

Tamil Arasu





Bharathidasan, the great Poet

TAMIL ARASU

In scope this month

Fifth World Tamil Cankam inaugurated

The Chief Minister, Dr.M.G.R. inaugurated the Fifth World Tamil Cankam at Madurai on April 15th. A report of the function.

The President at Madras

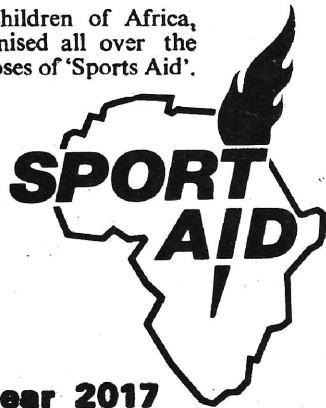
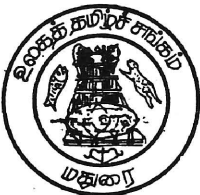
The President of India, Ziani Zail Singh arrived in Madras on a two day whirlwind visit. A report of his engagements in the city.

Kalaimamani Awards presented

Awards to outstanding artistes as well as pensions to indigent artistes were given away by the Chief Minister, Dr.M.G.R.

Sports Aid, the race against time

To aid the starving children of Africa, 'Sports Aid' is being organised all over the world. A study into the purposes of 'Sports Aid'.



Thiruvalluvar Year 2017

May 1986

Chithirai-Vaikasi



The Fifth World

Tamil Cankam Inaugurated

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M.G.R. inaugurated the World Tamil Cankam at Madurai on the Tamil New Year day, the 14th April 1986. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for the building.

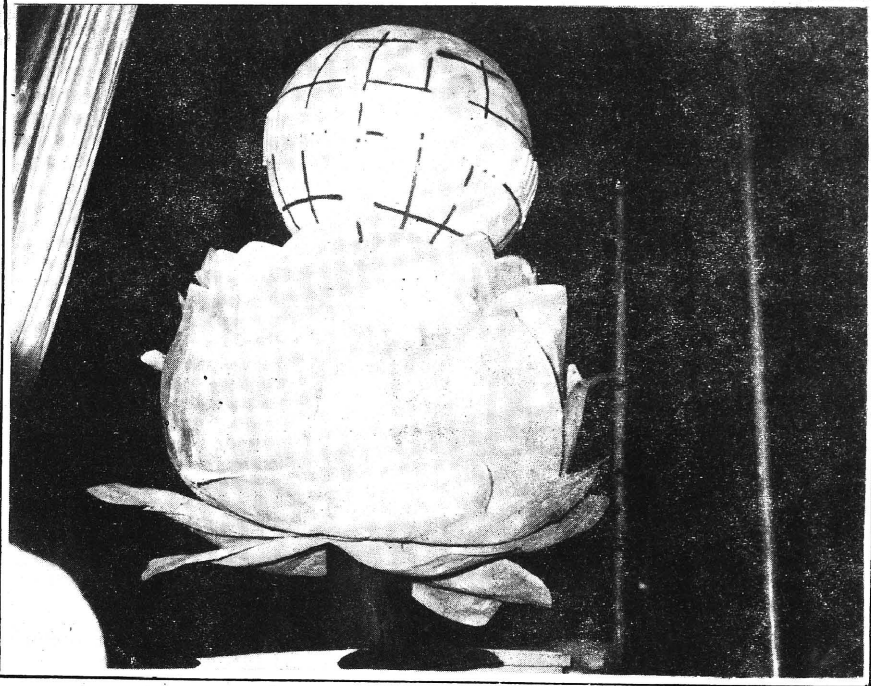
The Chief Minister said the Tamil Nadu Government would set apart Rs. 10 crores for the cankam. More funds would be provided if required. The Chief Minister declared that cankam will have no

place for politics, and sought peoples co-operation for its efficient functioning.

The Chief Minister's voice choked with emotion when he said that with the inauguration of cankam, the dream of the Tamils have come true. The Cankam would help develop the language and would also serve as a link for the Tamils, the world over. The Chief Minister quoted Perarignar Anna's words: "Tamil would survive, only if the

Tamilians survived. The world would live only if the Tamil speaking population lived".

Taking on the objectives of the Tamil Cankam the Finance Minister, Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian said that the Cankam would have links with the Tamil Cankams all over India and would spread the Tamil language by books, teachers and correspondence courses. The Finance Minis-



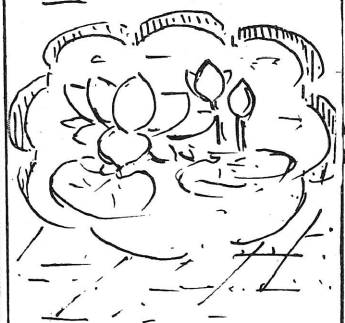
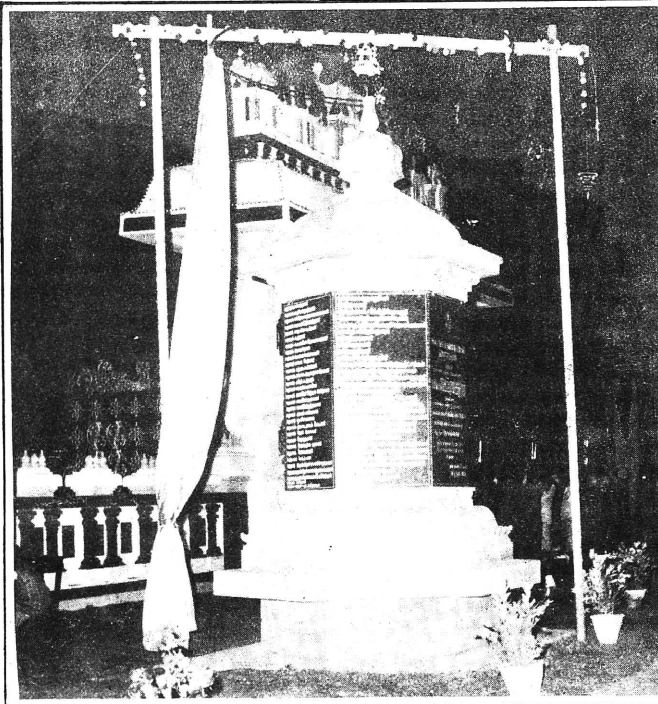
ter announced new schemes that will provide more facility to the citizens of Madurai.

Earlier, during the day, a seminar was held. Inaugurated by the Hon'ble Electricity

Minister, Thiru S. Ramachandran, the Seminar was presided over by Thiru S. Raghavanandam, AIADMK General Secretary. Political stalwarts of Tamil nadu including Thiru Palaniyandi of TNCC I, Thiru

Thiruvarur Thangaraj of Dravidar Kazhagam, Thiru. Kumari Anandan of Tamil Nadu Gandhi Kamaraj National Congress, Thiru Andithevar of All India Forward Bloc, Thiru P. Alagirisami of Tamil





Nadu Kamaraj Congress, Thiru Chengam Jabbar of Tamil Nadu Muslim League, Thiru Ayyanan Ambalam of Tamil Nadu Forward Bloc, Thiru M. Margabandu of Toilers party, and Thiru Joseph Fernando of Christian Munnetra Kazhagam spoke of the many ways by which Tamilians all over the world can be united and the Tamil language enriched.

LETHAL LEAD

Lead poisoning can cause severe neurological damage, frequently leading to death. The most common symptoms of lead poisoning are anaemia, severe intestinal cramps, paralysis of nerves of fatigue.

Food crops grown near major highways can collect considerable lead, posing a danger to people consuming them. A Malaysian environmental newspaper, Suara Sam, says that over four million tonnes of lead are produced annually in the world, making it a vital element in the industrial economy.

The newspaper says that level of lead in blood in the general population is between 10 and 30mg/100gms of whole blood. But there is growing evidence that lead causes harm at very low levels - well before clinical symptoms of poisoning appear.

The danger of lead has prompted several nations to take serious action. Lead-free petrol is sold in the USA and Japan. In the USSR, petrol containing lead has been banned in the cities since 1959. By 1990, Malaysia plans to reduce the lead content in petrol to 0.15gm/litre.

PRESIDENT IN MADRAS



WE MUST FORGE UNITY: PRESIDENT

His Excellency The President, Thiru Zail Singh, on May 10th said people should not allow religion to be exploited to encourage divisive forces to disrupt peace and unity. Inaugurating the "Spiritual Yagna" on the sands of the Marina, he said, "The time has come for scientists the world over to assert themselves and refuse to cooperate with the ruling classes, in producing dangerous weapons."

Thiru Zail Singh inaugurated the "Spiritual Yagna", (a special religious rite) in connection with the Conference for world Peace, conducted by the Adi

Parasakthi Trust by lighting a lamp marking the commencement of the "Velvi" in which women alone participated. He also released a pigeon, the symbol of peace. There were 10,008 Kalasams and Kuthu-Vilakkus and as the "Om Portri" mantras were being recited, pujas were conducted by women. Simultaneously, others poured ghee and puja materials in the sacred fire in 308 Yaga Kundams.

Those present on the occasion included His Excellency Thiru S.L. Khurana, the Governor (who presided), The Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, and Thiru K. Rajaram and Thiru R.M. Veerappan, Hon'ble Ministers. The President and the Governor, accompanied

by Sri Bangaru Adigal, leader of the Adi Parasakthi Movement went round the Yaga Sala and paid respects to the idol of the Holy Mother (Parasakthi) at the head of the special pandal. Thiru Zail Singh earlier visited the spiritual exhibition which had several stalls and replica of the Melamaruvathur Siddhar peetam and an image of the deity.

The Chief Minister Thiru Ramachandran who arrived a few minutes ahead of schedule was warmly embraced by Sri Bangaru Adigal. Momentoes were presented to the guests and in a surprise move, the president garlanded the spiritual leader. The proceedings were televised. Thiru Zail Singh handed over the first copy

of the souvenir to Thiru Veerappan.

