

**ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY  
GOLDEN JUBILEE  
NUMBER**

**Tamil Arasu**

**DECEMBER 1979 50 P.**



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RAJ BHAVAN,  
MADRAS-600 022

24-10-1979

## APPEAL

The Armed Forces Flag Day will be celebrated on the 7th December, 1979 as usual, when contributions are collected from the public by sale of flags.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to those brave men who have served us by guarding our freedom and territorial integrity under difficult circumstances. It is our duty to look after them when they return to civil life. They are ready to serve society even after retirement and we can avail ourselves of their valuable services.

Different schemes have been drawn up and are implemented for the welfare of ex-servicemen through well-organised agencies under a specific organisational set up. We hope to do more for them, with increased public support.

I appeal to the generous people of Tamil Nadu to contribute liberally on this occasion and make the Flag Day a success.

(Sd.) Prabhudas B. Patwari  
*Governor of Tamil Nadu*

# ARMED FORCES Flag Day

## GENESIS

"Armistice Day" after World War I was being celebrated on 11th November of every year. It was also the 'POPPY DAY' because, on this day, tokens of poppies were sold to the Public and the amount so collected used for the Welfare of War Veterans and their families. Since independence, India has been observing 7th December as the FLAG DAY to honour the valiant dead, to salute the veteran brave and to renew their pledge with the active service personnel. The Flag Day is thus, an old and honoured annual feature of our National life.

## COLLECTIONS:

On the Flag Day, contributions from the Public are particularly solicited. Variable, as these contributions are they add upto a significant sum, eventhough the job of welfare demands a bigger budget. Tamil Nadu in common with the other States in the country, cause collections to be made on that day. The Flag Day collections are shared by the Central and State Governments. The Centre's share is administered by a Managing Committee, presided over by the Defence Minister. The State's share of the Flag Day collection is taken to the corpus of the Tamil Nadu Ex-services' Personnel Benevolent Fund.

## ORGANISATION:

The Tamil Nadu Standing Flag Day Organisation Committee presided over by HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU lays down the policy and guidelines for organising the collection on the Flag Day in the State. At the District level, a Standing

Committee in each district presided over by the District Collectors acts, as the operating wings of the campaign.

## ASSITANCE FROM THE FLAG DAY FUND:

The Flag Day collection is the main source of the Tamil Nadu Ex-services' Personnel Benevolent Fund which is placed at the disposal of the Directorate of Ex-servicemen's welfare for rendering financial assistance to the Ex-services' population in Tamil Nadu by way of various types of grants. Financial Assistance given from the fund to Ex-servicemen and their dependants during 1978-79 was nearly Rs.8/- lakhs.

The Fund is also being utilised for financing certain small schemes to benefit the Ex-servicemen and their dependents. A few such Schemes are:-

(i) The Women dependents of deceased/retired/released service personnel are given training in tailoring. They are being paid a stipend of Rs. 20/- p.m. in addition to the supply of materials at a cost of Rs. 15/- p.m. each.

(ii) A technical Institute for training in typewriting and Short-hand is being run at the District of Chengalpattu at Saidapet, Tanjavur and Kanyakumari at Nagercoil for the benefits of the Ex-servicemen and their dependants.

(iii) Jawans Bhavans are being constructed as a measure of rehabilitation of the disabled/war widows and deserving Ex-servicemen and their widows. Already there are 4 Jawans Bhavans at Vellore, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli.

(iv) Supply of bunk stalls to the widows/disabled ex-servicemen

to enable them to run petty shops for their livelihood.

(v) Construction of 12 Bedded Wards for Ex-servicemen in Headquarters Hospitals for the exclusive use of the ex-servicemen and their dependents.

(vi) An Old Age Home for destitutes military pensioners has already been constructed at North Arcot to accommodate 58 pensioners.

(vii) Sanction of Monthly/lump sum grant as the case may be to widows and disabled ex-servicemen for the maintenance of their family.

(viii) Sanction of marriage grant at the rate of Rs. 350/- each to the daughters of ex-servicemen and their widows.

