

# *Dakshinapatha Vaartha...*

**Volume 1, Issue 1**

**March-April 2023**



**Centre For South Indian Studies**

## ***Dakshinapatha Vaartha....***

**Dakshinapatha Studies, a unit of CSIS, focuses on building socio-cultural-economic-political studies of the south of India, Dakshina Bharat.**

Centre for South Indian Studies (CSIS) is a public charitable trust established in Delhi, engaged in academic study, research, and analysis of economic, social, historical, and political developments of South, both past and contemporary. CSIS commissions scientific research on various subjects and topics pertaining to South India, directly by its researchers, and funds studies of interest that conform to its aims and objectives. It also motivates academicians and students to take up new research initiatives to rework conventional narratives on South India to enable understanding of these topics scientifically. Apart from organizing research programs, CSIS also brings out publications periodically and carries out public awareness programs. CSIS regularly organizes lectures, debates, panel discussions and talks on various subjects related to South India.

CSIS also runs a portal, [www.dakshinapatha.com](http://www.dakshinapatha.com) which aims to capture, assemble and consolidate the rich political history, culture, and traditions, the people, and the inspirational icons, reflecting the society and its changing times. It presents a kaleidoscope of the socio-cultural history of Dakshin, its geopolitics, its culture and fine arts, and its spiritual traditions.

Dakshinapatha Vaartha, the bi-monthly newsletter of CSIS starting in the month of March-April 2023, hopes to present news briefs of the activities of Dakshinapatha. Starting with the auspicious new year, Sobhakrit Nama Ugadi, the newsletter would present a snapshot of the organization regularly.

## ***Dakshinapatha ( Dakshinâvarta ) Indian south***

Dakshinapatha (also known as Dakshinâvarta ) is Dakshin Bharat – Southern India; Dakshin is traditionally regarded as the land south of Vindhyas. The Dakshin peninsular landmass, Dakshinâvarta covers the present states of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Pondicherry, Tamilnadu and Telangana; and also parts of the current states of Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Odisha. Deccan Plateau, Deccan (derived from Dakshin) is said to be a segment of the very ancient

continent of Gondwana land, the oldest and most stable landmass in Bharat, typically rocky and dry in nature. The many living spoken classical languages, cultural richness, the development of fine arts, classical music and dance, the architectural splendor of the majestic temples - all reflect the antiquity of Dakshin.

The Dakshina region's diversity and richness is reflected in the multiple languages spoken- Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu; Konkani and Tulu are the major dialects spoken mainly in Karnataka. Interestingly, the four main languages – Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam are also among the five classical languages recognized by Govt of India (the 5<sup>th</sup> being Odiya spoken in Odisha). Extensive rich literature and Vangmaya flourished in Dakshina languages and Sanskrit in the Dakshin region. With it's relative peace and political stability, the Dakshin has also seen the flourishing and rich splendor of Classical Arts, Music and Dance. Dakshin is the home for many majestic temples built centuries ago by the Hindu ruling dynasties, even though some are lost due to invasions. Hindu traditions are reflected in the various Mutts and Peethas as per the Saiva, Vaishanava and Saktheya Sampradayas. Jainism and Buddhism too flourished in Dakshin at different periods of time, leaving behind a rich cultural tapestry.

## **Welcome to the New Year - Sobhakrit Ugadi**

Yugadi, Ugadi, Samvatsaradi falling on Chaitra Suddha Padyami /Chaitra Shukla Pratipada is celebrated as the new year in the Dakshina states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Telangana, and is celebrated as Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra. This follows the Chandramana or the lunar calendar of the ancient Hindu Panchanga. People celebrate variously with Ugadi pachchadi/chutney which has the shadruchi or the six ingredients of sweet, salt, sour, chilli/spicy, bitter and astringent. People decorate their homes with mango leaves and flowers and colorful muggus/rangolis. Special dishes like pulihora, bobbatlu/holige etc are made and relished.



