

## THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF ISDL

The well-known sociolinguist **Prof. K. Karunakaran**, the Founder-Professor of the Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore and the former Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil University, Thanjavur is nominated as the Chairman of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram. He has assumed Office from First July 2021.



### D.L.A. AND PROF. MAHESHWARIAH: A MIRACULOUS RELATIONSHIP

Life is filled with strange yet astonishing events. D.L.A. (Dravidian Linguistic Association of India) happens to be the first academic body to which Professor Maheshwaraiah, the current Chairman (Chairman, International School of Dravidian Linguistics – the academic institution of D.L.A.) got associated. Whenever we think about this coincidence of life, it astonishes us.

It was in the summer of 1973 when Professor Maheshwaraiah was an M.A. student with his specialization as Linguistics, D.L.A. had organized its Annual National conference in the Karnatak University, Dharwad. Maheshwaraiah who was an enterprising student took part as a volunteer in this event. The vision of him excitingly partaking in all the activities of the conference is fresh in our memory even today.

Over the decades, Professor Maheshwaraiah, along with the DLA, grew in the field of Linguistics. As destiny would have it, when he became the Vice-Chancellor of the C.U.K. (Central University of Karnataka), he also became the Chairman of the D.L.A. (Chairman, I.S.D.L.). Losing him when he was the Chairman of the D.L.A. is tragic.

His academic journey, which started as a volunteer of D.L.A., ended with him being the Chairman of it. Though his death seems untimely and grief-stricken, the growth he had as an academician along with the D.L.A. is a wonderful story. Our deepest condolences and respects to his departed soul.

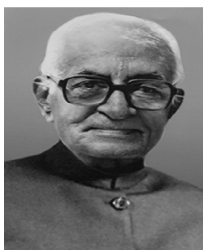
*South Indian Linguistics Group*

#### CONTENTS

The New Chairman of ISDL	1
DLA and Prof. Maheshwaraiah: A Miraculous Relationship	1
Prof. V.I. Subramoniam remembered	2
Tribute to Professor V.I. Subramoniam	2
Office-Bearers & Governing Council Members 2021-2022 (ISDL)	2
Glimpses on DLA	3
Governing Council Meeting	5
Mehrgarh: Introduction to 9000 Years-Old Dravidian Settlement in South Asia	5
New ISDL Publication	6

**PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM REMEMBERED**

Floral tributes were offered at the *smritimandapam* and nostalgic remembrances shared on the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam in an atmosphere of peace and serenity at the ISDL Complex, Menamkulam on 29<sup>th</sup>



June 2021. Dr. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Director, ISDL, Dr. G.K. Panikkar, former Director, Dr. M. Rama, former Director, Prof. P. Visalakshy, Prof. V. Syamala, C.D. member, Mr. P.R. Unnikrishnan, C.D. member and the researchers and staff of DLA and ISDL offered flowers at the *smritimandapam* of Prof. V.I.S. In the function conducted online and offline at the seminar hall to commemorate Professor Subramoniam, Dr. A. Govindankutty Menon who took his M.A. and Ph.D. under Prof. V.I.S., T. Madhava Menon I.A.S., Dr. G. Balasubramanian, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur, Mr. C.S. Hariharan, son-in-law of Prof. V.I.S. and Prof. Desamangalam Ramakrishnan, renowned Malayalam poet, joined online and paid their tributes. The meeting was formally inaugurated by Dr. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan who highlighted the role of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam in founding and building up DLA, IJDL and ISDL and starting the publication of DLA News. Professor's contributions in building up similar institutions like the Tamil University, Dravidian University, Kuppam etc., also were remembered. Dr. G.K. Panikkar shared his experiences with Prof. V.I.S. and Dr. M. Rama was overwhelmed with his respect and reverence to him. Prof. Visalakshy and Prof. Syamala explained how Prof. V.I.S. has sharpened the researchers in them like a dutiful father. Mr. Unnikrishnan remembered his experiences with Professor. Dr. Muraleedharan Nair remembered his days as a student and researcher under Prof. Subramoniam with deep respect. Dr. Abdul Samed, Treasurer, DLA & ISDL extended vote of thanks. Prof. Jamal Mohammed, former Senior Fellow, Mr. Mano, Research Fellow, Dr. K. Krishnakumar, Research Fellow, Mr. Renjith Sekhar, Research Fellow, Ms. Aiswariya, Junior Research Fellow, Mrs. Soumya, Junior Research Fellow and the staff of DLA and ISDL

paid their tributes to Prof. V.I. Subramoniam, the leading light of the institution.

