

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

Poetry and history have long been intertwined, with literary compositions serving as powerful vessels for preserving and transmitting historical narratives. From royal panegyrics to epigraphic inscriptions, poetic texts across languages have played a crucial role in documenting political events, cultural transitions, and regional histories. This conference aims to explore the intersection of poetry and history, focusing on how Sanskrit and Tamil literary traditions, alongside inscriptions, have recorded historical memory over centuries.

Bringing together leading scholars and researchers, this two-day event will examine themes such as courtly poetry as historical testimony, regional epigraphy as a source of historical insight, and the role of religious and autobiographical texts in shaping historical consciousness. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the conference seeks to shed light on the ways in which poetic and inscriptional traditions serve as archives of the past, offering valuable perspectives on political, social, and cultural histories.

LINK FOR REGISTRATION:



<https://forms.gle/PoAHPnRGVnXgKZsp9>

or Scan the QR Code & Register

Limited slots for in-person participation. Register in advance to confirm your spot and lunch arrangements

CONTACT:

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A TWO - DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

POETRY AND HISTORY

TRACING HISTORICAL NARRATIVES IN LITERATURE AND INSCRIPTIONS



March 27-28, 2025



French Institute of Pondicherry,
Puducherry

DAY 1 - March 27, 2025

Inaugural Session (9:00 – 10:30 AM)

Presiding Officer: **Dr. Renaud Colson**, Director, IFP

Welcome Address: **Dr. Margherita Trento**, Head, Department of Indology, IFP

Introduction to the Conference: **Dr. Vinoth Murali**, Researcher, IFP

Keynote Address: *From Kāvya to Chronicle: When Poetry Becomes History in Sanskrit Literature* - **Prof. C. S. Radhakrishnan**

Thematic Address: *Historical Narratives in the Inscriptions of Pondicherry and Its Vicinity* - **Pulavar N. Venkatesan**

| 10:30 – 10:45 AM - Tea Break |

Session 1: Kingship, Court Poetry, and Political Memory

10:45 – 11:15 AM - *The Royal Rhythms: Kempe Gowda and His Yakṣagāna* - **Dr. Indira Malapaka**

11:20 – 11:50 AM - *Vemabhūpālacaritam: Blending History with Poetic Artistry* - **Prof. Penna Madhusudan**

11:55 – 12:25 PM - *Kṛṣṇadevarāya: An Eminent Scholar-King of Odisha in Historical Narratives* - **Dr. Deviprasad Mishra**

| 12:30 – 2:00 PM - Lunch Break |

Session 2: Sanskrit Literature as a Historical Source

2:30 – 3:00 PM - *Royal Narratives in Stone* - **Dr. Ramadevi Sekhar**

3:05 – 3:35 PM - *Sanskrit Literature: A Record of History, Culture, Politics, and Social Life of India (17th–20th Century)* - **Dr. V. Yamunadevi**

3:40 – 4:10 PM - *Sanskrit Literature and Historical Narratives: A Study of References Across Texts* - **Prof. K. Srinivasan**

| 4:15 PM - Session closes with a Tea Break |

DAY 2 - March 28, 2025

Session 3: Inscriptions and Autobiographies

9:30 – 10:00 AM - *What Can the Recently Discovered Poetic Inscription K. 1417 of Jayavarman I bis Add to Our Picture of the Khmer-speaking World in the 8th Century?* - **Prof. Dominic Goodall**

10:05 – 10:35 AM - *Writing History Inadvertently: A Look at PB Annangaracharya's Autobiography* - **Dr. Suganya Anandakichenin**

| 10:45 – 11:00 AM - Tea Break |

Session 4: Political and Religious Histories in Poetic Traditions

11:00 – 11:30 AM - *Historical Narratives in Maṇḍalakavi's Pāṇḍyakulodaya* - **Prof. Sankaranarayanan G**

11:35 – 12:05 PM - *Why Poetry? Śaiva and Christian Debates in the 17th–18th Centuries* - **Dr. Margherita Trento**

12:10 – 12:40 PM - *The Jagadgurukāvya and the Jain Writing of History in the Mughal Period* - **Mr. Raffaello De Leon-Jones Diani**

| 12:45 – 2:00 PM - Lunch Break |

Session 5: Eulogies, Lineages, and Historical Narratives

2:00 – 2:30 PM - *An Enquiry into Historical Narration in Cankam Literature* - **Dr. Indra Manuel**

2:35 – 3:05 PM - *The Bhaṭṭar Lineage of Tiruchuzhigai: Insights from Historical Sources* - **Dr. Babu G**

3:10 – 3:40 PM - *Between Eulogy and History: Investigating Śrīśarabhojirāja-Ḡuṇaratnākara in Light of Historical Sources* - **Ms. Vaishnavi Shridhar**

3:45 – 4:15 PM - *Madhurāvijayam: A Queen's Vision of History in Poetry* - **Ms. Hirudayakamala M & Ms. Keerthana A B**

| 4:30 PM - Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks |