

The State Institute of
Languages, Kerala, "Nalanda",
Trivandrum-1.

Report regarding the steps taken by the State of Kerala for the development of Malayalam language

The area now known as Kerala was divided into three parts, the Native States of Travancore and Cochin, and the Malabar District of Madras Presidency. The States of Travancore and Cochin, under their enlightened rulers, had been doing a lot for the promotion of the language and the literature of Malayalam. The State of Madras also was interested in the promotion of Malayalam as one of the four main languages spoken in the Presidency.

In the State of Travancore, the royal household had assembled a rich collection of ancient manuscripts, both in Sanskrit and in Malayalam. From this, a Manuscripts Library under the guidance of an array of eminent Scholars was constituted, and many Malayalam works of considerable linguistic and literary significance had been published with critical introductions and notes.

The University of Travancore, which was subsequently renamed the University of Kerala, came into existence in 1938. This University also did a lot to promote the development of Malayalam language and literature, especially by publishing technical glossaries and popular works on technical and scientific topics.

The Native State of Cochin also did yeoman service to the literature of Malayalam. The Language Improvement Committee established by that State published a large number of Classical Works in Malayalam. The State of Cochin also maintained a rich collection of ancient manuscripts at Tripunithura, Ernakulam District.

In 1949, the two States of Travancore and Cochin were integrated to form Travancore-Cochin State. Soon after, the text books were nationalised and the Education Department was entrusted with the work of preparing text books on various subjects in Malayalam for the use of Secondary Schools. A Text Books officer was also appointed.

The State of Kerala came into existence in 1956 as a result of integrating the T.-C. State with the former Malabar District and a portion of the South Canara District of the erstwhile Madras State. The formation of Kerala State gave a great fillip to the cultural activities in the State and the assistance of the Government became available to these activities in increasing volume. The formation of Kerala Sahitya Academy in 1956, one month before the formation of the Kerala State was a pointer to this trend.

Kerala Sahitya Academy

The Kerala Sahitya Academy was the first of the State Academies to be formed and was extremely fortunate in having a very energetic President in Sardar K. M. Panikkar, Statesman-Scholar-Publicist. The Sahitya Academy was located at Trichur in the exact centre of Kerala. Subsequently two more academies were formed, one for Music and Drama, and the other for Fine Arts, and these two also were located in the same town making it the Cultural Capital of Kerala State.

During the 13 years of its existence, the Sahitya Academy has done much to unite the writers in various fields of Malayalam literature, to honour them on proper occasions and also to aid the production of excellent literature by the awards of aids and prizes. The Academy has also started the publication of a literary by-monthly "Sahitya Lokam" from July 1969.

Another service rendered by the Academy is the commissioning of portraits of eminent writers of the bygone generation. An excellent reference Library containing almost all the books available in Malayalam has also been built up in the Academy office at Trichur.

Malayalam Lexicon

A Department for the compilation of a comprehensive Lexicon of the Malayalam language on historical principles was organised in 1953 under the University of Kerala with Shri Sooranad P. N. Kunjan Pillai as the Editor. The work was planned to be completed in three stages, viz. (1) Collecting mate-

rials from books as well as from spoken language, (2) Preparation of the draft of the Lexicon, and (3) Editing and publishing the Lexicon. Accordingly, materials were gathered from nearly 3,000 books in Malayalam belonging to different periods and the coöperation of more than 300 voluntary contributors from different parts of Kerala and the Laccadives was made use of. The Lexicon is to contain more than 1,50,000 entries and will be issued in seven volumes of about 1,000 pages each. The first volume was published in December 1965, running to 1,300 pages in demi-quarto size. This contains words coming under the first letter "A" (ആ) and includes more than 12,500 words and nearly a lakh of illustrative quotations. It also contains an introduction in English and in Malayalam with supplements declensions of a few nouns and pronouns and conjugations of a few typical verbs in Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Tulu and Telugu. The second volume, of which the printing is over, contains all the words under the remaining vowels and runs to nearly 1,400 pages in demi-quarto size. The work of the Lexicon is carried on by the Editor with the assistance of a staff appointed by the University. The expenditure is shared by the State Government, the University Grants Commission and the University of Kerala.

Malayalam Encyclopaedia

In 1961, the Government set up a Department of Encyclopaedia under the Ministry of Education with Prof. N. Gopala Pillai as the Chief Editor. The Encyclopaedia was planned in 10 volumes of 1,000 pages each covering altogether 40,000 topics.

The preliminary work of selection of topics was started soon after the appointment of technical staff in 1962. This work continued till 1967. On the 10th of June 1968, the Editor passed away and the charge of the Chief Editor was assumed by the Education Secretary to Government. In July 1969, Dr. K. M. George took charge as Chief Editor. Soon after his assuming charge as Chief Editor, the Editorial Committee met and approved his reorganisation proposals. According to the revised scheme, the Encyclopaedia will be published in 20 volumes of 1,000 pages each, and will contain about 35,000 topics. It was also decided that more than 75 per cent of the topics will be got written by scholars outside. Efforts are being made to enlist the co-operation of specialists in various subjects. The second stage of this work has already commenced.

Official Language (Legislative) Commission.

The Official Language (Legislative) Commission was constituted by the Kerala Government in June, 1968. The duties assigned to the Commission were (a) translation of enactments applicable to Kerala, including Central Statutes and the rules and regulations passed thereunder, and (b) preparation of a glossary of legal terms. The Commission consists of three Members—Shri M. Prabha, Chairman, and Shri P. Sankaran Elayathu and Shri M. Bhaskara Menon, Members. The Commission has already completed the translation of the Constitution of India into Malayalam. A Glossary of the legal terms and expres-

sions occurring in the Constitution has been tentatively compiled. As the Commission proceeds with the translations of other States, the legal terms and expressions occurring therein would be added to the Glossary already compiled.

The State Institute of Languages Kerala.

The State Institute of Languages, Kerala, was constituted by a Government order in March, 1968. The Governing Body consisting of six official and three non-official members was appointed with Shri E. M. S. Namboodiripad, Chief Minister, as President, Shri C. H. Mohammed Koya, Education Minister, as Vice-President, and Shri K. C. Sankaranarayanan, Education Secretary as the Convener. Shri N. V. Krishna Warrior assumed charge as the Director of the Institute on the 29th of August, 1968. The Institute was formally inaugurated by Dr. Triguna Sen, the Union Minister for Education in September 1968. The Institute has been entrusted with the task of preparing University-level Books in Malayalam for which the finances are provided by the Central Government. A scheme for the production of 740 books on various subjects in sciences and humanities has been prepared by the Institute and approved by the Government.

The Institute has already published three glossaries of technical terms in various sciences, humanities and agriculture. A Glossary of Engineering terms is being printed.

About 200 books intended for University courses are under various stages of preparation.

The Institute has also commissioned the preparation of three bilingual dictionaries, viz: Malayalam-Tamil, Malayalam-Kannada and Malayalam-Telugu.

There is also a proposal for establishing a School of Indian Languages under the Institute.

The budget estimate of the Institute for the current year is Rs. 8,87,400. 40 per cent of this will be met by grant

from the Central Government and the remaining 60 per cent is to be borne by the State Government. The estimated expenditure for the production of University level Books during the current year is Rs. 13,60,300, the entire cost being borne by the Union Government.

The Institute is publishing a Magazine in Malayalam containing articles on current topics of scientific interest mainly intended for the University teachers and students.

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