU** (third edition) written in classical prose by Dasu Sreeramulu in just a week. Kalaprapoorna Nidadavolu Venkata Rao wrote an elaborate introduction to it.

1975

1. Dasu Damodara Rao(II) spared no effort to bring out a souvenir with 12 articles by eminent scholars in a record time, thanks also to the commendable technical help of Dasu Narasimha Rao (I) and to the efforts of Dasu Padmanabha Rao(II) in getting advertisement support.
2. The "mahakavi dasu sreeramulu jayanti sanchika" was released by Kavi Samrat Viswanatha Sathyanarayana at the first World Telugu Conference at Hyderabad in 1975.
3. The Mahakavi Dasu Sreeramulu Smaraka Samiti organised a meeting in Vijayawada on April 6 to mark the event, in which literary luminaries like Viswanatha Satyanarayana, Viswanatha Venkateswarlu, Garuru Subbarama Sastry and others spoke.
4. Eminent scholars like Vutukuri Lakshmikantamma, Kanuparthi Varalakshamma and others paid tributes to the Mahakavi at a function in Bapatla on May 16 to mark his death anniversary.



Kavi Samrat Viswanadha Sathyanarana releasing 'Jayanthi Samchika' of Mahakavi Dasu Sreeramulu at the World Telugu Conference ,Hyderabad in 1975. In the foreground is poet-laureate Dasaradhi.

1978

DEVI BHAGAVATAM (third edition)

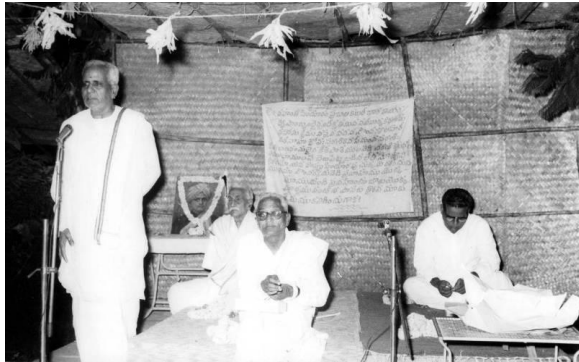
The third edition of the epic DEVI BHAGAVATAM was released by Dr. Diwakarla Venkatavadhani at Sri Satyanarayana Swamy temple, Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad on October 10, 1978. Photos of the event are shown below.



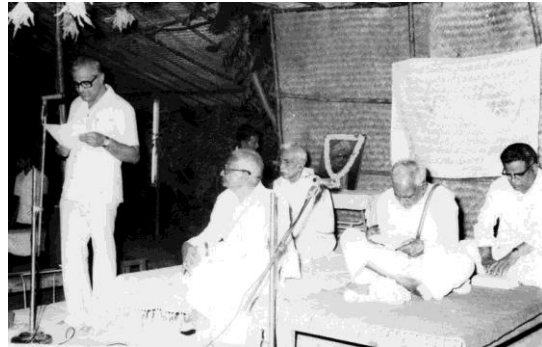
Prof. Divakarla Venkatavadhani releasing the book.



Seen sitting are Devulapalli Ramanuja Rao and Dr. G.V. Subrahmanyam



Prof. Divakarla Venkatavadhani addressing the meeting. Also seen: Dasu Padmanabha Rao and Ramanuja Rao. Next pic shows Dasu Atchuta Rao presenting the report of the Samiti.



1979:

SURYA SATAKAMU (2nd Edition) was reprinted, with an introduction by Nidadavolu Venkata Rao.

1981:

KURANGA GAURI SANKARA NATIKA (first edition). . Introduction by Prof G.V. Subrahmanyam hailed Dasu Sreeramulu as "Abhinava Bhasudu"

1984:

CHAKKATLA DANDA (second edition) brought out with introduction by Dr. Chilukuri Subrahmanya Sastry of Andhra University.

1986

Dr Velagapudi Vaidehi , daughter of Dasu Padmanabha Rao and great grand-daughter, earned a doctorate (Ph.D) for her outstanding thesis on the life and works of Dasu Sreeramulu under the guidance of Dr.Chilukuri Subrahmanya Sastry. It was brought out in a book form titled 'DASU SREERAMULU GARI KRUTHULU- OKA SAMEEKSHA' in 1986.

