



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



**International Seminar on
Tantric Religion : Philosophy, Literature,
Cults, Art, History & Continuities
25th - 29th September 2023**



**Department of History
School of Social Sciences & International Studies
Pondicherry University, Puducherry 605 014**



Shripuram Trust, Kerala.
www.shripuram.org

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE &
CULTURE
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA



Department of Art and Culture
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY



SACAR

Inaugural Session

Auditorium, Cultural - cum -Convention Centre,
Pondicherry University
25.09.2023: 09.30-13.00hrs

Welcome Address :

Felicitation Address :

Address by the Chief Guest:

Inaugural Address:

**The Tradition of Tantra and
Soundaryalahari**

Keynote Address : Time :11.00 - 12.00hrs

**Kashmiri Shaivism -
Its Evolution and Development:
A Critical Analysis (online lecture)**



To join the video meeting, click this link:
<https://meet.google.com/xvk-ocfu-rjj>
enter this PIN: 834 709 325

Dr.R.Nagaswamy Memorial Lecture :

**Shakta Tantra and the Feminine
Theology of Power in Literature,
Art and Life**



Presidential Address

About the Exhibition on Tantric Art

Vote of Thanks

Dr. J. Gopal

Regional Director,
IGNCA-RC,
Puducherry

Prof. K. Venugopal Reddy

Head, Department of History,
Pondicherry University

Prof. Blandine Ripert

Director,
French Institute of Pondicherry,
White Town, Puducherry

Dr. Bharath Gupta

Member, Trust Board, IGNCA: well-known Indian classicist, Theatre theorist, musicologist, cultural analyst and an authority on Indian & Greek Classical Literary texts and Tantric Philosophy.

Prof. R.L. Hangloo

Honorary Vice- chancellor, Nobel International University (Toronto Canada) at its USA campus; Visiting Professor at SRM University Amravati Andhra Pradesh; Former Professor & Head of History department, at University of Hyderabad Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Kalyani West Bengal & Vice-Chancellor University of Allahabad.

Prof. Madhu Khanna

Internationally acclaimed expert on Indic studies, Religious Studies and Tantric studies. Presently Director and founding trustee of Tantra Foundation, New Delhi; Subject expert to the Acarya Shankar Sanskritik Ekta Nyas, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Former Professor of Religious/Indic Studies; former Director for the Centre or the Study of Comparative Religion and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Prof. K. Tharanikkarasu

Director, (SEIRR), Pondicherry University

Ms. Jesal Thacker

Founder, Bodhana Arts & Research Foundation, Mumbai Curator of the Exhibition

Prof. N. Chandramouli

Coordinator of the Seminar



ACADEMIC SESSIONS

Session:1: Philosophy and Tantra (25.09.2023: 14.30-16.30hrs)
Seminar Hall.1(First Floor) Convention Centre& Guest House
Chair: Prof.D.N.Tiwari, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

S. No	Name of the Delegate	Title of the Paper
1.	Prof. D. N. Tiwari, Dept, of Philosophy & Religion, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Uttar Pradesh	Understanding <i>śabda</i> as <i>śakti</i> in Tantric Philosophy
2.	Prof. Rajnish Kumar Mishra, Dept. of Sanskrit & Indic Studies, JNU, New Delhi	Levels of <i>Vak</i> (speech) in Tantra and Grammar.
3.	Dr .R. Sathyanarayanan, Associate Professor, EFEO, Pondicherry	How the Śaiva concept of liberation is different from other philosophical systems – As discussed by Sadyojyoti and Bhaṭṭanārāyaṇa kaṇṭha
4.	Dr. K.T.V. Raghavan, Assistant Professor, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, (RC) Pondicherry	<i>Jyotisha</i> and <i>Vastu</i> Concepts in <i>Agama</i> Texts
5.	Ms. Shiva Madhuri, Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar	The Philosophy and Science behind the Arkavidya (<i>Surya Tantra</i>)
6.	Mitali Bhagabati, Ph.D. Research Scholar Department of Philosophy NEHU, Shillong, India.	Exploring the Essence of Oneness: Comparative Analysis of Non-Duality in Advaita Vedanta and Tantric Philosophy

Session: 2: Tantric Sects: Saivism, Saktism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sufism & Sikhism

25.09.2023: 14.30 -17.30hrs

Seminar Hall.2(Ground Floor) Convention Centre& Guest House
Chair: Prof. Arun Ranjan Mishra, Centre for Buddhist Studies, Viswa Bharati, Shanti Niketan