(ix) Pocket money to TB/ Leprosy patients who are undergoing treatment in the approved Tuberculosis/Leprosy Hospitals.

(x) Sanction of Immediate Relief Grant for alleviation of economic distress of stranded ex-servicemen.

(xi) Sanction of Burial expenses for the death of ex-servicemen at the rate of Rs.100/- for each individual.

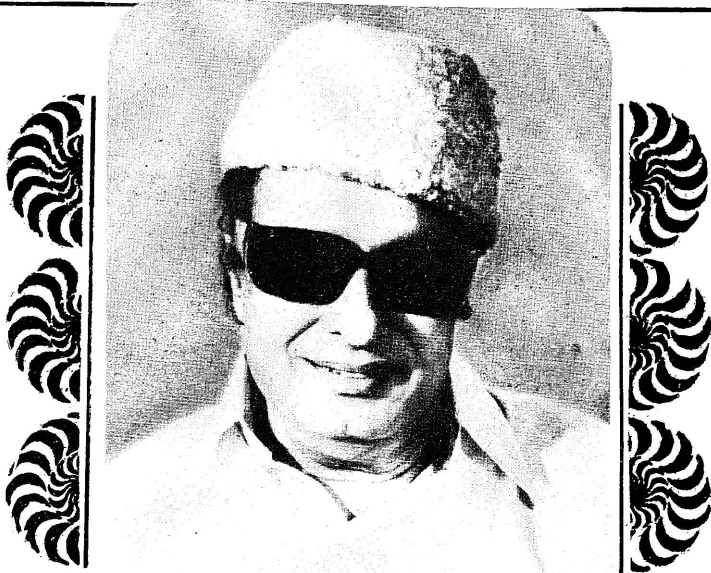
(xii) Sanction of free grant towards flood relief, fire accident etc.

(xiii) Scholarship to the children of ex-servicemen from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 100/- per child.

(xvi) Grant to ex-servicemen trainees who are undergoing training in Datamatics Corporation.

It is hoped that the General Public will contribute liberally and thus participate in the common venture of resettling, and rehabilitating the ex-servicemen of Tamil Nadu.





**M. G. RAMACHANDRAN,**  
Chief Minister,  
Government of Tamil Nadu.



Fort St. George,  
Madras-600009.

