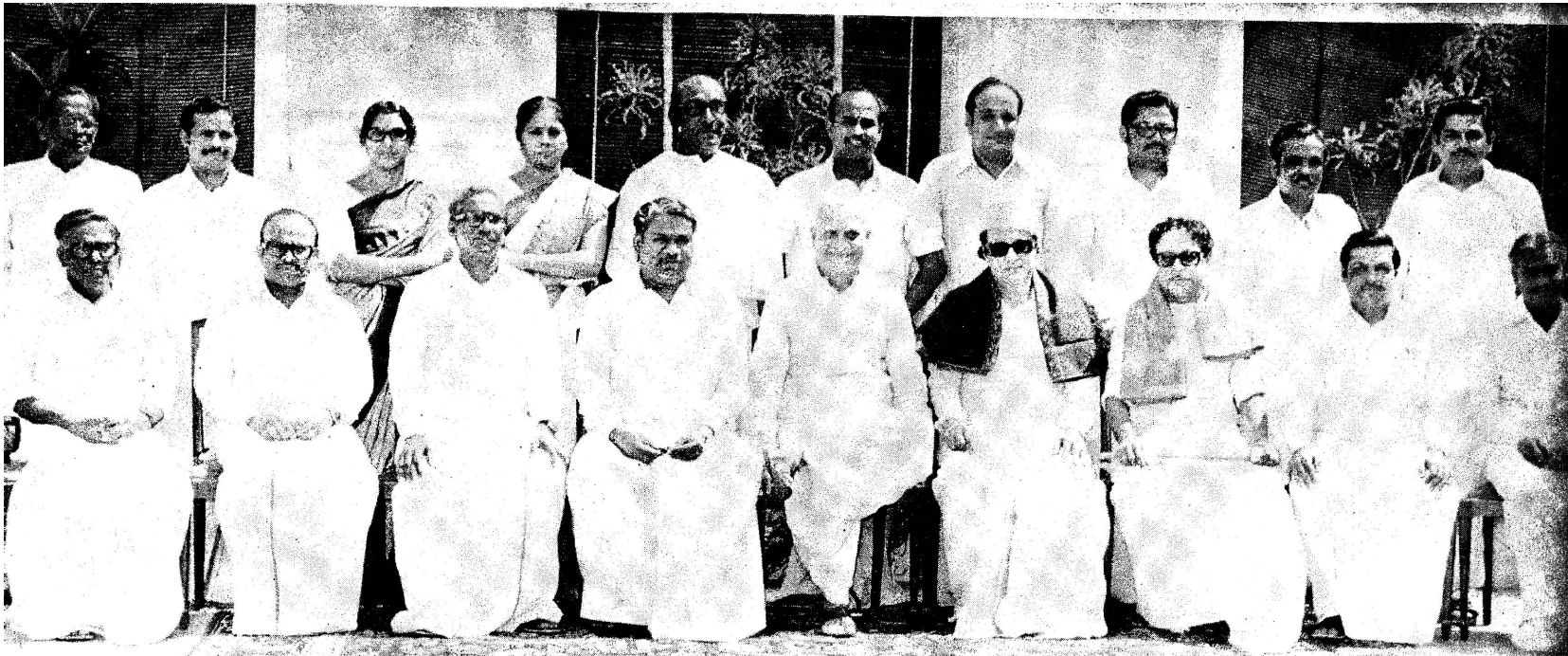


Tamil Arasu

MAY 1978 50 Ps.





THE GOVERNOR AND THE CABINET

WITH THE NEW MINISTERS SWORN IN ON 7-5-1978

The Tamil Nadu Cabinet

First Row

Thiru R. M. Veerappan—Minister for Information & Religious Endowments; **Thiru G. R. Edmund**—Minister for food; **Thiru S.D. Somasundaram**—Minister for Revenue; **Thiru K.A. Krishnaswamy**—Minister for Cooperation; **Thiru Prabudas Patwari**—Governor; **Thiru M.G.R.**—Chief Minister; **Thiru K. Manoharan**—Minister for Finance; **Thiru S. Ramachandran**—Minister for Electricity; **Thiru P. Soundarapandian**—Minister for Harijan Welfare.

Second Row :

Thiru K. Narayanasamy Mudaliar—Minister for Law; **Thiru C. Ponnaiyan**—Minister for Transport; **Smt. Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan**—Minister for Handlooms; **Selvi P.T. Saraswathy**—Minister for Social Welfare; **Thiru S. Raghavanandam**—Minister for Labour; **Thiru K. Kalimuthu**—Minister for Municipal Administration; **Thiru R. Soundararajan**—Minister for Health; **Thiru Rajah Mohamed**—Minister for Rural Industries; **Thiru C. Aranganayagam**—Minister for Education; **Thiru P. Kulandaivelu**—Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation.

EDITOR'S PAGE

TOURISM

In ancient days people went on pilgrimages to visit temples and institutions in the various parts of this vast country. Such pilgrimages helped to promote understanding and brought the people closer. Varanasi, Rameswaram, Puri and Dwaraka were great pilgrim centres. As people travel from one place to another, they acquire an idea of the people of other regions, their temperaments and their institutions. Travel has been an essential means of cultural understanding and integration.

Today the world is converging into one society. Modern transport has reduced the boundaries of the world to the dimensions of a small country. Physical proximity has led to the mingling of races and cultures. The need to understand other peoples and their ways has become imperative. People can no more lead isolated lives. Collaboration of peoples is the only way for human survival in this nuclear age.

India has always had an attraction for countries and people abroad. It has been known as the home of ancient monuments and modern works. All the great faiths are practised here by their adherents without any interference by others.

Though an ancient country, it is forward looking. It is in the process of a vast social and economic revolution within the framework of democratic institutions.

In this age of international Co-operation other countries are anxious to know about the economic need and the cultural values of the people. Any tourist to India will be fascinated by the glories of ancient times, impressed by the achievements of modern India. He will see the effects that are being made to remove the slums, fight poverty and raise the material standards and mental health of our people. Tourism widens our horizon, promotes understanding, stimulates trade, fosters fellowship.

Tamil Arasu

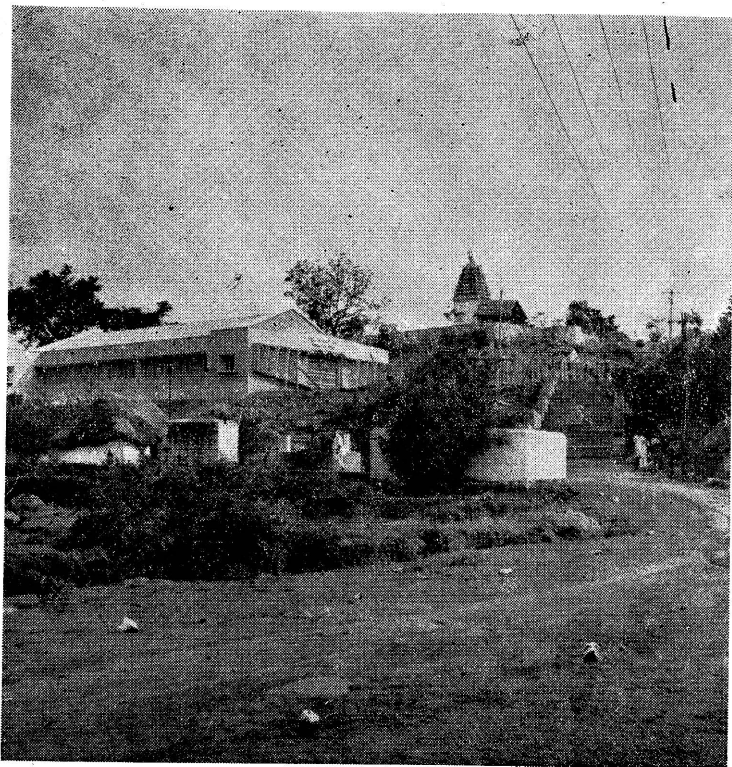
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CHIEF MINISTER SPEAKS



The history of Tamil Nadu will reveal how the Tamilians have progressed united by language and nature and became heirs to a rich past. We should develop art, culture, discipline and dignity which are an integral part of this past history.

The temples of Tamil Nadu have rich sculpture. Each sculpture will unfold a story; they will speak of love, valour, pathos, grief and of the cultural renaissance of those days. The sculptors who have produced these masterpieces were great

artisans. Such a refined product can be turned out only by the chisel of mastercraftsmen who are dedicated men and not at the whip cord of a king. In essence the art of sculpture in Tamil Nadu reflects the spirit of the people.

As there are different gods and different religions there are different facets of Mother nature. For instance, Ooty is there for those who would like to feel the cool climate. To enjoy warm weather and natural scenic beauty on the plains, there is Coutrallam.

Mamallapuram is named after mamallan the Pallava king, who created these monuments. Mahamallan means a great wrestler.

It may sound amusing to learn that one should also know music to chisel sculpture. The

sculptors who knew music were able to bring out the musical notes in the pillars sculpted out of stone. The basic notes in Carnatic music, "Sa, Ri, Ga, Ma, Pa, Tha, Ni" can be heard by tapping the stone musical pillars of the Madurai temple.

The sculptors of the past had no desire to publicise themselves and hence did not engrave their names on their works. Their memory is cherished with respect and regard.

The Tamil Nadu Government would endeavour to set up a permanent tourist exhibition in every district to educate the people on the cultural heritage of the state and its modern achievements.

(Excerpts from Chief Minister's Speeches.)



PICTURESQUE PICHAVARAM

Honeycombed with broad water ways, Pichavaram Forest, is an excellent picnic spot.

Pichavaram Forest comprises of 5,000 acres of forest lands honeycombed with broad waterways, being the estuary of river Vellar and is situated about 18 kms. from Chidambaram. Chidambaram is an important Tourist centre famous for its Nataraja temple, which attracts large number of foreign and inland tourists. Except for the temple the place does not provide any attraction to the tourists. Pichavaram is a place which has tremendous potentialities of being developed into a fine tourist spot.

Before the river enters the forest, there is an open span of water which has 4 to 6 feet of water throughout the year. Near the banks the water is shallow. There are streamlets, which honeycomb the forests where

boats could be plied. At the other end of the forest, there is a vast stretch of water which for most part is more than 4 feet in depth and this stretch can be used for plying boats, and other aquatic sports. This stretch of water is separated from the sea by a sandbar and the seashore can be developed as a fine sandy beach.

House boats could be provided like those in Dal lake at Srinagar. They are ideally suited for shallow waters.

The Government has decided to take steps to provide basic facilities for the tourists who visit Pichavaram. A boat yard will be built and boat houses will be provided with. All effects are taken to make this backwaters into a major tourist attraction.

The day is not far off when Pichavaram will be known as another Theekady or vie with exotic Kashmir.



EVERY COUNTRY IS MY COUNTRY EVERY MAN MY KINSMAN

Tourism is growing as one of the major industries in the West. Research scholars, students, business men, labourers and women under take world tours every year. In fact a part of monthly income is set apart for this purpose. There is always a group that travel for pleasure and businessmen, scholars and officials travel to fulfil their engagements.

The present day could be called the age of the common man. Late revered Aringar Anna always held the view that anything should be within the reach of the common man; in keeping with this ideal our Honourable Chief Minister feels that the pleasures and privileges of Tourism should be enjoyed by people in the lower strata of society. It is the aim of the Government to formulate policies for achievements to this end. Kasi Viswanathar in the North, Ramanathar in the South, Somanathar in the West and Puri Jagannathar in the East were the great temples of religious order that forged the unity and integration of the country, from time immemorial. Besides this, opportunities should be created to make all people irrespective of religion or region to travel far and wide in the country.

Tamil Nadu has a very rich Tourism potential. The high and mighty temples with lofty towers, architectural monuments, golden rivers, dark and deep lovely woods, with wildlife sanctuaries, unparalleled hill stations health resorts and long beaches adorn the State. It is therefore the aim of the Government that our own people should enjoy the benefits of Tourism like people in the West. People in all walks of life should be able to spend their week ends in identified Tourist spots. It is common knowledge that people of one district do not even know about the richness and beauty of other districts. This Government would like to change this situation and also publicise and develop little known places of important Tourist Centres. Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh provides an excellent example of what can be achieved in a backward area as a result of planned strategy. An unknown village a

decade ago, it has become a world tourist destination attracting almost a lakh of tourists annually and earning over Rs. 60 lakhs a year, the majority of which accrues to the local population.

Therefore this Government has also proposed to identify and develop little known places of important Tourist centres. A backwater area Pichavaram near Chidambaram in South Arcot District which attracted the attention and admiration of Peraringar Anna and Elagiri in North Arcot District will be taken up by the Department of Tourism for development.