1.	Prof. Arun Ranjan Mishra, Centre for Buddhist Studies, Viswa Bharati, Shanti Niketan, 731235 West Bengal	Buddhist Tantricism in ancient Odisha and its Transnational spread : An insight into the Cult and Occult
2.	Prof. P. Vasumathy Devi, Former Head, Department of History, Kerala University, Kariavottam, Kerala.	Concepts of Primitive and Folk Tantricism: Their Impact on the Evolution of Śāktheya Tantricism and Kāli Cult
3.	Prof. Ch.Swarupa Rani, Director, Dept.of Mahayana Buddhist Studies, Acharya Nagarjuna University. Andhra Pradesh 522510	Tantric Buddhism- Philosophical Dimensions

4.	Dr. Kashshaf Ghani, Department of History, Nalanda University, Rajgir, Nalanda (Bihar)	Practices and Interactions of Sufism and Tantra
5.	Mr. Sailesh Shinde, Ph.D.Scholar, Deccan College, Pune	Developments of Tantric Methods in Jain Tradition
6.	Dr. Sangeeta Das, Assistant Professor The Assam R.G.University Guwahati	Tantric Tradition in Assam's Kamakhya Temple: A Sociological Exploration
7.	Dr. Pranshu Samdarshi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Nalanda University,Rajgir	Methodological and Historical Issues of Buddhist Tantra: Examining Some Problematic Constructs
8.	Ms. Harsimran Kaur, Dept.of Philosophy, Panjab University, Chandigarh	Sikhism and Tantra: Understanding the Concept of Sakti through Dasam Granth

Session: 3 : Symposium on

The Tamil Siddhas: Literature,Philosophy, Rituals and Practices (In Tamil)

தமிழ்ச் சித்தர்கள் : இலக்கியம், தத்துவம், மருத்துவம், சடங்குகள் மற்றும் யோகச் செயல்முறைகள்

(25.09.2023:14.30-17.00hrs)

Seminar Hall, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language & Literature

Chair : Dr. VijayaVenugopal, EFEO, Pondicherry

S. No வ. எண்.	Name கட்டுரையாளர்கள்	Title of the Paper தலைப்பு
1.	Dr. VijayaVenugopal, Research Associate, EFEO, Pondicherry முனைவர் விஜயவேணுகோபால் ஆராய்ச்சி அசோசியேட், EFEO, புதுச்சேரி	Siddha Traditions in Tamil Nadu தமிழ்நாட்டில் சித்த மரபுகள்
2.	Dr. J. Gopal, Regional Director, Regional Centre, IGNCA,Pondicherry. முனைவர் ஜே.கோபால் இயக்குநர்,IGNCA, புதுச்சேரி.	Spirituality and Creativity in Tamil Land: An Aesthetic View தமிழ் நிலத்தில் ஆன்மிகம் மற்றும் படைப்பாற்றல் : ஓர் அழகியல் பார்வை
3.	Dr. T.K. Ravichandran, Asst. Professor, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language & Literature, Pondicherry University, Puducherry – 605 014. முனைவர் தி.கு.இரவிச்சந்திரன் உதவிப் பேராசிரியர்,சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதியார் தமிழியற்புலம், புதுவைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், புதுச்சேரி - 14	Attaanga Yogam : Jungian perspective யூங்கிய நோக்கில் அட்டாங்க யோகம்

4.

Dr. R. Srividhya,

Asst. Professor,
Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil
Language & Literature, Pondicherry
University, Puducherry – 605 014.

முனைவர் இரா. ஸ்ரீவித்யா,

உதவிப் பேராசிரியர், சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதியார்
தமிழியற்புலம், புதுவைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்,
புதுச்சேரி – 14.

Thayumanavar Swamy's principle of God
தாயுமானவர் சுவாமிகளின் இறைநெறி

5.

Dr. R. Murugan,

Department of Tamil Development, Chennai.

முனைவர் இரா. முருகன்

தமிழ்நாட்டுப் பாடநூல் கழகம், சென்னை

Thirumoolar's principle on Yoga
திருமூலரின் யோகநெறி



Cultural Programme

(25.09.2023 :19.00-20.00hrs)

Auditorium, Convention Centre & Guest House

Perini Śivatandavam

Sponsored by



**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE & CULTURE
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**

Dr. Mamidi Harikrishna, Director



Perini Śivatandavam or Perini Tandavam is an ancient dance form of the Kakatiyan era from Telangana region. The Perini Siva Tandavam is a dance form usually performed by males. It is called 'Dance of Warriors'. Warriors before leaving to the battlefield enact this dance before the idol of Lord Śiva.

