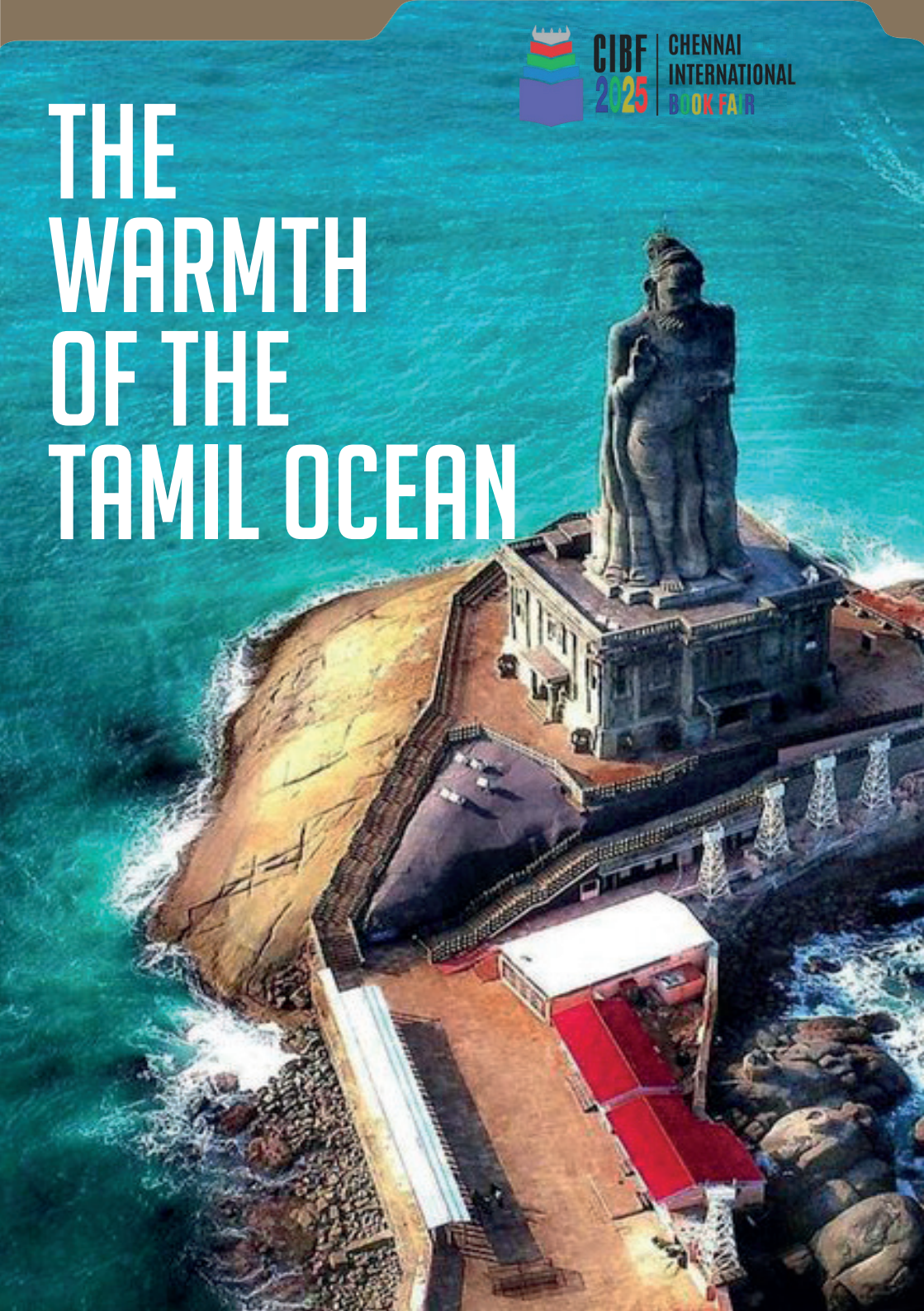




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# THE WARMTH OF THE TAMIL OCEAN



## A Peek into the Tamil Literary Seascape

# The Warmth of the Tamil Ocean

### Modern Classic

Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi

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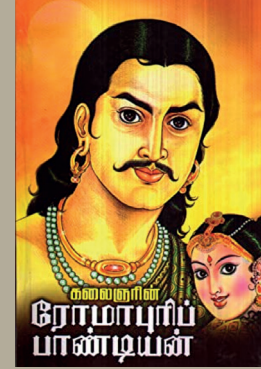
Kutti Revathi, Hameem Mustafa, Sukirtharani



Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi (1924-2018) was the five-time Chief Minister of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. He is a writer at heart. He fought for equality and social justice with the might of his pen. He wrote short stories, plays, novels, essays, film scripts, and poems to drive home the message of truth and justice. He earned a living by writing for films in Modern Cinemas, Salem, in the 1940s. It was a bold step on his part

to believe in the power of writing and make a full-time career out of it. Penned by him, *Parasakthi* (1952) became a blockbuster. His works of fiction and non-fiction roused people to action on the ground. Most of his works are a call to action. He kept the millions of followers of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the political party he headed for almost five decades, engaged by the truth of his words. Mahatma Gandhi described politics as positive action. Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi became an example of positive action for India.

He understood the Tamil language's power in his teenage years and used it to uplift millions of people from the margins of Tamil society. He is a phenomenal writer by market standards. His works sold in the millions because they had a larger-than-life purpose and a social justice and equality mission.



Modern Classic. 632 Pages.  
Bharathi Pathippagam.  
1995. Worldwide Rights available.  
Copyright: Kanimozhi Karunanidhi

Set in 20 BCE, the narrative unfolds with the signing of a crucial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between *Karikala Chola* and *Peruvazhuthi Pandian*. These two kings, along with pivotal characters like Poet Kaarikannanar's daughter Muthunagai, Peruvazhuthi Pandian's aide Chezhiyan, rebel king Irungovel, and his sister Thamarai, play key roles in the story. The plot weaves intricate relationships, including Muthunagai falling in love with Irungovel, unaware of his true identity.

Irungovel, concealing his role, navigates political complexities with Chezhiyan's love for Thamarai. Tensions rise as Irungovel reveals his identity, leading to conflict and intrigue. The narrative culminates in Muthunagai thwarting rebel attacks, Karikala Chola's realization of mistakes, and the subsequent focus on commerce and development.

The story expands to diplomatic ties with the Roman Empire, with Chezhiyan representing Tamil Nadu in Rome. The author vividly describes Chezhiyan's reception in Rome, including interactions with Juno, a minister in Augustus Caesar's court. Returning to Madurai, Chezhiyan rejects the throne, emphasizing the greatness of warriors and highlighting the enduring unity between the Cholas and Pandyas.



