



CIBF | CHENNAI
2024 | INTERNATIONAL
BOOK FAIR



LITERARY GRANDEUR OF TAMIL LITERATURE

ROUTES TO OUR ROOTS

VOICES OF UNHEARD

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SHOBASAKTHI



Shobasakthi, a pseudonym for Antonythasan Jesuthasan, is a Sri Lankan Tamil author and actor. He had a diverse range of experiences, including being involved in left-wing politics and the Revolutionary Communist Organization for four years. He began writing in the late 1990s, producing short stories, plays, essays, and novels based on his personal experiences during the Sri Lankan Civil War.



His notable works include "Gorilla," which draws from his childhood as a child soldier in the LTTE, and "Traitor," based on the 1983 massacre of political prisoners in Sri Lanka. Jesuthasan also ventured into acting, notably starring in the film "Dheepan," which won the Palme d'Or at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival.

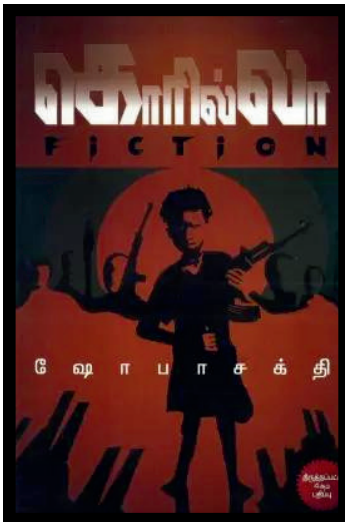


I can only imagine a world without racism and xenophobia in the world of Children.





GORRILA



Sometimes the only choice
a boy has is to pick up a
gun.

In the tumultuous village of Kunjan Fields, Sri Lanka, "Gorilla" thrusts readers into a world of chilling extremes. The enigmatic local thug, Gorilla, wreaks havoc, and his son, Rocky Raj, tries to escape his father's dark influence. However, as the Tamil Eelam Movement sweeps through, Rocky succumbs to becoming a child soldier, only to be expelled and subjected to brutal torture.

Within this narrative, Shoba Shakthi weaves a tapestry of characters that are as unsettling as they are unforgettable. Young girls carry concealed bombs, delinquent boys roam free, and the village is filled with a cast of morally ambiguous figures – illicit liquor sellers, cunning police inspectors, murderers, and prostitutes. As the storyline unfolds, it relentlessly exposes the harrowing consequences of conflict on individuals, leaving readers gripped by the intensity of emotions and disturbing realities that permeate Kunjan Fields.

Novel.
ISBN: 9789382648574.
1959. 150 p.
English translation
available. Karuppu
Pradhigal pub.
Rights available for
negotiation.
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“—
Key themes:
Refugee studies. diaspora
and marginalized literature.

LIVING SMILE VIDHYA



Living Smile Vidya, a trailblazing trans activist and theater artist from the Arunthathiyar caste in Andhra Pradesh, challenged societal norms in India. Born male, she faced discrimination while identifying as a girl. With a master's in applied linguistics, she delved into theater, co-founding Panmai in 2014. Vidya, the first full-time trans theater actress in India, advocated for Dalit and trans communities. Her activism, detailed in her autobiography "I Am Vidya," led to death threats and asylum denial. Despite challenges, her story is immortalized in the award-winning Kannada film "Naanu Avanalla...Avalu."



Transphobia is a type of brahminism. It gives us no other option but to do “dirty” jobs like sex work and begging and then calls us “dirty”, just like caste system did with Dalits.



I AM VIDHYA



I have found a body that is perfect for me.

Identities transcend mere labels; they both shape and constrain us. "I Am Vidya" delves deep into the intricate layers of Vidya's transgender journey, a poignant saga of self-discovery and resilience. From the heart-wrenching rejection by her family to the desperate experience of begging on society's fringes, Vidya confronts the profound challenges imposed on a tirunangai.

Autobiography.
ISBN: 978-8183685788.
1959. 216 p.
English translation available. Kizhakku publications
Rights available for negotiation.
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The narrative navigates through her poignant moments of adopting a feminine identity, enduring the painful journey of surgical transformation, and weathering emotional and physical harassment. This compelling story sheds light on the unique struggles of a transgender woman, emphasizing the courage and perseverance required to navigate a path toward authenticity in a society entrenched in rigid gender norms.

