



CIBF
2025

CHENNAI
INTERNATIONAL
BOOK FAIR

TAMIL WORDS TRAVEL THE WORLD



Table of contents

Tho. Paramasivan	1
The Sweet Salt Of Tamil (Non-fiction)	2
Joe D' Cruz	3
Ocean Rimmed World (Historical Fiction)	4
M.K. Stalin	5
One among You (Part 1) (Political Autobiography)	6
Mari Selvaraj	7
Spared by Thamirabarani (Autobiographical fiction)	8
Is there a way to forget? (Memoir)	9
Pandiakannan	10
Yoke (Fiction)	11
Thuyan	12
Cathedral (Fiction)	13

T. K. Srinivasan



T.K. Srinivasan (1922-1989) was a Tamil intellectual and literary figure who earned the title "Thathtuva Methai" (Philosophical Genius) for his contributions to the Dravidian movement. As a prolific author, his literary portfolio encompassed novels, short stories, and essays that championed social reform and cultural pride.

His works were characterized by their accessible prose style, often incorporating poetic elements from Bharathiar and Bharathidasan. Beyond literature, he served as a Rajya Sabha member, Deputy Chairman of Tamil Nadu Planning Commission, and Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation. His powerful oratory and commitment to progressive ideals earned him significant roles in the DMK party's executive committee.

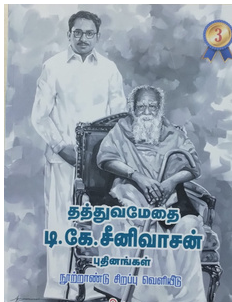
His legacy continues to influence modern Tamil political and literary discourse. Professional Recognition: Literary critics acclaimed his works for their ideological consistency and artistic merit. He received special commendation from Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi for his dedication to social justice and linguistic rights.

“ If we bear such great responsibility for the stomach that serves only the body, how many times more responsibility must we bear for the intellect that serves the entire world? ”

—”

Dravidian Philosopher T. K. Srinivasan's Literary Collection

“Dravidian Legacy”



T.K. Srinivasan was a prominent writer and intellectual in the Dravidian movement, known as "Thathtuva Methai" (Philosophical Genius). His literary works encompassed novels, short stories, and essays that strongly advocated Dravidian ideology and social reform. His writings consistently promoted rationalism, social justice, opposition to Hindi imposition, and love for Tamil language. His first short story appeared in "Murasoli" in 1948, and he gained wide readership among Tamil Nadu's youth. His work was praised for its simple style, incorporating quotes from Bharathiar and Bharathidasan. Literary critics like Ka. Appadurai noted that his short stories emphasized rationalism, social reform, and Tamil language pride. According to Thillai Maraimuthalvan, his novels maintained impeccable standards throughout.

Essays 206 p.

Short stories- 301

Novels - 326

Language Availability: Tamil

Rights - World rights

Copyright: T. K. S. Elangovan

Key Themes:

Tamil Nadu Politics

Dravidian Ideology

Self- Respect Movement

Humanity and Equality

Tho. Paramasivan



Tho. Paramasivan, known affectionately as ThoPa, was born in 1950 at Tamil Nadu, India. An avid reader, he came under the spell of Ci Su Mani, a self-taught Tamil scholar steeped in Saiva literature and philosophy. After graduating in economics from St Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, he joined Alagappa University for a M.A in Tamil. He has served as the Head of the Tamil Department of Nellai Manonmaniam Sundaranar University and has mentored many students in their doctoral studies.

He has written and spoken in Tamil with depth and emphasis on various topics like culture, anthropology, linguistics, national customs, history, et cetera. With a deep interest in archaeology, particularly epigraphy, ThoPa became a scholar rooted in precolonial intellectual traditions.

He has written several books in Tamil that continue to hold value in the Tamil literary space such as Alagar Kovil, Ariyapadatha Tamilakam, Dheivam Enbathor, Ithuvae Sananaayagam and more. The author's works have been nationalized in the year 2021.

“—
The late John Bernard Bate , a
Chicago anthropologist,
revered Tho. Pa as his mentor,
emphasizing his scholarship.”
—”

The Sweet Salt Of Tamil: Things We Do Not Know About Tamil

(Ariyapadatha Thamizhagam)



Non-fiction: History. 136 p.
Tamil Nadu Textbook and
Educational Services
Corporation, 2023.

