



# DLA NEWS

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OCTOBER 2021

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

## 48<sup>th</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS

Since the COVID-19 situation in Kerala has not yet come down to a satisfactory level, both Prof. R.C. Sharma, the President of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India and Prof. K. Karunakaran, the Chairman of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics have pointed out that, based on the prevailing situation in Kerala, it is not safe to hold the AICDL at Thiruvananthapuram in the near future. Prof. Karunakaran has informed that he will enquire about the feasibility of holding the 48<sup>th</sup> AICDL at Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore, with the University authorities. If the response is positive, we hope that the 48<sup>th</sup> AICDL can be held at Coimbatore within a few months, most probably not later than the third week of February 2022.

DLA News Bureau

### GLIMPSES ON DLA

(Continued from the previous issue)

#### DLA Research Centre at S.V. University

Sree Venkateswara University had played a significant role in the development of the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India by allotting a spacious hall to the DLA at the S.V. University campus for pursuing the research work of the Senior and Junior Fellows of the DLA. It was due to the farsightedness of the Vice-Chancellor Dr. D. Jagannatha Reddy. The DLA offered fellowships to scholars and posted them to work there on subjects related to Dravidian Linguistics until the formation of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics at Menamkulam.

Thiruvananthapuram. Accordingly, well-known scholars like Prof. T.P. Meenakshisundaram and Prof. K.N. Ezhuthachan were appointed as senior fellows with two junior fellows Sri. G.V. Natarajan and N. Rajendran to assist them at the S.V. University campus of the DLA. The fellows produced valuable reports viz., *Foreign Models in Tamil Grammar* and the *History of Malayalam Grammar*.

#### Second All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists

The second All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists was held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June 1972 at Sree Venkateswara University, Tirupati, the abode of Lord Venkateswara. Dr. G.N. Reddy, Professor of Telugu had undertaken the responsibility of organizing the conference and Prof. K. Mahadeva Sastri looked after the arrangements.

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Please buy and recommend the publications of DLA and ISDL to others. DLA and ISDL publications are now available at special discount.

## Inaugural Function of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AICDL

The inaugural session of the conference began with a welcome speech by Dr. D. Jagannatha Reddy, the Vice-Chancellor of S.V. University. He elaborately discussed the language situation prevailed in India during that period. Followed by the welcome speech, Sri. K.K. Shah, the Hon. Governor of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the conference. He in his address remembered the contributions made by the great Tamil scholar Tolkaappiyanaar and his monumental work *Tolkaappiyam* and also the contributions of other grammarians such as Iraiyanar Pavananthi Munivar, Guna Sagarar, Amirta Sagarar, Budda Mittiram, Gunaveera Pandithar, Subramanya Veedigar, Vaidyanatha Navalara, Sivagnana Yogikal and commentators like Parimal Alagar and Senavaraiyar. He also mentioned about the *Vedas* and the co-existence of Dravidian and Sanskrit, Indian linguistics tradition, Indian Fine Arts etc. Prof. T.P. Meenakshisundaram in his presidential address fairly discussed the origin and development of the field of linguistics. The inaugural function came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr. G.N. Reddy.

## Academic Sessions

More than 170 delegates from all over India and abroad participated in the conference. The foreign delegates included Mrs. F. Sjoberg and Ian R. Smith of USA, Michael Garman of UK, Dr. Miss Brenda and E.F. Beck of Canada. Many of the Indian Universities and prestigious institutions like Sahitya Akademi, Telugu Academy and Central Institute of Indian Languages deputed delegates for the conference. It has created among scholars and researchers great interest and enthusiasm. About 100 papers covering various subjects such as loanwords, place name studies, phonology and

morphology of Dravidian languages, dialect study, linguistic interpretation of traditional grammars and texts, general linguistics, contrastive linguistics and applied linguistics were presented and discussed.

## Suggestions in the Conference

The conference adopted a blueprint for Dravidian linguistic studies for the consideration of the Planning Commission of India. It was drafted and submitted under the Chairmanship of Prof. T.P. Meenakshisundaram. A proposal to publish the ancient grammars and texts in the four major Dravidian languages with English summary was mooted by the former Maharaja of Travancore Sri. Balarama Varma. The conference souvenir consisting of valuable articles was also released.

## Financial Assistance

The University Grants Commission (UGC), Government of Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Sahitya Akademi and S.V. University provided financial assistance for the conference.

The general body of the DLA met on the second day of the conference and nominated the following scholars as its Office-Bearers for the year 1972-73.

