

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
REGIONAL CENTRE – PUDUCHERRY

National Seminar

On

Splendours of the Historical Art Monuments of Madurai Region

Date: 26th September, 2019

Venue: Seminar Hall, School of Historical Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University

Concept Note

The Pandya dynasty (4BCE to 16th CE) region in Tamil Nadu has a number of historical monuments which have been erected in the past. Especially Madurai, a major city and cultural headquarters in the State of Tamil Nadu in Southern India, has a number of historical monuments. Meenakshi Amman Temple (1st CE) and Tirumalai Nayak Palace are the most prominent Cultural Architectural monuments in Southern India. However, the monuments in Madurai are not fully covered about with these iconic buildings and temples alone. A lot of historical and heritage monuments had been built many centuries back by Pandyas Kings and Nayak Kings within the Madurai city. Among them few are well known to the world but very many are still kept behind the screens of knowledge. Most of the monuments are left uncared for and simply kept ruined. These kinds of deplorable conditions might have come upon only because of the lack of knowledge about their glory, their splendor and architectural and aesthetic values of workmanship.

Hence, in order to make those feats architectural and cultural endeavors of those eminent workers, builders and architects of eminent, a thorough understanding about their Historic significance and historic splendor have to be propagated by means of a mission, evaluating the standards of the monuments; and, a vision about their specific characteristics and their majestic splendors are to be introduced to the common laity by enabling them to understand and enjoy the essential importance of those history of the monuments.

Hence, these monuments need to be explored and those information's need to be documented. Madurai is not only a place to be celebrated and admired for its beauty of monuments; but also to be glorified for its Cultural Heritage. One can come across in Madurai alone a mixture of artistic monuments representation the spirituality of the major religions flourishing in India: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism.

So, the Regional Centre and the department of Art History, Madurai Kamaraj University has planned to conduct a One- Day National Seminar at Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. Dr. K.A. Babu, Assistant Professor & Head, Dept. of Art History, Madurai Kamaraj University will coordinate this National Seminar.

The motive of the National Seminar is to explore the historical values of the Monuments and their specific Characteristics of Art and Architectural Eminence. Documenting and Publishing the presentation of archeological, epigraphically sources etc.

The National Seminar will be held at Madurai Kamaraj University situated at a distance of 320 KM from our Puducherry Regional Centre.

The Presenters and their Papers:

- Dr.S.Sethuraman, Professor, MKU: **The Splendours of the Sculptures I Madurai Temples**
- Dr. V.Vedachalam, Epygraphist, Tamilandu State Dept. of Archaeology: **Art and Incriptions around Madurai Region**
- Dr. S. Kannan, Asst. Professor, MKU: **Architectural and Sculptural aspects of the Rock-Cut Temples in Madurai Region**
- Dr. A. Mahalingam Asst.Professor MKU: **Social-Dimension in the Nayak Monuments of Madurai**
- K.P.Bharathi, Dhan Tourism for Development: **Redefining the Roles of Community in Heritage Management**