



# செம்மொழித் தமிழாய்வு மத்திய நிறுவனம்

(தன்னாட்சி நிறுவனம், கல்வி அமைச்சகம், இந்திய அரசு)

செம்மொழிச் சாலை, பெரும்பாக்கம், சென்னை - 600100

## CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL TAMIL

(An Autonomous Institution under the Ministry of Education, Government of India)

Chemmozhi Salai, Perumbakkam, Chennai - 600100

F.No. 11-264/ CICT/2025-26/ Tirukkuraḷ Translation Project

Date: 09.04.2025

### TIRUKKURUḶ TRANSLATION PROJECT 2025 - 2026

A Careful and impartial survey of the great books of the world found in any of the ancient and modern languages of the world would reveal that there are not many strong contenders for the title of the book of the world. The vision of life embodied in most of them suffers from certain inexcusable limitations which have rendered them obsolete. Compared to the rest, *Tirukkuraḷ* is the only work which takes all aspects of human life into consideration and remains relevant despite the massive changes that have taken place in every walk of life and the scientific discoveries about the vastness of the expanding universe. In his emphasis on the oneness of mankind, in his focus on life here and now, in his rejection of all superstitious beliefs about how the world came into being and how it is going to end, about what happens before birth and after death, in his indifference to wild conjectures relating to man - god relationship, and in his unwavering advocacy of an eclectic fusion of meaningful principles from the various religions of his time, *Valluvar* is unique and has no worthy rival for the top position.

The fact that *Tirukkuraḷ* has received universal approbation is evident from the comments made by the leading thinkers of the world including *Albert Schweitzer*, *F.W.Ellis*, *sri Aurobindo*, *Tolstoy* and *Gandhiji*. Though written about more than two thousand years ago, it steers clear of religion, nationalism, race, tribe, language, caste and creed and teachers numerous lessons valid not only for its own time but for all the centuries to come.

Central Institute of Classical Tamil has proposed to bring out authentic translations of this great work into various languages:

### Instructions

The following guidelines may be kept in mind while preparing the translation anthology:

The order in which the Tamil text, its transliteration and translation in the target language have to appear:

- (1) The Couplet in Tamil
- (2) Its transliteration in the Roman script
- (3) Its translation in the target language

The translation may be in verse (not necessarily rhymed), or poetic or simple elegant prose. A Glossary (of meanings of difficult words) has to be added at the end.





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### RULES AND REGULATIONS

- ❖ The project is to be completed in Ten months.
- ❖ The financial assistance to be given by the Institute for every work is Rs. 1.5. Lakh (Rupees One lakh and fifty thousand only).
- ❖ All those who have specialized in translation are welcome to send their applications.
- ❖ Those who are employed have to route their applications through proper channel.
- ❖ Unemployed individuals have to send their applications through some government Institution/NGO.
- ❖ Translators will be selected by an expert committee constituted by CICT. Applications will be invited to make their presentations before the Committee.
- ❖ Applications from non-governmental organizations should include a Xerox copy of the webpage registered in [www.ngo.india.gov.in](http://www.ngo.india.gov.in). They should also enclose a copy of the audit report of the last financial year of the organization.
- ❖ If the applicant is a scholar in Tamil, he should enclose documentary evidence to that effect.
- ❖ If the translator doesn't possess a sound knowledge of Tamil, he may have the assistance of a Tamil scholar whose acceptance and bio-data should also be sent.
- ❖ Such assistants are not eligible for any remuneration by the Institute.
- ❖ The translation has to be sent only by **Arial Unicode MS**.
- ❖ The translation of the excerpt from the model text given should be sent together with the application.
- ❖ CICT will conduct two meetings of the Evaluation Committee during the period of Translation.
- ❖ CICT will have the exclusive right to the translated text and its publication.
- ❖ Orders will be issued to the selected applicants by CICT as per its rules and regulations.
- ❖ If the completed translation is not sent before the due date, the translator has return the money paid with interest.
- ❖ The application given below may be duly filled in and sent by post **The Director, Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chemmozhi Salai, Perumbakkam, Chennai - 600 100**, and by email to [tirukkuraltranslation@cict.in](mailto:tirukkuraltranslation@cict.in)
- ❖ For more details, see [www.cict.in](http://www.cict.in)