Thiru A. K. Venkatasami, chairman of the organising committee gave a brief account of the origin of the Movement and about the oracles of the Divine Mother" through Sri Bangaru Adigal. The mode of worship in the Melmaruvathur temple was distinct in that all could worship to the deity themselves. The Peetam was managing a trust which had established educational and social institutions. A medical college was also proposed and he hoped that the dream of "Adi Parasakthi University" would come true before long. A Yagna of this type was said to have been conducted only about 2,000 years ago.

Thiru Khurana said there was no more opportune moment than this for organising a spiritual yagna for world peace. Such rites purified the atmospheres and cleansed the minds. Love and peace were preached by all religions. Worship by women was an unusual feature and the Governor commended the various welfare activities of the Adi Prarsakthi Trust.

Thiru Zail Singh said India had devoted itself to the cause of peace. Mahatma Gandhi had demonstrated that the human spirit, when lit by the divine fire, was mightier than the sword. He had conducted politics through prayer congregations as he believed God was the common bond uniting all human beings.

"Our tradition respect spiritual teachers. They are the legislators of society and sow seeds of love, affection, compassion and universal-outlook". Guru Nanak was a great exponent of the philosophy of universal brotherhood. Religious synthesis was very much existent in the southern region of India. "I am told that the church in Velankanni and the mosque in Nagoor witness



a confluences of people from all religions".

The President said he was pleased to hear that the same was the case with the Adi Parasakthi Peetam. This tradition could possibly be attributed to the catholicity of thought reflected in the Tirukkural, regarded as the "Podu Marai" common scripture. The Vedas and the Sastras projected the significance of love and peace.

He cautioned against animosity being kindled in the name of religion. No one should give room to fissiparous tendencies. "All of us should have an ideal before and work

towards, achieving it. There is no scope for selfishness. We must forge unity and strengthen it. Then only will there be real progress."

Thiru C.H. Krishnamurthi Rao, Treasurer proposed a vote of thanks. The yagna continued for about two hours.

Arrival: The President who arrived by a special IAF aircraft was received at Meenam-bakkam airport by His excellency Thiru Khurana, Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, the Chief Secretary, Thiru T.V. Antony, and the Director General of Police, Thiru K. Ravindran.

Provide Education for All Children— President

His Excellency, the President Zail Singh said on May 11th that no effort should be spared to realise the goal of education to all children up to 14 years of age enjoined in the Constitution.

Participating in the celebrations organised to mark the 89th birthday of former Chief Minister Thiru M. Bhaktavatsalam and the silver Jubilee of the Bhaktavatsalam Education Trust, the President called for removal of impediments in the way of children going to school. "It is our duty to provide the facilities which children need, in the form of fees, food and clothes, to help them get educated," he said.

Thiru Zail Singh said that all those involved in promoting education, like the Bhaktavatsalam trust, should channel their resources properly to achieve the goal.

Earlier, the President called on the people particularly the

younger generation to rid the country of forces that were impeding its progress and threatening national unity.

Thiru Zail Singh pointed out that the present struggle was not against an external enemy but against evils like communalism, casteism, regionalism, corruption and poverty. These forces could be suppressed quickly only if the people and the Government were united. He was optimistic about the eventual defeat of these forces, but cautioned against delay. It was necessary, he said, that not only the people and the Government but all political parties should come forward to fight these "bad" forces even if this meant losing their popularity.

The President also urged all to ensure that Justice was done to the poor. He pointed out that the Constitution had promised social, economic and political Justice. Economic and social justice could not be

achieved without political justice, he added.

His Excellency, the Governor, Thiru S.L. Khurana, who presided said voluntary organisations could effectively complement the efforts of the government in promoting education. Trusts could take up programmes for the removal of illiteracy in the areas where they had set up their schools and colleges.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr V.R. Nedunchezhiyan presented a cheque for Rs.25,000 to Madras University Vice Chancellor Thiru B.B.Sundaresan on behalf of the trust for endowment of a C.N.Muthuranga Mudaliar memorial lecture.

The President released the silver jubilee souvenir of the trust and presented the first copy to the Governor. He presented gold medallions to the heads of the educational institutions run by the trust. He also presented ponnadais to the trust's patron, Thiru Bhaktavatsalam, founder president O.V. Alagesan and secretary R.Srinivasan.

Earlier, Hon'ble Legislative Council Chairman Thiru M.P. Sivagnanam released an abridged Tamil version of Jawaharlal Nehru's "Glimpses of World History" translated by Thiru O.V. Alagesan.

Weep not that the world changes—
did it keep a stable, changeless state, it were
cause indeed to weep.

—William Cullen Bryant.

Most of the greatest evils that man has
inflicted upon man have come through people
feeling quite certain about something which,
infact, was false.

—Bertrand Russell.

THE PRESIDENT AT THE GOLDEN

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

OF PUNJAB ASSOCIATION

His Excellency President Zail Singh exhorted the people to think of themselves as "sons of Bharat" and not as "sons of soil". He said that "sons of soil" attitude led to regional tensions and problems for the people...

The President was inaugurating the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Punjab Association

on May 12th.

In this respect, the President commended the example of Punjab in the state who had transformed themselves into "Punjabi Tamils" and absorbed the language and culture of the state. He also paid rich tribute to the Tamils who practised the concept of universal brotherhood. He praised the Tamils for their simplicity and piety.

There will never be a generation of great man until there has been a generation of free women, of free mothers.

—Robert G. Ingersoll.

No one can be a great thinker, who does not recognise that as a thinker it is his first duty to follow his intellect to whatever conclusions it may lead.

—John Stuart Hill.

Solitude, though it may be silent as light, is like light, the mightiest of agencies for solitude is essential to man. All men come into this world alone; all leave it alone.

—Thomas De Quincey.

Thiru Zail Singh said the unique feature of the country's culture was the unity in diversity which made the people, whatever their language or religion, feel that the entire nation belonged to them.

He said we know we are masters of our destiny and we are wide awake. We will not allow anybody to divide the country.

He said in the wake of partition, hundreds of families in Punjab had left as refugees to different parts of the country where they started life afresh and prospered through hard work which was a matter of pride and honour.

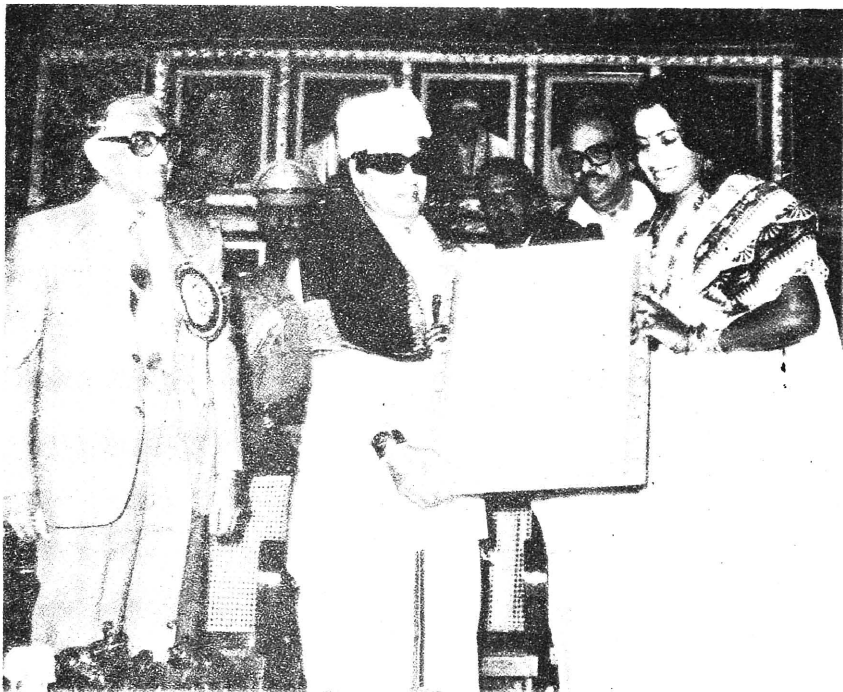
The President also inaugurated a new vocational block at the Adarsh Vidyalaya, a school run by the Punjab Association and gave away Manav Ratna awards to mark the Jubilee celebrations.

Presiding, His Excellency, the Governor Thiru S.L. Khurana appreciated the good work done by the Punjab Association. He said it had identified itself with the hopes and aspirations of the people of Tamil Nadu while maintaining social and cultural mooring. He said that the Association was permitted to open a women's college in Anna Nagar, one in recognition of its achievements during the past 50 years.

Dr. V. R. Nedunchezian, Hon'ble Finance Minister thanked the Association for extending its activities to diverse field like education, social welfare and health. He said that the Adarsh chain of schools was maintaining a high standard of education.

General secretary of the Association, Thiru P.N. Dhawan traced the growth of the association through these years:

Nirmal Bhasu, Principal Adarsh Vidyalaya, proposed a vote of thanks.



KALAI MAMANI AWARDS PRESENTED

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. presented the Kalaimamni Awards to outstanding artistes in recognition of their services to music, dance, drama, films and folk arts on April 27th. The Chief Minister also presented shawls to the artistes.