## Silamboli Su. Chellappan



Silamboli Su. Chellappan was born on September 24, 1928, in Siviyampalayam village near Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, India. His discourses on the Tamil epic Cilappatikaram were well known. R.P. Sethupillai, author and scholar, named him Silamboli Chellappan - meaning One Who Propagates Cilappatikaram. He wrote commentaries for Cilappatikaram and Manimekhalai, two of the five epics of Tamil.

He supervised the preparation of souvenirs for the World Tamil Conferences in Chennai and Madurai and the World Semmozhi Conference in Coimbatore. He also served as Director of the Tamil Nadu Government's Tamil Development Department. He was the Director of the Publications Department at the Tamil University in Thanjavur.

## Four Lines For Life



Didactic Literature. 250 Pages.  
2000. Worldwide Rights available.  
Copyright: TNTBESC

The Naladiyar is a didactic literature revered as a text as competent as Tirukkural. Tirukkural is considered as sacred as a Scripture by Tamils.

It contains 400 poems, each containing four lines. Every poem deals with virtues and ethics, extolling virtuous behaviour. Monks belonging to the Jain faith wrote this text. The commentary of Silamboli Su Chellappan helps the readers decipher the hidden meanings of the multi-layered text.

The author researched for his commentaries on Cilappatikaram and Manimekhalai. That gave him power over the vocabulary of the Sangam age.

The ninth poem rebukes those who hoard wealth. "One who does not put money to work for self or others has lost it already," writes Chellappan. The author explains the 189th poem: "If your mind is clear, you won't be perturbed by those who provoke you." 370th poem is about the love of sex workers. "Just as the flood recedes after the rains, the love of sex workers goes away after your earning capacity diminishes."



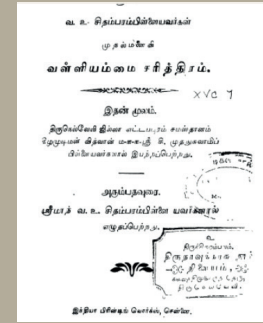
# V.O. Chidambaram



Vallinayagam Olganathan Chidambaram Pillai (5 September 1872 - 18 November 1936), also known as Kappalottiya Tamizhan ("Tamil Helmsman"), was an Indian freedom fighter and a prominent leader in the Indian independence movement. He founded the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company in 1906 to compete against the monopoly of the British India Steam Navigation Company (BISNC). He launched the

first indigenous Indian shipping service between Tuticorin (India) and Colombo (Sri Lanka) with the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNC), competing against British ships. Tuticorin Port Trust, one of India's thirteen big ports, is named after him. Once a member of the Indian National Congress, he was later charged with sedition by the British government and sentenced to life imprisonment and canceled his license to practice as a barrister.

# Story of Valliammai



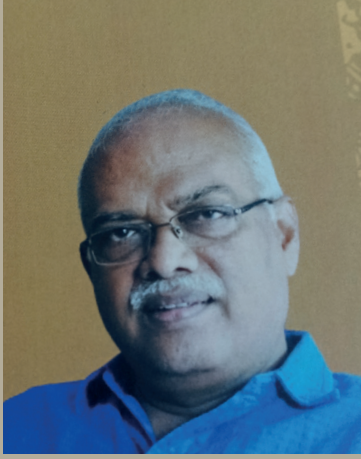
Non-fiction. Biography. 100 Pages. 1915. Worldwide Rights available. Copyright: TNTBESC

'Story of Valliammai' is the story of the first wife of V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, the Indian freedom fighter who challenged the British commercially. Valliammai has been a source of strength for the social reforms led by V.O. Chidambaram. She stood by him in fighting untouchability and fed Dalits at home. She supported the cause of freedom by donating her jewelry.

'She has come like a swan and leads me from the front,' is how V.O.C describes his wife Valliammai. 'She has been a rock-solid support and took great care of V.O.C,' is how Sankara Valli Nayagam, biographer of V.O. Chidambaram, depicts her. V.O.C says she is the embodiment of knowledge.

Considering the sacrifice of Valliammai, V.O.C's second wife Meenakshi actively enabled the publishing of her biography with the commentary of V.O.C. It is a rare piece of literature that records the work of Valliammai in India's freedom struggle and social reforms.

## Dr. J. Jeyaranjan



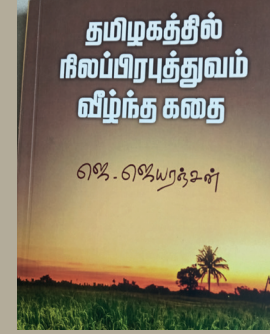
Dr. J. Jeyaranjan is a distinguished writer, economist, and social historian with a profound interest in exploring the socio-economic fabric of Tamil Nadu and its cultural history. Born and raised in Tamil Nadu, Dr. Jeyaranjan pursued his academic journey with dedication, earning advanced degrees in Economics, culminating in a doctorate that reflects his scholarly rigor and deep understanding of societal structures.

A prolific writer, Dr. Jeyaranjan is celebrated for his ability to seamlessly blend academic insights with engaging storytelling. His works, often rooted in meticulous research, delve into the intersections of economics, history, and social justice, shedding light on issues such as caste, labor, and rural livelihoods. Through his writing, he seeks to document the struggles, resilience, and evolving identity of marginalized communities, particularly in Tamil Nadu. Dr. Jeyaranjan's repertoire includes essays, research papers, and books that have been lauded for their clarity and accessibility, appealing to both academic and general audiences. His contributions to Tamil and English literature have enriched public discourse, earning him recognition as a thought leader in his field.

Known for his insightful observations and compassionate voice, Dr. Jeyaranjan continues to inspire readers and researchers alike with his dedication to uncovering the untold stories of Tamil Nadu's people and its rich cultural heritage. His literary and academic pursuits stand as a testament to his belief in the transformative power of knowledge and storytelling.

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## The Story of the Fall of Feudalism in Tamil Nadu



Non-fiction. ISBN: 978-81-981510-1-8.

Pages: 198. Kayal Kavin Books. 2021.

Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

Dr. J. Jeyaranjan's *The Story of the Fall of Feudalism in Tamil Nadu* is a compelling exploration of the socio-economic transformation that reshaped Tamil Nadu's rural landscape. The book meticulously chronicles the decline of feudal structures, shedding light on the forces that dismantled the age-old dominance of landlords and hierarchical social systems. Drawing on historical records, economic analysis, and oral histories, Dr. Jeyaranjan unravels the struggles of marginalized communities, the rise of agrarian labor movements, and the role of political reforms in creating a more egalitarian society.

