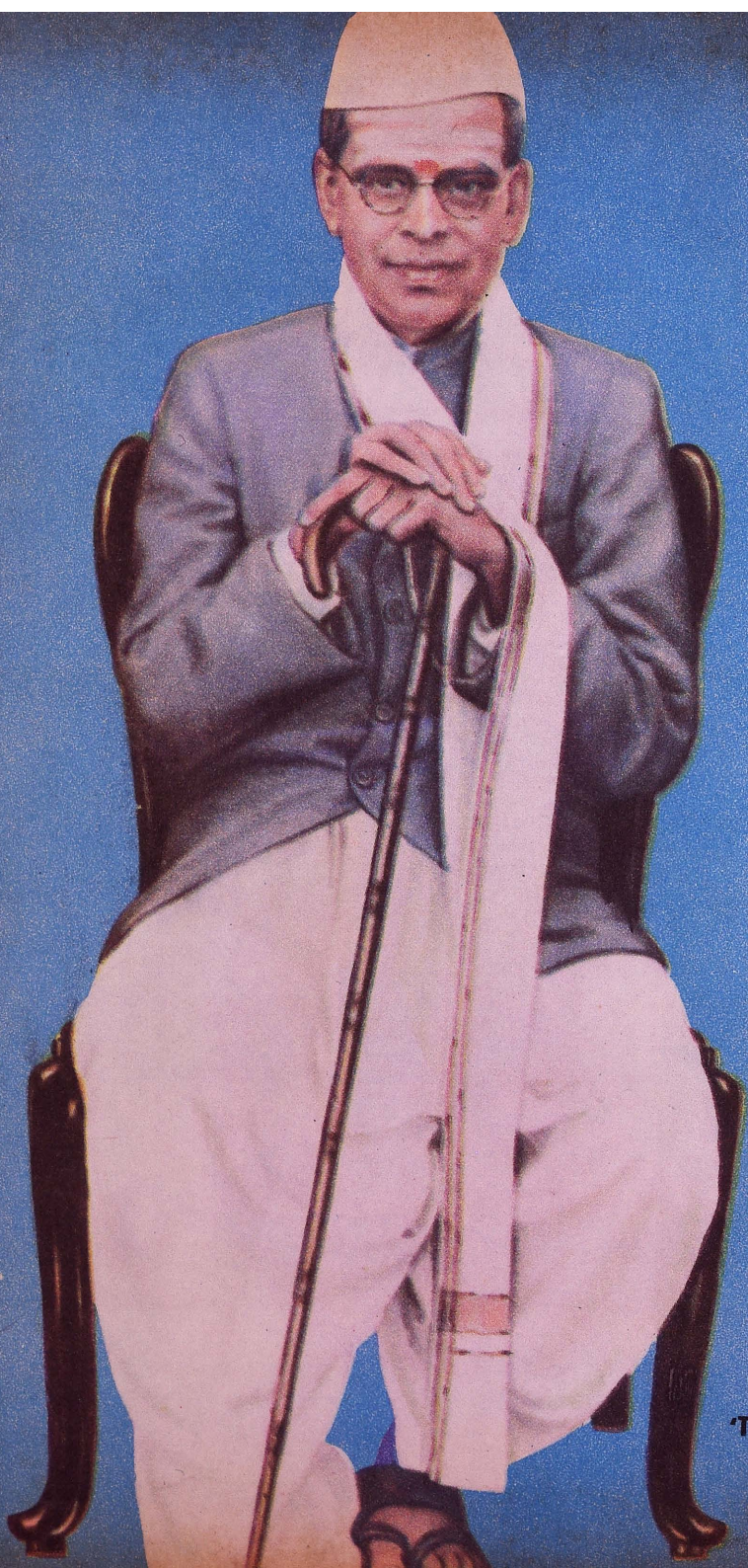




Tamil Arasu

September 1986
No. 1



'THYAGI' SATHYAMURTI

TAMIL ARASU

In scope this month

Independence Day Celebrations

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. M.G.R unfurled the National flag at the Independence day celebrations on August 15th. A report.

Arignar Anna - his life and thoughts

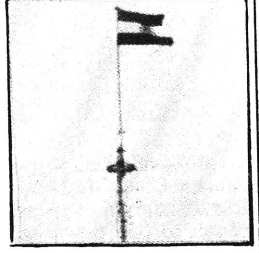
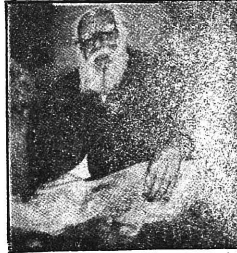
On the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna, Tamil Arasu presents, the life and thoughts of the leader, in brief.

Thanthai Periyar

On the birth anniversary of Thanthai Periyar a look into the mind that changed the course of Tamils history.

One Year of Anna District

The birth anniversary of Arignar Anna is also the birth anniversary of many new districts in Tamil Nadu. Anna District with headquarters at Dindigul completes one year of existence. A development report.

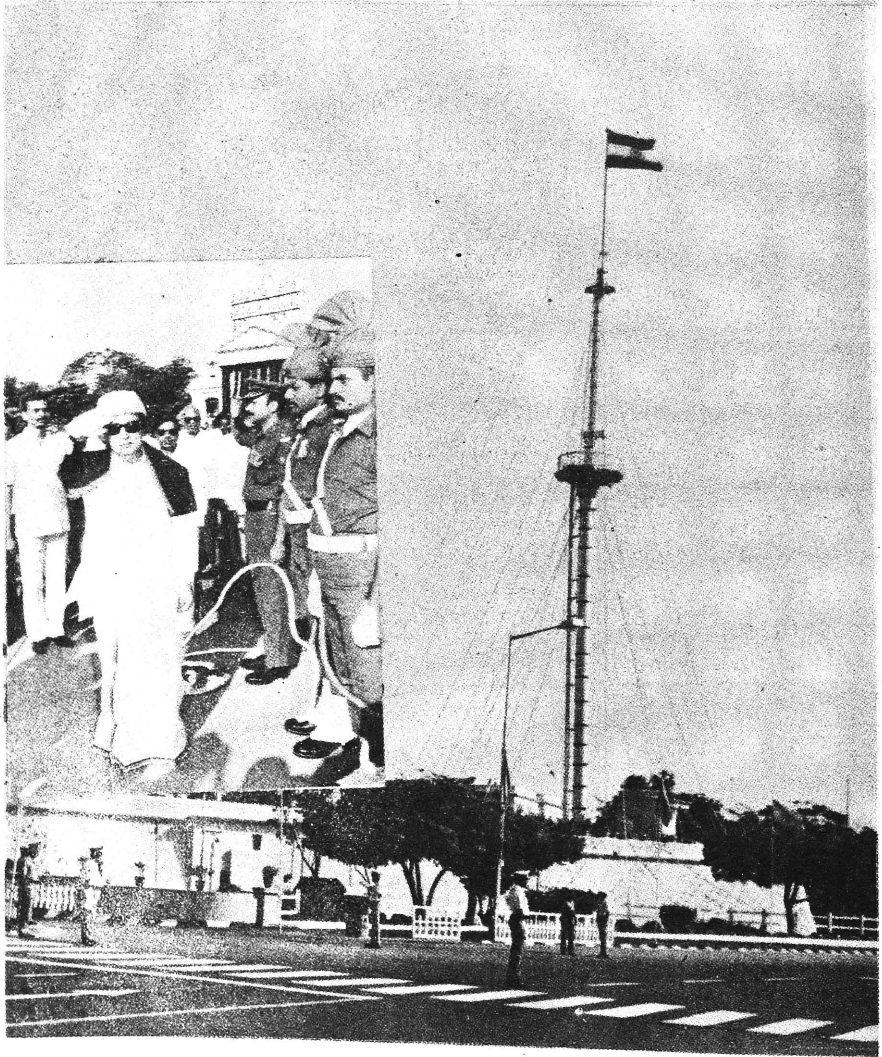


Thiruvalluvar Year 2017

September 1986

Aavani - Purattasi

CM ASKS PEOPLE TO FIGHT SEPARATIST FORCES



A four-minute address by the Hon'ble. Chief Minister, Dr M.G. Ramachandran, exhorting people to put down separatist and disruptive forces, highlighted the Independence Day Celebrations in the City on August 15th.

Dr. Ramachandran, who unfurled the National Flag at an impressive function on the ramparts of Fort St. George, was given a big ovation by a

large gathering who had assembled on the lawns.

The Chief Minister reminded the people of the call of Thiru C.N. Annadurai that they should all work untiringly for the establishment of a new socialist society where every one would be treated as equals and said; "Let us discharge our duties first and earn the rights and privileges. We shall work and progress keeping before us

the goal of peace, unity and prosperity."

Conveying his good wishes to the people of the State on the occasion of Independence Day, Thiru Ramachandran, said the services of the late Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, to the nation was green in their memory. Following in her footsteps, the present Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi was leading the country admirably.

He hoped that under Mr.Rajiv Gandhi's guidance, the Sri Lanka Tamil's problem would be settled amicably.

As the Chief Minister hoisted the flag and was delivering his address, the State Government's helicopter dropped flower petals.

The function was attended, among others, by the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Mr.M.N. Chandurkar, the Chairman of the Legislative Council, Mr.M.P.Sivagnanam, the Speaker of the Assembly, Mr.P.H.Pandian, Ministers,

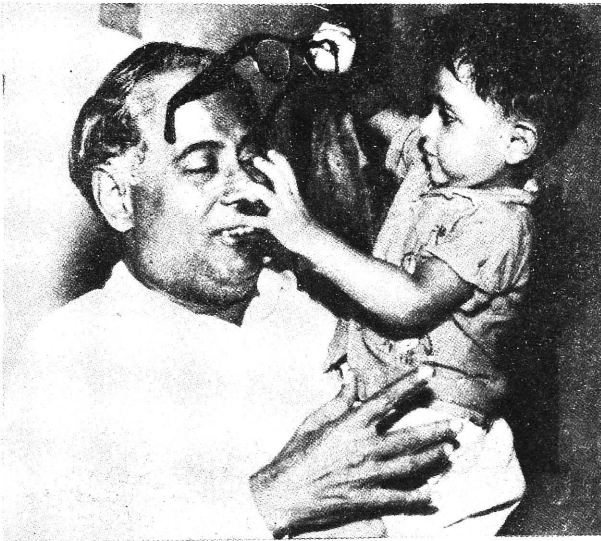
senior officials of the Government and Consular representatives.

