

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DRAVIDIAN LINGUISTS

Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala

in collaboration with

Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, the Dravidian Linguistic Association of India and  
 International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram

**21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2023**

## Venue of the Conference

The venue of the conference is mainly in the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala, Karyavattom. The conference will begin at 10.30 A.M. with the inaugural function.

## Registration

Offline registration will be closed on 15<sup>th</sup> May at 5 P.M. for those participants who require accommodation. Relaxation will be given only to those participants who do not require accommodation. For Online registration, the last date fixed is 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The application form for registration can be downloaded from our website [www.ijdl.org](http://www.ijdl.org) or can register through Google form. The filled up application form may be sent to [dlatvm@gmail.com](mailto:dlatvm@gmail.com) or may be given in hand or by post to the Secretary, Dravidian Linguistic Association of India, V.I. Subramoniam Memorial ISDL Complex, Menamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram, Pin - 695586.

The participants and the invited guests are requested to send their papers as early as possible to Prof. S. Kunjamma, Organising Secretary, 50<sup>th</sup> AICDL ([50dlauok@gmail.com](mailto:50dlauok@gmail.com)).

## Accommodation

Organizers of the AICDL will try to provide accommodation in the University Guest House (Senate House Campus, Palayam), ISDL Campus and its nearby places. Accommodation is an acute problem and please remember that we can provide accommodation facility only to those who inform us sufficiently early.

## Karyavattom and ISDL Campuses

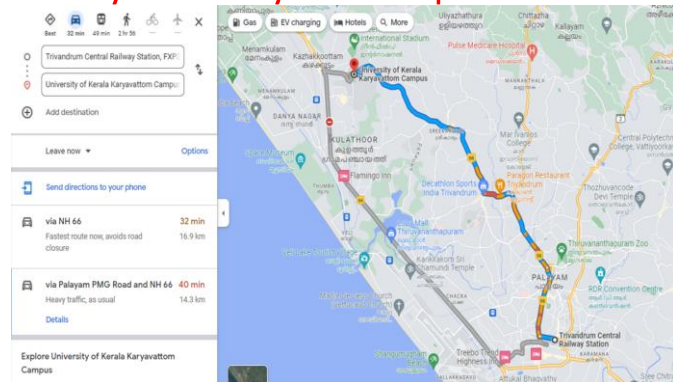
The Karyavattom Campus of the University of Kerala where the Conference Sessions are arranged is about 13 km north of Trivandrum Central Railway Station on the side of NH 544 (old number NH 47, Trivandrum - Attingal/Quilon/Alleppey/ Ernakulam bus route). One can get prepaid auto rickshaw or Uber Taxi/Autorickshaw to Karyavattom Campus from Airport/Railway station. The Trivandrum Transport stand is just opposite to the Central Railway Station and hence one can come to Karyavattom by Kerala State Transport Corporation Buses also.

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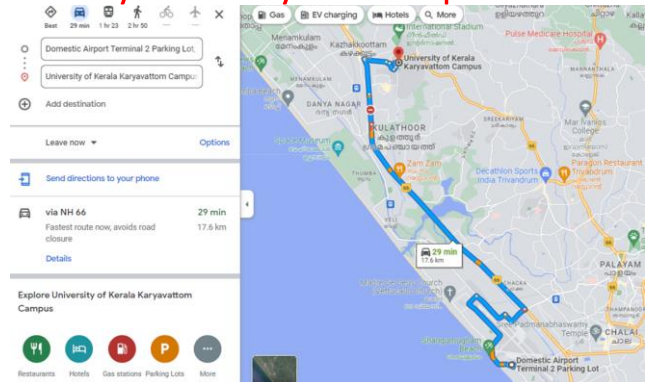
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ISDL Campus (where accommodation is arranged for most of the participants) is about 17 kms away from the Central Railway Station. It is about 3 kms away from Karyavattom Campus. The location maps of Karyavattom and ISDL are given below:

