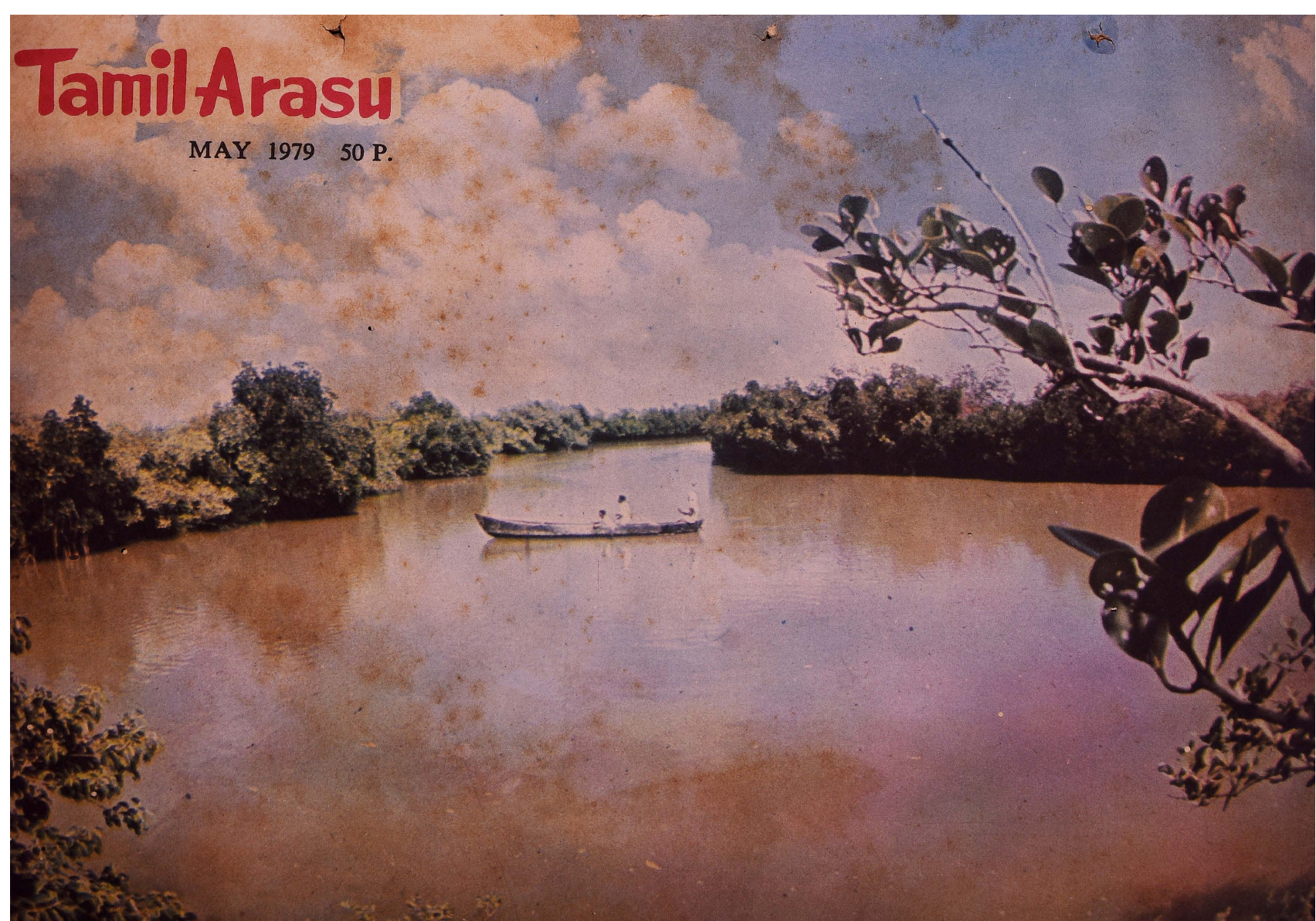
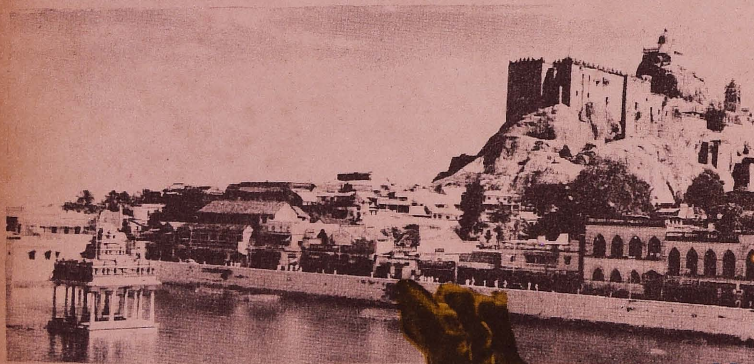
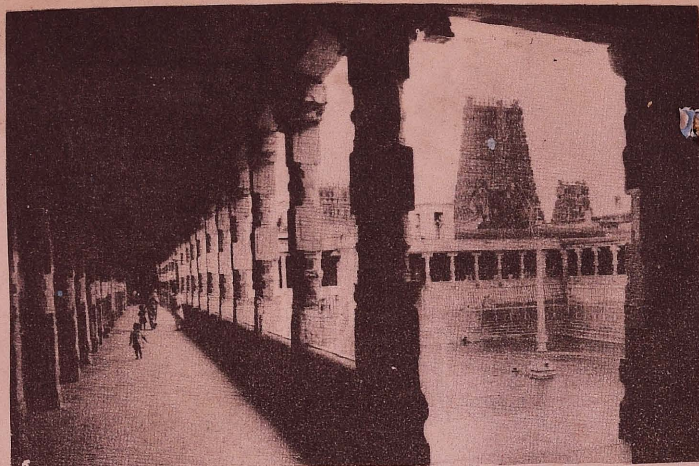
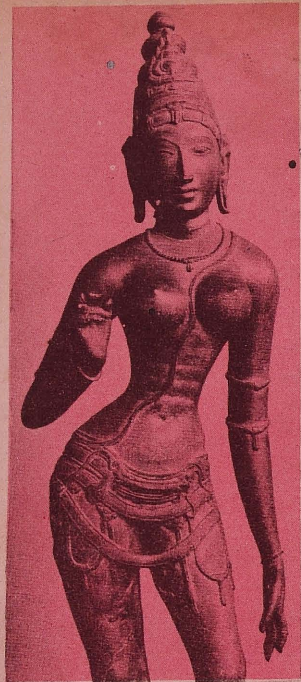


Tamil Arasu

MAY 1979 50 P.





Tourism brings out the fine sentiments in man and adds glory to the country. New schemes are being formulated to bring tourism to the doors of the common man and popularise the Tourism potential of the state.

At Mallappadi in Tamil Nadu, there was an interesting archaeological excavation recently. Rock paintings dating back to the late Neolithic or the early stone Age, roughly 1,000 B.C. were discovered.

The birth and growth of New Tuticorin from the greek work "Periplus of the Erythrean sea" in 88 A.D. right through the British rule to modern days is traced in an interesting article.

Kashmir to Kanyakumari, a link through rail has now become a dream come true.

2,000 years ago, the great sage Thiruvalluvar gave the world the Kural which can be followed even in to day's scientific age. The sage is being honoured with a memorial and a statue in a fitting place where the three seas meet and where Goddess Kanyakumari keeps vigil over the Land of the Tamils.

Welfare measures for labour ; and a news in brief column are other features.

Cool and serene Ooty and Kodai beckon one to escape the sizzling heat of the summer; for lovers of nature the flora and fauna of Mudumalai are presented.

Volume

No :

IX

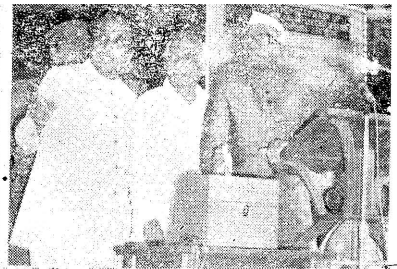
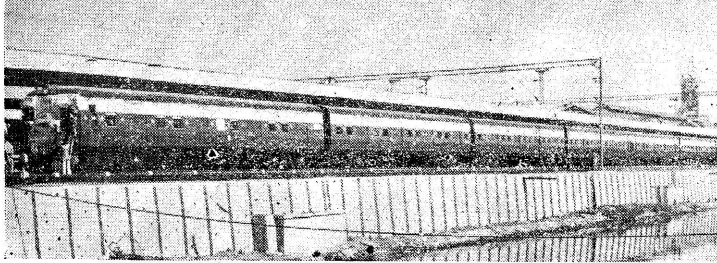
Tamil Arasu

MAY 1979

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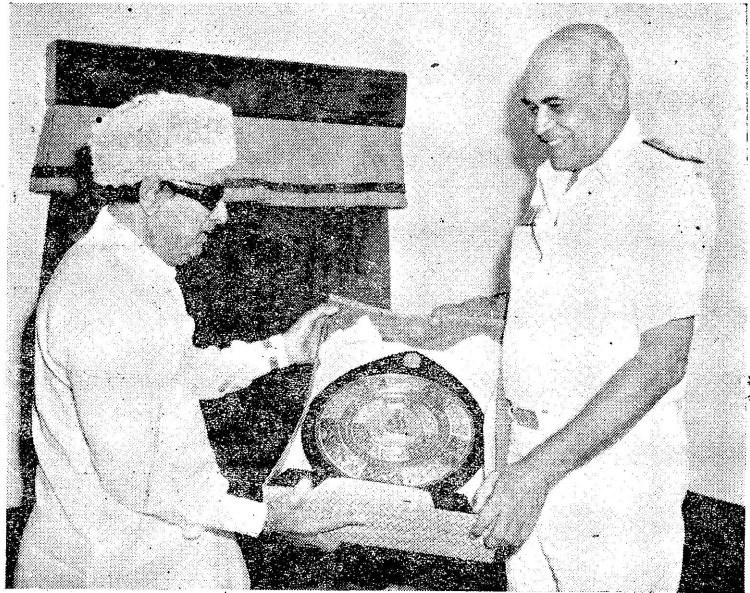
SUB-URBAN TERMINAL

The President Thiru Sanjiva Reddy commissioned the first phase of electrification of the Madras-Vijayawada section and laid the foundation-stone for the new sub-urban terminal, complex, at the S.I.A.A. grounds which form a part of the site for the proposed sub-urban terminal station on 14th April 1979.

P. M. RELEASES SANSKRIT VERSION OF THIRUKKURAL

The Prime Minister Thiru, Morarji Desai released a Sanskrit version of "Thirukkural" (in two volumes) with Tamil and English commentaries by Thiru S. N. Srirama Desikan, and said that 'Thirukkural' was a great treasure-house which ought to be read widely and deeply and its teachings practised by the people.

The first copy of the publication was handed over to the Union Energy Minister Thiru P. Ramachandran.



NAVAL COMPLEX FOR MADRAS

Vice-Admiral M. R. Schunker, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, laid the foundation stone for a Rs. 25 lakh Naval establishment complex at the foreshore area opposite the War Memorial.

The complex will house the administrative, technical and other officers besides providing accommodation for sailors. The Madras Naval establishment was re-commissioned in 1954 and upgraded in 1964 the complex will be constructed by 1980.

Thiru S. Ramachandran, Minister for Electricity seen garlanding the statue of Dr. Ambedkar on his Birth Anniversary on 14-4-79.



△ Vice-Admiral Thiru M. R. Schunker, Flag Officer—Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern naval Command, called on the Chief Minister, Thiru M.G.R. at his residence on 11-4-79. The Chief Minister presented him a memento.

The 25th year of the All-India Handloom Exhibition was inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. R. on 14-4-79.



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Thiruvalluvar statue where the three seas meet

The Prime Minister Thiru Morarji Desai, called Thiruvalluvar, one of the greatest saint of Tamil Nadu, whose monumental work "Thirukkural", written in chaste Tamil, had expressed sentiments and rules of conduct which held good for all time and for all peoples.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation for Thiruvalluvar statue, to be put up by the Government of Tamil Nadu on a rock near the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in the sea off Kanyakumari.

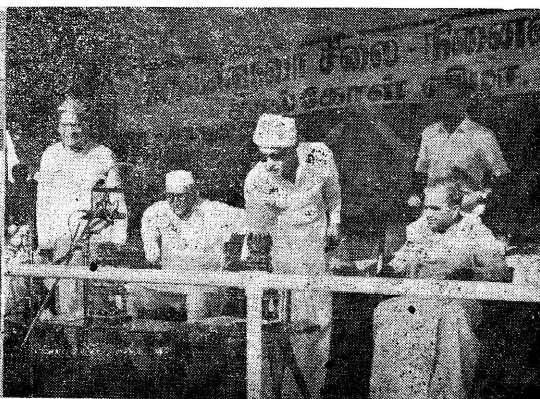
The Chief Minister, Thiru M.G. Ramachandran, who laid the foundation for the Thiruvalluvar Memorial, said that the statue would be an imposing one, 30 feet high on an artistically made 40 feet high pedestal. The State Government was very particular that the statue should be made of proper material in view of its location in mid-sea.

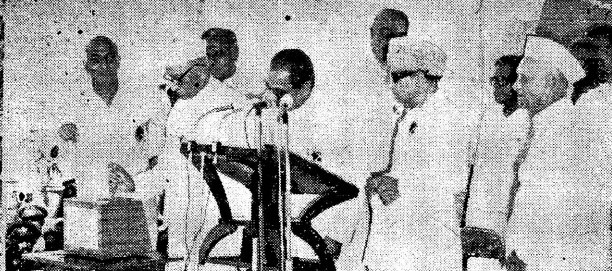
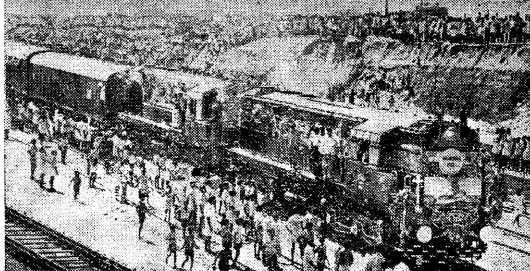
The Governor, Thiru Prabhu-das Patwari, said that Thiruvalluvar had given them in his 'Kural' the quintessence of all religions, and he had dealt with all subjects and given not only wisdom but practical solutions to all problems:

Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Tourism in his welcome speech, said that Tirukural had been translated into 13 languages, including English. There were 30 translations by different authors in English language alone.

A life-size bronze statue of the renowned saint-poet, Thiruvalluvar, author of the celebrated Tamil work "Tirukural" will be installed by the Tamil Nadu Government on the minor rock less than 180 metres west of the imposing Vivekananda Rock Memorial in the sea off Kanyakumari, the land's end.