The dance form, Perini, reached its pinnacle during the rule of the Kakatiyas who established their dynasty at Warangal and ruled for almost two centuries. The dance form is mentioned in the Sanskrit text Nrttya Ratnavali of Jayapa Senani. On the basis of its complex parts and myths, it is believed that the dance evolved over a period of time centuries before the Kakatiyas. It is believed that this dance form invokes 'Prerana' (inspiration) and is dedicated to supreme dancer, Lord Śiva. One can find evidence of this dance in the sculptures near Garbhagriha (Sanctum Sanctorum) of the Ramappa Temple at Warangal.

Perini is a vigorous dance done to the resounding beats of drums. Dancers drive themselves to a state of mental abstraction where they feel the power of Shiva in their body. While dancing they invoke Śiva to come into him and dance through him. Perini dance form almost disappeared after the decline of the Kakatiya dynasty but Dr. Nataraja Ramakrishna brought renaissance in Perini dance by studying old manuscripts and sculptures at Ramappa Temple.

Session:4: Tantric Literature : Saiva, Sakta & Vaishnava Texts

(26.09.2023 : 10.00 – 13.00hrs)

Seminar Hall.1(First Floor) Convention Centre& Guest House

Chair: Prof.Dominic Goodall, Head, Dept. of Epigraphy & Manuscripts, EFEO, Pondicherry

1.	Dr. Dominic Goodall, Head, Dept. of Epigraphy & Manuscripts, EFEO, Pondicherry	On archaic features of doctrine and practice preserved in the <i>Sarvajñānottaratantra</i>
2.	Prof. Shrinivas V. Padigar, Infosys Foundation Karnataka Chair, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune	Some aspects of <i>Tantrasarasangraha</i> of Madhvacharya
3.	Dr. T. Ganesan, Research Associate French Institute of Pondicherry, Puducherry 1	Validity and Specialty of the Śaiva Āgama-s
4.	Dr. Madhuparna Roy Chowdhury, Department of History, University of Calcutta, Kolkata 700 027	Impressions of Goddess Worship in Early Medieval North Odisha: Mapping the Elite and the Popular Dimensions
5.	Dr. S. Gopikrishnan, Head, Dept. of History, N. S. S. College, Chenganachery, Kerala.	Diffusion of Tantric Knowledge Tradition in late medieval Kerala: Some Observations
6.	Mr. V. Lijin, Doctoral Research Scholar, Dept. of History, Pondicherry University	The power of the Masters: A study of the Yogis of Malabar

Session: 5 : Tantric Cults, Rituals & Practices

(26.09.2023 : 14.30 to17.30hrs)

Seminar Hall.1(1st Floor) Convention Centre& Guest House

Chair: Prof. T.V.Vasudeva, Kuppasawami Sastry Research Foundation, Chennai

1.	Dr. TV. Vasudeva, Kuppasawami Sastry Research Foundation, Chennai 600 004	Tantric aspects in Vedic rituals
2.	Dr. Vijaya Venugopal, EFEO, Pondicherry	Tantric Worship in Kolaramma temple during Kulottunka Chola I's rule ?
3.	Dr. Nirajan Kafle, Associate Professor of Sanskrit Ashoka University, New Delhi	<i>Sakalīkaraṇa</i> : Tracing the Vedic Origins of Tantric Rituals
4.	Dr. Saarthak Singh, New York State University New York	The Place of Veda and Yajña in Temple Rituals of the Śaiva Siddhānta
5.	Dr. Ruman Banerjee, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Pondicherry University, PU	The Cult of <i>Manasa</i> : The History and Continuities of the Tantric Serpent Goddess in the Eastern India
6.	P.K. Abhiraman, Doctoral Research Scholar, Dept of History, University of Hyderabad	The Sword and the Śrī Chakra: Into the Intricacies of the Folk and Tantric Traditions in Kerala

Session: 6 : Tantric Literature : Saiva, Sakta & Vaishnava Texts

(26.09.2023 : 10.00 to13.00hrs)