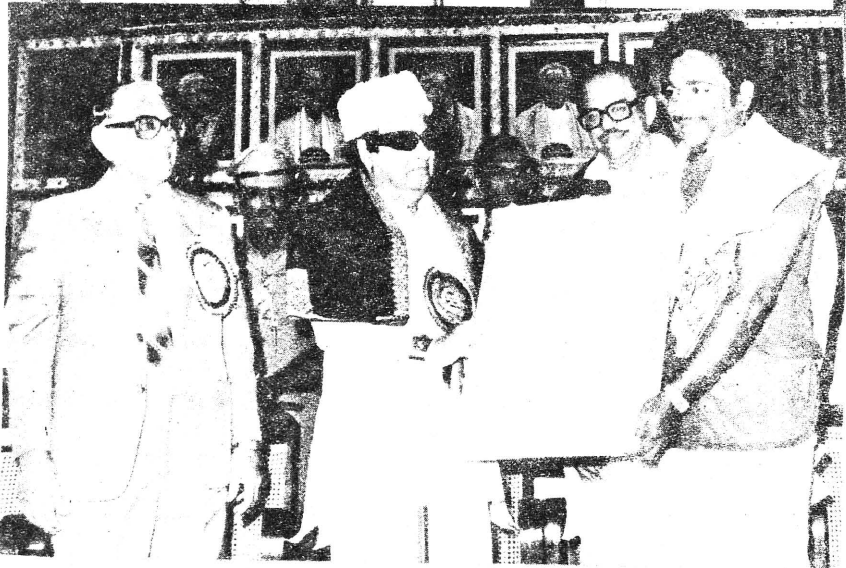
His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru S.L. Khurana presiding over the function suggested that the State Eyal Isai Nataka Manram take up the promotion of folk arts of Tamil Nadu that would promote unity. The Governor recalled that at the recent Kumbh Mela, the performance of the Tamil Nadu group sent over by the Southern

Thanjavur, was greatly appreciated. The Tamil Nadu Isai Eyal Nataka Manram would encourage forming of groups of folk artistes that can make known to the rest of India, the rich cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu. The Governor presented Gold pendants to the awardees.

The portraits of eminent artistes who are no more alive, were unveiled on the occasion. The eminent artistes were: Rukmani Devi (Bharatha Natyam) M.V. Venugopal pillai (Tamil scholar), M.K.Radha (Drama artiste), A.L. Srinivasan (Film producer), Thiruvengadu Subramaniam Pillai (Nadaswaram artiste), T.N. Suki Subramaniam (Playwright), Vadi-

velu Naiker (Film lyricist), M.R. Krishnamoorthi (Drama actor), Vairam Arunachala Chettiar (Drama producer), and T.K. Sundara Rao.

The ten artistes who received the Kalaimamni awards for 1985-86 were: Prof. A.S. Gana sambandan (Tamil literature), Thiru K.Mahadevan (music), Thiru C.K. Shyam Sunder (Ganjira) Thiru T. Subramania Desigar (Devotional music), Tirumathi N.S. Jeyalakshmi (Bharathanatyam teacher), Thiru Rajesh (film artiste), Selvi S. Ambiga (Film artiste), Thiru K.J. Yesudoss (film playback singer), Thiru K. Narayanan (Karagam-Kavadi).



The Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr. V. R. Nedunchezian said that 672 persons have so far received the Kalaimamani award, 133 persons have received cash awards and 1,957 indigent artistes are receiving a monthly pension of Rs.150.

Fourteen artistes who were conferred with the Kalaimamani title in the yesteryears were given cash awards by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Dr. V. R. Nedunchezian. Speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister said the the establishment

of Tamil University would propagate Tamil, promote fine arts and enrich the cultural heritage of the Tamils. The buildings of the University on the 4000-acre plot at Thanjavur are being designed as to present the formation of words 'Tamil Nadu' and will become a landmark for those overflying the area.

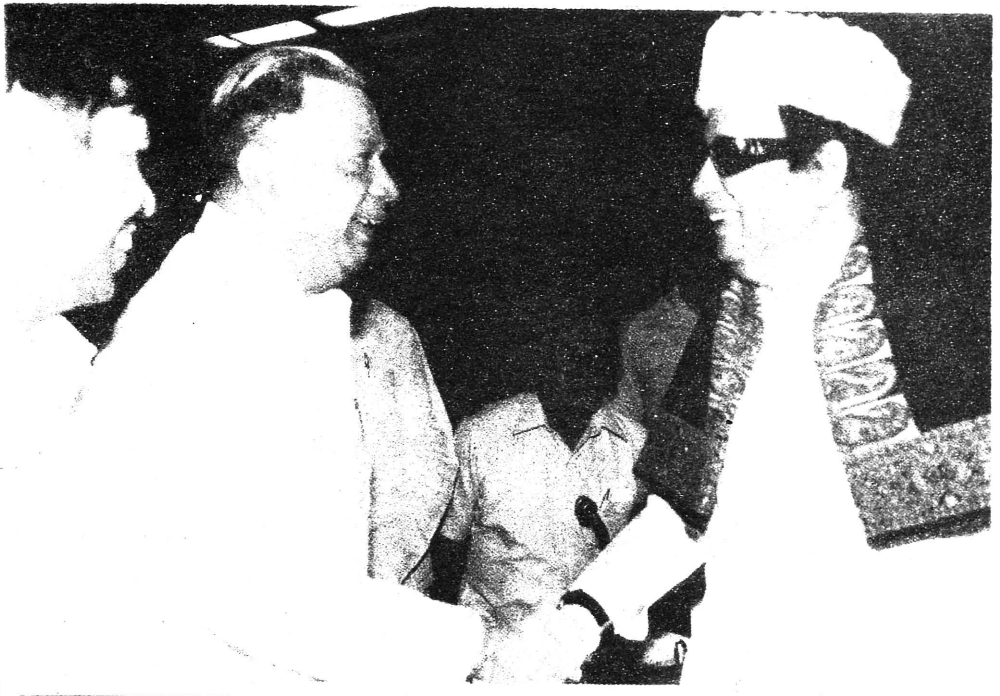
The Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram Thiru Vaalee welcomed the gathering. He appealed to the Government for a site for the

Manram to house a permanent office.

On behalf of the awardees, Prof. A.S. Gnanasambandam, Thiru K. Mahadevan, Thiru Rajesh & Selvi S. Ambiga thanked the gathering.

The Secretary of the Manram Thiru V.S. Raghavan proposed a vote of thanks.

The Best Arts Academy shield was received by Pollachi Tamil Isai Sangam and the K.K. Shah rolling shield for the best drama troupe went to United Amateur Artistes, Madras.



Tamil Nadu takes up the cause of Sri Lanka Tamils

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran on 7th April cautioned against clubbing Punjab terrorism and Sri Lankan Tamil militancy in the same category.

The Chief Minister utilised the National Integration Council forum for explaining the nature and genesis of the trouble on the island. In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Youth fought against the armed forces in the absence of protection of the law or justice. When the entire state machinery was against them and they were driven to the extreme position. The case was different in

Punjab, which had an elected government and where a few misguided elements indulged in terrorist activities against their State and its people.

There is a common link with an international background behind all these problems and policy to deal with this situation had to take into account both the national and international context, he said, urging the Prime Minister, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi to take up with the Sri Lankan Government the question of indiscriminate violence by the island's armed forces against Tamils. This was necessary to create a con-

genial climate in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister saw a joint move by Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and others to come together to contain the so-called hegemony of India. This had created problems in all border States.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister referred to the help secured by Sri Lanka from Pakistan for training its armed forces as also to the employment of Pakistani military personnel in its operations against the Tamil minority. He cited a Pakistani pilot being killed in



a training flight and Lanka's purchase of arms and ammunition from Pakistan, South Africa and Israel.

The Chief Minister said: "On one hand, the Government of Sri Lanka shows an olive branch to India and, on the other armed to the teeth by hostile countries it indulges in genocide against the Tamils. As a result there is a large,

continuing influx of refugees from the island to Tamil Nadu. Time and again, India has urged the Government of Sri Lanka to stop this State-aided terrorism. Militants who are at the receiving end in Tamil areas have repeatedly requested the Sri Lankan Government to confine the army to the barracks. If its real intention is only to maintain peace in Tamil areas,

the Government could very well have agreed to this suggestion, for it is the army that causes provocation in Tamil Areas. But the armed forces go on indulging in attacks against the innocent civilians under cover of curbing the so-called terrorism while the ill-equipped youth fight only in self-defence and for their survival."

THE WORLD OF PRESS CONFERENCES

MADRAS REFINERIES LTD. RS. 310 CRORE EXPANSION PROJECT.

The Madras Refineries Ltd. (MRL) has sent a Rs. 310 crore expansion and modernisation project to the Centre for its consideration according to its Chairman and Managing Director, Thiru V. R. Deenadayalu. The proposals involve new benzene and propylene plants, modernisation and replacement of equipment, and introduction of micro-processor-based computerised instrumentation, he told newsmen on April 4th.

The MRL is also considering issuing debentures and starting a polytechnic for the workers.

Stating that internal funds generation would account for Rs. 53 crores in the total Rs. 310 crores to be invested over a four year period during the Seventh Plan, Thiru Deenadayalu said the MRL had set a record five areas in 1985-86. While the throughput

increased from 3.4 million to 5.3 million tonnes, the fuel consumption was the lowest, at 7.1 per cent.

The sales turnover was Rs. 1,270 crores and the profit of Rs. 26.04 crores. The capacity utilisation at 111.7 per cent, was a remarkable improvement and the FCC unit commissioned last year showed a production of 5.39 lakh tonnes against capacity of 6.2 lakh tonnes. However, the production of white wax was not up to expectation and the figure was only 7,000 tonnes against a capacity of 6.2 lakh tonnes.

Despite a 15 day shutdown for overhauling, the MRL had a month's stock of LPG, motor spirit, superior kerosene and high speed diesel oil. The total production of LPG was 1.10 lakh tonnes. The Rs. 170 crore expansion Refinery, which completed its first full financial year achieved a crude throughput of 2.46 million tonnes against the target of 1.96 million tonnes.

The FCC plant with its secondary processing facilities and computerised instrumentation had played a key role in securing higher yields of middle distillates. In the third year of operation of the expected to be about 5,6 million tonnes.

