

## **Book Launch & Book Discussion**

### **‘Kundrathur and Ullavur localities of Changanpattu region of Tamil Nadu’**

A Report

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On the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024, Kalakosa Division, IGNCa hosted a book launch and book discussion on the two significant publications titled ‘Kundrathur and Ullavur localities of Changanpattu region of Tamil Nadu’ jointly edited by Dr. Jatinder Kumar Bajaj, founding Director of the Centre for Policy Studies and former Chairman of the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Prof. M. D. Srinivas, the founding Chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies, Chennai.

Among the dignitaries present were Shri Suresh Soni, a noted thinker and educationist, Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, President, IGNCa and Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, MS, IGNCa.

Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi welcomed the gathering and highlighted the significance of these palm leaf manuscripts. He stated that these manuscripts not only describe revenue records, but also play an important role in preserving knowledge that enables us to better understand how societies evolved and how their identities have been preserved over time. As a result these books are an invaluable repository of historical information that is now accessible for future research.

Dr. Jatinder Kumar Bajaj and Prof. MD Srinivas presented a brief overview of the importance of Ullavur and Kundrathur regions in Tamil Nadu, as these regions have played a significant role in Tamil history. These books, based on palm leaf manuscripts, and are brought out with maps and descriptions of temples, ponds, tanks, and wells etc. They depict Tamil society and polity in a completely different light. Detailed information has been compiled on the Changanpattu district of Tamil Nadu before the advent of British administration in the eighteenth century. Agricultural societies historically have supported major temples in two localities, integrated with land and water management systems, and influenced cultural and religious practices.

The dignitaries launched the books, amidst great applaud by the audience.

As Gandhi's Quit India movement was launched on this day i.e., the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942, Shri Ram Bahadur Rai considered this day to be a historical landmark. He acknowledged the authors' work and recorded his deep appreciation regarding their patience and hard work. He congratulated Prof. Sudhir Lall and his team for successful management of the project.

Shri Suresh Soni referred to the works of Shri Ravindra Sharma 'Guruji' and stated that such information is critical in instilling the faith of youth of today, in our traditions. He also stated that such works help in preserving our heritage, fostering continuity, and celebrating the diversity that defines us. He congratulated the authors and all those who contributed to Indian culture and history, in their own way.

Towards the end, Prof. (Dr.) Sudhir Lall, HoD, Kalakosa, IGNC, presented a vote of thanks.