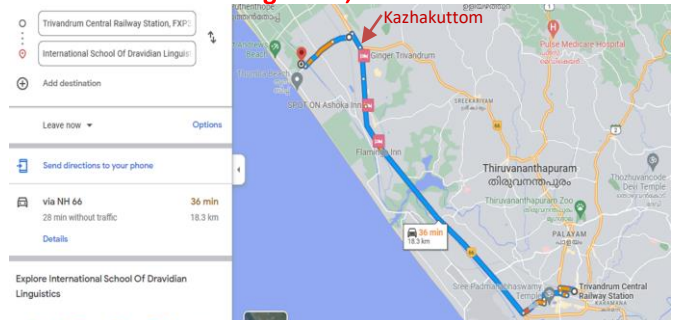
**From Trivandrum Central Railway Station to University of Kerala Karyavattom Campus = 14.3 km**



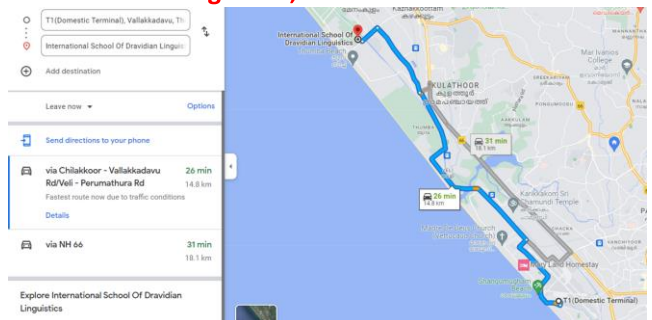
**From Trivandrum Airport (Domestic Terminal) to University of Kerala Karyavattom Campus = 17.6 km**



**From Trivandrum Central Railway Station to International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Menamkulam = 18.3 km**



**From Trivandrum Airport (Domestic Terminal) to International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Menamkulam = 14.8 km.**



For any help please contact : Prof. S. Kunjamma, Ph.: 9400514982 (Organizing Secretary, 50<sup>th</sup> AICDL)  
e mail : [50dlauok@gmail.com](mailto:50dlauok@gmail.com)

Google location of ISDL : <https://goo.gl/maps/GoSY5dfmZ6pkDbkS6?coh=178572&entry=tt>

Google location of Kerala University Karyavattom campus : <https://goo.gl/maps/ZwQZocJxtY6rAja7?coh=178572&entry=tt>

## 50<sup>th</sup> AICDL - TWO NEW AWARDS

Two new awards are instituted by Prof. V. Prakasham for the best papers on Linguistics.

1. Colin P. Massica Award for the best paper in the field of 'India as a Linguistic Area' or 'Pedagogical Linguistics' from among the papers presented in the AICDL
2. Vennelakanti Prakasam Award for the best paper on systematic functional Linguistics (Phonology, Lexicogrammar, Semantics and Pragmatics) from among the papers presented in the AICDL

*These two awards will commence from 50<sup>th</sup> AICDL*

## MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZING SECRETARY, 50<sup>TH</sup> AICDL

The following message is obtained from Prof. Kunjamma, the Organizing Secretary of the 50<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists in connection with the last date for registration to the 50<sup>th</sup> AICDL.

Last date for Offline registration :

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Last date for Online registration :

**12<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

## TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF 50<sup>TH</sup> AICDL

All participants to the 50<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists (both online and offline) are requested to send their full papers at the earliest. The papers have to be sent to the Organising Secretary, 50<sup>th</sup> AICDL to [50dlauok@gmail.com](mailto:50dlauok@gmail.com)