President	G.J. Somayaji (Visakhapatnam)
Vice-Presidents	Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai (Thiruvananthapuram) M.M. Bhat (Bengaluru) S. Bhattacharya (Kolkata)
Secretaries	R.C. Hiremath (Dharwad) K. Mahadeva Sastri (Anantapur) V.I. Subramoniam (Thiruvananthapuram)

**Latest Publications:** INDEX OF RĀMAKATHAPPĀṬṬU, G. Sulekha, 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1742, Rs. 1960/- (US\$ 196/-). **BANGLA AND OTHER INDIAN LANGUAGES: LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS**, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan & Dhruvajyoti Das (Eds.), 2021, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. viii + 483, Rs. 600/- (US\$ 60/-). **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/-).

Treasurer	G.K. Panikkar (Thiruvananthapuram)
Committee for Tribal Languages	Francis Ekka Hans Stresser
Working Committee Members	Bh. Krishnamurti (Hyderabad) H.M. Nayak (Mysuru) Puthusseri Ramachandran (Thiruvananthapuram) C.R. Sankaran (Pune) M. Shanmugham Pillai (Madurai) G.N. Reddy (Tirupati) K.K. Raja (Chennai) President, Linguistic Society of India (Ex Officio)

[To be continued]  
Abdul Samed

## SALUTATION TO A GREAT SCHOLAR

Lakshminarayanapuram Viswanatha Aiyar Ramaswami Aiyar (25<sup>th</sup> October 1895 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 1948) (affectionately known as L.V.R.) was an Assistant Professor who taught English at the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam from 1922 to 1947. He was a polyglot and had a special interest in Dravidian languages. Apart from Malayalam and Tamil, Kodagu, Tulu, Kannada, Kui, Gondi, Brahui and Kurukh are the Dravidian languages on which L.V.R. published notes, reviews and queries. It was L.V.R. who paved the way for scientific studies on Malayalam by observing the methods of Linguistics. As a native speaker of Malayalam, he cleverly explained the phonological and morphological features especially through his books entitled *Evolution of Malayalam Morphology* (1936) and *A Primer of Malayalam Phonology* (1937). It is quite interesting to note that L.V.R. wrote almost all of his papers on the Dravidian family while he was in his thirties.



Sunitikumar Chatterji, the doyen of Indian Linguistics was the first person to identify the linguistic skills hidden in the personality of L.V. Ramaswami Aiyar which were evidenced through the notes appeared in the issues of *Education Reviews* published from Madras. Overwhelmed by the scientific insight of L.V.R. in the description of phonetics and phonology, S.K. Chatterji encouraged the young scholar to write and publish them in magazines and journals. With the initiatives of S.K. Chatterji, L.V.R. prepared *A Brief Account of Malayalam Phonetics* (1925) and S.K. Chatterji published it in the journal of the University of Calcutta. Ramaswami Aiyar was the first Malayalam linguist who understood the importance of spoken forms in the study of phonological and morphological features of a given language. His studies on the phonology of Malayalam revealed the exact phonetic values of certain phonemes.

L.V. Ramaswami Aiyar's contribution to Dravidian linguistics was purely a labour of love. He obtained no encouragement from any source. In Kerala, he did not get much recognition due to the medium he chose for writing. He mainly wrote in magazines and research journals such as *Quarterly Journal of Mythic Society* (QJMS), *Indian Antiquary* (IA), *Journal of Oriental Research* (JORM), *Bulletin of the School of African and Oriental Studies* (BSOAS), *Bulletin of Ramavarma Research Institute* (BRVRI) and *Indian Linguistics* (IL). He enjoyed recognition in foreign countries like France, England, Czech Republic and USA. His works include books and several research papers (nearly 200) published in national and international journals.

The Dravidian Linguistic Association of India (DLA) from the period of its very inception gave attention to publish the papers of L.V.R. through its journal *International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics*. *Pioneers in Linguistics* published by ISDL in 1978 appreciated the contributions of L.V.R. to Dravidian linguistics. The Folkloristic museum constructed in the ISDL campus was named after L.V. Ramaswami Aiyar.

L.V.R. died at the age of 53 (31<sup>st</sup> January 1948). Though DLA arranged seminars to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday of L.V.R. which fell on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the emergence of triple lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic forced us to give up the entire programme. Pandemic restrictions still prevail, so ISDL took

initiative to publish the available papers of L.V.R. and that work is progressing satisfactorily. We expect to release it in this academic year itself.

*Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan*  
Hon. Director, ISDL

### BOOK RELEASE

The Linguistics Department of the Bharathiar University organized a function on 6.9.2021 in connection with the releasing of the book *A Meaning Centric Tool for making Thesaurus in Tribal Languages*. This work is compiled and edited by Dr. S. Sundarabalu and Dr. N. Vijayan of the Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University and published by Dr. S. Sundarabalu through Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore.

