

Topic: Tiruvarur Temple Traditions as Seen in Muttusvāmi Dīkṣitar's Tyāgeśa Kṛti-s

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Date & Time: 24.12.2025; 8.05AM

Venue: Kasthuri Srinivasan Hall, The Music Academy

Abstract:

The town of Tiruvarur brings together long-standing traditions of temple architecture, ritual practice, and music. Muttusvāmi Dīkṣitar's engagement with the Tyāgarāja shrine is reflected in his Tyāgeśa kṛti-s, which describe both the physical layout of the temple and the ideas and practices associated with it.

This lecture-demonstration looks at Dīkṣitar's Tyāgeśa kṛti-s as sources that document different aspects of the temple tradition. The compositions present Tyāgeśa in several ways — as dancer, as yogic principle, as the supreme deity, and as the centre of the ajapā-nartana. They also contain references to concepts such as the pañcakṛtya, the prañava-tattva, the utsava practices, and the distinctive pañcaliṅga worship system of the Tiruvarur temple.

The presentation will connect details found in the kṛti-s with iconography, ritual sequences, and the broader ideas associated with the temple. By reading the musical and textual material alongside the physical and ritual setting of Tiruvarur, the session aims to show how Dīkṣitar's works help in understanding the existing Śaiva Siddhānta and Āgamic traditions, as well as the musical approach he followed.