“ —
key theme:
LGBTQ+, marginalized communities, testimonial.

MARUDHAN



Marudhan is an historian and constantly shedding light on the dark pages of history. He is noteworthy for writing the biography of Che Guevara. With simple and starking language, his writings are factual and well-researched. He also has written historical account titled: 'Angels witches women' which delve into the plight of roots with feminist lens.



Small culture and big culture cannot operate separately. Similarly, it is impossible that the history of the majority people and the history of the grassroots people are separate.



REFUGEES



The refugees we witness today were ordinary individuals, much like you and me, just yesterday.

This book delves into the stark realities of refugees, exploring their identities, development, and contentious status. With a focus on individuals fleeing countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Palestine, Sri Lanka, and Burma, the narrative is a poignant record of their lives. Special attention is given to the Rohingya Muslims due to their significant plight.

The author aims to answer crucial questions about how society perceives refugees and how refugees perceive the world, offering a compelling exploration of the complexities and challenges faced by those forced to seek asylum. A well-researched account of refugees that can even connect with the Israel-Palestine tensions today.

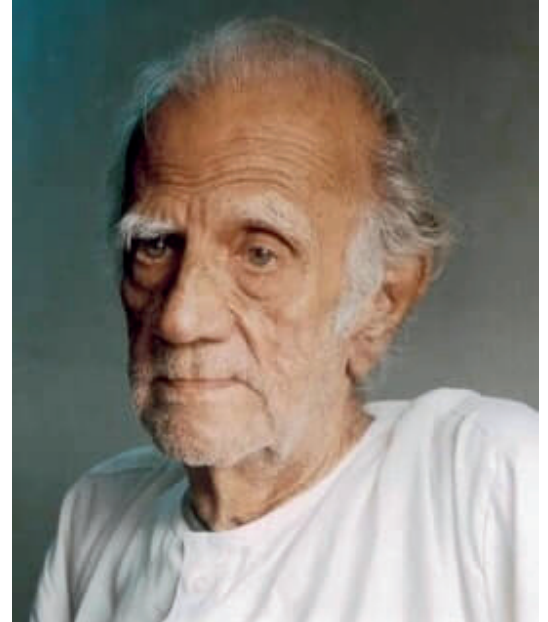
Non-fiction.
ISBN: 978-9386737540.
207p.
Kizhakku publications.
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Kizhakku publications.

“ —
key theme:
Refugee studies. diaspora
and marginalized literature.

