

## CSIS Research Work of National Importance

The CSIS Chennai chapter has taken up the mega research project on the 19th century pioneering anti-colonial activist, industrialist, printer and publisher of the first newspaper 'The Madras Crescent', and a great nationalist Sri Gajula Laxminarasu Chetty. Author and advocate Sri B. Jagannath has worked on the research project tirelessly which culminated in his writing of the book on the great pioneer.

The book written in English was simultaneously translated into Tamil by Dr. K. V. Balasubramanian, the work was managed by the CSIS Chennai chapter. The book was also translated into Telugu by Sri Vedula Narasimham, the work was managed by the CSIS Hyderabad chapter. Samvit Prakashan published the works in all three languages.

### 'The Native Voice of Madras: Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty' – Chennai book launch event

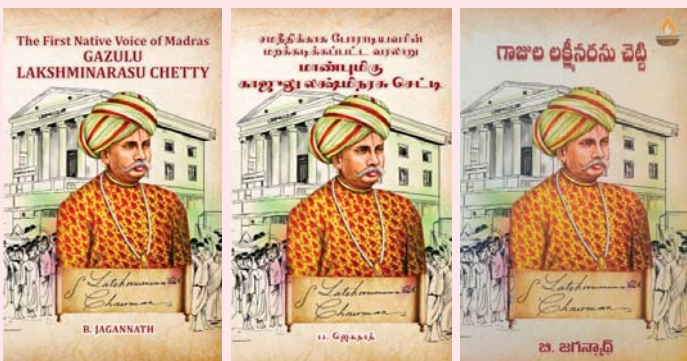
'The Native Voice of Madras: Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty' book launch event was organized by The Centre for South Indian Studies Chennai chapter on 17th June 2024 held at T.N. Rajaratnam Kalai Arangam in Chennai. The book is a biography and honors the legacy of social activist, philanthropist and



anti-colonial pioneer Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty, authored by advocate Sri B. Jagannath.

The book was launched by Honorable Governor of Tamil Nadu His Excellency Thiru R.N. Ravi on the occasion of 113th Shradhdhanjali of freedom fighter Vanchinathan. Honorable Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court Thiru S. Vaidyanathan and Telaga Balija Kapu Joint Action Committee South India Convener Dasari Ram Mohan Rao, Thiru P. Sandeep Kumar, Director for Centre for South Indian Studies, Thiru M. Kumaresan, Coordinator, Centre for South Indian Studies-Chennai Unit, participated in the event.

Author Sri B. Jagannath briefed about the book and shared his experiences of collecting primary source documents from British libraries, Madras Archives and Connemara library. He said, to ensure that the history of the greatest personality Sri Laxminarasu Chetty who fought for native population, reaches wider audience, the book is being released in three languages - Tamil, Telugu and English. Honorable Justice S. Vaidyanathan in his address commended the author on his immense dedication in bringing to light the greatest personality and an unsung hero who was the first Indian to establish and run a newspaper which became the voice of native Indians.



# 'Empowered Women in History-Nari Shakti Day'

## Seminar on 28th May 2024

CSIS-Dakshinapatha Studies in collaboration with Telangana Mahila Vishwavidyalayam conducted an important seminar 'Empowered Women in history-Nari Shakti Day' on Vaisakha Bahula Panchami which fell on 28th May 2024 at Telangana Mahila Vishwavidyalayam (formerly Koti women's college). Dr Vidyullatha, Incharge VC, Telangana Mahila Vishwavidyalayam applauded Dakshinapatha studies for conducting the seminar on the auspicious occasion of Rajyabhishekam (coronation day) of the great Kakatiya queen Rani Rudrama Devi (gathered from literary sources). Dr Saraswatamma, special officer stated that our rich legacy comes from the contribution of several great inspirational women, political leaders, artists, space travelers and homemakers; she said it's wonderful to celebrate Nari Shakti Day and remember Rani Rudrama Devi.

Dr Gopal Reddy, President CSIS - Dakshinapatha Studies in his address stated on the auspicious occasion of Vaisakha Bahula Panchami, we are celebrating Rani Rudrama Devi's coronation day. He said unfortunately India has been portrayed



as a bad place of patriarchy, poverty and under development etc, it is totally false as we have great women rulers and administrators like the great Indore Rani Ahilyabai Holkar, Rani Chennamma of kittoor in Karnataka, Rani Nayaki Devi of Gujarat, Rani Jhansi Laxmibai who were great queens of Bharat. The British plundered and looted our country, reducing it to penury and impoverishment. CSIS is trying to unravel the forgotten icons, leaders and forgotten epochs in history.

Dr Lavanya, Dean Telangana University, Nizamabad presented the keynote address which discussed women contributors through the ages starting from the Vedic period. There's no sector or field without the contributions of women today. Dr Surya Kumar, Retd lecturer of History; Dr Bhinnuri Manohari, editor Moosi Patrika, author, researcher and epigraphist; Dr Sudakshana, author and researcher; Dr Aruna HoD History Dept, Telangana Mahila Viswavidyalayam presented research papers on various topics pertaining to Kakatiya period in the seminar.

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Honorable Tamil Nadu Governor Sri RN Ravi in his keynote address stated the importance of shedding light on the overlooked and forgotten heroes of India's freedom struggle, whose rich contributions have often been obscured. The Governor said, Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty deserves recognition for his pioneering efforts in raising awareness about the evangelization of natives through English education, which he accomplished through the publication of his 'The Madras Crescent', a groundbreaking initiative at the time.

