

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL TAMIL, CHENNAI

RESEARCH WORKS ON 41 CLASSICS

Central Institute of Classical Tamil, established in 2007 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India with a view to promoting the cause of Classical Tamil, is focusing exclusively on the researches relating to the classical phase of the Tamil language, i.e., from the early period to the 600 A.D. The role of the Institute is very vital and significant because of the fact that there is no institution anywhere in the world fully committed for carrying out researches on the ancient Tamil society and also for documenting and preserving objects that are related to or reflecting the antiquity of the Tamils.

Registered as a Society under section 10 of the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 (Tamil Nadu Act 27 of 1975) on 21st January 2009, the Institute has the following authorities:

* Governing Board
(Board of Management)

*Academic Council

*Finance Committee

*Apex Implementation Committee

The Apex Implementation Committee (AIC) constituted by the MHRD, Govt. of India, is looking after the planning and implementation of various tasks of the Institute. Consisting of Aimperuñkuḷu (five members) and Eṇṇērāyam (eight members), the AIC is having the following structure:

To explore and highlight the antiquity and uniqueness of society, language and civilization of ancient Tamils, the Institute is set on taking up the following tasks:

- To organize various academic programmes (*conferences, seminars, workshops, training, etc.*)
- To publish and also to support publication of original research findings on ancient Tamil society.
- To publish and also to support publication of ancient Tamil works in original and its translation in other Indian and foreign languages.
- To offer educational and research programmes at the postgraduate level in Classical Tamil.
- To support research projects received from established institutions.
- To support field studies as may be relevant to Classical Tamil studies
- To promote and encourage studies in the composite nature of Indian culture and Dravidian component in Indian civilization.
- To provide fellowships for doctoral and postdoctoral researches in Classical Tamil studies.
- To give awards for outstanding contributions in the areas of Classical Tamil.
- To promote Classical Tamil education in India and abroad.
- To serve as a clearing house for information pertaining to Classical Tamil

A list of forty one ancient Tamil works belonging to the period up to 600 A.D. has been identified for the purpose of study of antiquity and uniqueness of ancient Tamils and their civilization. These texts have been specially selected for being exceptionally valuable and original compositions and they are not derivative or translated works. Further, apart from ephigraphical and archaeological findings, these are the only evidences that reflect the society, language and culture of the ancient Tamils.

41 TAMIL CLASSICS

*Tolkāppiyam

*Eṭṭuttokai

*Narriṇai, *Kuruntokai, *Ain̄kurunūru, *Patirruppattu,
*Paripāṭal, *Kalittokai, *Akanāṇūru, *Puraṇānūru

Pattuppāṭṭu

*Tirumurukārruppaṭai, *Porunarārruppaṭai, *Cirupāṇārruppaṭai,
*Perumpāṇārruppaṭai *Mullaippāṭṭu, *Maturaikkāñci,
*Neṭunalvāṭai, *Kuriñcippāṭṭu, *Paṭṭinappālai,
*Malaipaṭukaṭām

Patineṅkīlkkāṇakku

*Nālaṭiyār, *Nāṇmaṇikkaṭikai, *Innānārapatu, *Iniyavainārapatu,
*Kārnārapatu, *Kaḷavalinārapatu, *Aintiṇai Aimpatu, *Aintiṇaieḷupatu,
*Tiṇaimoḷiaimpatu, *Tiṇaimālai Nūrraimpatu, *Paḷamoḷi,
*Cīrupaṇcamūlam, *Tirukkuraḷ, *Tirikaṭukam, *©cārakkōvai,
*Mutumoḷikkāñci, *©lāti, *Kainnilai,

*Cilappatikāram, *Maṇimēkalai, *Muttollāyiram, *Iraiyaṇār Kaḷaviyal

TEN MAJOR PROJECTS

The ongoing activities of the Institute will include the following ten major projects:

DEFINITIVE EDITIONS OF ANCIENT TAMIL WORKS is to bring out a definitive edition of each of the forty one Tamil Classics with accuracy and authenticity.