The new year is celebrated in other parts of the nation, Sindhis celebrate the day as Cheti Chand, Manipuris as Sajibu Nongma Panba, Sikkim and Ladakh, parts of Arunachal Pradesh too celebrate new year in Chaitra masa. The Hindus in Bali in Indonesia celebrate the new year as Nyepi and Ugadi is also a public holiday in Mauritius, showing the cultural connect of Bharat with other nations.

Those regions which follow the solar calendar – soura mana, the new year is fixed on Apr 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>, the new year is celebrated as Baisakhi in Punjab, Rongali Bihu in Assam, Puthandu in Tamil Nadu, Vishu in Kerala, Pana Sankranti or Odia Nababarsa in Odisha and Poila Boishakh in Bengal in the month of Vaishakha.

Interestingly, many Southeast Asian countries and China too celebrate the new year as per solar calendar signifying the cultural connect of ancient India with these far-off lands. It is celebrated as Thingyan in Myanmar, Pi Mai in Laos, Songkron in Thailand, Choul Chnam or Maha Sankranthi in Cambodia and as Water sprinkling festival in Yunnan China.

**CSIS -Telangana & Andhra Pradesh- Dakshinapatha Studies has initiated research studies in the following areas.**

I. The Telugu states' CSIS chapter based in Hyderabad, Telangana is broadly working on research in the following areas.

**a. Musunuri Nayaka Kings- Resistance to Muslim Invasions**

The history of the Telugu regions post the Kakatiya period. Comprehensive work was done on the major Andhra empire of Kakatiyas (12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> C) headquartered in Warangal by historians; however the long period after the Kakatiyas defeat at the hands of the Islamic armies of Malik Kafur, to the advent of AsafJahis is not well-known. CSIS has begun studying the works of old scholars, and is researching and writing on this intervening period. It has begun documenting the history of the first major heroes of Islamic resistance during this period, the 'Musunuri Nayaka' Kings.

- b. Author, novelist, Retd Professor Sri Mudigonda Sivaprasad's lecture on '**Musunuri Nayaka Kings**' was conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Surabharati, OU Campus, Hyderabad.



- c. **Hyderabad Liberation Struggle**

Commemorating the important milestone of the ongoing 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hyderabad Liberation which occurred on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1948, CSIS is also working on the resistance movement of Hyderabad focusing on forgotten or ignored heroes in history.

- d. **Online Study Circles**

CSIS Hyderabad has initiated online Study Circles on important epochs of history pertaining to the Telugu region. A Study Circle on Musunuri Nayaka Kings is completed, while the Study Circle on early 15<sup>th</sup> Century period has been initiated.

- e. **Research-writing workshops**

CSIS Hyderabad has conducted two batches of Research-writing workshops in the last quarter of 2022 and on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023 respectively at CSIS office, Hyderabad and is identifying potential research scholars.

- f. **Dakshinapatha website**

It is also compiling and documenting articles on historical epochs and heroes, and is publishing on dakshinapatha.com site.



**g. Collaboration with Academic Institutions**

CSIS Hyderabad is in the process of working out an MoU with History Dept, Osmania University, Hyderabad, to work in collaboration on a few historical aspects.

h. Dakshinapatha studies conducted a lecture on **'Reddy Rajulu' (Reddy Kings)** as a part of series of lectures about 'The Unsung Historical Heroes' on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023, in 'Sura Bharati Auditorium, in the Osmania University Campus. Prof G Anjaiah, Head of Department of History, Osmania University, delivered the key note address. Dr Binnuri Manohari, an independent Researcher and author was the special guest. Prof G Anjaiah, continuing the series of lectures, mentioned the inscriptions of Kaluvacheruvu and Rani Ani thalli, and said 'Reddy Kings' saved Telugu culture. Mallampally Somasekhar Sharma's seminal work 'Reddy Rajula charitra, is very detailed.