LA.SA.RAMAMIRTHAM

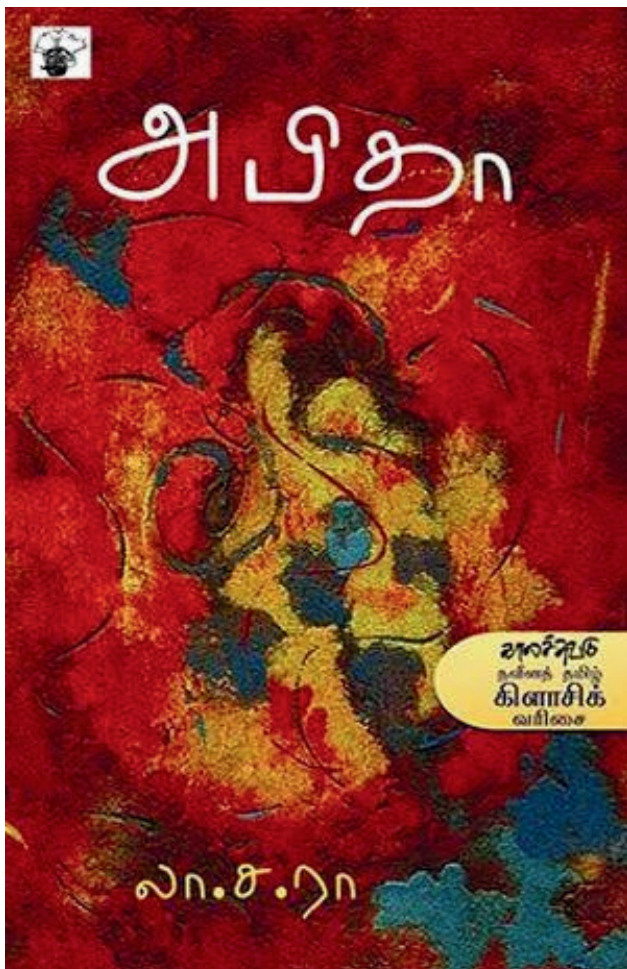


Lalgudi Sapptharishi Ramamritham, known as La.Sa. Ra., transformed Tamil fiction with his intricate prose and diverse themes. Starting in English before switching to Tamil, his literary legacy spans short stories, novels, essays, and autobiographical sketches, Sahithya Akademi award winning La.Sa. Ra. navigated traditional and modern narratives, embracing the coexistence of metaphysical and physical realms. His profound grasp of Hindu concepts like time, karma, and maya, expressed through vivid metaphors, showcased his storytelling mastery. Despite accolades, he remained humble, nurturing budding talents in Tamil literature. His works, translated into multiple languages, aim to introduce his brilliance to wider global audience, securing his place as a luminary in Tamil literary history. Year of nationalization: 2007



“
"We live on fragrance, but we are
searching for some illusionary
truth in the name of truth, god and
liberation."
”

APEETHA



It can be said to be a story of love failure. It can also be said to be a replica of the turmoil of the human mind. An unhappy married man, Ambi goes in search of the wreckage of his first love. There are emotional upheavals for Ambi who shakes his old tracks. Are they the frustrations of love failure? Don't update? A change of heart? Will it come? Curse? That's the rest of the story. Who is Apeetha? An angel in disguise or a Satan in blessing. A sensuous tale of wretchedness and psychoanalysis, Dive into the claustrophobic setting of the novel which gives you a feel of living with Lolita or Lady Chatterley from Tamil literary sphere.

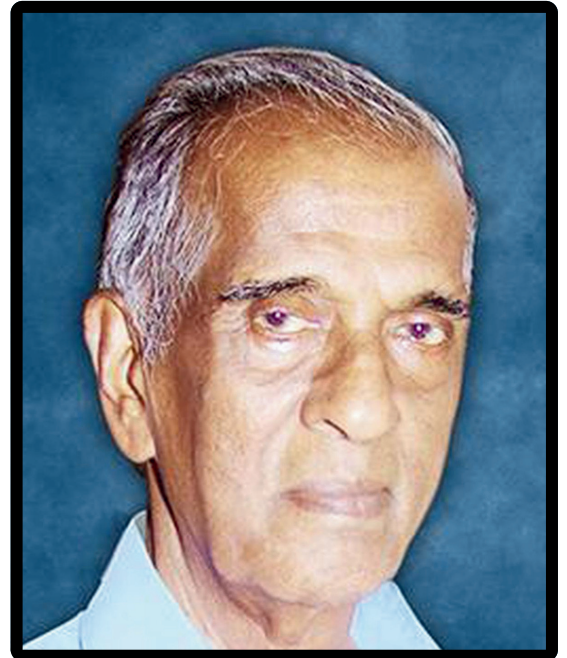
Novella. 112 pages.
English translation available. Rights available for negotiation.
Copyright holder-Nationalised work

Key theme:
Modern literature, imagery, love and symbolism.

SE.GANESALINGAN



Se. Ganesalingan, born on March 9, 1928, and passing away on December 4, 2021, was a prominent writer in Eelam who embraced a Marxist perspective in his works. His literary contributions extended beyond creative literature, encompassing fields such as religion, sociology, political science, feminism, art, and criticism. Ganesalingan established a publishing house and initiated the monthly magazine "Kumaran" in 1971, serving as a platform for public opinion. His notable novels, including "Long Journey," are characterized by a portrayal of Jaffna society transitioning from the land grant system to capitalism. Ganesalingan's insightful letters published in "Kumaran" were well-received and later compiled into a book, showcasing his impact on literary discourse.



Literature should depict life along with its history and development. High literature depicts the intertwining of individual human life with society and manifests the evolving forces of society.