Among those present was a group of tribal women from the Kalrayan Hills of Salem district who had come to the City to witness the Independence Day celebrations. They were presented to the Chief Minister by the Director of DANIDA project, Mrs.C.K.Gariyali.

Thiru Ramachandran distributed food packets to a number of physically handicapped children.

The Chief Secretary, Thiru A.Padmanabhan, received the Chief Minister and other guests on arrival.

Governor gives reception: In the evening, the Governor Thiru S.L.Khurana, gave a reception at the lawns of the Raj Bhavan, which was attended by the Chairman of the Legislative Council, Thiru M.P.Sivagnanam, the Speaker of the Assembly, Thiru P.H.Pandian Thiru V.R.Nedunchezian, Finance Minister, and other Ministers, senior officials of the Government and prominent citizens.



Anna - a life sketch

Born on September 15, 1909, in a lower middle class family Conjeevaram Natarajan Annadurai endearingly called by the masses as Anna is by any test the darling of the masses.

He took his early education at Conjeevaram. After taking Master of Arts Degree at Pachaiyappa' College, Madras, he plunged headlong into Justice Party politics. While in college he took leading part in college debates and evinced keen interest in politics. Dr. Annadurai first met Periyar

Ramaswamy in 1934. By slow degrees and relentless efforts, Periyar and Dr. Annadurai provided a mass base for the aristocratic Justice party. Their efforts were crowned with success at Salem in 1944. Dr. Annadurai's resolution renaming the Justice party as the Dravida Kazhagam was adopted at the Conference.

Though a follower of Periyar, Dr. Annadurai did not hesitate to differ from his leader when occasion demanded. Periyar in his own way declared in 1947, that August, 15 the Independence Day was a day of mourning. Dr.

Annadurai did not agree. The parting of ways came in 1949. Dr. Annadurai came out of the Dravida Kazhagam and founded the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on September 15, 1949. Under his guidance the party has grown from strength to strength and has become a powerful force in Tamil Nadu. The party contested the 1957 General Elections for the first time and secured fifteen seats. Dr. Annadurai, who was the leader of the D.M.K. legislature party represented the Conjeevaram Assembly Constituency. In 1962 he was elected to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) where he proved himself a great Parliamentarian. In 1967 General Elections the D.M.K. won an absolute majority with 139 seats in a House of 234.

Dr. C.N. Annadurai who was responsible for this "big change" in the political life of Tamil Nadu has been in office as Chief Minister hardly for two years. Yet within the short period he proved himself an able administrator and states man.

Dr. C.N. Annadurai was a many sided personality. He was a politician, a statesman, a social reformer, a powerful speaker, a journalist, a dramatist, an actor, and above all a man of the masses. Rightly has he been affectionately called as "PERARIGNAR ANNA."

ANNA'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

The Mind of Anna



"Cast away fear. Never lead a life of servility even for earning bounteous wealth. Have the strength to stand by truth. Be brave enough to go through fire and hell for the sake of truth. Prove yourself worthy of such Tamil traditions."

Does one dive and take precious pearls from the noisy sea simply to adorn his parrot? No. He takes them only for adorning his beloved wife. Is sandalwood paste for the enjoyment or smearing it on the body or for burning? Similarly, are not degrees obtained and training undergone only for giving the people a fair and decent life? Or is it for pursuing one's own selfishness?

Let Tamil be your drum of victory. Let Tamil culture be your armour. Let wisdom be your weapon. Let Virtue be your guide and companion. March with determination. Act with enthusiasm. Gain laudable victories not only for the honour and glory of our mother land but also for the good of all mankind. I wish you all success.

The supreme task before the University is to give those who seek a vision of knowledge in its true proportions and perspectives to maintain the sovereignty of ideas and ideals in the world. A balanced mind, the ability to discriminate between what is merely trivial and what is important, the capacity to look at a problem from all its angles without fear or favour, to be tolerant of the other man's point of view; these are fundamentals which are unalterable and it is only the Universities that can provide society with a continuous stream of men and women endowed with these qualities.

Democracy is not a form of Government alone—it is an invitation to a new life—an experiment in the art of sharing responsibilities and benefits—an attempt to generate and co-ordinate the inherent energy in each individual for the common task. Hence, we cannot afford to waste a single talent, impoverish a single man or woman or allow a single individual to be stunted in growth or held under tyranny and the Universities should, through the graduates it sends forth year after year, annihilate the forces that attempt at aggrandizement and tyranny, fight against cant and hypocrisy and enthrone human dignity.



Anyone, who proposes to do good must not expect people to roll stones out of his way, but must accept his lot calmly if they even roll a few more upon it. "A strength which becomes clearer and stronger through its experience of such obstacles is the only strength that can conquer them," says Albert Schweitzer.

The teachings of Mahavir constitute a noble code of conduct. "Have control over the five senses. Avoid excessive desire of things," said the great Mahavir. If people had really released the full significance of these teachings, there would have been no wars or conflicts in the world ; there would have been no necessity for the United Nations.



It is customary on our part to ask any body if he acts abnormally and behaves unusually "What ? Are you drunk "?

The heroes will not drink. The villains only will be shown as addicts to drink. You might have noticed this even in films and dramas. In this regard our story writers have to be congratulated. Even in stories drinking is portrayed as an undesirable act. Good people do not drink. Drunkards are not good people. Even good people are spoiled when they take to drinking.

There is no danger to democracy by our people. As was pointed out by Vasan, it is the duty of the leaders to preserve and safeguard democracy. Therefore, the defect lies with the leaders and not with the people. If there are any defects with the people, they can be easily rectified. But unless the leaders mend themselves, they cannot be rectified. Only to correct the leaders, people make an effort once in five years through the ballot. But it is not known if the leaders will rectify themselves in spite of their defeat at the polls once or twice. We need not mention the leaders who refuse to mend themselves in spite of the lesson taught to them by the people. Such is their sincere faith in democracy! Democracy will shine still better if these leaders learn to respect peoples' verdict.

Art can arouse emotions. It is no good if our emotions are aroused continuously. Nor is it right if they are dormant.

Emotions should be stirred by art. But the stirred emotions should be properly canalised and directed by politics for our own good.

There is nothing wrong if politics is in the hands of artistes who can arouse emotions. It is not only correct but also appropriate and proper. The time is opportune for the world to realise and act on these ideas.



WHAT IS EDUCATION?



Education is not for mere earning to live! If we sincerely mean that education is for gaining knowledge, it must be for attaining self-respect and freedom. It must make the people live with love towards all and have no hatred towards any one. It must create a sense of unity. No one should think of harming or insulting others. Everyone must be made to feel for others and lead a disciplined and honest life.

Understanding the value of education, Thiruvalluvar had long ago stated that one who declines to suit himself to the world, cannot be considered to be educated at all, even if he be distinguished in the field of education. In short, he says in his couplet curtly that such people are illiterates. In another couplet Thiruvalluvar defines that an educated person is one who aspires the entire world to enjoy all things he enjoys. In another couplet he says, that he who does not compare with others and take the good for his own development is merely one amongst the dead.

Now, I would like to ask you as to what you do to evaluate our education on these lines. What are we going to gain by merely tutoring children, that a dog has four legs- a cat has a tail-the blind have no eyes—do not steal-do not beat and so on. All these things the children could learn by themselves, without the help of a teacher. They know that if one beats a person, he would weep and abuse. They know that if one steals he would be caught and beaten black and blue. They know which animal has four legs and a tail, the moment they see the animal. So, I am of the opinion that there is no need to spend so much money and precious time to teach all these things. It is not also necessary to make such a gullible propaganda about primary education.

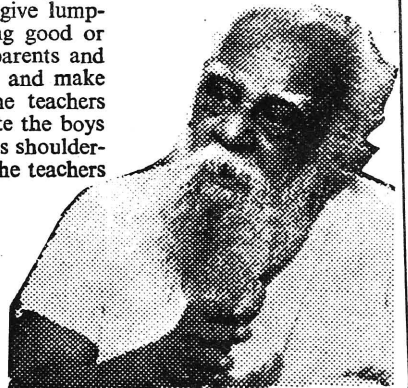
To start with you must impart to children what self-respect is. You must first teach the children what many actions are. You must teach things to make them safeguard their dignity, honour and prestige. Teach them to live with equality. Teach them to be kind towards all. They must be taught about universal brotherhood. They must be taught to be patriotic. I would like to ask you know now whether you are all able to do so. It is for you to think over the matter yourself.



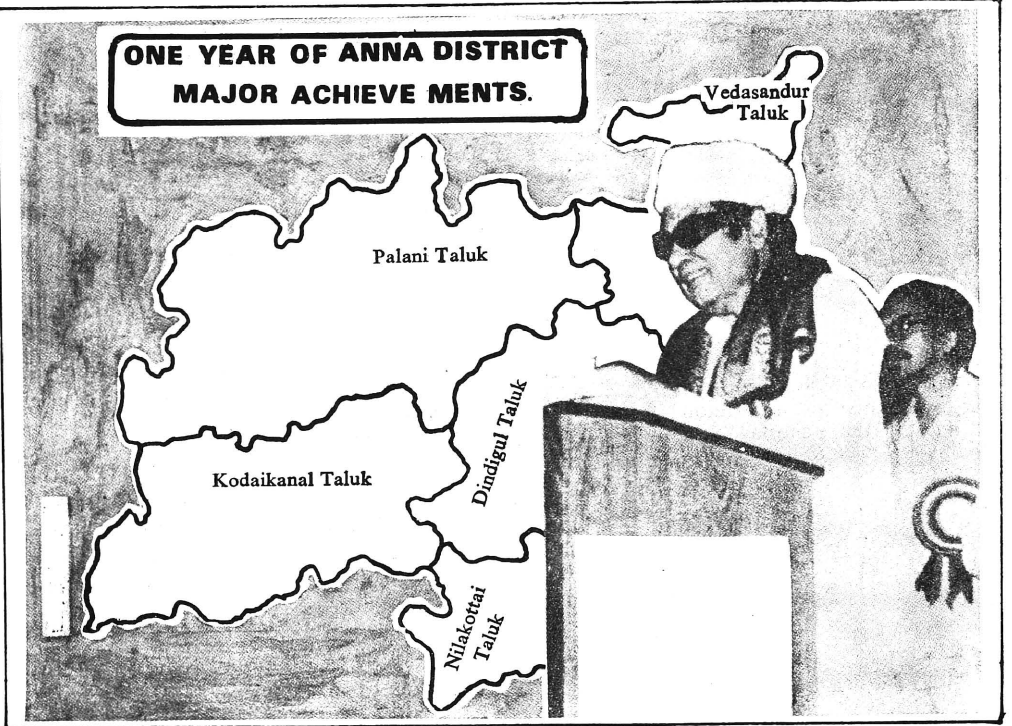


In the olden days if one fails to repay the loan, a cow and a calf would be tied in the backyard without providing grass, hay, oil cake and water. Realising that it is condemnable to leave the cow and calf without food, the debtor would remove even the 'Tali' from the neck of his wife and sell it to repay the loan. It is only after settling the dues, he would walk in the streets with a raised head. My father told me about all these. If one should do like that in these modern days, the educated lawyer would counsel his client to milch the cow and get the milk to him. He would boldly say that he would face the disgrace. In this sort of way, the lawyer would make his client bold enough to do anything good or bad. That is the reason why we now find so many magistrates, munisif courts, session courts, high courts., Were all these found in the olden days, when people were uneducated. Is not our modern education system that is responsible for the degradation amongst our people? Is not our education responsible for the increasing dishonesty? What is wrong if I say that our modern educational system has ruined the nation and the people.

