

# SONNA KODUM

Editor :

**R.N. SADASIVAN**

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## C.I.I.L. WORKSHOP FOR SOURASHTRI VOCABULARY



The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, in pursuit of one of their objectives to preserve endangered minor languages, of which 'Sourashtri' is one, organised a week long Workshop from November 26th to December 1st, 2018 at their Mysore campus. The invited ten 'Resource Persons' (of whom I was one) for finalising the Vocabulary of Sourashtri language.

The ten experts at the workshop consisted of Prof. T.R. Damodaran, Sri K.R. Sethuraman (both Sahitya Akademi awardees), Prof. L.R. Govardanan, Dr. T.S. Krishnam, Sri N.S. Viswanathan, Sri R.R. Sathyamoorthy, Sri Surya Ganeswar, Sri K.R. Ravindranath, Sri Konda Senthilkumar and myself. Each participant was allotted 600 words (in Tamil and English) and were asked to give Sourashtri equivalents (in Devanagari/Tamil scripts).

We did the job individually first and then held joint discussions to choose the most appropriate words. In six days 6000 words were completed. (As I had completed early, I was given 600 more words and I completed the same too, thus totalling 6600 words). These words for Vocabulary will be further scrutinised by

CIIL and published at the earliest.

At the inaugural session on 26th November, Prof. D.G. Rao, Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, urged the Saurashtra community to encourage the younger generations to learn Saurashtri as a language and use it more often in their daily communication. He also said, unless the respective minority communities take steps to develop their languages through consistent effort, it could become difficult to save them from extinction.

It is upto our Sourashtra Madhya Sabha and other institutions of our language to take this up urgently.

Our community should be grateful to Prof. D.G. Rao, Director, Prof. Umarani Pappusamy and Prof. Perumalsamy (Deputy Directors), Sri C.K. Manikandan (Superintendent) and Dr. L.R. Premkumar, coordinator of the Vocabulary Workshop, for all their encouragement to protect and nourish a minority language that is facing extinction due to the onslaughts of regional and other major languages influencing it.

...K.V. Pathy,

Advisor & Past President, KUSO

**26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DAY**

*President and Committee Members cordially invite you with your family & friends on the occasion of the 26th Annual Day Celebration on*

**06-01-2019, SUNDAY**

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All our people are requested to attend the Annual Day celebration along with their family and friends without fail and also inform our community people who are not aware of this function and bring them with you. There will be attractive ten '**EARLY BIRD**' prizes by draw from KUSO to those who arrive at the auditorium up to 9.00 AM (except KUSO Committee Members and their Families). Kindly treat this as a personal invitation and attend with family and friends. We request you to make the function a grand success.

**Please Note:** Those who are interested to participate in outdoor games (Rangoli, Lemon Spoon Running for Ladies & Children and Tug-of-War) are requested to be present in the function venue at 8.00 a.m. sharp. Others are welcome to encourage the participants.

All those who are interested to participate in various competitions are requested to give their names to any one of the following Committee Members well in advance. Gifts are offered to all participants.

**Sri R.R. Baskar : 9343736556**

**Sri P.M. Balaji : 9538277727**

**Sri R.K. Sridharan : 8088506655**

**Sri K.K. Gopinath : 9035775910**

**FREE MEDICAL CAMP :** Elbit Diagnostics conducts the following tests will be done : RBS, Height, Weight, BMI, BP, Lung function test and audiometry. Vivekanda Health Mission, Madurai conducts Eye & Dental check up by Vasam Eyecare & Dental All are requested to make use of this opportunity.

**HEALTH AWARENESS CAMP :** by Dr. Priya Vishwanath, MBBS Along with Aditya college of Nursing staff and Aditya Bangalore Institute of Pharmacy Education and Research (ABIPER) Staffs.

**BLOOD DONATION CAMP :** KUSO will be conducting BLOOD DONATION CAMP during this Annual Day Function. Those who are interested to donate blood can give blood in this camp.

## K.D. Vivek Chand Weds S.V. Harshitha



The Wedding of **Chi. K.D. Vivek Chand**, B.E., (Senior Software Engineer, Classklap, Bengaluru) Son of Sri K.K. Devadoss Babu, Treasurer, KUSO and Smt. K.D. Ramila with **Sou. S.V. Harshitha**, B.Tech, (Associate Engineer, Unisys, Bengaluru) Daughter of Sri S.V. Varadharajan and S.V. Mekala was held on Sunday, the 2nd December 2018 at Saththur Nadar Uravin Murai Kalaya Mantapam Madurai.