A bridge will be constructed to, enable the visitors to reach the minor rock.





KANYAKUMARI RAIL LINK

Kanyakumari, the land's end, has been connected to the far-off northern most Kashmir (3,600 km) by a broad gauge railway line. This is a major land mark in the history of Indian Railways.

The proposal to have a railway line connecting the terminal Trivandrum and Tirunelveli via Kanyakumari was mooted nearly 90 years ago by the then Southern Railway company. The proposal was activated in 1954. Based on survey reports, the project was sanctioned in 1972.

The line is being opened in two phases, the first phase from Trivandrum to Kanyakumari via Nagercoil and the second phase from Nagercoil to Tirunelveli. The first phase of this work has been completed.

The Tirunelveli-Nagercoil section which will be the second phase of the project comprises the Nanguneri taluk and a small portion of Tirunelveli taluk.

The Trivandrum-Kanyakumari railway line will be of considerable benefit to the tea and rubber estates, agricultural produce, coastal fishing, coir and copra industries. It will also give fillip to the development of orebased industries. This new line will also bring in a lot of tourists.

The new works consist of a tunnel at Balaramapuram which is a work of complicated nature calling for all engineering skill and expertise. This work alone costs about Rs. 30 lakhs.

Deep-well foundatories have been adopted for constructing bridges across the rivers Karamana, Neyyar and Pazhayar. All the 29 overbridges costing about Rs. 126 lakhs have been completed. These overbridges are necessary to maintain the existing road communications.

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There are 14 stations between Trivandrum and Kanyakumari. The Kanyakumari station building costs about Rs. 25 lakhs. Both Kanyakumari and Nagercoil railway stations, have high platforms, long passenger sheds, over-head tank for water supply, sidings and goods sheds.

The station buildings in Tamil Nadu are in Dravidian type architecture.

The Kanyakumari-Trivandrum broad gauge railway line was inaugurated by Prime Minister Thiru Morarji Desai on 15th April 1979.

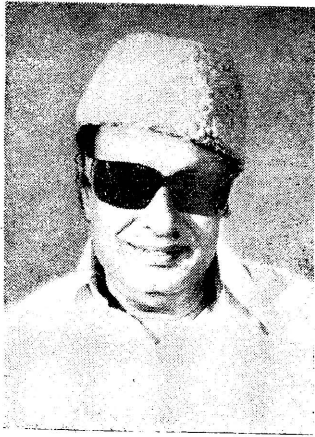
A large gathering had thronged the Kanyakumari railway station premises. Addressing the gathering the Prime Minister said that the new railway line would serve as a strong link in imparting a sense of oneness and unity.

The Governor, Thiru Prabhudas Patwari, described the new link as a landmark in the history of railways in the country. The new line which linked Kanyakumari with Kashmir would strengthen the cause of national integration, he said.

The Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran said the new railway line would be beneficial for the people of both Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Besides the Tirunelveli-Tuticorin and Madurai-Tuticorin lines about which he had represented, the State wanted to have many more lines. The Government would take up this matter with the centre he added.

The Railway Minister Thiru Madhu Dandavate said that shuttle services would be operated in the Kanyakumari-Trivandrum line. He also announced that a super-fast train between Kanyakumari and Kashmir would be introduced from October 2nd 1979 — Gandhiji's Birthday.

The Union Minister for Energy Thiru P. Ramachandran said that the day should be marked in golden letters.



C.M.'S

MAY DAY

MESSAGE

'May Day' is a day of great significance and a day for celebration not only to proclaim to the world the high ideals that those who work are superior to others but also to sing the saga of those illustrious men who sacrificed their lives for the rights of the labourers in the year 1886 in Chicago, U.S.A. and to take the pledge to wipe out the sufferings of those toiling masses in the world who are still deprived of their rights.

Perarignar Anna, by his powerful writings and speeches had revolutionised the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu to such an extent that May Day which was hitherto been celebrated among the workers classes alone became a festive day for all people through out Tamil Nadu and the credit goes to him for declaring May Day as a compulsory holiday for all, as soon as he took up the reigns of the Government.

We, who follow the path of Anna while celebrating this festival, will also pledge ourselves to fight for the liberation of those toiling lot who have not yet attained their rights. At this juncture we should also remember that the factory is like a flower and the rights of the labourers are like honey and while deriving the honey from the flower we should function like the bee which will not harm the flower. We should not take the attitude to crush the flower and extract the perfume.

Today anybody may be the guardian of these flower gardens namely the factories; only the workers and the labourers are going to govern the Industries and also the country in the future. If our attitude and action were guided by this notion and if we function with responsibility and with a sense of duty, there is no doubt that the numerous problems which have cropped up to-day throughout the country could be solved.

Let me express my May Day greetings to the labourers and working class friends who are celebrating the day with immense joy with the ideal that the sole world is the "Labourers World".





MAY DAY MESSAGE OF MINISTER FOR LABOUR

The Government in Tamil Nadu to-day is that of our Chief Minister who has adopted as his political principle that the "workers are the super-men".

He is determined to implement the ideals shaped by Anna and is functioning day and night to draw schemes to irradicate poverty. Our Puratchi Thalaivar is the loving younger brother of Anna.

I convey my greetings to the working class people on this great occasion of the May Day with a request to them to pledge themselves to strengthen the hands of our Puratchi Thalaivar who is framing laws and enacting them whole-heartedly to give protection and other opportunities to the working class people so that they need not have to resort to agitation or to sacrifice themselves for the achievements of their demands.

VIRALIMALAI TEMPLE

Situated about 18 miles South-West of Tiruchirappalli on the high road to Madura, is well known for its Subramaniya temple. The name is a corruption of Viralimalai or the hill of Viraliyur. The hill crowned with its temple, which is a prominent land-mark for miles, presents a great show of beautifully banded micaceous granite gneises. The lamination is in parts greatly converted and "Vandyked" and the pink rock, banded with shades of grey and occasional black micaceous laminae is very beautiful. The natural cavern show signs of early human habitation. This place must have shared the fortunes of Kodumbalur which is about 4 miles off. The presence of a early Chola temple lends support to the belief that Viraliyur or Viralur was a prosperous village as early as the 9th century A.D.

The earliest authentic historical record relating to Viralimalai takes on to the period of Perambur. Kattalur line of chieftans, two of whom, Tirumeni Narasinga Alagiya Devar and his son Nami Devar are mentioned. Inscribed on a rock in front of the Karuparkoil, and dated about 1425 A.D. in the reign of Vijayanagara Emperor Devaraya II.

The Subramaniya Temple :

The origin of this temple is ascribed to Jnana Varodaya, a native of Vyalur, six miles to the West of Tiruchirappalli. When he was a little boy, he played the truant one day to escape being flogged at school, and hid himself behind the idol of Subramaniya in the temple at Vayalur. There he remained shut up for the night unseen by the temple servants, when the God Subramaniya appeared to him and blessed him with the gift of poesy.

Next morning, his parents discovered him in the temple and were delighted at his newly acquired talents. Sometime afterwards, the God told the boy in a vision of his wish to have a temple built for him on top of the hill at Viralimalai. Jnana Varodaya communicated the God's commands to the chief Alagiya Manavala of Perambur. Alagiya also had a vision of the God who appeared before him in answer to a hymn of the boy, but the vision was so dazzling that the chief lost his eye sight for a while. The chief

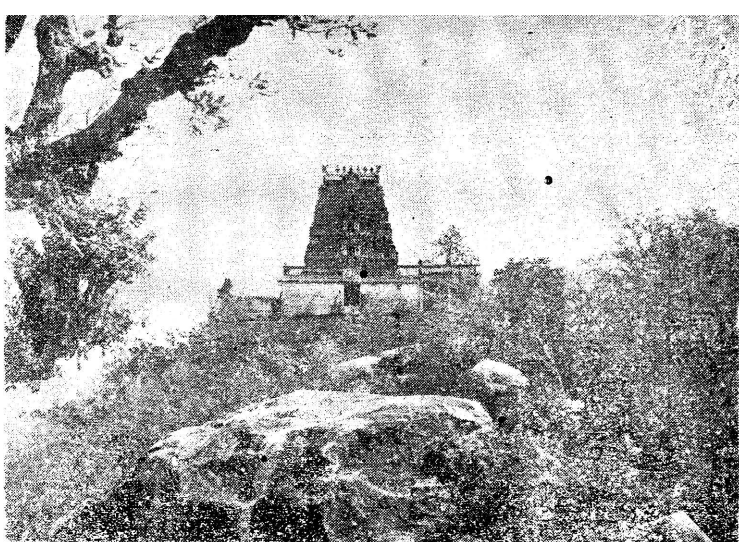
built the temple, which was later extended by the Kumaravadi and Marugapuri chiefs. Laudatory songs are still sung in praise of the Perambur chiefs during one of the temple festivals, Karupamuthu Pillai, a minister of one of the Kumaravadi chiefs, was in the habit of visiting the temple every Friday, but on one occasion, a tank had burst after heavy rains and the Maundi stream had become uncomfortable so that Kampamuthu who was stranded on the bank was faced with the prospect of having to spend a night without food and what was more grievous to him, without cigar. The God, however, appeared before him in human form, gave him a cigar and led him to the temple. The grateful devotee ordered that thence forth cigars should be offered to the God everyday. The God was pleased with this naive but sincere act of devotion, and accepted the unusual offering. One of the Indian rulers stopped this offering, as being inappropriate in a temple of Subramaniya, but, the story goes, the God appeared to him in a dream with an emaciated body, and instructed him to restore the offering which the Raja did. This offering is still continued.

Arunagiri, the great saint who is believed to have lived in the middle of the 15th century visited Viralimalai and sang in praise of the God here expressing some of his mystic experiences.

Subramanya Mudaliar, son of Ekanayaka Mudaliar of Kuniyur, both ministers of Vijaya Raghunatha Raja Tondaman was greatly devoted to this temple, and as the hero of a verse drama, which is still played here by dancing girls.

The ascent to the top of the hill is made by a series of flights commencing at an entrance close to the Venkata mantapam. To the north of the first landing, about halfway up there is a natural cavern in which there is now a shrine containing a Lingam, an Amman, Ganesa etc; At the top is a mantapam from which one enters the main gopuram facing the south. More steps lead to the northern prakaram. The idol of Sri Subramanya has six faces and twelve hands. The God is seated on a peacock, with the two Ammans, Valli and Devasena, standing on either side. The mantapams are of the Madura style, and one on the extreme east affords a panoramic view of the country round as far as Tiruchi Rock. Some panels containing dancing figures in bas-relief, evidently belonging to ruined early chola temple at Kodambalur, have been built into the walls of the northern prakaram. The two lion pillars in the Vahana mantapam at the foot of the hill are of the Pallava type and probably belonged to the Aintali or Aivarkoil at Kodambalur.

The principal festivals are the Thai-pusam held in January-February, Masi Mahabishekam in February-March. Panguni Uttiram in March-April, Visakam in May-June, Navaratri in September-October and the Surasamharam in November-December and are attended by great crowds from other parts of the State and from Tiruchi. Many of the pilgrims bring Kavadis containing milk and sugar which are poured over the idol. The place is a favourite spot for the performance of Vows.



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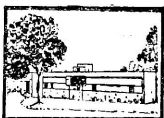
• **KODAIKANAL**: Grams: TAMILTOUR. Phone: 481

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SEE TAMILNADU ON WHEELS THROUGH TTDC'S 7-DAY PACKAGE TOURS.



DIRECTOR OF TOURISM
GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
Fort St. George, Madras - 600 009.



IMMENSE TOURISM POTENTIAL

Tamil Nadu has a wide and varied spectrum of Tourist attractions ranging from the famous pilgrim centres depicting our ancient culture, the salubrious hill stations, and beautiful stretches of beaches. It has an immense tourism potential to cater to the varied tastes. It has also the advantage of a well developed net work of roads and transport services. Thus any investment on Tourism Development in Tamil Nadu will get increasing benefits.

The Directorate of Tourism functions along with the Department's set up at the Secretariat. There are Tourist Offices at Madurai, Ootacamund, Tiruchirappalli, Kanniyakumari, Salem and Mamallapuram. The Tourist Offices not only disseminate tourist information but also function as field units for promotion of Tourism and to attend to local publicity and development work. Tourist Information Counters are functioning at Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Rameswaram and Coimbatore Railway Stations and at Kodaikanal. Tourist Information Counters at Central Railway Station, Madras, Tirunelveli Railway Station and at the International Airport, Meenambakkam will be opened shortly.

Arrangements are being made to open a Tourist Information Centre in New Delhi to cater to the needs of up country tourists, very soon. It has been decided to open a tourist office with one Tourist Officer with the attendant staff at Chidambaram in view of the development programme on hand for Pichavaram in 1979-80.

Youth Hostel—

The Youth Hostel continues to be run by the Government on no profit no loss basis on the pattern suggested by the Government of India under the guidance of the local management committee since July 1975, with a view to provide inexpensive accommodation for the Youth Tourists.

Share Capital Assistance to T.T.D.C. Limited—Commercial aspects of Tourism promotion are entrusted to the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation which was set up in July 1971. The authorised Share Capital of the Corporation is Rs. two crores. Against this a sum of Rs. 179.25



R. M. Veerappan

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments.

lakhs has been paid so far. It is proposed to provide a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs in 1979-80. A sum of Rs. 24.25 lakhs has been given as loan to the Corporation in 1978-79. A sum of Rs. 15 lakhs will be given as loan during 1979-80.

Tourist Bungalows—The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation runs the following chain of Tourist Bungalows at present in addition to the Boat House at Ooty :

Tourist Bungalow, Ooty, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Kanniyakumari, Cape Hotel, Kanniyakumari, Tiruchendur, Kodaikanal, Yercaud, Hogenakkal, Rameswaram. Beach Resort Complex Mamallapuram, Rajah's Rest House, Thanjavur, Chidambaram.

The Corporation has proposed to construct Tourist Bungalows, in the near future, at the following places :

Coimbatore, Courtallam, Pichavaram, Mudumalai,

Motel :

It is the aim of the Department to provide the facilities of Motels at every hundredth kilometer on the National Highways of the State. As a first step the Motel Emerald (மரகதம்) at Ranipet in North Arcot district has been commissioned and is functioning from 24th September, 1978. The estimated

cost of this Motel is Rs. 7.85 lakhs. Another Motel at Ulundurpet in South Arcot district is nearing completion and will be opened shortly.

Transport :

The Transport wing of the Corporation started functioning from April, 1962, with two luxury coaches. Now the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation is having a fleet of ten luxury coaches, the capital investment of which comes to Rs. 22 lakhs. These coaches are utilised for operation of conducted and package tours. They are also given on private hire to the travel trade and the public.