In the olden days, the teachers had no worry about their life. It was enough if they simply had a small hut. A small 'pandal' in front of the hut was enough for the students to learn. It was enough if there were a few palm leaves and a cartful of sand to learn. Any pointed, thin stick was enough for writing. Teachers had no worry about anything else. If the teacher puts a word to the boys during the harvest season, many baskets full of food grains would come to his doors. It would become very difficult for him to find adequate space to store up the grains. So, he will have to say 'enough' to the boys. Firewood will be supplied for a month. Vegetables would be gifted to him daily. During festival days, he would get the new clothes needed for his entire family. To meet his other expenses the parents would whole-heartedly give lump-sums, out of gratitude. If anything good or bad takes place in his family, the parents and boys would extend help voluntarily and make the function a grand success. The teachers took up the responsibility to educate the boys entrusted to their care. The parents shouldered the responsibility to look after the teachers welfare.



ONE YEAR OF ANNA DISTRICT MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS.



Last year, when the Anna District was inaugurated in September, there was acute water scarcity in Dindigul. Water was brought to Dindigul by lorries from Pernai and the Government was spending Rs.1.00 lakh per day on the supply of water to Dindigul town. After the formation of the district, the water distribution in Dindigul town has been streamlined. Water has been supplied to several new areas, which have not been receiving water for several years and by judicious water management, acute water scarcity is not felt in Dindigul this year, despite very poor rainfall. To tide over the situation, the Government has made arrangements to take over 6 private wells near the Kamarajasagar Dam, which would supply about 7 to 10 lakh gallons of water a day for Dindigul town, till the rains come by the end of September.

The Honourable Chief Minister had inaugurated the Pernai Water Supply Scheme, which

would permanently solve the water problem in Dindigul. Work on this scheme, costing Rs. 9.00 crores has started and is progressing rapidly. There has been a total number of 6 infiltration wells and the works have already been completed in the Vaicai river in Sithargalnatham village and the work of laying pipelines from the pumping main to the I Reach has also commenced. Work orders have also been given for laying of pipe lines for the II Reach and the work is under progress. So far, a total of 2.50 crores have been spent on the scheme. All efforts are being made to ensure that Dindigul town gets pilot water supply from July '87. The Government have also sanctioned a comprehensive scheme for Kodaikanal at a cost of Rs. 2.50 crores. Pilot water supply will be given to the citizens of the Kodaikanal town by July 1987.

The Government has also taken steps to remove encroachments in the major towns of the

district. In Kodaikanal, all the encroachments in the lake area were removed and a special cleanliness drive was launched. Similarly, the Government have appointed an expert to prepare a revised Master Plan for the development of Kodaikanal, keeping in view the need to maintain the ecology and environment of this old hill station.

The removal of encroachments at Palani town has greatly widened the roads and pilgrims are now able to move freely around the town. In Dindigul also, encroachments have been removed in a phased manner.

The Government have also sanctioned Rs. 30.00 lakhs for a shopping complex at Old Bus Stand at Dindigul, as well as Rs. 3.00 lakhs for the development of Kumaran park. Government have also sanctioned a Kalaiaragam for Anna district at Dindigul to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 6 lakhs. The Government has also complete

acquisition of about 150 acres of land as a first phase for the Collectorate complex and the Government have sanctioned Rs. 1.70 crores for the construction of the Collectorate and other buildings and work is expected to commence shortly.

AGRICULTURE

Production of millets reached the level of 87,800 M.T. and pulses 12,300 M.T. 42,000 bales of cotton was produced which was 4400 bales more than the previous year's attainment. Sugarcane, which is another important commercial crop, produced 68,400 M.T. of gur against 55,900 M.T. of previous year.

A radically new approach was made by the department, for the first time to launch village level planning for production. This five step approach as it is called, formed the main thrust of the department in not only bringing the adoptable technologies to the very doorstep of the farmer, but also provided him with a real "See for yourself" demonstration plot in each and every village throughout the district, to give a convincing proof of the soundness of the low cost technologies recommended by

the department. 1208 such technology development and demonstration centres of T.D.D.C as they are called, were run during the year.

Rainfed dryland which accounts for nearly 70% forms a big chunk of the total extent cultivated in the district. To boost the proverbially low production of the dryland "Thousand Acre Watershed Demonstration plots" were organised. 5 such plots covering a total extent of 3920 acres were run. Two chief factors, namely (a) Low moisture level of dryland and (b) low nutrient level of the soil were tackled by doing soil and water conservation measures, and by demonstrating technologies like, forming broad bed and furrows, using enriched farm yard manure, fertilising, fine sowing, adopting high yielding varieties, etc., By the cumulative beneficial effect of these techniques, yield level of dryland went up by 30% to 35% over that the previous year. Similarly a specially impetus was given to the Drip Irrigation System, which was installed in various locations and evoked a tremendous response from the farmers as it proved a great boon for the farmers suffering from inadequate water.

INDUSTRIAL FRONT

On the industrial front, Anna district being an industrially backward area, special efforts had been made to encourage the setting up of new centres. A Rs. 2.50 crores soap factory set up by a Non-Resident Indian has started functioning in the industrially backward taluk of Palani and a Rs. 1.50 crore fruit-processing unit is being set up near Palani. There is also a proposal to set up a distillery, at a cost of 2 crores in Nilakottai. In Thandigudi area a Rs. 8.00 lakh Honey-extraction project, sponsored by District Rural Development Agency is being set up. Similarly a mushroom cultivation project under Western Ghat-Development Programme in Kodaikanal would benefit the farmers of this area, and poultry development programmes have also been taken up in Natham.

A full-fledged District Industries-Centre, with a General Manager has also been established and Motivation campaigns are being held in the district. To encourage the entrepreneurs to set up small industries, a large number of seminars and motivation camps are being held by the District-Industries Centre.



An ambitious credit lending plan of 58 crores for Anna District is being implemented by the Lead Bank that is Canara Bank and other banks in the district and the progress of this is being constantly monitored. There has been substantial progress in the sanction of applications for the various types of loans namely Agricultural loans for increasing irrigation facilities, soil conservation, loans for starting small industries etc.

ASSISTANT TO WEAKER SECTIONS

As against a target of 25000 persons to be benefitted under loans to be given to weaker sections, Anna District has achieved 37684, which represents 130% increase. A sum of Rs.9.50 crores has been advanced to various weaker sections of society, such as landless labourers, small and marginal farmers, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled-tribes, physically handicapped, villages artisans, etc.,

HOUSING ACTIVITIES IN ANNA DISTRICT

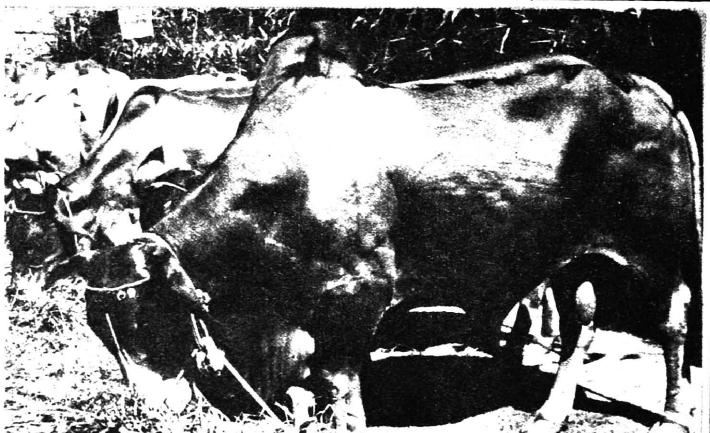
The Tamil Nadu Housing Board has acquired 152 acres at Dindigul and developed a neighbourhood scheme called Rani Mangammal Colony. In this colony, a total of 200 flats have been constructed at a cost of Rs 186.00 lakhs for Govern-

ment servants. Apart from this, under Phase I, 49 EWS houses, 74 LIG, 100 MIG and 24 HIG houses have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 161 lakhs. The above scheme was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during September '85.

Under Phase II, 180 MIG houses and 25 HIG houses are being constructed at a cost of Rs. 74.00 lakhs. The houses are likely to be allotted on Hire-purchase basis to public during December, 1986.

Under Phase III, 204 Nos. of M.I.G. flats and 96 Nos. of H.I.G. flats are constructed at a cost of 233.00 lakhs.

At Kodaikanal, a proposal to construct 48 houses in an extent of 6.00 acres is in process.



Anna District has also been taken up as the first district to implement Chief Minister's Massive Housing programme for the poor. Based on a survey conducted by the School of Architecture, Madras, 10 villages in the district have been identified for taking up this pilot project. 1000 houses will be constructed in these villages, and the construction will be done by the beneficiaries themselves on a cooperative basis. The emphasis of the project would be provision of water supply, adult education, health facilities, setting up of small industries, especially ancillary industries for house building such as buck kilns, training for workers in carpentry masonry etc., so that there is overall economic development in the village.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES

A separate Bus Corporation has been formed for Anna District called "RANIMANGA MMAL TRANSPORT CORPORATION" which has started operation. As a result of this, new Bus routes have been opened and better bus facilities have been provided for the people of Anna District.

The progress in the various development activities in Anna district has clearly shown that the Government's decision to bifurcate large districts is a wise one.





