

Central Plan Scheme for Classical Tamil

Tamil Language Promotion Board - Second Meeting

(July 14 & 15, 2006)

The Second meeting of the Tamil Language Promotion Board under the Central Plan Scheme for Classical Tamil was held for two days on 14 & 15 July 2006 at the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore. The Agenda (the detailed notes on the agenda are given in Appendix 1) for the Meeting in the forenoon on 14 July 2006 was as given below:

- I. Welcome by Mr. S. Mohan, Director (Finance), MHRD
- II. Chairperson's introductory remarks
- III. Confirmation of the Minutes of previous Board Meeting held on 10, December 2005 at Chennai.
- IV. Action taken report - A presentation by the Director.
- V. Comments and suggestions by the Board Members on the functioning of the Scheme.
- VI. Project proposals by Individuals and Organisations for consideration of Grant and approval .
- VII. Proposed Awards for eminent Scholars, Foreign & Indian in Classical Tamil.
- VIII. Follow up Action on the National/International Seminars, Programmes and
- IX. Conferences in the last Meeting of the Board.
- X. Any other item with the permission of the Chairperson
- XI. Vote of Thanks by Prof. K. Ramasamy

The meeting was attended by the following members:

Chairman

Prof. V.C Kulandaiswamy

Nominated Members

Dr. M. Nannan
Dr. Silamboli Chellappan
Kavikko Abdul Rahman
Dr. Manavai Mustafa
Dr. Avvai Natarajan
Professor Solomon Pappiah
Kavignar Erode Thamizhanban
Dr. Perungkavikko V. M. Sethuraman
Professor M.P. Balasubramaniam

Ex-Officio Members

Mr. S. Mohan
Director (Finance)
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Govt. of India
New Delhi

Dr. A. Krishnamurthy
Secretary
Sahitya Akademi
New Delhi

Member Secretary

Professor Udaya Narayana Singh, Director
Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore

Convener

Professor K. Ramasamy
Deputy Director
Central Institute of Indian Languages
Mysore.

The Meeting was also attended by

Dr.B. Mallikarjun
Academic Secretary/ Assistant Director (Admn.) i/c
Central Institute of Indian Languages
Mysore

The following Ex-officio Members could not attend the meeting:

Joint Secretary (L) , MHRD, Govt.of India
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India
Finance Advisor, MHRD, Govt.of India
Director, National Book Trust, New Delhi

The Meeting was started the meeting at 11 AM as Scheduled.

The Board was informed that Ms.Nirmala Suresh has sent in her resignation and it has been forwarded to the MHRD.

Mr.S.Mohan, Director (Finance), MHRD welcomed the audience and said the following:

1. The basic idea behind the constitution of Tamil Language Promotion Board by the Govt.of India is to seek its advice on various issues related to the promotion of Tamil as Classical Language.
2. The Central Institute of Indian Languages has effectively attempted to implement all the decisions taken in the First Board Meeting.
3. It is hoped that the valuable suggestions made by the Chairperson and Members in this Meeting will be forwarded to the Ministry for due consideration and they will be carried out in future.

The participants introduced themselves.

2. The introductory speech delivered by Professor V.C. Kulandaiswamy, Chairman of the Board is given in full in Appendix 1. Some of the salient points are as follows:

- 2.1** The endorsement of Tamil as Classical Language by the Govt.of India is not merely a matter of glorifying Tamil Language or a matter of great happiness to the Tamils but rather it signifies the recognition of the contribution of the Dravidian civilization and culture to the cultural heritage of India. It is a fact that Sanskrit and Tamil constitute the pillars of the civilizations and culture of the country. While the Sanskrit contribution has been well understood, well researched and accepted all over the world, somehow the equal contribution made by the Dravidian civilization and culture has remained in the background and now this recognition gives us an opportunity to bring to the fore a vital fact which has not been given proper importance in the past. It is a matter of satisfaction for the Dravidian family as a whole and not for the Tamils alone.