Language Availability: Tamil
and English

Rights - World rights
available/ Except English
Copyright: Tamil Nadu
Textbook and Educational
Services Corporation

Key Themes:

Tamil Culture
Historical and Linguistic Milieu
Food and Games
Secular Social Structure

“An intellectual feast”

Thoppaidas Paramasivan's *The Sweet Salt Of Tamil: Things We Do Not Know about Tamil Country*, first published in 1997. The text offers the wisdom of issues, ideas, and concepts that draw upon the rich literature, culture, and history of the Tamil land. The first lines of the text set the mood for the intellectual feast to follow: Tamil is sweetness personified for the Tamilian, and lexicographical works like the *PingalaNighandu* aver “sweetness and coolness are the hallmark of Tamil.”

The first chapter traces literary references to Tamil, from early historic war poems in *Purananuru* to medieval Saiva Tevaram hymns and folk traditions, blurring the lines between language and literary culture. ThoPa presents evidence highlighting the unique connection between the language, the land, social relationships, and the environment. This leads to a fascinating discussion on water, and the social and religious dimensions of food.

The discussion on the 19th and early 20th century linguistic and cultural milieu of Tamil, in terms of Western missionary influences and the Saivite attacks on Christianity and the retaliation makes for interesting reading.

JOE D' CRUZ



R. N. Joe D'Cruz, a notable Tamil writer, novelist, and documentary film director from Tamil Nadu, India, gained recognition for his 2013 Sahitya Akademi Award-winning novel "Korkai," published in 2009. He serves as the Tamil Nadu state president of Samskrita Bharati. His literary contributions include "Pulambazhkal," a Tamil poetry compilation (2004), and the Tamil Nadu state government and Tamil Literary Garden award-winning novel "Aazhi Soozh Ulagu" (2005). Both novels intricately depict the history and lives of the Parathavar fishermen community in Tamil Nadu.

D'Cruz's documentary films, such as "Vidiyatha Pozhuthukal" (2008), "Towards Dawn" (2010) and "Inayam: The Ground Reality", focus on the plight of Tamil fishermen. He also ventured into screenwriting with the Tamil movie "Maryan." Active in environmental and social issues, he opposed the Kudankulam nuclear power project and expressed concerns over the International Container Transshipment Terminal at Enayam, advocating for the development of existing ports rather than new projects in India. His work and advocacy reflect a deep engagement with regional cultural and environmental concerns.

Outstanding Work

- Aazhi Soozh Ulagu
- Korkai
- Asthinapuram
- Yaathirai

Ocean Rimmed World

(Aazhi Soozh Ulagu)



“ Enfold the unique culture of the Parathavar ”

"Ocean Rimmed World" is set along the Southern Tamil Nadu coast, focusing on a fateful day in 1985 when three fishermen from Aamandhurai village - Godhra Pillai, Susai, and Siluvai - are stranded at sea. The youngest, Siluvai, is the sole survivor, rescued near Tuticorin.

The novel portrays the community's life, marked by shifts from prosperity to poverty, as seen through Siluvai's parents, Oomaiyan and Sara. It fathom out human complexities, highlighting Susai's dark side and his protective instincts towards Siluvai. Their interconnected lives unfold through events like Susai's assault on Sara and Siluvai's journey to Kanyakumari.

Novel. 640 p. Kalachuvadu Publications, 2022.
9789355231017

Language Availability: Tamil and English
Rights - World rights available/ Except English
Copyright: Author

Key Themes:

Life and death
Fishermen community life
Cultural and Religious dynamics of coastline

Central themes include struggle, sacrifice, and the cruel realities of generational feuds, exemplified by characters like Justin and the cunning Marikozhunthu. The narrative explores varied aspects of fishermen life - local disputes, aspirations, and the omnipresence of death. "Aazhi Soozh Ulagu" is full of life stories, capturing the essence of a fishing community through its diverse characters, their trials and triumphs, and the inexorable force of nature dictating their existence.

M.K. STALIN



M.K. Stalin, the esteemed 8th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, began his political journey at the tender age of 14, founding the Gopalapuram Youth wing. With an illustrious electoral career spanning 35 years, his impact on Tamil Nadu politics is indelible. Following the ideals of Periyar, Arignar Anna, and Kalaignar, he proclaims social justice, self-respect, rationalism, equality, and brotherhood.

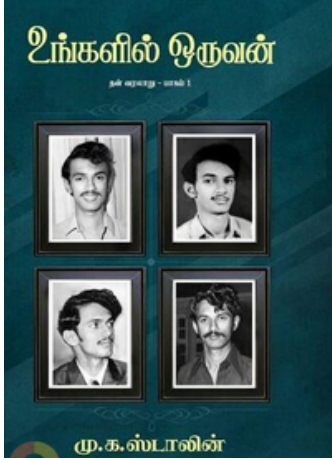
Acknowledged globally, Chief Minister Stalin received the prestigious Kentucky Colonel Award for his outstanding contributions to social service, women's empowerment, and social justice. Anna University conferred upon him an Honorary Doctorate, recognizing his contributions to the administration of Tamil Nadu.

“
I will
always
be one
among You
”
- M.K.Stalin

Notably, his initiative to appoint individuals of all castes as temple priests reflects his commitment to the dreams of unparalleled leaders like M Karunanidhi and Periyar. Despite its controversy, this policy is hailed as a significant step towards societal revolution and combating discrimination. Chief Minister Stalin shares his remarkable journey in his autobiography, "Ungalil Oruvan-I," offering a glimpse into the formative years of his life

One Among You (Part-I)

(Ungalil Oruvan- I)



Autobiography. 336 p.
Poompunar Publications, 2022.

Language Availability: Tamil and English
Rights - World rights available/
Except English
Copyright: Author

Key Themes:

Dravidian Ideology,
Social Justice
Nature of leadership.

“ A Vibrant Political Journey “

The tell-all book opens with the swearing-in words of a Chief Minister, “I am Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin...!” In quiet moments, he is engulfed by the vivid reminiscence of his father's face. The dilemma of whether to call his father "dad" or "leader" reflects the respect and devotion he has for him. The very beginning lines substantiate this as an autobiography of a visionary leader who has followed in the footsteps of eminent leaders.

For instance, the author unfolds how his father named him. Initially deciding to name him Iyyadurai in remembrance of Iyya Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Annadurai, his father later proclaimed him to be named Stalin, meaning man of steel, during the memorial gathering for Joseph Stalin. He faces denial of school admission due to the name Stalin. The book captures the author's first-hand accounts of his political career, triumphs, and challenges.

The first volume concludes with his arrest under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) during the Emergency. The author ends the narrative with the lines, “I will take you inside the prison! Here, I am standing before the prison doors! You too wait!”

MARI SELVARAJ



In the timeless embrace of Puliyankulam Village, Mari Selvaraj emerges as a distinctive voice for the voiceless in Tamil cinema. He has directed realistic films with revolutionary plots such as *Pariyerum Perumal*, *Karnan*, and *Maamanan*. Before directing movies, he showcased his literary prowess.

Thamirabaraniyil Kollapadathavargal is the debut work, a collection of short stories.

He has written the series *Marakkave Ninaikkiren* in the esteemed Tamil Magazine *Ananda Vikatan*. The series has been published by Vamsi Publications. He is going to write another series, *Sambatti Attam*, in *Ananda Vikatan*.

He has an unparalleled blend of artistic vision, social consciousness, and narrative finesse. He has carved a niche for himself, garnering accolades and a devoted following for his impactful contributions to both cinema and literature.

Outstanding Work

- *Thamirabaraniyil Kollapadathavargal*
- *Marakkave Ninaikkiren*

Spared by Thamirabarani

(Thamirabaraniyil Kollapadathavargal)



Short stories. 200 p. Vamsi Publications, 2012.
978-93-80545-71-4
Language Availability:
Tamil
Rights - World rights available/ Except English
Copyright: Author

Key Themes:

Existential struggle of the Ostracized

“ Narratives from the son of the soil”

A heart-rending anthology penned by Mari Selvaraj, offering a nostalgic journey through the landscapes of Tirunelveli and Tuticorin. Selvaraj’s storytelling resonates with authenticity, transporting readers to the realms of school days, bus stops, cinema theatres, and encounters with everyday life. He also reflects the socio-political impact during his youth.