Seminar Hall.2(Ground Floor) Convention Centre& Guest House

Chair: Prof : Sudipa Ray Bandhopadhyay, Kolkata

1.	Prof. Sudipa Ray Bandhopadhyay, Department of History, University of Calcutta, Kolkata 700 027.	Chaurasi: A <i>Kaula</i> -Tantric Religious Site in Eastern India
2.	Dr. R.S. Nanda Kumar, Musicologist, Bengaluru	<i>Kala-Diksha Paddhati</i> reconstructions in the Sri Vidya
3.	Dr. Muralikrishnan M V, Research Associate, Vadakke Madham Brahmaswam Vedic Research Center, Thrissur-680001	How's the Goddess Rurujit portrayed in <i>Māṭṛsadbhāva</i> ? The Evolution of the Goddess Rurujit from Purāṇa to Tantra
4.	Dr. P. Ajithan, Post –Doctoral fellow, Sripuram Trust, Thrissur, Kerala	Textual Transmission, Appropriation, Adaptation and Practice: Changing Phase of <i>Rurujithvidhāna</i> of Kerala
5.	Dr. Ravindar Goswami, R.B.S. College, Agra Neelam Yadav, Dr. B. R. A. University, Agra and Seema Bhadauria, BVRI, Bichpuri, Agra	Cognition and Neuroscience in the medieval Vaiṣṇava Sahajiyā Hindu Tantric Texts : A Study
6.	Prof. Kanchana Natarajan, Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi, Delhi	Prakṛti, the Samkhyan Feminine creatrix and Valai, the Tantrik goddess of the Tamil Siddhas: a comparative study
7.	Dr. D.V. Kanagarathinam, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Tiruvarur	Rejuvenation and Longevity: <i>Karṇa</i> Medicines in Tamil Siddha Literatures

Session: 7 : (26.09.2023: 14.30-17.00hrs)

Symposium on

Tantra Yoga & Sri.Aurobindo's Yoga

Seminar Hall.2(Ground Floor) Convention Centre& Guest House

Chair: Dr.Ananda Reddy , Director, SACAR, Pondicherry

1.	Dr. Ananda Reddy, Director, Sri Aurobindo Centre for Advanced Research, Pondicherry	Integral Yoga: Fulfilment of Tantra Yoga
2.	Dr. Beloo Mehra, Sri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry	Worship of the Divine Mother in Integral Yoga
3.	Dr. Anuradha Choudry, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur, Kharagpur	<i>śabdabrahma</i> and <i>vākśakti</i> : Vedic and Tantric Perspectives
4.	Dr. Soumitra Basu, Castle Apartment, 7, Akkaparadesi Madam Street, Block F & G,H Ground Floor, Pondicherry 605003	Chakras in the transformative paradigm of Sri Aurobindo

Session: 3A: Symposium on

The Tamil Siddhas: Literature, Philosophy, Rituals and Practices (In Tamil)

தமிழ்ச் சித்தர்கள் : இலக்கியம், தத்துவம், மருத்துவம், சடங்குகள் மற்றும் யோகச் செயல்முறைகள்

(26.09.2023: 10.30 – 13.00hrs)

Seminar Hall, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language & Literature

Chair: Prof. Kanchana Natarajan, University of Delhi, Delhi

S. No வ. எண்.	Name கட்டுரையாளர்கள்	Title of the Paper தலைப்பு
1.	Mr. R. Pachiappan, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, Government Arts and Science College, Perumbakkam, Chennai – 600131. முனைவர் இரா. பச்சியப்பன், உதவிப் பேராசிரியர், தமிழ்த்துறை, அரசுகலை மற்றும் அறிவியல் கல்லூரி, பெரும்பாக்கம், சென்னை.	Tholkappiyar's principle on Thabathapakkam and Vallalar : A comparative study தொல்காப்பியம் கூறும் தாபதப்பக்கமும் வள்ளலாரும்
2.	Mr. R. Veeramani, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language and Literature, Pondicherry University, Puducherry – 605 014. இரா. வீரமணி, முனைவர் பட்ட ஆய்வாளர், சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதியார் தமிழியற்பலம், புதுவைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், புதுச்சேரி – 14	Pattinathar's 'lament' songs on Impermanence : A Sociological approach பட்டினத்தாரின் 'புலம்பல்' பாடல்களில் நிலையாமை : சமூகவியல் அணுகுமுறை
3.	Mr. R. Ragulan, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language and Literature, Pondicherry University, Puducherry – 605 014. இரா. இராகுலன், முனைவர் பட்ட ஆய்வாளர், சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதியார் தமிழியற்பலம், புதுவைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், புதுச்சேரி – 14	The world, life, and space philosophy expressed by Kaduvēli Siddha கடுவெளி சித்தர் வெளிப்படுத்தும் உலகம், உயிர், வெளி தத்துவம்
4.	Ms. S. Vennila, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language and Literature, Pondicherry University, Puducherry – 605 014. சி. வெண்ணிலா, முனைவர் பட்ட ஆய்வாளர், சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதியார் தமிழியற்பலம், புதுவைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், புதுச்சேரி – 14	Sivavakkiyar's poems against the Power structure சிவவாக்கியர் பாடல்களில் ஆதிக்க எதிர்ப்புணர்வு
5.	Mr. P. Dineshkumar, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language and Literature, Pondicherry University, Puducherry – 605 014. ப.தினேஷ்குமார், முனைவர் பட்ட ஆய்வாளர், சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதியார் தமிழியற்பலம், புதுவைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், புதுச்சேரி – 14	The contributions of IFP (Institut Français de Pondichéry) towards comprehending Tantric Religious texts தாந்த்ரீக மத நூல்களைப் புரிந்து கொள்வதில் பாண்டிச்சேரி பிரெஞ்சு நிறுவனத்தின் பங்களிப்புகள்

