

A MONTHLY OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

ICDL-2016 & 44th AICDL A BRIEF REPORT

The Centre for Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies (CALTS), University of Hyderabad organized a three-day *International Conference on Dravidian Linguistics - 2016* (ICDL-2016) & 44th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists (44th AICDL) at the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana in collaboration with the Dravidian Linguistics Association (DLA) & the International School of Dravidian Linguistics (ISDL) - Thiruvananthapuram and the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) - Mysore from 16th to 18th June 2016.

CONTENTS

ICDL-2016 & 44 th AICDL: A Brief Report	1
45 th AICDL at University of Delhi	1
Remembering Prof. VIS	3
44 th AICDL – The Award Winners	4
On DLA News	4
Discovery of an Ancient Inscription on Kapalikas	4
Last Date extended	5
Contractual Faculties in Linguistics in CUK	5
Dr. Gurpartap Singh is no more	5
Study Linguistics at UCB, USA	5
Rameswaram and Sri Lanka from a Historical Perspective	5
Additions to ISDL Library	6
New Life-Members	6

45TH AICDL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

The 45th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists will be hosted by the Department of Linguistics, University of Delhi as an international conference in June 2017. Prof. Ramesh Chand Sharma, Head, Department of Linguistics and Co-ordinator, Centre for Advanced Study in Linguistics expressed his willingness to host it by his Department and it was officially announced at the 44th AICDL held at the University of Hyderabad.

A total number of 104 papers, which included three endowment lectures and nine plenary talks, were presented in the course of these three days. The subjects covered in the papers ranged from Linguistic Archaeology to Ethno Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Psycho Linguistics, Historical Linguistics, Computational Linguistics etc.

The first day of the conference (16.6.2016) began with the inaugural session. Dr. K. Rajyarama welcomed the Chair and other guests to the session which was chaired by Prof. Mohanty - Dean, School of Humanities, University of Hyderabad. Prof. Podile Apparao, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad was the chief guest of the inaugural session. The program began with the lighting of the lamp followed by the release of the *Souvenir* of the conference. Then the prizes and awards sponsored by the DLA and ISDL, Thiruvananthapuram were distributed.

Prof. K. Rangan - President, DLA, Shri. R. Balakrishnan IAS - Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, Prof. G. Umamaheswar Rao - Coordinator of the conference, Prof. G.K. Panikkar, Hon. Director, ISDL and Dr. L. Ramamoorthy, CIIL, Mysore participated in the inaugural session.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Podile Apparao, in his inaugural address, mentioned the fact that bees and animals too communicate by means of language which is quite distinct from the complex human language. He compared the evolution of human languages to the evolution of biological entities like plants and animals and also felt that the genetic relations between languages are similar to those of biological sciences. He also attributed the multilingual capabilities of speakers to the presence of certain chromosomes. He lauded CALTS for its various projects and academic outreach.

Prof. G. Umamaheswar Rao in his introduction to the conference credits Francis Whyte Ellis, a Civil Officer from Fort St. George, Madras for conceptualizing the radical notion 'Dravidian' which was published in Alexander Duncan Campbell's *Telugu Grammar* (1816) as a "Note to Introduction". This according to Umamaheswar Rao should be treated as a turning point in the history of the Indian Sub-continent on two aspects:

- i. It provided totally an independent and fresh canvas to describe the South Indian languages of India as a distinct linguistic group paving the way for a future socio-cultural resuscitation.
- ii. It also provided a theoretical base for the division of indigenous vocabulary in the descriptions of the languages of India viz., *tatsama*, *tadbhava*, *desya*, *gramya* and *anyadesya*.

The concept of Dravidian had since then become the single most used and favoured ethnonym in the construction of Modern India. It had continued to nurture a whole lot of ideas, social groupings, cultural centres and political organizations in South India. He also stated that the year 2016 marks the successful completion of 200 years of research in Comparative Dravidian Linguistics, involving scores of celebrated linguists across the continents and opined that it is this concept that has modelled the most significant perception of Dravidian India to the outside world.

It is in this context that CALTS, DLA & ISDL, and CIIL came together to organize the national and international events. With this brief note, Prof. G. Umamaheswar Rao set the tone for the conference.

Prof. Rangan, President, DLA in his Presidential address thanked DLA members for electing him as President for 2015-2016. He delivered a lecture entitled *A Typological Comparison of PNG System in Dravidian Tribal Languages of Tamil Nadu: A Pilot Study*. He highlighted the need for such a comparison and presented an in-depth study of the PNG system in Dravidian tribal languages of Tamil Nadu.

