

BRIEF BIO OF DR.T.SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN

Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian is a Member of Parliament from South Chennai Parliamentary Constituency, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. She contested in the Indian General Elections in 2019 and was elected to the 17th Lok Sabha. She is one of the prominent women leaders and orators in the DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) Party. She serves as a Member of the Standing Committee on Information Technology and the Consultative Committee of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Acclaimed as a Tamil Poet, her areas of interest include postcolonial kinds of literature (especially Sri Lankan and Australian), diasporic literature (especially Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora), translation, criticism, lyricist, orator, writing and performing arts (Tamil Theatre)

Dr. T. Sumathy is a former professor of English. She taught at the Department of English, Queen Mary's College which is affiliated to the University of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. She has also taught in the Department of English at Valliammal College for Women and PGP College of Arts and Science.

She holds a Ph.D. in English Literature and has had a stellar academic record throughout. She won the **“General Proficiency Award”** in her under graduate studies and a **“Proficiency Award”** from the Faculty of Languages, Sri Niketan Madras. She was a University rank holder and a gold medalist during her postgraduate studies in English Literature. In 2004 she was awarded the **AIC Fellowship** for the study of Australia by The Australia - India Council. She also visited Australia as an AIC Fellow as a part of her doctoral research. She has won the **Dr.Vedagiri Shanmugasundaram Prize** which is awarded to the successful Ph.D scholar of Research Departments at Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai.

She has presented research papers in both international and national conferences at various universities including **LaTrobe University, Melbourne**, and **Monash University Australia**. She has launched her book **‘Island to Island’** at **Sorbonne University, Paris**. Several research scholars have done their MPhil and Ph.D. theses on Dr. T.Sumathy's works.

Dr. T. Sumathy has 21 publications in Tamil and 4 publications in English to her name which have been included in university curriculums across India.

This includes. **“Island to Island”** (The Voice of SriLankan Australian Playwright, Ernest Thalayasingham Macintyre) and **“Internal Colloquies”**. Her recent publications include, **“The Birthing Hut and Other Stories”** (Translation of her Tamil short stories) and **“The Throb of Silence”** (Translation of her Tamil Poems). She has presented her literary works at international academic and literary forums in the US, France, Japan, Singapore, Australia.

Her work titled **“Enjottu Penn”** has been awarded **Sirpi Literary Prize 2004**. Her literary and cultural excellence made her the recipient of several awards like **The Young Achiever Trophy** in Theatre by Wisdom Publications, **Pavendhar Bharathidasan Virudhu award** by Tamil Nadu State Government, **Carolina Tamil Sangam Award** by Tamil Sangam of Carolina, **KSivathambi Award**, **Bharathi Pani Selvam Award**, **Justice MM Ismail Memorial Award** and **the Crown Jewel of Social Activities Award** by Madras Development Society. She was awarded Citation by the University of Madras for advancing the cause of women in the field of **Literature on International Women's Day 2010**. She has recently received the **Parliamentarians Award for Children** for that recognized her contribution and initiatives on arrange of child issues at the parliament.