LONG JOURNEY



Novel.
ISBN: 9789556591958.
English translation
available. Kumaran
publication.
Rights available for
negotiation.
Copyright holder-
Kumaran publication.



key theme:
Dalit literature, class
conflict, Marxism.

I cut across the ropes tied
by and over Pallars.

In "Long Journey," the narrative revolves around Chelathuraiyan, a young man from the Pallar class, denied education and employed in removing cocoons from coconut trees. A pivotal incident during a festival exposes the social tensions between different castes, leading to a tragic event involving Nallan. Despite attempts to prevent the injustice, Nallan's fate is sealed due to the denial of medical treatment. Chelathuraiyan allies with Madhavan from the Paraiyar class, seeking justice against the perpetrators.

The duo's joint effort extends beyond the pursuit of justice, evolving into a political collaboration that finds expression in village panchayat elections. As Chelathuraiyan enters the political arena, "Long Journey" explores themes of social injustice, caste dynamics, and the transformative power of collective action.

MYTHILI SIVARAMAN



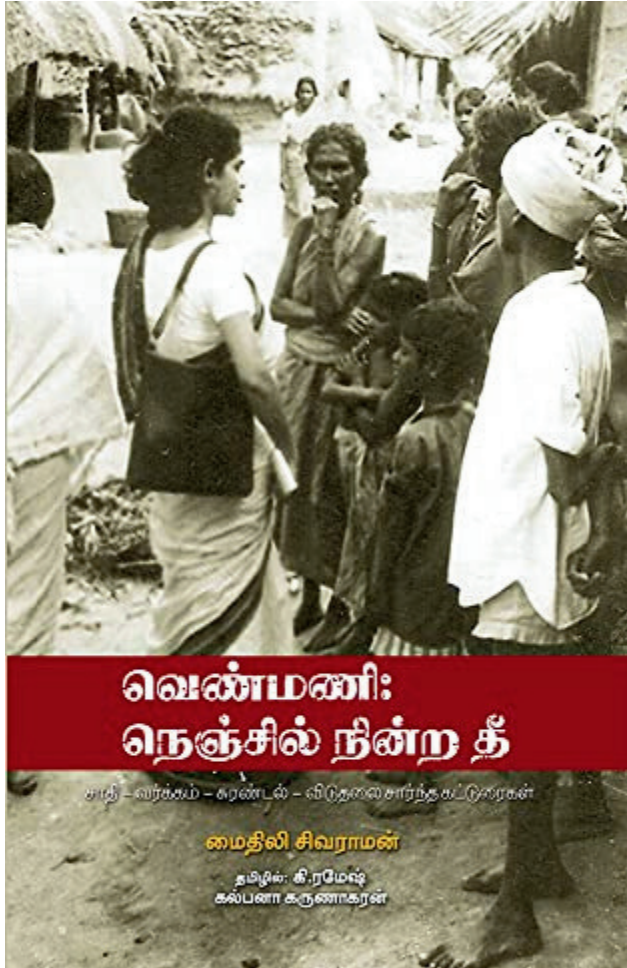
Mythili Sivaraman (14 December 1939 – 30 May 2021) was an Indian women's rights and trade union activist. She was a co-founder of All India Democratic Women's Association. Through her writings and activism, she brought attention to the Keezhvenmani massacre of 1968 and the Vachati mass rape cases of 1992. She led efforts to drive women's empowerment, particularly of women from the disadvantaged communities, and trade union and labour activism.



“Untouchability is planted deep in the Hindu social structure and the Hindu psyche. Its ritual origins may be a matter for dispute but there is very little else disputable about untouchability...”



VENMANI: THE BURNING HEART



Huts without roof.

Huts without walls.

Huts ground to dust.

To ash.

Huts with broken bangle pieces.

That's the marking journalistic evidence of brutal massacre of Keezh Venmani. In the last week of December 1968 the long simmering struggle of organised labour against oppressive landlords in Keezhvenmani hamlet of Venmani village, boiled over. Dalit landless labourers of this village in Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam district were on strike, demanding higher wages, control over agricultural lands, and an end to feudal oppression.