This thought-provoking work captures the interplay of caste, class, and politics in Tamil Nadu's transition from feudalism to a modern economy. Written with clarity and depth, it appeals to scholars, students, and general readers alike, offering valuable insights into the state's socio-political evolution and its implications for contemporary social justice movements.

## Vareethiah Konstantine



Vareethiah Konstantine is a trailblazing Tamil writer whose works have enriched Tamil literature with their unique insights into the lived realities of coastal communities in Tamil Nadu. His writings are in the realm of cultural anthropology and social critique. Hailing from coastal Tamil Nadu, Konstantine's writings often open up the unwritten world of fishing communities. His deep understanding of Tamil society and

its cultural nuances is reflected in his nuanced narratives, which resonate with readers across generations.

A prolific author, Konstantine has penned short stories and essays that explore the impact of climate change on fisher populations in a rapidly warming globe. His mastery of storytelling, combined with his philosophical depth, has earned him critical acclaim and a devoted readership.

Konstantine's works, often characterized by their vivid imagery and emotional depth, continue to inspire love for nature. His contributions to Tamil literature have cemented his legacy as a significant and innovative voice in the literary landscape.

## Turaiyadal



Non-fiction.

Maritime Travelogue. ISBN: 978-81-959633-7-9.

Pages: 975. Kadalveli. 2024.

Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

Turaiyadal is a creative nonfiction and an ethnographic document. Vareethiah Konstantine's interviews with fisher elders across 1,076 kilometres of Tamil coastline bring out new dimensions of the communities living precariously on the shore. Intense conversations are a way of life for the author. He believes in the power of words to reshape our future. He incessantly records the lives of fisher people with a critical understanding of the state and the public. Protection of the ocean ecosystem is the protection of humanity from extinction. The knowledge of the ocean exists within the coastal communities. Preservation of this knowledge is vital to understanding how climate impacts our planet, argues the author. His Ocean-centric writings are a continuation of the water-centric thinking found in the Sangam Age.



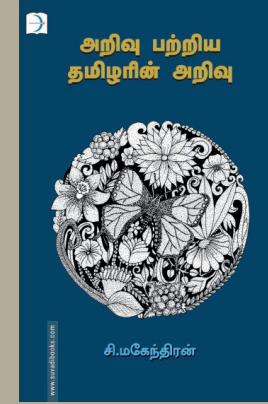
## C. Mahendran



C. Mahendran is an author and a leader of the Communist Party of India in Tamil Nadu, India. He is the editor of Thamarai, a literary magazine. He has authored books on the rivers of Tamil Nadu, among other things. He was born in Keezhavannipattu village in Thanjavur district. He has been an organizer from his student days. He is active in environmental protection movements across the state of Tamil Nadu. His

essays in the media publications on contemporary politics get a good reception because of the literary value he brings to them.

## Tamil Epistemology (Tamilarin Arivu)



Non-fiction. 978-81- 942420-3-1  
232 Pages. Discovery Publications. 2018.  
Worldwide Rights available. Copyright: Author

Humans produce knowledge every moment they face a challenge. By the time the knowledge reaches the universities, it is almost a decade or a little longer than that. According to new research from authors like Tony Joseph, the Tamil and the Harappan civilizations may be a continuum. C. Mahendran's Tamil epistemology focuses on the unique perspectives the Tamil language has brought to the world.

The author taps into the rich repository of Sangam and Bhakti literature of Tamil to talk about the original knowledge production in the South Indian landscape. He expands on the power of the Tamil linguistic systems to explain the world to the public. For instance, dividing the planet into five types of thinaï resonates with natural evolution.

He exploits the infrastructure of the Tamil language and its extensive resources to argue the enormous role the Tamil language has played in the production of knowledge for the Indian subcontinent and the world at large. This award- winning book is an unputdownable read.

## Maalan



Maalan (V. Narayanan) is an eminent bilingual (Tamil and English) writer and a journalist. He is honoured with many coveted awards that include Award for Wholesomeness in Creativity by Bharatiya Basha Parishad, Sahitya Akademi's Translation Prize, Government of Tamil Nadu's Best Translator award and Life Time Achievement Award from many literary bodies and institutes of

national eminence. He is a Lee Kong Chian Fellow of Singapore. Some of his stories were translated into Chinese, Malay, French, English and in Indian languages and have appeared in the leading English and Indian Language magazines and in anthologies. His books find a place in many national libraries including Library of Congress, United States.

He was guest of honour in many literary festivals such as Writers' Week celebrations of Singapore, Festival of India at Malaysia, Read! Singapore, -Singapore, Boao Forum for Asia, China. (Successively for 3 years) and China Writers' Association Conference on Literature and Development, China London Literary Forum, London, Global Knowledge Foundation, Nepal.

## Outside My Window (En Jannalukku Veliye)



Non-fiction. 978-93- 88450-75-1

Pages 352. Kavitha Pathippagam. 2021.

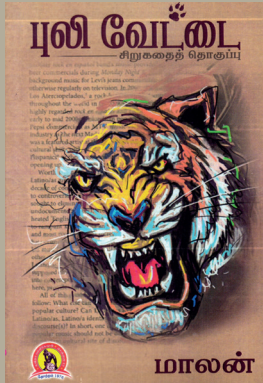
Worldwide Rights available. Copyright: Author.

Maalan writes hope. His literary language is comforting for the audience. For instance, in his column about Covid-19 and lockdown, he spotlights the quality time people got to spend with their loved ones.

In a column on prisons and books, he talks about how India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru used his time in prison to write books. These columns appear every week in Kumudam, a popular Tamil magazine.

The book is a collection of literary journalism pieces written from 2019 to 2021. The author uses the idioms of the Tamil language and quotes the masters of the language to drive home a message in each column. The literary experience of each column made this book into the shortlist for the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2023. The columns are informative and have universal appeal besides having a unique style of writing.

# Puli Vettai (Tiger On The Prowl)



Short Stories. ISBN: 978-93-94489-98-3.  
Pages: 648. Pisagu Pathippagam. 2023.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

This anthology by Maalan is a remarkable collection of short stories that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, showcasing the experiences of the Indian diaspora in various parts of the world. Written originally in Tamil and first published in 2022, the compilation stands out for its unique setting: while the stories are rooted in countries such as Singapore, China, England, Japan, Australia, and the United States, the protagonists are predominantly Indian, particularly Indian Tamils. A few stories are also set in India, creating a bridge between homeland and diaspora.

What makes this collection particularly significant is its ability to reflect the globalized contemporary world. The stories delve into the societies and cultures of the host countries while illustrating the challenges, triumphs, and failures of Indian immigrants as they navigate unfamiliar terrains.

Through a blend of satire and humor, Maalan brings to life the struggles of cultural assimilation, the nuances of identity, and the enduring connection to family back in India.

