

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the

Arts

Regional Centre, Puducherry

Report for Vihangama

Dt. 9th December -2023.

Report on the one-day seminar titled "Vallalar-200" to commemorate the 200th Birth Anniversary of Vallalar on 21st November-2023 at Seminar Hall, School of Tamil, Pondicherry University, Puducherry.

The Puducherry Regional Centre of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and the Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language and Literature of Pondicherry University jointly organized a one-day seminar on the Contribution and Works of Vallalar titled "Vallalar-200" to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of Vallalar. The event aimed to celebrate the life and teachings of Vallalar, a prominent figure in Tamil literature and spirituality.

The primary objective of Vallalar-200 was to bring together scholars, researchers, students, and enthusiasts to delve into the profound impact Vallalar had on Tamil literature, philosophy, and spiritual thought. The seminar aimed to provide a platform for discussions, presentations, and reflections on Vallalar's contributions to the cultural and spiritual heritage of the region.

Inauguration of the seminar:

The seminar commenced with an inaugural ceremony that featured with Welcome Address by Dr. J. Gopal Regional Director, IGNCA, Puducherry. The lighting of the lamp and Felicitation address by Prof. Nalini J. Thampi, Dean, School of Tamil, Pondicherry University was set the tone for the day's discussions. Dr. K. Pajanivelou, Associate Professor, School of Tamil, Pondicherry University delivered the address about the seminar as the Co-ordinator of the seminar. Presidential Address was delivered by Prof. K. Tharanikkarasu, Director SEI & RR, Pondicherry University.

Thiru. A. Arivan, Director, Pudhuvai Museum Research Library, Puducherry distinguished expert delivered the keynote address, providing a comprehensive overview of Vallalar's life, works, and the relevance of his teachings in contemporary times.

Academic Sessions:

The day comprised with multiple academic sessions where scholars and researchers presented papers on various aspects of Vallalar's contributions. Topics ranged from his literary works to his spiritual philosophy, exploring the intricate layers of his influence on Tamil culture.

In the first Session, Dr. P. Pattammal, Bharathidasan Women's College, Puducherry was the Chair Person herself she presented a paper on Jeevakarunyam of Vallalar. Later on, Dr. Vel. Karthikeyan, KM Centre for PG Studies, Puducherry presented a paper on Vallalar and Religious Reforming. Dr. R. Asokan, AA Govt. Arts College, Villupuram presented a paper on Vallalar's Sidhar Philosophy. Dr. A. Arunachalam, Periyar Arts College, Cuddalore, presented a paper on Sidha Medicine as shown by Vallalar.

In the second Session, Dr. K. Sivakumar, Thiru Kolanjiyappar Govt. Arts College, Virudhachalam was the Chair Person, himself he presented a paper on The Prosody Tradition of Vallalar. Thereafter, Dr. R.M. Murugaiyan, Pondicherry University Community College presented a paper on Caste Protesting Voice of Vallalar. Dr. B. Ravikumar, Pondicherry University presented a paper on Vallalar: Spiritual Voice against Bureaucracy. Dr. T.K. Ravichandiran, Pondicherry University, presented a paper on The Tantric of Vallalar: Jung's Perspective. Dr. R. Srividhya, Pondicherry University presented a paper on social reformation thoughts of Vallalar. Dr. G. Chandhrika,

Pondicherry University presented a paper on Vallalar's Ever burning Stove: Charity and Moral Reform in the Nineteenth Century Tamil Society.

The discussions along with the presentations of the papers, in the seminar brought together experts to share insights, exchange ideas, and address questions from the audience. These discussions fostered a collaborative environment, encouraging a deeper understanding of Vallar's legacy. This commemorative seminar served as a tribute to Vallalar's vision and continues to inspire generations with his timeless wisdom and compassion.

Conclusion:

At the end of the Seminar, Dr. A. Lakshmi Dattai, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, expressed her gratitude to all dignitaries, organizers, and participants in this Seminar. The seminar not only celebrated the 200th birth anniversary of this iconic figure but also facilitated intellectual discussions that will undoubtedly contribute to the ongoing preservation and promotion of Tamil cultural heritage. By organizing such events, the Puducherry Regional Centre of IGNCIA continue to play a crucial role in fostering a deeper appreciation for the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of the region.

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