

It is culturally imperative that textbooks and research works of the future must be written on the basis of the articles being presented in this critical Conference - Seminar. Here lies the seminal importance of this Eleventh World Tamil Conference Seminar.

“The New Historicist study to rewrite the history of the Tamils, Tamil language, literative culture and civilization based on Tamil classics and revaluation of early and recent excavation and other scientific evidences”.

Specific topics that cover the conference theme with guidelines for abstracts and research papers are given in the IATR website at [www.iatrofficial.org](http://www.iatrofficial.org) or [www.icsts11.org](http://www.icsts11.org).

#### Research Topics

- Tamil Classical Literature
- Ancient Tamil Civilization
- Tolkappiyam
- Thirukkural
- Contributions of Tamil during the middle ages to world civilization (5th to 10th Century)
- Contributions of very distinguished individual scholars
- Tamil Movie and performing Arts
- Madras Tamil Literature
- Tamil language, Linguistics, Manuscriptology and Early Printing History
- The flourishing of music, dance, painting sculpture, folklore and a literature in ancient Tamilnadu

#### Rich Harvest

We are happy that we have received more than 350 full research papers from scholars of Tamilology all over the world. Among them our academic team has selected 200 papers for presentation. All the 200 papers will be presented in six different venues of the campus of the Institute of Asian Studies.

#### Other Programmes

In addition to these presentations there will be three plenary sessions and outstanding scholars will speak about various aspects of Tamilology

focusing the main theme of the conference. There will be two major cultural programmes, one depicting the spread of Tamil language and culture all over the world and another pertaining to the classical Tamil heritage.

A grand inauguration is planned with the performance of a variety of attractive folk and classical dances and music items. Book exhibition, Book releasing and post conference tour form a significant component of the conference.

By publishing the proceedings of the eleventh International Tamil Conference – Seminar the organisers would aim at bringing out the definitive history of the Tamils, Tamil language, Literature, Culture and Civilization.

#### The Elected Body of the IATR

The legally elected Members of the IATR in the 10th World Tamil Conference held at Chicago in 2019 are the legitimate office bearers of the IATR according to its constitution and they are organizing this unique conference in collaboration with the institute of Asian Studies, Chennai.

We cordially invite you to join in the prestigious 11th World Tamil Conference. If IATR has to grow globally and actively it should realize the dreams of Rev. Thani Nayagam Adikalar. Many individual members and institutions members of the world should be encouraged to join the Association in addition to holding conferences. The current team of IATR officials elected in the General Body Meeting during the 10th World conference in Chicago set out to meet that objective by organizing the next, the eleventh International Conference – seminar on Tamil studies in Chennai in July 7, 8 and 9 of 2023.

#### Institute of Asian Studies

This Conference- Seminar is jointly organized by the Institute of Asian Studies, an academic centre with global reputation, a collaborative venture of scholars from Japan and other countries and an organization working with reputed centres like the UNESCO and others with many hundred of publications on Tamil studies.

For Registration : <https://registration.icsts11.org>

Apart from the leaders representing various countries in our Team of International Advisors the following groups form the main Team of the Conference.

#### Conference Leadership Team

Dr. M. Ponnaivaikko,  
Dr. G. John Samuel,  
Dr. E. Sundara Moorthy,

President, IATR  
Chair, Organising Committee  
Vice – President, IATR, Co-Chair,  
Organising Committee  
Chair, Academic Committee  
Conference Coordinator  
Co-Chair Academic Committee  
General Secretary IATR

Prof. P. Marudanayagam,  
Mr. Arasar Arullalar,  
Pulavar Dr. Francis S. Muthu,  
Dr. Ulaganayagi Palani,