**II. CSIS, Tamilnadu Chapter is working on the following topics of Research.**

**a. 'The Sangam Literature - Early evidence'**

Sangam literature is the earliest evidence of Sanatana Dharma, the literature mainly deals with Agam- meaning inside homes and Puram – the outside world. The 'Dravidian' politics in Tamilnadu makes a false distinction between 'north Indian' and 'south Indian' Gods , hence CSIS researchers are studying the Sangam literature to debunk the false arguments.

**b. 'Gajula Lakshminarasu Chetty: the man behind the ideas'**

Gajula Lakshmi Narasu Chetty is a remarkable major Hindu pioneer in Chennai known for his work against the



British government as well as for his activism against Christian religious conversions. His newspaper - The Crescent (First native Indian owned newspaper) exposed the nefarious plans of the British.

c. **‘Tamilnadu Freedom fighters – Unsung Heroes’**

Countless numbers of revolutionary leaders and freedom fighters have sacrificed their lives to liberate our country from the clutches of British tyranny. They were fierce, had the courage to face death and dedicated their lives for the noble cause of Indian independence. Unfortunately, many remain anonymous today. A book on the ‘Tamilnadu Freedom Fighters’ is being brought out as an attempt to pay our tribute to the unsung revolutionaries in this in this 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence , it’s translated from Tamil.

d. **‘Experience of INA Veterans in Tamilnadu’.**

Many from Tamilnadu have participated in Indian National Army (INA) of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. CSIS is making an attempt to record their experiences during that period either through their families or through other sources like books, photos, certificates etc.



III. ***CSIS, Kerala Chapter is working on the following topics of Research.***

a. **Sabarimala temple narratives**

Over a period of time many narratives are created on Sabarimala temple, such narratives question the very concepts behind the beliefs of devotees; the proposed study is an effort to critically evaluate these incidents and narratives around Sabarimala Ayyappa temple and their impact.

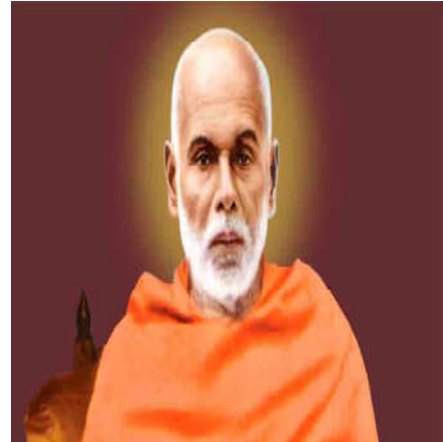
b. **Christian Missions’ role in Colonization**

The Christian church’s and missions played a vital role in the colonization process, and the native resistance against colonialism

was not only against the European colonizers but also against the missions who devised tools to colonize the minds.

c. **A spiritual biography of Sri Narayana Guru**

There are many works on the life and social reformation efforts of Sri Narayana Guru; this study proposes to understand various aspects of his spiritual life.



d. A critical essay on '**Upper cloth disturbances**' and narratives- This study tries to understand the narratives related to upper cloth disturbances in the colonial settings.

e. **History of imperialism in Kerala: 12<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> centuries**

Over the centuries, many foreign forces came to the shores of Malabar like the Arabs, Chinese and the Europeans, all these forces tried to establish their monopoly over Malabar. The study proposes to understand and analyze the behavior of these forces and the response of Malabar.



Under the **Strategic Currents initiative**, CSIS Dakshinapatha is exploring the hidden dimensions of problematic episodes and events in the socio-political-cultural milieu unfolding in the country. Important stories on the Hijab controversy in Karnataka, the expose of 'Leprosy rehabilitation worker' Graham Steins from original sources, who was an Australian missionary evangelist was posted. 'Nijamtoday.com' is working on exclusive stories under this realm; LRPF reported on Christian pastors who are receiving benefits under SC reservations, action is sought to be initiated on this matter. It is also countering spread of fake news by vested interests on sensitive religious issues which compromise social harmony and national security.