6.

Dr. B.Ravikumar,

Associate Professor, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil, Pondicherry University, Puducherry-14.

முனைவர் பா.இரவிக்குமார்,
இணைப் பேராசிரியர், சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதியார்
தமிழியற்புலம், புதுவைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்,
புதுச்சேரி -14.

Siddha Literature: A historical view
வரலாற்றுப் பார்வையில் சித்தர் பாடல்கள்

7.

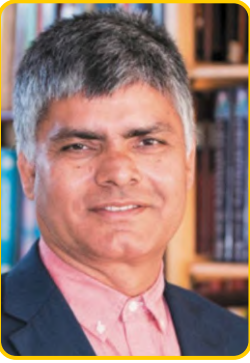
N. Yousuf Shariff,

Ph.D. Research Scholar, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language and Literature, Pondicherry University, Puducherry – 605 014.

ந.யூசுப் ஷெரிப்,
முனைவர் பட்ட ஆய்வாளர், சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதியார்
தமிழியற்புலம், புதுவைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்,
புதுச்சேரி - 14

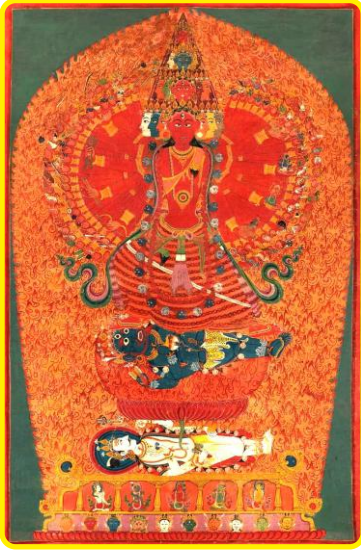
Kunangudi Masthan Sahib songs and
Sufi's Philosophy

குணங்குடி மஸ்தான் சாகிபு பாடல்களும்
சூஃபி தத்துவமும்

**26.09.2023: 17.30-18.30hrs**

Online Lecture Series : Distinguished Lecture on Tripura in the Trika system and in the Sarvamnaya Tantric Tradition

**Dr. Sthaneshwar Timalsina, Department of
Religious Studies,
San Diego State University, California, USA**



Sthaneshwar Timalsina obtained his Master's degree in 1991 from Sampurnananda University in Varanasi, India, and taught for several years at Nepal Sanskrit University, Kathmandu. He completed his PhD from Martin Luther University in Halle, Germany (2005) with a focus on the history of the philosophy of Advaita. His dissertation is published under the title, Seeing and Appearance (Shaker Verlag, 2006). Before joining San Diego State University in 2005, Timalsina taught at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Washington University in St. Louis. His areas of research include classical Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain literature and philosophies with a specific focus on consciousness studies. His book, Consciousness in Indian Philosophy (Routledge, 2008) is a comparative study of Advaita and Buddhist understandings of the self and consciousness. Timalsina also works in the area of Tantric studies and his

recent publications, Tantric Visual Culture: A Cognitive Approach (Routledge, 2015), and Language of Images: Visualization and Meaning in Tantras (Peter Lang, 2015), explore the cognitive and cultural domains of Tantric visualization. Timalsina has published over forty articles, book chapters, and review essays on religion, culture, literature, aesthetics, and philosophy. Timalsina teaches courses on Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain religious, philosophical, and literary traditions, and his teaching interests include 'Religion and Science' as well as 'Yoga Philosophy and Practice.' His current areas of research include theories of mind, with a particular focus on the cognitive aspects of recognition, memory, imagination, and emotion. He is currently working as a Professor in Religions and Philosophies of India, San Deigo State University, California, USA.