The MRL was taking up several energy conservation measures such as oil skimmers, economisers and conversion of roof-tanks to floating roof tanks which, when completed, would lead to further reduction in fuel consumption.

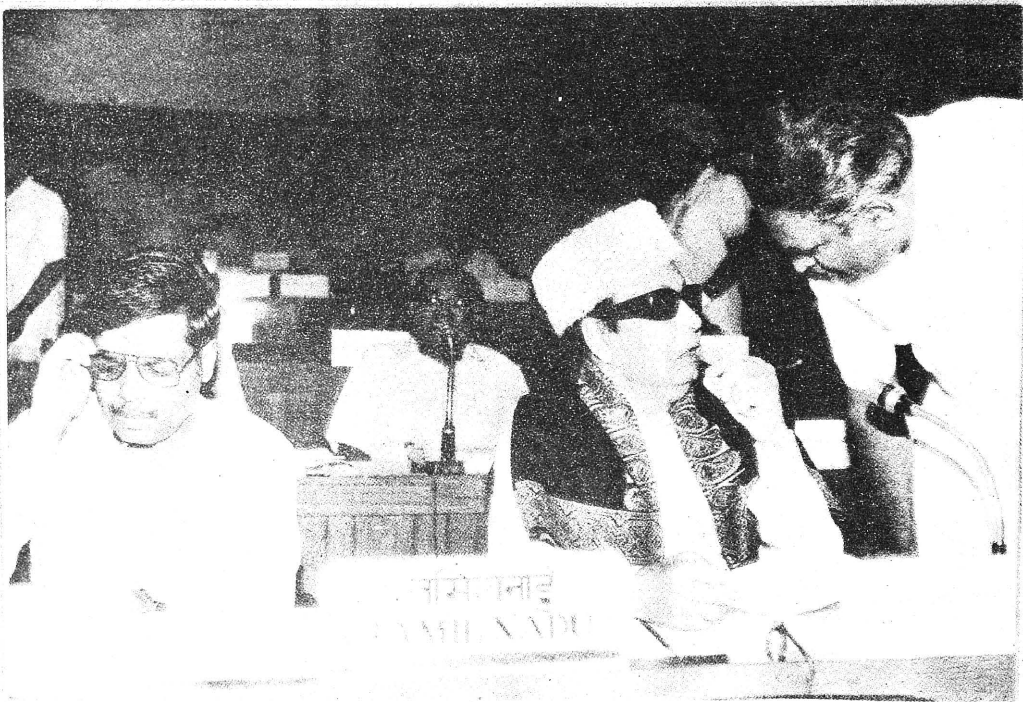
NLC SET RECORDS

The Neyveli Lignite Corporation has set records in mining and power generation during 1985-86.

Lignite Production at 7.1 million tonnes, corresponding to a capacity utilisation of 109.7 percent, was the highest for any year, according to Thiru M.P. Narayanan, Chairman, NLC.

Gross power generation at 3,938 million units, corresponding to a load factor of 75 percent, was the second best in the thermal station's history. But the 425 million units that was generated in March was the highest ever for a month, the previous record being 418 million units set in March 1982.

The output at the Briquetting a Carbonisation plant at 200,000 tonnes was also the highest ever, while urea production at 128,000 tonnes was the best in the past five years.



Chief Minister opposes move to have Hindi in Model Schools

The Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. on April 29th opposed any move to have Hindi as the medium of instructions in the "Navodaya Vidyalayas (model schools) proposed to be set up under the new education policy (NEP) in non-Hindi speaking States especially Tamil Nadu.

Addressing the National Development Council meeting at New Delhi, he said Tamil Nadu with the two language formula does not provide for the teaching of Hindi, let alone having it as a medium. While his State was no

opposed to those having any medium other than the regional language.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, said it would be desirable to have only the regional language as the medium of instruction with English medium if necessary for the benefit of linguistic minorities and immigrants from other States.

The Chief Minister said, by and large, the major components of the draft national policy, except a few, were in tune, with our thinking and "we broadly welcome them". These,

include clearly childhood education, improving of facilities for schools and standards of education, dovetailing of vocational training with formal education, impetus for adult and continuing education and delinking jobs afrom degrees.

The Chief Minister said in the context of the demand for restoration of education to State list from Concurrent list, the proposal to establish India Education Service as an all-India Service was contrary to States rights and therefore could not be supported by the State.

COLLECTORS CONFERENCE

HELD AT MADRAS

The Tamil Nadu Government has sanctioned Rs. 9.57 crores for deeping wells, sinking additional borewells, repairing overhead tanks and hiring lorries for drinking water supply in the drought-hit areas of the State.

This was announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G. Ramachandran at the two-day conference of District Collectors which concluded on May 9th after reviewing the drought situation and the measures taken to meet the acute water shortage in several districts.

The Chief Secretary, Thiru. T.V. Antony, who briefed newsmen at the end of the conference said the most affected areas were the whole of Dharmapuri district and parts of Coimbatore Periyar, Salem, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Kamarajar, Pasumpon and Ramanathapuram districts. The State Government had already reported to the Government of India about the measures taken to combat the water shortage in these areas.

Thiru Antony said there were 44,696 deep borewells and pumpsets and about 34,000 shallow filterpoints in the State. The Chief Minister instructed the Collectors that all these pumpsets should be inspected and brought to order. If any defect was reported the repairs should be completed on a priority basis within a week.

There was a reference to inadequacy of fitters to take up the work. Under the existing orders, the blocks were empowered to have one fitter for every 100 pumps. Instructions were issued at the conference that if there were over 100 pumps in any block, the authorities could employ an additional fitter on a temporary basis for every 30 pumps over and above 100.

The Collectors reported that 5,083 wells needed to be deepened in the water-starved areas. A sum of Rs. 1.82 crore was sanctioned for deepening these wells. On a request for putting up additional hand-pumps, the Chief Minister approved the sinking of 2,500 additional deep borewells with handpumps, at a total cost of Rs. 2.5 crores. These would be distributed among various districts depending upon their requirements.

Requests were received from some municipalities and town panchayats for supply of water-lorries. A sum of Rs. 25 lakhs was sanctioned for hiring immediately the requisite number of lorries for transporting drinking water.

Thiru Antony said there were some complaints about the lack of coordination among various agencies involved in repairing pumpsets. The Chief Minister directed the setting up of a coordinating committee in each district, with the Collector as

Chairman, to review the problem once a week and sort out the difficulties.

Another point emphasised at the conference was the need to repair the overhead tanks put up for supply of drinking water. Some of the Ministers, who had toured the affected areas, pointed out that many of the steel overhead tanks, put up several years ago, had got rusted, and the taps were not functioning. A sum of Rs. 5 crores was sanctioned by the Chief Minister for immediate repairs and proper maintenance of these tanks.

The Chief Minister and other Ministers would shortly tour the districts to ensure the implementation of the drought relief works according to schedule. The Chief Minister announced that he would be calling another meeting of Collectors in the second week of June to review the progress of relief works undertaken.

The conference, Thiru Antony said, also reviewed the implementation of the noon meal scheme. The Chief Minister suggested that the quality of rice given should be considerably improved and asked the Collectors to inspect personally atleast 10 noon meal centres a month. A proforma would be issued to all Collectors in the next three days, which would form the basis for inspection of these centres, the Chief Secretary said.

THE RACE AGAINST TIME

In the wake of the crisis conditions that gripped Ethiopia and many other parts of northern Africa, acute difficulties still confront the affected countries as they pick up the threads of national development.

SPORT AID is an international crusade to make the world aware that the children of Africa need help to make their future less fragile. If their basic needs are to be met, and their right to survival protected, global funding support to their countries must be assured for the next 10 years.

The SPORT AID appeal is addressed to sportsmen and women around the world and to all those who can mobilise resources for the African child and for the cause of children everywhere. Its twin objectives are:

To raise public awareness and consciousness of the pressing needs of children in conditions of scarcity, and to focus public concern on the child in Africa today;

To mobilise funds that will support the affected African countries in the massive task of rehabilitation and development.

The immediate physical objective is to persuade athletes and other supporters to literally run in support of the appeal—and to persuade donors to contribute funds in sponsorship of every kilometre run.

The week of SPORT AID will begin at noon on 17 May 1986, when a lone runner will take up a charcoal ember from a campfire in Ethiopia, and set off on the first lap of symbolic

marathon. Carrying his torch of hope, he will run through Europe in a series of 10-kilometre laps that will take the appeal through Athens, Rome, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, east to Prague and Moscow, north to Stockholm and from there via Copenhagen and Brussels to London, and finally to New York.

Just before noon on 25 May, the runner will reach the United

physical strength and stamina to the cause of children in need. The symbolic races in the participating cities and towns will raise both funds and public consciousness in all the countries responding to the SPORT AID appeal.

RACE TIME

Every kilometre run will have a price — and the challenge to the organisers in each country



Nations headquarters in New York — there to deliver the symbolic ember to the world body on the eve of the first-ever UN General Assembly special session on Africa. With this ember, the runner will light the SPORT AID flame. At this moment, a rocket will be fired to start the most incredible race ever conceived to ignite the world's conscience—a multitude of 10-kilometre runs in cities all over the world, combining as a worldwide RACE AGAINST TIME—for the African child.

The RACE AGAINST TIME provide an unparalleled opportunity for athletes to pledge their

is to pledge as much as possible as the per kilometre of each race against time.

If many runners join the race in each location, the sponsorships will have to match the athletes' efforts. Large industries, corporations and foundations may sponsor many runners; smaller contributors — such as schools — could club together to jointly support a runner. Among non-athletes wishing to support the appeal, a group of runners could bread up the 40-kilometre distance into manageable parts in order to cover the total stretch in a goodwill relay.