**CENTRAL TEAM
HAPPY WITH RELIEF
MEASURES**

The Central team, assessing the drought situation in Tamil Nadu, has expressed general satisfaction with the relief measures already launched by the State Government, especially in supply of drinking water and provision of alternative employment to agricultural labour.

The four-member team returned to Madras on August 25th after an intensive tour of the drought-hit districts in the last two days. The members had a discussion at the Secretariat with the Chief Secretary, Thiru A. Padmanabhan and the Special Commissioners in-charge of drought relief work, followed by a one-hour meeting with the other secretaries and heads of departments concerned

with the implementation of the relief programmes.

Replying to a question, the leader of the team, Thiru Sunil Sud, Joint Secretary, in the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, said the team would submit its recommendations to the Centre "at the earliest".

Summing up the team's impressions, the Chief Secretary told reporters that in several places the members saw for themselves the difficulties encountered by the people in getting drinking water, they also saw how deep the groundwater table had gone adding to the severity of the problem. They noted that rain during the south-west monsoon was not as wide-spread as it should be

and that the earlier north-east monsoon was also not quite favourable in all the areas.

While appreciating the State Government action releasing Rs. 35 crores for relief in anticipation of Central assistance, the team said these relief programmes might have to be continued until the State got a bountiful northeast monsoon. "We have agreed with this view, and all works will be continued vigorously to give relief to the people," the Chief Secretary said.

Thiru Padmanabhan conveyed to the team the Chief Minister, Thiru M.G. Ramachandran's thanks to the visiting members and the Centre for responding to his request for assistance.



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GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS PAY PANEL SUGGESTIONS

The Tamil Nadu Government has accepted a number of suggestions mentioned in Part II of the report of the One Man Committee set up to go into the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations.

This follows a meeting of the State Civil Services Joint Council held today under the Chairmanship of Thiru A. Padmanabhan, Chief Secretary.

The following recommendations have been accepted by the Government, according to an official press release.

1. Washing allowance for office assistants raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15; (2) minimum special pay enhanced from Rs. 5 to 10; (3) the condition of taking earned leave for leave travel concession removed and leave travel concession can now be availed of even on CL;

(4) the percentage for promotion from among record clerks to Junior assistants has been raised to 25 percent and from other categories raised to 10 per cent subject to concurrence of the TNPSC; (5) special grade has been created for record clerks on 610-1075 for those persons who have put in ten-years of service under selection grade.

(6) The personal pay which comes as a result of fixation in selection grade will now be continued as personal pay till next fixation or promotion and not absorbed in the next increment; (7) special grade created for reporters of the Assembly department, (8) special pay of roneo operators raised from Rs. 15 to 20 a month and Rota print operators from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25; (9) personal secretaries to commissioner and Secretaries and Additional Secretaries to

Government given Rs. 100 a month as special allowance.

(10) Supervisory allowance of Assistants raised from Rs.10 to 20 and from Rs. 15 to 25 in respect of assistants supervising less and more than two junior assistants respectively.

(11) orders relating to regularising staff paid out of contingencies will now be issued by the heads of departments concerned in respect of straight cases and later sent up to and Government for ratification: and

(12) in respect of categories where the special-grade of the lower post and the ordinary grade of the higher post is the same, the service put in the selection grade of the lower post will be counted for awarding selection grade in the higher post.

NO AGE BAR TO ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

There should be no restriction on age for admissions to adult education centres, the Hon'ble Education Minister Thiru C. Aranganayagam said at Madurai on September 2nd. Now only those in the age group 14-35 were being admitted.

"An illiterate, whether six or, 60, is a burden to society", he said. UNESCO at a recent meeting recommended that age restrictions for adult education programmes should be removed.

Thiru Aranganayagam also said it was not enough if a person were taught only to read and write. The person should be taught some skills to take out a living. He was inaugurating Adult Education Programmes in connection with the All-

World Literacy Day.

Under the programme, 600 centres would be opened in five districts. Madurai, (Mayiladuparai), Anna (Chanaarapatti), South Arcot (Nallur), North Arcot (Jannapudhur) and Nilgiris (Ooty). Preference would be given to Harijan women.

The policy of the Government was to educate the most backward first, and help them come up socially. There was a complaint that the Government was concentrating more on adult education than on children's education. And only literate parents would send their children to school.

There were now 8,400 adult education centres run by the Central Government, 12,100

centres run by the State and 1,540 run by university and voluntary organisations.

The Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Dr. K.Kalimuthu, inaugurating an exhibition on literacy programme said farmers found the adult education programme useful. The Director of Non-formal Education, Thiru V.A. Sivagnanam, welcomed the gathering. He said the literacy movement was active in 800 villages of 24,000 students was being benefitted. The movement was started in Erode in 1965.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Madurai Kamaraj University, Dr. S.Krishnaswamy, said literacy programmes at times failed, for those who went through the courses forget what they learnt the next year. There were no books for feedback.



APE SO HUMAN

Chimpanzee

Not only do many monkeys and apes look very human, but seem to behave in a human way too. The chimpanzees surpass them all in this. The similarity between man and chimpanzee is quite intriguing and has attracted the attention of scientists for several decades. They have examined chimps thoroughly and have found them, along with the other apes, to be man's closest relatives in the animal kingdom. Zoologists therefore put all three: men, apes and monkeys in a single order called primates.

There is a remarkable similarity between man and chimps. The chimp's brain structure is quite close to our own. The life cycle of the chimps is also not very different. Their life span is about 40 to 50 years in the wild during which first five years are of infancy or childhood. After that is the adolescent period till they become 14 and the old age is around 35 years.

Chimps are creatures of unpredictable temper; aggressive one moment; amicable the next. There is cooperation in hunting. They share food with one another. They care for each

others offsprings. They exchange friendly greetings. Many-a-times they are incredibly human-like as they hold hands, pat one another, groom each other, embrace affectionately and even gently kiss the companion. They also display various emotions like pleasure, sadness, anger, curiosity, alarm dislike, etc. These emotions seem similar to our own but quite difficult to prove.

Tool-user

Few animals are known to use tools. Next to man, the chimps are the best known tool-users. Not only do they use a variety of tools, but make them also according to needs and necessities. They use tools with intelligence and not instinctively like many other animals. In captivity they are known to balance one box on the other or to open the lock of their cage with the key.

In the wild also the chimps use a variety of tools. The most common among them is the stick used to extract honey, ants or termites. Very rarely but still the chimps do use stones as missiles. The stone is also used as an aid to crack

hard nuts. Surprisingly, leaves are also used as tools. The leaves are used as a natural tissue paper to wipe sticky lips, cheeks or even hands stained by mud, blood or fruit juice. More than that, the chimps have been observed plucking leaves, chewing them sufficiently and then using the same as a sort of a sponge. They put this self-made sponge in water that has collected in hollows of a tree. When water gets soaked into the sponge it is squeezed out and consumed by the chimps.

Social ape

The chimp is one of the two great apes found in Africa, the other being the gorilla. It is the smaller of the two. An adult chimp weighs 36-50 kg. Males are usually larger than females. Characteristic of an ape, the chimp does not have a tail. It has long arms, broad chest and short thumbs.

There is only one species of chimpanzee. But there are four subspecies, namely Masked, Black-faced, Long-haired and Pygmy chimpanzees.

The chimps are very social and gregarious. They live in a

group of 60 to 80 individuals. But the whole group does not always stick together. They split to form smaller groups of 6 to 8 individuals during the day. These smaller groups are of four kinds; adult bisexual group, all-male group, female-juvenile group and a mixed group. Approximately 6 to 8 hours a day are spent for foraging. Though their arms allow them to swing with ease from trees, nearly half their time is spent on the ground.

They usually feed on fruits but leaves, nuts, barks, ants, termites and even meat at times is relished. Every night chimps

make their own nests high in the trees.

Women with the apes

As soon as we think of chimpanzee and its behaviour in the wild, the name of a woman who lived with chimps in the wild for years springs up in our minds. That name is Baroness Jane Van Lawick Goodall. She is the British scientist who has lived among the chimpanzees of Tanzania's Gombe Stream Game Reserve since 1960. She recognises every chimp that she studies by its name through the individual's walk, voice and facial expres-

sions. From the incredible relationship Goodall conceived the book "My Life Among Wild Chimpanzees". She hopes that the knowledge of chimps' ways and habits may help us in understanding our own. The amazing coincidence lies in the fact that the other two apes in the animal world namely Gorilla and Orangutan are also closely studied by women. While Dian Fossey lived and died studying Gorillas, Birute M.F. Galdikas still enjoys her life observing Orangutans. The contributions of these three women in knowing the behaviour of apes is till today unsurpassable.

INDIA BORN SCIENTIST SOLVE COMPLEX UNIVERSAL PROBLEMS

The mathematical invention of 28 years-old Narender Karmarkar two years ago is today revolutionizing international communications, say spokesmen at the American Telephone and Telegraph (AT and T) Bell Laboratory.

To date, the "Karmarkar Algorithm" has been used to verify facilities, design and routing plans for AT and T's billion-dollar Pacific Basin network to be built over the next decade and to extend the plan to the next 45 years. The formula is also used to analyze capacities and projects demand upon Bell's existent domestic network. And it is expected to undergird a third project to enhance U.S. telephone service by devising more efficient call routing patterns.

When the India-born Karmarkar first invented a new linear programming algorithm in 1984, permitting computers to solve problems at heretofore impossible speeds, its potential applications were only broadly envisioned. Still it has been hailed by the American scientific community as a "historic breakthrough in the computer mathematical decision-making process" and a "stunning improvement" on classic method methods of solving incredibly complex universal problems.

Mathematicians illustrate these problems as complex geometric solids with millions or billions of facets. Each corner or each facet may represent a solution. The purpose of the algorithm is to find the best solution without having to calculate the location of each step. Classic solutions heretofore have run along the perimeter of the solid. By contrast, the Karmarkar algorithm, in one "stunning" short cut, plunges through the middle of the solid selects an arbitrary interior point repeatedly warping and reshaping the entire structure to find a chosen point.

"The Karmarkar algorithm has enormous potential as an aid to planning facilities and designing routes for these extremely complex and costly telecommunications network," says Laboratory vice president Eric E. Sumner. "The algorithms' speed saves money on processing time, but more importantly, it permits us now to work on much larger problems that couldn't be solved by other optimal methods."

Briefly sketching the evolution of its applications, Ford says the algorithms first application outside Karmarkar's laboratory was on the Pacific

Basin project, a problem whose 60,000 plus variables exceeded the capacity of other linear programming systems. "With it, the problem was solved in only a small fraction of an hour" Ford says.

