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| Sri Sri (1910-1983) |
| Srirangam Srinivasa Rao |
| Srirangam Srinivasa Rao (1910-1983), popularly known as Sri Sri, was a widely acclaimed Telugu poet and public personality who championed the cause of oppressed people for more than five decades. Sri Sri is known as Mahakavi (great poet) in Telugu poetry. Born in Visakhapatanam, Sri Sri graduated in Zoology from Madras Christian College in 1931. He was the Editor of *Vishakha* weekly (1932) and news editor of Andhra *Prabha* daily (1939-42). He worked in All India Radio, New Delhi (1942), as a Laboratory Assistant in a military establishment in Lucknow (1943), as an employee in Nizam Nawab Reform Secretriate (1946) and as an employee in Anandha *Vani* (1946-49). He settled in Royapettah, Madras in 1947. |
| Srirangam Srinivasa Rao (1910-1983), popularly known as Sri Sri, was a widely acclaimed Telugu poet and public personality who championed the cause of oppressed people for more than five decades. Sri Sri is known as Mahakavi (great poet) in Telugu poetry. Born in Visakhapatanam, Sri Sri graduated in Zoology from Madras Christian College in 1931. He was the Editor of *Vishakha* weekly (1932) and news editor of Andhra *Prabha* daily (1939-42). He worked in All India Radio, New Delhi (1942), as a Laboratory Assistant in a military establishment in Lucknow (1943), as an employee in Nizam Nawab Reform Secretriate (1946) and as an employee in Anandha *Vani* (1946-49). He settled in Royapettah, Madras in 1947.  Sri Sri published *Prabava*,his first collection of poems, when he was eighteen. The ‘Hungry Thirties’ and the political turbulence of the times transformed him radically, and the poems he wrote in that decade, later published in the collection *Mahaaprastanam* (1950), gave a new direction to Telugu poetry and attracted criticism from conservative readers. The volume sounded a clarion call for revolt against all forms of socio-economic exploitation. The poems ‘Jayaberi’(1930) and ‘Mahaprasthanam’ (The Great Journey, 1934) reflect the poet’s optimism about a revolutionary future.  Sri Sri openly embraced political function literature and welcomed a wide spectrum of, at times contradictory, trends in poetry ranging from surrealism to Digambara, or naked poetry. While he had a deep engagement with Marxist literature, Sri Sri also introduced strands of literary modernism such as Dadaism, Surrealism, Expressionism and Existentialism to the world of Telugu literature. His work drew inspiration from several modern poetic traditions, and was marked by influence of poets such as Charles Baudelaire, Paul Verlaine, Paul Eluard, Louis Aragon, Mayakovsky, and Dylan Thomas.  Sri Sri’s work had a major impact on the conception of poetry and poets among Telugu readers and critics. Apart from *Mahaprasthanam*, his major works include *Maroprasthanam*, *Siprali* and *Khadga Srushti*. *Maroprasthanam* marked a new turn in Sri Sri’s poetry towards the common man’s language, with the poems acquiring greater lucidity and a tone of prophesy. Sri Sri tried his hand at a wide range of forms of literature like lyric, sketch, play-let and fiction, thus contributing to the consolidation of these forms in modern Telugu literature. He was also a screenwriter for several [Telugu films](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telugu_film), and penned more than a thousand lyrics for movies.  Sri Sri was on the forefront of the two important literary movements—progressive and revolutionary—in Telugu. He played a major role in the formation of the Revolutionary Writers Association, which proclaimed Marxism, Leninism and Mao Tse-Tung Thought as its worldview. He was the President of the Association in 1971.  Sri Sri did not confine his activities to the world of literature; he also actively engaged in politics. He participated in the Communist Party's election campaigns and was elected to the legislative assembly. He was active in the world peace movement and visited Helsinki, Paris and Moscow. He received the Sahitya Akademi award and the Soviet Land Nehru award in 1972. Timeline 1916 First publication  1928 Publication of *Prabava*  1933 *Jayaberi*  1934 *Maroprapancham*  1938 Works at Andhra Prabha Daily  1942 Works at All India Radio  1950 Publication of *Mahaprasthanam*  1966 Publication of *Khadgasristi*  1971 President of Revolutionary Writers Association  1972 Sahitya Akademi award; Soviet Land Nehru award |
| Further reading:  (Kallury)  (Radhakrishna) |