From tales of poisoned bananas symbolizing cruelty in villages to the reflection on casteism influencing the lives of ninth-grade boys who conspire against the Mahatma, each story bears a personal touch that elevates its political significance. The attack on poor Noochi by Appadurai, who proclaims social justice on stage. The description of piglets sucking the teats of a burnt sow.

All the stories subtly address societal issues, challenging norms and shedding light on the complexities of relationships, caste dynamics, and political frustrations. For global readers, especially those with a penchant for rural narratives and a deep connection to their roots, this collection offers a rich and relatable literary experience.

Is there a way to forget?

(Marakave Ninaikiren)



Memoir. 280 p. Vamsi Publications, 2019.
978-93-84598-81-5.

Language Availability: Tamil
Rights - World rights available
Copyright: Author

Key Themes:

Childhood Trauma and
Community Violence.

“An artistic chiaroscuro of human connections and societal intricacies”

Mari Selvaraj, in contrast to others, tends to bury his adolescent memories deep within, concealing the pain of old wounds that have transformed into common scars. This is the essence of Mari Selvaraj's *Is there a way to forget?* The innocence of the author unfolds in the very first chapter, where he expresses, 'I have always loved to read diaries written by others with the front pages stating, 'Please don't read this...'

The narration intensifies with the author's arrival in Chennai. For instance, the false promise he makes to Iruttunaatu Perumal Annachi on the Marina beach, followed by guilt and moral dilemmas. On the other hand, the juxtaposition of relief surfaces, highlighting the consequences of not bringing Annachi to the film producer's home, where he resided near a kennel, like an unchained dog.

He explicates the stark nature of human beings, which serves as a powerful mirror for introspection. He explores all kinds of affections in the form of smell, blood and flesh, and virtues. The reader can feel their palms wet

PANDIAKANNAN



Outstanding Work

- Salavaan
- Mazhaiparai
- Nugathadi
- Medai

“—
| When I write, I
| use the same
| hands that have
| carried shit. —”

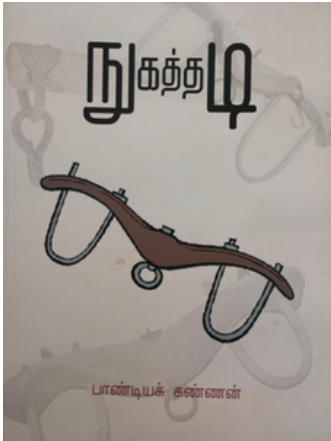
-Pandiakannan

R.Pandiakannan, the pioneering Tamil novelist from the Kuravar community, vividly portrays the harsh realities of manual scavenging and the profound impact of societal upheavals on his people through his novels. Now in his fifties, he was born into a family of sanitation workers. His father was determined to ensure that his son received an education, a rarity among Kuravar children who were mostly deprived of it.

Employed in the Tamil Nadu Government Health Transport Department, Pandiyakannan not only embraced his role but also founded a theatre troupe named Friends Art Collective. However, this initiative faced disapproval from government authorities, resulting in Pandiyakannan's transfer from Virudhunagar to the southern city of Nagercoil. Unfazed, he courageously wields his pen, reflecting on the lives of the Kuravars—a community traditionally associated with hunting but now grappling with displacement, political betrayals, and casteism.

Pandiyakannan has authored four novels: Salavaan, Mazhaiparai, Yoke, and Medai. Salavaan (Male pig) has been translated into Malayalam and is currently undergoing translation into English. Notably, the novel has served as a primary resource for research scholars at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

Yoke (Nugathadi)



Novel. 247 p. Bharathi Puthagalayam, 2018. 978-93-88126-92-2.

Language Availability:
Tamil
Rights - World rights available
Copyright: Author

Key Themes:

Hereditary labour,
Casteism,
Gender Inequality,
Political Activism,
Police Brutality and Liberation.

“In the shadow of vulture”

"Yoke" unfolds as a tale of resilience, oppression, and the fight for justice. The narrative opens with Muthaiyan and Muthuppechi, a sanitation worker couple facing societal norms as they aspire to educate their children. The story takes a tragic turn when Muthaiyan, falsely accused, is beaten to death by the police. Their daughter, Chandra, forced into hereditary labour, where she faces sexual assault and false accusations, leading to a series of brutalities.