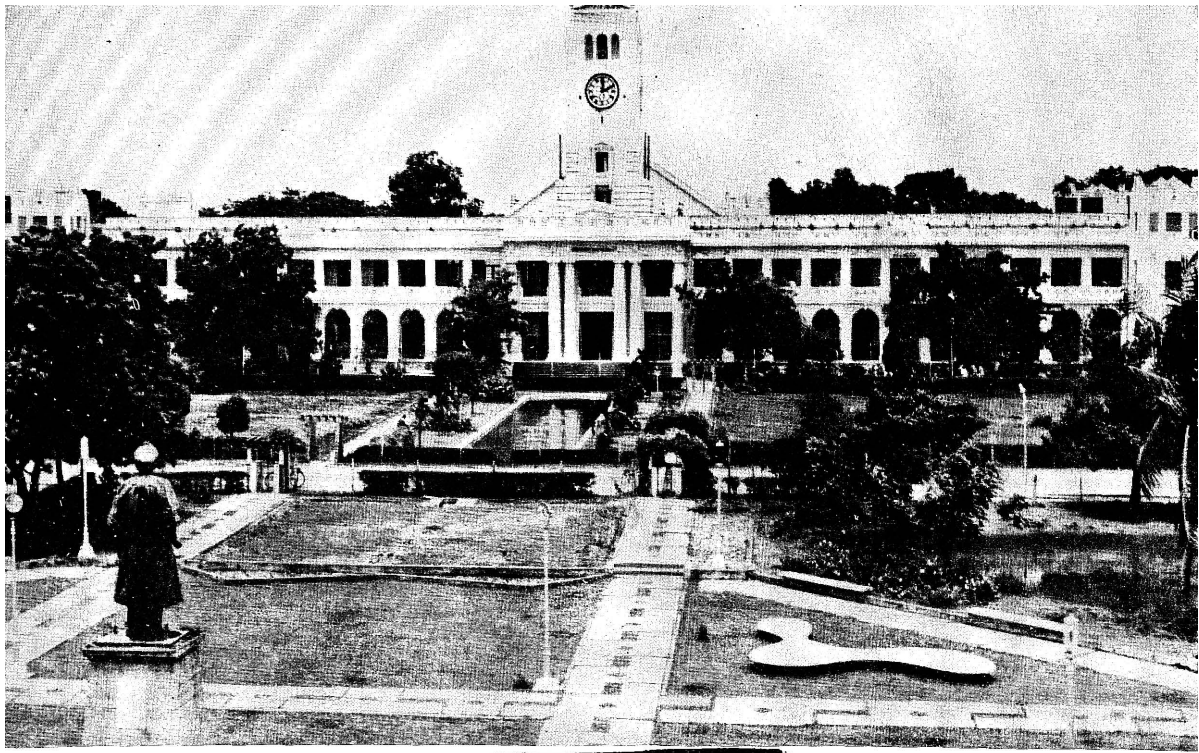
## **MESSAGE**

*I am happy to learn that 7th December is being observed as the Armed Forces Flag Day throughout the country.*

*The service rendered by the Armed Forces in the defence of the country is laudable.*

*On this Flag Day, I congratulate the Armed Forces who render selfless service in zealously guarding our borders.*

*M. G. Ramachandran*



# ANNAMALAI University

The Annamalai University is situated in the heart of TamilNadu on the fringe of Chimbaram, an ancient centre of Hindu religion and scholarship, in peaceful and rural surroundings, far from the bustle and distractions of metropolitan centres. The seat of this great centre of learning is called Annamalainagar after the illustrious founder of the university. Rightly did the Indian Universities commission report say: "The Annamalai University is eminently fitted to be a genuine centre of learning and culture by virtue of its situation and it beautiful campus.

Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar founded the Sri Minakshi College in 1920, at Chidambaram. In 1927, he founded a Sanskrit College and a Tamil College at Chidambaram. An Oriental Training College followed as a corollary and a Music College came in 1929.

The founder had gathered for the college a team of devoted teachers. A number of brilliant

students from all over the South were attracted to this college. In 1928, Sir Annamalai Chettiar offered to the State Government twenty lakhs of rupees for creating a new University, besides 300 acres of land. In 1929, the Annamalai University came into existence by an Act of Legislature.

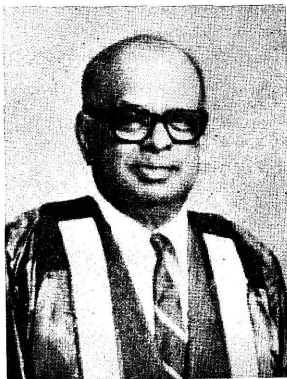
The University has 32 departments under eight faculties. They

are: Fine Arts, Sciences, Indian languages, Engineering and technology, Teachers Training, Agriculture, Law etc.,

During the golden jubilee year, there are plans to start a faculty for medicine. The State and Central Governments and the Indian Medical Council have sanctioned approval.

The Honourable Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran shows a keen interest in sports and the Government has set up a separate Directorate for sports. This University provides a degree course for physical education. The Government of Tamil Nadu is keen to set up a gymnasium here. Therefore, there is every possibility to start a faculty for sports in the Annamalai University, shortly.

The Marine Biology Research Department and the Department of Linguistics are unique in the whole country and the studies conducted there are appreciated by international scholars.





The Thirukural Chair was Instituted in the University in 1970 by the Government of Tamil Nadu with a capital endowment of Rs. 3 lakhs. The Department has compiled a subject index of Thirukural and completed comparative studies on Thirukural, and (1) commentators (2) the epics (3) Kambar and various Bharatham.

There are departments of philosophy, psychology, history, politics, economics, English, sociology, Business, administration, population studies, commerce, statistics, physics, chemistry, zoology and geography. Post graduate courses are also offered in these subjects. Research work is carried on by eminent persons in these fields.