**Prof. R. Chandrasekaran**

*Director*



www.cict.in



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Chemmozhi Salai, Perumbakkam, Chennai - 600100

### Application for the Translation Project on TIRUKKURAL 2025-2026

1.	Name of the applicant in English		Photo
2.	Mother tongue		
3.	Date of birth & Age		
4.	Qualification		
5.	Designation		
6.	Date of Joining		
7.	Total Experience		
8.	Office Address (With Phone Number)		
	Residential Address (With Phone Number)		
9.	Mobile Number		
10.	E-mail Address		
11.	Address of the Institution through which the application is routed		
	* If registered NGO give ID No.		
12.	Target language		
13.	<b>Enclosures</b> Publication details relating to translations already done.		

\*Registration on Online is mandatory as per GOI guidelines.

Date:

Place:

Signature of the applicant

## LANGUAGES (107)

### Indian Languages (68)

1. Adi
2. Ahirani
3. Angami
4. Ao
5. Bagri
6. Banjari
7. Barel
8. Bharmauri/Gaddi
9. Bhatari
10. Bhilali
11. Bhili/Bhilodi
12. Bilaspuri/Kahluri
13. Chakma
14. Chodhari
15. Desia
16. Dhundhari
17. Garo
18. Gojri/Gujjari/Gujar
19. Gondi
20. Halabi
21. Hara/Harauti
22. Ho
23. Jaunpuri/Jaunsari
24. Kangri
25. Karbi/Mikir
26. Karmali
27. Kharia
28. Khasi
29. Kisan
30. Kokbarak
31. Kokna / Kokni / Kukna
32. Konyak
33. Korku
34. Koya
35. Kui
36. Kulvi
37. Kumauni
38. Kurmali Thar
39. Kurukh/Oraon
40. Lamani/Lambadi/Labani
41. Lodhi
42. Malto
43. Mandeali
44. Marwari
45. Mewati
46. Miri/Mishing
47. Munda
48. Mundari
49. Nagpuria
50. Nissi/Dafla
51. Pahari
52. Pahariya
53. Panch Pargania
54. Pawari/Powari
55. Pnar/Synteng
56. Rabha
57. Rajbangsi
58. Sadan/Sadri
59. Savara
60. Sondwari
61. Surgujia
62. Surjapuri
63. Tangkhul
64. Thado
65. Tibetan
66. Tripuri
67. Vadari
68. Varli

### Foreign Languages (39)

1. Albanian
2. Amharic
3. Azerbaijani
4. Bulgarian
5. Catalan
6. Czech
7. Dhivehi
8. Dutch
9. Dzongkha
10. Estonian
11. Finnish
12. Georgian
13. Greek
14. Greenlandic

15. Hebrew
16. Hungarian
17. Icelandic
18. Indonesian
19. Italian
20. Kyrgyz
21. Lao
22. Latvian
23. Lithuanian
24. Macedonian
25. Maltese
26. Mandarin
27. Mongolian
28. Norwegian
29. Polish
30. Portuguese
31. Romanian
32. Serb-Bosn-Montenegr-Croatian
33. Slovak
34. Slovene
35. Spanish
36. Turkish
37. Turkmen
38. Ukranian
39. Uzbek1

## Sample translation Text

In the history of world literature, *Tirukkural*, the magnum opus in Tamil, is one work of art that refuses to be tied down to any particular race, religion, land or culture. In an expansive body of 1330 verses that it contains, there is not even a single reference, direct or indirect, to the Tamil language or the Tamil people or the Tamil country that for sure sustained and nurtured its author's genius and that provided the milieu for such a work to be composed. It soars above diversities of nation, language, religion, race and culture and speaks for the entirety of humankind. *Tirukkural* is indeed the miracle of a literary composition where every god, every human trait, every virtue, every emotion, every deed, every relationship is universalized root and branch.

A note on the extraordinary ability of the *Kural* to sustain itself and resist obsolescence through these more than 2000 years of recorded history. Masterpieces of world literature stay immortal because of their abiding aesthetic appeal, and religious scriptures on account of their spiritual appeal. How does *Tirukkural*, which is by and large a treatise on the art of living, sustain itself for so long? The answer lies in Vaḷḷuvar's exceptional power of perception. As he takes up a subject for treatment, he goes to the bottom and touches the root wherein lie the unshifting foundations of the subject in question. In other words, while most writers take up the diamond, Vaḷḷuvar's choice is the carbon, the isness of things, whereby he succeeds in identifying the eternal unchanging values of life applicable to people across space and time.