At a meeting presided over by poet Dasaradhi at the City Central Library, Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad on August 17, 1986, Dr Vaidehi was honored. Her thesis book and 'CHAKKATLA DANDA' were released. Dr Subrahmanya Sastry and Dr P.S.R.Appa Rao appreciated her efforts and also the book Chakkatla Danda of the Mahakavi.



P.S.R. Appa Rao, Dasaradhi & Subrahmanya Sastry



Dr.Dasaradhi releasing the' Mahakavi Dasu Dr. Chilukuri Sreeramulu gari kruthulu oka sameeksha'



Samiti honoring Dr. V.Vaidehi



1987:

The Samiti and the Dasu family suffered an irreparable loss in the demise of the beloved President and family member Dasu Padmanabha Rao on May 5, 1987.

1989

Two more books of Dasu Sreeramulu were published during the year.

1. **BRINGARAJA MAHIMAMU:** It is a translation of a Sanskrit article detailing the preparation of Ayurvedic drug from a plant known as GUNTAKALAGURA' in Telugu and BRINGARAJAM in Sanskrit.
2. **SRAADHA SAMASYA VICHAEDI:** (శ్రాద్ధ సంకయ విచ్ఛేది) An essay on the rules to be observed in the performance of obsequies in Vysya community.

DEMISE: Another loss was suffered by the Samiti and Dasu fraternity in **the demise of Dasu Sreeramulu (II), vice president, on December 7, 1989**

1991

Three more books of the Mahakavi were printed and published.

1. **DURACHAARA PISAACHA BHANJANI:** It is a treatise on the prevailing social evils and the need for reforms.
2. **AACHAARA NIRUKTHI:** It also deals with social evils and also of blind superstitious practices and the need to reform.
3. **VIGRAHAARAADHANA TARAVALI:** It is a book containing 27 poems explaining the spiritual meaning of Idol Worship, a response to the critics of idol worshipping.

All the three were published in a one-in-three format with a foreword by Dr. Vaidehi.

1991

Dasu Sreeramulu wrote 4 Swarajitulu, 26 Devatakrutulu, 23 Padamulu, 24 Jaavaleelu, 1 Thillana, and 2 Mangala Haratis. In 1987 Dasu Padmanabha Rao(I) got the notations for all the Javalis and Padamulu written by N. Ch. Krishnamacharyulu and Voleti Venkateswarlu, doyens of Carnatic music. At the 'Festival of Vaggeyakarakas' organised by the AP Department of Culture and South Zone at Tanjavur in October 1991, a booklet containing songs written by the Mahakavi was released by Dr. Pinakapani, another great musician.

1995

Yet another loss was suffered with **the demise of Dr. Velagapudi Vaidehi**, noted literary scholar and a beloved member of the family in 1995.

2007

KRUTHULU PADAMULU – JAVALEELU.

Samiti felt the need for publishing the compositions of Dasu Sreeramulu with notations for the benefit of singers. This was taken up in 2007. The Samiti retrieved 4 Swarajitis, 23. Padamulu, 26 Devata Krutis and two Mangala Haratis composed by Dasu Sreeramulu. The notations for these lyrics were written by Maha Mahopadhyaya Nookala Chinna Satyanarayana. The arduous work of proof correction, interacting with the expert Smt. Padma Ramalinga Sastry in the Music Dept of Telugu University, Hyderabad and Padmabhushan Smt. Swapna Sundari in New Delhi, was successfully handled by Dasu Atchuta Rao and the book was printed in 2007. This book received the blessings of Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba of Puttaparthi, first as a draft in August 2002 and again in September 2007 by accepting the first copy of the printed book.

2008

'KRUTULU-PADAMULU-JAVALILU' was released by Dr. Avula Manjulatha, vice chancellor of Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, Hyderabad at Tyagaraya Gana Sabha, Chikkadpally, Hyderabad on January 17, 2008. The programme featured dance numbers, based on his compositions, by Sanjay Joshi, Purva Dhanasree, Anupama Kylash and Yasoda Thakore, disciples of Swapnasundari.