At the same time, the anthology explores how the lives of these expatriates influence and are influenced by the families they leave behind.

This work not only sheds light on the diaspora's lived realities but also enriches Tamil literature by expanding its thematic and geographical horizons. It offers readers a rare glimpse into how the Indian experience intersects with diverse global cultures, making it an essential read for anyone interested in contemporary diasporic narratives.

Shortlisted for the Sahitya Akademi Award (2024)

LIST OF BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR THE SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD – 2024 IN TAMIL				
S.No.	Title	Author	Year of First Publication	Genre
1.	Avathurukalin Kalam	Ilampirai	2018	Poetry
2.	Ezhutha Payanam	Lakshmi Balakrishnan	2019	Essay
3.	Ilakkia Varalatra Varaiviyal	R. Srinivasan	2022	Research
4.	Karunchivappu Eesalgai	Tamizhavan (S. Carlos)	2022	Short Stories
5.	Kuruthippoo	M. Nainar	2019	Novel
6.	Ma. Aranganathan Pirathikalai Vasithal	Ka. Panjankam	2021	Essays
7.	Manaimaatchi	M. Gopalakrishnan	2018	Novel
8.	Puli Vettai	Maalan	2022	Short Stories
9.	Sulunthee	R. Muthunagu	2018	Novel
10.	Tirunelveeli Ezuciyum Vaa. Vuu.ci Yum 1908	A.R. Venkatachalapathy	2022	Research
11.	Navalkalin Magathuvam	T.S. Natarajan	2022	Criticism
12.	Valasai	S. Venugopal	2019	Novel



## Muthumeenal



Muthumeenal was born in 1970 in Arittapatti village in Melur in Madurai district. She is the fourth child among the six children of Meenakshi and Chinnaian. She was named Muthupillai by her parents. She contracted leprosy in her childhood. She wrote her experience of healing in the book Mul in 2008. The book became an instant best-seller because of its genuineness. The authentic portrayal of her early life got her critical acclaim. She has continued as a writer since then.

## Soma Veerappan



He has a diploma in banking from the University of Manchester, UK. He retired as the General Manager of the Punjab National Bank in 2012. He has discovered that Tirukkural of Tiruvalluvar is a wonderful text on business management.

## Thorn



Non-fiction. 978-81- 909594-0-7 114 Pages.  
Meenal Publishing. 2009.  
Worldwide Rights available.  
Copyright: Author.

Thorn (Mul) is the story of a young girl who contracted leprosy at age nine. She was given the customary treatment - of being taken to a Home and left there, quarantined, with the other patients for several years until she got cured and was allowed to go out in the world. What awaits her there forms the rest of the story.

Narrated in a style that captures the innocence of the young protagonist, Thorn captures the experience completely, without any false mixtures of sentiment or valor. It is just her story told as it is.

## Kural Inidhu



Non-fiction. Management. ISBN: 978-81-937667-9-8.  
Pages: 272. Tamil Thisai Publications. 2023.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

Soma Veerappan does management lessons by using 125 couplets from Tirukkural of Tiruvalluvar. He looks up to Tiruvalluvar as an inspirational management guru. The author connects stories from his lived experiences to the words of the sage-poet who deep-dived into worldly success.

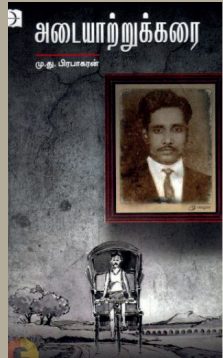
# M.D. Prabakaran



Prabakaran M.D. is an art director in Tamil films. He wrote his debut novel 'Adyatrukarai' in 2023. He has been reading and researching Chennai for several decades. After a degree in Fine Arts from the Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai, he designed the sets for the vibrant Tamil film industry. He also participated in popular movements for justice and liberty

across India and gained on-the-ground experience. Though he has written essays and columns for little magazines, he believes in the power of fiction. He promises to tell more stories of Chennai in the years to come.

## On the Banks of Adyar (Adyatrukarai)



Short Stories. ISBN: 978-81-955261-6-1.  
Pages: 148. Kadarkarai Publications. 2022.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

Munusamy, a waste picker in Chennai, is the protagonist of the novel. He falls in love with Panjavarnam. Despite stiff opposition from her family, Panjavarnam marries Munusamy. Munusamy is a fighter and social reformer in his style. He educates transwoman Sukanya to be the first transwoman Sub-Inspector of Tamil Nadu.

Adyar River, one of the lifelines of Chennai city, is an important character in the story. During his day's work, Munusamy finds a photo of Marimuthu, his ancestor. The picture tells him a story of Chennai city and the many generations that built the city. It is a tale of love, aspirations, illusions, disappointments, and determination. Marimuthu was in love with Bommi. But he goes to marry Kamakshi because he is much more educated than Bommi.

The aspirational story of Marimuthu who gets a job in the Income Tax department because of hard work is an important thread in the novel. Despite his success, he regrets not having married Bommi. Marimuthu's son Santosh and daughter Niranjana choose to live in the US. Though Marimuthu goes to the US on their invitation, his soul revolves around Adyar and tells us the story of the people who live on its banks.

## I am not a Prostitute (Naan Vibachari alla)



Short Stories. ISBN: 978-81-19541-10-2.  
Pages: 150. Discovery Books. 2025.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

Prabakaran's stories have a unique language that brings us a flavour of Chennai. They are thought-provoking conversations between status quo-seekers and change makers. Every story embeds philosophical questions and lived experiences in equal measure.

## S. Tamilselvan



S. Tamilselvan is a leading short story writer in Tamil. He was the head of the Tamil Progressive Writers and Artists Association. He played a key role in the literacy mission of the Government of Tamil Nadu for over two decades. He was born in Nenmeni Mettupatti village in Virudhunagar district in 1954. He lives in Sivakasi. His storytelling is realistic and captures the everyday

life of ordinary people in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu. He comes from the family of Madhurakavi Bhaskara Das, a leading theatre personality and a film lyricist.

## S. Tamilselvan Short Stories



Fiction. 978-93-81908-00-6.

Pages: 232. Bharathi Puthakalayam. 2011.

Worldwide Rights available. Copyright: Author.

S. Tamilselvan's short stories can leave anyone with a heavy heart. For instance, Pavanaikal is about two young boys who face poverty despite both parents working hard to make ends meet. His short story 'Veyilodu Poi' became the film 'Poo.' It is a story about unrequited love. The government of Tamil Nadu awarded him the best storyteller prize in 2008.

Tamilselvan uses minimalist language. It resonates with the reader. The art of storytelling in him is also about his capacity to listen to everyday people. His experience in the Indian Army and later in the Postal Department gave him immense experience working with people from all walks of life.