The Governor praised the book for its rich content and evidence, describing it as a highly condensed

work with the potential to inspire multiple detailed studies on the atrocities committed by the British on Indians. The Honorable Governor felicitated those who have contributed for the book.

A complimentary copy of the 860-page book with reference materials. Only academics, research scholars, institutes, and authors are allowed to use this book. For those who require the book, register using the link below or scan the QR code.



<https://forms.gle/LyustW9VH4cEhrNQ9>

# Swami Vidyaranya Jayanti

14th May 2024

The Shankaracharya of Sringeri Peeth, the Dakshinamnaya peetham set up by Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya, Swami Vidyaranya Jayanti (1296 – 1391 CE) on Vaisakha Sukla Saptami which fell on 14th May 2024 was celebrated by Dakshinapatha Studies (Center for South Indian Studies) at CSIS office. The event was clubbed along with the Jayanthi celebrations of great seers of Sanathana Dharma Sri Adi Shankaracharya and Swami Ramanujacharya whose Jayanthi fell two days earlier on Vaisakha Sukla Panchami 12th May 2024.



Susri Shailaja, senior research associate of Dakshinapatha Studies, in her brief presentation stated that Vaisakha masa is special as it celebrates the Jayanthis of several Hindu seers and luminaries like Adi Shankaracharya, Swami Ramanujacharya, Swami Vidyaranya as well as Swami Vallabhacharya on Vaisakha Krishna Ekadashi. She explained the importance of Swami Vidyaranya in the establishment and revival of the Hindu Kingdom, the glorious Vijayanagara empire which ruled all of dakshin for 300 years and was the main bulwark against the onslaught of Islamic invasions from north.

The 12th Jagadguru of Sringeri (1380 – 86), his earlier name was Madhavacharya, is supposed to have hailed from Warangal region in today's Telangana, he went in search of his younger brother who was ordained as Sringeri peethadhipathi with the name Sri Bharathikrishna Teertha in 1328 CE by the great seer Sri Vidyashankara Teertha. The great seer also gave Deeksha to Madhavacharya, thus he became Swami Vidyaranya, he became the Shankaracharya of Sringeri after his brother. It is said that when Swami Vidyaranya was on a pilgrimage to Kashi and Badarikasrama, Bhagwan Vyasa Maharshi himself initiated him into Sri Vidya Upasana.

Sri Madhavan, engineer at the company. Adroit engineering services, briefly explained about Sri Ramanujacharya (1017 – 1137 CE). The great Vaishnava saint was born in Sriperumbudur near



today's Chennai in Tamilnadu. He was a proponent of the Visishta Advaita. He revived and established the 108 Divya prabandhams. He studied Advaita vedanta from his guru Yadava prakasha, with whom he differed eventually, he also studied under the great scholar Yamunacharya. He became the Archaka at Kanchi Varadaraja Perumal temple. He opposed any kind of prejudice and discrimination, and preached the Thiru mantra or Narayana mantra to thousands of devotees from atop the temple.

Sri Kalyan Chakravarthy, Research coordinator at Dakshinapatha Studies, spoke briefly on the great seer and the proponent of the visionary universal philosophy, the Advaita siddhantha, Sri Adi Shankaracharya. Born at Kaladi in today's Kerala, Shankara took his mother's permission and blessings and left home at the tender age of 8 years to become a sanyasi. He established the 4 Sankara peethas in the four directions of the nation, each meant for studying a particular Veda.

The Jyotish math near Badrinath in the north, the Dwaraka peeth in Dwaraka in the west, the Shringeri peeth in Karnataka in the south, and the Govardhan peeth in Puri in the east. Not many people are aware regarding the akhadi (wrestling) tradition that was established by Sri Shankaracharya which continues to this day. The dasnami akhada is very important and reputed. Sri Adi Shankaracharya's influence and impact is everlasting. Puja and Harathi were offered to the portraits of Swami Vidyaranya, Sri Adi Shankaracharya and Sri Ramanujacharya and prashad was taken by all the attendees of the event.



## Events of National Importance

### Punyashloka Rani Ahilyabai Holkar's Jayanti (31st May 1725- 13th August 1795)



Rani Ahilyabai Holkar, the great Hindu queen of Indore is known for her rebuilding of many Hindu temples which were destroyed in Islamic invasions including Kashi Viswanath Mandir. She built more than 15 Mandirs and Ghats and is famed for her great devotion to Bhagwan Shiva.

Rani Ahilyabai Holkar is known for her political acumen, administrative skills, diplomatic abilities, warfare strategies, policies of zero tolerance towards corruption, zero discrimination based on caste, and her efforts in rehabilitating the underprivileged. It is important for today's generation to know and draw inspiration from the great queen Rani Ahilyabai Holkar.

### National Lok Sabha Elections

The Lok Sabha 2024 election results were declared on 4th June 2024; the BJP-led NDA regained power at the center for the third term, albeit with a reduced majority; NDA obtained a total of 293 seats. The opposition INDI Alliance attained 234 seats, with the lead opposition party Congress at 99 seats. In a historic win in the state of Andhra Pradesh where simultaneous state Assembly elections were held, the TDP- led NDA alliance recaptured power with a landslide victory. In another historic win, the BJP won the state assembly elections in the state of Odisha for the first time.



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