The function was well- attended by many Dasu family members with pride and happiness as heirs to a great legacy. Nookala Chinna Satyanarayana lavished high praise on Dasu Sreeramulu and said he deserved to be on the same pedestal as the Great Trinity of Carnatic music

Photos of the programme



Avula Manjulata releasing 'Kruthulu-Padamulu Javalilu'. Swapnasundari & Nookala look on



Manjulata addressing the gathering



Swapna Sundari



Audience



Anupama Kylash



Sanjay Joshi



Purva Dhanasree



Yashoda Thakore

Damodara Rao(II) transliterated into English most of the Kritis, Javalis and padams and posted them in his website www.sangeetasudha.org for the benefit of dancers , musicians and music-lovers.

Commemoration of the Satha Vardhanthi (death Centenary year) of the Mahakavi by the Andhra Pradesh Cultural Council, Government of AP.

The Andhra Pradesh Cultural Council conducted a week long literary programme entitled 'Sahithee Saptaham' from July 2 to July 8 at Ravindra Bahrathi , dedicating the concluding session on July 8, 2008 to the memory of the Mahakavi by conducting a literary meeting titled "Dasu Sreerama Kavi Saahithi Vaibhavam". The session was presided by the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Cultural Council, Dharmavarapu Subrahmanyam . Potturi Venkateswara Rao, (eminent journalist) , Vakulabharanam Ramakrishna (eminent historian) , Bethavolu Rama Brahmam(Head, Telugu Dept, Hyderabad Central University) and Dr.Dasu Atchuta Rao spoke. 'Dwana' Sastry and S.Sarath Jyotsna Rani compeered the session The meeting was attended by a large literary audience and many Dasus.



Inauguration of the session of Sri Sreerama Mahakavi Sahitheer Vaibhavam' (L-R) Kesava Rao, Dwana Sastry, Prof.Rama Brahmam,Potturi, Atchuta rao, Dharmavarapu Subrahmanyam



(I-R) Kesava Rao,Dwana Sastry, Prof. Ramabrahmam Potturi Venkateswara rao, Dharmavarapu Subrahmanyam, Atchuta rao and Prof.Sarathjyotsna rani.



Dasu Atchuta Rao speaking



Prof Vakulabharanam speaking



Dasu Kesava Rao speaking



Section of the Audience

The samithi was responsible for the articles published highlighting the eminence of the Maha Kavi and the electronic media also contributed suitably as can be seen from the list given hereunder.

- ‘ Dasu Sreeramulu -Sampradayam, Adhunikathala Melukalayika’ – Prof.Vakulabharanam Ramakrishna. Vaartha, July 13,2008.
- ‘Mahakavi Dasu Sreeramulu’ -Chaganti Kapaleswara Rao, Andhra Bhoomi, July 24, ,2008
- ‘Enno Yogalu Pattina Rendo Sreenadhuddu’ - Dasu Atchuta Rao, Vaartha, 10th June,2007
- ‘Cinee Geethalaku Spoorthi Dasu’-- Dasu Atchuta Rao, Andhar Bhoomi, July 20, ,2007
- ‘Resurrecting a polymath’ – Dasu Kesava Rao—The Hindu, July 18 ,2008

- All India Radio Hyderabad, broadcast a musical programme of Kruthulu of Dasu Sreeramulu on May 14, 2008, with an analytical talk by Seshachary of the famous Hyderabad brothers.
- AIR also broadcast a talk by Akkiraju Ramapathi Rao in July 2008
- All India Radio Hyderabad, broadcast a musical programme of Kruthulu in July 2009, rendered by the famous Hyderabad brothers.
- The ETV2 channel telecast a 10 minute feature Dasu Sreeramulu in the ‘Telugu Velugu’ programme in July 2008.
- Dasu Govinda Rao(II) produced a one hour Audio CD, titled ‘ Dasu Sreerama Ganasudha’, with some of the compositions of Dasu Sreeramulu, rendered by Yerramilli Ramaprabha.
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2010

The following works of Mahakavi Dasu Sreeramulu were enlisted in the Digital Library of India