#### Conference Organising Committee

1. Dr. G. John Samuel,  
Chair, Organising Committee
2. Dr. Jayaprakash Narayanan
3. Dr. Y. Dennyson
4. Dr. V. Murugan
5. Mr. S. Maniam
6. Dr. Sri Lakshmi
7. Dr. Arathanareeswaraan
8. Dr. Ramagurunathan
9. Dr. Ulaganayagi Palani
10. Dr. Gnanachandra Johnson
11. Sr. Nadaraja Pillai
12. Dr. Padmini
13. Ms. Indra Samuel
14. Mr. Ilakkuvanar Thiruvalluvan
15. Dr. Seyon
16. Dr. R. Ramasamy
17. Dr. Muthuvel
18. Dr. Muhilai Rajapandian
19. Dr. Sethu Kumanan
20. Dr. Velmurugan
21. Dr. Kadriavel Sornum
22. Dr. Thamaraiannan
23. Dr. B. Damodharan
24. Dr. Mahalingam
25. Mr. Vijay Krishnan
26. Mr. Ravi Bala
27. Mr. Saravanakumar
28. Ms. Kaninagai



#### Conference Secretariat

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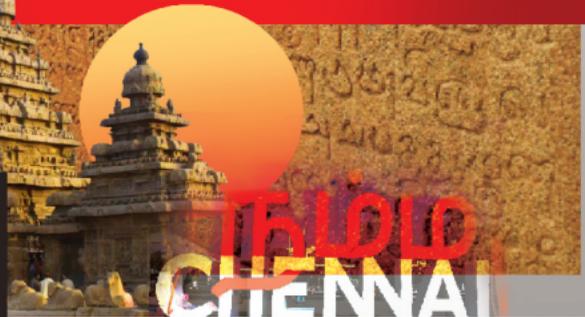
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பதினொன்றாம் உலகத் தமிழ் ஆராய்ச்சி மாநாடு

## 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference - Seminar on Tamil Studies

செவ்வகை சூலை 7,8,9, 2023  
Chennai – July, 7,8,9, 2023



## Dear Friends

We are very happy to inform you that the 11th World Tamil Conference-Seminar sponsored by the International Association of Tamil Research (IATR) will be held in Chennai from 7 to 9 July at the premises of the Institute of Asian Studies, Chennai - 600 119. It is a great privilege for us to welcome you to participate in this great event.

## Global Tamil

For the past three hundred years, Tamil Studies have underwent drastic changes not only in Tamilnadu but also in more than 60 countries where migrant Tamils live a dynamic and vibrant life. It is also flourishing in all the leading countries of the world where many members of the community of the great Tamilologists who are not Tamils by birth have rendered yeoman services for promoting Tamil Studies.

Due to these untiring efforts, Tamil has become a global language spread all over the world, it has been a focal point for advanced research not only in Asian but also all over Europe, the Scandinavian countries, the Americas, and African countries.

## Classical Tamil

The declaration of Tamil as a classical Indian language by the Union Govt. of India along with Sanskrit made every Tamilian feel proud about the new status given to his mother tongue which was once considered to be a derivative language of the so-called Devabasha (divine language), Sanskrit. Truly, Tamil became the official language in three countries namely India, Singapore and Srilanka. Among the hundreds of Indian languages, Tamil alone enjoys the status of official language in two countries outside India.

## The IATR

In this context, the International Association of Tamil Research (IATR) founded by Fr. Xavier Thani Nayagam, in 1964 has become the authentic voice of the global Tamils. Rev. Thaninayagam Adikalar started the International Association of Tamil Research to achieve the following objectives:

To carryout Tamil Research all over the World, to encourage activities among the scattered Tamil organisations, to exchange common ideas related to Tamilnadu and Tamil language, to teach Tamil in Universities of other countries, to engage Professors from these universities in Tamil research and to connect the universities, to share between them about Tamil language, Tamil art, Tamil literature and Tamil Society.

In order to bring together Tamil scholars from all over the world, and to help them to exchange the results of their research, IATR decided to hold international Conference - Seminar on Tamil studies once in two years. The First conference was held in Kulalumpur in 1966 and the subsequent nine conferences - were held in Chennai, Paris, Jaffna, Madurai, Mauritius, Kulalumpur and Chicago.