*Dr. Muraleedharan Nair*

**TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR V.I. SUBRAMONIAM**

Offering these flowers  
Remembering his lingual fragrance  
I pray Let him be our Icon  
Who offered his life for the grammar of life  
And not for pedantic glamour  
In this land... who made a Home for us  
And here He rests  
Peeping into our hearts...

*Prof. Desamangalam Ramakrishnan*

**OFFICE BEARERS &  
GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS  
FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022  
(International School of Dravidian Linguistics)**

1. Chairman **Prof. K. Karunakaran**
2. Director **Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan**
  - President (DLA) **Prof. R.C. Sharma**
  - Vice-President-Correspondent **Shri. K. Ravindran**
  - Secretary **Dr. S. Kunjamma**
  - Treasurer **Dr. S. Abdul Samed**
3. Nominated Members
  - A. **Vice-Chancellors**
    - a. Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
    - b. Vice Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
    - c. Vice Chancellor, Dravidian University, Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh
    - d. Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad
    - e. Vice Chancellor, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, Karnataka

**Latest Publications:** *INDIAN STYLISTICS*, Desamangalam Ramakrishnan, 2020, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 8 + 73, Rs. 170/- (US\$ 17/-). *MALAYALAM AS A CLASSICAL LANGUAGE*, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2020, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. xx+616, Rs. 1250/- (US\$ 125/-). *COLLECTED PAPERS OF V.I. SUBRAMONIAM*, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2020, HB, Crown 1/4, pp. 6+187, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-). *EVOLUTION OF MALAYALAM*, Anantaramayyar Chandrasekhar, 2020, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 8+216, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-). *THE DRAVIDIAN CULTURE AND ITS DIFFUSION*, T.K. Krishna Menon, 2020, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 58, Rs. 75/- (US\$ 7.50/-). *THE MOTHER GODDESS IN BENGAL AND IN KERALA*, T. Madhava Menon, 2020, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. vi + 463, Rs. 600/- (US\$ 60/-).

**B. Experts**

- a. **Prof. B. Ramakrishna Reddy**  
Ex Chairman, ISDL
- b. **Prof. V. Karthikeyan Nair**  
Director, State Institute of Languages,  
Thiruvananthapuram

**C. Heads of Departments / Research Institutions**

- a. Head, Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- b. Head, Department of Linguistics, Dravidian University, Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh
- c. Head, Department of English, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, Karnataka
- d. Dean, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Kannur University

**4. Government Secretaries / Nominees of five States**

- a. Secretary for Higher Education, Government of Kerala
- b. Secretary for Tamil Culture, Government of Tamil Nadu
- c. Secretary for Higher Education, Government of Karnataka
- d. Secretary for Higher Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh
- e. Secretary for Higher Education, Government of West Bengal

**5. ISDL Faculty Members**

- a. **Prof. G.K. Panikkar**
- b. **Prof. M. Rama**

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**GLIMPSES ON DLA**

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**Introduction**

Dravidian Linguistic Association of India, a dream blossomed in the mind of Late Prof. V.I. Subramoniam, has completed 50 golden years of academic existence. For the growth of any discipline, it is highly essential that there should be ample dedicated scholars working in the field have to meet and exchange thoughts and have to work unitedly. It is applicable in the study and research of the Dravidian family of languages also. The existence of a group of languages in the south