Another Bell Labs group is preparing the algorithm to analyze the capabilities of and demands on facilities of AT and T's land network, a problem containing over 800,000 variables.

In the third and still more complex application being explored, Bell Labs' traffic network engineers plan to use the algorithm for improving call routing patterns to enhance customer service. The problems is said to have over 1,233,000 variables and 164,000 constraints involving more than 100 long-distance switching offices.

AT and T has filed for patents on various aspects of the algorithms implementation. While new applications continue to emerge, research results have already brought Karmarkar two major U.S. Scientific Boards: the Operations Research Society of America (ORSA/TIMS) Lancaster Prize and the annual RAC Marconi Young Scientist Award. (USIS)



THE MAN WHO GIVES AWAY BILLIONS

"The world is one family, all mankind are brothers and sisters. "This is the message on the visiting card of Mr.Ryoichi Sasakawa, the 87-year old Japanese who may be world's greatest philanthropist. By his own reckoning, the little known son of a sake brewer has given away around \$3 million of his personal fortune every year for the past 30 years.

Apart from governments, he is the largest single donor to the United Nations, having contributed more than \$40 million over the years. The World Health Organisation in particular has been well supported. Thiru Sasakawa was the principal financier behind WHO's successful campaign to eradicate smallpox and is now heavily involved in efforts to combat leprosy.

Personal contributions pale into insignificance beside the sums donated by various charitable organisations associated with Sasakawa. Over the years, through the Japanese Ship building Industry Foundation and other Sasakawa organisations international charities and agencies around the world have received a total \$12 billion.

Born just before the beginning of the century, Mr.Ryoichi Sasakawa has led an eventful life. The son of a prosperous brewer in Osaka, he ran away from home when he was 17 to join Japan's first flying circus. Working as a commodity broker, he made a fortune before he turned 40. He became well known for his generosity, but also for his political activities. He was a prominent Japanese nationalist in the 1930 and was jailed for two years prior to World War II for "attempted intimidation" of political opponents.

At the end of the war the U.S Army jailed him on suspicion of war crimes, claiming his businesses had helped the Japanese war effort. Characteristically, Thiru Sasakawa eventually was acquitted of all charges. While in jail, he encountered a cell-mate who was an admiral and an expert on small motor-boats. On release in 1948, Thiru Sasakawa raised the money to finance the design and production of a one-man motor boat. Within five years, Japan's first motor boat races were being staged. The government saw the races as a fund-raising device and gave Thiru Sasakawa a monopoly to orga-

nise them which continues today.

Motor-boat racing now is Japan's biggest spectator and betting sport, averaging annual profits of \$100 million for the past 30 years. Three quarters of the revenue generated is returned to fortunate gamblers, but 3.3% passes to the Japanese Shipbuilding Industry Foundation, founded and still run by Thiru Sasakawa. The Foundation rebuilt Japan's shipbuilding industry before switching to international philanthropy some 20 years ago.

The record of donations is extensive in 1980, the U.S-Sasakawa Foundation was set up with \$48 million. Last year the UK-Sasakawa Foundation was created with \$15 million in initial funding and further foundations are planned for Europe.

Thiru Sasakawa stepped in this month with an offer to bail out the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, which will have a deficit of at least \$5 million as a result of the boycott by African and Asian countries over Britain's attitude to South Africa.

Asked why he gives away so much, Thiru Sasakawa replies, "I give money to do good". His political feelings can be important. He has reportedly said, "I don't want to give money to organisations which are influenced by left-wingers, or Communists". A number of institutions have refused his offers of funding for that reason most notably the Tokyo-based United Nations University.

Friendships with Moonie cult leader the Rev.Sun Myung Moon, the late President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua and deposed President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines have done little to improve Thiru Sasakawa's image. He had been particularly criticised for his links with Moon's Unification Church and contributions to it.

Moon was jailed in the United States last year for tax evasion and his church has been denounced by a British court for brainwashing young members and breaking up families. On the other hand, Thiru Sasakawa did help underwrite the Palme Commission on Disarmament, which was far from his political views, and he does not attempt

to exert influence once contributions have been made.

Despite a high profile in Japan, Thiru Sasakawa is relatively anonymous elsewhere in the world. His name does not appear in such reference books as the internationally known Who's Who?. His philosophy is: "For peace to be

true and to endure for centuries, it must be built on strong foundations. That means the poorer nations of this world should be helped to provide the basic health and material needs of their people". The real reasons behind his generosity, however, remain an enigma-
Compass News Features
Andy Crump. COURTESY: THE HINDU

FRESH CONCESSIONS FOR TEACHERS



A package of concessions has been extended to the teaching community by the Tamil Nadu Government on the occasion of the Teacher's Day on September 5th.

Announcing this, the Hon'ble Education Minister, Thiru C. Aranganayagam, told a gathering at Valluvar Kottam that these were in addition to the benefits already announced on the basis of the one-man commission appointed by the State Government.

The new benefits include: Increase in special pay for craft teachers from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per month., special pay scale of Rs. 1800-2900 for the heads of higher secondary schools who had put in over 10 years service in the selection grade, increase in pay from Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 p.m. for the part time vocational teachers in higher secondary schools if they had worked for 18 periods a week and counting of period spent on FIP (faculty improvement programme) for earned leave purposes in the case of aided colleges teachers on par with Government college teachers.

Similarly, the aided college teachers in colleges of education who go on tour for supervising project work of students must get travel allowance on par with Government college teachers and orders to the managements were being issued for this, the Minister said.

The Minister said teachers shaped the country's future and they had a responsibility to inculcate good characters among the pupils entrusted to their care. Teachers must see that students absorbed knowledge. He deplored the deterioration in the standards of handwriting of students and said teachers ought to bestow attention on these aspects also.

There was no difference of opinion regarding the high status to be accorded to the teachers in society, Thiru Aranganayagam said.

Thiru T.D. Sundararaj, Education Secretary, presided over the function. Messrs. Thiru M. Masilamani, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Teachers' Housing Board, Thiru K. Liaquat Ali Khan, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu

Textbook Society, Thiru K. Gopalan, Director of School Education and Tmt.C.Sarojini, Director of Elementary Education spoke.

Thiru G.Bujanga Rao, Collector, Madras district, welcomed the gathering. Thiru A.Erskine Devasirvatham, Chief Education Officer, Madras, proposed a vote of thanks.

Teachers honoured: Over 220 teachers were honoured with the good teacher award by the Minister. Thiru C. N. Shanmugasundram, Headmaster, Corporation Middle School, Nungambakkam, replied on behalf of the recipient teachers. The four teachers who have been named for the national award are: Thiru Shanmugam of the Government Higher Secondary School, Nandanam, Tmt.Saraswathi of Saraswathi Matriculation School, Kodambakkam, Tmt. G.K.Parvathi of RKM Elementary School, T.Nagar and Tmt.Bagyalakshmi of the Rosary Matriculation School, Mylapore were introduced to the gathering.

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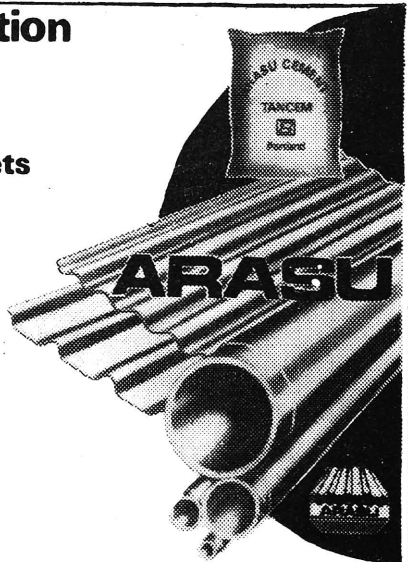
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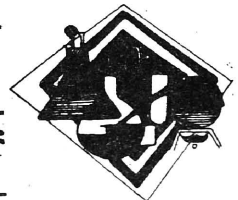
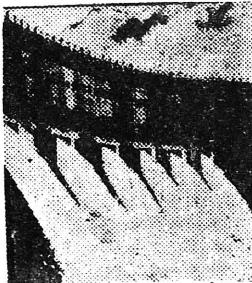
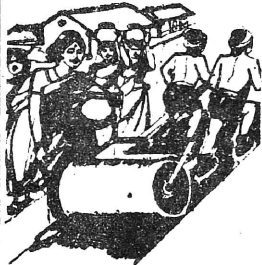


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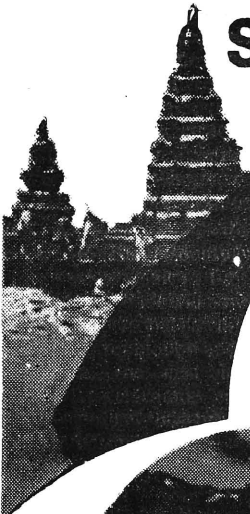
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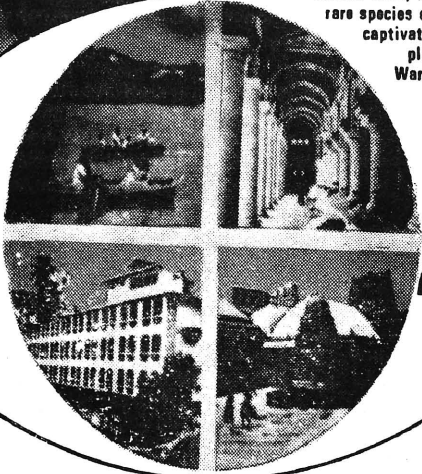
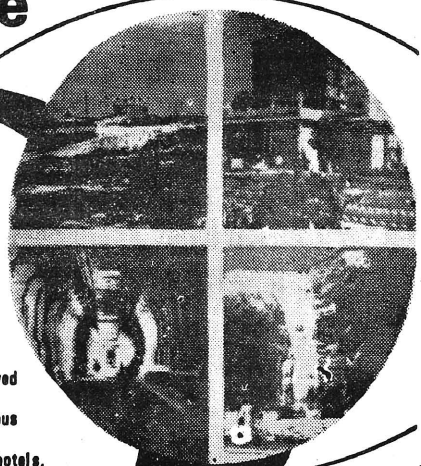
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INSURANCE COVER FOR SIVAKASI WORKERS

Nearly 48,000 workers of match and fireworks factories in and around Sivakasi have obtained insurance cover against death or disability resulting from accidents, whether during or outside their employment.