The strategy for the development of Tourism in the State in the coming years has to be so designed as to promote Tamil Nadu as an outstanding destination tourist region both in the domestic and inter-national market. By 1980, it is estimated that about one million foreign tourists will be visiting India. On the basis of the present trend, Tamil Nadu should expect 3,00,000 of them. The developments in the sphere of domestic tourism must also be taken into account. The broad approach in planning for development of tourism in Tamil Nadu should therefore, aim at creating and expanding tourist facilities with a view to accommodating the anticipated tourist traffic both domestic and foreign.

A separate Department of Tourism was created in May 1971 in our State. The Directorate of Tourism and the Department of Tourism is functioning as part of the Secretariat. Commercial aspects of Tourism promotion are entrusted to the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, which was set up in July 1971.

There are tourist offices at Madurai, Ootacamund, Tiruchirappalli, Kanyakumari, Salem, Mamallapuram and Madras. The Tourist Offices not only disseminate tourist information but also function as field units for development of tourism

Thiru RM. VEERAPPAN
Minister for I. & R. E.



and to attend to local publicity and promotional work. Tourist Information Counters are functioning at Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Rameswaram Railway Stations and at Kodaikanal. A Tourist Information Counter at Central Station, Madras, one at Coimbatore Railway Station and a third one at New Delhi will be opened.

With a view to provide inexpensive accommodation for the Youth Tourists, the Government of India sanctioned Rs. 5.25 lakhs for construction of Youth Hostel at Adyar. The State Government provided the land costing Rs. 1.5 lakhs. The Youth Hostel is now 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. The Government is examining the possibility of opening another Youth Hostel at Ooty to encourage Youth tourists.

The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation runs the following chain of Tourist Bungalows at Ooty, Tiruchi, Madurai, Kanyakumari, Tiruchendur, Kodaikkanal, Yercaud, Hogenakkal, Rameswaram and at Chidambaram.

The corporation has proposed to construct Tourist Bungalows in

the near future at Coimbatore, Nagapattinam, Courtallam, Kancheepuram, Pitchavaram, Mudumalai. Further, motels on the National Highways at Ranipet in North Arcot and Ulundurpet in South Arcot are under construction. It is the aim of the Department to provide this facility of motels at every hundredth kilometer on the main Highways. The India Tourism Development Corporation has now come up with the offer of transferring their lodges at Kancheepuram, Tiruchi and Tanjore and the Restaurant at Mamallapuram at book value to the State Government and it is under the consideration of this Government.

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 local tourists in large numbers.

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 provided for this project.

During 1976-77 a sum of Rs. 1.56 lakhs has been spent. A sum of Rs. 6.69 lakhs has been sanctioned during 1977-78. It is proposed to sanction a further sum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs shortly. The balance is proposed to be provided during 1978-79.

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 has sanctioned as a first phase a sum of Rs. 2.06 lakhs to execute works during 1977-78. Under second phase, a sum of Rs. 1.5 lakhs has been proposed to be sanctioned



during 1978-79 to execute more items of works to beautify the lake.

Kodaikanal Lake

Another firm of Architects was appointed as Architects to prepare a Project Report with plans and estimates for the development of Kodaikanal Lake so as to make it more attractive to draw large number of tourists. The Architects have furnished a Report containing a detailed list of schemes to be executed in three 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. As a second phase it is proposed to sanction a sum of Rs. 2.03 lakhs during 1978-79 to execute some major works.

More Facilities at Ooty and Kodaikanal

Two Telescope Houses have been recently constructed one at "Coakers Walk" and another at "Kurinji Temple point" at Kodaikanal at a total cost of Rs. 1,60,000. The salient feature of the scheme is that the sacred valley of Palani Temple on the North and the Panoramic view of Vaigai Dam on

the South can be seen with utmost clarity. On account of the installation of the Telescopes at these points it is expected that a large number of tourists will visit Kodaikanal.

It is proposed to construct two similar telescopes at a cost of about Rs. 2.14 lakhs during 1978-79 in Nilgiris. It is also proposed to construct a Rest House with clean inexpensive dormitory facilities at Ooty to cater to the needs of budget conscious tourists.

Development of Mamallapuram

The Government has been taking earnest efforts to implement the recommendations of the UNDP Team of Experts in order to enhance the Tourism Potentialities of Mamallapuram. The Committee of Direction constituted for the Restoration of Mamallapuram, is pursuing follow up action on the implementation of the UNDP report. At the State Tourism Ministers' conference held at New Delhi in August 1977 an effective plea has been made for Central Assistance for developing Mamallapuram as an International Beach Resort. Subsequently, this has been further emphasised when the Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism visited Mamallapuram in September, 1977. Union Minister reacted with the suggestion to frame specific projects with detailed estimates to be sent to Government of India for considering the State's request for Central Assistance. Following this, on 28th January 1978 the Government have appointed architects to formulate specific schemes for development of Mamallapuram.

Further, it has been decided to provide a sum of Rs. 3.10 lakhs for the execution of the following two schemes in Budget Estimate 1978-79.

(a) Acquisition of land adjoining the shore temple to raise casuarina plantations to create a wind barrier and a greenery.

(b) Construction of a large rest shed with minimum amenities for Janata Tourists.

Share capital assistance to Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation.—A sum of 20.00 lakhs has been sanctioned for the year 1977-78. For 1978-79 also it is proposed to provide a sum of Rs. 20.00 lakhs to the Corporation.

Future Plans

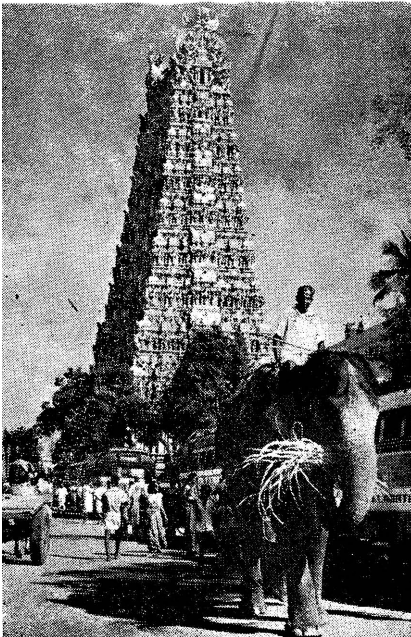
In an attempt to provide basic amenities to tourists, the Department is examining various proposals to improve the important Tourist Centres of the State. The Government are also anxious to develop domestic tourism and to provide essential amenities for the domestic tourists. It is also proposed to develop less-known and un-exploited tourist centres like Pichavaram near Chidambaram in South Arcot District, Elagiri in North Arcot District, Avudaiyarkoil in Pudukkottai District.

Publicity

With a view to motivate and attract the tourists, the tourism potential of the State is exposed by providing basic information to them 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 in which the activities and the package tours of Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation are also included.



Similarly, social education advertisements to educate the public about the importance of Tourism are periodically released in local papers.

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 and the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation jointly organise the All India Tourist Trade Fair every year in January-February at Madras. The Department of Tourism has participated in the National Agriculture Fair held in November-December 1977 at Delhi and at the Pacific Area Travel Association Conference (PATA) held at Delhi in January 1978. Arrangements are being made for the participation of the Department at the Annual Convention of the Travel Agents Association of India to be held at Bangalore in April, 1978. It may be mentioned here that last year the Department won the Allan Currimbhoy Trophy at the Agra Convention of the T.A.A.I.

Films

The Department has produced a colour film by commissioning a Belgian expert which has been distributed to the Government of India Tourist Offices abroad. Another film was produced in collaboration with the Kerala and Karnataka States. The Department has proposals to produce a few more films through the Tamil Nadu Films Division.

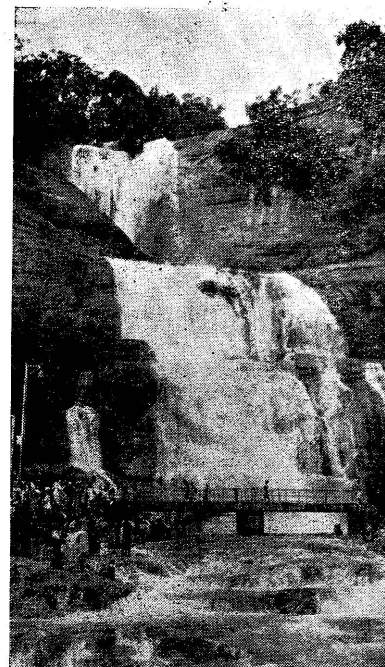
Photography

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 Agents and Travel Writers.

Tourist Literatures

Tourist literatures of various kinds like folders, picture post-cards, posters, etc., are brought out regu-



larly every year and distributed to Government of India Tourist Offices in India and abroad, Air India and other airlines and travel agents.

Hospitality

Providing hospitality to travel writers and travel agents is another important aspect of tourism promotion. Special attention is therefore paid to this scheme. About sixty travel writers visited South India in September, 1977 under "Destination South India" Programme. The Department arranged reception to these travel writers at Madras. Again similar reception was arranged for the delegates to the PATA convention held at Delhi in January 1978 who passed through Madras. 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.

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 bring glory and fame to the Tourism potential of the State.

AVUDAYAR KOIL

The tall towering temples of Tamil Nadu are the repositories of beauty and culture. The tall gopurams with their rich engravings attract the tourists both foreign as well as domestic.

The tourists admire the sculpture and beautiful architectural engravings on the pillars and roofs of the outer corridors of the temples. They are not allowed to enter the Sanctum Sanctorum.

The Avudayar Koil is known for its rich beautiful sculpture and engravings. This temple is 15 Km. from Aranthangi in Pattukottai District. To reach the place one

should take a bus after getting down at the Aranthangi railway station.

The Athmanadhaswami temple is very famous. It is learnt that this temple was consecuted by Manikka Vasagar who is known for his hymns sung in chaste Tamil.

The roof of the temple is laid with stone, but the finish is so fine that it appears to be made of wood. This only speaks of the architectural skill of the artisans of ancient Tamil Nadu. This temple draws a large number of tourists both from abroad and from India.

Steps are being taken to provide all basic amenities for the tourists.

EXOTIC ELAGIRI

The Hill stations famous in Tamil Nadu are Ooty, Coonoor and Kodai. The second in command are Kotagiri and Yercaud. Elagiri will soon be joining them. Elagiri is fast developing as a minor hill station.

The Elagiri Hills are situated in the Tirupattor Taluk of North Arcot district. The hill is an isolated spot of the Eastern ghats. The hills are situated at an elevation of 1,000 mts. above sea level. They receive an annual rainfall of 90-110 cm. a larger part of which is received during the north-east monsoon. However, rainfall is fairly well received from April to November also. The Hill enjoys a salubrious climate.

The Elagiri Hills lies between Jolarpet and Vaniyambadi about 4 furlongs to the South of Tirupattur-

Vaniyambadi Trunk road. There are 12 hamlets on top of the hills.

Elagiri is also known as the Poor Man's Ooty. There is a temple of Lord Muruga which attracts many devotees from the surrounding villages

This is an ideal picnic spot for Holiday makers. Elagiri has a salubrious climate and can be visited all the year round.

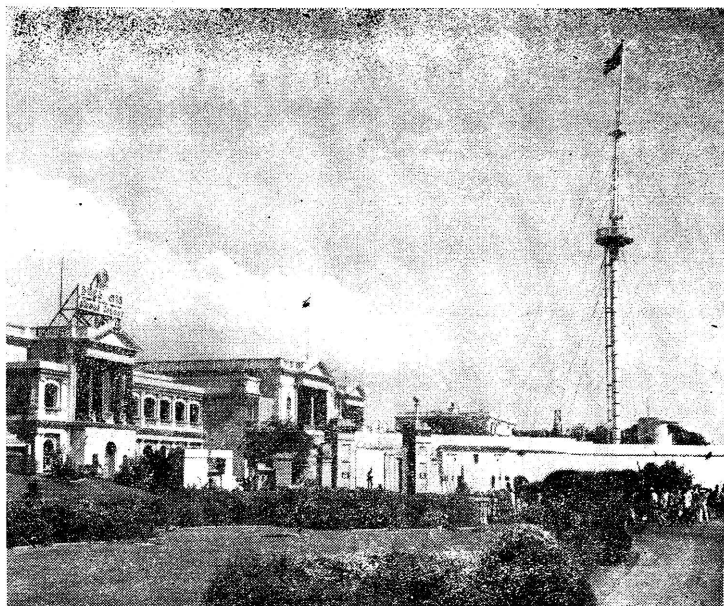
There is a Rest House run by the Public Works Department.

Steps have been taken to provide all basic amenities to visiting tourists. As a first step a dormitory will be built for the convenience of the tourists. Since the Elagiri is situated in a hilly area, the roof of the dormitory will be constructed with stones.

This is MADRAS

Madras, capital of the State of Tamil Nadu, is the gateway to a pleasant city, the city of an ancient civilization, exemplified in its many monuments of the past with a rich heritage of culture. Though being carried along on the stream of progressive development, it remains largely unspoilt and this alone perhaps merits a visit to this attractive city of India.

