

## **Symposium on ‘The Twin Epics of Tamil, Cilappatikaram and Manimekalai’(29-30 October 2018)**

### *Concept Note:*

The Twin Epics, *Cilappatikaram* and *Manimekalai* of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D. are original both in form and content. These regionally reputed and well known epics are of later ages and much less in length and size to those of *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, the *Adhikavyas*. But still they have their epical characteristics such as lengthy narrative, elevated style, grandiose episodes to picturise a fatal fall of heroic personalities. The theme or a lofty principle of everlasting value is an additional feature of these twin epics identifiable with the *Adhikavyas*.

The twin epics are exceptionally sequential though they have their separate identities in respect of socio-religious themes. Such uniqueness of two-in-one among the epics is a rare phenomenon. The symposium also highlighted the specific and individualistic merits of these twin epics.

Besides disseminating these matters, what the symposium aimed to focus, to the extent possible, the underlying unity that exists between these two epics and that of *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. Merits of virtues and demerits of vices will be exposed with reference to these Indian epics. The reason behind these attempts was to focus an attention on the embedded unity of Indianess in these epics, respective of linguistic differences.

The scope of this literary symposium is to initiate such unified and scholarly effort to solidify a harmonious feeling of unity in diversity and to inculcate a sense of ‘*vasu theiva kudumpagam*’ through the pages of these Indian literatures. Such initiative from the Himalayan Heights of IAS would be eminently desirable and befitting in all respects.

A Symposium on ‘*The Twin Epics of Tamil, Cilappatikaram and Manimekalai*’ was organized at IAS during 29-30 October 2018. Dr. Palani Arangasamy, 4, Lakshmi Colony, Medical College Road, Thanjavur and Professor J. Rangaswami, Fellow, IAS were the conveners of the symposium. Professor J. Rangaswami, convener of the symposium, delivered the Welcome address. Professor Kapil Kapoor, Chairman, IAS gave introductory remarks. The Keynote address was delivered by Professor Palani Arangasamy, convener on ‘*Epics in General with Reference to Cilappatikaram and Manimekalai*’. Professor J. Rangaswami, Convener of the symposium proposed the Vote of thanks.

### Participants:

- Dr. T. Rajagopalan, Bharat University, Agharam Road, Chennai
- Professor K. Rajamanickam, Professor of English (Retd.), Sastra Deemed University, Thanjavur, Tamilnadu
- Mr. R. Subbarayalu, Deputy Registrar (Retd.), Tamil University, Thanjavur
- Dr. V. Sangeetha, Professor and Head, Department of English, Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu.

Fellows who chaired the session during the symposium:

- Professor Ramesh Chandra Pradhan, National Fellow, IAS
- Professor Dambarudhar Nath, Fellow, IAS
- Professor Rekha Chowdhary, Fellow, IAS
- Dr. Manisha Choudhary, Fellow, IAS
- Shri Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Fellow, IAS
- Professor Mundoli Narayanan, Fellow, IAS