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Chair: Prof. Madhu Khanna
Former Professor Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi & Tagore National Fellow, National Museum, New Delhi

Madhu Khanna is an Internationally known scholar based in Delhi who works on Indic studies, Religious Studies and Tantric studies. She is a well-known expert on the goddess centric Śakta tantric traditions of India. At present she serves as the Director and founding trustee of Tantra Foundation and Shrikunja. Khanna obtained her PhD in Indology/Religious Studies from the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, in 1986. Her PhD thesis was on The Concept and Liturgy of the Sricakra based on Sivananda's Trilogy, under the supervision of Professor Alexis Sanderson, Ethics and Religion, All Souls College, University of Oxford. Her subject was Esoteric Hinduism, with special reference to Hindu Tantra and Goddess Traditions. Her research has shown that the origins of Sri Vidya as a central doctrine of Shaktism were in Kashmir.

Khanna has served as a Professor of Religious/ Indic Studies and Director for the Centre for the Study of Comparative Religion and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. There she taught Hindu Studies, cross-cultural studies in the areas of Religion and Gender, Religion and Ecology and Religion and the Arts. She is also credited with organising the first-ever international Religious Studies conference at Jamia. After completing her tenure at Jamia, she was awarded the Tagore National Fellowship by the National Museum, New Delhi.

She has also been involved with three research-based, multi-media-exhibition projects of national interest in collaboration with the Sacred World Foundation, New Delhi. The most recent of these was a project commissioned by Ayush, Ministry of Health. The project was titled Planet Health: Green Consciousness in Ayurveda and Yoga, A Multimedia Exhibit (2010). For this project in her capacity as Honorary Director for Content Research, Documentation and Production, she produced 150 documentary videos on Indian health heritage, namely Ayurveda and yoga.



Cultural Programme

26.09.2023 19:00 to 20.00 Hrs

Auditorium, Convention Centre & Guest House

Ecstasy Embodied



Bharata Natyam Dance Concert by the Faculty & Students of the Dept. of Dance, Bharathiyar Palkalaikoodam, Puducherry

Art and Tantra are deeply inter connected as both aim to provide a spiritual and transformative experience for the Artist and the Rasikas. Dance plays a significant role in Tantra as they believed to be powerful tools for channeling energy and expressing emotions. These art forms are considered as means to communicate with the divine and to attain a state of unity and harmony with the Panchabhutas *Ecstasy Embodied* refers to an intense state of Joy through dance.



27.09.2023:10.30-11.30hrs

Online Lecture Series. Distinguished Lecture on

The Bāla Tantras: Origins, State of Scholarship, and Influence

Dr. Michael Slouber, Professor, Digital Humanities; South and Southeast

Asian Studies; Religion & Culture, Western Washington University, Washington, USA

The Bāla Tantras are a little-known class of Tantric scriptures that are found in archives all over India. They are concerned with matters of fertility, healthy pregnancy, and protection of newborns and children from demonic attack. These texts flourished during the early Tantric era, from approximately 500 CE to 1,000 CE. The talk will review pre-Tantric references to similar subject matter, mainly from Āyurveda and the epics, and try to determine how these were adapted into the Tantras themselves. Some highlights from my new work editing and translating Kriyakālaguṇottara will be shared. I will also look at various post-Tantric forms that the Bāla Tantras take and try to determine lines of influence between them.

Michael Slouber is a specialist in early medieval religions of India, and teaches a variety of courses in South Asian Studies and Religious Studies. Slouber is trained in the classical languages of India — Sanskrit, Pali, and Prakrit — at UC Berkeley. His research has focused on the history of medicine, Tantra, and studies of lesser-known goddess traditions. He is the author of Early Tantric Medicine: Snakebite, Mantras, and Healing in the Gāruḍa Tantras (OUP, 2016), and editor of A Garland of Forgotten Goddesses: Tales of the Feminine Divine from India and Beyond (UC Press, 2021) besides a number of articles, book chapters, and translations. His current project is on spirit possession and exorcism in early Tantric medical manuscripts.



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Chair: Dr. Dominic Goodall

Head, Department of Epigraphy & Manuscripts

Ecole Freanchise Extreme de Orient, Pondicherry

Dominic Goodall studied Greek and Latin, then Sanskrit at Pembroke College, Oxford. After finishing his BA (Sanskrit with Pali, 1990), he came to Hamburg for two years to learn medieval Tamil with Professor S.A. Srinivasan. He got his Doctorate from Wolfson College, Oxford under the guidance of Professor Alexis Sanderson, for his thesis on Bhaṭṭa Rāmakaṇṭha's commentary on the *Kiraṇatantra*, in 1995. Among his publications are editions and translations of works of poetry in Sanskrit and of hitherto unpublished Śaiva scriptures and theological commentaries.