SPORTS AID AND INDIA

India is already the third largest contributor of food aid to Ethiopia; second only to the United States and the combined contribution of the eleven countries of the European Economic Community.

The Prime Minister, in a discussion with UNICEF's Executive Director James P. Grent affirmed that development in Africa over the next decade deserves to be a priority with the international community and that the Government of India has lent its support to a number of humanitarian questions in countries of Africa.

He expressed interest in the SPORT AID appeal and the proposed RACE AGAINST TIME.

For the media, SPORT AID and THE RACE AGAINST TIME offer a renewed opportunity for a promotional partnership with both honors and runners in which the spotlight is firmly trained on the objective of uniting the world in a common endeavour.

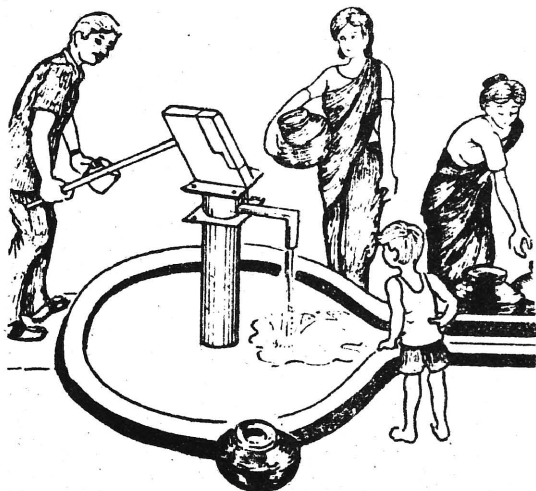
Part of the funds raised in India could also be devoted to the welfare and development of Indian children. The sponsorship pattern could take into account the doubling pattern could take Indian children. The sponsorship pattern could take into account the doubling of fund-raising potential in having additional runners for the complementary cause, in having higher targets for the sums to be raised — and then being able to contribute substantially to the cause of the child in Africa and in India.

Support from India could make available to Africa the India Mark-II Handpump, which has been developed with Indian know-how and is already recognised by many countries as the only pump specifically designed for community use in villages and low-income urban settlements. In 1985, UNICEF procured and supplied

15,000 of these pumps to Africa as part of its programme of cooperation there.

Access to safe water is a major need in the areas that will benefit from SPORT AID, and the Mark-II handpump — at a cost of about Dollar 150.00 per

pump — would help provide such Money raised in India for SPORT AID could be invested in this form of assistance based on Indian technology.





Arignar Anna Zoological Park

The Arignar Anna Zoological Park which was inaugurated on 24.7.'85 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, is attracting large number of visitors. The increase of visitors day by day, bear testimony to its tourist potential. Till February 1986, 4,79,321 visitors have visited the Zoological Park. Out of this, adults are 3,53,956 and children 1,25,365. Total entrance fee collected is Rs.4,16,638.50 Apart from this, Rs. 6,108/- has been collected for still cameras. On Kanum Pongal day, the visitors numbered 31,564 which is noteworthy.

This Zoological Park is also functioning as an educational centre. Boys and girls from various schools and colleges have come for educational tours in large numbers, and have enriched their knowledge on Wild-life. Upto February '86, groups of students from 751 educational institutions have visited the Zoological Park. With the aim of improving the Wild life knowledge of visitors, details about important animals are displayed in Tamil and English near its enclosure, under the heading 'Animal of the Week'

Within a very short period, Arignar Anna Zoological Park has created a record in captive breeding of animals. Not only large animals, but also small mammals, are breeding well

here. This Zoological Park has been selected as a centre for captive breeding of Black bucks, by the Government of India Committee of Zoo Directors. The highly endangered, Thamin (Manipur) Deer, has given birth to two fawns. The Malabar Giant Squirrel young one born on 24.11.'85 has grown well, has come out of its nest and playing with its mother, which is attracting the attention of visitors. The breeding of Malabar Squirrel is a special feature, as only two previous instances of its captive breeding has been reported from Calcutta Zoo and Colombo. Sambar, Chital, Hog deer, Macaw parrots, Sarus crane, Common langur, Malabar langur have also bred here. The breeding of the rare Malabar langur, is another special feature. A pair of Malabar langur, were brought to this Zoological Park on 4.8.83, from Ooty. They were not breeding until then. These were housed in an enclosure, adjoining the breeding group of common langurs. This management strategy was helpful in the creation of breeding instinct in the pair. Last year, the female gave birth to a still born young one. Now, it has given birth to a male on 17.2.'86 This species is found in this Zoological Park only. Further details about this species are being collected. Birds like Night heron, grey heron, Cattle Egret have built individual

nests, in the walk through aviary in which Vedanthangal birds have been kept. Their nesting, egg laying, incubating and rearing the hatchlings, which was made possible by the near natural conditions, is also proving a great attraction to visitors.

A modern Veterinary Research Centre has also been established here. All facilities for treatment of animals is available here. One Veterinary Doctor and two Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are working here. They are also undertaking Research topics on Wild animals. Adjoining the Veterinary Research Centre, Quarantine and close Observation cages have been built, which is not found in other Zoological Parks in India. The animals under treatment will be kept here and attended to. Further, it also serves as good breeding enclosures, as interference from visitors is not there.

All major animal enclosures contain two portions. The display yard is open to visitors, and the krall portion which is closed to visitors is used for captive breeding purposes. Thus the enclosures here, are planned to achieve the various objectives of modern Zoological Parks.

At present, 69 Bird species (numbering 340) 46 Mammals

(numbering 292) and 14 species of Reptiles (numbering 64) are on display.

For facilitating the easy movement of visitors to see and enjoy the above animals, battery operated vehicles were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Information, Religious Endowments and Forests.

Three African Savannah Baboons in a large dry moated island specially designed for this, and three Sloth Bear in a large dry moated, rock faced, enclosure with simulating natural conditions located at

the foot of the Vandavur hill, were released by the Hon'ble Minister for Forests. Further, action to procure other animals from various Zoological Parks, on exchange basis is also being taken.

A fodder bank is being maintained here, which is not found in other Zoological Parks. The daily requirement of about 2 tonnes of green grass and leaf fodder, are cut daily and supplied to the herbivores. Apart from this the cost of diet articles procured from outside is about Rs. 1920/- per day.

The first Zoo in India was started at Madras in 1855, near Moore market. Keeping in view this historical importance, it has been planned to dismantle and re-erect in this Zoological Park in the same manner, the Bear enclosure built in the old Madras Zoo in 1887.

To provide a vast, pollution free environment to the animals, this Zoological Park is being planned and executed over an area of 510 ha. (1275 acres). Out of the Rs. 7 crore outlay for works, so far Rs. 4,76,70,435 has been spent.



BATTERY OPERATED VEHICLE

With the objective of providing a healthy environment without noise and pollution, Battery Operated Vehicles have been introduced in Arignar Anna Zoological Park. Five stages have been indentified and visitors, who travel in these vehicles, can get down at each of these stages, see the enclosures nearby and board the vehicles, coming next. At present, it is

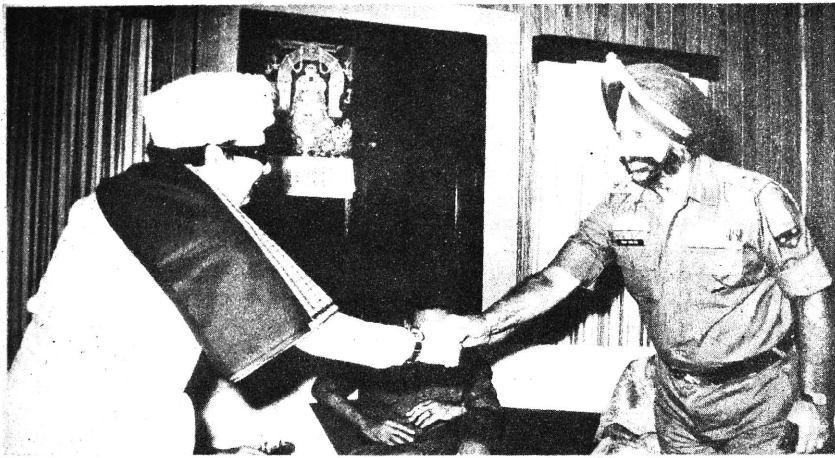
proposed to run the vehicle along the circular road which is about 2.5 kms. in length. Later, it will be extended to the loop roads also.

The salient features of the Battery Operated Vehicles are given below:

1. Duration of travel for one continuous round—About 45 minutes.

2. Capacity of each vehicle: 26 seats. The tow truck draws two trailers, with the passengers. The vehicle is powered by a 30V battery. It travels at an average speed of about 5 kms.

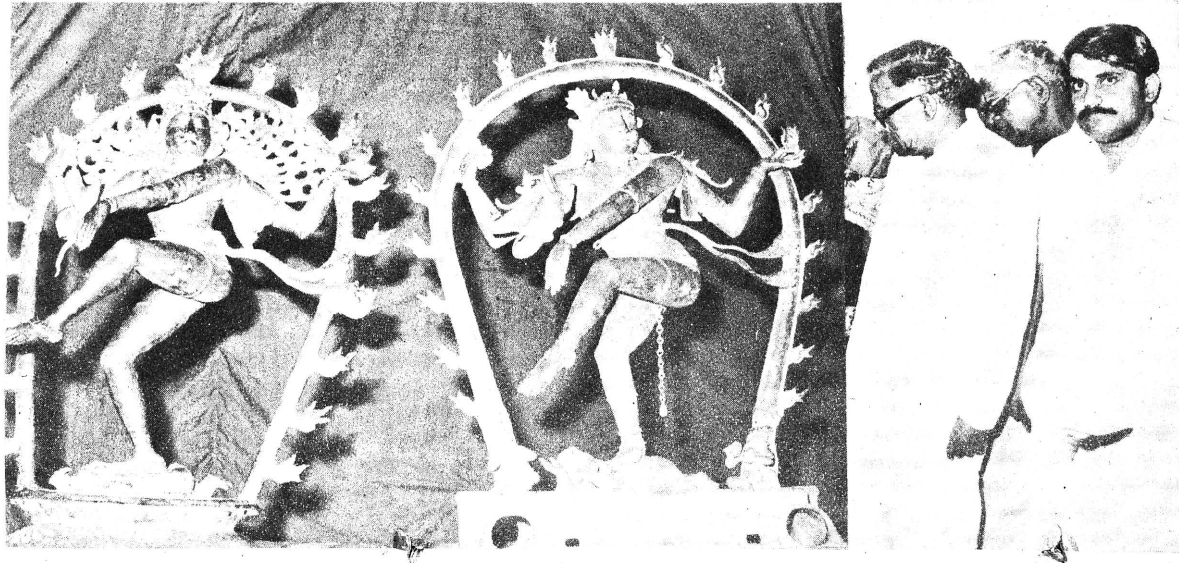
3. Cost of one vehicle: Rs. 1,54,000 (with two batteries, charger etc.)