and south-east India not similar to the Sanskrit group was first noticed by the reputed founder of comparative philology Rasmus Rask in the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century during his travel in India. Ellis in the year 1816 pointed out the close relationship of all the south Indian languages apart from the Sanskrit group. Caldwell's comparative grammar in the year 1856 not only established the membership of the Dravidian family, but also pointed out its characteristics. He also related the Dravidian family with the so-called Scythian group, the languages of which are spoken in and around the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe. The remnants of the Brahui speakers found in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and in the southern border of the former USSR confirm that the Dravidian family is not an isolated one spoken mainly in the southern part of India, but is a continuum beginning from the Mediterranean areas extending up to the southern part of India. It spread through migration to the Far East, to Africa and to the Pacific Islands. Today though the Dravidian family of languages is found spoken in different parts of India and abroad, its major areas are in the five southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and in the two Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry. They are also found in many states in northern India like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar etc., where a good number of tribal groups speak any one of the Dravidian languages. Dravidian-speaking migrants can also be seen in Myanmar, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, United Kingdom, U.S.A., Italy, the territories of the former USSR, Canada, the Gulf countries and the Middle-Eastern countries and in some Far-Eastern countries in the African continent. But, even the cultivated and advanced Dravidian languages like Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam did not obtain proper attention from the rulers before and even after the independence of India. Generally speaking, the attitude of the authorities, everywhere in the world, is not in favour of the development of languages which are not declared as official languages. They give importance to the official languages neglecting the regional languages and impose the language of the ruling class as a means of popularizing the official language. A language can develop only if the people accept it by their true will and choice without compulsion. A scientific approach to the study of language is essential for this. Hindi and English

**INDEX OF KAṆṢĀŚĀ RĀMĀYAṆAM**, Puthuserry Ramachandran, 2020, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1122, Rs. 1930/- (US\$ 193/-).  
**COLLECTED PAPERS ON TAMIL**, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. x + 374. Rs. 400/- (US\$ 40/-).  
**TRIBUTES OF LOVE AND AFFECTION: REMINISCENCES OF PROF. V.I. SUBRAMONIAM**, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, T.P. Sankarankutty Nair & C.S. Hariharan (Eds.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. vi + 212, Rs. 300/- (US\$ 30/-).

were accepted as the official language for the Independent India. Hence, it is quite natural that they will get proper attention and priority but, at the same time, the general concern of the non-Hindi speakers was that their languages should in no way be neglected. Having this objective in mind, the Government of India accepted the three-language formula which of course could not achieve the desired result.

There was a general feeling that the state languages of India did not get sufficient attention from the Government of India and the budgetary provision for their development happened to be very meagre. People all over India felt the need for changing this attitude and to convince the authorities to give due attention to all the state languages of India. In this context, the problems faced by the speakers of non-Aryan languages are much more than those who speak any one of the Indo-Aryan languages closely related to Hindi, the official language of the country. There was no common forum existing to discuss the hardships of the speakers of the regional languages in India. Prof. V.I. Subramoniam, Head, Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala mooted the idea of having a conference of the Dravidian linguists so as to enable them to discuss the problems related to the study and development of the Dravidian languages. This resulted in convening the first All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists at Thiruvananthapuram during 3-4 June 1971.

### **Need for an Association**

In order to study more about the Dravidian family of languages and its extensive distribution and to promote scientific research among languages and to get proper attention from the authorities, it is felt that an association is essential. It is also felt that all the languages of India, irrespective of the families to which they belong, have to be properly studied from a broader perspective pointing out not only their differences but also their common characteristics. Prof. V.I. Subramoniam (Kerala University), Prof. R.C. Hiremath (Karnatak University) and Prof. Mahadeva Sastri (S.V. University) held a meeting on 13/15 March 1971 to discuss the problems met with by Dravidian languages. They have decided to convene an All India Conference to give awareness to the problems and to ensure exchange of

ideas among the different scholars. For achieving this goal, it is decided to organize a two-day conference named the First All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists to be held at Thiruvananthapuram on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1971 and for that an Advisory Committee was also constituted for the same.

## **FIRST ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS**

The following committees were constituted for the successful conduct of the First All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists.

### **Advisory Committee for the First all India Conference of Dravidian Linguists**

#### **CHIEF PATRON**

**Sri C. Achutha Menon, Chief Minister, Kerala**

#### **PATRONS**

Sri. C.H. Mohammed Koya – Minister for Education, Government of Kerala

Sri. T.K. Divakaran – Minister for Tourism and Information, Government of Kerala

Sri. N.E. Balaram – Minister for Industries, Government of Kerala

Sri. A. Kunjuraman – Mayor, Trivandrum

#### **CHAIRMAN**

Dr. George Jacob – Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Sri. K.P. Kesava Menon, Prof. Joseph Mundasseri, Prof. M.M. Ghani, Sri. K.M. Cheriyan, Sri. K. Sukumaran, Sri. V. Gangadharan, Sri. Kampisseri Karunakaran, Sri. P. Govinda Pillai, Mrs. Padma Ramachandran

