

PREFACE TO THE EDITION

It is with great pleasure that we present the next issue of the *International Journal of Indian Language Research Studies (IJILRS)*, bringing together scholarly studies that explore the richness, diversity, and continuing relevance of Indian-language literary traditions. This issue reflects the dynamic relationship between literature, society, culture, language, identity, and historical transformation across different regions of India.

The contributions in this issue traverse diverse literary traditions while highlighting a common concern: the role of literature in expressing human experience and responding to changing social and cultural realities. The opening study examines the evolution of romantic consciousness in modern Odia poetry, focusing on imagination, emotion, nature, beauty, individual freedom, mysticism, and patriotism, while also tracing how these influences were adapted to Odisha's cultural heritage and national consciousness.

The issue then turns to the Kannada literary tradition through a study of the twelfth-century Vachana movement and its relationship with social reform. The article considers how the writings of figures such as Basavanna, Allamaprabhu, and Akkamahadevi questioned caste discrimination, priestly authority, religious orthodoxy, and gender inequality, while concepts such as *Kayaka*, *Dasoha*, *Ishtalinga*, and *Anubhava Mantapa* contributed to an alternative vision of society.

The Malayalam contribution examines the emergence of the novel in the late nineteenth century as an important vehicle of social reform. Through early works such as *Kundalatha*, *Indulekha*, *Marthandavarma*, and *Saraswativijayam*, the study explores questions of caste, gender, education, social customs, modernity, and national consciousness within the contexts of print culture, colonialism, and the emergence of new reading communities.

The Tamil literary tradition receives particular attention through two studies. One investigates the recovery and reconstruction of Sangam literature from palm-leaf manuscripts into print and its significance for the Tamil cultural renaissance, language identity, and historical consciousness. It also considers the relationship between print culture, Tamil linguistic identity, the Dravidian movement, and contemporary digital contexts. The other examines the writings of Subramania Bharati and their contribution to modern Tamil social consciousness, particularly through nationalism, women's liberation, the abolition of caste, economic equality, and social reform.

Taken together, these studies demonstrate that Indian-language literatures cannot be understood merely as repositories of artistic expression. They are also important spaces in which societies negotiate questions of identity, justice, reform, modernity, cultural memory, and collective aspirations. The issue also illustrates how literary traditions continuously reinterpret inherited forms in response to new historical circumstances—from devotional and reform movements to print culture, nationalism, modern literary consciousness, and the digital age.

A significant strength of the present issue is its multilingual scope. The inclusion of Odia, Kannada, Malayalam, and Tamil scholarship offers readers an opportunity to encounter distinct literary histories while also recognising the shared concerns that connect India's diverse linguistic cultures. Such comparative perspectives can contribute meaningfully to a broader understanding of Indian literary studies beyond individual linguistic boundaries.

We hope that this issue of *IJILRS* will encourage further interdisciplinary and comparative research in Indian languages and literatures and stimulate renewed scholarly engagement with the relationship between language, literature, society, and cultural transformation. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the authors and the efforts of reviewers and editorial colleagues whose scholarly engagement has helped bring this issue to fruition.

Dr. Sandhya E. N

Chief Editor

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