KUSO Joint Treasurer R.R. Baskar, Smt. Santhi Baskar, Vice President R.K. Sridharan, Smt. Jayanthi Sridharan, Smt. Valli N. Vasudevan Family, Secretaries, T.A. Pattabiraman, S.K. Varadharajan, Committee Members P.M. Balaji, Smt. Kamala Balaji, M.R. Nagaraj, M.N.Yogeshwari, B.K.M. Rajukumar, Editor, R.N. Sadasivan, Smt. Savithiri Sadasivan, N.S.R.santharam, M.V. Mohanram, Salem M.R. Narayanan, T.V. Balasubramanian and Smt. Rekha Vinosh had attended the marriage function at Madurai and blessed the young couple.

The reception held on Saturday, the 8th December 2018 at Hotel Abhimaani Vasathi, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, KUSO President, V.G. Gopalakrishnan, K.V. Pathy, Advisor, KUSO, T.S. Jayabalan, General Secretary, KUSO & Family, T.R. Rajesh Kanna, Dr. B.A. Vishwanath, Chairman, Aditya Group of Institutions, K.V. Manoharan, Dr. K.Ve. Nagarajan, Hosur, KUSO Committee Members Smt. Uma Gridharan, B.V. Srinivasan, N.R. Viswanathan, N. Saravanan and family, B.M. Srinivas, K.K. Gopinath, R. Krishnakumar, K.M. Saravanam, T.H. Desikachari, G.R. Govindan, S.K. Narendranath, L.S. Narasimman and all other KUSO members had attended the function and blessed the young couple. ★



### QUESTION PAPER



I Saw It With My Eyes But  
 Couldnt Understand It  
 Took It In My Hands, But Couldnt  
 Understand It  
 Keep Thinking For A Long Time,  
 But Again Couldnt Understand It  
 It was Not A Dream,  
 It was Is Not A Love,  
 It was Not Even Friendship,  
 Then I Realized:  
 It Was Question Paper

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### A.R. MAHALAKSHMI

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KUSO Membership (Life - Rs.300, Patron Life - Rs.1000) Registration Fee for KUSO Marriage Bureau (Rs.400/Renewal Rs.300), payments for Sourashtra Nagar, Advertisements Published, Donations for developmental activities of KUSO may please be remitted into our **KUSO, S.B. A/c. No. 1198262043, IFSC: CBIN0281200** with Central Bank of India, Rajajinagar Branch, Bangalore-560010. Please inform us about your remittance into the above account through Mobile : 9902264195 E-Mail : kusobng@gmail.com

**KUSO MARRIAGE BUREAU** accepts the responsibility of forwarding the horoscope details to the parents of alliance seekers only. The genuineness of the horoscope and the other information furnished therein should be verified by the parents concerned. The applicants should quote the Reference Number mentioned in all the horoscope details published in this issue, on the left hand top corner of the envelope which will enable us to locate and send them a particular horoscope without much delay. For further details, please contact **Sri T.S. Jayabalan**, General Secretary, **KUSO Mobile : (0) 9902264195**.

**Dear Parents :** The registration of horoscope with KUSO Marriage bureau is valid only for a period of 6 months from the date of registration. Any request for horoscope copies after the expiry of the said 6 months period, will be entertained only upon renewal of your boy's/girl's horoscope with KUSO. **Ref.No.** must be quoted in all your correspondence.

**G:** Gothram, **H:** House Name **N:** Natchathram, **R:** Rasi **P:** Padam  
**D/B:** Date of Birth **O:** Origin **Ref:** Reference No. to identify a particular horoscope

**Note:** We have pleasure to present the details of fresh horoscopes of Nowrin / Nowran registered for the **28th Global Jadhaga Parivarthanai Mela** (Sunday, the 9th September 2018) in instalments

### NOWRIN

◆ **G** Kanva Rishi **H** Pumbatti **N** Magam **R** Simmam **D/B** 10.08.1983 **O** Kumbakonam B.E. (IT) std., 5'4" height wheatish colored girl works in CAP GEMINI with a salary of Rs. 65,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from Bachelor/Master degree boys in any stream living/working anywhere in India with a min. Height 5'6". **Ref: KMB/G/28/13.**