HISTORICAL GRAMMAR OF TAMIL is to bring out a comprehensive report on the historical grammar of Tamil evolved from Classical Age (300 B.C. To 600 A.D.) to Modern Age (1601 A.D. till date) through Middle age (601 A.D. to 1600 A.D.)

TRANSLATIONS OF ANCIENT TAMIL WORKS is to evaluate and edit the extant English translations available for all the forty one Tamil classics. A fresh translation of these classics into other Dravidian and non-Dravidian family of languages in India and English and other world languages will be initiated on priority basis.

ANTIQUITY OF TAMIL is to initiate interdisciplinary researches on various areas of studies that reflect the nature of society, culture and language of ancient Tamils.

SYNCHRONIC AND DIACHRONIC STUDY OF TAMIL DIALECTS is to prepare a demography of the Tamil speaking population around the world; to prepare a comprehensive dictionary of Tamil dialects, and to prepare a comprehensive linguistic Atlas of Tamil dialects.

TAMIL, DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES AND OTHER FAMILY OF LANGUAGES takes up comparative studies on Tamil with other Dravidian and non-Dravidian family of languages in India and also Tamil with other language families such as Indo-Aryan, Afro-Asiatic, Tibeto-Burman, Andamanese, Finno-Ugric, African and Australian.

DIGITAL LIBRARY FOR ANCIENT TAMIL STUDIES is to create an online repository for Tamil classics and reference materials for antiquity studies.

CLASSICAL TAMIL ONLINE provides a web based course on Classical Tamil for the learners interested in interpreting the language as found in the ancient Tamil literary texts.

CORPUS DEVELOPMENT FOR CLASSICAL TAMIL WORKS is to prepare a machine readable corpus on Tamil classics with thematic and grammatical tagging.

VISUAL EPISODES ON CLASSICAL TAMIL is to popularize the antiquity and uniqueness of the ancient Tamil society through visual episodes produced on various concepts depicted in the Tamil classics.

SERVICES

LIBRARY: The library has been equipped with a collection of about 20,000 rare books and manuscripts related to ancient Tamil studies and a number of CDs containing the digital versions of palmleaf manuscripts of Tamil classics.

WEBSITE: The well designed official website of the Institute provides more details of our objectives and activities and it is being constantly updated.

FELLOWSHIPS

DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS: To encourage young scholars interested in ancient Tamil studies, the Institute provides doctoral fellowships.

POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS: The Institute offers fellowships to young scholars who are interested in pursuing independent researches on topics related to ancient Tamil studies after their doctoral research.

FINANCIAL AIDS

SHORT TERM PROJECTS: The Institute provides financial assistance to scholars associated with reputed institutions and also to independent researchers who are taking up studies that explore the uniqueness and antiquity of the Tamil society.

AWARDS

TOLKAPPIYAR AWARD (cash of Rupees five lakh for each year for Indian nationals) is given to eminent senior scholars who have an outstanding contribution in the field of Tamil studies.

KURAL PEEDAM AWARD (cash of Rupees five lakh for each year for one Indian and one foreign national) is given to distinguished scholars who have an outstanding contribution in the field of Tamil studies.

YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD (a certificate of honour, a memento and cash of Rupees 1 lakh for five scholars each year) is given to young scholars (in the age group of 30-40 years) who have shown interest and excellence in Tamil studies.

KALAINAR M. KARUNANIDHI CLASSICAL TAMIL AWARD: Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Former Chairman, CICT, has created out of his personal funds an endowment in his name for Classical Tamil Research in the CICT. From the endowment, an award, one of the highest honours conferred in India, is given to scholars and researchers of eminence every year. The award carries a cheque for Rupees ten lakh, an eighty gram gold medal bearing the image of the donor and a five metal statue of Tiruvalluvar