#### **CONVENERS**

Dr. K. Mahadeva Sastri, Dr. V.I. Subramoniam, Dr. R.C. Hiremath

#### **ORGANIZING SECRETARIES**

Dr. Puthusseri Ramachandran, Dr. G.K. Panikkar

[To be continued]

*Dr. Abdul Samed*

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**THE RIDDLE THAT IS TAMIL**, R. Kothandaraman (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. iiv + 480, Rs. 750/- (US\$ 75/-). **STUDIES ON BANGLA LINGUISTICS**, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. viii + 385, Rs. 450/- (US\$ 45/-). **EVOLUTION OF A COMPOSITE CULTURE IN KERALA**, B. Padmakumari Amma, 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xiv + 341, Rs. 350/- (US\$ 35/-). **EFFECTIVITY AND CAUSATIVITY IN TAMIL**, K. Paramasivam, 2019 Reprint, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 6 + 83, Rs. 150/- (US\$ 15/-).

## GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

The Governing Council of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics met on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at the ISDL campus at Menamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram. Professors Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, G.K. Panikkar, M. Rama, V. Syamala and S. Kunjamma participated in the meeting in person and Prof. G. Balasubramanian, Prof. R.C. Sharma and Shri. K. Ravindran attended the meeting through online.

The Governing Council observed two minutes' silent prayer as homage to Late Prof. H.M. Maheswaraiah, the Chairman of ISDL.

The Governing Council accepted the Income/Expenditure Statement of the ISDL for the year 2020-2021 and the Academic/Administrative Report for the same year. The Council nominated Prof. K. Karunakaran, former Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil University, Thanjavur as the new Chairman of the ISDL.

The Governing Council also entrusted the Director, ISDL to decide the dates for the 48<sup>th</sup> AICDL in an appropriate time, preferably in the first week of August 2021. Due to COVID situation, the Director is authorized to fix the time and place of the 48<sup>th</sup> AICDL as per the situation demands.

## MEHRGARH : INTRODUCTION TO 9000 YEARS-OLD DRAVIDIAN SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA

Mehrgarh is a Neolithic site (dated c. 7000 BCE to c. 2500/2000 BCE) located near the Bolan Pass, to the west of the Indus River valley and between the present-day Pakistani cities of Quetta, Kalat and Sibi. The site was discovered in 1974 by an archaeological team directed by French archaeologists Jean-François Jarrige and Catherine Jarrige. The site was excavated continuously between 1974 and 1986, and again from 1997 to 2000. Archaeological material has been found in six mounds, and about 32,000 artifacts have been collected. The settlement was established with unbaked mud-brick buildings.



Early Mehrgarh residents lived in mud-brick houses, stored their grain in granaries, fashioned tools with local copper ore and lined their large basket containers with bitumen. Mehrgarh is probably the earliest known centre of agriculture in South Asia [Ref.: Meadow, Richard H. (1996), David R. Harris (Eds.), *The origins and spread of agriculture and pastoralism in Eurasia*. Psychology Press. Pp. 393. ISBN 978-1-85728-538-3. Retrieved 10 September 2011]. They cultivated six-row barley, einkorn and emmer wheat, jujubes and dates. They also herded sheep, goats and cattle. In 2001, archaeologists studying the remains of nine men from Mehrgarh discovered that the people of this civilization knew proto-dentistry. Here we describe eleven drilled molar crowns from nine adults discovered in a Neolithic graveyard in Pakistan that dates from 7,500 to 9,000 years ago. These findings provide evidence for a long tradition of a type of proto-dentistry in early farming culture [Ref.: Coppa, A. et al. 2006. "Early Neolithic tradition of dentistry: Flint tips were surprisingly effective for drilling tooth enamel in a prehistoric population". *Nature* Volume 440. 6 April 2006]. One ground stone axe was discovered in a burial and several more were obtained from the surface. These ground stone axes are the earliest to come from a stratified context in South Asia. Much evidence of manufacturing activity has been found and more advanced techniques were used. Glazed faience beads were produced and terracotta figurines became more detailed. Figurines of females were decorated with paint and had diverse hairstyles and ornaments. The first button seals were produced from terracotta and bone and had geometric designs. Technologies included stone and copper drills, updraft kilns, large pit kilns and copper melting crucibles. Residents of the later period (5500 BCE to