**Latest Publications:** AN ACCOUNT OF BANGLA DISCOURSE PARTICLES, Rajat Ghosh, 2023, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 142, Rs.300/- (US\$ 30/-) GLOSSARY OF GRAMMATICAL TERMS IN TRADITIONAL MALAYALAM GRAMMARS, C.S. Jayakumari Kunjamma, 2023, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 232, Rs.450/- (US\$ 45/-) THE ART AND EDIFICE OF GENDERLECT, B. Sreedevi, 2023, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 160, Rs.320/- (US\$ 32/-) A DICTIONARY OF SANSKRIT, PRAKRIT AND PALI WORDS IN TAMIL AND MALAYALAM, N. Gopinathan Nair, 2022, HB, Crown 1/4, pp. 988, Rs.2300/- (US\$ 230/-) A SOCIO-CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND LINGUISTIC STUDY OF THE PATHANS OF KERALA, S. Abdul Samed, 2022, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 104, Rs.130/- (US\$ 13/-) MAPPILA MIGRANTS IN ANDAMANS - A SOCIO-LINGUISTIC STUDY, N.Muraleedharan Nair, 2022, PB, Demy 1/8, pp.225, Rs.260/- (US\$ 26/-).



### PROF. B. SREEDEVI PASSED AWAY

Prof B. Sreedevi (70 ) former Professor and Head of the Department of English, Calicut University and the Deputy Editor of the International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023. She was one of the early members of the DLA and had closely

associated with DLA, ISDL and IJDL from their inceptions. She held various official positions in these organizations. Prof. B. Sreedevi was a U.G.C. Emeritus Professor of Linguistics. She passed her M.A. Linguistics from the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala and also took her Ph.D. in Linguistics from there. Prof. Sreedevi was a disciple of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam.

The staff and members of DLA, ISDL and IJDL express their heartfelt condolences and join with the bereaved family in their grief. Let her soul be rest in peace.

### NO TRAVEL AID FROM DLA OR ISDL

We get requests for travel aid for attending the 50<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists. Please note that the DLA or ISDL does not give any travel aid for attending the All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists. It may be possible to give the Air/Train fare to a limited number of invitees if some funding agencies come forward for the same. Anyway please note that the Air Ticket/Train Ticket should be booked through IRTC or Balmer Lawrie. The tickets booked through any other agency will not be considered for sanctioning travel expenses.

### EDUCATION THROUGH MOTHER TONGUE ENHANCES THE COGNITIVE AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD

Prof M J Warsi, an eminent linguist and the Chairman, Department of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University, delivered a thematic talk on "Mother Tongue, Multilingualism and National Education Policy-2020" during the national conference on "Linguistic Equity, Inclusivity, and Directions for National Education Policy-2020" organized by the Centre for Linguistics and Culture Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida.



He said mother tongue plays a critical role in the cognitive and intellectual development of a child and studies have shown that individuals fluent in their mother tongue tend to have higher educational success rates than those who aren't. Mother-tongue education needs to be prioritized in policy development to ensure more responsive and nuanced approaches that take into account the unique linguistic and cultural needs of learners. He said the dominance of English as a global language of education has derecognized the linguistic, cultural and epistemic identities of multilingual people. The key to human resources development is education and the 'English-only' policy fails to appreciate the mother tongue as a cognitive and pedagogic resource. Prof Warsi pointed out that

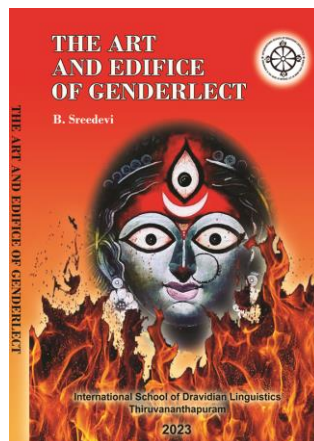
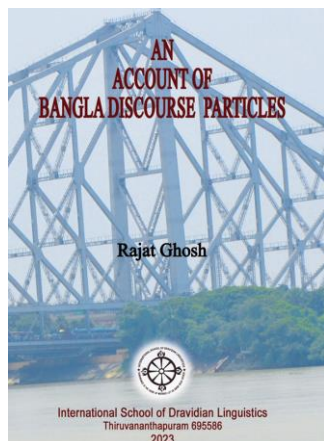
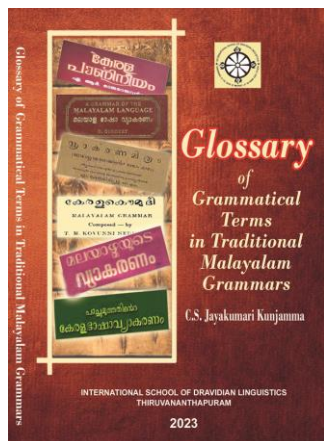
the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 focuses on mother tongue education as it says that wherever possible the medium of instruction in schools until Grade V; preferably until Grade VIII, should be the mother tongue or the local or regional language.