It bears repetition to state that there are not many candidates around to compete with this miracle of a literary document for the position of world literature.

1. அகர முதல எழுத்தெல்லாம் ஆதி  
பகவன் முதற்றே உலகு.

### *Transliteration:*

akara mutala eḷuttellām āti  
pakavaṇ mutarrē ulaku.

### *Translate:*

A is the starting-point of the world of sound: even so is the Ancient one Supreme the starting-point of all that exists.

2. கற்றதனால் ஆய பயனென்கொல் வாலறிவன்  
நற்றாள் தொழார் எனின்.

### *Transliteration:*

karrataṇāl āya payanenkol vālarivan  
narrāl toḷāar eṇiṇ.

### *Translate:*

Of what avail is all thy learning if thou worship not the holy feet of Him of the perfect intelligence?

3. மலர்மிசை ஏகினான் மாண்டி சேர்ந்தார்  
நிலமிசை நீடுவாழ் வார்.

*Transliteration:*

malarmicai ēkiṇāṇ māṇṇḍi cērntār  
nilamicai nīṭuvāḷ vār.

*Translate:*

Behold the man who taketh refuge in the sacred feet of Him who walked on flowers:  
his days will be many upon the earth.

4. வேண்டுதல்வேண் டாமை இலாண்டி சேர்ந்தார்க்கு  
யாண்டும் இடும்பை இல.

*Transliteration:*

vēṇṭutalvēṇ ṭāmai ilāṇḍi cērntārkkū  
yāṇṭum iṭumpai ila.

*Translate:*

Behold the men who cleave unto the feet of Him who is beyond preference and  
beyond aversion: the ills of life touch them not ever.

5. இருள்சேர் இருவினையும் சேரா இறைவன்  
பொருள்சேர் புகழ்புரிந்தார் மாட்டு.

*Transliteration:*

iruḷcēr iruviṇaiyum cērā iraivaṇ  
poruḷcēr pukalpurintār māṭṭu.

*Translate:*

Behold the men who sing earnestly the praise of the Lord; they will be freed from the  
pain-engendering fruits of action both good and evil.

6. பொறிவாயில் ஐந்தவித்தான் பொய்தீர் ஒழுக்க  
நெறிநின்றார் நீடுவாழ் வார்.

*Transliteration:*

porivāyil aintavittāṇ poytīr oḷukka  
neriṇṇār nīṭuvāḷ vār.

*Translate:*

Behold the men who follow the righteous ways of Him who burned away the desires  
of the five senses; their days will be many upon the earth.

7. தனக்குவமை இல்லாதான் தாள்சேர்ந்தார்க்கு அல்லால்  
மனக்கவலை மாற்றல் அரிது.

*Transliteration:*

taṇakkuvamai illātāṇ tāḷcērntārkkku allāl  
maṇakkavalai mārral aritu.

*Translate:*

They alone escape from sorrow who take refuge in the feet of Him who hath no equal.

8. அறவாழி அந்தணன் தாள்சேர்ந்தார்க்கு அல்லால்  
பிறவாழி நீந்தல் அரிது.

*Transliteration:*

aṛavāḷi antaṇaṇ tāḷcērntārkkku allāl  
piṛavāḷi nīntal aritu.

*Translate:*

The stormy seas of wealth and sense delights cannot be traversed except by those who cling to the feet of the Sage who is the Ocean of Righteousness.

9. கோளில் பொறியின் குணமில்வே எண்குணத்தான்  
தாளை வணங்காத் தலை.

*Transliteration:*

kōḷil poriyiṇ kuṇamilavē eṇkuṇattāṇ  
tāḷai vaṇaṅkāṭ talai.

*Translate:*

Worthless indeed like the organs of sense which do not perceive is the head that boweth not at the feet of Him who is endowed with the eight attributes.

10. பிறவிப் பெருங்கடல் நீந்துவர் நீந்தார்  
இறைவன் அடிசேரா தார்.

*Transliteration:*

piṛavip peruṅkaṭal nīntuvar nīntār  
īraivaṇ aṭicērā tāṛ.

*Translate:*

They alone cross the ocean of births and deaths who take refuge in the feet of the Lord; the others traverse it not.