### NOWRAN

- ◆ **G** Markandeya Rishi **H** Baluveragun **N** Ayilyam **P** 1 **R** Kadakam **D/B** 25.03.1983 **O** Bangalore +2 std., wheatish colored boy works in Travels with a salary of Rs.25,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from girls of any origin std., +2 or SSLC living anywhere in India with a min., height 5'. Her employment is not a must. **Ref: KMB/B/28/128.**
- ◆ **G** Bharathwaja Rishi **H** Laguduva **N** Poosam **P** 3 **R** Kadagam **D/B** 04.04.1990 **O** Thanjavur B.E. (E & I) std., 173 cms., height fair boy works as Senior Engineer, System Control Ltd., Kasturi Nagar, Bangalore with a salary of Rs. 7,20,000/pa., seeks suitable alliance from graduate girls of any origin from Tamilnadu and living/working in Bangalore with a min. Height 162 cms. **Ref: KMB/B/28/129.**
- ◆ **G** Jamadhagni Rishi **H** Neelamegam **N** Thiruvonam **P** 1 **R** Makaram **D/B** 29.08.1985 **O** Madurai B.Tech (Mech) std., 5'8" height fair boy works in ANEVY, Kolkatta with a salary of Rs.10 lacs. (and above) p.a., seeks suitable alliance from graduate girls from Madurai, Salem, Chennai and Bangalore origin living anywhere in India with a min., height 5'. Her employment is not a must. **Ref: KMB/B/28/130.**
- ◆ **G** Goudilya Maharishi **H** Thoomatty **N** Astham **P** 2 **R** Kanni **D/B** 05.12.1977 **O** Dindigul M.Com std.,

5'8" height fair boy works in Govt. Office (BARC., Mumbai) with a salary of Rs. 70,000/pm seeks suitable alliance for 2nd marriage from girls of any origin (graduates preferred) living anywhere in India with a max., height 5'6". Has a son aged 8, studying III Class. **Ref: KMB/B/28/131.**

- ◆ **G** Bharathwaja Rishi **H** Laguduva **N** Karthigai **P** 4 **R** Rishabham **D/B** 15.10.1992 **O** Madurai B.Tech (IT) std., 160 cms height boy works as Software Engineer in Cognizant Technology Solutions with a salary of Rs.1,60,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from graduate girls of any origin with a min., height 155 cms living anywhere in India. **Ref: KMB/B/28/132.** ★

### divaa puje



The 60th 'divaa puje' was held on Thursday, 22nd November 2018, at 6.00PM at the residence of Sri T.S. Sivanath, Flat No. 202 1st Floor, Sri Ranga Apartments, 110 East Park Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560003, with the participation of large number of KUSO members families.

In this function, Vice President, KUSO, Sri R.K. Sridharan performed the rituals. Smt. Ramila Devadoss Babu, Smt. Santhi Baskar and Smt. Yogeshwari Nagarajan had organized the pooja events. Those who are interested to participate are requested to contact Smt. Santhi Baskar (9342014615), Smt. Ramila Devadoss Babu (9379681716) and Smt. Yogeshwari Nagarajan (9141335308, 9379365178). ★

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## SUNDARA NATTAMAI LAKSHMANA WEDDING MAHAL



The opening ceremony of Sundara Nattamai Lakshmana Wedding Mahal was held on 10.12.2018 at Big Car Street, Tirupparankundram with Chief Guest Sri S.S. Saravanan, MLA, Madurai South Constituency. Former Madurai MP Sri A.G.S. Rambabu, Coimbatore Sourashtra Sabhai President Sri K.R.S. Moorthy, Madurai Sourashtra Sabhai President Sri A.R. Balaji and Madurai Sourashtra College Secretary, Sri E.R. Kumaresh were present and greeted the organisers. I.P.S. Trust Trustees, viz., Sri Malli Premnath, Advocate Sri Krishnakumar, Sri R.R. Subramanian and Salem Sri Keizer Chandrasekaran were also present. Events followed with Annadhaanam and Brindavana Kolaattam. ★



## HYDERABAD SOURASHTRA SANGAM



Sri K.P.S. Harish Krupo, son of Smt. K.S. Revathi & Sri K.P. Subramanian (Kopula), HYSSA Member, was awarded with two Gold medals for his Scholastic performance and standing first in the program at IIIT Vadodara on November 3, 2018. He received both the medals from the Governor of Gujarat, Sri Om Prakash Kholi.