The credit for having helped to reconstruct the history of South India from literary sources, numismatic collections, archaeological findings and inscription, of having brought to light the paintings of the Thanjavur temples, the finding of lignite in Neyveli, of having brought to the notice of the public the rich flora of the backwaters of Pichavaram which has found a place in the tourist map should be engraved in letters of gold in the annals of the University. The Department of Chemistry has notable achievements to its credit.

Titans of Tamil language and literature and eminent scholars of great repute who have been the unchallenged leaders of the Tamil Renaissance Movement have rendered meritorious service to this department. The founder induced eminent lawyers and poets to be the teachers in the Tamil department. Thus he gave to the department of Tamil, a specialised bent and direction. In due course, a full-fledged and autonomous unit of activities emerged with a long term programme which commanded wide respect and acclamation throughout the Tamil speaking world.

Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, French are also taught.

The University has the distinction of being the first University in India to have a full four-year course in music, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Music.

The Tamil Isai Movement was inaugurated at Annamalaiagar by Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar to Rehabilitate the ancient Tamil Music and restore it to its primacy in Tamil Nadu. More than twenty volumes of old and rare gems of Tamil songs and new compositions have been published according to a scale notation.

In the faculty of education facilities are provided for degree course in adult education, Diploma and certificate courses in several branches of teaching are also provided.

The M.Sc., course in Microbiology was first started in Annamalai University. About a thousand graduates who are serving in the Government and private farms have helped to promote green revolution.

The faculty of law was inaugurated in 1978. An integrated 3 year course leading to the B.L. degree is offered. Eminent judges of the High Court and leading lawyers are invited to be visiting professors to deliver special lectures.

The departments of civil engineering, applied mechanics and

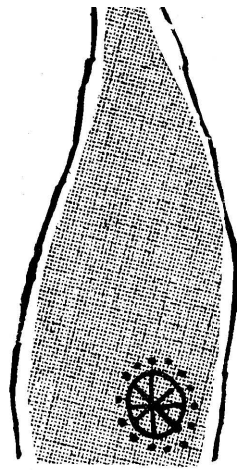
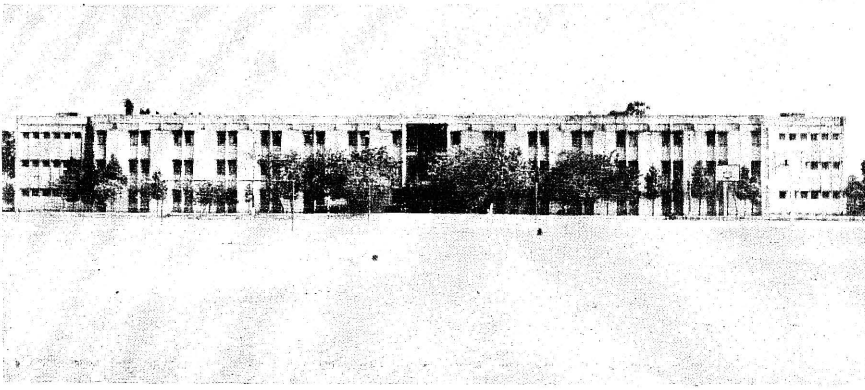
structural engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and technology constitute the faculty. Undergraduate courses in the basic engineering subjects are offered. Diversified courses leading to bachelor's degree in civil and structural, production and electronics and Instrumentation and chemical engineering are also offered.

The students the Chemical engineering department of this University serve in a number of fertiliser factories all over the country and have served in the rubber factories in Malaysia and have brought honours to the country.

The students who have emerged from the five departments of the faculty of engineering and technology of this university are serving in the capacity of consultants in the well-known firms of India.

The Government of India has set up a Regional Centre for extension service for modernisation of rice processing. In view of the fuel crisis, the Government of India is encouraging research on utilization of solar energy. The Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India has provided a grant for a project of utilization of solar energy for paddy drying. Encouraged by the results, a prototype of one ton per day has been designed, fabricated and erected at the Modern rice mill, Manalur. More than 12 solar





energy gadgets have been constructed.