"The renewed resource allocation and clearer policy objectives in the direction of revalorization of local languages will achieve the ultimate end of an effective mother tongue-based education system in India," he added. Since Prof. Warsi is very popular among his students for excellent content delivery, clarity of presentation, effective teaching, and known for extraordinary punctuality and discipline, the participants of the conference quite eagerly attended this session.

*DLA News Desk*

**GRAMMAR OF RĀMACARITAM**, Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan, 2022, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 395, Rs.500/- (US\$ 50/-). **TAGORE'S GITANJALI**, K. Jayakumar, 2022, PB, Demy 1/8, pp.95, Rs. 130/- (US\$ 13/-). **ENDANGERED SPEECHES OF IDUKKI IN KERALA**, V.R. Prabodhachandran Nayar & K. Velappan, 2021, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. 12+500, Rs. 660/- (US\$ 66/-). **INDEX OF BHARATAMALA**, R. Saraswathy Kutty Amma, 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp.892, Rs.1100/- (US\$ 110/-). **COLLECTED PAPERS OF LV RAMASWAMI IYER**, G.K. Panikkar, K. Rangan & Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan (Eds.) 2021, HB, Demy 1/8, pp.826, Rs. 990/- (US\$ 99/-). **INDEX OF EARLY MANIPRAVAĀLA WORKS**, N. Gopinathan Nair, 2021, PB, Crown 1/4, pp. 1086, Rs. 2240/- (US\$ 224/-). **INDEX OF RĀMAKATHAPPĀṬTU**, 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/-).



**LATEST ISDL PUBLICATIONS****DLA LIFE  
MEMBERSHIP FEE  
FOR FOREIGNERS**

The foreign Life Membership fee of Dravidian Linguistic Association of India is fixed equivalent to Indian Membership fee of ₹ 5000/- from 2023 January onwards.

**CALENDAR OF DLA/ISDL MEETINGS**

|  |           |         |
|--|-----------|---------|
| 1. ISDL Governing Council                    | 21-6-2023 | 4.30 pm |
| 2. DLA Managing Committee                    | 21-6-2023 | 5.30 pm |
| 3. IJDL Managing Committee & Editorial Board | 21-6-2023 | 6.00 pm |
| 4. DLA General Body Meeting                  | 22-6-2023 | 6.00 pm |

**TO DLA MEMBERS - A HUMBLE REQUEST**

The updating of the details of the Life Members is to be done urgently. Hence I request each and every Member of the DLA to fill up the following proforma and mail it back to us. It is not applicable to those who have already sent.

**Prof. G.K. Panikkar**  
Dean, DLA

**PROFORMA FOR DLA LIFE MEMBERSHIP REGISTER**

|  |          |           |
|--|----------|-----------|
| Name   | :        |           |
| Sex  | :        |           |
| Age  | :        |           |
| Nationality  | :        |           |
| Life Membership No. :  |          |           |
| Designation and Institution where you are employed presently / at the time of retirement                               | :        |           |
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Place :

Signature

Date :

Name

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/-). INDEX OF KANNAṢṢĀ RĀMĀYAṆAM, Puthusserry Ramachandran, 2020, HB, Demy 1/8, pp. 1122, Rs. 1930/- (US\$ 193/-).

**CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS****AHWAZ PUBLICATION OF  
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Dialects, Literature, Translation)*(The Ministry Approval Number: 16171)*

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- D) Religious linguistics** (Any linguistic study related to religious texts and speeches)
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*Please feel free to write if there is any query.*

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Email: [info@apsb.ir](mailto:info@apsb.ir)

**For more information: [WWW.APSB.IR](http://WWW.APSB.IR)**

**New Life Members of DLA - April 2023**

Dr. Konchok Tashi 1608/2023

Department of Far East Languages,  
Central University of Jharkhand,  
Cheri-Manatu, Ranchi-835222,  
Jharkhand, India

Mr. Imran Ali 1609/2023

Room No. 145, Hostel Birla B,  
Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu  
University - 221005, Varanasi (UP)

Mr. Abhijeet Satsangi 1610/2023

S/o Radha Sharan Sah, Moh - Ratnopatti,  
Near : SBI Bank, Sahu Chowk,  
PO - Shubhankarpur, Dist - Darbhanga,  
Pin - 846006, Bihar

Mr. Siddharth Chauhan 1611/2023

Q. No. B-6, Kesoram Rayon Staff Colony,  
Chandrahathi Dist - Hooghly, Pin - 712513

Mr. Pursotam Kumar 1612/2023

C/o. Ram Lakhan Sharma  
Swami Sahajanand Colony, Raghapur,  
Bihta, Patna, Bihar, 801103

Ms. Siltu Laishram 1613/2023

Department of Linguistics,  
School of Humanities, Manipur University,  
Canchipur, Imphal, Manipur - 795003

Mr. Akash Kumar 1614/2023

Department of Linguistics,  
Doctor Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya  
Sagar - 470003 (M.P.)

Ms. Shree 1615/2023

Flat No. 304, Block A, Net Staff Qtrs.,  
NITTE, Karkala Taluk, Udupi District - 574110  
Karnataka

**THE ENDONYMOUS NATURE OF SOME  
PRESUMED ENGLISH EXONYMS IN KERALA**

*(Continued from the April issue)*

7. Muziris: Muśiris is probably the most enigmatic ancient place name the location of which has been intensely searched for; and any new viewpoint deserves an extensive article. Therefore the following may be just taken as a suggestion for new research. Muziris is presumed to be an exonym derived from *mucciri*, (cleft lip) on the supposition that the harbor must have been a river mouth and its overall appearance would have been like a cleft lip. Formerly Muziris along with associated places was identified as being in Canara district of Karnataka State. At present it is believed to be Pattanam, in Kodungallur. In 'The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea' of 1<sup>st</sup> century CE Muziris is mentioned as a trading centre and as being in the Kingdom of Cerobothra (Cheraputhra). One of the places near Muziris is Nelcynda, which is now presumed to be Niranam in upper Kuttanad region which borders the Vembanad Lake. In the Peutinger Map, which is an odd sized medieval copy of an ancient Roman road map, a large lake is marked near Muziris; this could be Vembanad lake. Kuttanad region is in Alleppey. In view of these, it is not unreasonable to consider the possibility that Muziris is Alleppey or in it.

In Malayalam there is a word *muśir* which means foul smell especially of the body; it indicates biological origin. There are places in Kerala where coconut husk is decayed, preparatory to fiber collection for coir making, by immersing large quantities of these in lakes; their decay produces a smell akin to that of rotten eggs, the whole region being imbued by this smell. A large region

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/-). **THE RIDDLE THAT IS TAMIL**, R. Kothandaraman (Ed.), 2019, PB, Demy 1/8, pp. xxiii + 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/-).

of Alleppey is the Vembanad lake and even now Alleppey is the foremost place of coir making. If it can be assumed that there were coconut trees and coir making in Kerala in the long past then it is safe to assume that large regions of Alleppey was well imbued with this smell enough to get the name of Muziris (Muśiris); i.e., Muziris is not an exonym derived from any other word, but is an endonym in its own right!