Title	(year of reprint)
Telugu Nadu (తెలుగు నాడు)	(1974)
Abhinava Gadya Prabhanadhamu (అభినవ గద్య ప్రబంధము)	(1974)
Mahakavi Dasu Sreeramulu- Jayanthi Samchika	(1975)
Sri Devi Bhagavatham (శ్రీ దేవీ భాగవతము)	(1978)
Surya Sathakamu (సూర్య శతకము)	(1979)
Kuranga Gauri Sankara Natika (కురంగ గౌరీ నాటిక)	(1981)
Chakkatla Danda (చక్కట్ల దండ)	(1984)
Bringaraaja Mahima , Sraaddha Samsaya Vichchaedi	(1989)
Duraachara Pisacha Bhanjani, Achara Nirukti, Vighrahaaraadhana Taravali	(1991)
Kruthulu-Padmulu- Javalilu (కృతులు,పదములు, జావళీలు)	(2007)
Sangeetha Rasa Tarangini (1907) (సంగీత రస తరంగిణి) Co-authored by Dasu Narayana Rao	

The following are digitized from the Xerox copies of original books obtained from Gauthami Library, Rajamundry and

Pathitasamsargi Praayaschitha Vishayakopanyasamu	(1891)
Analpa Jalpithaa Kalpavallee Naamaka Patrika	(1880)

Dasu Vari Vamsa Charithra, Dasu Vari Vrukshamu and the DASU GENEALOGY

Dasu Vishnu Rao (I), fifth son of Dasu Sreeramulu , wrote an extensive and detailed history of the Dasu family tracing back to the year 1560 and up to the year 1939. This consisted of 700 pages of typed matter. Unfortunately much of this was lost due to ignorance of its historical value and only 60 pages could be salvaged. Vishnu Rao did a lot of research and much of his compilation is based on the information gathered from authentic public and private records and from what he had heard from the elders of those times, including his grand father, grand mother, father, mother and elderly relatives and other elders of Alluru Village. Written entirely in Telugu, it is an invaluable document relating to the genealogical history of the Dasu family members.

Since it was in Telugu and has data up to 11th generation and part of 12th generation, a need was felt to update it. The younger members of Dasu family as of now make the 15th generation. Efforts are under way to collect the data of the generations 12th onwards including the achievements of the 11th generation. The efforts, which began in 1990, and are (and will) continue to make the Genealogy data as complete as possible. For easy accessibility and understanding , all the data collected has been put on the internet web site dasufamily.com mainly through the patient and persistent efforts of Dasu Harinarayana rao and Dasu Santa,

Proposals for Future Programme of Mahakavi Dasu Sreeramiulu Smaraka Samithi

1. Institution for Endowment by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
It is proposed that If the Govt allocates and agrees to institute an endowment of sufficient funds for establishing a ‘Mahkavi Dasu Sreeramulu Sahithya Peetham’ for conducting Research and Annual/or Biennial meetings that Dasu family would be happy to contribute part of it as a token gesture (Udatha Bhakthi). At present we have no idea how much money would be involved for this or whether the Government would keep the word it has given in publicmeetings!. But the attempts by us will go on and with so many Dasu Diaspora in India and abroad we should raise the required amount and do something on in that direction.
2. Bring out the CDs of the musical compositions ”Kruthulu Padamulu Javalilu”.
3. Dasu Sreeramulu garu was among the first Vakils to file the very first Original Suits at the Sub-Court at Eluru when it was first established more than 150 years ago. This memory needs to be celebrated and perpetuated as the mahakavi had spent his active life in the field of literature and legal practice in Eluru.
3. Printing of ‘Abhijnaana Sakuntalamu – DTP work is over and Proofs were corrected by Dasu Atchuta Rao. The final version is being seen by two senior telugu scholars for any errors before giving it for final printing.

Reprinting of Dr. Vaidehi’s Thesis. The presently available copies ‘DASU SREERAMULU GARI KRUTHULU-OKA SAMEEKSHA’, Dr. Vaidehi’s Thesis, printed in 1986 was very badly printed and the 70 odd copies available are badly damaged as they were not stored properly at Bapatla after the demise of Dr, Vadehi. This book, in my opinion deserves to be reprinted on priority. This is an outstanding and detailed compilation of the life and all the works of the Mahakavi, including the source and references, which would very valuable for the future researchers. This is also part of the future programme of the Samiti and the samiti is confident of achieving and fulfilling this too.

(end)