The Chief of Southern Army Command, Lieutenant General Ranjit Singh Dayal called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. on 18.5.86 at Ramavaram Gardens.

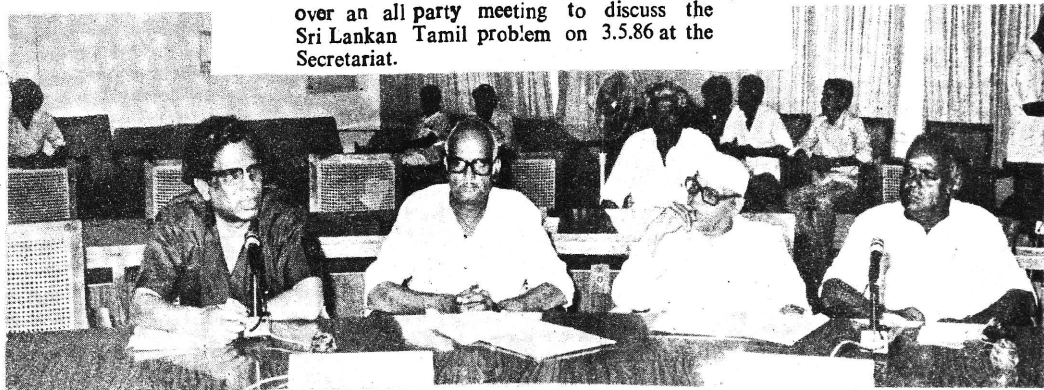
The statues that were smuggled out to USA were being inspected on their return to TamilNadu after 10 years, by the Hon'ble Minister for Information, Thiru. Rm. Veerappan on 16.5.86.

NEWS IN PICTURES





Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. presided over an all party meeting to discuss the Sri Lankan Tamil problem on 3.5.86 at the Secretariat.





**In TamilNadu, you see the
whole of India**



COURTESY : FODOR'S GUIDE TO INDIA

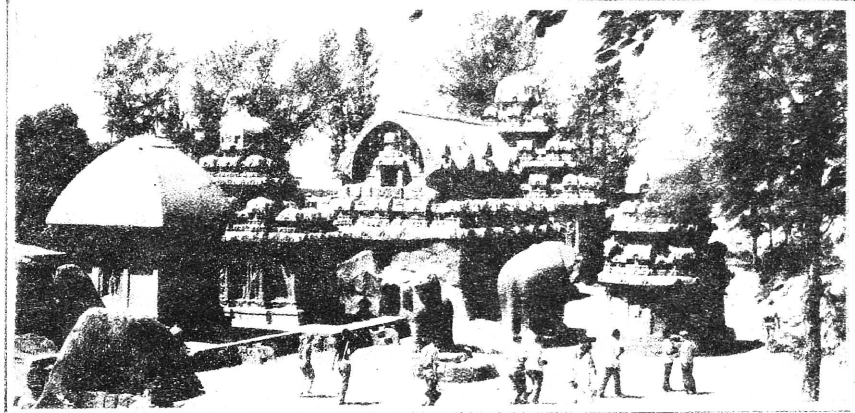
South of Fort. St. George along the Bay of Bengal, Madras puts on its best face. South Beach Road runs past Madras University, the Senate House, and Chepauk Palace (the Nawabs of the Carnatic once held court in this Moorish-style structure which is now a government building). This is the Marina, the shore drive which every Madras citizen proudly tells you is the second biggest beach in the world. The Marina itself, an elegant promenade with flowerbeds along its lanes, is easily the

equal of its close kin on the coasts of the French or the Italian Riviera and its glistening sand beach stretches two or three hundred yards wide with never a sign of the Riviera-crowds. Unfortunately, there is a good reason for this emptiness; the waters off the Marina are infested with sharks and swimming is not at all recommended. As a consolation, there is a swimming pool on the Marina, right next to the rather poor Madras Aquarium where predatory fish are separated from humanity by a glass wall.

Near the Aquarium is another memento of East India Company days, an old building known as the "Ice House". This was used to store ice brought all the way from New England by Yankee seafarers for the benefit of sun-backed businessmen in the pre-airconditioned age.

The shore road then continues south to the San Thome section and San Thome Cathedral. You would be well-advised, though, to stray inland into the old Indian section of Mylapore.





This was the home of Tiruvalluvar, the Tamil poet who lived in the 2nd century AD and wrote the Kural, the greatest of all works in the Tamil language. It is still recited reverently today in South India.

Mylapore also offers quite a contrast to the European religious architecture found in the San Thome Cathedral and St. Mary's Church. It is the site of the celebrated Kapaliswarar Temple, dedicated to Lord Kapaliswarar, that is Siva. The sawn-off pyramid of its gopuram or entrance shatters the horizon far more violently than the slim spire of San Thome. This entrance is probably also your introduction to the temple architecture of South India. Every year, a festival is held at this temple to commemorate the miracle wrought by Thirugnanasambandar (sorry, South India is full of names like these), a Shaivite saint who resurrected a dead girl. Another ancient temple in Madras is Parthasarathi, a shrine dedicated to Vishnu in the Triplicane section of the city. This is supposed to have been built by one of the early Pallava kings in the 8th century and offers some interesting carvings.

If you have time to wander through Madras, a visit to the National Art Gallery on Pantheon Road is worthwhile.

It houses a not very spectacular collection in a fine old Victorian Gothic building. Next door is the Government Museum containing some superb bronzes, and sculpture and architecture produced by the Dravidian dynasties that once rule South India. On Mount Road in the heart of the city stands Rajaji Hall where the governors of Madras formerly resided and still do in the form of an impressive collection of their portraits.

The immediate outskirts of Madras offer the Church of Our Lady of Expectation on St. Thomas Mount, where the saint is said to have been martyred. The church was built in the 16th century on the foundations of an earlier church which St. Thomas himself is supposed to have erected.

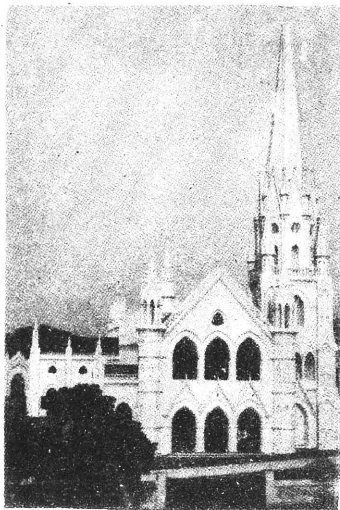
You might also want to take a short jaunt south beyond the Marina to the headquarters of the Theosophical Society, just over Elphinstone Bridge on the Adyar River. The grounds of the society contain one of India's three biggest banyan trees (there's room for 500 people under its branches). On the other side of Elliot Beach Road in Adyar is the Kalakshetra school where classical Indian dancing is fevently taught. Other arts as well are

encouraged under its roof and this is a place to see the ancient designs of Indian textiles reproduced anew.

The Madras Snake Park and Conservation Centre, situated in the beautiful Guindy Deer Park in Madras, founded by Romulus Whitaker, an American who is now settled in India. Its main purpose is to give the public a chance to see, photograph and touch the common snake of India. Most of them (numbering over 500) are housed in an open "pit", where they can be seen moving and feeding in natural surroundings. Other reptiles on show include crocodiles, alligators, monitor lizards and chameleons. Almost half a million people visit here every year. The entrance money, apart from being used for the upkeep of the Park, is put into various wildlife projects and surveys that members of the Snake Park take up. The Snake Park has received grants and continual support from the World Wildlife Fund.

Excursions from Madras

As far as the traveler to India is concerned, the borders of Madras stretch forty miles south and fifty seven miles southwest to Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram, for no visit to the capital of South India should fail to include



It is nothing less than a breathtaking display of masterful sculpture carved out of solid rock. Here, man has worked nature itself into sublime art, although Nature is now taking her revenge, for the salt spray of the Bay of Bengal is carving the rock temples once more.

The so-called pagodas of Mahabalipuram are actually known as rathas. Five of them represent chariots although, to a Western eye, they resemble pyramids cut off by flat roofs. Their walls are a picture-book of Hindu mythology.

The most famous of the rathas consist of a group of five chariots dedicated to five Pandava princes and their wife consort, Draupadi. Near these delicate temples, life-sized stone statues of an elephant, a lion and a bull seem to be mounting guard. These temples are not overpowering but small and well-proportioned (some measure no more than 35 by 45 feet).

The rathas, which were once whale-back outcroppings of rock, are only one form of Pallava sculptures in Mahabalipuram. Some of India's most animated Hindu sculpture is to be found in the cave temples hollowed out here. We urge you to visit the Mahishasuramardini Mandapam where you will see the thrilling story in stone of the fight between the goddess Durga, riding a lion in her struggle against evil, and Mahishasura, the buffalo demon. Another bas-relief here shows

the god Vishnu sleeping on the coils of a serpent. Quieter pastoral scenes from the life of Krishna can be seen in the Krishna Mandapam cave temple.