By road, rail, sea or air, the approach to this historic city of the Carnatic is pleasant and at once impresses with its freshness and absence of congestion, so that the visitor is within the confines of city, before hardly being aware of it. Coming in by road from north west or south, the way lies through verdant fields, along tree-lined highways in excellent condition. Coming by sea, the passenger steps, almost directly from the gangway of the ship into one of the main commercial thoroughfares of the city. Sweeping down from the skies towards Madras, a visitor views tree-girt land with fine open spaces almost dominating the built up area. The drive in from the airport is a matter of only 16 kilometres along the southern trunk road. Thus whichever way one comes, there is a delightful introduction to



this attractive city. The spaciousness of the city is symbolic of the open-hearted welcome which awaits the visitor, and it has been said, that, Madras in many ways, is at once expressive of the time-honoured southern charm of the United States, or the homeliness of the villages of England or the cheerfulness of the country people of the Continent.

The City of Madras has been expanding in the wake of the planning programme of the Government over the recent years ; yet it retains many of the features which have distinguished it over the years. In terms of historical antiquity, it might

be called young, but it possesses many monuments dating back to the very early days of the present era. Madras has the distinction of being the first place in India to be granted a Charter of Corporation by the Governor and Company of Merchants trading in the East Indies.

The City's well known thoroughfare is Mount Road, so called because it leads to St. Thomas' Mount. Today, this road has been renamed Anna Salai in memory of a great leader-Annadurai and the highway actually leads on to Cape Comorin in the South.

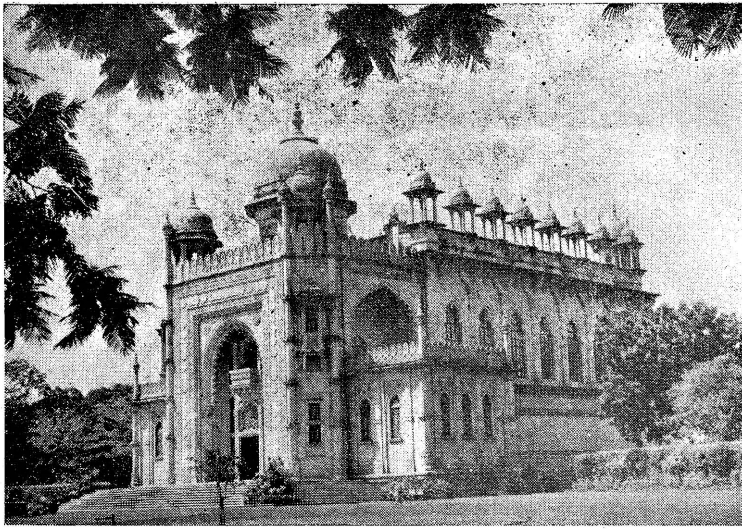
This highway leads off the city, across the Marmalong Bridge, over Adyar in Saidapet. Tradition has it that Christianity came to India with St. Thomas Dydimus, one of the Apostles, in the 1st century A.D.

In the 16th century, the Portuguese settlers of San Thome discovered fascinating material during their excavations at the Mount. One of the more important finds was the 'Bleeding Cross.' The settlers built a church on the site and called it the 'Madonna'.

The St. Thomas Mount area up to Pallavaram, is today as it was in British times a military cantonment.

At the northern end of the Marina, just after leaving the Fort St. George, which houses the Secre-





riat, the Beach drive begins, with an imposing Memorial to the Dead of the First and Second World Wars. Immediately after crossing the lifting river Coom via the Napier Bridge, one can see on the right, the buildings of the University of Madras, with the clock tower on the library, dominating the scene. Directly opposite, on the shores is the 'Anna Samadhi', a simple, yet tastefully constructed mausoleum in memory of the late Chief Minister, Thiru C.N. Annadurai, who ushered in a new era of Tamil consciousness in the State. This memorial has been developed into a park as well.

The Coom development, scheme has added further attractions to the City of Madras.

Going further down is the South Beach Road, which merges into the beautiful Marina with magnificent stately buildings on the western side. A wide sandy beach is on the other side. The Marina, the second largest beach in the world and the pride of Madras, is famous for its spacious promenades, pleasingly interspersed with colourful flower beds and is thus the most popular rendezvous of the people.

The Chepauk Palace, built in Moorish style where once the Nawabs of Carnatic held court, today houses various Government Offices. Almost behind it, are the famed Cricket grounds, where many a brilliant match has been played.

On the beach are boat club, swimming pools, a restaurant and

an aquarium, all always crowded with a gay throng of people.

At the end of the Marina is the San Thome with its awe-inspiring Cathedral.

Mylapore (Peacock town), once second only to Mahabalipuram as a Pallava Port, is better known, however for its famous temple, a beautifully sculptured building with a large tank and surrounding shopping arcade. The temple is dedicated to Sri Kapaliswara and its festivals are one of the highlights in Madras.

Mylapore was the home of Saint Thiruvalluvar, author of the sacred Kural which summarises in a nut-

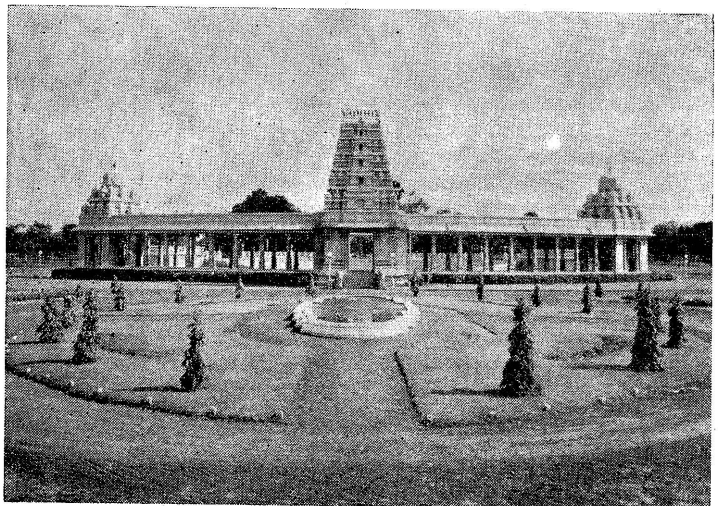
shell the behaviouristic attitudes of man.

Thiru-ali-keni, a tank of lotuses, known as Triplicane has a Vaishnavite shrine dedicated to Sri Parthasarathy and dates back to the Pallava times, in the 8th century. The tank is truly a structure of beauty.

Going south from San Thome one crosses the Adyar river and can see the world headquarters of the Theosophical Society with its large garden and the famous banyan tree. A little farther is the Elliots Beach, where people can bathe free of the danger of sharks. The Society's library has an invaluable collection of manuscripts, palm leaf and parchment, on philosophy, Mysticism and the classical.

The Kalakshetra, devoted to fine arts and founded by Srimathi Rukmini Devi, herself a great exponent of the classical Dance form, Bharata Natyam, is housed in Tiru-vanmiyur.

South of Adyar one moves into Guindy known as the 'modern' Madras. Here is the Indian Institute of Technology with its beautiful campus of modern buildings and spacious gardens and parks a testimony to successful Indo-German collaboration. There is a game reserve—the Deer Sanctuary, a Snake Park and an amusement park for children. The stately Gandhi Mandap, a memorial to the Father of the Nation bears testimony to the faith of the people in Gandhiji. The Government House Estate, the Governor's Residence, the Race-



course and the Engineering College (one of the oldest institutions in the East) are further imposing buildings to be seen.

North from From St. George are several firms with 18th Century background. The High Court Buildings date back to the 1890's. North Beach Road, (First Line Beach) is a busy commercial centre. On the east is the Harbour.

The huge Railway Colony and the massive Integral Coach Factory and the gigantic Buckingham and Carnatic Mills are situated in Perambur down north west.

Heading towards west one enters the busy market places of the City, the China Bazaar. The Light House Tower 160' high is in the High Court premises. Turning a little south and again west are housed the Central Railway Buildings, the Zoo, the Moore Market, People's Park, My Lady's Garden, the Corporation Stadium and the Stately Ripon Buildings, the seat of the Corporation. Directly opposite the Central Railway Station is the Government General Hospital and the Madras Medical College Campus.

In Vepery is the City's oldest Printing establishment, the Diocesan Press.

On the Pantheon Road in Egmore are situated the Museum, the exhaustive Public Library and a National Art Gallery, built in Indo-Saracenic Style and a theatre for performing arts.



The National Art Gallery contains an impressive collection of old paintings and bronzes of great artistic value. The most notable of them is that of Lord Nataraja, the dancing Siva. Rare paintings of the Rajput, Mughal and South Indian Styles are also found here.

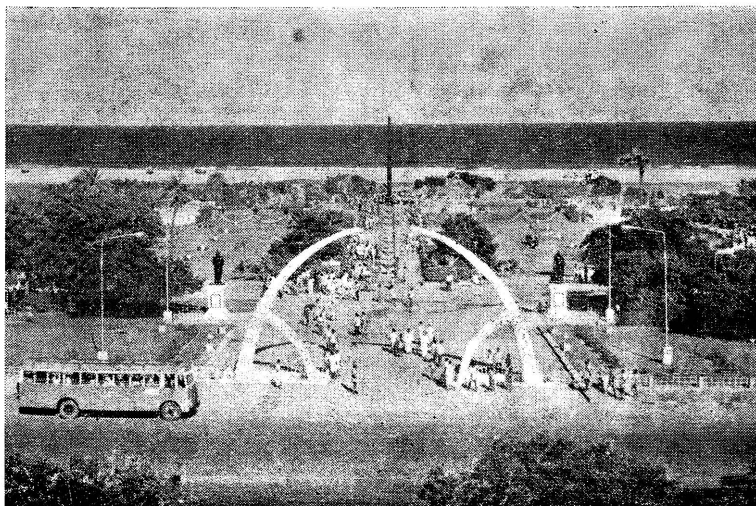
Established over a hundred years ago, the Government Museum has rich collections of rare 2nd Century sculptures salvaged from the Buddhist stupa at Amaravati. There are also various specimens of art and culture of the early Pallava,

Chola and Pandya rulers, of the three great dynasties, under whose patronage, the classical and temple architecture blossomed into maturity. The Museum contains, perhaps, the best collection of bronzes to be found anywhere in the country. Attached to the Museum is the Connemera Library with its rare books and records.

Anna Salai is Madras' busiest commercial centre and the delight of the shopper. An impressive variety of textile and handicraft goods, jewellery and chinaware beckon the visitor. On this road, is the Rajaji Hall, which was the official residence of many Governors in pre-Independence days. On the walls of its great hall are paintings of great personages.

Part of the charm of this far-spread city, still open to the skies and in some ways a rural town expanding into a great city is its great hospitality and its exceedingly friendly people. It is a beautiful city that beckons those who love the leisurely tempo of the life, of a world of yesterday, coupled with the pleasures of a modern life. It is a city of courtesy, charm and culture and a visit to it is likely to remain long after most memories have faded. Welcome therefore to the City of Madras.

—Rajalakshmi Bharathi.

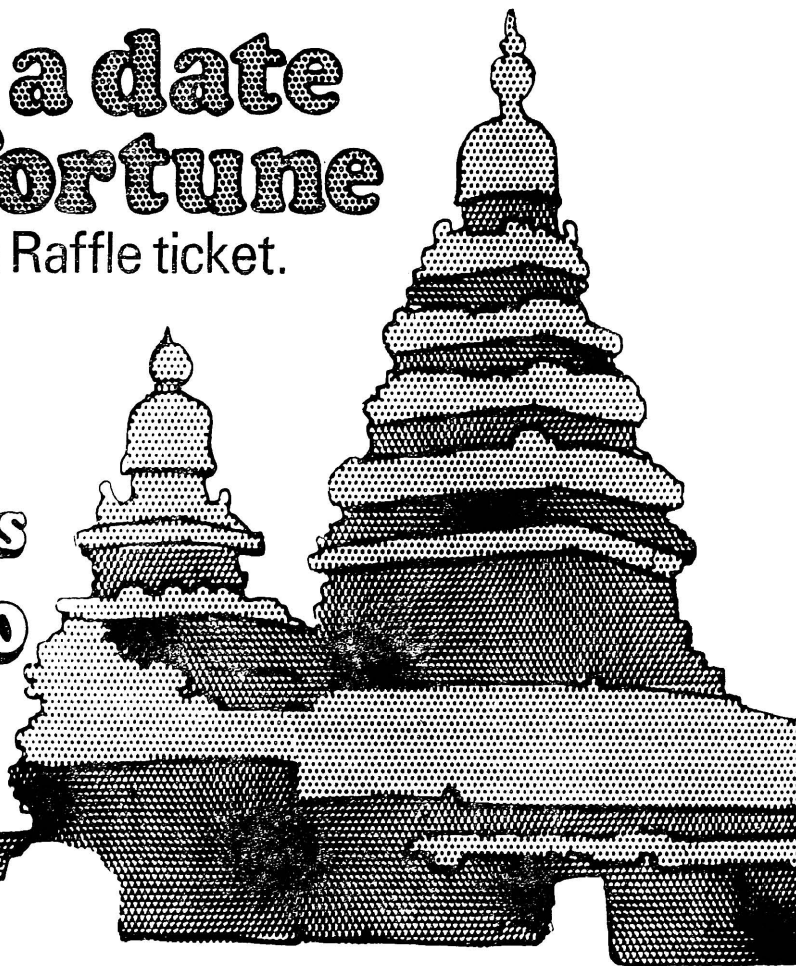


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Buy a Tamil Nadu Raffle ticket.