Sri Harish completed his B.Tech in Computer Science in May 2017 from IIIT, Vadodara and has been working in Intel, Bangaluru as a Graphics Software Engineer.

...Preeti, HYSSA, Joint Secretary

### ERODE SOURASHTRA SABHA

## Election-Office Bearers for 2019-21



Following are the new Office Bearers elected for 2019-2021:-  
President

Mr. K. Chandrasekaran

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Mr. T.R.S. Ramar

Secretary

Mr. R.N.K. Guruparan

Joint Secretary

Mr. T.K.T. Gopal

Treasurer

Mr. K.R. Srinivasan

This has been officially announced by Election Officer Mr. A.S. Sridharan and Asst. Election Officers, Mr. K.G. Suresh Babu and Mr. T.M. Sivakumar on Wednesday, 19.12.2018 at 11.00 am when 176<sup>th</sup> Aradhanai Vizha of Sriram Natana Gopala Nayagi Swamigal and Vaikunta Ekadeshi Mahothsava Vizha and Duvadeshi Paaranai held at Chellayammal Thirumana Mandapam, Erode.

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**Note :** Please send us the above form duly filled in and signed as soon as possible. The names and addresses of those members who had not submitted to us the said form, will be deleted from the mailing list and Sonna Kodum copies will not be sent to them. Those who have registered their horoscopes with us will receive Sonna Kodum copies for a period of 6 months only from the date of registration.



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**Pous avaDaththak gave kiirthano**

Ragam: Mugari  
Taalam: ruhpagam  
Pallavi

Tadiku pous pani avitaLo hiiru neddi bhori  
Tandu songo vikkaDkaa rengaa

Anupallavi

Pirajulu tuus gati meni rhiyaasi isakanu  
tego tEvEL drohpathiku thovath diye soko sri renga  
(tadiku)  
charanun

bhaaj jemi jivve meni bhove pirajul ponde gati  
baadu isokka karesi bhooth sogave dugaaLu  
bhoi hOru nhiisto chekkur haathOru  
kaDitagi rengaa sri rengaa (tadiku)

dharmu soDi nigili bail dallaanuku sEste  
dhaagavadEsina tormonnu mil-tuu menas tenko  
sangu merunku sukke bhuugaalu haadu  
bhandai bisaasi sri renga (tadiku)

dEv soko rhiye munin diinun hoi avikinu  
dikku tuus melrhiyaasi rengaa pirajuu havur poDi  
dekke bhonDam aanjaa menaste khaase iso,  
kaa khales sri rengaa

Ediso rheikinu mEtisri rengamu  
dhaTikan ninjes te kaai rengaa  
paripuuruNu bhaath devaaDi  
rengaa sri rengaa (tadiku)

The above kiirtana was recited by Srimath Sugandha Dhuupa Thiirthaarya Swamigal as a prayer to Sri Reganath Swamy, Sri Rangam with an appeal to bring rain for the welfare of the people who suffer shortage of food because of famine.

'ChOzha naaDu chOruDaittu' – it was a strong belief in Tanjore region but it too suffered with shortage of food grains during famine once. People suffered like any thing and they made fervent appeals to the king Achudappa Naicker who was ruling Tanjore then. They suggested to the king and to his Minister Govinda Diixidar to bring Srimath Suganda dhuupa thiirthaarya swamigal, to make a prayer to the Lord to bring rain to the State.

Accordinly, Swamigal was summoned to the court of the King Achudappa Naicker. Upon deep observation of the situation prevailing in the country and in response to the appeals of the people who suffer because of acute shortage of food grains, Sri Swamigal recited the above kiirthana with whole hearted involvement and prayed to Lord Sri Renga of

Sri Rangam for rain. People witnessed heavy down pour of rain in that region to bring back the happiness on the faces of the people.



The King, the Minister and the people praised the Swamigal and offered gifts in return. But Swamigal refused to accept those gifts because it had happened upon God's wishes. With fervent appeals the King Achudappa Naicker garlanded with a 'Navarathna Maala' (which was studded with pearls and diamonds).

Upon returning to the sanctum and sanctorum of the deity Sri Ranganatha Swamy of Sri Rangam, Swamigal offered the 'Navarathna Maala' to the Lord saying that it was He who was entitled to wear the Navarathna Maala.