At the instance of the Tamil Nadu Government the facility is being provided by the National Insurance Company under a special "Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme" launched on July 1, 1986.

At a function at the Secretariat on August 28th, the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Dr. V. R. Nedunchezian received from the Assistant General Manager of the company, Thiru S. S. Tuli, the master policy for the first batch of workers covered.

Thiru Tuli informed the Minister that the scheme was designed more as a social security measure than as a commercial proposition. It was now restricted to match and fireworks unit, and the company intended to cover atleast 80 per cent of the 55,000 worker in the Sivakasi area before the end of the year.

Any worker in the age group 14-65 can join the group insurance. The cover will be available against accident death or loss of limbs or loss of sight and will not be confined to accidents arising during actual occupation. The annual premium has been fixed at Rs. 7 to help the weaker sections. In the case of death or permanent total disablement, the compensation is Rs. 16,000 in other cases, the risk occurred will be to the extent of Rs.8,000.

"CARDIO - DIABETO- LOGY DIVISION FOR ROYAPETTAH HOS- PITAL"

A cardio-diabetology division to diagnose comprehensive risk factors in patients suffering from diabetes and heart diseases will start functioning at the Royapettah Hospital on September 5th.

Dr.G.Anandthasubramaniam superintendent of the hospital, told newsmen on September 3rd that heart diseases in diabetics contributed significantly to mortality and morbidity. Diabetes was said to involve directly the heart muscles (myocardium) and contribute to the formation of a diabetic cardio-myopathy which produce stiffness of the heart and led to congestive failure. The division would provide total care to diabetics by identifying the cardio vascular diseases in time.

Diabetic patients had a three to five fold increased risk of myocardial infraction and the incidence was very much higher in women, apart from the usual risk, factors like lipemia and smoking, diabetes, hypertension and arteriosclerosis which often joined together and created varied problems for a diabetic. Already cardiology and diabetes clinics were functioning separately in the hospital and the new division was an attempt to pool the expertise of the specialists in both the fields.

Dr. T. K. Ramana Kumar, diabetologist, said the hospital had acquired a three-channel equipment to record ECG, heart sounds and carotid pulse tracing simultaneously. A computerised modulab for biochemical examinations, and a computerised treadmill ECG equipment costing Rs. 3.5 lakhs had been installed. The cardio-diabetology laboratory would get a two dimensional echocardiograph machine with Doppler facility, costing Rs. 8 lakhs.

BEACH LANDING CRAFTS TO REPLACE TRADITIONAL CATAMARANS

Beach landing crafts, that could land in the beach, and put into sea from any coast, would be introduced in Tamil Nadu, in a phased manner, with a view to gradually replacing the traditional catamarans.

Thiru L.K.Tripathi, Managing Director, TamilNadu Fisheries Development Corporation, told newsmen on August 6th that about 500 such crafts, each costing Rs. 4.2 lakhs, would be introduced before the end of the Seventh Plan. This craft would enable fishermen to increase their catch at least by 10 times then the conventional catamarans.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) would give 50 per cent subsidy to fishermen for purchasing the craft. The banks would advance 45 per cent as loans and the rest would be borne by the fishermen themselves. The craft fitted with eight to 12 HP engines could carry five people and the trial run made by the corporation with two crafts at Injambakkam had proved to be highly satisfactory, Thiru Tripathi said.

The State exported about Rs. 60 crores worth of fish, roughly around 16 per cent of the total exports. With a view to increasing this the Corporation proposed to purchase a fleet of trawlers for deep sea fishing to harvest 'tuna' fish, which had a tremendous export market.

Thiru Tripathi said, the Corporation would soon start several 'pen farms' for the development of 'prawn' in the backwaters of the Bay of Bengal. The project would be taken up in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

FULL - FLEDGED MICRO SURGERY RECANALISATION UNIT BEING SET UP

A full-fledged micro-surgery recanalisation unit is being set up at the Government Kasturba Gandhi Hospital for Women and Children, Triplicane, for achieving greater success in reversal of sterilisation procedures in mothers.

Dr. C.R.Kanthamani, Hospital Superintendent, told news men on September 6th that every year more than 4,000 women underwent the terminal methods of contraception at her institution.

"For one reason or the other, one to 1.5 percent of women undergoing sterilisation

operation in the country sought the reversal procedure". And, as maternal mortality in India was still high, there was a need to make available the recanalisation facilities at various centres.

Dr. T.K. Mohanalakshmi, Additional Professor of Micro-surgery, said women undergoing sterilisation need not have any apprehension that once and for all they could not conceive. If they so desired the procedure could be safely reversed. The pregnancy rate with conventional reversal surgery was very low, just five to 20 per cent. But the micro-surgical technique had brought about a great improvement and it was now possible to achieve more than 80 per cent pregnancy rate. In the last four years 53 women underwent the recanalisation procedure using the 'operating' microscope. Nine of these women had become pregnant later, she said.

Dr. Kanthamani said the hospital would soon be getting a sophisticated operating microscope, costing nearly Rs. 2.5 lakhs and other instruments' necessary for microsurgery.

TAMIL NADU CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL EDUCATION

Tamil Nadu received encomiums for its contribution to the national scene in the education at sphere and its pioneering efforts over the past decade at the eight national conference on School textbooks.

The Joint Director of NCERT Dr. A. Jalaluddin, spoke of the influence Tamil Nadu had come wield in national discussions on education. The State's Education Minister, who had provided the leader-

ship for this effort, was always looked up to for guiding the discussions at any conference.

Dr. Jalaluddin noted that Tamil Nadu had achieved a literacy growth rate of 45 per cent in the decade, from 1977 to 1981, more than double the national growth rate of slightly over seven per cent. "It is clear indication of what could be achieved within the constraints faced by the country as a whole and an example which other States can follow."

The NCERT Joint Director suggested other States record, analyse and study the developments in Tamil Nadu and profit from them.

He referred to the series of incentives and impetus given to literacy programmes and school education - be it the noon meal scheme, free uniform or free textbooks schemes and they all had an impact. Unfortunately, the developments were not properly documented.

TAMIL NADU MASTER PLANS ON TOURISM

The Tamil Nadu Government has submitted to the Union Tourism Ministry, 15 master plans estimated to cost over Rs. 150 crores and they are under consideration, Thiru Sonthosh Mohan Dev, Hon'ble Central Minister of State for Tourism, told newsmen on August 19th.

Since tourism had been declared an industry, he expected many more joint venture in construction of hotels, for which concessional finance could be secured. The Centre was now promoting construction of hotels in the categories of one, two and three stars to encourage domestic tourism and to help other budget tourists.

The Ministry would open duty free shops in all metropolitan cities and other important towns which had tourist potential. Foreign tourists could purchase their requirements on payment of dollar. These shops would be run by the India Tourism Development Corporation.

Replying to questions, the Minister said the Government had permitted tourists charter flights to land on any civilian airfield now being used by both Indian Airlines and Air India. The Prime-Minister, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi had personally taken the decision.

The runway at Port Blair was being extended by another 2000 feet to take on bigger aircraft. Two other uninhabited islands in the region were being developed to cater for foreign tourists.

Earlier, inaugurating a week long in service training programme for tourists officers of Central and State Tourism departments in the southern region, organised by the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, the Minister said tourism as an industry was becoming highly competitive and demanded high standards of service and professionalism. Tourism was labour intensive and provided employment to both skilled and unskilled labour. In the global context and in a highly competitive market, the quality of services had a big say in determining the popularity of tourist destinations. For qualitative improvement of services, trained manpower was essential. Hence the emphasis now was on training of personnel.

Thiru K. Kirubakaran, Tourism Secretary, said the Union Ministry had last year sanctioned Rs. 4.35 crores for tourist projects.

Thiru M.K.Sen Gupta, Director-General of Tourism, New Delhi, said the Centre had adopted aggressive method to promote India in foreign countries through better sales promotion measures and wider publicity about the infrastructure available in the country to cater for tourist needs. The Government was also keen on promoting leisure of holiday travel from abroad in addition to attracting budget tourists.

Selvi Vatsala Pai, Regional Director, Government of India Tourist Office, Madras, proposed a vote of thanks.

POWER CUT REDUCED

The power cut on the 2380HT consumers in Tamil Nadu has been reduced to 20 per cent

from the 40 per cent imposed in December 1985. The relaxation will be effective from August 22.

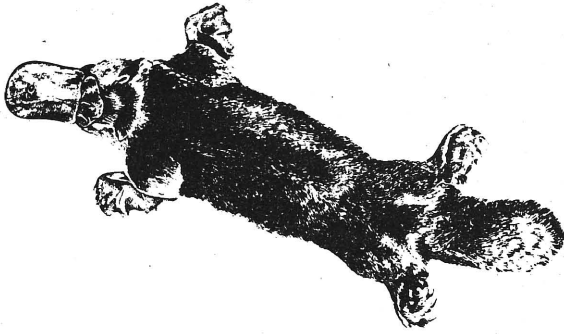
Announcing this here the Electricity Minister, Thiru S.Ramachandran told newsmen on August 19th that the reduction in power cut was made possible by the improvement in storage in the hydel reservoirs in the State. The position would be reviewed in December.

The total hydel storage in Tamil Nadu as on date was 1490 million units compared with 1094 m.u. this day last year. There was the prospect of the storage going up before the start of the summer months, the Minister said.

Expressing optimism about a "bright future" Thiru Ramachandran said the 210 MW first unit of the Mettur Thermal Station would be commissioned in December. In February next, the second unit of the second stage of the Neyveli Thermal Station would start generation, adding another 210 MW. By then the second unit of the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station was expected to perform better.

As regards the proposed North Madras Thermal Station the Minister said that the assistance sought for was still being processed by the Asian Development Bank. A team of the Bank would be visiting Madras in September, for the final appraisal of the project.

On the proposal to decentralise the Electricity Board the Minister said the Government was yet to take a decision. His personal view was that even if decentralised units were created, "we cannot sustain them as viable units for the simple reason that agricultural consumption is heavily subsidised.



THE ANIMAL PUZZLE

If you could take the tail from a beaver, the fur from a cat, the bill from a duck and the feet from an otter and assemble all these and then make the resulting animal reproduce by laying eggs, you would have created a Duckbilled Platypus.

As if the animal is not odd enough, it also happens to be among the few 'poisonous' mammals known. Both ankles of the male's hind limbs have inwardly directed hollow spurs which are connected to venom glands. Females too have spurs but only as juveniles.