2

First Prizes
of
Rs. 50,000
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3 Second prizes of Rs. 10,000 each
5 Third prizes of Rs. 5,000 each
and other prizes including
consolation prizes in each of
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Proceeds from this draw will be
diverted towards providing
drinking water facilities to 4,000
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Mahabalipuram

Totally 2,655 prizes worth Rs. 3,90,000.

TAMILNADU RAFFLE



Date of draw : 20-6-78
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The Director of Tamil Nadu Raffle
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Call of the Blue Mountains Ooty



Situated in the Nilgris 2,287m. above sea level, Ootacamund is known as the "Queen of Hill Stations".

Ooty lies on a plateau and gives the appearance of a vast park. The famous 'downs' of the Nilgris are situated to the North-West of Ootacamund, and the climate is comparable to an English summer. The temperature varies from 10°C to 15°C and the season is between April and June.

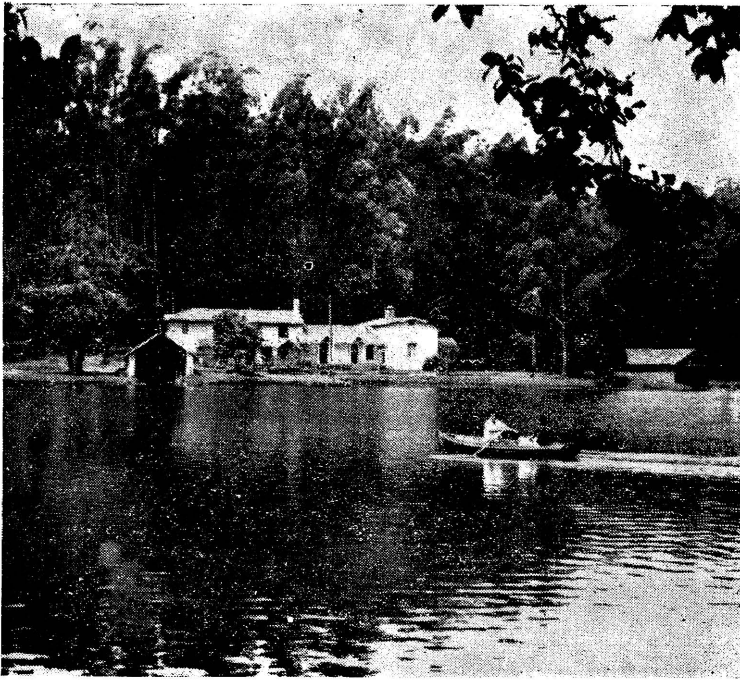
There are several places of attraction. The Botanical gardens maintained by the Government, have an annual Flower Show. The lake in Ooty offers excellent facilities for boating and fishing. Other sports like golf and hunting can also be indulged in. There is, in addition, a brief racing season during the months of May and June.

Dodabetta, Snowdon, Elk Hill, Cairn Hill, Fern Hill and, a little farther away, Glen Morgan Lake and Mukurti peak cater to the requirements of the hiker.

The Toda settlements is one of anthropological interest. The Todas are remnants of a great race who, were the original masters of these vast forests and mountain ranges. Though little is known about their origin, the visitor will not fail to be impressed by the distinguished appearance and bearing of the Toda men.

PYKARA : The famous dam and an attractive picnic spot.

Coonoor : Coonoor, 1,700m. above sea level, is located on a lovely site on the mountain rail route to Ooty. Good roads lead to a number of interesting places in and near the town. Sim's Park with its experimental fruit gardens, and the Pasture Institute are only a few of the places of interest. The spots of natural beauty are Louis Waterfall, Tiger rock and other promontaries and waterfalls around Coonoor. There are innumerable places for picnickers and hikers. Coonoor has a more even and temperate climate.



GORGEOUS K O D A I

Kodaikanal is a lovely hill resort on the Palani hills in Madurai district. Nature is gorgeous in Kodai kanal. Its wooded slopes, mighty rocks, enchanting waterfalls and beautiful lake would delight any visitor. The climate of Kodai is bracing. Giant green trees shoot up to the sky every where; Plants and shrubs with flowers in myriad colours greet the visitor at every corner. The Coaker's walk presents some of the best views which Kodai has. With its temperate climate and an average of 12 hours of sunshine every day, it is one of the most popular hill resorts.

From Kodaikanal road is a delightful drive along the ghat road past rugged scenery for 80 km. which brings the visitor to Kodai-kanal.

Kodai has a number of enchanting spots, an excursion to which will be highly rewarding. Five miles from the Lake, which is one of the major attractions in the hill, stand the pillar rocks. Four hundred feet high and three in number, they stand shoulder to shoulder providing a lovely view of the plains from their peaks. A small cluster of trees at their feet tempt the visi-

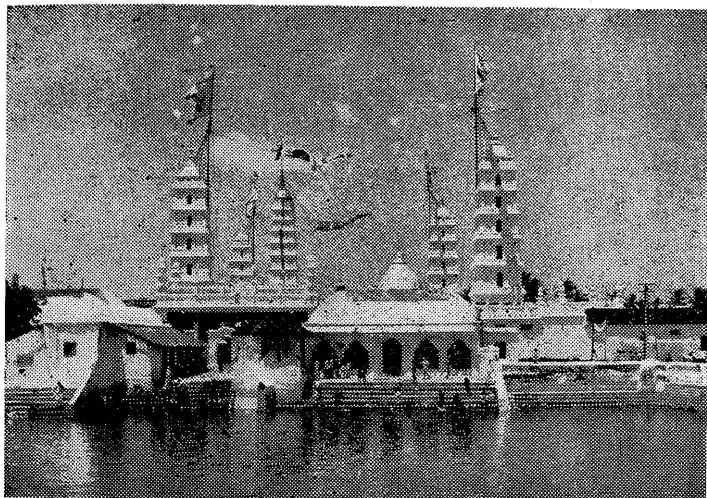
tor to rest there a while. The more adventurous among the visitors might try to climb the Perumal Peak. An arduous climb which would involve a day-long outing; this excursion would be quite exciting. There are several points on the peak which provide a splendid panorama of the entire countryside on the plains. There are also a number of waterfalls which attract the visitor. The Silver cascade, the Glen falls the Pambar and Bear Shola falls and the Fairy falls offer a grand sight.

Kodai is above all noted for flowers. The Bryant Park is known for its beautiful flowers.

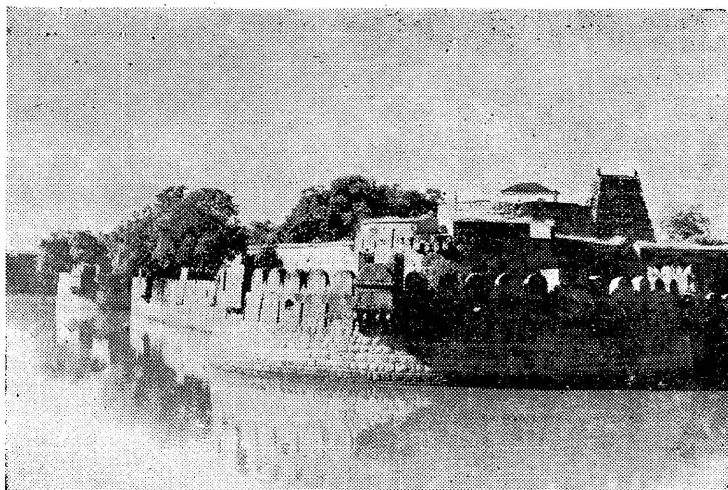
The Solar Physics observatory founded in 1899 is situated at the top most point of the Kodai hills.

There is a temple dedicated to Lord Muruga here and the religious minded can spend their time in peace at this place. From this temple can be had a view of the Palani Hills, where there is another temple dedicated to Murugan. These are some of Kodai's glories.

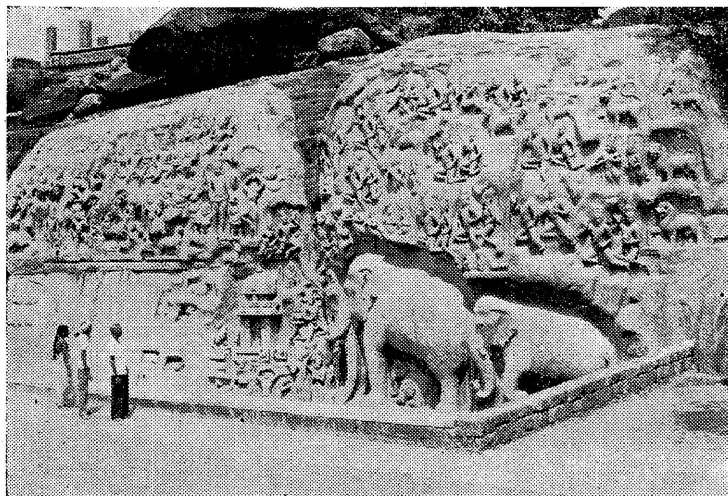
The season begins in the middle of April and for two months Kodai-kanal is a paradise for holiday makers. September is also equally enchanting in Kodaikanal.



Nagore Dharga



Vellore Fort



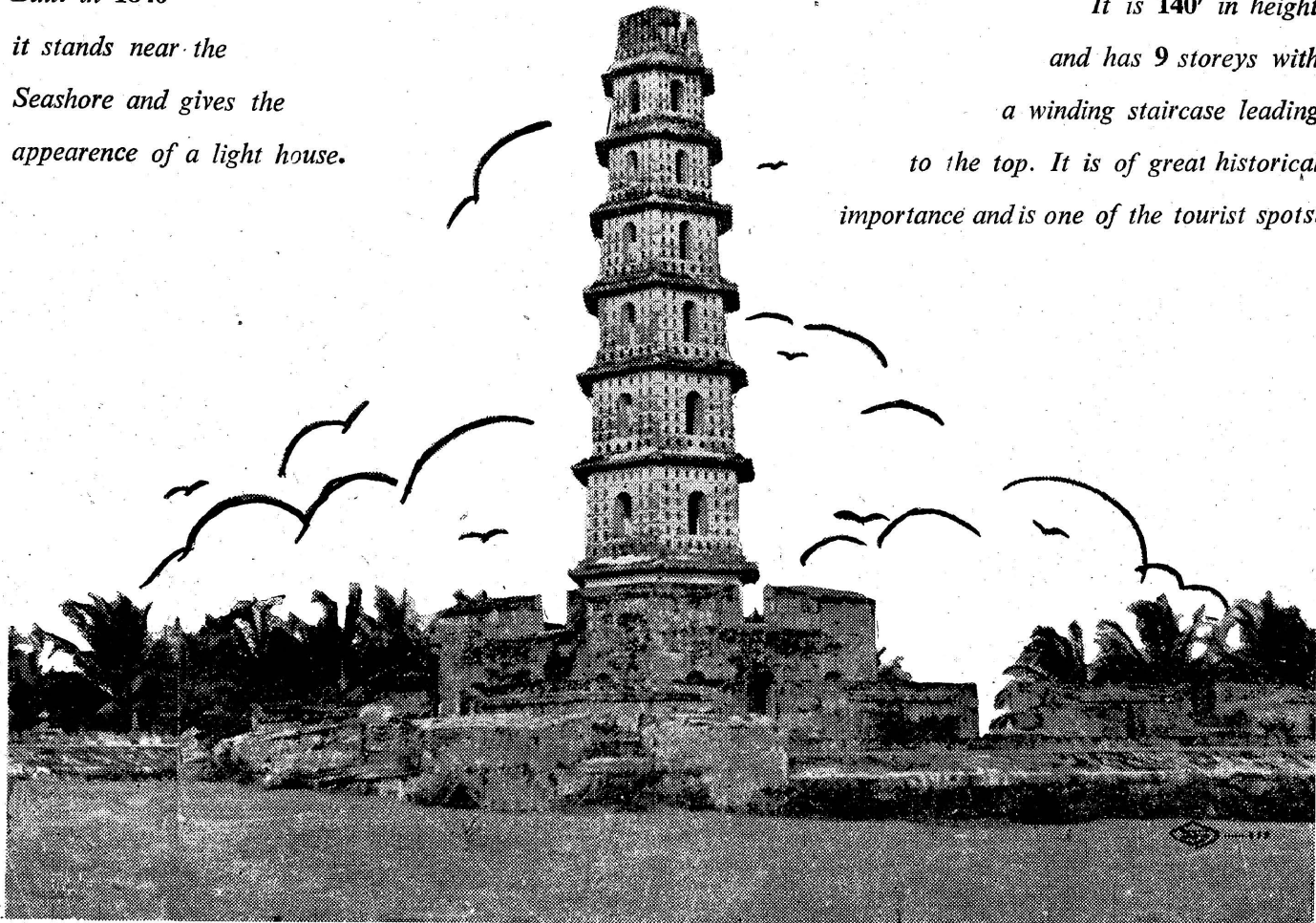
Arjun's Penance
Mahabalipuram

Manora in Thanjavur District

Built in 1840

*it stands near the
Seashore and gives the
appearance of a light house.*

*It is 140' in height
and has 9 storeys with
a winding staircase leading
to the top. It is of great historical
importance and is one of the tourist spots.*