2.2 In the First Meeting of the Board, 10 Major Projects were approved. It was indicated there that an advisory committee would be constituted for each one of the Projects for implementing them. Accordingly, 10 committees consisting of five members each have been constituted and these committees have met once or twice. In the choice of 50 PAC Members, it is quite possible that one or two eminent scholars, who are qualified, have not found a place as well as one or two, who need not have been included, have been included. However, the people who have constituted the committee have done it to the best of their understanding and knowledge. The amount of work put into by Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh and his colleagues Prof. K. Ramasamy and others was appreciated by the Board.

2.3 We have to devise a mechanism by which this Board may be kept informed of the action taken at every stage and the progress made in each of the projects. There must also be opportunities for the members to offer their comments and guide the course of action for the implementation of various schemes.

- We have the CIIL for promotion activities in general.
- We have the centre of excellence in classical languages – for the present in classical Tamil.
- We have the Tamil Language Promotion Board. The activities of these units must be harmonised and coordinated.

The Centre of Excellence for Classical Tamil has the characteristic of an institution. Its composition, powers, procedure for recruitment of staff must all be specified. In other words, we have the responsibility for institutionalizing these activities on a sound footing.

Considerable homework has to be done in order to harmonise the activities - the part played by the CIIL and contribution made by the Tamil Language Promotion Board.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of previous Board Meeting held on December 10, 2005 at Chennai

The Members of the Board confirmed the Minutes of the previous Board Meeting. Subsequently, they expressed their grievance that neither the constitution of the PAC nor the subsequent meetings was brought to their knowledge. It was agreed to by the Convener that it was a lapse and he assured that this kind of lapse would be avoided in future.

4. Professor Udaya Narayana Singh, Director, CIIL in his presentation involving an action taken report (the report in full is given in Appendix I under item no.4) observed the following:

- 4.1. The Centre of Excellence for Classical Tamil is still in the initial stages of being established. It has several plans for the development of Classical Tamil. In the process of implementation of the Scheme, any lapses that have occurred will be immediately rectified.
- 4.2. In running any institution, the important point to be remembered is that one has to be transparent and also appear transparent. This is what we are trying to achieve. We have tomorrow in our schedule launching of the Classical Tamil website. Once this website is launched, whatever decisions are taken, including the proceedings of the Committee and further action taken for development will all be put on a regular basis on the net.
- 4.3. Since there is very strict monitoring from the Director (Finance) about the pace of expenditure, sometimes we happen to implement certain things quickly without delay. Whenever we face difficulties, we consult Prof.V.C.Kulandai Swamy, Chairman of the Board and he has been providing us rich and encouraging suggestions. His scientific approach on every issue remains a useful guide to us.

5. Based on the comments and suggestions made by the Members, the following decisions were taken:

- 5.1. In future, the term *Cemmozhit tamizh* will be used instead of *Cevviyal tamizh*.
- 5.2. The Members will be informed of whatever actions being taken and their assistance will be sought where necessary.
- 5.3. Foreign Scholars who have contributed to Tamil should be involved in the Classical Tamil Scheme on a selective basis.
- 5.4. Suggestions were made that steps must be taken through appropriate channels to collect the Tamil palm leaf manuscripts available in foreign countries.
- 5.5. The Classical Tamil scheme should be promoted in every respect keeping in mind the assistance available for Sanskrit.
- 5.6. Financial assistance should be extended to works related to word index and subject index of important Tamil works.
- 5.7. All necessary steps should be taken to reach information about this scheme to all those interested in Tamil development.
- 5.8. Payment of Rs.1000/- & Rs.500/- per day to the Resource Persons will be reviewed.

5.9. The publications brought out under the Classical Tamil Scheme should be comprehensive, thorough and of quality worthy of a Centre of Excellence.

- Dr.M.P.Balasubramaniam wanted his objection to the appointment of Prof.RM.Periakaruppan as Senior Fellow to be recorded.

6. Project proposals by Individuals and Organisations for consideration of Grant and approval (Please see Appendix 1 item 6)

It was accepted by all that the proposals received for consideration of grant will be processed by a committee consisting of 3 of the Board Members nominated by the Chairman of the Board and 2 external Members nominated by the Director. The Committee will be headed by the Director.