But the piece de resistance at Mahabalipuram is the "Penance of Bhagiratha", the world's largest bas-relief, a masterpiece of composition despite its gigantic size (it measures 80 feet long with an average height of 20 feet). This has been called a fresco in stone and its vitality makes its figures appear to be alive. The most prominent of its myriad characters is a group of elephants, one of them seventeen feet long. It is also popularly known as "Arjuna's Penance".

You probably will leave Mahabalipuram with a poignant memory of its surviving Shore Temple, now protected against the erosion of the sea by man's efforts. Built by King Rajasimha in the 7th century and dedicated to Vishnu, it is a tall, graceful pyramid crowned by an octagonal dome and with a smaller tower of exactly the same conception next to it. Surrounded by a row of bulls carved out of solid rock, the Shore Temple stands with its back to the sea, rising up starkly against blue waters with a white wreath of foam. There were once two or three more temples along the shore, but only one has withstood time and the sea for twelve centuries.

Mahabalipuram also offers a fine beach and several pleasant resort developments.

these two monuments to the glory of the Pallava emperors (in fact, there's not much point in coming to Madras unless you make this excursion). Here, we suggest a triangular trip by car-it can be duplicated by train or bus to take in the two ancient cities. For the man who does not want to overlook anything, a run to Vellore from Kanchipuram on the western tip of our triangle would certainly be rewarding as well.

Luckily, there is now a good road between Madras and Mahabalipuram, exactly thirty seven miles to the south of the Bay of Bengal. This was once the main harbour and naval base of the great Pallava empire whose capital was in Kanchipuram. Though the reign of the Pallavas waned some 1,200 years ago, it is still very present at Mahabalipuram, the "city of the seven pagodas".

Let us have faith that right is might;
and in that faith let us to the end, dare to do
our duty as we understood it.

—Abraham Lincoln.

Resembling the dragons of ancient Chinese folk tales, monitor lizards are the largest and one of the oldest lizards existing. The largest of the species is the Komoda dragon of Indonesia which is amazingly huge. It is 3 metres long and what's more, can devour a small deer or a wild pig easily.

MINIATURE DRAGONS

by Nita Edwin

Monitors generally inhabit the warmer parts of the world living in crevices and cracks in the ground. Monitor lizards are agile climbers, swift runners and good swimmers. They vary in size from 20 cm to 3 m and their weight could be anything from 20 gm to 135 kg. The body is massive with four powerful legs bearing five clawed toes. It is covered with numerous small non-overlapping scales. The head is tapered, the neck is long and slender, and the eyes are prominent. The tail is muscular and long. The teeth are like that of a saw and are curved rearward. Like the snake it can widen its mouth capacity to swallow a prey whole and has a long forked tongue.

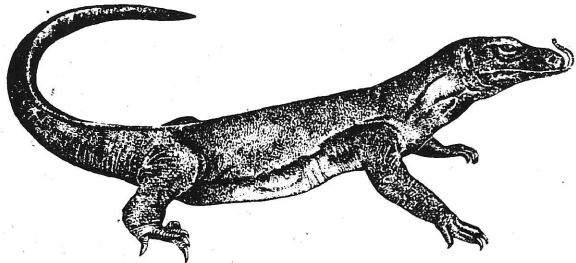
The Common Indian Monitor known as 'gho' in Hindi, figures in history as a battle aid. Legends about soldiers using it to scale fort walls are commonly heard of. After the monitor lizard climbs a wall, it disappears into a hole and wedges itself tightly in it by inflating its body making it extremely difficult to be pulled out. This could be the reason for it being used by soldiers.

There are four species of monitor lizards occurring in the Indian subcontinent, the Yellow, the Desert, the Common and the Water Monitor. The Common Indian Monitor is olive, grey or brown in colour with sparse black dots. The young ones are brightly coloured, dark olive with white

and dark spots across their backs. As they grow older the colour becomes lighter. This has led to the belief that there are two kinds of gho-the Chandan gho and the Patala gho, which is not true.

Fierce Fighters

These little 'dragons' can be quite fierce if brought to bay. They don't spit fire like the fiery dragons of myth but gear themselves for a fight by inflating their bodies and hissing profusely. The strong rudder-like tail then mercilessly lashes well-aimed blows at the predator. Monitors also use their teeth and dagger-like claws for defence.



Male monitors fight with one another mainly to gain dominance and not to kill. During the fight the use of teeth, claws and tail is restricted. Each male stands on its hind legs facing the other and then attempts to push down the opponent.

Indian Monitors have a natural fondness for eggs. It makes them daring enough

to venture into a crocodile's nest to steal the eggs, even when the mother is around. Besides the eggs of crocodiles and birds, they also feed on squirrels, small turtles, fish, birds, insects and carrion.

Desert Monitors are another species of monitor lizards found in the arid regions of Pakistan and Northwest India. They are pale sand grey in colour with dark cross bands across their bodies. They have a good sense of direction and memory. Even if they are taken 500 m away from their burrow they can find their way back without difficulty.

Water Monitors are the largest among Indian Monitors and are found in Orissa, Bengal, Eastern India and Bangladesh. They have nostrils near the tip of their snouts which allow them to breathe when the rest of the body is submerged. They live mainly on frogs. A specimen caught was found to have eaten nearly 40 frogs in a day.

Monitors are hunted mercilessly by man and this has made them an endangered species. It is a delicacy to certain tribal communities and its skin is also used as leather.

People have a false dread of monitor lizards. This may be because of their snake-like appearance and long forked tongue. Though they may bite they are not poisonous.

THEY SAID IT

The average man never really thinks from end to end of his life. The mental activity of such people is only a mouthing of clichés. What they mistake for thought is simply reception of what they have heard. My guess is that well over eighty percent of the human race goes through life without having a single original thought. Whenever a new one appears the average man shows signs of dismay or resentment.

—H. L. Mencken.

The only freedom deserving the name, is that of pursuing our own good in our own so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it. Each is the proper guardian of his own health, whether bodily or mental or spiritual. Mankind are greater gainers by suffering each other to live as seems good to themselves, than by compelling each to live as seems good to the rest.

—John Stuart Mill.

The real price of everything, what everything really costs to the man who wants to acquire it, is the toil and trouble of acquiring it.

—Adam Smith

I want nothing to do with any religion conceded with keeping the masses satisfied to live in hunger, filth and ignorance. I want nothing to do with order, religion, or otherwise, which does not teach people that they are capable of becoming happier or more civilized, on this earth, capable of becoming more man, master of his fate and captain of his soul. To attain this I would put priests to work, also, and turn the temples into schools.

—Jawahar Lal Nehru.

One has to pay dearly for immortality; one has to die several times while one is still alive.

—Friedrich Nietzsche.

It is preoccupation with possession, more than anything else, that prevents men from living freely and nobly.

—Bertrand Russell.

What is the meaning of human life or for that matter, of the life of any creature? To know an answer to this question means to be religious. You ask, Does it make any sense, then, to pose this question? I answer: The man who regards his own life and that of his fellow creatures as meaningless is not merely unhappy but hardly fit for life.

—Albert Einstein.

I have noticed that nothing I never said ever did me any harm.

—Calvin Coolidge.

Every reform was once a private opinion, and when it shall be a private opinion again it will solve the problem of the age.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

One great society alone on earth:
The noble living and the noble dead.

—William Wordsworth.

Anybody can be angry - that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, and for the right purpose, and in the right way - that is not within everybody's power and is not easy.

—Aristotle.

Who holds the souls of children, holds the nation.

—Anonymous.

Force and not opinion is the Queen of the world; but it is opinion that uses force.

—Blaise Pascal.

The strongest man in the world is he who stands alone.

—Henrik Ibsen.

The course of human history is determined, not by what happens in the skies, but by what takes place in the hearts of men.

—Sir Arthur Keith.

Quotations in this issue
sent by Selvi Chitra.M.

The New Team

Following is the list of Union Council of Ministers after reshuffle:
Rajiv Gandhi — Prime Minister who also holds portfolio of Defence and Scientific Departments.

P.V. Narasimha Rao — Human Resource Development.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh — Finance

Buta Singh — Home

P. Shiv Shankar — External Affairs in addition to Commerce

Dr. G.S. Dhillon — Agriculture, rural development.

Mufti Mohd Syed — Tourism

H.K.L. Bhagat — Food and Civil Supplies in addition to Parliamentary Affairs.

Abdul Ghani Khan Choudhury — Programme implementation

Abdul Ghafoor — Urban Development

Asoke Kumar Sen — Law and Justice.

B. Shankaranand — Water Resources

Bansi Lal — Transport

K.C. Pant — Steel and Mines.

Mohsina Kidwai — Health and Family Welfare.

Narayan Datt Tiwari — Industry.

Vasant Sathe — Energy.

(Total 17 ministers of Cabinet rank including Prime Minister).

Ministers of State:

Khurshid Alam Khan — Textiles

Chandrashekhar Singh — Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Rajendra Kumari Bajpai — Welfare

Ram Niwas Mirdha — Communications

P.N. Sangma — Labour

V.N. Gadgil — Information and Broadcasting

Ajit Panja — Planning

Arun Nehru — Internal Security

Arun Singh — Defence Research and Development.

Daibir Singh — Urban Development.

Ghulam Nabi Azad — Department of States in Home Ministry

H.R. Bhardwaj — Law and Justice

Jagdish Tytler — Civil Aviation

Janardhan Poojari — Finance

K. Natwar Singh — Fertilisers

K.R. Narayanan — External Affairs

Eduardo Faleiro — External Affairs

Madhavrao Scindia — Railways

Mrs. Margaret Alva — Youth Affairs, Sports and Women's Welfare

M. Arunachalam — Industrial Development

R.K. Jaichandra Singh — Chemicals and Petro-chemicals.