Poompuhar and Kattabomman Memorial :

The Department of Tourism is in charge of the Poompuhar Complex at Kaveripoompattinam and the Kattabomman Memorial at Panchalankurichi. These memorials attract tourists at State level in large numbers.

As Poompuhar is an important tourist centre, it has been decided to take up the development of roads in the Complex and construction of overhead tank for the supply of drinking water for the benefit of tourists at a cost of Rs. 3 lakhs during 1979-80. It is also proposed to commission shortly the 'Sangu' and 'Shell' type cottages in the Poompuhar Tourist Complex. It has been decided to furnish the Rest House at Kattabomman Memorial Hall with modern furniture for the benefit of tourists.

Development of Rameswaram—Rameswaram, one of the foremost pilgrim centres of India, continues to draw tourists in large numbers. It has been decided to provide Rest Sheds and dress changing rooms near the bathing place and other amenities for the benefit of visiting tourists at an approximate cost of Rs. 3 lakhs during 1979-80.

Ooty Lake :—

Efforts have been taken to improve and beautify Ooty lake area to make it more attractive. A leading firm of architects in Madras were appointed by the Government to draw up a Master Plan for the beautification of the lake. The development of lake area has been taken up

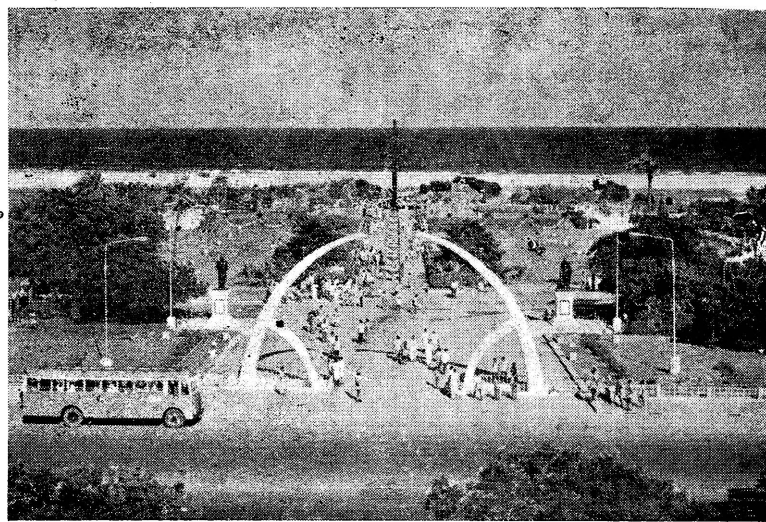
and a sum of Rs. 16 lakhs has been earmarked for this Project. So far a sum of Rs. 14.55 lakhs has been sanctioned for this work.

Under the Hill Area Development Programme a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs has been sanctioned for the construction of Two Telescope Houses in the Nilgiris district, one at Doddabetta Peak near Ooty, from where the tourists can enjoy the panoramic view of Mysore Plateau, the Nilgiris Peak, Mukurti Peak, Avalanche, Upper Bhavani areas, Ketti Valley, Coonoor, Wellington etc., and another at 'Dolphin's Nose' near Coonoor from where Kundah area, Catherine Falls Coimbatore plains and also the Wild Elephants bathing and drinking water in the river below can be seen.

A sum of Rs. 6.45 lakhs has been sanctioned to purchase the Regent Palace at Ooty from the Nilgiri District Co-operative Supply and Marketing Society Limited and to convert it into a Dormitory consisting of 200 beds at a cost of Rs. 3.55 lakhs to provide accommodation low income group and Budget Tourists.

Yercaud Lake :

Architects were appointed to prepare a Project Report with Plans and Estimates for the improvement of the Yercaud Lake so as to make it more attractive. The architects have furnished a report containing various schemes to be executed in stages at an approximate cost of Rs. 36.35 lakhs. The Government have so far sanctioned a sum of Rs. 3.72 lakhs for beautify-



ing the Yercaud lake. It has been decided to effect Island beautification and to introduce boating facilities at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakhs in Yercaud lake during 1979-80.

It has also been decided to construct a Telescope House at a cost of Rs. 1.00 lakh at the "Lady's Seat" in order to enable the Tourists to have a spectacular view of the twinkling lights of Salem town during night.

Kodaikanal Lake—Another firm of architects were appointed to prepare a Project Report with Plans and Estimates for the development of Kodaikanal Lake so as to make it more attractive to attract large number of tourists. The architects have furnished a Report containing a detailed list of schemes to be

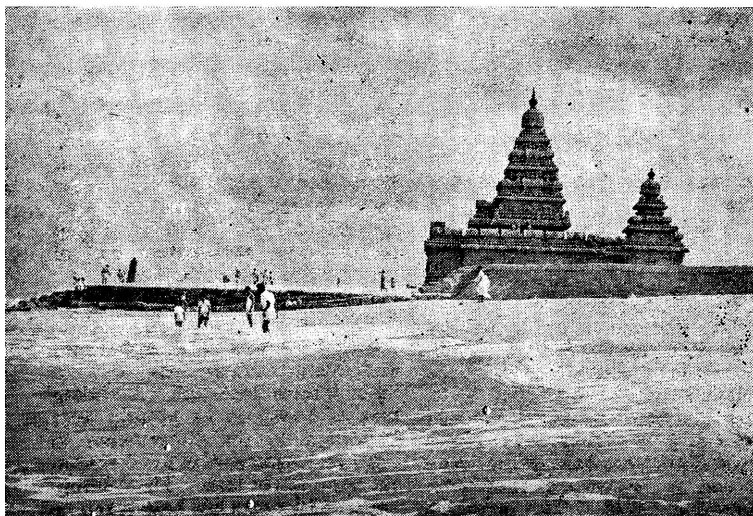
executed in various stages at an approximate cost of Rs. 25,64,100. Under the first phase, a sum of Rs. 58,100 was sanctioned during 1977-78 to execute a few minor works to beautify the lake. Under the second phase it is proposed to construct a Restaurant at Kodaikanal lake for the benefit of the tourists at a total cost of Rs. 2.03 lakhs.

Two Telescope Houses have been recently constructed one at 'Coaker's Walk' and the other at 'Kurinji Andavar Temple' at Kodaikanal at a total cost of Rs. 1.60 lakhs. The sacred valley of Palani Temple on the North and the Panoramic view of Vaigai Dam on the South can be viewed with utmost clarity from these telescopes.

During this year, a sum of Rs. 7.03 lakhs has been sanctioned to purchase the defunct TANSI Complex measuring 1.54 acres at Kodaikanal and to convert it into a Dormitory consisting of 96 beds so as to accommodate large number of tourists at a time.

A sum of Rs. 75 lakhs has been recommended to the Government of India for the development of this area into a good tourist complex.

Development of Courtallam—Courtallam which is famous for its water falls is a well known holiday-cum-health resort. With the influx of tourists to Courtallam increasing year after year, the demand for proper accommodation is growing rapidly. It has therefore been decided to construct a Dormitory consisting of 100 beds for budget tourists at Courtallam at a cost of Rs. 7.97 lakhs.



Viralimalai and Avudaiyarkoil :

Viralimalai in Tiruchirappalli district and Avudaiyarkoil in Pudukkottai district are the important pilgrim centres. It has been decided to provide basic amenities like Rest Shed and drinking water, at Viralimalai and a Tourist Bungalow at Avudaiyarkoil. For this purpose, during 1978-79 a sum of Rs. 1.50 lakhs has been given as grant to the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Board for implementation of the two projects by utilising its funds in addition to the above grant.

Pichavaram :

Pichavaram is a place of unparalleled scenic beauty ; it is about 13 kilometres from Chidambaram, the famous pilgrim centre. It is on the East Coast and has an area of 3,000 acres of backwaters dotted with hundreds of Islands covered with beautiful woods. The water spread here is ideal for boating, fishing and nearer the sea, for water skating, surfing etc. It is an ideal place for water sports. Boat Houses can also be berthed as in Sri Nagar Lake.

During 1978-79 it has been decided to construct, at Pichavaram a Rest Shed-cum-Dining Hall in forest lands, two cottages in Bungalow Thittu, and a Boat Jetty at a cost of Rs. 4.50 lakhs. Similarly in 1979-80, it has been decided to provide boating facilities in Pichavaram backwaters as a recreation for the tourists at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakhs.

Mandapam :

Mandapam is the nearest point on the mainland to reach Rameswaram, one of the foremost Pilgrim Centres of India which draws an increasing flow of pilgrims and tourists. Kurasadi Island, a biologist's paradise located near Rameswaram is reached by boat from Mandapam by Marine biologists and International tourists interest in biological study.

It has been decided to provide necessary basic amenities like Dormitory with toilet facilities, a Kitchen block, etc., and a boat jetty for the benefit of Tourists at Mandapam at a cost of Rs. 2.30 lakhs.

Development of Mamallapuram :

The rock-cut monoliths, cave temples, long stretches of beach, round the year usability of the area are the main factors which make



Mamallapuram one of the important tourist centres of the World. Following the recommendations of the Government of India to formulate specific schemes for development of Mamallapuram, architects have been appointed to prepare a Master Plan. A Master Plan was accordingly prepared and it has been sent to Government of India for consideration.

The Government have also acquired 33.95 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 1,28,185 so as to preserve the natural environment and the scenic beauty of the area. A sum of Rs. 1,81,814 has also been sanctioned during 1978-79 for the construction of a Rest Shed with basic amenities attached therein to cater to the needs of Low Income Group Tourists visiting Mamallapuram. During 1979-80 it has been decided to develop camping sites at a cost of Rs. 3.50 lakhs in Mamallapuram to encourage self-catering holidays.

Further, since the Government of India have requested that two Centres in Tamil Nadu may be suggested for development under central sector this Government has recommended Mamallapuram and Kanyakumari.

To develop Mamallapuram into an international beach resort as recommended by the UNDP Team, it is necessary to preserve the monuments and provide various tourist amenities and recreational facilities.

A sum of Rs. 150 lakhs has been recommended to the Government of India for the first stage of development.

Kanniyakumari. — Kanniyakumari is the land's end of India and is at a distance of 80 kms. from Tirunelveli and 86 kms. from Trivandrum by Road. It is a favourite pilgrim centre with a fine beach. The temple here is dedicated to the virgin Goddess—Kanniyakumari. Kanniyakumari where the three seas meet is unique as one can sometimes watch the rare phenomenon of sun-set and moon-rise at the same time. Vivekananda Rock Memorial built on a large rock projecting into the ocean just south-east of the temple is another attraction here. 10,000 foreign tourists and 5 lakhs domestic tourists are visiting this place very year.

Elagiri Hills :

Elagiri Hills in North Arcot district is an attractive tourist centre visited by the Tourists throughout the year. There is no proper accommodation for tourists visiting this place. It has been therefore decided during 1978-79 to construct a Dormitory Block, consisting of 4 self-contained units so as to provide accommodation facilities for the tourists at a cost of Rs. 10.05 lakhs. The work is nearing completion.

Hogenakkal :

Hogenakkal water falls is one of the main tourist attractions in Dharmapuri district. The falls is famous for the curative powers of its waters. There are no adequate accommodation facilities for the tourists visiting this place. It has been decided to construct a Dormi-

tory-cum-Community Hall at Hogenakkal at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakhs during 1979-80.

Publicity :

With a view to motivate and attract the tourists, the tourism potential of the State is publicised by providing basic information through the media of publicity like advertisements, exhibitions, films, etc. and production and distribution of tourist literature.

Advertisements :

The Department of Tourism is releasing regular advertisements highlighting tourism potential and the facilities available in the State to newspapers and journals mainly devoted to Tourism.

Exhibitions :

The various aspects and special features of tourist attractions are publicised by putting up exhibitions in the State as also outside the State.

The Department of Tourism participates in the All-India Tourist Trade Fair organised every year by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation in January-February at Madras. The Department of Tourism has participated in the annual convention of the Travel Agents Association of India held at Bangalore in April, 1978 and also put up a pavilion highlighting the tourism potential of Tamil Nadu. Among the pavilions put up the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department's pavilion was considered the best and the Vasant Kotak Trophy was awarded.

This Department also put up Sound and Light spectacle at the Madurai Chithirai Tourist Fair organised by Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation in April-May and in the Salem Government Exhibition organised by the Public (I & P.R.) Department in August-September which was a great attraction in both the places.

Films :

This Department has initiated action to produce a colour film "Holiday Resorts of Tamil Nadu" covering Ooty, Kodai, Yercaud, Courtallam, Hogenakkal, Mamallapuram, Kanniyakumari, etc., through the Tamil Nadu Films Division.

Photography :

Photographic section of the Department has a very good collection of black and white photographs

as well as colour transparencies on places of tourist interest. These are given to newspapers for publication along with articles on Tamil Nadu. They are also being extensively used in the tourist literature brought out by the Department.

A slide presentation is also kept in the Department for presentation to V.I.Ps., Travel Writers and Travel Agents.

Tourist Literature :

Tourist literature of various kinds like folders, picture post cards, posters, etc., are brought out regularly every year and distributed to Government of India Tourist Offices in India and abroad and to the Travel Agents, Air India and other airlines.

In 1978-79 this department has produced a prestige brochure on Tamil Nadu, a multicolour folder and eight varieties of posters. The Prestige brochure and other publicity materials have been distributed to various agencies like Government of India Tourist Offices and Air India Offices abroad and the State Directorates all over India.

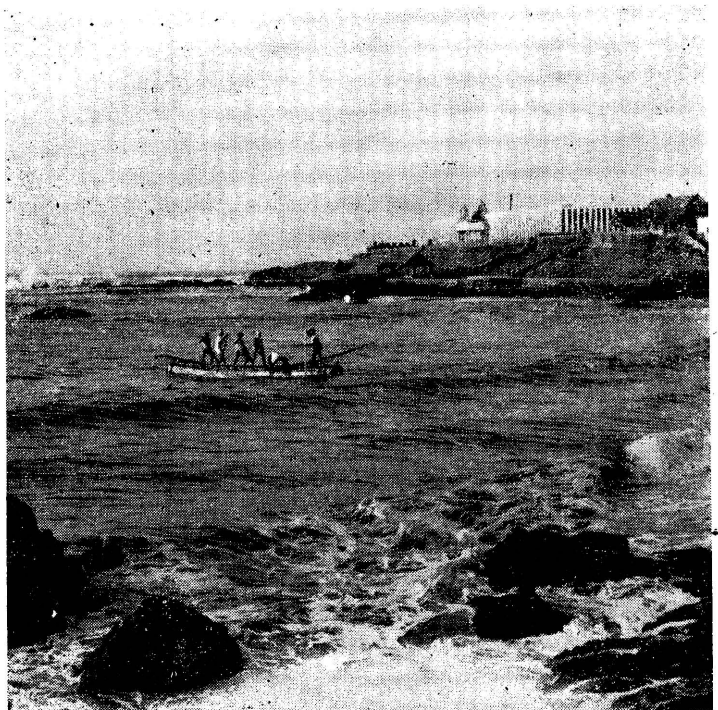
Hospitality :

Providing hospitality to Travel Writers and Travel Agents is another important aspect of tourism pro-

motion. Special attention is therefore paid to this scheme. Whenever foreign Travel Agents or Travel Writers visit the State this Department hosts them and arranges for their tour of Tamil Nadu. Such hospitality helps in publicising the tourism potential of Tamil Nadu in foreign countries through the articles written by them to various newspapers and journals in their countries.