After the Presidential address, Prof. G.K. Panikkar portrayed the formation and development of the DLA, ISDL and IJDL from a historical perspective. He also presented the functions of these organizations and their present-day relevance. He appealed to all linguists in India and abroad to do their best to strengthen the Dravidian Linguistics Association and International School of Dravidian Linguistics.

Dr. Ramamoorthy spoke on the activities of CIIL, Mysore. He reported that CIIL is involved in documenting nearly 570 minor languages which are on the verge of extinction and face the threat of endangerment. He also stated that the Bharata Vani project launched by CIIL was involved in digitalizing a number of Indian languages.

[to be continued]

K. Rajyarama

REMEMBERING PROF. VIS

The seventh death anniversary of **Prof. V.I. Subramoniam** was observed with veneration on 29th June 2016 at V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, Menamkulam. Prof. G.K. Panikkar - Hon. Director, International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Prof. K. Retnamma - President, Dravidian Linguistics Association, research fellows and office staff of the ISDL and DLA offered floral tributes at the *Smrithi Mandapam*. Thereafter, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Prof. G.K. Panikkar who was closely associated with Prof. VIS for decades. He spoke at length on the academic acumen of the Professor who made invaluable contributions to Linguistics, especially to Dravidian studies. He was the first Head and Professor of the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala. He pointed out that as a builder of institutions, Prof. VIS was unparalleled as is evident from the associations and institutions like the Dravidian Linguistics Association, the International School of Dravidian Linguistics and the *International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics*. He was also the soul behind the establishment of the Tamil University, Thanjavur and the Dravidian University, Kuppam. Prof. K. Retnamma who was also closely associated with Professor VIS for a long period recalled his personal traits like dedication, punctuality and passion for academic research for revealing the unknown and unexplored features of languages. She stated that he was her mentor and also remembered with gratitude how he inspired her to concentrate on Linguistics which was then for her a hard nut to crack. Mr. Mano, Research Fellow, recollected his first meeting with Prof. VIS who was then the Vice-Chancellor of Tamil University. Prof. V.I. Subramoniam's earnest desire to provide facilities for further studies on Dravidian culminated in the formation of the Dravidian University at Kuppam and he became its

Pro-Chancellor. Reminiscing the good old days she spent with the Professor at ISDL, Bindu, the Librarian, talked about his amiable qualities. He had a great vision which prompted youngsters to do research in Linguistics and allied disciplines. He was a strict disciplinarian and a guiding spirit for the staff and researchers of ISDL. At the end, two minutes silence was observed.

44th AICDL – THE AWARD WINNERS

Prof. Susheela P. Upadhyaya Award

Dhrubajyoti Das

Mrs. S.M. Katre Memorial Prize

Ojaswee Bhalla

Dr. Hermann Gundert Endowment Award

A. Parimalagantham & A. Boologarambai

Award for the Best Paper in the Conference

Soumya P.N.

Shri. C. Achutha Menon Prize

Y. Viswanatha Naidu

ON DLA NEWS

We are extremely happy to inform you that the *DLA News*, a monthly published by the Dravidian Linguistics Association, has reasonably wide circulation both in India and abroad. Every month we post about 1400 copies of it in India and also send it to 800 persons through e-mail. Besides, many access it through our website www.ijdl.org. It is customary for us to publish write-ups on academic activities, research findings and such other news related to Linguistics, languages and cultures. Many queries are received regarding the news we publish in the newsletter even from foreign countries.

The Managing Committee of the Dravidian Linguistics Association at its meeting held at Centre for Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies, University of Hyderabad on 17th June 2016 opined that in the *DLA News*, more emphasis needs to be

given on Linguistics-related news items and articles. For fulfilling this, active co-operation and involvement are required from the Heads of the Departments of Linguistics, members of the faculty and researchers. It can be achieved only through their initiatives. Hence, we request all the Heads of the Departments of Linguistics in various universities, faculty members and students, both in India and abroad, to send brief write-ups on the academic activities such as seminars, workshops and conferences so that scholars will be benefitted by them. Vacancies of faculty members in the Departments of Linguistics and the posts of Research Fellows may also be sent for publication. The newsletter functions as a platform for young linguists to reveal their innovative ideas and discoveries and thus we publish small articles also. Hence, once again we request all Heads of the Departments of Linguistics to cooperate with us by passing on to us relevant information so as to publish them in the *DLA News*. It is beneficial not only to students and researchers but also to the concerned departments. The newsletter will then be more academically oriented and be a valuable monthly publication from which an overall picture can be obtained about the academic events relating to Linguistics in India and abroad. The wholehearted cooperation of all concerned is solicited in this regard.

DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT INSCRIPTION ON KAPALIKAS

An inscription that sheds light on the presence of Kapalikas in South India, particularly in Karnataka, has been discovered in Raichur district by a professor of Kannada University, Hampi. They were a mysterious cult who might have practiced human sacrifice and immolation. Based on the nature of the script which is in ancient Kannada, it is presumed to be of mid-1000 A.D. Prof. Kalaveer Manvachar, Head, Department of Epigraphy said that the finding is significant as there is no other information about Kapalikas in any literature except Sanskrit.

Courtesy: The Hindu 27.6.2016

Recent Publications: **The Morphosyntax of the Dravidian Languages**, P.S. Subrahmanyam, 2013, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. xxx + 687, Rs. 1,000/- (US\$ 100/-). **A Survey of Smriti Literature**, N.P. Unni, 2013, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 8 + 164, Rs. 200/- (US\$ 20/-).

LAST DATE EXTENDED

The last date for applying for the post of **Junior and Senior Research Fellows** in the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram is extended to **25th July 2016**.

CONTRACTUAL FACULTIES IN LINGUISTICS IN CUK

The Central University of Karnataka has called for two contractual faculties in Linguistics. For details, please visit the website <http://www.cuk.ac.in/>.

Basavaraja Kodagunti

DR. GURPARTAP SINGH IS NO MORE

Dr. Gurpartap Singh, Professor at Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar and a life-member of the Dravidian Linguistics Association passed away on 22nd June 2016. He had just returned to his native place on 20th June after attending the 44th All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists at CALTS, Hyderabad. He was regularly attending the DLA conferences for the past several years along with his Guru, Prof. Bhupinder Singh Khaira, a retired Professor of Linguistics, Punjabi University, Patiala. Our deepest condolences to his bereaved family.

COMMENTS ON V.I. SUBRAMONIAM COMMEMORATION VOLUMES

"My paper appears to be completely free of typos, including typographically challenging data from Avar, some citations in French and references in Cyrillic to Russian publications. Congratulations!"

Peter Edwin Hook

"Very much appreciable. The two volumes are compiled in an academic manner and the research articles are valuable for the scholars."

Subathini Ramesh

STUDY LINGUISTICS AT UCB, USA

Information about the undergraduate and graduate degree programmes of the Department of Linguistics, University of California – Berkeley and admission requirements can be found at <http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/applying-graduate-program>.

RAMESWARAM AND SRI LANKA from A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

(Continued from the last issue)

Pancha Ishwaram Locations in Sri Lanka

One pillar from the great pagoda still stands on top of Swami Rock, which is also called 'Lover's Leap' or 'Ravana's Cleft'. The significance of this temple is that it is dedicated to Ravana. The temple has a 10-headed image and there is also a statue of Ravana, facing the land, worshipping Shiva. A huge statue of Shiva is also there in a sitting posture, as Ravana was a worshipper and a great devotee of Shiva.

The Tanavaram temple complex is in Matara, near Galle, and was designed in Kerala and built in Pallava style. The central shrine is dedicated to Vishnu. The other shrines include the ones for Ganesha, Murugan, Kannagi and Shiva. This shrine is venerated as the southernmost of the five *Ishwaram-s*. The principal deity was known as Chandra Moul Eswaram i.e., "Lord Shiva wearing the moon", and was popularly called Tondeeswaram.

Munneswaram temple has been in existence from 1000 CE. This temple complex dedicated to Shiva is a collection of five temples, including a Buddhist temple. All these are located in Puttalam district in Munneswaram village on the West Coast. It is said that Lord Rama worshipped Shiva here after his victorious war against Ravana, King of Sri Lanka. The place is also a centre for the Kali cult.