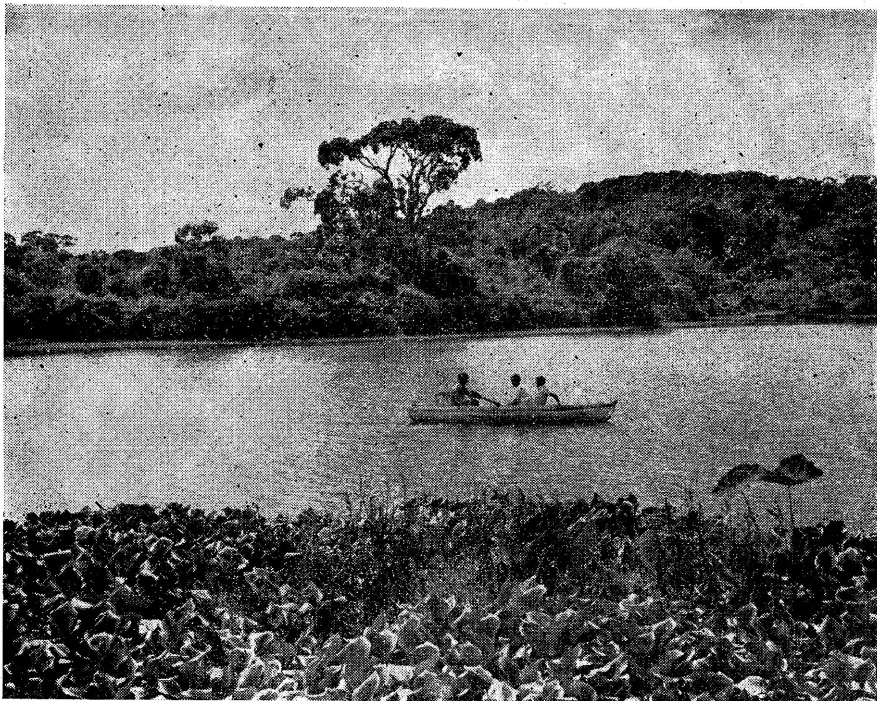
Cooling off the heat



Bathing in the Sea at Mahabalipuram



*Up brown hill
and down green dale—
Pony ride at Yercaud*



EXHILARATING YERCAUD

Yercaud is a quiet restful hill resort on the Servaroyan Hills (Shevaroy Range) in Salem district. Yercaud and Servaroyan hills abound in beautiful and panoramic views. It is a pretty hill station with a pleasant cool climate said to be one of the most equable in the world. Situated at an altitude of 1,500 m. its temperature never rises above 85°F or falls below 50°F. This is the hill station where you don't feel the biting cold of the winter. With such a salubrious climate Yercaud can be visited all the year round.

There are many tourist attractions and picnic spots. The Anna Park near the lake provides ideal lawns and paths for strolling. Boating in the cool waters of the lake will refresh any visitor to Yercaud and the winding ghat road below from Lady's Seat will have a lasting impression on any visitor. During nights the Salem town on the plain with its glittering lights present such an enchanting sight as though the stars from the sky have descended on earth in a cluster. One can gaze at this exquisite panorama for hours together either from the Lady's

seat or Pagoda point or while driving down the ghat road.

Killiyur falls one of the major attractions of Yercaud runs through a beautiful Valley and is a popular picnic spot. It is a 300th falls situated in a sylvan setting with rocky ridges and small caves.

Bear's cave as it is called because a bear is said to have lived there, formed by two huge boulders is situated in the Servaroyan hills. It is said that the cave leads to the Servaroyan temple on the top of the hill. The annual festival in Servaroyan temple in the month of May is a colourful event in which hundred of the tribals of the hill range take part. The view from the top of this hill showing deep gorges and green valleys all around with gleaming Mettur reservoir at a distance is superb. The Cauvery Peak so named, has a beautiful view of the river Cauvery in the plains below can be obtained from this point, is situated on the north of the Servaroyan hills.

A 34 kms ring road that passes through the lake, Nagalur and

Cauvery Peak, known as loop road, the like of which is probably not found in other hill stations, makes an excellent drive.

The Yercaud library and sports club is conveniently situated in the heart of the town. The Club has facility for Carrom, table tennis, Shuttle Cock, and bridge.

Yercaud and the entire Servaroyan hills are packed with coffee plantation. Plantains and oranges are also grown on a large scale. However of all varieties thrive here so well that they present a breath taking spectacle.

A unique feature of Yercaud which covers about 170 square miles is that it has four approaches, two from Salem and one each from Denishpet and Bonomidi. The latter two approaches are mainly used by tribals.

As a developing and less crowded hill station Yercaud offers unlimited opportunity as an ideal health resort to enjoy the virgin natural setting yet unspoilt by the onslaught of man.

Courtallam is one of the loveliest places to visit for a short summer vacation. The little town ship has grown around the falls. The main falls are near the temple of Thirukutralanathar, the presiding deity. There is an atmosphere of peace and calm, an unhurried leisurely pace of life unmatched in any other tourist spot.

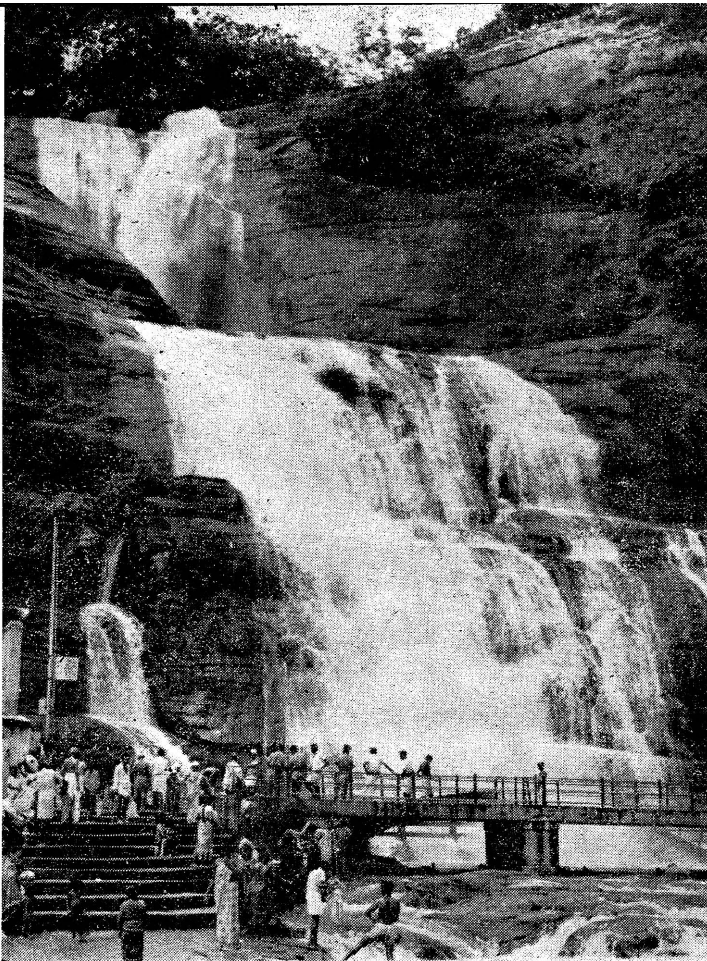
The season itself is of short duration; the "Sara" or the freshes are supposed to start in the middle of June but more often it is the end of June and the flow continues till October when the South-West monsoon ends.

During the season the sky is most often overcast, and a gentle drizzle which is most welcome to body and mind especially to one escaping from the scorching heat of the plains. The falls are considered to be something of a 'Spa'. The waters flow over innumerable herbs whose curative powers are implicitly believed in by a number of people. They are especially supposed to cure neurotic disorders and there are a few reports of actual cures.

There is a legend associating the curative powers of the place with the Sanjeevi Hill. During the Ramayana War, Rama and Laxmana succumbed to the poisonous arrows of their adversaries and fell in a dead faint. Local remedies being found useless, Hanuman was commissioned to cross the seas and bring back certain herbs from the Himalayas. Since Hanuman was not able to locate the proper herbs he simply lifted the hill. This hill was said to contain all the medicinal herbs known to man and was expected to revive even dead persons. So Hanuman took off through the air and brought back the Sanjeevi Hill, a part of which is said to have fallen on the place now called Courtallam; hence its near miraculous curative fame.

Courtallam itself is a gently rising hill, near the tail end of the western ghats and it is possible to climb the entire height within a couple of hours. The drive to the hills is very picturesque. On both the sides you find neat paddy fields, plaitain and coconut groves. Greenery greets your eye which is so cool and refreshing. As you go up the air is very fresh and invigorating.

The Anjaruvi (five falls) Shanbagadevi and Honey falls are situated higher up in the hills and there is also the old Falls. It is possible to bathe in the main falls and the old



FRESHES THAT REFRESHES

falls, where bathing ghats and railing are provided with.

Hordes of persons throng the place; they smear themselves with oil and stand under the falls with a blissful expression on their faces. Such is the force of water that the oil is completely removed without the aid of any conventional cleansing material like soap or shikai.

It is a delightful sensation to stand under the falls. Initially there is a sense of shock when you feel as if at least a ton of bricks has descended on you and all the air is knocked out of your lungs; but only for a minute. Soon you learn the art of controlling your breathing and after that it is nothing but sheer pleasure to stand under the falls, and it is with a sense of reluctance that you leave the falls. No body catches a cold even after stand-

ing for several hours under the falls and the climatic conditions fill you with a new vigour and purpose and suddenly life is joyful.

When you climb the hills the flora fills your eyes with delight and the mildly scented air lends enchantment to the scenery. One does not feel tired after the climb. On the other hand one feels exhilarated. Here any romantic story is possible and while there you are ready to believe any and all of the local legends of the place much is its magical charm.

With appetite whipped up to great keenness by the bath and walk, wholesome lunch will await you. It is to the credit of the place that the food continues to be palatable and no cloddiness in the food usually associated with tourist spots.

So best of luck for the next season!



TOPSLIP

A N A M A L A I S

It was with a keen sense of anticipation and delight that I accepted an offer to visit Topslip, part of the Anamalais. I was on a visit to Coimbatore and there were two whole days hanging on my lands. The trains having been booked heavily well ahead of schedule preventing an earlier return to Madras. So I looked upon this excursion practically as a Godsend.

Topslip is situated about 30 miles from Pollachi and about 15 from the Parambikulam Aliyar Dam. After passing Vettaika anputhur and Oothukuli Zamin the path climbs steadily ever 19 hair pin bends taking us into the Western Ghats. Part of the forest is evergreen. The average height must be around four thousand feet. The foothills are thickly planted with ecalyptus while the forest themselves are rich in teakwood.

Our journey began quite propitiously with an occasional shower taking the edge off the heat of May and it was dark by the time we reached Topslip.

The inhabited part consist of rest houses put by the PWD and the Forest Department and a few scattered hutments. Felling of frees is still carried on and therefore the site did not have the scene of isolation that such spots usually carry. The rest houses themselves are constructed on a slightly rising ground, five of them clustered together with the

main bungalow equipped with a kitchen etc.

Our party set out in an open jeep around 9 P.M. when the sounds of traffic and human habitation had practically ceased. The PWD have laid beautiful roads inside the forest. We had for our guide an experienced hunter who seemed to sense the presence of animals even before they became aware of the approaching jeep. His searchlight unerringly and repeatedly picked up bison, spotted deer, Sambar, Pig and Bear, not to speak of wild eat, hare and a small variety of deer known as "Savari man". We had been told that some big members of the cat family were also present but we could find no evidence. Moreover from the way the Sambar and deer were contently grazing in small groups. I very much doubt whether tigers or leopards frequented these spots. However, we saw the other animals in plenty. The thickly vegetated glade and slopes afford ample food to these vegetarian animals who seem to thrive in large numbers. Of course hunting has been banned in the area; otherwise perhaps the game would not be so plentiful.

The next morning we set out on foot to explore as much of the forest as we could and there was plenty of evidence of bison and the deer family and elephant but little else.