About sixty delegates of the Society of American Travel writers consisting of top ranking and well known Travel Writers, Photographers, film producers and Newspaper reporters, sponsored by the Government of India visited Tamil Nadu during September, 1978 after attending their Society's Conference held at New Delhi. They were extended hospitality by this Department.

Tourism holds attraction to the finer sentiments of man and brings glory to the country. Therefore, it will be the endeavour of this Government to formulate new plans and expand the functions of this Department. In short, everything possible will be attempted to bring tourism to the doors of the common man and to popularise the Tourism potential of the State.



Labour Welfare

In keeping with the concept of Social Welfare State it is imperative to provide decent and comfortable quarters for the growing population of industrial labour in as much as most of them cannot afford to have houses of their own or live in places far away from their workspots. Some employers have provided quarters for their workers and staff but this hardly touches the fringe of the problem. The subsidised industrial Housing Scheme has, therefore, been sponsored to enable the housing of workers in decent places near about their workspots.

Under this Scheme financial assistance is extended to public sector, co-operative sector and private sector to construct houses for the benefit of industrial workers covered by the Factories Act, 1948. A ceiling cost of Rs. 5,350 for small two-roomed house (double storeyed) Rs. 6,050 for small two-roomed house (multi-storeyed), Rs. 7,600 for regular two-roomed houses (double-storeyed) and Rs. 8,500 for regular two-roomed houses 'multi-storeyed' has been fixed for financial assistance.

The Budget Estimate for 1978-79 is Rs. 7.50 lakhs under 'Loan' and Rs. 2.50 lakhs under 'Subsidy'. A sum of Rs. 1,60,500 under loan and Rs. 80,250 under Subsidy have been spent so far.

No new housing project was sanctioned during the year 1977-78. However amounts of Rs. 1,33,750 under loan and Rs. 1,84,750 under subsidy were disbursed for the schemes sanctioned in 1976-77 to the Dharmapuri District Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., Palacode and the Ambur Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., Vadapudupet. During the year 1978-79 the housing projects have been sanctioned for the following establishments :—

1. Sundaram Textiles, Nambinagar, Nanguneri.
2. Madurantakam Co-operative Sugar Mill Ltd., Padalam.
3. Salem Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., Mohanur (Phase II).

It is anticipated that the construction of the above housing projects would be completed up to plinth level before the end of the financial year 1978-79. In that case the first instalment of loan would become payable in 1978-79.

The Plantation Labour Housing Scheme.—The scheme envisages assistance to the planters for construction of houses for their workers in the shape of 50 per cent loan and 37.5 per cent subsidy based on the Ceiling cost of construction per single roomed tenements, which has been fixed at Rs. 4,000. In this State, about 94 per cent of resident plantation workers have been provided with housing accommodation.

In November, 1978 Government sanctioned loan and subsidy to the following estates for construction of houses :—

Plantation Labour Housing Advisory Board.—This Board met on 20th May, 1978 at Ooty, and decided the following points :—

1. Electrification of workers quarters.
2. Payment of House Rent Allowance to Hill Tribes.
3. Additional ceiling to the roof of workers quarters.

Tamil Nadu Labour Journal.—This is a monthly publication intended to furnish information and statistics relating to such matters as industrial disputes, work stoppages, trade unions, important agreement, summaries of awards of the labour courts and the Industrial Tribunal, Madras and decisions of the High Courts and the Supreme Court as well as the Consumer Price Index for working class. It also publishes articles dealing with labour problems and industrial management and also items relating to International Labour Organisation Reports and the proceedings of Tripartite bodies such as the Indian Labour Conference, Standing Labour Committee and the State Labour Advisory Board. The main statistical section of the journal is being printed in Tamil.



Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board.—The Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board is a statutory body, established under the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1972 set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu with the Minister for Labour as Chairman, and representatives of the Government employer's organisation, Members of State Legislature and Non-Official Members as members. A number of welfare measures for the benefit of the labour in Tamil Nadu are under taken by this Board. Some of the existing welfare measures are,

1. **Labour Welfare Centres.**—The Board is now running 10 Labour Centres at Ambattur (Madras), (2) Sembium (Madras), (3) Coimbatore, (4) Madurai, (5) Dindigul, (6) Kovilpatti, (7) Tiruppur, (8) Gudiyattam, (9) Vaniyambadi and (10) Sivakasi, in which Kindergarten Classes for workers' children and tailoring classes for women workers and wives of workmen are being conducted. A stipend of Rs. 30 p.m. is paid to each trainee in the tailoring class. The Board is supplying Balahar and nutritious food to the children with the help of 'CARE' organisation.

2. **Holiday Home for workers.**—The Board has decided to run holiday homes for workers at Mahabalipuram, Courtallam, Ooty and Yercaud. The Holiday Home at Yercaud is functioning now. Twenty persons can stay at a time. A nominal rent of Rs. 1.50 per head is being collected. The Holiday Home at other places will come up shortly.

3. **T. B. Ward for workers at Tambaram Sanatorium.**—The Board had constructed a separate 26 bed T.B. Ward for workers in the Tuberculosis sanatorium at Tambaram.

4. Reading Rooms :

The Board run four reading rooms at Perambur (Madras), Tondiarpet (Madras), Madurai and Coimbatore. Newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines are supplied for the readers' use.

5. Multi-storeyed Building :

The Board has constructed a multi-storeyed building at Teynampet at a cost of Rs. 38 lakhs. The offices of the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board and the Labour Department are housed in that building. The rent realised would go to augment the resources of the Board.

6. Child Care Centre :

A Magalir Manram at Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar at Madras is conducting a child care centre in which 50 children below 5 years of age are given free education, milk and bread. The Board gives a grant of Rs. 8,000 per annum.

The following programmes are on the avail of the Board :—

1. Purchase of a Film Projector for the benefit of workers.
2. To open a Community Centre in the City of Madras for conducting of Marriages, Earboring Ceremonie and other social functions on a nominal charge.
3. To open a Library in the Office building complex at Teynampet.
4. To construct a comfortable and inexpensive accommodation for Trade Union Leaders and Workers' representatives who come to Madras to solve labour problems.
5. To start Book Banks in the City of Madras, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Coimbatore for the benefit of the sons and daughters of workers, who study in the schools and Colleges.
6. To conduct sports among workers at District, Regional and State level.
7. To give tuition fees and Examination fees payable to the approved institute for Typewriting and Shorthand for workers' children.

8. To construct a Stadium in North Madras for outdoor and indoor games.

Tailoring Centre at Gudalur :

A Tailoring Centre attached to the Office of the Inspector of Plantations, Gudalur, is run by this Department. A trained Tailoring instructor is in charge of this Centre. Instruction in tailoring garments is given to the children of plantation workers and each of the trainees is paid a stipend of Rs. 30 p.m. The period of duration of the training is 18 months.

Legal Aid :

The Government have sanctioned a scheme for the grant of financial assistance to meet legal expenses of trade unions in respect of proceedings in the High Court at Rs. 150 per writ petition or writ appeal subject to certain conditions. The Commissioner of Labour has been empowered to sanction the legal assistance. During the current year, there has been no claim for relief from any affected person.

A sum of Rs. 1,000 per year has been provided by the Government towards legal assistance at State Cost to poor and deserving workers or their dependents claiming compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Injured workmen are also eligible for legal assistance to defend their cases in the High Court, when the management go on appeal against the orders of the Additional Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, provided such assistance was granted to them in respect of the proceedings before the Additional Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation. During the year an amount of Rs. 90 has been sanctioned towards legal assistance.

Labour Legal Advisory Cells :

Three Cells are functioning (at Madras, Coimbatore and Madurai) and are manned by a Retired Judicial Officer and Retired Labour Officer. These cells have been set up by the Government on the recommendation made by the One-Man Committee appointed to examine the general question of framing a scheme for legal aid to people of insufficient means. These cells hear the representations of workmen with understanding and sympathy

and suggest to them the procedure to be followed for redressal of their grievances, the forum to be approached for securing relief under various labour enactments and connected matters. The three Cells have heard 380 representations during the year 1978.

Tamil Nadu Industrial Nutrition Programme :

With the assistance of the 'CARE' Institutions, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Nutrition Programme is being implemented in the State for the benefit of workers. Pre-school children and the pregnant and the lactating women in the families of the workmen are the beneficiaries of the scheme. There are 27,900 beneficiaries at present in respect of 77 units (including the welfare centres of the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board) under the scheme. In addition to the existing Industrial Nutrition Programme, the need for the implementation of Integrated Health Package Service Scheme has been recognised so that in conjunction with the nutritious food supplied, the beneficiaries will have medical care as well.

The objectives of the Integrated Health Package Service Scheme is to provide Maternal and Child Health and Care (MCH) including nutrition, medical services and health education services for the pre-school children of industrial workers and wherever possible to extend the same service to pregnant and nursing mothers. The objective is also to provide family planning services to all the industrial workers and their families.

This scheme intended to provide intensified Maternal and Child Health Care Services to the most vulnerable members of the family, will promote the concept of the small family norm among industrial workers.

Necessary health charts for use in the Integrated Health Package Service Scheme have been printed and issued to various centres. The charts have been designed in consultation with Dr. C. Thirugnanasambandam of the Tamil Nadu State of Indian Academic of Pediatrics, Madras and comprise of (i) one chart for pre-school children (ii) one for pregnant/lactating women and (iii) an identity card for the family. These cards will help to assess the health of beneficiaries

under the programme and will also serve as a record of their family welfare.

Tamil Nadu Institute of Labour Studies :

The Tamil Nadu Institute of Labour Studies was started with the following objectives :

1. Education of workmen (Manual, Clerical and Technical) employed in the industrial establishments in the public as well as in the private sector, in all aspects of labour legislation and labour policies with emphasis on the value of internal leadership among trade unions.

2. Training of the Officers in the Management cadres in the industry, both in the private and public sector.

3. Training of the officers of the Labour Department incharge of administration and enforcement of Labour Laws.

4. Training of the officers who have dealings in Labour and Personnel in the Co-operative Societies and Local Bodies.

Uzhaippavar Ulagam :

The Institute which was functioning

under the control of the Commissioner of Labour was upgraded by the Government as a separate Department. While upgrading this Institute Government Ordered that in addition to its existing functions, it should undertake the publication of Labour Law Journal in Tamil for the benefit of workmen and also the publication of various labour laws in Tamil with notes on court decisions. The Labour Law Journal in Tamil was released by the Chief Minister on 15th September, 1978—Arignar Anna's Birthday under the name of "Uzhaippavar Ulagam."

1. Total number of residential families including single workers requiring houses	..	35,997
2. Total number of Standard houses provided	..	34,475
3. Total number, of Standard houses yet to be provided	..	1,522
4. Total number of non-standard houses available	..	3,496

Name of the Estate	Loan	Subsidy.	Houses for construction.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Plenty Valley Estate, Plenty Valley Post, Coimbatore district.	50,000	37,500	25
2. Kolukumalai Tea Estate, Bodi-naikanur, Madurai district.	24,000	18,000	12

LABOUR DAY

May 1, the date generally selected by trade unions, socialist parties and labour organisations in general for a public celebration. It is observed by a portion of the population in nearly every industrial country except the United States and Canada and except Italy, where its observance has been forbidden and the traditional date of the foundation of Rome substituted. In Russia it is an official holiday.

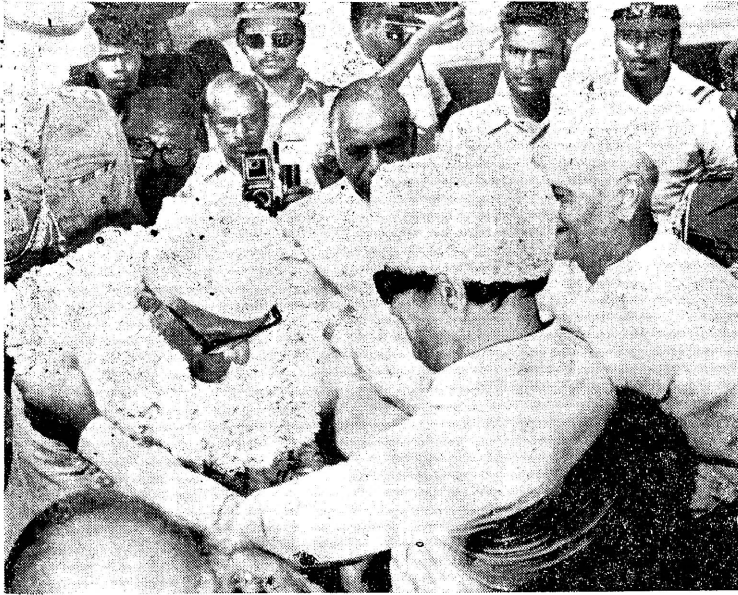
The connection which certain Socialist countries have attempted to make between "Labour Day" and the old May Day festivals appear imaginary. Robert Owen in 1833 appointed May 1st as the day for the commencement of the millinimum but apart from this mention the observance of the day cannot be dated earlier than 1889, in which year the first (Pairs) Congress of the Second

Socialist International selected the date for annual international celebrations. By the movers of the motion it was originally intended that the workers should be direct action enforce a holiday on May 1 no matter what day of the week it might be. Attempts have been made to do this regularly upon the continent; and frequently sanguinary conflicts have occurred with the police. In Britain the Labour Day celebration generally takes place on the first Sunday after May day: in London the traditional meeting place is Hyde-park. The first Labour Day celebration was not held in Britain till 1892.