7. Proposed Awards for eminent Scholars, Foreign & Indian in Classical Tamil (Please see Appendix 1 item 7)

The recommendation of the Board with regard to Awards was as follows:

- I. There may be two awards for Classical Tamil.
- II. One of the awards may be for a foreign scholar and it may be designated as *Tolkaappiyar Award*, another award for Indian scholar designated as *Thiruvalluvar Award*.
- III. The value of the award may be at least Rs.5 lakhs.
- IV. The award may be presented along with the citation and a memento by the President of India in Rashtrapati Bhavan. In response to the above proposal, Prof.Udaya Narayana Singh, Director, CIIL said as follows:
With regard to the awards, we will definitely deliberate the issue with the MHRD once again. Since the Govt.of Tamil Nadu has set up an award in the name of *Thiruvalluvar*, Govt.of India did not like to repeat it. The prize amount of rupees one lakh was fixed on par with awards already in force for languages like Sanskrit, Hindi, etc. However, we have no hesitation in endorsing the suggestion of the Board.
- V. The Chairman informed that the Government of Tamil Nadu itself has requested the designation of the awards as *Tolkaappiyar Award* and *Thiruvalluvar Award* and it has also been incorporated in the Governor's address to the Tamil Nadu Legislative assembly.

8. Follow up Action on the National/International Seminars, Programmes and Conferences in the last Meeting of the Board (Please see Appendix 1 item 8)

Programmes like conferences, seminars and workshops will be decided by a committee in which Members from the Board will form a part. However, the Board gave consent to conduct the programmes mentioned in 8 A as scheduled.

8. Any other item with the permission of the Chairperson

No other item was proposed by the Members for discussion.

10. The forenoon Meeting ended with Vote of thanks by Prof. K. Ramasamy, Convener of the Meeting.

Part II

The Website launching and Newsletter releasing function was held at CIIL in the afternoon of 14 July 2006. The academic and administrative staff of the Institute and the Members of the Board attended the function. Prof.Udaya Narayana Singh, Director, CIIL welcomed the gathering. The Chairman and Members of the Board were introduced to the audience by Prof.K.Ramasamy. The Website was launched by Prof.V.C.Kulandai Swamy, Chairman of the Board. A Presentation about the Website was made by Prof.P.Marudanayagam. The Newsletter was released by Prof.V.C.Kulandai Swamy and received by Mr.S.Mohan, Director (Finance), MHRD. The function ended with Vote of thanks by Prof.G.Srinivasa Verma.

After looking at the logo created for the Scheme, it was suggested by the Board that the logo needed revision in consultation with the concerned experts.

Part III

A Meeting of the Board with the Coordinators of the Ten major projects under the scheme took place in the forenoon on 15 July 2006. Each Coordinator presented a status report of the concerned project. The details of the projects and Coordinators are as follows:

- i. Digital Library for Ancient Tamil Studies - Dr.B.A.Sharada
- ii. Historical Survey of Tamil Dialects - Sri R.Elangoiayan
- iii. Antiquity of Tamil - An interdisciplinary Research-
Dr.M.Balakumar
- iv. Corpus Development for Ancient Tamil - Dr.B.Mallikarjun
- v. Translation of Ancient Tamil Works- Dr.P.P.Giridhar
- vi. Historical Grammar of Tamil- Prof.Pon.Subbiah
- vii. Critical Edition of Ancient Tamil- Prof.K.Ramasamy
- viii. India as a Linguistic Area- Sri. B.D.Jayaram
- ix. Visual Episodes on Ancient Tamil Grammar, Literature etc. -
Dr.N.Nadaraja Pillai
- x. On-Line Teaching for Classical Tamil- Prof. Sam Mohan Lal

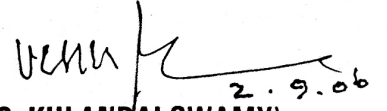
Following each presentation, several clarifications were sought by the Members and the necessary details were provided by the respective Coordinators. The progress made in each project was in general appreciated. Emphasis was made on the need to consolidate the earlier works done in the respective fields.

Part IV

In the afternoon on 15 July 2006, the Chairman and Members of the Board visited the different units of the Institute. The infrastructure facilities created for the Scheme and the arrangement of books in Classical Tamil Library were seen and appreciated by them.



(UDAYA NARAYANA SINGH)
Member Secretary



(V. C. KULANDAI SWAMY)
Chairman