He is currently a professor (directeur d'études) at the EFEO, co-editor with Dr. Marion Rastelli of the Viennese dictionary of tantric terminology, the *Tāntrikābhidhānakośa*, and a contributor to the Hamburg Encyclopaedia of Manuscript Cultures in Asia and Africa (EMCAA).

Session: 8 : Tantric Centers & Shrines

27.09.2023: 12.00-13.30hrs & 14.30-17.00hrs

Seminar Hall.1(First Floor) Convention Centre& Guest House

Chair: Prof. Vasumathi Devi, Kerala University, Kerala

1.

Ms. Sushmita Das,

Doctoral Research Scholar,
EFEO, Pondicherry

The Worship of Gaurī in “aniconic” form as *pañcapīṇḍī*: the evidence of the unpublished *Bṛhatkālotaratantra*”

2.	Prof. Chakradhar Behera, Dept.of Sanskrit, PU	Secrets of Dasamahavidyas in Tantrism
3.	Dr. (Mrs) Rohini Krishnan, Research Scholar, Dept. of History, PU	Enacting the Ritual of “ <i>Nina Bali</i> ” (Blood Sacrifice) in the Sacred Groves of Kerala
4.	Mr. Mondeep Bayan, Post Graduate Student, Department of History, PU	Kamkakhya: Placing the female body in tantric forms of worship
5.	Dr. Nalini Kanta Rana, Dept.of History, Kalahandi University, Bhavanipattana, Odissa	Dancing with the Divine: Discovering the power of Chausasthi Yogini in western Odisha
6.	Dr Sandhya Unnikrishnan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, NSS Hindu College Kerala	Traits of Tantric ritualism in the Yakshi Cult of Kerala
7.	Jithin Sankar. N, Assistant Professor Dept. of History, NSS Hindu College, Changanacherry Kerala	From Cult to Religion, From Groves to Temples and From Ethnic to Brahminic: Historicising the Syncretism of folk tantric elements in the locales of Central Kerala
8.	Mr. Debmalya Adak, Research Scholar, Dept.of History, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal	Encountering the Other: Tantrism and the Brahmins of south India
9.	Mr. Agney Sai C & Vinayak Sai C Asst. Professor & Head, Dept. of History Govinda Pai Memorial Government College, Manjeshwaram, Kerala	Disguised Continuities of Tantra : A Study of ‘ <i>Kalam Chavittu</i> ’ Tradition in Kalarippayattu

Session: 9: Tantra: Art, Music & Dance

27.09.2023: 12.00-13.30hrs & 14.30 -17.30hrs

Seminar Hall.2(Ground Floor) Convention Centre& Guest House

Chair: Prof.Choodamani Nandagopal, Former Director, IGNC (SRC) Bengaluru

1.	Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal Former Director, IGNC (SRC) Bengaluru	Bhairava in Art, Thought and Tantric Literature
2.	Dr. Padmaja Suresh, Aatmalaya Academy, Bangalore	Bharatanātyam Mārgam and Sri Yantra- A holistic pointer
3.	Prof. R. H. Kulkarni, Principal, College of Fine Arts, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat., Art Complex, Kumara Krupa Road, Bangalore -1.	The Fertility and Sacrifice: Tantric Practices in Ancient Karnataka- A few Visual Narrations
4.	Dr. Umesh Patra, Assistant Professor, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar	Tika Gobinda Chandra in Odia: A Medieval Re-creation in the Tradition of Charja Geetika
5.	Dr. B. Ravichandran, Assistant Professor, Bharatiyar Palkalaikoodam, Puducherry	A Review of “Siva Sakti and Purusha Shakthi” Through Neo Tantric Artist G.R.Santosh

6. **Dr. N. Chandramouli,**
Professor, Department of History,
Pondicherry University

Tantric elements and motifs in the Sculptural
Art of Srisailam, Andhra Pradesh

7. **Ms. Antareepa Mondal,**
Department of History &
Mr. M.D. Saddam Hossain
Ph.D. Scholar Department of Performing Arts.
PU

Understanding *Dehatattva* through the Songs of
Baul Shah Abdul Karim

Cultural Programme: (27.09.2023 : 19:00 - 20:00)