Labour Day is celebrated on the first Monday in September in nearly all the States and Territories of the United States and in the provinces of Canada. Agitations for the celebration of the day was begun by

the knights of Labour who, in 1882, 1883 and 1884, paraded on that day in the city of New York. In 1884, the organisation adopted a resolution that the first Monday in September should be considered Labour Day, and steps were taken to recognize it as a noliday. Workmen of all organisations aided in the movement. Oregon in February 21, 1887, passed the first law recognizing the day and New York, New jersey and colorado soon followed. On June 28, 1894, a bill passed Congress making the day a legal holiday throughout the Union. Except for the district of Colombia and federal workers in other states further legislation was needed by the separate states to put the law into operation. All states and territories in 1928 had enacted such laws except Wyoming and Phillipines. In Phillipines Labour day is celebrated on May 1st.

News in Pictures...



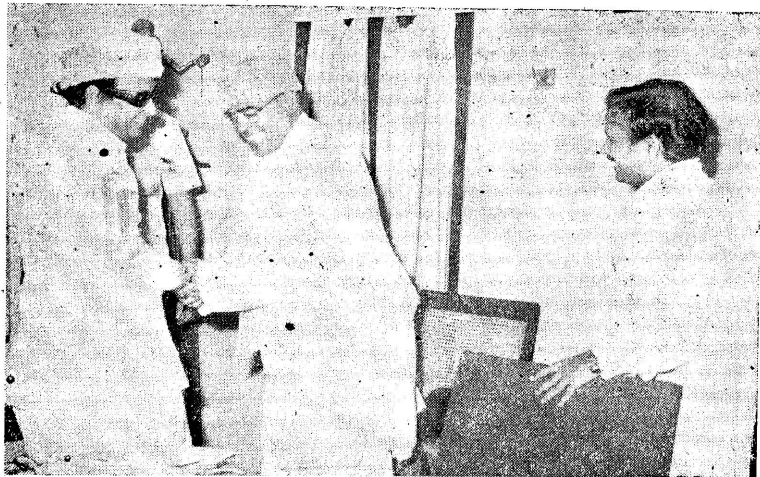
The Chief Minister Thiru M.G.R., received the President, Thiru Sanjeeva Reddi on his arrival at Meenambakkam on 11-4-79.



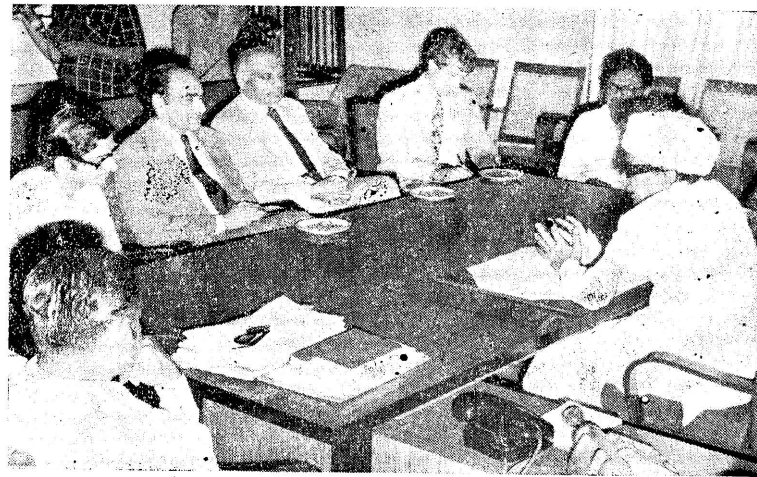
The Prime Minister Thiru Morarji Desai, was received at the airport on 13-4-79 by the Chief Minister Thiru M.G.R.



Thiru M. G. R., Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu held discussions with the Industrialists at a meeting on 13-4-79 at Secretariat.



Thiru ChandRam, Union Minister for Shipping and Transport called on the Chief Minister Thiru M. G. R., at his Chambers in the secretariat on 31-3-79.



Thiru Mooers A. Gureshi, Executive Vice-President International Finance Corporation called on the Chief Minister Thiru M. G. R. at Secretariat on 28-3-79 and had a discussion.

IF IT IS SATURDAY....

By

J.R. RAMANATHAN, I.A.S.,

Managing Director,

Tamil Nadu Tourism Development
Corporation Limited

Yes, If it is Saturday, it is Madras! This is what one of our tourists said with the same glee as some one else has said 'If it is Tuesday, it is Belgium! Saturday in Madras is the starting point for an enjoyable package tour around Tamil Nadu operated by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation with its luxury coaches. Here below is a recount of the memorable experience of one of our valuable customers.

'It was a cool Saturday morning. When I approached the TTDC Office on Mount Road, I found the fellow travellers ready with their baggages. It was a mixed crowd with a sprinkling of foreigners, a couple of Africans, an American, half-a-dozen Malaysians and on the home side, two families from Bengal, 5 or 6 people from Andhra Pradesh and a couple of Maharashtrians. A few minutes before 7 A.M. the gleaming luxury coach of the TTDC screeched to a halt in front of us and a Guide with a smile upon her lips appeared on the scene. After checking the tickets and loading the baggages, the Luxury Coach rolled on on the broad Mount Road while soft music was switched on over the Public Address system.

All of us were settling in our comfortable seats when an announcement came on the public address system. "Good morning ladies and gentlemen, this is so and so, your Tourist Guide speaking. On behalf of the TTDC I welcome you all on this 7-Day Tamil Nadu tour, etc. We, the coach crew members are at your service for the next 7 days and please do not hesitate to call us for any help." This was followed by a graphic description of the places we were going to see during our 7 day tour. This no doubt reminded us of the announcements on the Indian Airlines flight



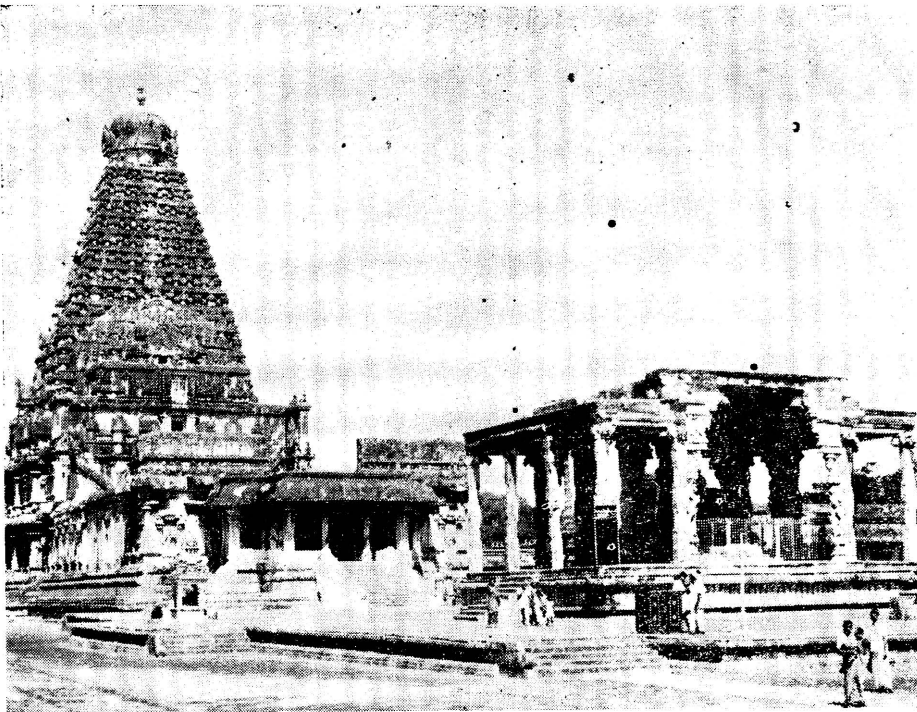
but there was something more to follow: "As we are going to travel as one family for the next 7 days, let us know each other. I will first request the Gentleman in seat No. 1 to introduce himself." This was followed by a series of self-introductions by all the passengers often mixed with little humour.

After a brief halt for breakfast at Chengalpattu, we resumed our journey and by this time acquaintances were building up. Many people were engaged in animated conversation about the history and

fame of the places to be visited and a few introverts were making liberal use of the magazines provided in the Coach. Our first stop was Pondicherry which is described as the Window of French culture and is famous for the Arobindo Ashram. After a quick look around the Ashram and a drive round the town, we reached Chidambaram, the famous pilgrim centre, in time for lunch. We were put up at the TTDC's Tourist Bungalow at Chidambaram where we were given a sumptuous lunch after which many of us dozed off into an afternoon siesta in the comfortable beds provided in the dormitory. A few of us who wanted privacy of accommodation paid a little more and occupied the rooms adjacent to the dormitory. After tea in the evening, we were taken to the famous temple at Chidambaram where the presiding deity is Lord Nataraja depicting the famous cosmic dance of Shiva. In the evening some of us took a stroll around the University campus at Annamalai Nagar and a few of us went to the nearby Cinema House.



After breakfast we passed through Kumbakonam and Swamimalai and reached Thanjavur by lunch time. After a good meal,



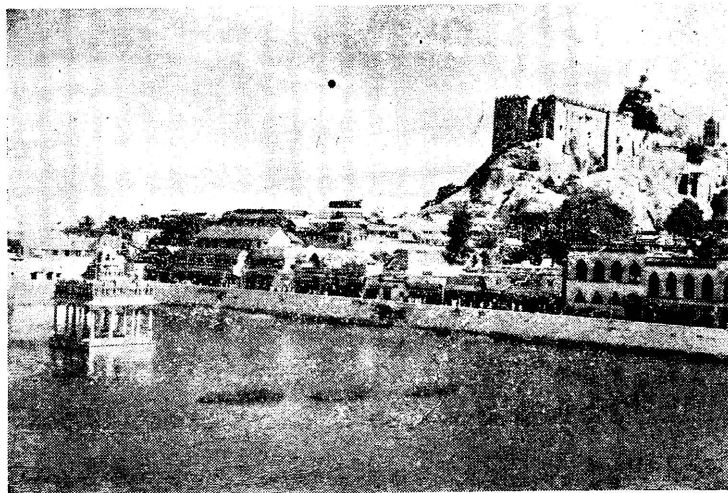
at the TTDC's Bungalow and a little rest, we visited the famous Brihadeeswarar temple, a standing monument to the architectural skill of the Cholas. Thanjavur is also the birth place of several famous handicrafts like Thanjavur Art plate, musical instruments like Veena, paper machie dolls, etc.

Next day we took a long drive to Mandapam near Rameswaram.

From Mandapam we travelled to Rameswaram by train where we stayed in the TTDC's Bungalow which is right on the Beach. Rameswaram is one of the famous pilgrim centres which attracts pilgrims from all over India and many foreign countries. The legend about the origin of the temple has it, that Rama, the hero of Ramayana, made a 'lingam' from sand and worshipped. We visited the temple in the

evening and it was an inspiring experience. We strolled along the longest corridor in the country, looking at the beautiful sculptures on both sides.

We returned next day by train to Mandapam and motored down to Thiruchendur, another famous pilgrim centre where a huge temple has been built right on the sea front. By the close of the fourth day, we had got to know each other of our fellow travellers, and formed into groups of acquaintances. The company of these fellow travellers made the trip all the more enjoyable.



On the fifth day, we motored down to Kanyakumari and spent the whole day there seeing the beautiful Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Gandhi Mandapam and the famous Kanyakumari temple. In the evening we saw the sun set which is a memorable sight. It can be seen at its best only at Kanyakumari which is the land's end at the confluence of the three seas, the Bay of Bengal, The Arabian sea and the Indian Ocean. Some of us had a refreshing bath in the sea. The cafeteria and the swimming pool on the water-front were thronged by Tourists.

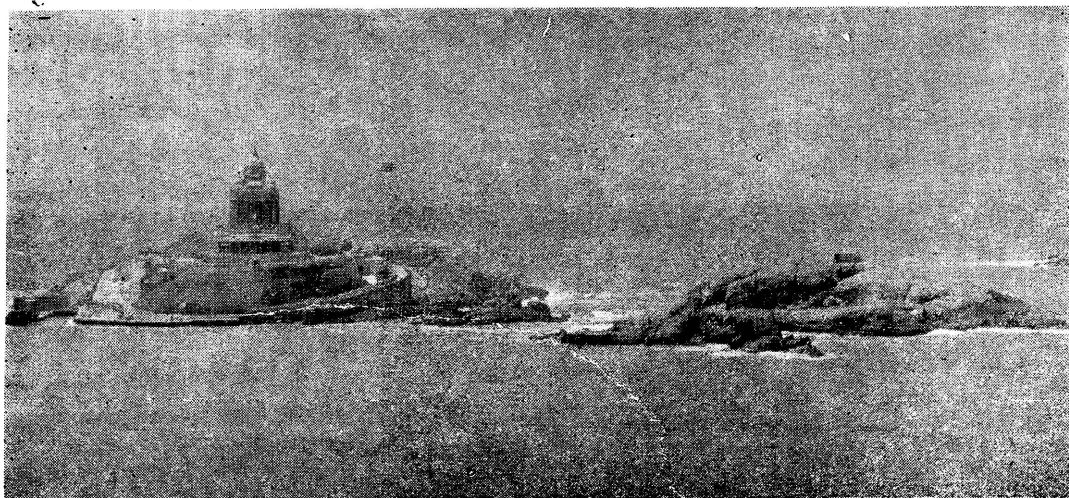
Next day, after seeing the sun rise, which is equally a spectacular sight, we drove up to Courtallam, the famous holiday resort, where we had a refreshing bath in the water falls. We reached Madurai in the night after covering Srivilliputhur, which has the tallest temple tower in Tamil Nadu.

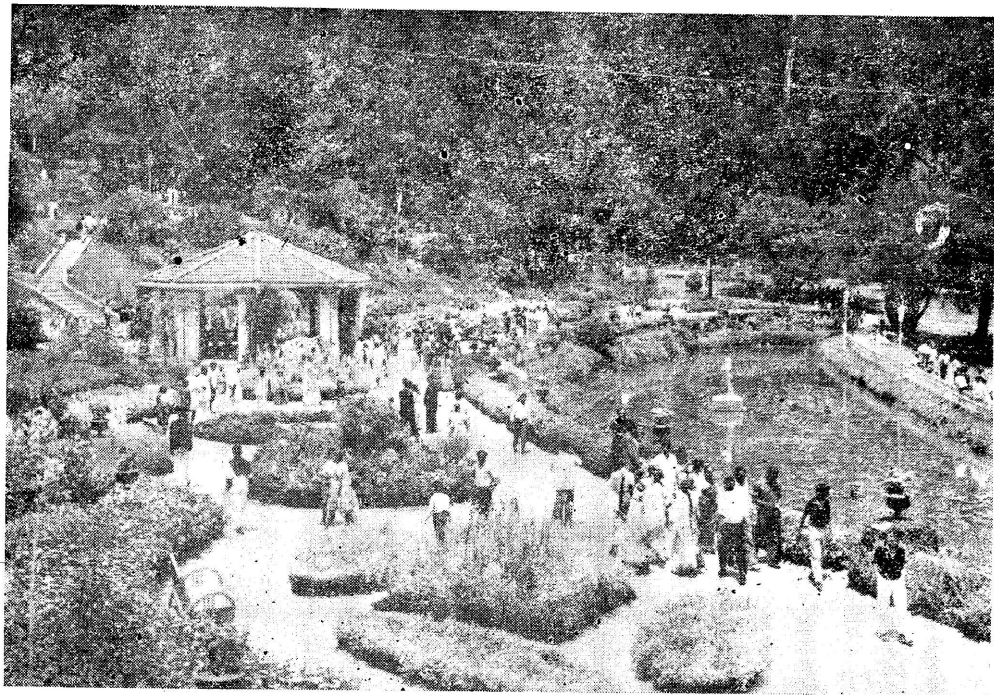
The whole forenoon of next day was spent at Madurai seeing the famous Meenakshi temple, Thirumalai Naikn Palace and other attractions of this once famous capital of Pandya Dynasty. Leaving Madurai in the afternoon we reached Tirichi for night halt. The next day we visited the famous Rock Fort temple and Srirangam island.