I observed in 'Paanchajanyam', a Vaishnava Monthly published from Sri Rangam (May 2007 issue) wherein I happened to read the list of ornaments and jewellery items used for Lord Sri Ranganatha and in the list, under Serial No. 231, the golden 'Navarathna Malaa' offered by our Suganda Dhuupa Thiirthaarya Swamigal appeared with details of diamonds and pearls studded therein. Sri Swamigal was a Sourashtra NaisTiga Bramhachari involved in Divine Service in the sanctum sanctorum of Sri Ranganatha Swamy till attaining the Lord's feet. He lived more than 100 years.

(1551 – 1661).

... By **K.R. Krishnamachary,**

Chennai

(The above Kiirthanaa was adapted from the book 'Sri Dhuupu dEvun' published by Tirubuvanam M.S. Ramani, Sourashtriya Padippagam, Tirubuvanam, Tanjore Dist., Tamil Nadu)



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### கல்லூரியின் சிறப்பு அம்சங்கள்

- ▶ வரிக் கட்டணம்: கல்லூரி வரிக் கட்டணம் மிகவும் குறைவாக உள்ளது. மாணவர்களுக்கும் தனித்தனி வரிக் கட்டணம் தன்னுள்ளே வைத்துள்ளோம்.
- ▶ மாணவர்களுக்கும்: அனைத்து மாணவர்களுக்கும் உயர் கல்விக்குத்தலியம் மிகுந்த ஆறுதலும் பெற்றுள்ளது.
- ▶ வேலை வாய்ப்பிடுவதை சிறப்பாக செய்தல்: இன்மேரிஸ், ஏட்.ஹாட், வினோஸ், என்ஜி லேப்சு, அடமசி மேற்ற லே முன்னணி நிறுவனங்களுடன் புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம். 300 அதி நவீன இணையதள கணினி வசதியுடன் ஆன்லைன் வசதி.
- ▶ 2015 - 16 வேலைவாய்ப்பு பெற்றவர்கள் 90 விழுக்காடு
- ▶ ஆய்வுக்கல்பி மற்றும் வணிக: இக்கல்லூரியில் பல துறைகள் அன்றாடம் பக்கவாட்டில் உள்ள ஆய்வுக்கல்பி மற்றும் வணிக அமைப்புகள் உள்ளன. இவ்வாறு நிறுவனத்தின் மூலம் ஆய்வுக்கல்பி திட்டத்திற்கு நிதி உதவி.
- ▶ நூலகம்: கல்லூரியின் நூலகத்தில், முப்பத்தாயிரத்துக்கும் மேற்பட்ட நூல்கள் நூலகத்தில் 50 க்கும் மேற்பட்ட அறிவக இணையதள வசதியுடன் கூடிய கணினிகள் மற்றும் நகல்படி எடுக்கும் வசதிகள்.
- ▶ விடுதி: மாணவர் மற்றும் மாணவிகளுக்கு உயர்நடு வசதியுடன் கூடிய தனித்தனி விடுதிகள்.
- ▶ உணவகம்: மாணவர்கள் மற்றும் ஆசிரியர்கள் ஒரு நேரத்தில் ஆயிரத்திற்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் உணவருந்தும் வகையில் கனாநாணய பிழம்பாண்ட உணவகம்.
- ▶ மாணவர்களுக்கு: நகலிகள் அனைத்து பகுதிகளில் இருந்து 40 க்கும் மேற்பட்ட கல்லூரியுடன் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளும்.

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## Saurashtra

### A Language, Region, Culture & Community

A journal, Bhashabhimani, is published from Madurai, in Sourashtra Script. Another journal, 'Jaabaali', is also published by the same Editor of Bhashabhimani from Madurai. The 'Zeeg' Sourashtra script practice Magazine is also published from Madurai only. All the three journals support the Sourashtra script only. There is no journal in Devanagari.

#### Dialects:

Each of the traditional Saurashtrian settlements has its own dialect. Since there is not a central linguistic body governing the rules, and establishing what is standard and what is not, each dialect speaker considers his own the standard form. Because people were not used to write their language, proper study of the dialect variations were not undertaken. Recently only an awareness has arisen and people are slowly practicing written Sourashtram. Dictionaries have been compiled, but dialect variations are not properly noted. One Saurashtra-English Dictionary by Uchida Norihiko is available. Saurashtra-Tamil-English Dictionary one by K.R.Sethuraman (in Tamil Script) and another by T.V.Kubendran (in Sourashtra, Tamil and Roman script) are available.