The landlords' response? They burnt alive 44 Dalit labourers in the hamlet. The rich and powerful landowners, riled by a new political awakening among the Scheduled Castes, decided to not only hire other workers from neighbouring villages, but also planned a massive retaliation. Hear to the weep of Mithili Sivaraman in this collection of essays.

Non-fiction.
120 pages. Rights
available for
negotiation.
Copyright holder-
Bharathi puthakalayam

Key theme:
Ethnic violence, Subaltern
literature and activism.

NARAN



Naran is a contemporary writer whose works blend surrealism, fantasy and Zen. He is noteworthy for using poetic and sensuous description in his short-fiction. He is a multifaceted personality and emerging literary stalwart in the annals of Tamil literary circle. His noteworthy works are Vettai Naigal and Paraari.



“Every story is not just a story, but a real experience of mine. But I will hide myself a little in it, not in total.”



TRESSES



Did we have breasts like this mountain?
Yes my child, but there were no rowdy
male hands to hold and twist them like
rounded door knobs.

Aathiappan is a 59 year old businessman who is suffering from a skin disease and his both legs are having decaying wounds and with band aid. Due to this condition his wife doesn't like him and she doesn't allow him to touch her. He gets frustrated and starts staying at his cotton godown and his only son brings a maid Avudayammal to help him and look after the godown. Is she a divine messenger in disguise? The collection engulfs a range of stories that display humanity through its naked lens.

Short stories.
127 pages. Rights
available for
negotiation.
Copyright holder-
Author

Key theme:
Surrealism, magical realism and
Christological studies.

MUTHURASA KUMAR



Muthurasa kumar is a budding sprout in Tamil literary sphere, known for his proems and lyrical storytelling methods, inculcating environmental and epistemological factors in his fiction. His notable works include: Neerchuzhi, Kangu and Pidiman.



“In the subject of life, the joys that reach us at the size of fireflies make us forget the great pains of life.”

NEMESIS



Eethu is to give life to a being, a birth.

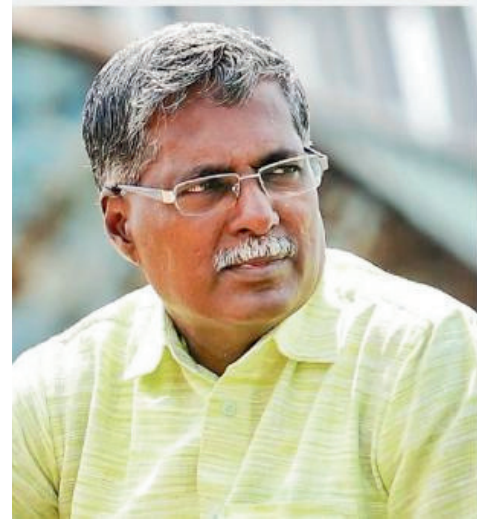
From the solar electricity that comes into the remote village, the poor old man's hunt for the rats, the beautiful dolls that display the traumatic within, the rebellion of a woman to get back the corpse of her husband from abroad, the captivating love between humans and cattle to the comradeship of Kachamma and Veeramma, the collection pulls out tales compressing human emotions webbed with environmental microcosm.

Short stories.
122 pages. Rights
available for
negotiation.
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Author

Key theme:
Environmentalism, minimalism and
rural studies.