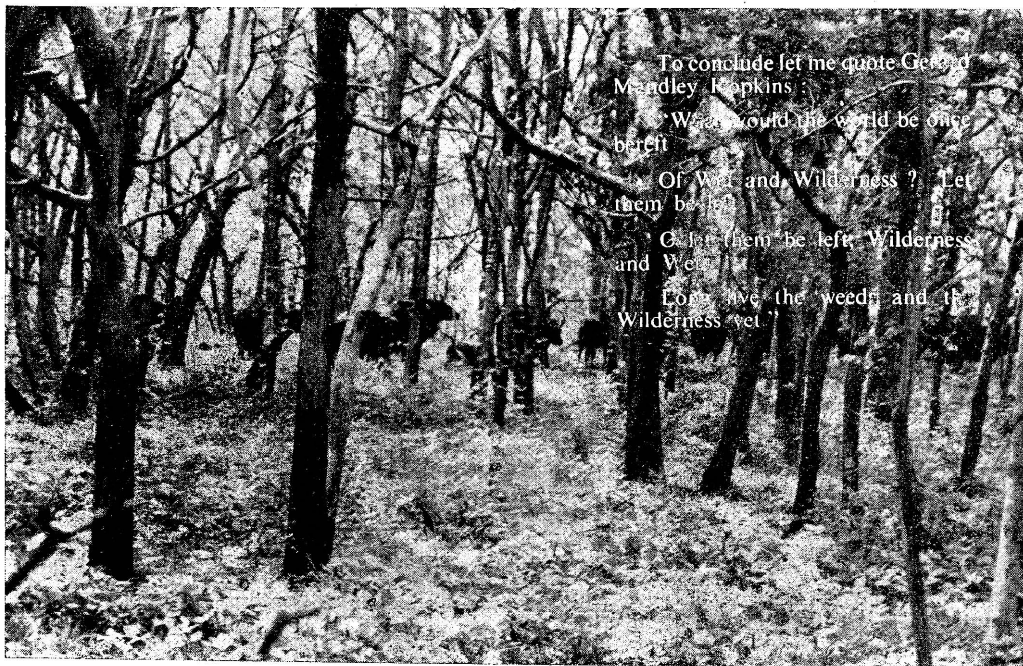
Monkeys saw us from afar and called in warning but did not stop their joyful leaps from tree to tree. The forest also has plenty of the black variety of monkey known as "Manthi". It appears that this is a purely herbivorous animal whose blood is expected to cure T.B. Instances are not unknown, in that part of the country where these are caught alive and their warm blood drunk in order to cure T.B. There is also a popular belief in these parts that the liver of this monkey will cure many diseases and no people hunt them. I am given to understand by my non-vegetarian friends that the monkey flesh itself is very tasty (being herbivorous) and hence people's partiality for it though disguised as medicine.

The most curious legend is that it was considered a good omen to see the manthi's face first thing in the morning and so certain people are known to have captured them and tied them up to the window sill in their bedroom so that they can see it as soon as they wake up. Why trouble so much I wonder A minnor should do the trick!

We came across a tusker standing alone in a glade and our hunter friend gave a call which he assured

R. VIJAYALAKSHMI,

I.R.S.



To conclude let me quote Gerard
Mordley Hopkins :

"We would the world be once
bereft

Of War and Wilderness ? Let
them be left

Or let them be left Wilderness
and War

Long live the weeds and the
Wilderness yet

us was the mating cry of a female elephant. The tusker at first sight gave no sign of having heard but at the repeated calls shook his head violently at us and started turning. We were all ready to take off at a moments notice, but then the tusker

made a U turn and charged off in the opposite direction. Perhaps he was tired of females giving chase to him.

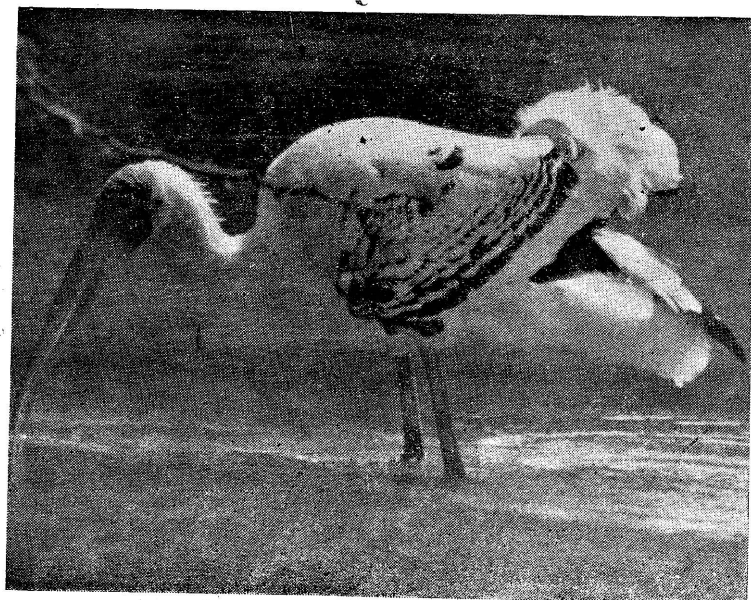
The forest abounds in a great variety of bird life. The morning

was a pleasant chorus of bird varieties.

Shy of human company, they hide their brilliant plumage in the thick teak wood forest and it requires quite a lot of patience and an ability to stand stock still (some achievement when ants and other insects are crawling up to inspect you at closer quarters!) before one of them would make a quick dash to the next tree, affording us a glimpse of turquoise, white, red, green, plain brown or dotted and serrated feathers.

It is no wonder that the ancient sages chose forests for their meditation. The stillness and the utter peace that surrounds you, permeates upon the very soul. The vastness of nature encompasses the tiny being that is man; that God almighty should also have chosen to create such a contentious being whose brain power generates forces of destruction and regeneration comparable to nature itself.

The most amazing thing is that Topslip is not yet commercialized and infested with tourists with their inevitable transistors and loud talk. Let us hope that the animals preserve their peace in the sanctuary much longer.



BORN FREE

TO

LIVE FREE

Nature has bestowed Tamil Nadu with verdant green forests, lush, green foliage and colourful animal life. With the vegetation varying from deciduous to evergreen type, these forests offer a good sanctuary for the animals to live in their natural habitat.

Mudumalai is one of the major wild life sanctuaries situated in the Nilgiris. Valuable timber species such as rosewood, teak, venteak, vengai etc., are found in these forests. Screw pine is grown along the stream and streamlets. Bamboo brakes are a special feature of the sanctuary and they are found in the moist regions.

The river Moyar is the main

river of the sanctuary and provides perennial water supply to all animals for drinking, bathing and wallowing. In certain places the river is deep and fast flowing with an impressive series of cascades at the waterfall in Theppakkadu.

There is a panoramic view of the country around from a view point near Kargudi rest house.

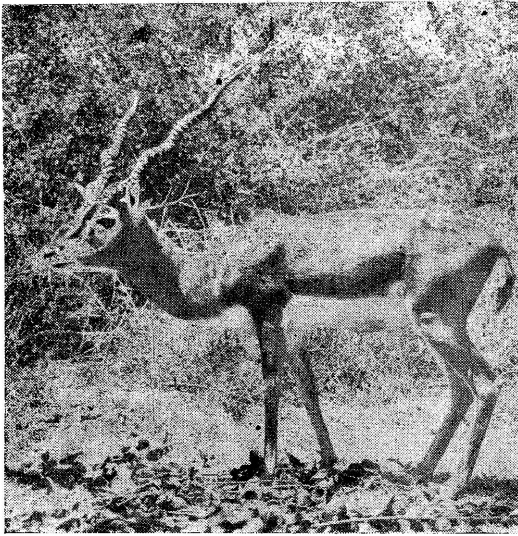
In Mudumalai one can view herds of spotted deer, gaur (Indian Bison) and elephants. Gaur, the largest of the bovines now surviving in the world, are the greatest attraction of the sanctuary. Many Zoologists from foreign countries visit Mudumalai to study the behaviour of the gaur.

One of the most primitive mammals in the sanctuary is the scaly ant-eater or pangolin, chiefly nocturnal in habit. The wild dog is not rare. Other Carnivores include tiger, panther, jackal, hyena, mongoose, wild cat, civet cat, rusty spotted cat, Retel.

Omnivores are represented by sloth bear and wild pig. Sambar, four-horned antelope, mouse-deer, giant squirrel, flying squirrel, barking deer, common langur, and the bonnet monkey are other denizens.

The distribution of reptiles is as interesting as it is varied. Noteworthy among them is the python. The Moyar shelters otters and crocodiles.





Guindy Deer Park

It is the only park of its kind in India within the bounds of a metropolitan city. This Deer park, adjacent of Raj Bhavan, Guindy, is extremely popular with tourists.

This is the only place where one can come across the largest number of that fast dwindling species the Indian Antelope also known as Black Buck, which is found only in India.

The park has spotted deer, white buck, bonnet monkey, small Indian civet cat, jackal, the common mongoose and the country palm civet cat. The incidence of bird

life is also very interesting. A Reptillium, Children's Park are located nearby.

Point Calimere Wild life sanctuary

Point Calimere in Thanjavur district is noted for its incredible congregation of black buck, spotted deer, wild pig and heavy concentration of migrating waterfowl particularly flamingoes.

Every year Thousands of migrating waterfowl visit Point Calimere during the winter. The tidal mud flats and the mairshes are literally covered with masses of birds. The migrants include gargaeny teals, shovellers, whistling teals, pintails,

curleuns, avocets, oyset, catchas, black backed gulls, whisttered terns, little terns, capisian terns, godwits, golden plover's the great stone plovers, sandpipers, little stilts, red shanks, green shanks, ringed plovers, reef herons, whimbreds, seeducked phaslarope etc.

Twenty to thirty thousand flamingoes can be seen here at a time during season.

During spring, the trees and shrubs with wild berries attract fugivirous birds like the Koels, mynahs and barbets.

As winter sets in, a huge wave of insectivorous birds come dnou at Point Calimere, attracted by the abundance of insects and vegetable food.

Mundanthurai Tiger Sanctuary

A sanctuary exclusively for the tiger is being developed at Mundanthurai in Tirunelveli district. The tigers are given protection in this sanctuary.

Anamalai wild life sanctuary

This sanctuary is situated in Coimbatore district and exhibits rich and varied fauna, mostly of the South Indian species.

Elephants, gaur, tigers, wild boar, deer, bear, wild dogs, porcupine, blacknaped hare, flying squirrel, giant squirrel, jackal, common langur, Nilgiri langar, pangolia, civet cats, etc. are observed. The Nilgiri Tar, commonly known as Ibex, can also be seen.



Tamil Nadu Welcomes You

Tamil Nadu lies in the extreme south-east of India extending up to the southernmost tip of the sub-continent. It is bounded by the Bay of Bengal on the east and the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on the north and Kerala on the west.

Vast stretches of plain land reach right upto the coast line in East, spread to the mountainous region in the Centre and in the West. The low hills of the Eastern ghats merge imperceptibly into the Nilgiri Mountains. The rainfed rivers from the Western ghats, viz. the Cauvery and its tributaries, the Bhavani and Amaravathi; Palar, Ponnai and Cheyyar, Vaigai and Tambaraparani flow gently eastward.

The Carnatic music and the Bharatha Natya Dance are centuries old, as are their instrumental accompaniments, the stringed Veena, the Nagaswaram, the Mridangam and the Kanjeera. Dance drama traditions such as the Kuravanji and the Bhagavatha Mela, temple dances like the Palanquin dance, Simha Natanam and folk dances, such as the Kummi, Kolattam, Karagam and Kavadi are all part of the cultural traditions of the Tamils.

The traditional arts and crafts of Tamil Nadu have ever been

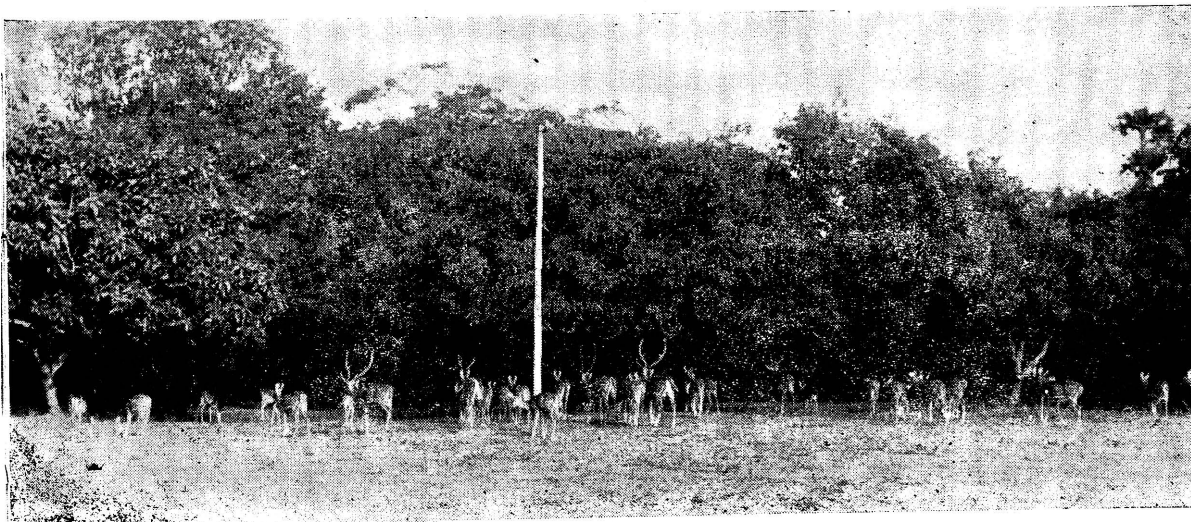
associated with the needs of the temples that dot the land everywhere. Chief among these skills is metal working, be it in silver, brass, copper or bell-metal; and the metal icons made by Tamil artisans are world-famous. Swamimalai, Nachiarkoil, Kumabakom, Tirunelveli and Thanjavur are some of the places for this work.