His position as the President of the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association and extensive travels expanded the landscape of his stories. They connect you with the past, memories, and questions relevant to our times. They are deeply engaging and highly artistic.



## Kavin Malar



Kavin Malar is a journalist and author. She writes essays, poems, and short stories. She was born in Orathanadu, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. Born to an inter-faith couple, Kavin Malar took to writing at a young age. She worked with India Today, Puthiya Thalaimurai, and Ananda Vikatan magazines. She is a singer and theatre artist. She performed many roles in plays about identity, feminism, and resilience.

Her stories traverse urban life, relationships, and childhood. She is also a social media influencer and translator. One of her short stories, Shadows Immersed in the Night, was published in English and Bengali.

## The Enduring Dream - Short Stories



Fiction.

100 Pages. Ethir Veliyeedu.

2014. Worldwide Rights available.

Copyright: Author

Kavin Malar's short stories traverse the mind space of LGBTQ+ people and the oppressed sections of the population. She tells tales of childhood, relationships, and social tensions. She says that she comes to terms with pain through her short stories. "Writing them is therapeutic."

The short story 'Meenukutti' in the short story collection is about a daughter's deep affection for her father. 'The Enduring Dream' story is about the failure of the parents to accept the changing gender identities of children. The story juxtaposes the story of a boy and a girl who discover that they long to belong to the opposite sex.

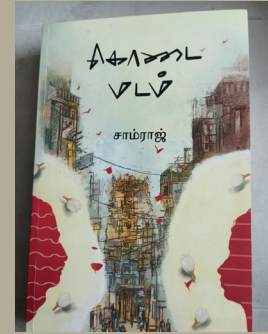
The story 'Annan' deals with the complexities of a relationship between young men and women. Her stories understand the roles of patriarchy in Indian society and deal with them subtly from a fiercely independent view. 'Three- colored Rainbow' talks about the challenges of urban life. It narrates the dispassionate nature of the fast-paced economies through protagonist Murali.

## Samraj



Samraj is a writer in Tamil who writes poetry, essays, short stories, and film reviews. He resides in Chennai and currently works as an assistant director in the film industry. He is known for writing stories and poems that blend humor with satire.

## Kodai Madam



Novel. ISBN: 978-93-94489-98-3.  
Pages: 648. Pisagu Pathippagam. 2023.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

Standing at the beginning of a millennium, Samraj's debut novel paints a dreamlike, surreal picture of a millennium's end unraveling. Set in the shadow of an ideology that once fueled an era, it critically examines the fragmented operations and stances of the radical groups, functioning as scattered clusters, with a blend of sharp satire and humor.

In the backdrop lies the bustling city of Madurai, alive with all its vibrant lights, scents, and chaos, resonating both internally and externally. From the dusty streets of the city arise the characters, stories, and popular songs, all swelling and filling the novel through Samraj's energetic and pulsating narrative style.

In this tale, where sorrow and disillusionment appear as absurdities, at its core stretches an unusual, untold love story. Alongside, the novel weaves the story of a young man "coming of age" during an era marked by the collapse of ideals, where lofty dreams are unceremoniously brought down to earth and dragged across villages.

## Sridharan Deepa



A microbiologist by profession, her love for words and desire to write lived experiences takes her on a literary path that is brand new. For her, writing is a therapy. She wants to write to escape the monotony of her daily work life in a lab researching diseases. She writes short stories and poems. Her unique voice is bringing out the inner workings of young women.

## Jannal Manam



Short Stories. ISBN: 978-93-95511-73-9.  
Pages: 176. Kadal Pathippagam. 2022.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

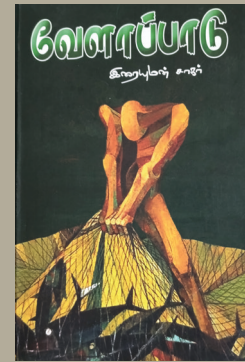
Deepa Sridharan's stories attempt to portray the inner world of modern women without any concealment. She explores the intimate emotions, love, and passion present in relationships between men and women, expressing them in a clear and seamless language. This allows her to effortlessly write about challenging themes that many would hesitate to tackle in short stories. Her experiences from life abroad have further enriched her storytelling. With this debut collection of short stories, Deepa Sridharan announces the arrival of a promising and credible woman writer.

## Erayuman Sagar



He started writing in 1990. Inspired by the writings of the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Thoppil Mohamed Meeran, he uses the language spoken by ordinary people to bring out their authentic voices. He goes into the ocean as a fisher for livelihood. His life as a writer has brought him fame, not money.

## Velaap Paadu



Short Stories. ISBN: 978-81-955261-6-1. Pages: 148.  
Kadarkarai Publications. 2022. Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

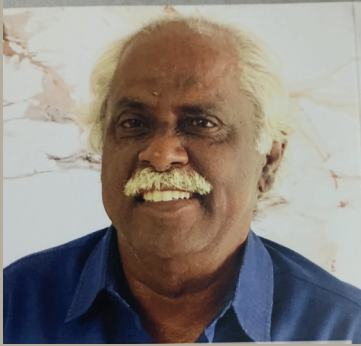
The life of the Parathavars, fishing communities, unfolds before our eyes.

The Sri Lankan Navy either harasses or threatens Tamil Nadu fishermen who go out to sea for fishing. Sometimes, cyclones take their lives without a trace. But these are not the only hardships faced by fishermen. The collection of short stories "Velaap Paadu" reveals the unnoticed sorrows, struggles, and pains of coastal life.

This is the debut short story collection by Iraiyan Saagar.



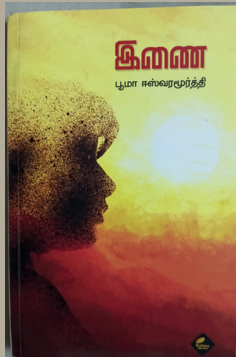
## Booma Easwaramoorthi



Booma Easwaramoorthi (b. 1952) was born in Tirunelveli and has been residing in Chennai for the past fifteen years. He recently retired from his career at Indian Overseas Bank. Beginning his writing journey in the late 1970s, he gained widespread recognition during the 1980s. He steadily and thoughtfully makes his mark in the world of poetry, short

stories, and novels. He has a wide range of interests, including short fiction, essays, literary criticism, and environmental topics.

## Inai



Short Stories. ISBN: 978-93-93650-70-2.  
Pages: 120. Uyirmmmai Books. 2023.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

The author is a man of a few words. His mastery of the poetry form is visible in his short stories. His amazement at insignificant things in life makes for an interesting read.

He pays attention to the minutest of details.

The interplay between space and time is what brings life to great creations. Some moments in his stories will touch your mind and heart. It is this connection that makes the author one of the important names in creative fiction.