Theyyam Dance

Auditorium, Convention Centre & Guest House

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संस्कृति मंत्रालय
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CULTURE



Theyyam is a traditional ritualistic art form indigenous to the Malabar region of Kerala. It is a unique blend of dance, music, and divine worship, captivating audiences with its vibrant costumes, rhythmic beats, and mythological narratives. Theyyam holds deep cultural and religious significance, serving as a bridge between the mortal world and the divine realm. It is performed primarily in Sakta and Saiva temples, Theyyam involves artists who transform themselves into deities and ancestral spirits through elaborate rituals and makeup. The performances are accompanied by traditional percussion instruments like chenda, elathalam, and veekkuchenda, creating a mesmerizing and rhythmic ambiance. Theyyam showcases a wide array of deities and mythical figures, each characterized by distinctive costumes, intricate face paintings, and ornate jewelry.

Theyyam serves as a means of spiritual connection and worship, allowing devotees to seek blessings, healing, and guidance from the divine entities. The rituals and ceremonies associated with this are deeply rooted in local customs and beliefs, fostering a sense of cultural continuity.

The art form is passed down through generations, with families and communities preserving the techniques, stories, and rituals associated with specific Theyyam performances. There are numerous kinds of theyyam, each representing a specific deities or mythological character. Raktha chamundi theyyam, muchilottu Bhagavathi theyyam, pottan theyyam, gulikan theyyam, etc are some varieties of this kind.

Session : 10 : Tantra: Art, Music & Dance 28.09.2023: 09.30 -13.30hrs
Seminar Hall.1(First Floor) Convention Centre& Guest House
Chair: Prof.Srinivas V.Padigar, Hubli

1.	Dr. V. Balasubramanyam, Assistant Professor, Indian Music (Vocal) National Sanskrit University, Tirupati	Exploring the Musicality of Versified Prose in Vaikhanasa Agama Texts
2.	Dr. V. Pavani, Assistant Professor in Music, Dept. of Music, Golden Threshold, University of Hyderabad	Melodic Mysticism: Exploring the Fusion of Tantra Philosophy in the Compositions of Muthuswami Dikshitar
3.	Dr. Sharmistha Chatterjee, Assistant Professor (History) School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences SRM University- AP 522 240, India	Sacred bodies, Secret rituals: Understanding the numinous presence of female divinities in the Nalanda hinterland
4.	Dr. Minnu Kejriwal, Art Historian Sarang-309, Unitech Parkway Apartments, 1st Main Shivanhalli, West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore	Symbolism influenced by Tantra with reference to Shakti cult of Kamakhya temple, India
5.	Abhik Ganguly, Department of English, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi	Tracing Tantra's influence in the Bhakti poetry of Ramprasad Sen
6.	Mr. Ritwik Bagchi, Doctoral Research Scholar, Dept. of History, Jadavpur University 700 032	Vajra in the Buddhist Pantheon and Iconography: Investigating Tantric Features in the Buddhist art of Early Medieval Bengal (8th – 12th centuries CE)
7.	Dr. S. A. S. Sarma, Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), Pondicherry	From Texts to Oral Traditions: Bali Offerings in Tantra Texts and Local Traditions of Kerala

Valedictory Session

**28.09.2023:14.30 – 17.00hrs Auditorium, Cultural - cum -Convention Centre,
Pondicherry University**

Welcome Address : **Dr. Ruman Banerjee**
Asst. Professor, Department of History, Pondicherry University

Felicitation Address : **Prof. Nalini J. Thampi,**
Dean, I/c Subramania School of Tamil Language &
Literature Pondicherry University

Chief Guest : **Dr (Mrs). Tamilisai Soundararajan**
Honorable Lieutenant Governor, Puducherry

Guest of Honour : **Lise Talbot Barré**
Consul General of France in Pondicherry and Chennai

Valedictory Address : **Tantric literature in Sanskrit (Sanskrite Tantrika Vangmayam)**
Prof. G.S.R. Krishna Murthy
Vice-Chancellor, National Sanskrit University, Tirupati, AP.

Presidential Address : **Prof. Rajeev Jain**
Officer on Special Duty, Directorate of Culture & Cultural Studies, Pondicherry Univeristy

Address by: : **Dr. J. Gopal,**
Regional Director, IGNC, Regional Centre, Puducherry

Vote of Thanks : **Dr. N. Chandramouli,**
Professor & Coordinator of the Seminar



Field Trip : Chidambaram Temple on 29.09.2023 :07.00 ~ 17.00hrs