#### Sourashtra Vidya Peetam:

Sourashtra Vidya Peetam is the oldest body which is working for the cause of the language by preserving the Script and the old literature. The earliest Sourashtra Book printed in Sourashtra Script available now is Sourashtranadhi by Pandit Lakshmanachariyar (1880). T.M.Rama Rai is the doyen of the development of Sourashtra Script and Literature. He published many books in Sourashtra Script and wrote Grammar and Text books in Sourashtram.

#### Sourashtra Evolution:

Sourashtra though refers to a migrated community, also refers to the language spoken by the Sourashtra community people (or Sourashtrians). During their migration from the north-western region of Bharada Khanda (ancient Indian peninsular region or present day Gujarath), they adapted to the regional and cultural aspects of the particular region they reside. In this way, Sourashtrians acquired proficiency in the regional languages but without losing their own language. When various technologies developed, they never failed to record their literature with the modern developments. Around 1850s to accomplish the vision of Sourashtra Literary Laurels, due to the hardwork of several visionaries for more than four decades a unique writing system developed which represents the originality, significant features of Sourashtra language. Sourashtrians are mostly silk weavers and silk thread merchants, originated in the Saurashtra region (present day Gujarat, and parts of Maharashtra) in Northern India and later settled in Madurai and surrounding regions of Tamilnadu, few centuries ago.

The origin is certain, and research has proved the current day Sourashtra spoken by us is a modern form of pre-Gujarati spoken thousands of years ago. "...Their home language

**Dr. Vrajlal K. Sapovadia**, Director, SBS Jaipur

(Sourashtra language) is still a modern form of the old Saurashtri or Pre-Gujarati as it was over a thousand years ago, which was the language they brought with them through Maharashtra and Andhra Desa to Tamilnadu. This language preserves, naturally enough many archaic features of Gujarati and at the same time shows influence of the sister Aryan languages of Konkani and Marathi and of Dravidian Telugu besides of course Tamil which has now virtually become the second mother tongue of the Sourashtrians...." says Suneetkumar Chatterjee a famous linguist.

But the time period when they migrated from Saurashtra region to south is still uncertain. Following theory are prevalent:

#### Theory 1:

The first theory is that, during the times when the infamous Ghazani Mohammed invaded Northern India from Afghanistan, a few families might have migrated South to escape from the series of invasions.

#### Theory 2:

Another assumption is a few families that came with the entourage of Shatrapathi Shivaji when he invaded south, might have stayed back to form their own community.

#### Theory 3:

This is the most popular and widely accepted theory by historians. During the Vijayanagaram Empire rule in Northern India, the Nayakars ruled the South as part of the empire with Madurai as their capital.

During that period a few families from the Saurashtra region were called into Madurai to be the "Royal Weavers" for the Nayakars. This would explain very high concentration of Sourashtrians still today around the Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal, the Nayakar's Palace. Since Sourashtrians are Silk Weavers by profession it would also disprove the theory that they came with Shivaji.

Later Sourashtrians settled in Madurai, spread around to Trichy, Salem, Kumbakonam and other surrounding areas as the population grew, but still managed to keep their unique language, and culture intact. Current day Sourashtrians, refer themselves as Tamilians as their identities and still speak Sourashtra at home. An estimated half a million Sourashtrians are living now mostly in Tamilnadu and a few are spread around all over the world.

#### Unique characteristics of the Saurashtrians in South India:

This history of the Greater Saurashtra and



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Greater Gujarat is very glorious and interesting. In this history of the Greater Saurashtra, it is remarkable that the Saurashtrians who have settled in South India are distinguished clearly, in some important aspects, from the other Saurashtrians who have migrated to other places inside or outside India. There are some unique characteristics, which draw our special attention.

Firstly, the Saurashtrians who have migrated to other places have not gone there collectively in larger groups at a time; while the Saurashtrians in South India have migrated there in larger collective groups at a time in a planned manner.

Secondly, these Saurashtrians in South India had gone there, equipped with the art of weaving silken cloth. The whole community or tribe has got remarkable skill in this single profession, and yet their mode of living as well as their family-names are obviously Brahminical. They are introducing themselves even to day as Saurashtri Brahmins. The other Saurashtrians who have migrated to other places have not taken with them a collective industry or art and the groups of Brahminical mode of living have not gone elsewhere in a collective manner.