The releasing of the book was done by Prof. P. Kaliraj, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathiar University and the first copy of it was received by Prof. K. Karunakaran, former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur.

*DLA News Bureau*

### NADUVATTOM GOPALAKRISHNAN KERALA OFFICIAL LANGUAGE STATE COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Government of Kerala reconstituted the State-level Official Language Committee and nominated **Dr. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan**, Hon. Director, International School of Dravidian Linguistics as a non-official member.

*DLA News Desk*

### HISTORIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

Mr. M.K. Stalin, Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, announced in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> September that joint ventures with neighbouring states and other countries will be undertaken with the Archaeology Departments and researchers of those states and countries from where the remnants of ancient Tamil civilization were obtained. The proposed joint studies will be conducted in important sites like Pattanam (ancient port of Musiri) in Kerala, Vengi in Andhra Pradesh,

Thalaikadu in Karnataka and Palur in Odisha. Similarly, studies will be undertaken at Quseir al-Qadim and Pernica Anekke in Egypt as well as in Khor Rori in Oman from where "potsherds with Tamil scripts have been found in these countries". The Hon. Chief Minister further announced that studies would also be conducted in Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam where King Rajendra Chola had established supremacy. The above declarations were made in connection with the reporting of carbon dating analysis of rice with soil, found in a burial urn at Sivakalai in Thoothukudi district in Southern Tamil Nadu. The Miami-based Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory has fixed the date of the above findings as 1155 BCE, thereby indicating that the Thamirabarani civilization (the civilization of the Tamraparni river valley of Southern Tamil Nadu) dates back to 3200 years.

[*Courtesy: The Hindu*, 10.9.2021]

### DR. P. SOMASEKHARAN NAIR MEMORIAL LECTURE

Dr. M. Sreenathan, Professor of Linguistics, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University has delivered this year's *Dr. P. Somasekharan Nair Memorial Lecture* at ISDL on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Prof. Sreenathan paid tribute to his former teacher and highlighted the contributions of Dr. Somasekharan Nair in the field of tribal language studies, dialect survey



conducted by the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala, dialect studies such as the Cochin Dialect of Malayalam, Paniya Bhasha and the analysis of various spoken languages in a new perspective which gave a fresh impetus to linguistic studies. His book on dialectology attracted students and scholars alike.

**INDEX OF KANNAṢṢA 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/-).  
**THE RIDDLE THAT IS TAMIL**, R. Kothandaraman (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xxiii + 480, Rs. 750/- (US\$ 75/-).

Prof. Sreenathan observed that the new awareness in linguistic studies created by Dr. Somasekharan Nair and others could not continue further which proved to be a great loss to Malayalam. He also focused on the lexicographical works initiated by Dr. Somasekharan Nair and opined that they did not get the desired attention. Linguistic studies conducted in tribal languages before and after Dr. Somasekharan Nair were reviewed in the speech. A brief enumeration of the studies in other areas such as phonology, morphology and syntax of tribal languages was also made. Prof. Sreenathan expressed the view that the works of dialectology which were stalled should be continued in their true spirit and enthusiasm which would be the best tribute to the great memories of Dr. P. Somasekharan Nair.

Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, Director, ISDL welcomed the gathering and also presided over the meeting. Prof. G.K. Panikkar, former Director, ISDL and Dr. M. Rama, former Director, ISDL also spoke on the occasion. Dr. Abdul Samed, Treasurer, ISDL extended the vote of thanks.

*N. Muraleedharan Nair*

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**PROF. PROBAL DASGUPTA RECEIVES THE VIDYASAGAR-DINAMOYEE AWARD OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

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The 2020-2021 *Vidyasagar-Dinamoyee Prize* is awarded by the Government of West Bengal to Prof. Probal Dasgupta, a well-known Indian linguist by considering his lifetime achievements.

Probal Dasgupta, educated at Sanskrit College (Kolkata), Deccan College (Pune) and New York University (USA) taught linguistics at the University of Calcutta, Deccan College, the University of Hyderabad and the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata from which he retired in 2018. His publications pertaining to linguistics include *The Otherness of English: India's Auntie Tongue Syndrome* (1993), *Explorations in Indian Sociolinguistics* (with Jayant Lele and Rajendra Singh, 1995), *After Etymology: Towards a Substantivist Linguistics* (with Alan Ford and Rajendra Singh, 2000), *Inhabiting Human Languages: The Substantivist Visualization* (2012), *Kathaar Kriyaakarma* ('the activities of words', 1987), *Chinna Kathaay Saajaaye Tarani* ('on a boat bedecked with broken words', 2011), *Bhaashaar Bindubisarga*

('dotting the i's and crossing the t's of language', 2012), *Merur Praarthanaa: Bishuber Uttar* ('the poles pray: the equator responds', 2015). Professor Dasgupta has been an honorary member of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) since 2004.

