



R. SUBRAMONY

Studies of Vedic Heritage in Tamil Nadu

Contribution of R. Nagaswamy



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R. Subramony



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Dr R. Subramony (1976-), is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of English at The Madura College (Autonomous), Madurai, Tamil Nadu. He was born in Thiruvananthapuram in a family that hailed from Palakkad district of Kerala. A postgraduate in English literature, he was awarded PhD for his thesis on "Comparative Study of Sri Aurobindo and Teilhard de Chardin". His first book *Frying Pan and Other Stories* was published under the nom de plume Raja. He has to his credit another book *Paramahansa: A Vedantic Tale* and several other books covering the field of Indian religion and philosophy. He can be contacted at raaja.dhruv@gmail.com



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Dr R. Nagaswamy (1930-), born in Madras to Sanskrit Pundit Ramachandran Sastrigal, is a PhD in arts and archaeology. He had his masters in Sanskrit. This highly acclaimed Indian historian cum archaeologist cum epigraphist has an in-depth knowledge of temple inscriptions and art history of Tamil Nadu. Dr Nagaswamy was the founder-director of the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department. He played an instrumental role in starting the annual Chidambaram Natyanjali festival in 1980. He underwent archaeological training under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and, in 1959, joined the Government Museum, Chennai as art and archaeology curator.

This 87-year old scholar was the first Director of Archaeology of Tamil Nadu and had a long stint from 1966 to 1988. He also served as the first Vice-Chancellor of Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya (Deemed to be University) at Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu and advisor to the Government of India to the UNESCO Project in documenting cultural property. As a multi-faceted personality, he has carved a niche for himself in Sanskrit studies, Vedic knowledge and Chola bronzes. He has over 50 books to his credit. The Government of India, honouring Dr Nagaswamy's contribution to the varied fields of Indian wisdom, conferred upon him the Padmabhushan in 2018.



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