## M. Rishan Shareef



M. Rishan Shareef is a journalist, writer, poet, translator, and novelist who has also worked in the media in Sri Lanka. Initially a student of Earth Resource Engineering and Journalism, he has contributed poetry, short stories, novels, essays, and photography, and has translated works from Sinhala and English into Tamil. He has published more than 50 books in Tamil, including poetry,

short stories, novels, translated novels, translated short stories, translated poems, and political articles.

## Amma



Novel. ISBN: 978-93-937255-4-7.  
Pages: 200. Vamsi Books. 2024.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

The novel *Amma*, written by the novelist M. Rishan Shareef, poignantly portrays the selfless sacrifice of mothers. Set in a rural, underprivileged village near a forest, it tells the heartbreaking story of a mother who sacrifices her life in the fight to ensure a better education for her child. The narrative delves into the powerful bond between mother and child, while also shedding light on the struggles faced by people living in difficult rural regions. Through its rich portrayal of love, sacrifice, and resilience, *Amma* brings attention to the often-overlooked challenges faced by families in rural areas. The novel has resonated deeply with Tamil readers, receiving widespread acclaim for its emotional depth and compelling storytelling. 'Amma' will soon be translated into Malayalam and Sinhala, expanding its powerful message of maternal love and sacrifice to an even broader audience.

## Sakthi V. Govindan



Sakthi V. Govindan was a journalist and writer born in Pudukkottai district, Tamil Nadu. Govindan established the “Sakthi Press,” through which he created magazines, journals, and a publishing house, earning him the name “Sakthi V. Govindan.” Inspired by Gandhian principles, he is acclaimed as the “Father of Tamil Publishing.” We should celebrate his pioneering contributions to Tamil publishing and journalism. He founded

the Children’s Writers’ Association and served as its leader for a short period.

## Tiny Stories for Children



Children’s Fiction (8+). ISBN: 978-81-234150-0-0.  
Pages: 72. TNTB and ESC. 2020.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: TNTB & ESC.

The book “*Puravum Kuyilum and other stories*” is designed for children and contains short stories. These stories are crafted beautifully to inspire and educate children. The illustrations are created in a way that excites and entertains young readers.

## Shamsudeen Heera



He is a worker-turned-author. He realised the power of writing after his debut novel on Coimbatore communal riots of 1998. He persisted in the path of writing and is a successful storyteller.

## Mounathin Satchiyangal



Novel. ISBN: 978-93-95511-73-5.  
Pages: 464. Ponnulagam Pathippagam. 2016.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

A novel set against the backdrop of the Coimbatore communal riots. Written with lived experiences, it reveals searing truths and painful sorrows on every page.

The novel explores how communal riots originate, how they escalate, and ultimately how they erupt into violence. It deep dives into the impact of extremist movements on both sides, illustrating how people belonging to the respective religions are affected. It poignantly portrays how innocent lives are lost senselessly and how countless individuals see their lives ruined within prison walls.

The novel vividly captures the brutal faces of law enforcement officers, the sinister conspiracies laid out to trap individuals, and the relentless chain of events. Through Mounathin Satchiyangal (The Testimonies of Silence), Shamsudeen Heera documents all of these elements with precision and depth.

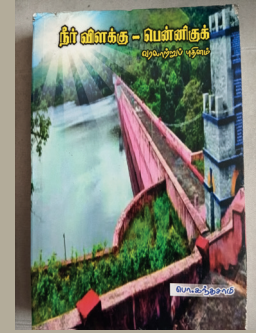
## P. Kandasamy



P. Kandasamy, an accomplished writer and poet, hails from Ayardharmam, a small village in the Virudhunagar District of Tamil Nadu. Kandasamy began his education in his native village, pursued high school studies in Thailapuram, and later earned his Master's Degree in English Literature from Virudhunagar. His academic journey was marked by numerous accolades in literary competitions, excelling in essay writing, elocution, short stories, and poetry.

Kandasamy's literary career took flight with the publication of his first poetry collection, *Kaainthu Pokatha Kavithai Mai* (2007). His contributions to Tamil literature have been widely recognized, earning him the prestigious title of *Tamil Kathir* from the literary magazine *Ilakkia Cholai*. Additionally, the *Thamiraparani Ilakkia Maa Mandram* honored him with several awards for his exceptional poetic achievements. He has also received the Bharathi Awards for his compelling work in essays and poetry. His short story, *Karisal Parisu*, was included in the 2024 anthology *Maramum Marabum*, published by the Virudhunagar Literary Unit. Kandasamy's latest work, *Neer Vilakku - Pennycuick*, is a historic novel that vividly brings to life the remarkable story of the Mullai Periyar Dam's construction. This novel is a testament to his storytelling prowess, combining historical accuracy with artistic finesse.

## Neer Vilakku - Pennycuick



Novel. ISBN: 978-93-95511-67-9.

Pages: 260. Kavi Murasu Publications. 2024.

Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

This novel serves as a vivid and compelling chronicle of the history and construction of the iconic Mullai Periyar Dam, located in the Western Ghats at the border of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Set against the backdrop of the 19th century, the story immerses readers in the extraordinary journey of building this engineering marvel, which stands at an elevation of about 3,000 feet in the mountainous region. The construction, initiated during British rule, spanned over a century of planning, with the final execution taking place between 1886 and 1895 under the leadership of Mr. John Pennycuick, a British Royal Engineer whose vision and determination brought the project to completion.

This novel not only celebrates the engineering brilliance of the British but also honors the tireless efforts of thousands of Tamil laborers who toiled under extreme conditions. The book goes beyond storytelling by incorporating a dedicated guide, replete with historical photographs, documents, and evidences, offering readers an enriched and immersive experience. Through its detailed portrayal of the Mullai Periyar Dam's construction, the novel captures the intersection of history, engineering, and human resilience, leaving readers with a profound appreciation for the labor and brilliance behind this enduring legacy.



## Ki Va Jagannathan



Krishnarayapuram Vasudevan Jagannathan or Ki Va Jagannathan (1906-1988) won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1967 for his contribution to literary criticism (Virar Ulagam). His extensive commentaries on some of the Tamil devotional texts got critical acclaim. His works on Tamil literature and grammar number over 200. He was a student of Tamil scholar U.V. Swaminatha Iyer. He edited the literary magazine Kalaimagal.

## In Praise of Lord Murugan



Devotional Literature.

362 Pages.

1968. Worldwide Rights available.

Copyright: TNTBESC

Lord Murugan has a significant space in the public imagination of Tamils. He is the first and foremost deity of Tamils. The devotional text of Thirumurugatrupadai

is of paramount importance in the lives of millions of Tamils. Nakkeerar, a great poet of the Sangam Age, penned this sacred text.