Supportive evidence for this claim may now be examined. According to the Periplus, Muziris was twenty stadia (2 miles) from the sea up a river. Vembanad lake is the longest lake in India now (230 km<sup>2</sup> area and 96.5 km long); this distance is sufficient to include all the four mentioned places (Tyndis, Naura, Muziris and Nelcynda) as being in Alleppey. Ten rivers drain into it, including six major ones of which two are the Pamba and Periyar (two of the three greatest rivers of Kerala); hence river transportation to and from many places are available here. One meaning of 'damam' is mud; Alleppey would have been a place where mud is aplenty; 'irika' is short for 'irikkuka' meaning sit, being, exist, etc. Hence the 'damirika' given in Periplus could refer to this region. Nelcynda is a place about 50 km from Muziris and is said to be in Pandian Kingdom. 'Nel' means rice; cynda could be kiNTa (hard c) which means tied together as bundle: thence nelcynda, derived from nelkiNTa, could be a place where bundles of rice are marketed (the c later getting pronounced as c); Niranam could have been this market place. Naura and Tyndis are mentioned in Periplus as the first market places, about 500 stadia (50 miles) before Muziris. Being mentioned together, both could also be in Alleppey region. Naura recalls to mind nau which means ship (it is also the root of nauka, meaning ship) and nōra means mouth. Possibly it is the seaside port village, entry to the more inland Muziris. Tyndis could be related to tiṇṭ, a Malayalam word that means a bund, an embankment possibly to the sides of Naura. All these evidently support the claim of Muziris (derived from muśir) being the present day Alleppy.

In the Peutinger Map, a Temple of Augusti is marked and this is generally taken as evidence of a Temple dedicated to Emperor Augustus. But no such reverence for any Roman emperor is recorded in Kerala. Egyptians had good knowledge of stars and veneration for many of them, especially Sirius; likewise, Keralites too venerate Sirius, namely as the Makarajyothi nakshathra the darsan of which is the high point

of Sabarimala pilgrimage. According to Pliny's Natural History, travel by sea begins just before or just after the rise of Sirius (in Egypt). Likewise the ships leave India at least before January 13 which is the date of Makarajyothi darsan (January 13 or 14); even at that period it would have been so. It is reasonable to assume that Keralites even at that time had knowledge of Sirius and suggests the possibility that Sabarimala temple, which is presumed to be very ancient but exact date not known, too could have existed at that time.

Canopus/α Carinae is the second brightest star in the sky and is known in India as Agastya; it is well visible from any Kerala latitude. It is possible that this star too could have been venerated in Kerala and the temple Augustus could have been dedicated to it. Another possibility is that this temple represents the Chengannur Mahadeva Temple where Sage Agastya had meditated. This is an ancient temple; it may be remembered that according to a Katapayaadi (an Alphasyllabary number system) notation the idol at this temple was consecrated on April 29, -58 AD (*K Chandra Hari* Astronomical Evidence on the Dates of Early Cera Kings. 2008 The IUP Journal of History and Culture, Vol. II, No. 2, 2008). All these support the notion that Alleppey was indeed Muziris.

### Discussion

The paper has analyzed seven place names in Kerala presumed to be exonyms and shown that they are endonyms of Malayalam-Sanskrit origin, intelligently formed by ancient people, possibly of Kerala itself. One question that can arise is whether Keralites were sufficiently conversant in Sanskrit at that time. According to Ashoka's Girnar Edict, he had established treatment facilities in Kerala well before 232 BCE and there were import of medical goods from neighboring countries from here. This suggests close contact between the two, especially in the field of Ayurveda and exchange of language even before the third century BCE. Hence, use of Sanskrit words for place name formation is not surprising.

It is possible that many other 'anglicised' names may also be indigenous. This remarkable finding should be an avenue of Linguistics and Historical research of Kerala, and Semantic etymology is an important tool for this purpose. From a linguistics perspective, it suggests that there thrived in Kerala an advanced language and a population adept at its use intelligently.

Dr. V.N. Bhattachari