

## **Report on the Programme:**

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Southern Regional Centre in association with South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur organized the inauguration of a '**Photography Exhibition showcasing the making and ritual installation of Terracotta offerings and devotion to Ayyanar, Protector God of the people of Tamil Nadu**' on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The exhibition will continue till January 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur. Dr. V Varadarajan, Chairman, Forum of Friends, South Zone Cultural Centre, Shri. Rajashekharan, District Tourism Officer, Thanjavur, Shri. Muttukumar, Secretary, INTACH, Thanjavur Chapter and Shri. Arul Sagaya Kumar, President, Neelagiri Panchayat, Shri. Meeshinathan, SZCC were present during the inauguration.

The exhibition of photographs "From Earth to Earth: Devotion and Terracotta offerings in Tamil Nadu" presents for the first time a visual documentation of this little known, living cult to Ayyanar. Every year, the people of Tamil Nadu present Terracotta offerings gifted to the Tamil God Ayyanar. An essential aspect of Tamil village tradition and culture, these offerings are done to assure the protection and well being of the villagers, their families, the cattle and to ensure good harvest. The terracotta sculptures consist of decorated life sized horses, cows, elephants, dogs and snakes which are placed at various shrines to humble and implore Ayyanar's grace. The exhibition will continue till 24<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2016.