The blending of Hinduism and Buddhism in Sri Lanka

According to *Insight Guides Sri Lanka*, "Buddha himself cannot be properly worshipped in Theravada Buddhism; he is regarded as an enlightened

Recent Publications: **The Contribution of Melputtūr Nārāyaṇa Bhaṭṭatiri to Sanskrit Literature with Special Reference to Vyākaraṇa**, P. Visalakshy, 2013, Crown ¼, pp. 428, Rs. 900/- (US\$ 81/-). **A Contrastive Analysis of the Phonological Systems of Bengali and Malayalam**, Dhruvajyoti Das, 2014, pp. xii + 140, Rs. 220/- (US\$ 20/-). **Studies on Bangla from a Broader Perspective**, G.K. Panikkar, Syamala Sasidharan & Sourav Chakraborty (Eds.), 2015, pp. 216, Rs. 230/- (US\$ 23/-).

man, not as a deity. But every temple has certain objects of worship to remind the devotee of the Dharma" and goes on to say "The best known *devalas* are those at Katargama and at Kandy: the most popular deities are Vishnu, Katargama, Pattini and Natha" and "Vishnu is regarded as the protector of Buddhist religion in the island of Sri Lanka" and "He is traditionally considered to have visited earth in 10 different incarnations – among them – as the prince Rama, hero of the classic *Ramayana* epic, the Gautama Buddha, who is said to have corrupted the demons, and as ever-popular Krishna, the central figure of the *Bhagavad-Gita* scripture".

[To be continued]

K.V.S. Krishna

ADDITIONS TO ISDL LIBRARY

(Continued from the last issue)

Donated by Prof. M. Dakshinamurthy

31. Ilanthai S. Ramasamy, 2007, *Alexander Graham Bell, Prodigy*.
32. Marudhan, 2007, *Lenin, Prodigy*.
33. Chokkan, N., 2007, *Bill Gates, Prodigy*.
34. Muthukumar, R., 2007, *Vivekananda, Prodigy*.
35. Sally Wehmeier, 2000, *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Oxford University Press.
36. Sivadas, P.K., 1998, *Malayalam English Malayalam Reverse Dictionary*, Pen Books.
37. Ramalingam Pillai, T., 2002, *English English Malayalam Dictionary*, D.C. Books.
38. Mardrus, J.C., 1987, *The Arabian Nights*, Projapati.
39. Dakshinamurthy, M., *Malayalam Malayalam English Dictionary*, Meridian Books.
40. Dakshinamurthy, M., 1989, *Common Errors in English*, Meridian Books.

NEW ENROLMENT FOR LIFE-MEMBERSHIP

(June 2016)

1. **Dr. K. Suryanarayana** (Membership No. 1260/2016)
Professor, Department of Research & Publications, R.S. Vidhyapeetha, Thirupathi, Andhra Pradesh

2. **R. Sugumari Rajam** (Membership No. 1261/2016)
EF (4A) 306, Vrindavan Gardens, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
3. **Ramesh Chandra Pradhani** (Membership No. 1262/2016)
Asst. Professor of English, P.S.Degree College, Deogaon District, Balangir – 767 029, Odisha
4. **D. Srikanth Kumar** (Membership No. 1263/2016)
SPPEL, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Manasagangotri, Hansur Road, Mysore – 570 006, Karnataka
5. **Dr. Biswajit Das** (Membership No. 1264/2016)
J.B. Road, Kolongpar, Amolapatty, Nagaon, Assam – 782 001
6. **Dr. Sampath Kumar** (Membership No. 1265/2016)
G6, "Matrushree", 24th Main, B Block, 3rd Stage, Vijayanagar, Mysore – 570 030
7. **Dr. Govinda Chandra Penthoi** (Membership No. 1266/2016)
"Vanibhavan", Chhayapath Lane, Nayagarh District, Odisha – 752 069
8. **Sonal Kulkarni Joshi** (Membership No. 1267/2016)
B6, Poorva Apartment, Plots 30 & 31, Chintamani Nagar, Sahakar nagar-2, Pune – 411 009, Maharashtra
9. **C. Bhargavi** (Membership No. 1268/2016)
2-101/A, Cherlopalli, Thirupathi, Chittoor District – 517 505, Andhra Pradesh
10. **J. Mayuri Dilip** (Membership No. 1269/2016)
Ph.D. Scholar - Linguistics, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT-Madras, Adayar, Chennai – 600 036, Tamil Nadu
11. **Praveen Gatla** (Membership No. 1270/2016)
Asst. Professor, Department of Linguistics, Abhinav Bhavan, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Contribution to Prof. V.I. Subramoniam Endowment Fund

16.06.16	Sri. R. Balakrishnan	Rs.	3,000.00
	Prof. V. Prakasam	Rs.	3,000.00
	TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH	Rs.	4,44,146.00
	CURRENT TOTAL	Rs.	4,50,146.00
	(including FD)		

DLA News Endowment Fund

05.07.16	Dr. B.B. Rajapurohit	Rs.	3,000.00
	TOTAL AS OF LAST MONTH	Rs.	1,88,156.00
	CURRENT TOTAL	Rs.	1,91,156.00