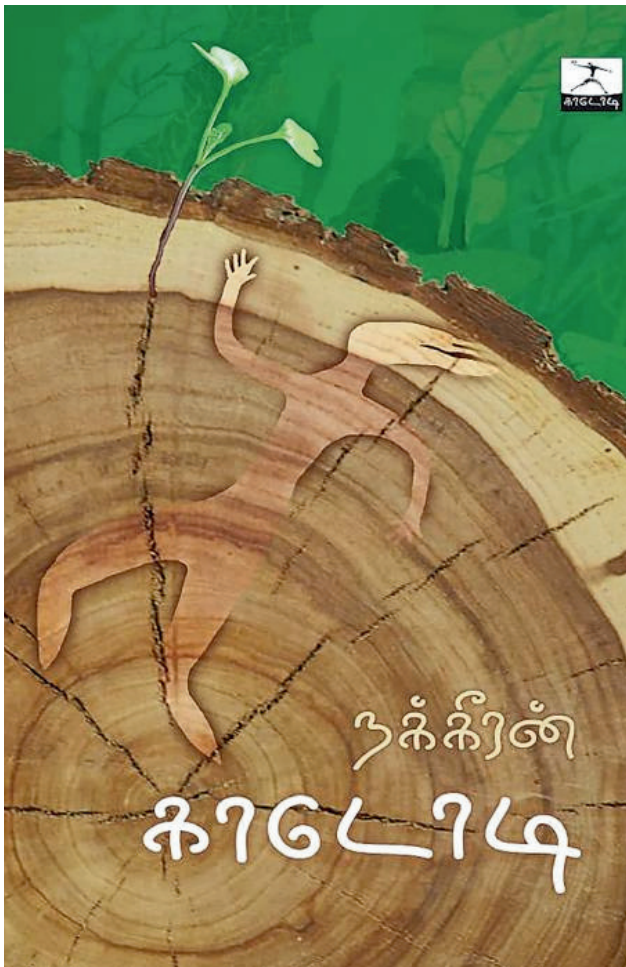
NAKKEERAN

Environmentalist Nakkeeran is a multi-faceted personality whose works focussed on emerging field of Green literature. He is known for his simplistic and poignant writing that deals the pedantic natural themes viable for the readers. He also has written a Bible for aqua resources.



“
"For so long, people have been looking for economic and political reasons for the problems they are facing. But there is a growing understanding that ecology is the starting point of all society's problems."
”

Woodland Nomad



“A tree is not leaves. Not flowers. Not pods. Neither are fruits. Why is it not a tree? A tree is just dollars, dollars, dollars...”

The story of dead soil... The book explores the intricate ecosystem of Borneo's forests, delving into the interdependence of flora, fauna, and indigenous tribes. Through vivid descriptions, it portrays the significance of forests and the devastating impact of deforestation on the intricate food chain. The narrative intertwines the pain of the tribes, their unique lifestyles, deep connection with nature and the corporate culture rooted with capitalism. This juxtaposition highlights the conflicting perspectives on nature's worth, evoking questions about the true essence of love and appreciation for the environment.

Novel.
ISBN 9788194181088
Rights available for negotiation.
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Author
No of pages: 316

Key theme:
Environmentalism, deforestation, minimalism and tribal studies.