The novel sheds light on the systemic abuse faced by women like Chandra, Manimekalai, and Sathya, who endure rape, false accusations, and imprisonment. As the victims' stories gain momentum, a statewide protest ensues, exposing police brutality and prompting political attention. The opposition parties advocate the cause, leading to a thorough investigation.

The Chief Minister's intervention results in the dismissal and imprisonment of the guilty police officers, offering a semblance of justice. Chandra's struggle against cruelty is a recurring theme, illustrating the pervasive oppression faced by Dalit women, particularly sanitation workers and manual scavengers. Through Chandra's journey, the narrative emphasizes the urgent need to empower women, resist societal pressures, and pursue individual aspirations. "Yoke" serves as a powerful commentary on social injustice in the modern era.

THUYAN



Thuyan, who regularly writes articles, stories, and reviews in contemporary literature, was born in Pudukottai in the year 1986. After completing his Master's in Microbiology, he works in a laboratory. Two collections of short stories, 'Irumunai' and 'Darwin's Vaal,' have been published so far. 'Cathedral' is his debut novel. Currently, he is experimenting with the graphic novels and aspiring to publish his own in the near future.

He has written an article under the title 'Persepolis - A Cross-sectional look at the life of Satrapi' in a virtual forum. It is about Marjane Satrapi, an Iranian writer famously known for her children's literature and graphic novels. He keeps writing in his blog thuyan.in

Outstanding Work

- Irumunai
- Darwin's Vaal
- Cathedral

Cathedral



Novel. 184 p. Kalachuvadu Publications, 2021.
978-9355230157

Language Availability: Tamil
Rights - World rights available
Copyright: Author

Key Themes:
Historical Mystery,
Christianity and
British Colony.

“ The Cathedral whispers stolen dreams “

"Cathedral," set in the late 19th century Colonial India amidst the Kodaikanal hills. Ernst Von Brucke and Nietzsche are scholars in Vienna, who are bonded at Opera. Nietzsche is drawn towards Eastern philosophy visits India. He finds a mountain for psychological experiments, blending oriental principles. Joining him are individuals with their own unresolved stories at the hill, seeking answers amidst their tangled destinies.

To stop a Western physician from stealing other people's thoughts, a woman who has sacrificed her unique fantasies to theft joins someone who has lost their history and a nun who gave up her childhood dreams. Abraham, a deaf and dumb pangawala, storyteller uncovers the building's mysterious narrative in sign language. Cathedral becomes a character itself explicating Christianity amid colonial rule.

The conclusion within the narrative is the storm set at the opening of the novel, setting the stage with the end of the story as its beginning—a narrative structure that places the reader amidst a tale where the conclusion is already known.

"Cathedral" invites readers to ponder the intricate threads that connect humanity, time, astro and stolen knowledge, mirroring the unexplored.

Expand your horizons. Secure our grant.


The Tamil Nadu Translation Grant Program, launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu, aims to promote Tamil literature worldwide and facilitate its broader reach. A literary agent plays a pivotal role in securing translation grants, as they also oversee both inward and outward rights. Through this program, non-Tamil publishers in India as well as foreign countries will be able to translate and publish Tamil titles into their languages, thus making these works accessible to readers everywhere.

Global Literary Agent Training Program

The Tamil Nadu government's Global Literary Agent Training Program is a comprehensive initiative designed to equip literary agents with essential skills. Led by accomplished resource persons, the program covers diverse subjects crucial to the profession. Classes incorporate various activities, fostering practical insights and hands-on experience. Participants engage in interactive sessions, workshops, and case studies, gaining a nuanced understanding of global literary dynamics. Beyond traditional aspects like negotiation and rights management, the program addresses emerging trends and technologies. With a dynamic learning approach, it empowers literary agents to navigate the evolving landscape, ensuring they are adept at meeting the demands of the global literary market.

Certified Global Literary Agent

 deepak.litagent@gmail.com

 +91-9360460661



Deepak R





Let's stay in contact



deepak.litagent@gmail.com



+91-9360460661