We returned to Madras by about 6.30 P.M. after an unforgettable and enjoyable holiday for which we paid just Rs. 390 for Dormitory and Rs. 490 for special accommodation. The trip was made more enjoyable by the courteous and helpful crew and the ever-eager-to-please staff of the TTDC's Bungalows. The parting scenes were some times touching when people were exchange-

ing addresses and saying 'if and when you visit such-and-such-a-place, please let me know' etc. It is a tribute to human nature that the 40 passengers who were strangers to each other to begin with were knit by a common bond during this enjoyable tour of Tamil Nadu. After thanking the crew and taking leave of the friends, I left with the feeling that the enjoyable holiday was too good to last longer.'

This is more or less a sincere account of one of our customers who went on our 7 day package tour. The TTDC also operates another 7 day package tour called South India Tour offering a different mixture of the tourist attractions of Tamil Nadu in addition to the daily trips to Mammallapuram, Tirukalikundram and Kanchipuram and the daily sight seeing tour of Madras city. Our motto in running these package tours and the Tourist Bungalows is "the high tide of comforts and the low tide of costs." So there is reason for TTDC's claim that its package tours is a success story. All the package tours start from Madras on Saturdays—So, 'If it is Saturday, it is Madras !





and to remember....

Ootacamund, is a corruption of Utaka-mund, a mund, or collection of quaint huts in which the aboriginal tribes of the todas live.

Ootacamund reposes in an amphitheatre surrounded by four great hills: Dodabetta (8,760 feet) the highest point of the Nilgiri plateau, snowdon (8,380 feet) Elk hill (8,090 feet), and the club hill. At the bottom of the valley enclosed by these, on the slopes of which are built the various residences and offices, was formerly a wide bog through which wandered a stream that eventually left the valley on the west. The lower part of this stream has been turned into the lake, round which winds a carriage drive; and the upper part of the bog has been filled in and levelled and converted into the Hobart Park, one of the most beautiful polo and cricket grounds in India, round which runs a race course with a lap of a mile and a quarter.

On the west are the wenlock downs, a wide expanse about 16 square miles in area, of undulating springy turf diversified with woods and streams, on which are the golf links, and which forms the home

country of the Ootacamund Hunt, an Institution founded in 1867 to hunt the hardy and fast jackal with foxhounds imported from England. Across the downs and round the outer edges of the plateau there is beautiful scenery and in places command magnificent views of the low country. The possibilities they afford for outdoor exercises, constitute the chief superiority of Ootacamund over the more steep cramped hill stations on the Himalayas.

This hill station has also a great charm. The somewhat mournful looking Australian trees, the eucalyptus, the wattle and the *Accacia melanoxylon* - which have been planted throughout it are perhaps now too numerous to be beautiful; but, on the other hand, plants and shrubs which in England require care and shelter here flourish in an almost wild state with wonderful luxuriance. Hedges round gardens frequently consist of roses, geraniums fuchsia, and even heliotrope. The annual rainfall is about 49 inches and the frost in the colder months are only slight, so that the flowers bloom in profusion in every month of the year.

On the grassy downs several varieties of orchids, and wide stretches of land are covered with *Strobis lanthes*, which once in seven years bursts into a sheet of blue blossom and then dies down. The colour of its beautiful flowers vary from a pale, light blue to a deep purple as the clouds drift over there, and form a most striking picture; they may have suggested the name, "Blue Mountains." In the sholas grow rhododendrons, several species of *ilex*, *Elacocarpus*, and *Eugenia*, the varied tint of the leaves of which render these little woods extremely beautiful in the spring, ferns of many varieties, bracken, tree-orchids with delicate blossoms, the hill gooseberry, black berries of especial luxuriance. The sweet-scented Nilgiri lily, the alpine wild strawberry and many other unusual interesting trees and plants. English flowers and vegetables flourish amazingly. Hedges in the gardens on the plateau are often made of *heliotropes*, *fuchsia*, and *geranium*, all of which grow into strong shrubs. English fruits are, however, less successful.

Of the large game found on the plateau the Nilgiris ibex is the most

interesting, occurring only on these hills and a few other parts of Western ghats farther south. Tigers and leopards, often, and wild dogs occasionally, ascend the plateau from the lower slopes. Sambar are common in the sholas, throughout the hills, especially in the kundahs. Bison and elephants are fairly common in the Bend Reserve and in Mudumalai forest in the lower Wynaad. Among rarer animals of the smaller kind may be mentioned the Nilgiri langur and the Indian Marten. The hill-otter is fairly common on the banks of the Pykara river, and the carniatic carp are numerous in the same stream. Snakes are not so common as in the low country, but forty-five non-venomous and thirteen venomous species have been noted.

Ooty is especially rich in lepidoptera, and the Wynaad and the lower slopes of the hills near Mettuplayam are happy hunting ground for the entomologist.

Of migrant birds, the woodcock is fairly common on the plateau between the months of October and March. Snipe also visit the bogs at the bottom of the valleys. The edible-nest swift breeds in a few places, notably in the cave in Tiger hill close to the toll-bar at the top of the ghat road from Coonoor to Ootacamund.

PLACES OF INTEREST

The Government Botanical gardens have been maintained by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Department since 1920. This garden is one of the loveliest spots in Ooty. There is a wood hut (Log house) at the top from where a panoramic view of Ooty can be had. The annual spring flower show of the Nilgiris Agri-Horticultural Society and the Dog show of the South India Kennel club are held every year during May, attracting large number of visitors. Adjacent to the gardens is the Raj Bhavan, the summer residence of the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Dodabetta is the highest peak in Tamil Nadu. It is 8,760 ft. high. A motorable road takes you to the top where there is an attractive glass pavilion. On a clear day, you can have a birds-eye-view of Ooty. Coonoor, Wellington and

Kundah and even the distant Coimbatore plains and Mysore plateau.

Tiger hill

Branching off after 3 miles from the road to Coonoor a path leads to the Tiger Hill Reservoir, a beautiful picnic spot; but one has to walk down to the reservoir from the road. From this reservoir one can reach the nearby tiger hill rock precipice and some caves situated above the valley view.

The lake:

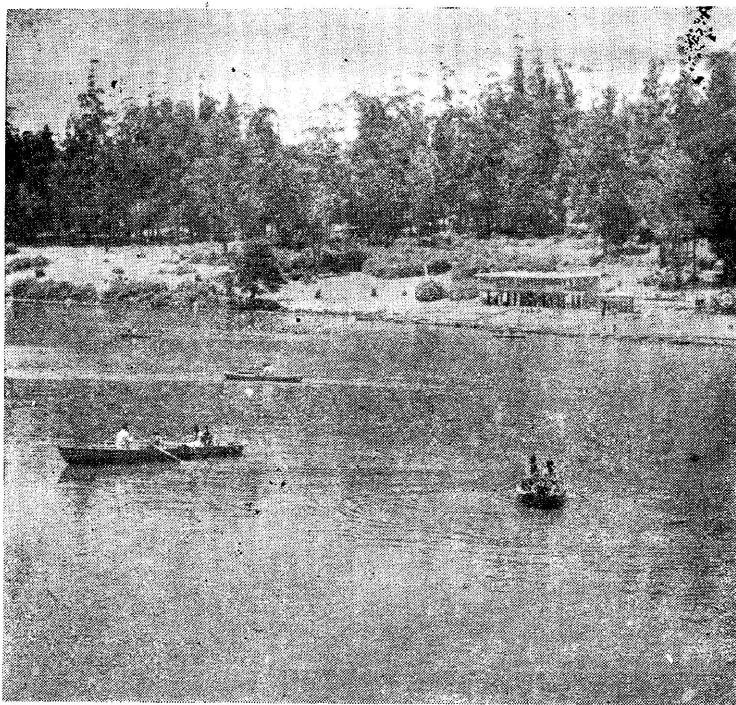
Pleasure boating facilities are available on the lake. The "Boat

in India where races are held on a turf course.

The Wenlock downs:

Named after Wenlock, a former Governor of Madras, this undulating landscape covering 40 square miles, is perhaps the most beautiful place in the Nilgiris. The sun-set seen from the Golf Links on the Downs is glorious especially in September and October.

The Hindustan Photo Films factory is located here and the Kamaraj Sagar (Sandy-nallah dam) is built on the downs. The Government sheep Farm, the Ootacamund



House" maintained by the Government of Tamil Nadu Tourism Department is kept open from 08.00 hours to 18.00 hours on all days. There is a children's corner in the boat house. Row boats and Motor boats are rented here. Pony rides are a major attraction for children. There are four Cabin sheds which serve as picnic spots. Fishing is permitted under issue of licence.

Race course:

The annual horse races held in summer attract thousands of visitors. This is the only hill station

Kennel club and the Golf links of of the gymkhana club are all on the downs.

Cairn Hill

Lying South of Ooty Lake, its thick woods of premival shola of blue-gum and cypress make it appear as though it is miles away in heart of a forest.

Avalanche:]

A break in the woods at Cairn hill presents an "avalanche" of views, strangely enough of a country about fifteen miles from Ooty

known as the "Avalanche" It derived the name after an avalanche there in 1828. But nature has healed the havoc and it has now become a lovely spot, full of wild life. It is connected by a metalled road and the gorgeous scenery at every turn is an experience of wonder and delight, to say the least. Passing through several villages, the road comes to a fork from where one branch leads to Kundah and the other leads to Avalanche, five miles further. A mile away from the Traveller's Bungalow, is the trout hatchery.

About 37 miles away the De Heriez Hut on the way to Korakundah Estate can be reached. The Pirmund stream runs through the Korakundah Estate and fishing can be done while going up or coming down.

There is another stream the Arokiampuzha, lying nearer the edge of the cliff, an hour's hiking from the top of the Avalanche pass, and is considered the finest in the Nilgiris. It is well stocked with small fish.

The avalanche, Bangit appa, and De Heriez Hut are good centres for Sambhur. Near the cliffs from

Nilgiris Peak to Lispara, the Ibex can be seen.

Mukurti peak

This is a beautiful area well-known for its dam, the waters of its rivers and even more renowned for its peak which defies easy access. To reach this spot, one has to drive along the Mysore road for a distance of 16 miles from Ooty, and then turn left and on for a distance of 6 miles along some of the prettiest roads in the Nilgiris. The road goes to Krurmund and Mekod; but instead of going to the left below the Hydro-electric inspection bungalow, one has to turn sharply to the right and, half-a mile further, is situated the lake.

Mukurti lake is a beautiful sheet of water about 4 miles long, surrounded by high hills with the Mukurti peak at the west end. One can reach the foot of Mukurti after boating along the lake for 4 miles. It rises sharply to an altitude of 8,380 feet. Hardly hikers can walk round the lake too, up and down and endless succession of hills.

Fish in the lake weight upto 3 lbs and over and are hard to catch, but well worth trying.

Elk Hill :

Although about 500 feet above the town it is less than an hour's walk from the Charing Cross and one gets a good view of Ootacamund and its environs and the tea estates of Lovedale valley. There is a temple on the top of the hill dedicated to Lord Subramania.

Snowdown:

This conical peak 8,399 feet juts out from the main ridges gives a panoramic view. It overlooks the Northern slopes, and Mysore beyond. A two mile road via St. Stephen's Church leads to this peak.

Toda pho:

This Pho, the only one of its kind is situated at Mattinad Mund, a tribal village where the Todas perform their religious rites. From the summit of the hill beyond this quaint edifice, one can have a grand view of the steep Sighur ghat.

Coonoor :

Coonoor, the second largest of the three hill stations of the Nilgiris stands on the lower ridges of the main plateau at an altitude of about 6,000 feet. Its climate is milder than that of Ootacamund. It is also an ideal health resort. The area surrounding the town offers the tourists a number of picnic spots in the midst of picturesque scenery.

Places of Interest :

Sim's park: Located in upper Coonoor, the sim's park opened in 1874 as a pleasure ground for the inhabitants and visitors of Coonoor and Wellington has become a botanical garden in the course of its evolution. The park is named after J.D. Sim. In this park there are two well laid out terraces on which are grown various kinds of flowers. Many species of trees and shrubs which do not thrive in Ooty are grown here. Annual fruit and vegetable show is held here.

Pomological Station :

This is one of the three experimental fruit gardens in the Nilgiris maintained by the Tamil Nadu



Agriculture Department. The other two are at Burlian and Kallar on the Coonoor—Mettupalayam ghat road. Started in 1920, the Coonoor station is situated at an elevation of 5,600 feet to 5,900 feet above sea level, along the slope of a hill extending over a total area of 16 acres. Apples, plums, peaches, persimmons, lemons, apricots, and pomogranates are grown for purposes of research.

Pasteur Institute :

Located opposite to the Sim's park, this Institute was established in 1907. It is a famous institution doing research on rabies and giving effective treatment to persons bitten by rabid animals. One of the most important projects recently undertaken by the institute is the manufacture of Polio vaccine.

Loz falls :

This is a pretty cascade near the junction of the Kateri and Coonoor rivers situated about 4 miles away from Coonoor, on the Coonoor-Mettupalayam ghat road. One should branch off from the Wenlock bridge and take the newly formed road to reach the falls.

Lamb's rock :

It stands six miles from Coonoor on a motorable road. It is a perfect sheer precipice of several hundred feet. It commands a grand view of the Coimbatore plains.

Lady Canning's seat :

About 6 miles from the town on a motorable road, it is marked by a small house and commands a panoramic view of the tea estates and the plains.

Dolphin's nose :

It is 7 miles away from the town over-looking the plains and is a favourite picnic spot. Catherine Falls can be seen from this point.