Madurai is known for its wood craft. Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli and Madurai for their pith work. Pattamadai for silk mats, Bhavani and Tirunelveli for their carpets. Painted cloth, fibre-mats and clay toys are other handicrafts. Tamil Nadu is known for. By far better known however are the handsome cottons and silks. Kancheepuram, Arni, Kumbakonam, Salem and Coimbatore and Madurai are all well known and world famous for their saris, each varied and distinctive in its own way and style.

Mahabalipuram, 37 miles away from Madras, which was a flourishing sea port and a busy town under the Pallava rule, contains temples and monuments which document the history of a majestic civilisation. The monolithic rock-cut shrines or rathas, the excavated cave temples and the shore temple are eloquent proof of the perfection which the Pallava Kings attained in the fields of art and architecture. Kancheepuram or the Golden City of Temples

was the seat of Buddhist, Jain and Brahminical learning and people from many other countries and cities have written volumes of past history. The grandeur of Pallava art is seen in the temples here. St. Thomas Mount is the place where St. Thomas sought refuge but was killed. A church was built on this place. Now there is a military cantonment nearby. Ennore, about 2.5 miles away from Madras, was popular as a quiet picnic spot with facilities for boating. Red Hills has a reservoir and a lovely picnic spot. Pulicat, an old Dutch settlement has facilities for fishing and swimming. Kovalam has lovely beach facilities for swimming and bathing. Vedanthangal is a very popular bird sanctuary and it is an excellent excursion spot where one can see a wide variety of birds. Best time for bird watching is November to February. Thirukalikunram; a Hill of the sacred kites. Tradition has it that two kites fly over from Benares to the temple here and reach the place by noon daily. The kites are fed here by a priest. The grandeur of Pallava art is seen in the temple here. The place is also famous for the silk saris with rich zari design and have a world market. Thiruthani has a hilltop shrine dedicated to Lord Muruga.

Tiruvannamalai is situated on the hills of the Eastern Ghats.



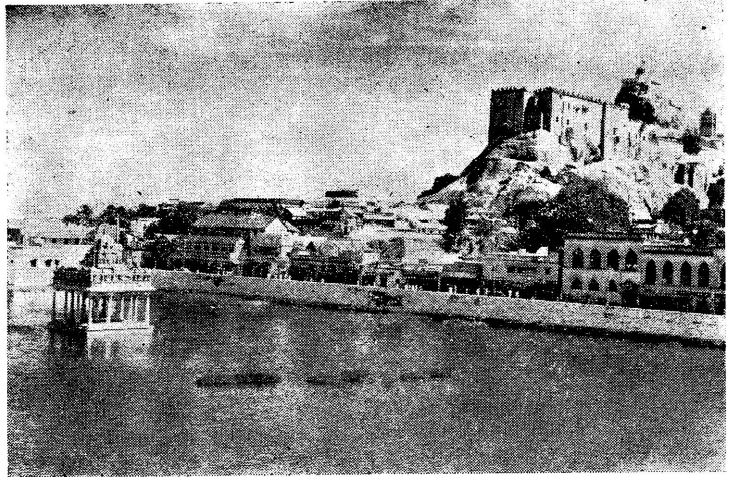
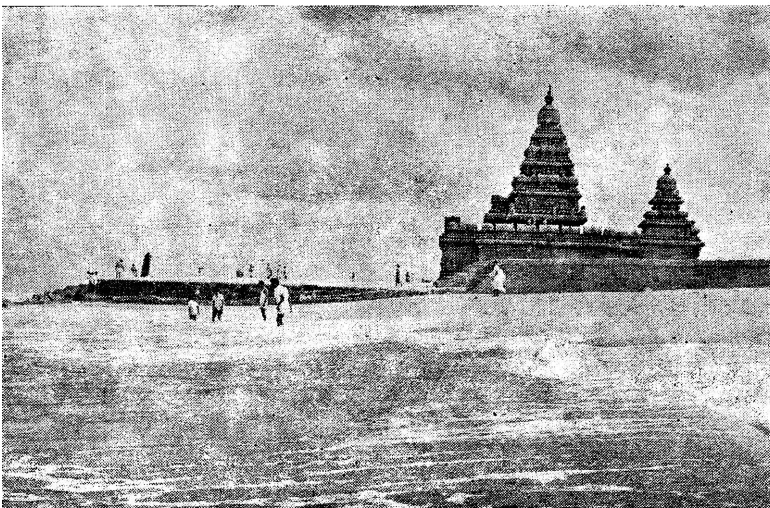
Deer Sanctuary-Guindy

The imposing Arunachala temple on a hill attracts hundreds of pilgrims to see the glow of myriads of oil lamps illuminated during Karthigai Day in November and December. The Samadhi of the great saint Ramana Maharishi is also in this town. In Vellore, there is a fort built in 13th century. Inside the fort is a temple in a remarkable state of preservation and its monolithic sculptures reveal masterly skill in craftsmanship. Vellore has one of the best equipped hospitals in India run by Christian Missionaries.

Sathanur has a dam across the Ponnar river, set in the midst of the hills and reserve forest area. There is an attractive park and a swimming pool. Lord Siva is in His aspect as the cosmic dancer in a huge temple dedicated to Sri Nataraja at Chidambaram. The dancing pose is the most imposing image of God and the idols represent the peak of Hindu Art. The Annamalai University is fast growing into a famous institution. A town recorded in history and folklore, Gingee has a fortress, consisting of three strongly fortified hills, 700 years old. The audience chamber in Rajgiri and the adjoining tank are a 'must' for the tourist.

Thanjavur is the Capital of the Chola Empire and a cultural centre. There are no fewer than 74 temples in Thanjavur of which the most important is that devoted to Sri Brihadeeswara. This was conceived by Raja Raja (895-1006 A.D.) and built by master architect. The tower alone built in classic Dravi-

Mahapalipuram Shore Temple



Trichy Rock Fort

dian style, rises to a height of 216 ft. The dome of the tower rests on a single stone weighing eighty tons. A massive monolith of a bull in the temple is the second biggest in the country. Magnificent sculptures of Ajanta Sigriya type of frescoes, adorn the pillars. The Sivaganga Tank is known for its sweet water. Schwartz Church, a historic church of the Danish Mission, is also situated here.

The Palace in Thanjavur, a grand pile of buildings with long corridors and spacious halls, houses, the ancient Saraswathi Mahal Library, which contains rare manuscripts in Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Marathi. It has in addition an art gallery and a beautiful Sangeetha

Mahal. An ancient town Kumbakonam with eighteen shrines continues to confirm the old world of life. Darasuram, near Kumbakonam, has a beautiful temple which has sculptures and panels of breath taking beauty.

Sri Thyagaraja, saint and composer of more than a thousand songs and held to be the soul of car-natic music, attained his Samadhi at Thiruvaiyaru.

Poompuhar was the Capital of the Chola Kings from the 2nd to the Centuries A.D. It was a centre of learning and fine arts. Trade and Commerce flourished. Mention of this city, its wealth and grandeur has been made in the travelogues of Pliny and Ptolemy.

The celebrated poem, "Silappathikaram", written by Illangovadigal, a Chera Prince, who renounced the world, narrates the story of the Anklets, where true love is sacrificed and justice triumphs. Steps have been taken to revive and recapture the glory of this once ancient city, which, now is a desolate stretch of sands. This story is now beautifully chronicled in stone, which captivate the visitor at the Art Gallery at Poompuhar.

Tiruchirapalli is another important district in the Cauvery delta. The Rock Fort in the heart of the city of Tiruchy, overlooking the beautiful Teppakulam, rises abruptly to a height of 275'. There are, many shrines and mandapams. Cave temples here contain masterpieces of Pallava sculpture. Other places of interest are Schwartz's Church and Robert Clive's House. Srirangam is situated in a pictures-

que island between two rivers, the Cauvery and the Kollidam, and has a magnificent Vaishnavite temple. The festivals in the temple, particularly the Vaikunta Ekadesi Festival, attracting people by the thousands, are colourful and picturesque to witness. Pudukkottai was once a princely Tamil State and has been the site of many a war, and the palace of the former rulers is worth visiting.

Sittannavasal was a refuge for Jain monks. It contains fine images of Jain saints and excellent murals on the ceilings. These murals are ascribed to the 9th Century. The Grand Anicut is an ancient monument of South Indian irrigation work built by King Karikala Chola and dates back to the 2nd Century A.D. The place is beautifully laid out with gardens and fountains and lit up at night.

Hosur in Dharmapuri has an equable climate. The beautiful downs carpeted by ever-green grass in Hosur area are enchanting. So charmed were the Englishmen by the climate and setting of Hosur that they promptly called it 'Little England'. The Hogenekkal waterfalls are worth a visit. It is an ideal holiday resort.

Mettur reservoir is one of the world's largest multipurpose dams

(1 mile X 220 ft.) has numerous parks gardens and picnic spots near the dam. Yercaud has an ideal climate throughout the year and all the attractions of a sport-cum-health resort with its beautiful lakes, waterfalls and commanding peaks.

Bounded by the Western ghats and by the Cauvery, Coimbatore abounds in scenic beauty. It is one of the busy textile centres. The handloom goods are very famous. Bhavanisgar is the largest earthen dam in the world (5 miles). It is an ideal place for boating and fishing. The Anamalais Sanctuary is for elephants.

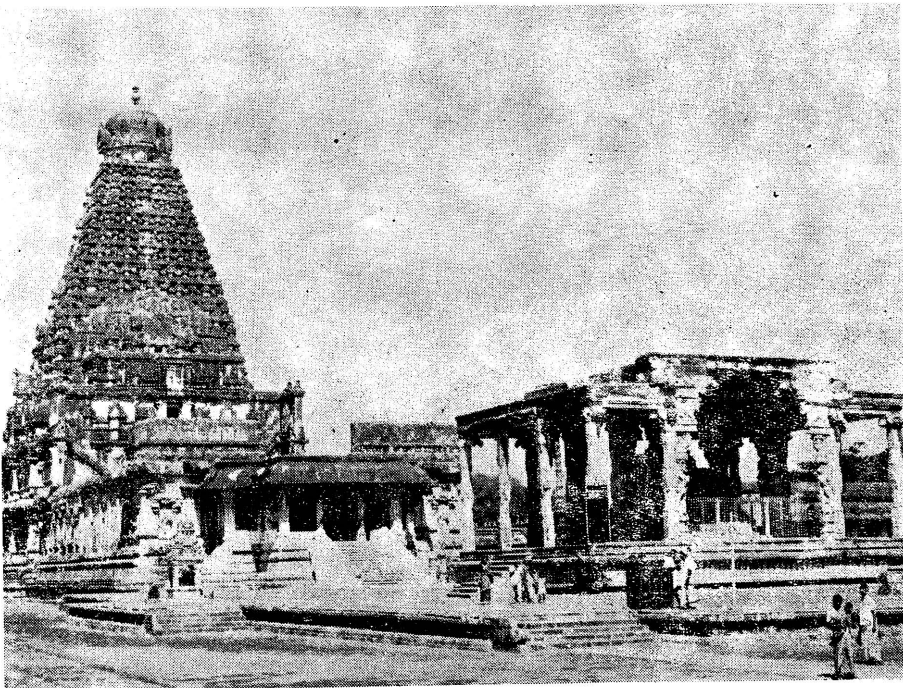
Hailed as the Queen of Hill Stations, where nature blazes forth into one wild and breath-taking beauty, the Nilgiris is situated on a plateau and has the appearance of a vast park.

A playground atop the hills, covering over 900 sq. miles is perhaps the chief factor responsible for Ootacamund to attain this unique position. Ooty derives its name from the lovely blue haze which covers the wooded slopes. The climate is comparable to an English summer. The tall peaks, dense forests, rushing streams, lush green vegetation are scenic enhancements, seen to be believed. The Muduma-

lai game sanctuary abounds in big and small game and visitors are provided all facilities to see the numerous elephants, tigers, sambars, panthers, bisons and bears, barking deer and wild boar in their natural home. Ooty is a paradise for holiday-makers. One can go there to hunt, hike, fish or boat in the lake.