Ki Va Jagannathan's commentary of Thrumurugatrupadai provides the entire social, cultural, historical, and spiritual context of the text. The commentator points out that this devotional text stands first in the collection of Sangam literature.

The commentator interprets every word including the name of the author. Nakkeerar says good words. Because Na refers to the best. Keer refers to a word. He interprets Pookkum Kadamba as one who wears a Kadamba garland. He deep dives into every nuance of the sacred text and provides an immersive experience for the reader.



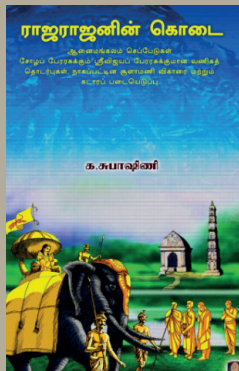
# Dr. K. Subashini



Dr. K. Subashini is an author on the heritage of Tamil. She has written books on world museums, among other things. She travels the world and documents the best of the Tamil heritage. She runs the Tamil Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization for spreading the word on Tamil and Tamils. She was born in Penang, Malaysia, in an orthodox Hindu Shaivite family. She did her Ph.D. in Information Technology

from Warnborough University, Canterbury, England. She lives in Stuttgart, Germany, and works in a leading Information Technology company. The Government of Tamil Nadu awarded her for helping the growth of the Tamil language among the diaspora.

## The Gift of Emperor Raja Raja Chola



History. 978-1-64786-553-5.  
158 Pages. Tamil Heritage Foundation.  
2022. Worldwide Rights available.  
Copyright: Author

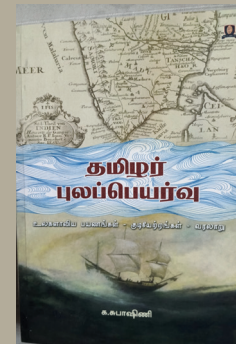
Cholas were the longest-ruling dynasty in the Indian subcontinent. Cholas ruled in all their glory for over 400 years. The greatness of King Raja Raja Chola in the dynasty has had several manifestations including the Brahadeeswarar

Temple or the Big Temple in Thanjavur. Anaimangalam Copper Plates are a great piece of evidence for the cosmopolitanism and

diplomacy of King Raja Raja Chola. The author travels to Leiden University in the Netherlands to have a look at the historic copper plates. As someone invested in the history of Tamils, the moment she lays her hands on the copper plates is one of *deja vu*. The copper plates are about donating lands from Anaimangalam village for the upkeep of the Choolamani Buddhist Temple in Nagapattinam. The plates are an agreement between the Chola Empire and the Sri Vijayam Empire (present Indonesia and neighboring lands). It is a message of peace. It is an example of inter-faith collaboration.

The author explains the context of the agreement between the two Empires. She emphasizes the global significance of the agreement. She documents the story of Choolamani Buddha place of worship in the course of the book with historical evidence. She took years of research and travel to put together this work.

## The Passage of Tamils



History. ISBN: 978-81-962636-8-3.  
Pages: 370. Tamil Heritage Foundation. 2024.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

K. Subashini has brought together her extraordinary experience as a globe-trotting author in this work on the global passage of Tamils. Tamil has moved with them to the Caribbean islands, Madagascar, South

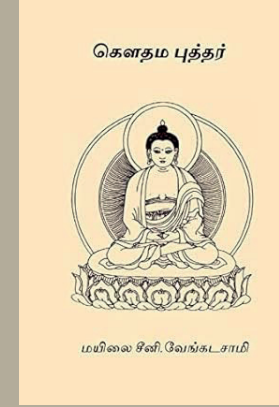
Africa, Europe, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Canada, US, UK, and many other geographies. She has used inscriptions, travelogues, books to document the challenges associated with indentured labour and economic migration. It is the first book in Tamil to have registered in such detail the movement of Tamil people across the globe. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has appreciated the efforts of the author in this historic book.

## Mayilai Seeni Venkatasami



Mayilai Seeni Venkatasami (1900-1980) is a prolific author. He has written more than forty books on history, religion, fine arts, language, and society. He studied at the Government College of Fine Arts in Chennai and always had an eye for the arts. He worked as a school teacher in Chennai. He participated in the first anti-Hindi agitation of the 1930s. He identified himself with the progressive Dravidian politics from its early days. Through his writings, he established the multicultural and multifaith foundations of the cosmopolitan Tamil society.

## Gautama Buddha's Life



History.

Pages: 226.1969.

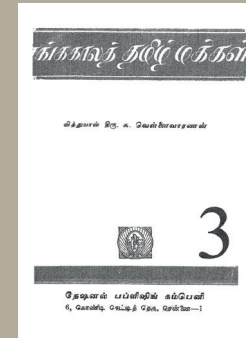
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The historical Buddha, also known as Gautama Buddha, Siddhārtha Gautama, and Buddha Śākyamuni, was born in Lumbini, in the Nepalese region of Terai, near the Indian border. He is one of the most important Asian thinkers and spiritual masters of all time, and he contributed to many areas of philosophy, including epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. The Buddha's teaching formed the foundation for Buddhist philosophy, initially developed in South Asia, then later in the rest of Asia. Buddhism and Buddhist philosophy now have a global following.

Mayilai Seeni Venkatasami goes by the mythological origins of Buddha in the book. He narrates the story from the Scriptural texts. His immersive storytelling will resonate with the followers of Buddha across the globe. After telling the story of Buddha in 200 pages, he narrates the ideals of Buddhism in the last 25 pages. He understands Buddhism as a way of life and narrates the story of Buddha as a believer. The author steps back from his role as a researcher and historian and embraces the miraculous and magical elements of Buddha's story.



Vellaivaranar K (1917-1988) has written more than twenty-five books on the history of the Tamil language, its people, its grammar, its music, and other allied subjects. He was the head of the Tamil department at the Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu. His works contributed to a greater understanding of the nuances of the musicality of the Tamil language. He traversed a wide spectrum from anthropology to linguistics in his books.



History.

Pages: 158. 1948.

Worldwide Rights available. Copyright: TNTBESC

Vellaivaranar's account of the Tamil people of the Sangam Age is based on the depictions of life in the Sangam literature. He documents the principles of justice and truth that guided the governance of the Tamil country from Venkata Hills to Kanyakumari. He brings out an image of a civilization from the stories of Sangam texts. While the Chera, Chola, and Pandya dynasties ruled over large tracts of land, it was the small kingdoms that supported the administration of people in harmony with the three major ruling dynasties.