The platypus belongs to a group of animals called 'monotremes'. These are also mammal but they differ from other mammals in that they lay eggs. After monotreme babies hatch, however, they are fed with milk as are other mammal babies. The only other mammal that lays eggs is Australia's Spiny Anteater.

The bill

The most fascinating part of the platypus's body is of course its famous duck-bill. The bill is a sensitive elongated snout and is soft, not bony as is popularly believed. The nostrils are situated above the tip of the bill. The bill acts as a sensory organ, which is jam packed with tactile nerve endings.

Inhabitant of the freshwater lagoons, lakes and the pools in small and large rivers of Tasmania and Australia, where alone it is found, the platypus is a beautiful animal specialized for hunting underwater. It is small in size, some 60 cm. in length-but the thick loose skin makes the barrel shaped body appear larger than it is. The pelt consists of wolly undercoat and shiny guard hairs. The colour varies from brown to black above and is tinged with pink or yellow underneath.

Adapted to a life underwater, it walks clumsily on land on its stubby legs whose webbing extend much beyond the toes in the forelegs. But on water it is another story. The legs are then transformed into efficient paddles. The platypus can remain under water for upto five minutes.

When under water, the platypus closes both its eyes and ears, and nuzzles along the bottom of the pond or river with its rubbery bill in search of prey. The prey consists of various crustaceans, molluscs, aquatic insect larvae and any flying insect which may fall into the water.

Egg laying

In the months from July to October, the winter season in Australia, the animal mates after an elaborate courtship. When the time comes to lay eggs, the female chooses a stream bank, and into it, starting from above water level, drives a burrow that may be as long as 25 metres long. At the end of this she builds a snug nest of leaves and grass, in which she lays from one to three eggs which are a bit leathery in texture. The eggs are incubated for about 42 days during which period the mother rarely leaves her burrow.

A newly hatched platypus is about 2.5 centimeters long, blind and naked. It suckles in a primitive fashion, simply lapping up the milk from the fur of its mother's abdomen where it is directly secreted, there being no nipples.

Although it has few natural predators, the newly introduced rabbit of Australia threatens it in a different way. Where rabbits have dug too many burrows, the platypus cannot breed as it needs undisturbed soil for this purpose. Fortunately, however, though reduced in numbers, it is strictly protected and is in no danger of extinction (CEE-NFS)

CENTRE TO CONSIDER TNEB'S PLEA FOR GAS TURBINES AT BASIN BRIDGE PLANT.

Tmt. Sushila Rohatgi, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power, Petroleum and Natural Gas on August 26 promised to look into Tamil Nadu's plea for clearance of its proposal to set up four gas turbines each of 30 MW capacity at the Basin Bridge thermal power station to meet the shortage in peaking capacity. The project would cost of Rs. 57 crores.

The Minister, who was laying the foundation for the 40MW gas turbine plant of the public sector Madras Refineries Limited (MRL) at Manali was responding to an appeal made by Thiru B. Vijayaraghavan, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) for sanction of the project which had been pending clearance from the Centre for the past few years.

Thiru Vijayaraghavan, presiding over the function, complained that the Centre which had sanctioned the MRL's gas turbine power plant was not as kind to the TNEB in clearing its gas turbine project. "We have been knocking at the doors of the Secretariat in Delhi for the past four years and are shunted

from department to department to department". If the project was sanctioned, it could be operated as a combined cycle project along with the coal operated/thermal unit at Basin Bridge power station.

The Union Minister promised that the matter would be looked into bearing in mind the financial implications. The centre had no 'grudge' against the TNEB.

Tmt. Rohatgi said the demand for crude and petroleum products in the country was expected to go up from the present annual demand of 43 million tonnes to 54 million tonnes by 1990 and to 96 million tonnes to 2000. It was a matter of pride that 70 per cent of the needs were indigenously met. However unless more oil was found, the imports could not be avoided.

The present drop in the crude price in the global market should not lead to complacency as the prices might again go up. The country should "save energy and help development". She urged the oil industry to show the way, as it used about five to seven per cent of fuel. All refineries should conduct detailed energy audits periodically.

She complimented the MRL for designing its plants on the total energy concept and achieving a reduction in energy consumption.

Welcoming the gathering, Thiru V.R. Deenadayalu, MRL Chairman, said that with the installation of the new gas turbine plant, the MRL would become self-sufficient in power. The company had a good track record with technological manpower and he hoped that its Seventh plan schemes would get Central approval. Thiru R. Shiva Kumar, General Manager (Projects), proposing a vote of thanks, said the gas turbines power plant would be commissioned by the end of June next year.

The MRL's power plant project, costing Rs. 9.79 crores, is part of its Seventh Plan schemes. Its installed power generation capacity would go up to 37 MW with the installation of this plant which is to be supplied by Mitsui Inc. of Japan. The company proposes to install a waste heat boiler to be supplied by HCG of Holland along with the gas turbine. The combined cogeneration efficiency of the plant would be 72 per cent. The World Bank is funding the project under its 'Refinery rationalisation Scheme.'

The MRL's self-sufficiency in power would reduce the burden on the TNEB. The plant would also augment the MRL's steam generation by 45 tonnes an hour at every high pressure.

ACCORD ON ADB LOAN FOR MADRAS POWER UNIT

A memorandum of understanding is to be signed by the Asian Development Bank, the Centre and the Tamil Nadu Government on the Rs. 150 million loan the Bank proposes to give for the construction of two 210 MW sets at the new North Madras Thermal Station.

Discussions to finalise details of the long agreement were

held between officials of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and the legal expert of the Bank, Thiru John Boyd. Three other representatives of the Bank are expected to join the discussions later this week.

The loan is expected to cover about one-half of the total cost of the project, and will come an addition to the funds already allocated to it by the Planning Commission, for the Seventh Plan.

Thiru B. Vijayaraghavan, TNEB Chairman, told news-

men that on September 1st the first unit of the Mettur thermal power station was likely to be commissioned by December as scheduled. He noted that two of the pre-commissioning exercise were gone through successfully last month, the boiler was lighted up on August 8 and the alkali boil-out done on August 28.

Also due for commissioning in December was the first set of the Lower Mettur hydro electric project, downtrodden 15 MW units. The second is stated to be ready in May 1987.

Rs. 130 CRORE WATER SCHEME FOR SIX DISTRICTS

The Tamil Nadu Government has prepared seven combined water supply schemes, with Cauvery and Ponniyar as their sources, to benefit perennially water-starved areas of the State.

According to the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Dr. K.Kalimuthu on September 9th, these schemes costing a total of Rs. 130.65 crores, will be executed with World Bank assistance during the seventh and eighth Five year plans.

Two of the schemes will be in Tiruchi district, one serving Thuraiyur, Perambalur, Tathayangarpettai, Mettupalayam and nine villages en-route, and the other in Manapparai.

There will be one scheme each in the districts of Salem (Edappadi, Konganapuram, Attaiyampettai and 110 wayside villages), North Arcot (Tiruvannamalai), Periyar (Modakkurichi), Dharmapuri (13 major panchayats and 3,352 habitations in Hoggenekal area and South Arcot (Tindivanam, Gingee, Ananthapuram and wayside villages).

Drinage schemes: The State Government is also seeking World Bank finance for executing seven drainage schemes at a total cost of Rs. 40.18 crores. There will be implemented in Vellore, Udhangamandalam, Kumbakonam, Mayiladudurai, Madurai Nagercoil and Cuddalore.

To meet the immediate drinking water needs in municipa-

lities, major panchayats and townships in the drought-hit districts, the Government has sanctioned an additional Rs. 55.75 lakhs. With this the allocations for provision of drinking water as part of the drought relief programme have totalled Rs. 2,399.26 lakhs.

The latest sanction consists of Rs. 24.75 lakhs for sinking bore-wells and deepening of

public wells in townships. Rs. 11 lakhs for construction of new wells and distribution of drinking water through lorries in major panchayats, Rs. 20 lakhs for supply of water through lorries in municipal and panchayat areas, and Rs. 10 lakhs for construction of ring wells in Ramanathapuram and Pasumpun Murthuramalingam districts.

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'Telugu Ganga project will be completed in four years'

The Rs. 13 lakh scheme to augment the water supply in West Mambalam was inaugurated on September 11th by the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Tourism. Thiru R. M. Veerappan.

The scheme envisages laying of feeder mains to a distance of 1.8 km from the Railway Border Road Junction to West Mambalam to improve supply. It will benefit over 16,000 residents in 15 streets. The laying of the feeder mains follows complaints from the residents about erratic water supply.

The Minister said the Government was doing its best to provide water and he sought the co-operation of the public. The scheme to bring Krishna water to Madras was delayed for unknown reasons despite the efforts taken by the TamilNadu Government to see through the project as early as possible. He appealed to the Central Government to intervene as the project, if it came through, would fulfil one of the wishes of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who inaugurated the scheme in Madras.

Presiding over the function Dr. K. Kalimuthu, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Water Supply said the Telugu Ganga project would be completed before 1990 and there was absolutely no impediment in its progress. At present technical experts from both States were engaged in deliberations to iron out certain minor problems. The Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. would have another round of talks with his Andhra Pradesh counterpart on his return, from the United States, he said.

Tmt. Vijayanthimala Bali, MP, wanted the Centre to nationalise rivers. She said there was no point in blaming the Centre for all the ills and misunderstandings among States as water was a State subject.

Dr. K. Sowrirajan, Thiru Saidai Duraiswamy and Tmt. Valarmathi, MLAs, praised Metrowater for taking steps to solve a long pending problem of the residents of West Mambalam. Thiru V.R. Manimaran, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board and Thiru P. Angamuthu Chairman of the Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board, addressed the gathering.

Thiru Komal Swaminathan, thanked the Government on behalf of the residents.

Thiru Jeppiyar, Chairman of Metrowater, welcoming the gathering said the Board had proposed to the Government to insist on a no objection certificate before sanctioning construction in view of the problem of water shortage in certain areas. It has decided to supply water to multi-storied buildings and hotels on commercial rate. Thiru S. Daivamani, Engineering Director, proposed a vote of thanks.



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COURTESY : FODOR'S GUIDE TO INDIA

This is where you throw away all your points of reference and bases of comparison. This is where architecture and sculpture are not passive monuments but living backdrops for scenes that must have once been acted in the cathedral cities of the Middle Ages. This is Madurai, the beating heart of the land of the Tamils and, in our opinion, the high point of this journey south from Madras to the tip of India.