The Droog :

Another picnic spot. It is 11 miles from Coonoor and stands 6,000 feet high overlooking the

plains. Two miles of trekking has to be done to approach the point. An old fort is in ruins there.

Wellington :

3 miles up from Coonoor on the way to Ootacamund one comes in sight of Wellington, the military town with a row of barracks built in 1852. The headquarters of the "Madras Regimental Centre" of the Indian Army and the 'Defence Services staff college' (the only one of its kind in India) are located here.

Ketti :

Five miles from Coonoor on the way to Ootacamund is the beautiful Ketti valley situated amidst pleasant natural scenery

Stanley park :

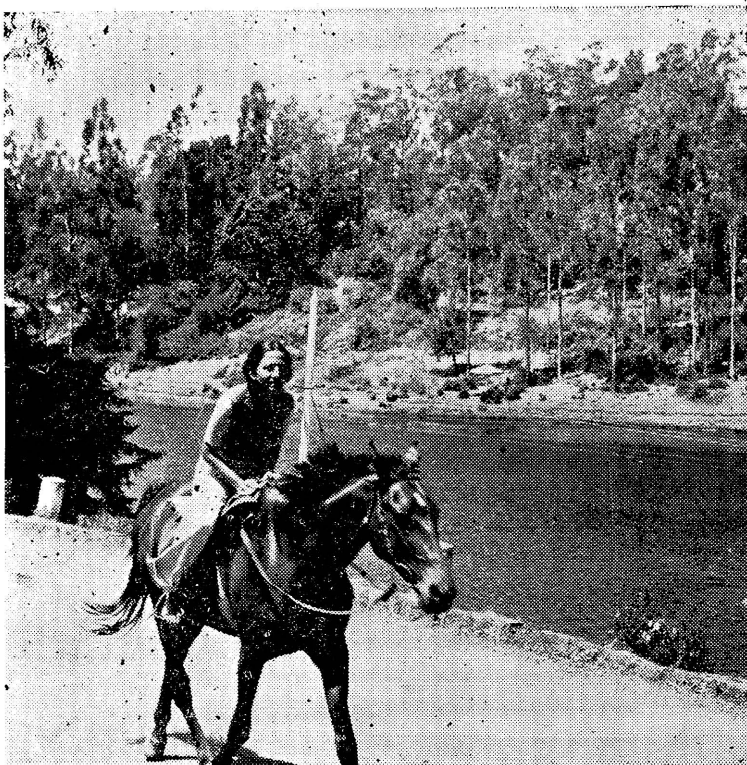
Scout and guide camping centre Coonoor. An ideal camping ground 2 miles from Coonoor Railway

station (Mount pleasant) with a wooden hut and protected water supply.

Kotagiri :

Kotagiri has an edge over Ooty in the matter of climate as it is protected by the Dooddebetta ranges from the violence of the South West monsoon. Kotagiri is believed to be an old Kota settlement. The kotas are one of the major hill tribes of the Nilgris. The names of the settlement was previously "Kotar Keri" (the street of kotas) To-day it has developed into a pleasant hill station for those who love a quiet life.

Kotagiri has lovely green fields and a golf-course. There are several sholas in Kotagiri, the longwood being the biggest, thickest and deepest.





In Their Natural Habitat

125 square miles in extent with thick jungle and vegetation, the Mudumalai sanctuary is one of the major wild life sanctuaries in the Nilgiris. The forests offer a good sanctuary for the animals to live in their natural habitat.

The animals seen in the sanctuary are Elephants, Gaur (Bison), sambur, spotted deer, wild boar, panther, tiger, bear, wild dogs, hyena etc.

The distribution of reptiles is as interesting as it is varied. Noteworthy among the reptiles are the python, the largest of the reptiles, rat snake, monitor lizard, tortoises and flying lizard.

The Moyar river which passes through the sanctuary gives shelter to otters and crocodiles.

For bird-watchers, the sanctuary is a paradise. There are a variety of birds like thrush, cuckoo, wood pecker, black eagle, wild fowls and peacocks.

For the visitors to watch the wild animals in the sanctuary, elephant rides are available. Jeep and van rides are also available.

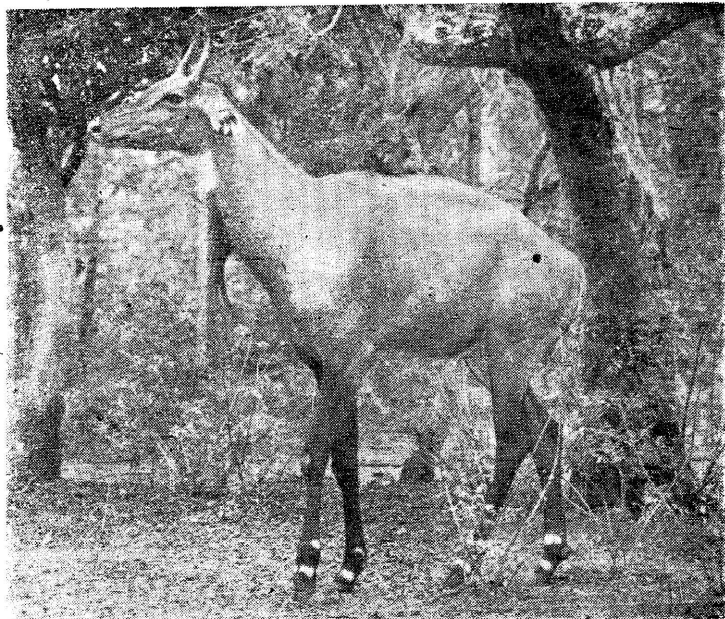
On the plateau, particularly on the western side, the Nilgiri Tahr are on the Mukerti, Bengi topal, Nilgiri peak, kundah slopes and ridges. In these areas, panthers and tigers may also be seen. The grey jungle fowl inhabit most of the sholas of wooded folds of the hills, while snipes and woodcock may be seen during the season.

In the low country, at the foot of the sigur ghat, an extensive area of forest and scrub jungle com-





mences where large herds of chital (spotted deer) may be seen. Sambar, though not plentiful are available in sufficient numbers. Bears may be seen along the foot hills from Sirur to Singara. A panther and occasionally a tiger may also be seen. Elephants are very commonly seen in bamboo forests along the water courses. These areas should be approached with extreme



caution and only when accompanied by a local shikari.

There are pigeons, grey jungles fowls spur fowls, partridges, quail, and hares.

ELEPHANT CAMP

Elephant camp where tamed elephants are kept is situated in the heart of the sanctuary at Theppakkadu. A visit to the elephant camp during the feeding time in the morning or evening is a must. You can also see and enjoy the baby elephants performing tricks. Elephants are available for rides through the sanctuary.

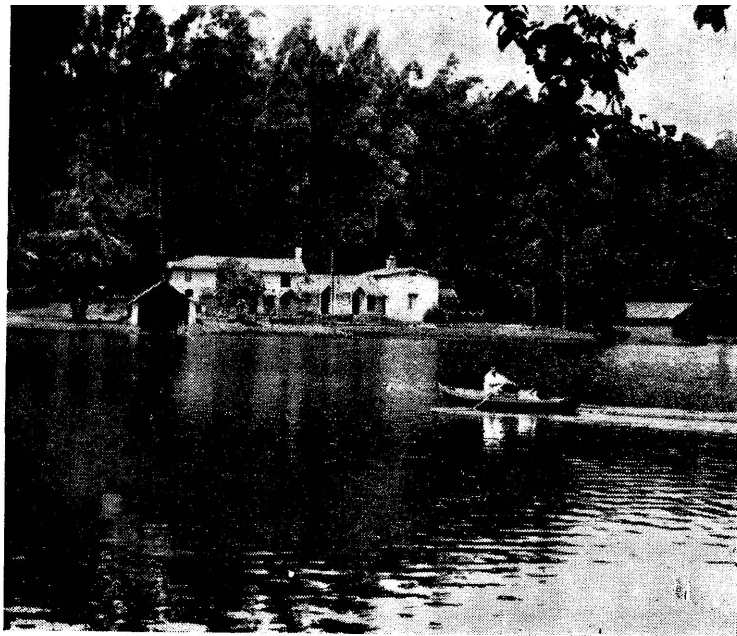
MOYAR WATER FALLS

The Moyar is the main river of sanctuary and provides perennial water satisfying the need of all animals, big and small, for drinking, wallowing and bathing. In places it is a deep, fast flowing river with an impressive series of cascendo at the waterfall in Theppakkadu

KARGUDI VIEW POINT

This view point is near Kargudi rest house. From here one gets a panoramic view of the country around.





KODAI PARADISE FOR HOLIDAY MAKERS

Kodaikanal, 7,000 feet above sea level, is a lovely hill station and a picturesque summer resort of Tamilnadu, which lies amidst the sylvan grandeur of the Palani hills in the Madurai District. There is no mountain railway leading to it. The nearest rail head is Kodaikanal Road of the Southern Railway. From the station the distance is about 50 miles or 80 kilometers. Two-thirds of this motor journey up the hill through the ghats is an exciting experience with the vistas and scenery changing with every bend and curve on the mountain road. The highest peaks here are over 8,000 feet. Average height of the hills in the plateau is about 1,000 feet.

As we go up the road, a variety of trees and flowering plants greets the eye and the fragrance of eucalyptus and roses fills the air. The most striking attraction of Kodaikanal is the famous lake surrounded by a three mile road. It is in the form of the palm of a hand. It was planned by Sir Vere Levenge and formed by banking up a small stream. A walk along the three mile promenade skirting the lake is an exhilarating experience and boating in the lake is an ideal sport and popular pastime for visitors. A road runs right around the lake for about a distance of 5 kilometers.

The Bear Shola Falls, Glen falls, the Silver Cascade (200 feet) the fairy falls (25 feet), and several other beautiful water falls

add to the scenic beauty of Kodaikanal; also there are some well-known vantage points such as Prospect Point, Vembadi shola peak and Dolphin's.

The lake Bryant Park, Pillar rocks, Perumal Peak, Silver cascade, Bear Shola Falls etc., and the Solar Physics Observatory are some of Kodai's attractions. The flora and fauna museum at the Sacred Heart College at Shembaganur near Kodaikanal is a must for every visitor. One of the best maintained post offices in India is also here.

From Coaker's walk a picturesque view of the valley can be seen. Two powerful Telescopes have been installed at Kodaikanal are at Coakers' walk and the other at Kurinji Andavar Temple. A view of Madurai and Vaigai Dam can be seen through the telescope. Coaker's walk is a famous place of rest with a chasm of 1,000 feet below.

Kodai is noted for cut flowers, hybrids and grafts, hill plaitain fruit and plums. The pride of Kodaikanal is the Kurinji flower which blossoms once in 12 years. It blossomed last in 1969. Next season is 1981.

The season begins in the middle of April and for two months. Kodaikanal is the paradise of holiday makers, with its temperate climate and an average of twelve hours of sunshine everyday. It is one of the most popular health resorts in India.

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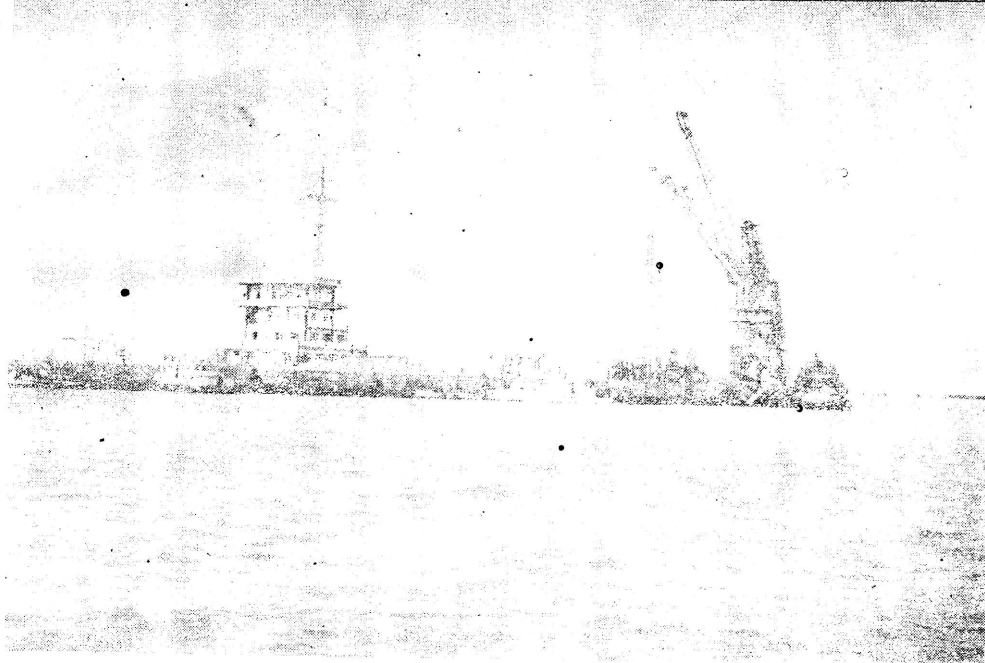
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TUTICORIN PORT

Very few towns can vie with Tuticorin with a continuous and fascinating history. While maritime cities that were once centres of trade and civilization stand obscured and cities that once decided the destinies of others to mere geographical expressions, Tuticorin has, however, maintained a steady growth throughout the centuries. There have been many obstacles in its onward march, but it has come out successful and has progressed steadily to add further glory.

The earliest mention of Tuticorin in literature was made in 88 A.D., in the greek work "Periplus of the Erythrean sea". The first available reference to Tuticorin in history was made in 120 A.D., by the greek philosopher, Ptolemy. In ancient days, Tuticorin has been a flourishing centre for "chauk" and pearl fishing and it had contacts with a number of eastern and western countries where pearl fishery was at its eminence.

Tuticorin was under the rule of the Pandyas and Cholas from the 11th to the 12th century. The proverbial wealth of Tamil Nadu lured the traders, travellers, adventurers and eventually the colonisers from all the directions. The Portuguese were the first to arrive in 1532 and they began to take a lively interest in trade as well as in local politics. Ultimately the East India Company

took over the administration of Tuticorin in 1825.

The early part of the 19th century marked the rise of Tuticorin to a position of considerable importance in the world of commerce.

The rich populous hinterland, and the prospering maritime trade and the advantageous position which Tuticorin had over other ports in the east coast in possessing a natural harbour gave room for the development of the harbour.

The light house built in 1842 replacing the Dutch obelisk marked the beginning of the history of the Tuticorin Harbour Development.

Tuticorin was the citadel of the freedom struggle in the early years of the 20th century. V.O. Chidambaranar took an active part. As part of his doctrine of Swadesism, he bought the steamer, "S.S. Gaelia" and started the first swadesi steam navigation company in India.

