

Lecdems at the Tamil Isai Sangam

The Tamil Isai Sangam is doing yeoman service to the cause of Tamil music since 1943. It has been holding the pann aaraaichi or pann research from the year 1949. Professor P. Sambamoorthy used to head the pann research sessions till his death, after which many other stalwarts presided over the sessions. For the past ten years, Tiruppamburam Shanmugasundaram is heading the sessions. Another stalwart who has taken part in pann research since its inception is 'Pannisaikkavalar' Dr. Le. Pa. Karu Ramanathan Chettiyar.

This year the pann research sessions were held from 22nd to 25th December 2007. The sessions were inaugurated by the retired Chief Justice of Gujarat and President, Tamil Isai Sangam, Dr. P.R. Gokulakrishnan. The introductory speech was made by Prof. Thangarasu, Vice-Chancellor, Periyar University, Coimbatore. Saidai T. Natarajan, who was honoured this season with the Isai Perarignar award, delivered the presidential address. Dr. T. Gnanasundaram, an expert in Tamil literature, gave the references from Tamil literary works whenever required.

On 23rd December, papers were presented by Dr. I. Ananda Natarajan and vidwan Dharmapuram Swaminathan on the pann Megharagam, and by Dr. M.A. Bhageerathi and Prof. Thiruppamburam Shanmugasundaram on the pann Sigandhi. The next day, Bhageerathi and Tiruppanandal So. Muttukandasamy Desigar presented papers on Sayavelarkolli, and



Durga



Bhageerathi

Dr. E. Angayarkanni and Dr. S.A.K. Durga made presentations on pann Manral.

On 25th December Dr. I. Anandanatarajan and Saidai T. Natarajan explained about the pann Andi and Dr. E. Angayarkanni and Dr. Premeela Gurumuthy presented papers on the pann Sandi. Vidwan Kunnakudi R. Vaidyanathan also gave expert comments.

All the sessions were very interesting, and discussions were held every day and the equivalent raga in Carnatic music was arrived at. To cite an example, the pann Sayavelarkolli is known as Sarasangi in current parlance.

Tamil Isai Sangam organised many concerts during the season, based only on Tamil compositions. In the recitals based on *Tevaram*, the oduvar-s strictly followed the pann murai. The proceedings attracted a sizeable and knowledgeable audience who had *Tevaram* books in hand and followed the renderings by singing along, in feeble voices — a very rare sight indeed! The acoustics at the Raja Annamalai Manram was very good.

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