There is a motorable road up to the top, of the tallest peak in the South, the Dodabetta Peak. Rising nearly vertical to a height of 8000', the top of the hill offers a breath-taking panoramic view of land below. The tribal settlements and the Todas in their quaint dresses, add to the picturesqueness of the hills. The most popularised games here are angling, Golf and Racing. At the foot of the Dodabetta, a beautifully laid out garden, the Botanical Gardens, beckons the visitors to spend days and weeks exploring its many splendours. Flower, fruit and vegetable shows are widely patronised. The Pykara and Kundah Hydro-electric power stations are picturesque picnic spots.

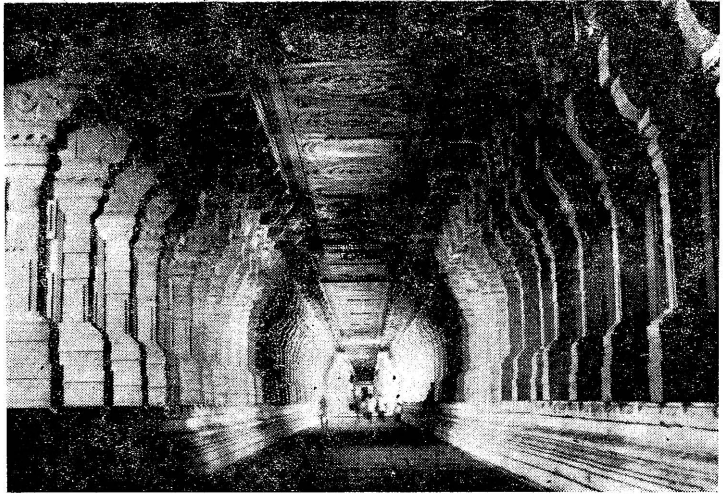
A remarkable hill station, Coonoor has a well laid out park, the Sim's Park with beautiful gardens and a visit here is a must for visitors. Kotagiri is a delightful Hill Station offering similar attractions.



Brihadeeswara Temple, Thanjavoor

Madurai is the cradle of Tamil culture and civilisation. It is the seat of the legendary Tamil academy. It was once the capital of the Pandyan Kingdom. Here lies the shrine dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi and it was around this temple, life of the people of the town revolved at one time. The Meenakshi temple has a court of thousand pillars, each one emitting a different tone, and houses the pleasant Vasantha Mandapam. Thirumalai Nayak Mahal is a place where Saracenic influence is seen on medieval Hindu architecture. April and May are the festival times. The "Floating festival" is in the Mariamman Teppakulam to which millions of devotees throng. Located in picturesque surroundings, Alagarkoil is at the foot of a hill. This shrine is known for its exquisite sculptures. Picturesquely, at a height of 7600 ft., Kodaikanal is reputed to be one of the best hill resorts in India. It lies on the crest of the Palani Hills, ideal for long walks and cool baths in its quaint little waterfalls. Its pride lies in its vast lake.

Rameswaram is an Island in Palk Strait and has the imposing temple of Sri Ramanathaswamy. This place is associated with the



Corridors of Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram

Ramayana. The temple is known for its magnificent stone carvings and sculptured corridors. Benares in the north and Rameswaram in the south are great centres of pilgrimage. A visit to Rameswaram is followed by a visit to Dhanushkodi, the meeting point of the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. Sea-bathing and bathing as part of the

pilgrimage to Rameswaram are popular.

The land of the Courtallam falls, Tirunelveli, has a bracing climate with wooded hills and picturesque natural scenery all round, which impress the place with a special allure. The falls are noted for their medicinal value. Tiruchendur has a beautiful Murugan temple on the sea-shore. The location of the temple is ideal. It draws a permanent stream of devotees.

Tuticorin is a growing port. There is a thriving fishing industry and pearl fishing is a unique feature. Mainly an agricultural area, it also has textile industries. Among the cottage industries matweaving is the chief one, the 'Pattamadai' with a soft silkish sheen being sought after everywhere.

Suchindram has a wonderful temple where the South Indian sculptor has exhibited his amazing skill. The sculptured pillars here would delight all connoisseurs of art. The Land's end of India, Kanyakumari is at the confluence of the three seas, the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. A temple dedicated to the Virgin Goddess, daughter of Himavan; the King of the snow-clad Himalayas, broods over this awesome but beautiful landscape. To watch the sunset and the moon simultaneously issuing out of the ocean on a full moon day is to savour the experience of a lifetime. With all these delights to offer both to the eye and to the soul, is it any wonder, that Tamilnadu brims with pleasure to welcome you and shower its hospitality on you?



Lands End, Kanyakumari

Folk Dance and Music of Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is endowed with a great cultural heritage with rare types of stylised forms of indigenous dances and music which have preserved their pristine purity and grace through several centuries. The Soul of India lies in its villages and the Soul of her art lies in her ancient Folk Forms of Art. The process of evolution of the folk forms owes itself to the vocation of the people. The village folk in Tamil Nadu are mainly engaged in agriculture which involves much physical labour and strain. The various phases of agriculture have their seasons. As the arts of the village folk are intertwined with their vocation, their forms of art also change along with the phases of agriculture.

Thus the calm and serene folk music, which predominates from the time of ploughing the fields, gives place to folk dances performed in ecstasy after the harvest.

FOLK Music :

In the villages, music rings alongside with the work of the people—Tunes spring from their toil. Flow of music synchronises with the serving of seeds. Music at the plough! Music at the fields. Music at the Canal bunds! Music while rearing the crops! Music while harvesting the produce! Music while thrashing the grains! Thus the whole village reverberates with music.

One of the popular forms of folk music is Villupattu. Six to eight singers use a huge bow-like instrument with tinkling bells attached to the thick string of the bow. A mud pot gently beaten in the mouth by a leather piece and an Uddukku is also used. The themes

centre round the meritorious deeds of Gods and Goddesses, heroes and heroines. Katta Bomman and Desing Raja are favourite themes of their folk songs. The leader of this group will narrate the song stage by stage and the rest will punctuate it by repetition.

KAICHILAMBU :

Kaichilambu is a sort of folk Katha Kalakshepam set to the tune of music and by musically sounding silambus. Group dancing is also done to the tune of this music.



There are other kinds of popular folk music like harvest song etc.

FOLK Dances :

Folk dances can be grouped under three major heads for convenient study :

1. Dances by professional troupes ;
2. Community dances amongst all sections of people during social and religious festivities; and
3. Tribal dances of the hills and forests.

Dances by PROFESSIONAL TROUPES :

Amongst the folk dances of professional troupes. Karagam, Kavadi, Puraviattam or Dummy Horse Dance Therukoothu (folk play) and Bommalattam (Puppetry) are the most prevalent popular varieties.

KARAGAM :

Karagam or dancing with decorated pot or vessel on the head to the accompaniment of Nagaswaram music is a folk art popular in Tamil Nadu. It is danced mostly for propitiating Mariamman and other village deities to get rains and to ward off epidemics.





KAVADI :

The Kavadi is a well known type of folk dances. Most of the devotees of Lord Muruga take to it as a devotional offering to the almighty. The Kavadi is an arched wood and cloth work. The short wooden based rod held on the neck of the dancer is swung by him round and round according to his dance movements. Some professional experts display amazing feats of skill in it by balancing and moving the Kavadi all over the body and in various poses without the support of their hands. The dance is performed according to the varied tunes of the popular tune known as 'Kavadi Chindu'. The orchestra is Naiyandi Melam consisting of two Nagaswarams, two Thavils, a Pambai and a Thamukku.

Nayandi Melam is an orchestra by itself and is used as accompaniment for Karagam, Kavadi, dummy horse dance and other folk dances. The peculiarity of it is that the instrumentalists too dance while playing their instruments.

PURAVI attam are dummy horse dance :

In the Puravi Attam the dummy horse is made with bamboo frame work covered with thick paper or card board. It is so lavishly decorated as to resemble a well-bred

palace-horse or war-horse. Through a hole at the back of the horse, the dancer stands, with the upper portion of his body above the waist being visible and his legs fitted up with short wooden stilts. This gives him an appearance of riding the horse and he dances to the tune of the Nayandi Melam.

BOMMALATAM (Puppetry)

In the Bommalattam, the characters of a drama are represented by

decorated dolls and their movements are manipulated by black strings held by skilled puppeteers standing behind a short screen. Scenes from puranas like Harichandra, Rukumangada etc. are generally depicted. The music is not only of a high order approaching the classical modes but also very appealing. The acting of the dolls appear almost human and they are made to dance Bharata Natyam items like Alarippu, Jathiswaram and Thillana.

PEACOCK Dance :

The dancer wears the mask of a peacock and also the feathers and dances to the tune of music, imitative of the movement and gait of the peacock. This dance is generally performed as an interlude in Karagam and Kavadi dances.

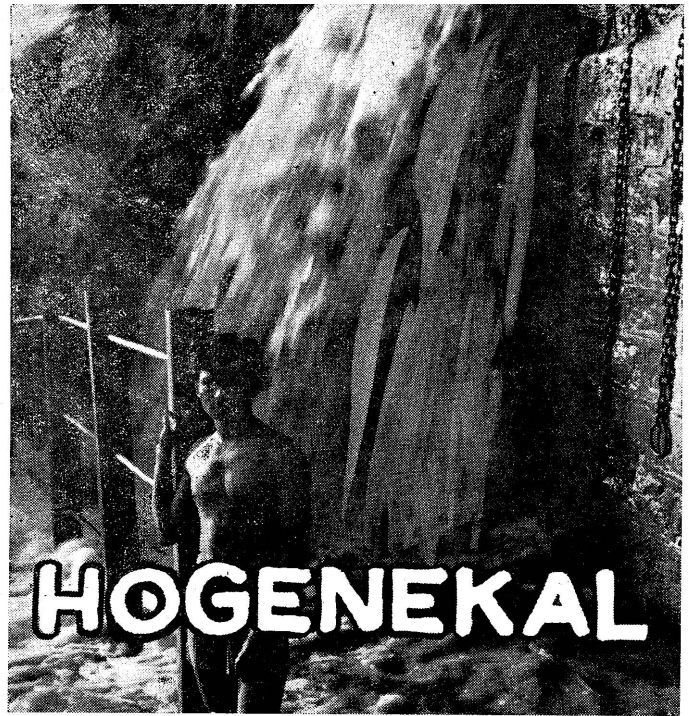
FOLK Drama :

The folk plays of Tamilnadu popularly known as 'Therukoothu' are generally about puranic themes and they are presented with music, dance and dialogues. The dancers wear antique costumes. Good troupes may be said to be mobile educational institutions, for they try to inculcate in the minds of the masses a deep love of god, good conduct, social virtues and a capacity to distinguish the good from the bad. These folk plays are performed generally during occasions of Temple festivals.



The falls of Hogenekal lie about 9 miles from Pennagaram. The Cauvery above the falls is divided into two by a large island as the main body of the water flows through the right or western branch, the channel suddenly becomes shrunk and the river plunges boldly into a deep chasm. The name "Hogenekal" which in Canarese means 'smoking rock' is derived from the cloud of spray which eternally overhangs the chasm. The pool into which the river leaps is called the Yaga Kundam of Brahma.

According to a legend a Chola King while hunting found the Cauvery swallowed up by a vast cleft and laboured for a long time to fill up the yawning gulf. Then a wise rishi told him that the Chakra of Vishnu had entered the earth at that spot and that unless some virtuous King would plunge into the abyss, the hole would never close. Thereupon the king willingly gave his life and saved the waters of the Cauvery for the welfare and happiness of men. The left arm of the river splits up into two channels one of which rushes between two walls of granite rocks so narrow that local people call it Megadathu



or goat's leap. The real goat's leap is however 20 miles higher up the river. When the river is low there are only two falls. The Brahma Kundam or big falls and the Gnana Thirtham where a railing is provided for the use of the bathers.

There is a story that a local Chief Impala Naiyak had a swing below an overhanging rock on the right bank and that in one of his moods allowed a Dombara woman who exhibited acrobatic feats from the left bank to climb a tall bamboo and with one long swing to land on his lap. This freakish conduct in the sight of the Brahma Kundam, so shocked his master, the Rajah of Mysore when he heard of it, that he immediately ordered the poligar's head to be cut and thrown into the river.

Bathing in the Cauvery at this spot is done on the moon-days of Thai and Adi, during the Thula festival, and on the occasion of a solar or lunar eclipse. But the most important bathing festival is on the 18th of Adi when a large crowd of pilgrims gather to perform ablutions in the sacred stream. The advent of plague, however, had dealt a severe blow to the popularity of the festival. On the bank of the Cauvery above the bathing ghat is the temple of Deseswaraswami connected with the Sage Agastya.

The falls in sylvan surroundings is an ideal tourist spot, for holiday makers and picnickers.



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is the cause for
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