It's 96 miles from Trichy to Madurai-and the trip is not long enough to prepare a traveler for what is in store for him. Madurai was thriving when Augustus took the throne of Rome (coins found here points to the existence of trade with Rome). Until the 14th century, it was the capital of the Pandya rulers of South India who made it the mother city of Tamil literature with their generous patronage of poets and academics. Then the Nayaks ruled Madurai from the middle of the 16th century to 1743 and their majestic imprint is still fresh. The ten tall gopurams of the Meenakshi Temple raised during their dynasty are your first glimpse of Madurai whether you arrive by car, train, or airliner.

From the air, though, you can also see the two hills of rock marking boundaries between the "sweet place" (that's the meaning of "Madurai") and its surrounding green paddy fields. They are known as Yanai Malai and Naga Malai (the elephant hill and the snake hill). Two miles, long, the Yanai Malai of gray and pink granite does seem to resemble a recumbent elephant. The sweetness of Madurai comes from the nectar which fell from the hair of the god Siva upon the city.



It is Siva and his wife, Meenakshi, who are honoured in Madurai's greatest man-made landmark, the Meenakshi Temple. This, incidentally is the first big Indian temple whose towers are in the process of being restored to their original polychrome colours. Concrete moldings and bright fresh paint have replaced the gentle pastels and crumbling stones of weathered Hindu sculpture. The result to foreign eyes is often horribly fascinating. A few hundred incarnations of deities out of the Hindu pan-

theon leering at you from one of the Meenakshi gopuram are not a sight you will forget in a hurry.

Rich Pandemonium:

So leave your inhibitions at your hotel when you set forth to visit the Meenakshi temple. You will find yourself in a human tide on which the Southern women float gracefully, flowers in the jet black hair and bright saris draped around their straight bodies. There are stalls inside the temple, huddled around most

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குறைந்தது
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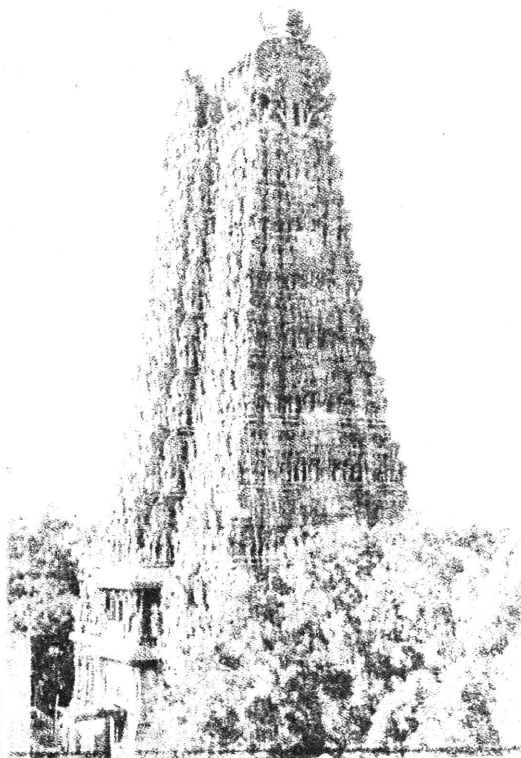


எல்லா காதி
கிராப்ட் விற்பனை
நிலையங்களிலும்
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of its entrance halls. The swirling life of the Meenakshi temple never abates, for Madurai is known as the "city of festivals" and there seems to be one just about every day of the year. Trumpets and drums and religious chanting constantly fill the air, but do not seem to disturb pilgrims taking a midday nap under the shady arcades.

While the non-believer is denied access, of course, to the two sanctuaries where Meenakshi and Siva, in his incarnation as Sundareswarar, are enshrined, he can visit the rest of the temple quite freely. Hindus have no corporate worship and perform the puja (worship of the Gods) either themselves or through the intermediary of a priest. It is possible to climb to the top of one of the gopurams from where the panorama over the city of temples is extraordinary.

The Soaring Towers of Madurai

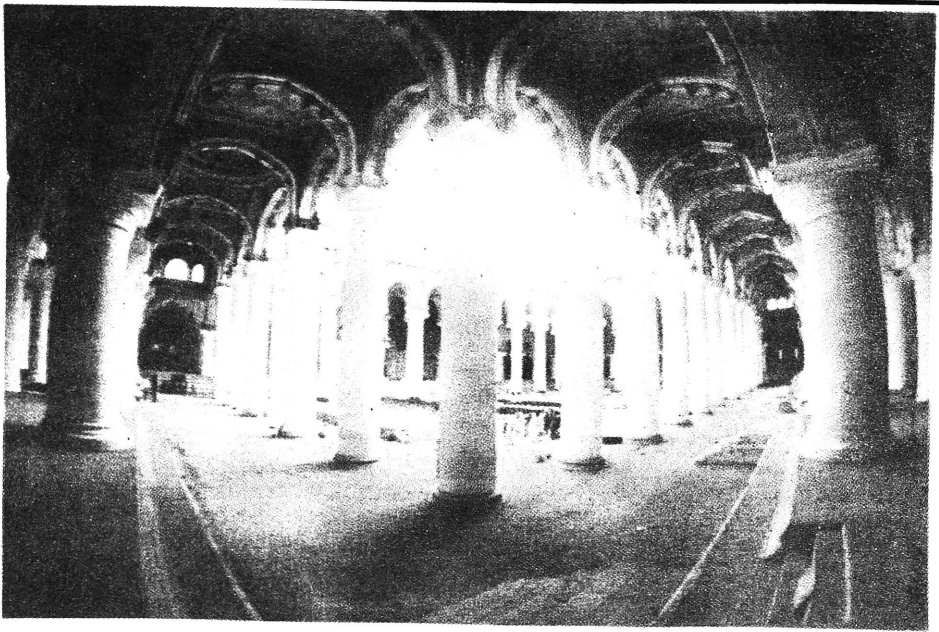
A legend says that this temple was founded by Indra, the king of the gods, who found a lingam in the jungle and ordered his builders to house this Siva's symbol in a temple. When Indra set foot in the temple, he found that its tank was filled by some miracle with golden lilies. The present day visitor can see this tank, surrounded by a colonnade (from which you get an excellent view) of the gopurams, as well. Worshipers bathe in the tank of the Golden Lily women perform some marvelous sleight of hand that enables them to change saris without ever appearing to be undressed. In the past, a bath in the lily tank served another purpose: tradition has it that a Tamil author's works were judged here by the simple expedient of placing his manu-

script on the water. If it stank, it sank.

The high point of the Meenakshi Temple, however, is its "Hall of a Thousand Pillars" which is always open for visitors. Here, again, the figure is an approximate one; the exact number of pillars is 997. But you will probably be too fascinated even to think of counting them. This hall was built around 1560 and is as great a work of structural engineering as it is of art. The pillars are a picture-book in stone and what pictures! They run the whole gamut of human expression from stateliness and grace to lusty humor and ribaldry. It has been said that a visitor can wander through these pillars - which represent a grove of a thousand palm trees where a god was once found-and see something new no matter how often he returns. Some have been a kinship with the baroque churches of Western Europe, but this should not be taken too literally. Still, baroque is about the only European style approaching the exuberance of this Dravidian temple.

Outside the Hall of a Thousand Pillars are more pillars. But these are the famous "musical pillars" of the Meenakshi Temple and they play musical notes when they are struck. The temple also contains a hall known as the Kambatti Mandapam where Siva in all of his various manifestations is represented on sculptured pillars.

At any time, this temple of Siva and his wife is filled with worshipers pouring oil on minor gods, depositing flower offering and going through pujas in front of their deities. But its greatest day comes around the end of April during a festival celebrating the marriage of the sacred couple. The wedding is re-enacted in the temple and then the images are paraded through the streets of Madurai. In all, the festive proceedings last three days. During the celebrations of the Tamil New



Year (which is mid-April), the evening processions have a particular charm.

Once outside the majestic entrance gopurams of the temple, you have still to see another example of the architectural mastery of the Nayakas. This is the palace or mahal of Tirumala Nayak, a blend of Hindu and Saracen architecture. Its curved dome, which soars without any visible support, is quite an accomplishment. In the evening it is the location for an impressive son et lumiere presentation.

The modern city of Madurai lives side-by side with its tradition. Spinning and weaving mills turn out some of the best cloth of all South India and the city is an educational centre as well. One of its colleges was founded by an American Protestant mission. Madurai was headquarters for missionaries as early as the 17th century when an Italian Jesuit came here and learned Tamil.

Outside the City in its immediate vicinity, two short

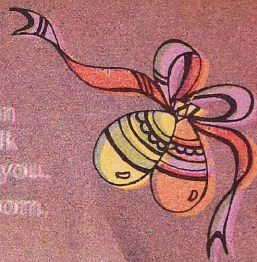
executions are worth making. Three miles from town there is the famous Teppakulam (a tank) with an island temple. In the crowd, milling around the sheet of water, you will easily recognise the groups of pilgrims from the north; their skin is lighter and the women folk-subdued

and shy-throw their saris around their heads. Then, eleven miles away, is Alagar Koil with some excellent sculpture in the hall of a temple dedicated to Vishnu. Alagar, by the way, is the brother of Meenakshi in Hindu mythology.



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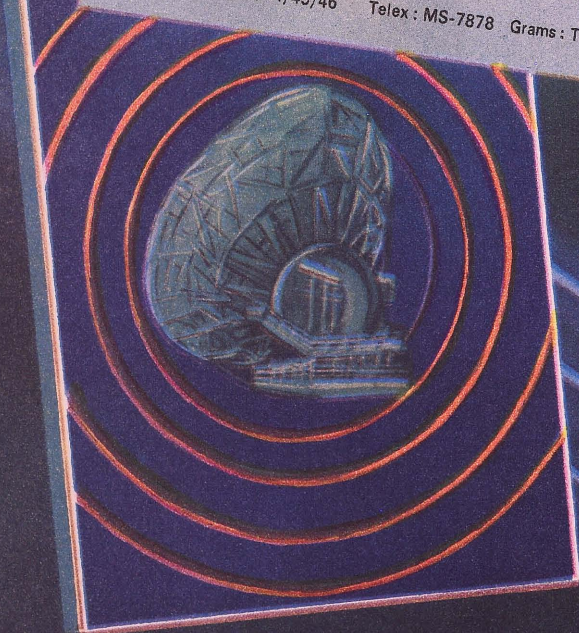
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