*Biswanandan Dash*

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**REVIEW. *Aligarh Journal of Linguistics* (AJL) 2020-21**

M.J. Warsi (Editor-in-Chief)

Vol. 10, Nos. 1 & 2, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh: Department of Linguistics, pp. 204, \$ 25/-.

(Continued from the previous issue)

The paper on "Phonological analysis of Rampuri Urdu" by Nazish Malik and Shabana Hameed provides a phonological sketch of Urdu as spoken in the city of Rampur, Uttar Pradesh where they briefly describe some phonological features, process and pattern, specially aphaeresis, epenthesis, deletion and syllabic structure. Further, the occurrence of frequent gemination of consonants, deletion of /h/ in the middle and final position, addition of nasalization in words, shift from monophthong to diphthong are some significant features of Rampuri Urdu which make it differ from the standard Urdu. Zoya Khalid in her paper "Pronouns and clitic doubling in Asur: A north Munda language" describes the features of Asur pronouns. In this paper, different types of pronouns have been discussed such as personal pronouns, demonstratives, reflexive pronouns, reciprocal pronouns, possessive pronouns, interrogative pronouns and relative pronouns. Further, this paper also discusses the subject and object marker encliticization and the phenomenon of clitic doubling.

[To be continued]

*Noman Tahir*

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**49<sup>th</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS**

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The 49<sup>th</sup> *All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists* is scheduled to be held at the Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, **Banaras Hindu University**, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Further details will be intimated in due course.

*DLA News Bureau*

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**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/-). **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/-).



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## DR. A.P. ANDREWSKUTTY MEMORIAL LECTURE

Dr. A.P. Andrews Kutty Memorial Lecture was delivered on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at ISDL campus, Menamkulam by Prof. C.R. Prasad, HOD, Department of Kerala Studies, University of Kerala. Prof. Prasad, at the outset, recalled his personal memories of acquaintance with Prof. Andrews Kutty and then gave a gist of the academic contributions of Prof. A.P. Andrews Kutty. Thereafter he delivered the memorial lecture *Philosophical Aspects of Language with Special Reference to Malayalam*. In the lecture, Prof. Prasad briefly mentioned the philosophical thoughts of the ancient Indians on language and how such thoughts are reflected among the traditional grammarians of modern Indian languages. He further pointed out that Prof. Andrews Kutty's studies on Malayalam language are quite significant since he successfully blended the Indian philosophical theories with the principles of modern linguistics.

Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan gave the welcome address and Dr. Abdul Samed proposed the vote of thanks.

*DLA News Bureau*

## 201<sup>st</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF PANDIT ISHWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR

The Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal has organized a grand function to celebrate the 201<sup>st</sup> Birth Anniversary of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, the well-known social reformer, a scholar of high repute, Educationist and Institution-Builder whose contribution to the Indian renaissance is of immense

value. Shri. Bratya Basu, Hon. Minister for Education, Government of West Bengal inaugurated and also presided over the function. The Vidyasagar Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Ashish Lahiri. The function was conducted at Vidyasagar Academy, Kolkata on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

*Biswanandan Dash*

## ISDL RESEARCH FORUM

### LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED IN SEPTEMBER 2021

1.9.2021: *Santals: The Largest Tribe of West Bengal*

**Dhrubajyoti Das**

8.9.2021: *L. V. Ramaswami Aiyar's Contribution to Linguistics*

**Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan**

15.9.2021: *Elite to Mass: Missionary Contribution to the Development of Tamil Prose – An Overview*

**D. Mano**

22.9.2021: *Sanskrit Loanwords in Rāmacaritam*

**Prof. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan**

## NEW PUBLICATION OF ISDL

### INDEX OF EARLY MAṆIPRAVĀḤA WORKS

N. Gopinathan Nair, 2021, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 1086, Rs. 2240/- (US\$ 224/-)

### NEW LIFE-MEMBER OF DLA (September 2021)

1. Mrs. Soumya S.R. (Membership No. 1444/2021)  
Kattel Veedu, SRA 75, Kazhakuttom – 695 582, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

### DLA NEWS ENDOWMENT FUND

9.7.2021	Dr. Bryan G. Levman	Rs.	2000.00
23.9.2021	Prof. M. Rama	Rs.	500.00
<b>TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH</b>		<b>Rs.</b>	<b>2,16,432.00</b>
<b>CURRENT TOTAL</b>		<b>Rs.</b>	<b>2,18,932.00</b>

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