Thirdly, the Saurashtrians who have migrated to other provinces or foreign countries have been in some sort of direct contact with the original homeland. For example, the Saurashtrians who had migrated to Africa have always returned (at least some of them and at least for some time) to the homeland sooner or later. In the case when these Saurashtrians have lost the link with the homeland, they have not been able to preserve the linguistic and cultural heritage of the homeland.

On the contrary the Saurashtrians in South India have lost all the direct contact with their homeland, to such an extent that for some time, they did not know exactly where the homeland Saurashtra was geographically situated; but even then they have been proud of being Saurashtrians and with a sense of pride they have preserved the old language and culture of Saurashtra. They knew only a few years ago where the homeland Saurashtra was exactly situated. Even now some of them have a notion that South Gujarat is a part of Saurashtra (3 bookmark).

Even though they had lost the correct geographical location of the homeland Saurashtra, they had not forgotten or lost the language and culture of Saurashtra. They have persevered strongly to preserve the linguistic and cultural tradition of Saurashtra as it existed eight hundred years ago when they migrated from Saurashtra. No other Saurashtra migrants have preserved

the tradition to this extent inspite of their being cut off completely from the homeland.

They forgot the exact geography of the homeland, but the pride of the homeland was a life-force with them; the original language and culture were never obliterated.

### **New light on the form of the old language of Saurashtra :**

If one study the linguistic, literary and cultural tradition of the Saurashtrians in South India, it is found, to a certain extent, very obviously, the Marathi, Kannada, Tamil and Telugu influence, external as well as internal, in its formation. If we can isolate this influence, it is probable that a study of the residual material will throw a new light on the language, literature and culture of Saurashtra as it existed eight hundred years ago.

The English colonists who have migrated to Iceland and other islands have preserved in a pure form some special characteristics of the old English language such as old pronunciations and typical form of the old English language. This has supplied some important material for tracing the evolution of the English language. Similarly the study of the Southern Saurashtri language can supply some important material pertaining to the old language of Saurashtra and Gujarat.

The Parsis who have migrated from Persia to Gujarat have adopted the Gujarati language almost as the mother tongue, and they have not continued the usage of their original language even in their intra group communication. But the Southern Saurashtrians have preserved very strongly their original linguistic traditions. Their pride of being Saurashtrians and their insistence on being called Saurashtrians are very strong. They had lost the geographical idea of their original homeland Saurashtra.

### **Courtesy :**

<https://sapovadia.wordpress.com/2012/04/03/saurashtra-a-language-region-culture-community/>

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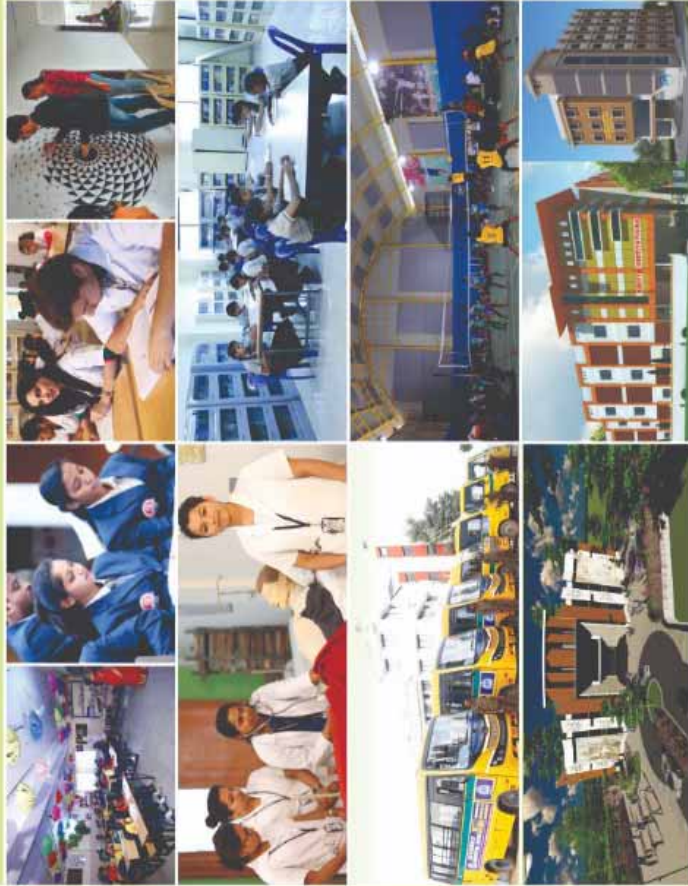


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