Rajesh Pilot — Surface Transport

Mrs. Ram Dulari Sinha — Science and Technology, Ocean Development, Atomic Energy, Electronics and Space.

Shivraj Patil — Science and Technology, Ocean Development, Atomic Energy, Electronics and Space.

Sitaram Kesari — Parliamentary Affairs.

Sukh Ram — Defence Production and Defence Supplies.
Mrs. Sushila Rohtagi — Power.
Yogendra Makwana — Agriculture and Cooperation
Z.R. Ansari — Environment and Forests
P. Chidambaram — Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Brahma Dutt — Commerce
Ramanand Yadav — Rural Development.
B.K. Gadholi — Expenditure
Mrs. Sheila Dixit — Parliamentary Affairs
Santosh Mohan Dev — Tourism
Mrs. Krishna Sahi — Education and Culture
Prof. K.K. Tewari — Public Enterprises in the Industry Ministry
Miss Saroj Khaparde — Health
(Total 38 Ministers of State)

Deputy Ministers:

Girdhar Gomango — Welfare
S. Krishna Kumar — Family Welfare
Biren Singh Engtl — Personnel
(Total three Deputy Ministers).

EARTH'S CLIMATE THREATENED

Within 100 years, Siberia could be the bread basket of the world, New York city might be at the bottom of the sea and one fourth of all species of wildlife may become extinct.

These catastrophic changes, scientists fear would be the result of the destruction of rain forests which are disappearing at an alarming rate. The U.S. News and World Report states that 100 acres are destroyed every minute. The lust for land and timber has wiped out more than 40 original rain forests during the past 30 years. If exploitation continues at this rate, rain forests will vanish forever within a few decades.

The loss of rain forests poses a danger for people the world over as the forests affect regional climate directly and in-

fluence global weather patterns indirectly. For example, in deforested Central Panama, the average annual rainfall has dropped by 17 inches in the last 50 years. Also the spreading of the Sahara is partly attributed to the dwindling of rain forests, by some scientists. There is a growing concern over the consequences of deforestation on the green house effect—that is the heating of the earth that can occur when fossil fuels and forests are burned, and the solar energy trapped due to increase in carbon dioxide.

Carbon dioxide levels in the air will double within the next 60 years, warming the earth by as much as 3 degrees Celsius. This may cause a partial melting of polar ice caps and a raising of sea levels, a direct threat to one third of mankind who live within 35 miles of coastlines.

AGILE SPRINTER



By Roopal Rawal

With lithe physique, sleek posture and legendary speed, the Cheetah claims the title of the world's fastest land animal. The Cheetah shares the characteristic of being a sprinter, with other cats. But it is quite difficult to say accurately how fast it can run. It is very fast over short distances. So the initial burst of speed is no doubt amazing. But after some time it gives up the chase. The widely accepted speed after various trials is 80 km an hour. But it can attain a speed of 110 km an hour and keep it up for about 360 m.

The exceptional speed makes the Cheetah an adept hunter. Its grace and elegance with which it moves in the wild to capture a fleet-footed prey shows its prowess as a hunter. Most of the big cats lie in wait and set ambushes for their prey. But that's not true of a Cheetah. To capture a prey, it relies on its speed. The Cheetah usually stalks the prey and chooses the animal that has separated from the group. The stalk is followed by a sprint.

The prey is not taken with an unexpected leap but is pursued in an open chase. It can easily seize its prey after a short sprint but if the prey has a good start then the Cheetah might give up. Once the prey is killed, the Cheetah likes to drink the blood and eat the heart and kidneys first. Thereafter the head is taken and only then is the muscle meat preferred. A Cheetah is not likely to return to a kill after the first feed.

The Odd Cat Out

The small head, the narrow deep chest and body, the long, sinewy limbs are the distinctive characteristics that distinguishes the Cheetah from other cats. Its claws are blunt and not as retractile as some of the big cats. These claws serve a specific purpose of giving this speedy animal an additional grip essential for sudden stops and turns. Its teeth are not as sharp as that of a Panther and a Tiger. It has many dog-like characteristics, too. For instance the feet are very much

like that of a dog. It is only when it stalks does it remind one of a cat. Cheetahs are solitary but occasionally hunt in pairs. Groups of upto twelve members may be seen.

The Cheetah is more often, if not always, mistaken for a Panther or Leopard. But the distinct profile of the Cheetah with a steep outline of its forehead and the face marked by 'tear stripes' running from the corner of the eyes down the sides of the nose, differentiates it from a Panther. While the coat of the Cheetah is heavily patterned with solid black spots, that of the Panther is marked with small close-set black rosettes.

At one time the Cheetah was widely dispersed from India across to the North of Africa, down that continent into South Africa. Today it is restricted to Africa. One of the reasons for its decline in Asia is that it preferred to live in open country. As agriculture spread, the Cheetah's natural habitat was threatened as also its main diet-blackbucks and chitals. Ofcourse the trade in coats, rugs, etc. and lust for trophies did account for a sudden fall in its number.

Some say that Cheetah became extinct in Asia due to evolutionary factors. Some others blame human intervention. While a few consider biological factors, responsible. Whatever the reason, the fact remains that like many other fauna and flora species the Cheetah has become a creature of the past. Environmentalists are trying to re-introduce Cheetahs in India before it is too late. So there is still a ray of hope. But whether they will survive, and if they do, will they multiply or breed successfully, remains an enigma.



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"Man of the Woods", that is what Orangutan means in Malay-the language of Malaysia and Indonesia. Orangutans are large apes which have often been mistaken by early European explorers to be wild men.

An English captain while travelling in Borneo in 1712 came across these interesting animals, and wrote that they were upto 6 ft. tall, walked upright like men and had longer arms than men. The natives of Borneo too believe that they were once men but were changed into animals because they had mocked God.

Orangutans are the next closely related animals to man after Chimpanzees and Goril as. They belong to the highest order of mammals-the primates which includes man, apes and monkeys. The Orangs are the second largest primates in the world and inhabit the tropical rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra in Indonesia.

Males reach an average height of 137 cm, and weigh almost 70 kgs. These shaggy animals are reddish brown in colour and are tailless. Their grey faces are either smooth and hairless or covered with short bristles. Some adult males may even be proud possessors of beards and moustaches. Their bodies are thickest, legs short and arms so long that if the Orang stands upright his hands almost touch the ground. The digits on all four legs are hook shaped enabling it to grip trees easily.

Living on trees

The Orang is well adapted to a life in the trees but this arboreal life has its impending dangers. He may land up with broken bones if a branch is unable to support his huge size.

Attentive care

The female Orang is about half the size of its mate and is solitary too. She wanders through the forest with her young clinging tenaciously



MAN OF THE WOODS

BY
AWANTI MEHTA

to her fur. The female usually gives birth to one young who is born after a gestation period of eight to nine months. The young is a totally helpless infant at birth and has to be nursed by its mother for three to four years. During this time it is fed on milk and later leaves and fruit, thoroughly chewed by the mother.

The Orang mother is very attentive towards her young. She cleans the young one's fur with her teeth and bites off long nails to keep them short. Occasionally, the infant is given a wash when it rains. The young Orang depends on its mother till it is six to seven years old.

Endangered species

Orangutans are an endangered species with only an estimated 5000 surviving according to the 1966 IUCN report. But today their numbers are probably half of that. The decline in numbers is due to destruction of their habitat, forests being constantly cleared for farming and logging. Orangs are hunted ruthlessly and the

young ones are illegally sold to zoos and circuses.

However, conservationists have taken steps to check these activities. The Nature Protection and Wildlife Management wing of the Indonesian Forestry Service sends the captured Orangs to an Orang Rehabilitation centre.

Here people with expert guidance, love and care teach these young Orangs how to survive in the wild, so that they are not left completely helpless and can fend for themselves when reintroduced into the forest.

As night sets in the Orang constructs a nest by bending down branches. A temporary nest can be built in five minutes and one is built nearly every day for an afternoon nap. An overhead covering of leaves to this nest may provide shelter during a rainstorm.

Basically a loner, the Orang gives the impression of an eccentric mumbling and grumbling to himself in an absent-minded way. A male takes up this solitary life as soon as he relinquishes the security of his mother. Travelling and eating all by himself he seeks the company of a female only for a brief period, when they come together to mate.

The adult male is distinct from the female, not only because of its increased size but also due to cheek flaps that surround its face and a huge pouche which hangs from its throat like a gigantic double chin. Both sexes have these throat pouches but in the males it is bigger and more prominent.

The ancestral Orang may have used it to amplify his voice. The modern orang, however doesn't sing but emits an impressive call, which is a lengthy sequence of sighs and groans that lasts for two to three minutes. Most of the time he is either grunting, squeaking, hooting, sighing or making a sucking noise through his pursed lips.

If I Had My Life to Live Over

SOMEONE asked me the other day, if I had my life to live over, would I change anything?

No, I answered, but then I began to think....

If I had my life to live over I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded.

I would have eaten popcorn in the "good" living room and worried much less about the dust when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather reminisce about his youth.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been set and sprayed.

I would have burnt the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

I would have gone to bed when I was ill instead of pretending the earth would stop if I were't there for the day.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was my only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

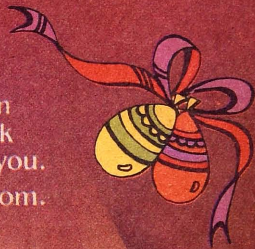
When my child kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go and wash up for dinner".

There would have been more I love yous....more I'm sorries but mostly, given another chance at life, I would seize every minute..look at it and really see it live it and never given it back.

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