A statue of V.O.C. has been erected in his memory at the entrance of the Port.

The Intermediate Ports Development Committee constituted by the Government of India recommended the development of a Major Port at Tuticorin during the year 1960. The recommendation

of the Committee was accepted by the Government and an allotment of Rs. 5 crores was made in the Third Five Year Plan. The Government accorded expenditure sanction for Rs. 21.76 crores during July 1969 for the construction of four alongside berths for salt, coal, cement and general cargo to accommodate vessels with 9.14 m. draft in the first stage of development provision to deepen the end two berths to 10.70 m. draft at a later date.

LAYOUT OF THE HARBOUR

It is an artificial Deep-Sea Harbour with rubble mound type parallel breakwaters, north and south, each of length 4103 m. and 3888 m. respectively, projecting into the sea 1275 m apart, with an entrance of 152 m width providing a tranquil sea basin of 960 acres. The main wharf is 877 m. long and it can accommodate four ships, two of 160 m. in length and the remaining two of 192 m. The berths are located in the natural deeper waters about 3,000 m. from the shore. The link between the wharf and the shore is by means of road and railway system laid over the reclaimed approach arm of 61 m. width adjoining South Breakwater. The harbour is served by a dredged approach channel of 1400 m. long and 183. m. wide.

PROGRESS OF WORKS :

Both the breakwaters, the wharf wall, and one mooring berth was completed at North Breakwater and commissioned to unload naphtha and furnace oil required for the Fertiliser Complex. The Port was declared as the Tenth Major Port of India on the 11th July, 1974. The capital dredging of the approach channel is in progress.

Construction of an Oil Jetty at North Breakwater :

The Government of India sanctioned an estimate for Rs. 97.50 lakhs for the construction of a Permanent Oil Jetty at North Breakwater. This jetty is designed to cater for the oil tankers of size ranging from 12,000 DWT to 40,000 DWT. The abutment and 50 piles out of the total number of 64 piles of the jetty head, berthing dolphin and approach jetty has been completed. The piling work in the western berthing dolphin is in progress. Due to some construction problems met with in the abutment and the founding levels, there was some delay in the progress. As per the present tempo of works, the oil jetty is expected to be completed in all respects by 30th June, 1979.

Construction of Coal Jetty at North Breakwater :

The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is setting up a coal-fired Thermal Power Station with three generating units of 210 capacity each within the harbour area. Their construction schedule is to commission the first unit by December 1978 and the second unit by June 1979. Their entire coal requirements of 12 lakh-tonnes in the first stage (two units of 210 MW each) and 18 lakh-tonnes in the ultimate stage (3 units of 210 MW each) have to be landed through this Port. The erection of the first unit has been completed and will be commissioned shortly.

For the construction of an exclusive Coal Berth to handle the thermal coal together with the coal required for other consumers (6 lakh-tonnes), an estimate amounting to Rs. 297 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government. The Coal Jetty has been designed to cater for 50,000 DWT colliers deadfreighted to 10.70 m. draft. The coal jetty is to be completed by June 1980.

The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is providing shore reception

facilities and conveyor system to handle coal at the rate of 2,000—T/hour. Poompuhar Shipping Corporation is gearing up herself to undertake the coastal transportation of coal from Haldia to Tuticorin.

Merger of the port of new Tuticorin and the Tuticorin port trust :

The Government of Tamil Nadu and the Central Government agreed to the integration of the existing Minor Port (Tuticorin Port Trust) and the existing Major Port (Port of New Tuticorin) into a single Major Port, for which one Port Trust under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, would be constituted. It was also agreed that the Government of Tamil Nadu would meet by means of a loan to the Port Trust, half the deficit that would accrue to the Port Trust in the initial years, the loan being repaid from the net surpluses generated in subsequent years to the extent of 50% of the surpluses or the quantum of the loan, whichever is lower and the other half will be accommodated as a loan from the centre to the Port Trust.

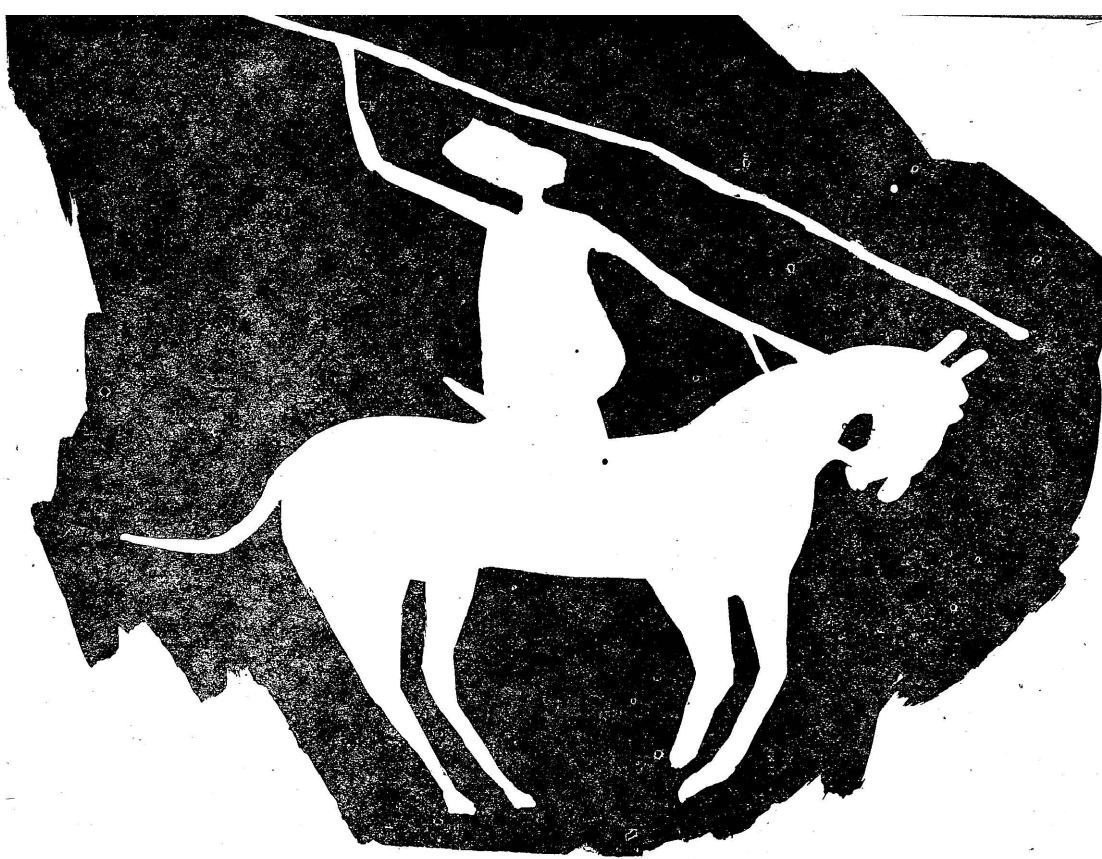
MADRAS DOCK FOR LARGE VESSELS TO BE MADE ALL WEATHER DOCK

Bharathi Dock, the Madras Outer Harbour, will be made an all-weather dock by the middle of 1981. At present, it receives oil vessels upto 1,00,000 DWT and ore vessels upto 1,50,000 DWT during nine months of the year. Restrictions on the draft of ships are being imposed during the three months of north-east monsoon from mid-October to mid-January.

The Minister for Shipping and Transport, Thiru Chand Ram, inaugurated the project to make it an all-weather dock. The project involves construction of the outer arm to protect the dock and the ship entering it from monsoon weather. It is expected to take 33 months to complete it at a cost of Rs. 774 lakhs.

Thiru Chand Ram has accepted the suggestion made by the Minister for Transport, Government of Tamil Nadu Thiru Ponnaiyan, that some of the cargo ships can be diverted to minor ports to provide employment opportunities to workers there. Thiru Chand Ram said a meeting would be convened in April in this regard.

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Rock Paintings In Mallappadi

The recently discovered ancient rock paintings at Mallappadi, in the district of Dharmapuri, belong to pre or protohistoric times, are the first of their kind to be discovered in Tamil Nadu.

They were found in a shallow rock-shelter, on the slopes of a bald, sparse hill at Mallappadi. Following an earlier discovery of Neolithic tools at the foot of the hill, archaeologists located a rock shelter which was occupied by Neolithic and Megalithic folk. The archaeology department undertook detailed excavations of the cave floors which have yielded the occupational debris of the Neolithic and the later Megalithic people, the two cultures which are formative landmarks in the pre-or protohistoric annals of the country.

The paintings have been carried out on the ceilings of the low rock shelter adjoining the excavated one. These paintings like others done during the same time, are in light yellow or white. Altogether there

are four figures, of which the horse group seems to depict a fighting or a hunting scene. Two persons, each mounted on a horse, are confronting each other as if engaged in fight. They are holding the reins in one hand and a long pole or lance in the other. The poles are crossed, indicating an encounter. The figures of both horses and humans are stylised and crude.

In the same rock space, a little away from the horse group, is the figure of a primitive man holding a stick or a weapon in his right hand, with both hands raised as if about to strike another figure shown separately, as of an animal, probably a bull judging from the two horns, hump and long tail. The bull was a favouring theme in pre-historic cave painting and terracota art all over the world.

The granite rock of North Karnataka and Andhra provide suitable protected surfaces for rock art at sites like Kupgal, Maski and Pikhilal. Most of them have been

attributed to the Neolithic people who settled on the hills. The subjects depicted most frequently are cattle, long-horned bulls, deer, tigers, human figures with sticks or axes and occasionally men on horses.

The rock paintings now discovered at Mallappadi seems to closely resemble the Karnataka group of paintings, particularly the figures of the horned bull and the armed human figures. The presence of the horse in the Neolithic times has been revealed by the excavation of horse bones at Hallur, Karnataka. Horse bits have also been discovered at other places including Megalithic graves in Tamil Nadu. The newly discovered paintings here in Tamil Nadu go back at least to the later phase of the Southern Neolithic or Early Iron Age, roughly around 1,000 B.C.

The discovery of the cave paintings in Tamil Nadu provide one more significant link with the pre-and protohistoric cultures of the past of South India.

Courtesy : The Times of India.

The Blue Hills of the South

SUSHIL DAS

The Nilgiri Hills, or the Blue Mountains as they are called, are a wonderful holiday resort. The name 'Nilgiri', which is some 850 years old, was given to the hills by the dwellers of the adjoining plains because of the blue haze which envelops the range. The natural scenery of the hills is magnificent; its many ravines, woods and grassy downs possess a tremendous tourist appeal.

There is no written record of the Nilgiris prior to 1812 but there is evidence that Tippu Sultan who succeeded his father, Hyder Ali, the ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore in ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore in 1782 lived on the Nilgiris and garrisoned forts at Malaikott and Halikal Droog situated in the Coonoor district of the Nilgiris.

The East India Company captured power from Tippu Sultan in the third Mysore War. Srirangapatnam fell in 1799 when Tippu Sultan was killed. In the subsequent treaty entered into by the East India Company, the Nilgiris Plateau was ceded to the Company.

The Nilgiri Plateau was visited by an Englishman for the first time in 1812 when an assistant surveyor named William Keys, accompanied by an apprentice called Macmahon reached the top of the plateau and enjoyed "the sweet half English air". In 1818 John Sullivan, Collector of Coimbatore, led a party to Dimbatti north of Kotagiri where the party pitched their tents. In May 1819, Sullivan went up the hills for 20 days and during this trip he began constructing his bungalow at Dimbatti. By June 1920, twenty gentlemen and one lady had visited the plateau.

Sullivan was the first Englishman to visit Ootacamund. He built his house the "Stone House" there. The building is presently occupied by the Government Arts College. In 1826, Sir Thomas Munro, the then Governor of Madras, went up the hills for a few days, and was a guest of Sullivan's

at the "Stone House". To Lady Munro, who could not accompany her husband as she was on her way to England Sir Thomas wrote that the Nilgiris were "so grand and magnificent that I will always regret your not having seen it."

The Nilgiris are renowned for their tribals with their unique customs and ways of living. The Tribals which include the Todas, Kotas, Kurumbas and Irulas are of great interest to anthropologists.

Trout and Game

The Nilgiri lakes and streams are placed in beautiful settings against a backdrop of forests and hills and are famous for their rain bow trout. An angler may travel miles of magnificent country in the course of a day's outing with the additional exciting possibility of seeing wild game.

The Nilgiri forests and valleys are also famous for their orchids, with about 125 species coming from this region. It may be of interest to botanists to know that the Australian blackwood (acacia melanoxylon) and the silver wattle (acacia dealbata) were first introduced in the Nilgiris about 1832 by Capt. Dunn and the bluegum (Eucalyptus globulus) in 1843 by Capt. Cotton of the Madras Engineers. The seed for these exotics very likely came from Tasmania and not from Australia as is commonly believed. The systematic planting of the blackwood and the wattle began by 1853. In 1856, Major Morgan the Special Officer in charge of jungle conservancy, ordered a large consignment of several varieties of eucalyptus seeds from Australia. Some of these seeds were sown in the old Tudor Hall Estate in Ootacamund and many of these fine trees exist to this day. E. B. Thomas, Collector of Coimbatore at the time, under whose jurisdiction the hills came, ordered the planting of acacias whereas another official, Melvor, introduced the planting in Cinchona trees. The present Botanical Gardens in Ootacamund owe much to

him and he was responsible for planting all the beautiful trees around the lake in Ootacamund. Around 1856, Major Morgan planted the magnificent specimens still to be seen on the Mysore road towards Pykara.

The Nilgiri Wild Life Association was formed in 1877 and it continued to be intimately connected with the management of game from 1878 until 1976 when the Wild-life Preservation Act of 1972 was enacted.

Between 1852 and 1860, the British built a military barracks in the Nilgiris. It was originally called the "Jakavalla Barracks" but later at the suggestion of Richard Armstrong, the then Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army the name was changed to "Wellington Barracks" in honour of the Duke of Wellington.

Wellington, which is about three miles away from Coonoor, is the 'headquarters' of the 'Madras Regimental Centre' of the Indian army and the Defence Services Staff College, the only one of its kind in India.

Coonoor

Coonoor (with an altitude of 1705-1859 metre above sea level) is perched on a ridge of the Nilgiris. The main holiday seasons are April, May and June and September and October but a visit to Coonoor is enjoyable at any time of the year. Flannels or tweeds can be worn by day and light woollens in the evenings in the summer. Warm woollens can be worn in the winter.

The languages spoken in the area are Tamil, Kannada and English.

Courtesy :

Indian Hotel Keeper
and Traveller.