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2600 BCE) put much effort into crafts, including flint knapping, tanning, bead production and metal working. The oldest known example of the lost-wax technique comes from a 6,000-year-old wheel-shaped copper amulet found at Mehrgarh. The amulet was made from unalloyed copper, an unusual innovation that was later abandoned [Ref.: Thoury, M. et al. 2016. "High spatial dynamics – photoluminescence imaging reveals the metallurgy of the earliest lost-wax cast object". *Nature Communications* 7: 13356. Bibcode:2016NatCo...713356T.doi:10.1038/ncomms13356. PMC 5116070. PMID 27843139]. Numerous burials have been found, many with elaborate goods such as baskets, stone and bone tools, beads, bangles, pendants and occasionally animal sacrifices, with more goods left with burials of males. Ornaments of seashell, limestone, turquoise, lapis lazuli and sandstone have been found, along with simple figurines of women and animals. Seashells from far seashores, and lapis lazuli from as far away as present-day Badakshan (one of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan) show good contact with those areas. Between 2600 BC and 2000 BC, the city seems to have been largely abandoned in favour of the larger and fortified town Nausharo five miles away when the Indus Valley Civilization was in its middle stages of development. Asko Parpola (Finnish Indologist, specialist in Indus Script and Sindhologist, current Professor Emeritus of Indology and South Asian Studies at the University of Helsinki), who regards the Harappans as Dravidians, notes that Mehrgarh is a precursor of the Indus Valley Civilization, whose inhabitants migrated into the Indus Valley and became the Indus Valley Civilization.

*Dr. J. Ravikumar Stephen G.*

## LIST OF DLA LIFE-MEMBERS

(In the Chronological Order; Continued)

<b>180. Dr. R.R. Thampuran</b> Padmavilas Palace, Kilimanoor P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 601, Kerala	₹ 300	26-9-1977
<b>181. Dr. M.S. Thirumalai</b> Deputy Director, CIIL, Mysore, Karnataka	₹ 300	8-10-1977
<b>182. Mr. K. Maheswaran Nair</b> Kailasam, Mangalam Lane, Sasthamangalam P.O., Trivandrum, Kerala	₹ 300	8-10-1977
<b>183. Dr. A. Thasarathan</b> International Institute of Tamil Studies Taramani, Chennai - 600 113, Tamil Nadu	₹ 320	21-10-1977
<b>184. Dr. G.K. Pai</b> 7/13, 'Keshavendra' Bhuvanendra CHS Sudhindra Nagar, Dahisar East Mumbai - 400 068, Maharashtra	₹ 300	1-10-1977
<b>185. Dr. R.M. Sundaram</b> 1, Suigaratope South Lane, Madurai - 625 001, Tamil Nadu	₹ 300	4-10-1977
<b>186. Mr. Naranachiappan</b> 153, Kandasami Nagar, Palavaikkom Chennai - 41, Tamil Nadu	₹ 300	17-10-1977

[To be continued]

## NEW PUBLICATION OF ISDL

### Index of Rāmakathappāṭṭu

G. Sulekha, 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1742, Rs. 1960/-  
(US\$ 196/-).

### NEW LIFE-MEMBERS OF DLA (June 2021)

- Dr. Satya Prakash Nakka** (Membership No. 1436/2021)  
D.No. 6-1-12/14, Ramakrishna Nagar, Near Red Bridge, Amalapuram  
- 533 201, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh
- Dr. Ciby Kurian** (Membership No. 1437/2021)  
Vayalikkunel House, Anthinad P.O., Pala, Kottayam - 686 651, Kerala

Printed and published by Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Dean, Dravidian Linguistic Association of India, Thiruvananthapuram. Edited by G.K. Panikkar on behalf of Dravidian Linguistic Association of India. Pageset by Harikumar Basi (ISDL). Printed at Time Offset Printers, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Published at V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, St. Xavier's College P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 586, Kerala, India.