## Theme of the Conference

As Xavier S. Thaninayagam established the International Association of Tamil Research (IATR) six decades ago, the defining objective was to see the word of Tamil heard in every nook and cranny of the world. With this poetic voice as our byword, the theme of the present Eleventh International Conference - Seminar on Tamil Studies is

Reconstructing the history of the Tamil race, Tamil language, Tamil literature, Tamil culture and Tamil civilization drawing on the evolving archaeological findings, genetic studies, linguistic revelations, literary and cultural history and the history of world civilizations. These data, be it said, have indisputably established that the prevailing history of Tamil and Tamil culture is neither complete nor truthful.

The race that is oblivious of its past has no future to embrace, asserts Santayana. Swami Vivekananda urges a race to seek out and find its future with the same anxiety and impatience as is seen in a mother who searches for her child lost in a festival crowd. This great saint of a man has also shown the path of quest for the researchers of Tamil antiquity:

The Madras Presidency is the habitat of the Tamil race, whose civilization was the most ancient, and a branch of whom called the Sumerians spread a vast civilization on the banks of the Euphrates in very ancient times. Another branch of these Tamilians spread from the Malabar

Coast and gave rise to the wonderful Egyptian civilization, and the Aryans also are indebted to this race in many respects.

Robert Caldwell, a ground breaking researcher, finds the Dravidian coming nearest to the putative mother tongue of man, and Francois Gros traces the Dravidian influence to the early strata of the Sanskrit Veda.

These apart, we have right on hand live findings from archaeology, literature and linguistics that tend to push the antiquity of Tamil several thousand years further into the prehistoric past. Now we stand on a rock like reality that the Tamil race has made exceptional contributions to the evolution of world civilization, so exceptional that the Tamil soil must be seen as the cradle of human civilization.

The conclusions strenuously arrived at by researchers on the 5000 - year old Indus Valley like Fr. Henry Heras and Asko Parpola unambiguously demonstrate that Indus Civilization is indeed Tamil civilization, the language of this civilization is Tamil language and the Indus script is Tamil script. The researchers on the world's first language, viz. McAlpin, Southworth and Levitt have shown with incontrovertible evidences that the proto world language contains more than a 100 lexical roots along with aspects of Tamil - specific structural and phonological features. The numeral denoting 'one' and several lexical forms basic to diverse fields of epistemology have travelled to different language families of the world from proto Tamil.

Extensive work by Western linguists makes it imperative that Tamil literary history warrants a reassessment. The Jewish scholar chaim Rabin's lengthy study titled "Solomon's Song and Tamil Poetry" makes it compulsive to accept the veracity of the accounts contained in the commentary on Iraiyanar Kalaviyal relating to the existence of the three Tamil Academies of the old. George L. Hart observes a deep-seated influence of classical Tamil poems on the plays and epics of Kalidasa. It is clear as daylight that the pan Indian bhakti movement originated in the deep Tamil south. The prides of this movement Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai have journeyed to Southasian countries. The Malay

Tamil savant Singaravelu Sachindanandan shows the influence of our incomparable Kampan on the different Ramayana versions across the world. Tirukkural is universally read today through translations and its imprints are visible in the essays of the ancient Roman philosopher Seneca and in the stories and essays of Leo Tolstoy the Great Russian writer as well as in the love poems of the 19th century French writers.

The archaeological data that Prof. Rajan has unearthed through Porunthal excavations and Odhisa's Balu's revelations on the voyages of the Tamils of the old are no less potential sources for the reconstruction of Tamil history.

The flaws and follies running aplenty in the existing literary history of the Tamils are crying for correction. Blatant, studied interpolations have tragically pushed the dates of several compositions to much later dates. Some of the original compositions in Tamil are shown as translations. Distortions of historical truths are no rare phenomena either. A.S. Gnanasampandan has demonstrated the falsity of the claim that Nampiyandar Nampi found out the manuscripts of Tevaram and that they were recited in temples during Rajaraja Colan's reign, and shows that they were recited some centuries earlier than the Cola monarch.

The precise theme of the Eleventh World Tamil Conference - Seminar is to take into account all these conclusions drawn through objective research by scholars of diverse disciplines and diverse countries, and accordingly reconstruct the linguistic, literary and cultural histories of the Tamils.