NIVEDITA LOUIS

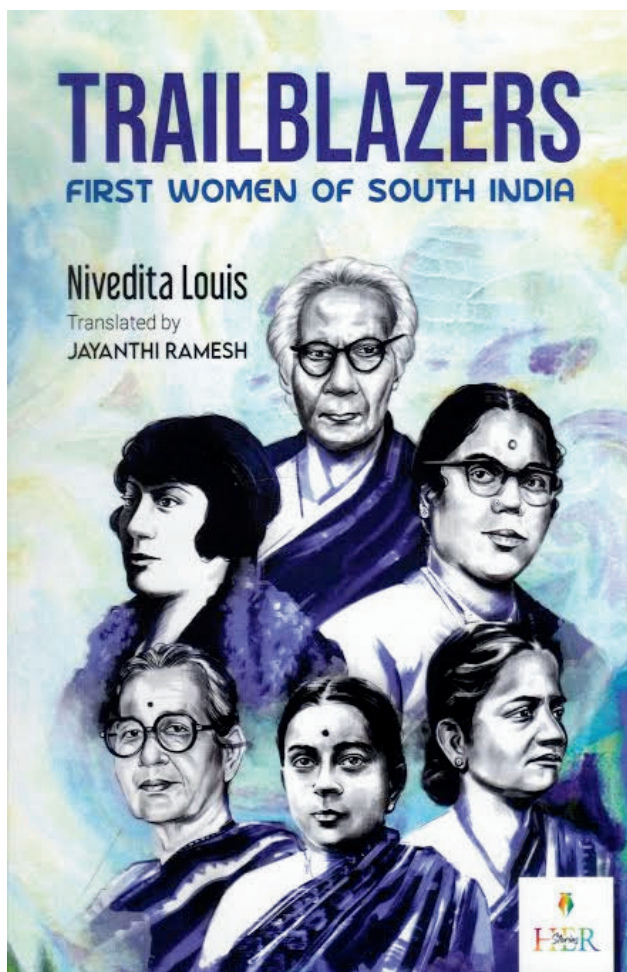


Nivedita Louis, a former government official, transitioned into a vibrant career in writing, history, and heritage. Co-founder of Her Stories, she champions marginalized voices through her award-winning work, blending archaeology, anthropology, and feminist rights. Louis engages audiences through lectures, heritage walks, and a keen eye for uncovering history, notably curating the Iyal Isai Museum and discovering Chola inscriptions in Chennai. Her accolades include the Laadli Award and prestigious literary prizes, showcasing her dedication to preserving and sharing cultural narratives.



“Human desire. He looked for wealth in everything be it fertility, animal proliferation, agricultural yield. The woman who gives him life surprises him.”

TRAILBLAZERS



“It is a press...like a new star it shall scatter the darkness of ignorance, and cause a light heretofore unknown to shine amongst men” ,

By telling the history of the ‘The First Women of South India’ and the way these women constructed history, this book sheds light on them. Through the biographies of these successful women, this book tells us that the experiences and achievements of women depended on family, caste, class, the public space they lived in, and the politics they followed. Presenting the history of nearly 45 first women in a narrative style, Nivedita Louis compiles this book like an encyclopaedia. The historical information she has perused to give us this treasure trove is rare. They are mostly passed down as oral histories from family members of these women. Louis unearths and interprets historical events that do not find their place in archives or newspapers through women’s experiences. In this way, this book is also a history of women’s experiences

Non-fiction
ISBN 9788195650613
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negotiation.
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Author

Key theme:
Feminism, marginalization studies,
dalit literature.

PRABHAKARAN VEERAARASU



Prabhakaran Veeraarasu, is an environmental activist from Chennai. He's a longtime member of the Poovulagin Nanbargal, a 30-year-old environmental organization, working on the issues of GM crops, nuclear energy, air pollution, climate change and he promotes alternative energy. Prabhakaran is a well known campaigner on various issues related to pollution & waste management. At present, he is serving as an expert committee member in the Tamil Nadu state planning committee for framing the state's waste management policy.



“ I have been documenting climate impacts in the places I have traveled for the last six years through my travel experiences and data through this book 'Meet our changing lands' . ”

MEET OUR CHANGING LANDS



The first climate travelogue in the realm of Tamil literary sphere

"Meet our changing lands" offers a comprehensive exploration of climate change impacts across diverse landscapes, ranging from a mountain village in Nepal at an altitude of 6,660 feet to the desolate pine forests in Uttarakhand, the rice fields of the Cauvery delta, the fisherman's struggles in Rameswaram, and the challenges faced by a boy waiting in a long queue at a water tap in Pundalkand. Through meticulous documentation of climate effects during six years of travel, the book delves into the interconnected stories of these locations, raising critical questions about the collective future facing humanity.

Climate travelogue.
128 p. Poovulagin
nanbargal
Rights available for
negotiation.
Copyright holder- Author



key theme:
Climate change, Green
literature, travelogue

Exapnd your world. Get 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. 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. More details <https://chennaiinternationalbookfair.com/tamilnadu-translation-grant/>

Global Literary Agent Training Program

The Global Literary Agent Training Program by the Tamil Nadu government is a thorough initiative designed to equip literary agents with essential skills. Led by experienced facilitators, the program covers various critical subjects for the profession, incorporating practical insights through activities and workshops. Participants engage in interactive sessions 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 its dynamic learning approach, it empowers literary agents to navigate the evolving landscape and meet the demands of the global literary market effectively.

CIBF Certified Global literary Agent

Thalamuthukumar.T is a creative writer and budding literary agent with a strong literature interest. He is firmly believing: 'Pen is mightier than swords, guns, battles and bombs' and wishing to live a life of literature, by literature and for literature.



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2024

**CHENNAI
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"What is wonderful about great literature is that it transforms the human who reads it towards the condition of the human who wrote."

E. M. Forster

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