Global Trade, Strong Military, Food security, Water security, Well-being, and Education remained the priorities of the rulers of the Sangam Period. People celebrated Love and Courage as essential values of everyday life. The author's interpretation of the old texts tries to make connections between contemporary society and ancient Tamil society. It is a 158-page comprehensive narrative about a 2000- year-old cosmopolitan Tamil civilization.

## Kutti Revathi



Kutti Revathi is a renowned Tamil poet, writer, and lyricist celebrated for her bold, evocative, and pathbreaking literary contributions. Born in Tamil Nadu, she emerged as one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary Tamil literature, challenging societal norms and redefining the role of women in Tamil poetry.

Kutti Revathi's poetic works are known for their raw and unapologetic exploration of themes like femininity, identity, body politics, and social oppression. Her debut poetry collection, *Poonaiyai Pola Alaiyum Velicham (The Light That Moves Like a Cat)*, marked the beginning of her literary journey, which would go on to redefine Tamil feminist poetry. She gained significant attention with her anthology *Mulaigal (Breasts)*, which addressed women's autonomy and body rights, stirring both controversy and acclaim. She is also a celebrated lyricist, contributing soul-stirring lyrics to Tamil cinema. Her work in films, including her collaboration with iconic directors and composers, has brought her poetic sensibilities to a wider audience.

Over the years, Kutti Revathi has received numerous accolades for her contributions to Tamil literature, including recognition for her courage in addressing taboo topics and breaking literary conventions. Through her fearless and poignant writings, Kutti Revathi continues to challenge societal norms, inspiring a new generation of writers and readers to explore the complexities of gender, identity, and human experience.

## Inthap Puvikku Unthan Peyariduvan



Poetry. ISBN: 978-93-95511-73-5.  
Pages: 84. Ezutthu Prachuram. 2024.  
Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

Kutti Revathi's new poetry collection, 'Inthap Puvikku Unthan Peyariduvan' (I Will Name This Planet After You), celebrates everyday sex. The beloved appears as a light and smells like a fragrance when she visualizes him. She rubs her face against his, and their eyes make contact and expand the affair. She cherishes one look of his and preserves it for eternity. Her body is stardust, an integral part of the cosmos. Her bones carry his name. Kutti Revathi's world of poetry takes you on a tour of the Tamil spectrum, from the Period of the Sangam to the New Age of the Millennials.

The kiss stands as a tree ready to give itself to those who seek it. The poet sees sex as the fuel of life and goes deep into its routine with a vocabulary drawn from history. The juxtaposition of the physique with the landscape and the derivation of metaphors from it is an engaging technique in this poetry collection.

Revathi equates passion with music. Her choice of words resonates with this idea. A language of rhythm and depth weaves the poems. The unique world of her poems shapes them by finding a tone steeped in the past and yet creating newer sensations. The orchestration of imagery from seemingly simple daily interactions is artistic.

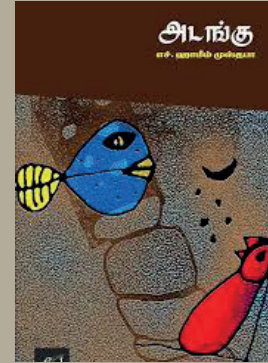


## Hameem Mustafa



He is a poet and researcher. His poems have a unique language rooted in Tamil Sufi tradition. A follower of Sufi Peerappa, a sage-poet of Tamil Siddhar connection, Mustafa sings of unity and peace. The practice of peace needs the habit of reading, he argues.

## Adangu



Poetry. ISBN: 978-93-95511-73-5.

Pages: 96. Keetru Pathippagam. 2024.

Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author.

In most of Hameem Mustafa's poems, there is a strikingly interactive quality between opposing elements. Lines from Sangam literature, verses from the Christian Bible or the Quran, or even words used by Saadat

Hasan Manto in his short stories find a natural place in his poetry without disrupting its flow. These references add layers of cultural depth and intense meaning to the central themes of his poems, often evoking strong emotional resonance in the reader.

On rare occasions, this interaction grows into "ironic tension between opposites." A poem about the Sangam work Natrinai's explanation of who constitutes the majority and the minority exemplifies this. When it comes to religious fundamentalism, the poet humorously highlights that there is no distinction between the majority and the minority—both are eternally the enemies of humanity. He demonstrates this with his reconstruction of the 86th Purananuru poem, revealing his sharp sense of humor.

Many poems in this collection speak with pain and anguish about the cruelty, manipulation, immorality, and inhumanity of communal politics.

## Sukirtharani



Sukirtharani is one of Tamil Nadu's most prominent feminist poets, whose works resonate with raw intensity, boldness, and a deep commitment to social justice. Born in 1973 in a small village in Tamil Nadu, Sukirtharani's poetry emerges from her lived experiences as a Dalit woman, giving voice to the struggles, aspirations, and resilience of marginalized communities.

Her poetry, marked by its unflinching exploration of caste, gender, and identity, has won widespread acclaim for challenging oppressive social structures and celebrating the strength of women. Her anthologies, including *Kaippatri En Kanavu Kel* (Hold my Hand and Listen to my dreams) and *Avalai Mozhipeyarthal* (Translating Her), showcase her lyrical mastery and fearless confrontation of taboo subjects.

Sukirtharani's writing captures the body, desire, and pain in evocative language, breaking traditional literary boundaries. Her works have been widely translated, bringing global attention to her contributions to Tamil literature and Dalit feminism. Through her powerful voice, Sukirtharani continues to inspire change and challenge inequality.

## Sukiratharani Kavithaigal



Poetry. ISBN: 978-93-5523-124-6.

Pages: 320. Kalachuvadu. 2022.

Worldwide rights available. Copyright: Author

Women's voices have been present in Tamil poetry since its early days. However, most of these voices approached women from the perspective of the larger social framework. They emphasized moral codes for women and the sanctity of the female body. Even poetry written by women often operated within these confines.

After the 1990s, a new wave of female poets broke these boundaries. They took the very body that was seen as weak and wielded it as a weapon. One such poet is Sukirtharani.

A fundamental aspect of Sukirtharani's poetry is her bold assertion of the female body collapsing under the weight of imposed sanctities. Sukirtharani views everything she observes as an extension of this body. In one of her poems, she compares an empty road to a naked body. Time and again, she reclaims the grandeur of external images and instills them into her poetry as representations of the female body.

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The Tamil Nadu Translation Grant Program, launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu, aims to promote Tamil literature worldwide and facilitate its broader reach. 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.

For more details: <https://chennaiinternationalbookfair.com/tamilnadu-translation-grant/>

## 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



Peer Mohamed started his writing career in India Today magazine's Tamil edition. As a sub-editor and translator, he handled the literature section of the magazine for five years. Since then, he has translated from Tamil to English and vice versa.

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