Refresher courses on topics like "Power Electronics" Transmission, Technology etc, are conducted at the Neyveli lignite corporation Limited.

A computer system costing Rs. 39 lakhs has been set up.

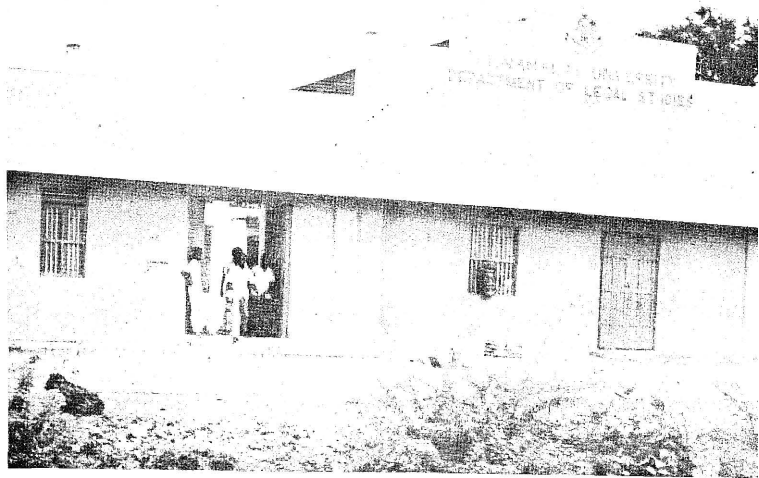
The Muthiah Polytechnic, named after the Pro-Chancellor Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar offers Diploma courses in three subjects. Diploma course in Agricultural Engineering has also been started.

In 1979, the University started a Correspondance course offering courses in B.Ed., B.Com., Diploma in Law. 12,000 candidates had applied for the B.Ed course of which particular mention should be made. Only a few thousands were given admission. They are given continuing education. 6,900 students study through correspondence course.

The University has a library which is one of the well-known Libraries in the whole country. The library has a vast collection of books. There are rare manuscripts, first editions, earliest printed books and valuable treatises on art long-out-of print.

The library contains 2,75,000 volumes of books, back numbers of periodicals, and manuscripts on a variety of subjects and in nearly a score of languages. It receives regularly 694 scientific and learned periodicals.

There are more than 450 members on the staff and about 8,000 students. About 5,000 reside in



the hostel. The annual budget is more than one crore.

The University provides facilities for research studies in a number of new fields and linguistics and besides degree and post graduate degrees, and certificate courses, evening classes for music, Bharata natyam, Nadaswaram and Taval are conducted.

With the grant from the Government of India, State Government and the U.G.C. the University is growing from strength to strength.

A galaxy of distinguished scholars like the Rt. Honourable V.S. Srinivasa Sastri, Thiru M. Rathinabapathy, Sir R.K. Shanmugham Chetti, Sir. C.P. Ramaswam Aiyer, Thiru T. M. Narayanaswamy Pillai have served as Vice-Chancellors and nurtured this University.

These eminent persons have left their stamp of distinction upon the University.

A good number of the alumni are serving as technocrats to help build the modern temples of India. Many of them are also helping to shape the world of tomorrow by their distinguished work in India's Foreign Services, etc.

From its very inception, the University has attracted in its service towering personalities. It is therefore no wonder that half a dozen professors of this University have been and are Vice-Chancellors of other Universities.

The seminars, symposia and conferences conducted are attended by delegates from various centres of learning. The choice of the University for these important meets is due to the high academic standards of the University.



# DR. RAJAH Sir ANNAMALAI CHETTIAR

The Founder of Annamalai University

The Annamalai University owes its existence to the benefaction and philanthropy of a single individual Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad. He was a man of vision almost alone in his time who saw a great future for his country; a man of faith who believed in the skill of his countrymen; a man of action who made his dream come true. His life provides the inspiration that guides this University. Also,

it has set an example to copy for patriots of means with a constructive mind and social purpose.

Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar was born at Kanadukathan on the 30th September 1881. His father, Thiru Muthiah Chettiar, had brought fresh distinction to an illustrious family by his learning and practical piety. From him, his son learnt three things that shaped his

whole life; they were a habit of close application to his business, a love of Tamil letters and especially sacred poetry, and above all a deep devotion to the Lord Nataraja at Chidambaram. He was apprenticed very early to the Family business of banking, and was able to master it in a few years. He had no formal education but he soon learnt to speak and write English and to

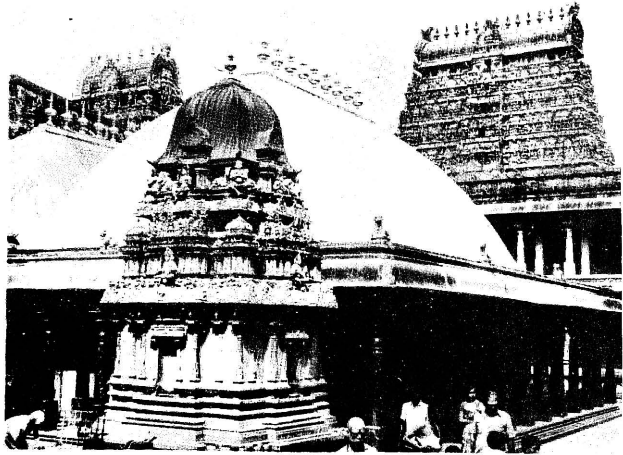
use his mother-tongue with force and precision. He kept his mind all the time open to new ideas and continued his self-education all his life. And his respect for scholars and scholarship amounted to veneration.

Thiru. Annamalai Chettiar was only nineteen when he lost his father and began to manage his own property and business. But he was already a trained businessman, with a mature judgment and original ideas. For the next ten years, he applied himself to his business and expanded it, covering Ceylon, Burma and South East Asia with a network of Banks and Branch offices. Within that short time he made a princely fortune and came to be known as the leading business magnate in South India. One or two things may go to explain his marvellous success. He chose his employees with unerring judgment and, by his tact and trust, secured not noly their service but life-long loyalty. Further, he himself worked harder than any of his servants, setting an example of thoroughness, precision and punctuality. And then, as he went round tirelessly, the master's eye was everywhere; nothing was too low or little for him, and nothing too intricate. An extensive tour through Europe and the United Kingdom in 1910 widened his horizon and gave him greater knowledge of men and affairs.

By the time he was thirty, Thiru Annamalai chettiar had already 'striven' and saved', according to his motto; the time had now come for him to 'serve'.

As a first step, Thiru Annamalai Chettiar secured election to the Madras Legislative Council in 1916. In 1921, he was returned to the Council of State where he kept his seat for fifteen consecutive years and then for four years he was a member of the Central Legislative Assembly, serving the country and constituency liake. On questions like the retrenchment of the top-heavy administration and Indianisation of the Port Trust, he spoke with feeling and force.

To the long family record, almost a hundred years old, of pious charities in their chosen city of Chidambaram, Thiru Annamalai Chettiar decided to add a rich chapter by his personal and princely gift to all fine causes-to promote and foster ancient and modern learning, to encourage literature, music, art and sport, to further



movements for social service, and social progress.

The Annamalai University is in itself an enduring tribute to his splendid generosity. Not often in our generation has great individual wealth like his been devoted to public welfare and progress with a philanthropy so discriminating in its quality and so catholic in its range.

In requesting His Excellency the Chancellor to inaugurate the Senate, The Hon'ble Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad, the Founder Pro-Chancellor of the University, made the following speech.

"This University owes its existence to two factors which I shall, with your leave, detail here today. First and foremost is the hearty and enthusiastic response that the Government of Madras has been giving to endeavours of private philanthropy and spondly the desire of the 18 millions of Tamil-speaking people in this Presidency and abroad also to nurture a centre of learning to give to the world the value of Tamil learning, literature and culture.

"The establishment of the University, however has been made possible by the signal response which the Government of Madras chose to give to private effort in the year 1928.

"Cheered by the example of the Andhras, encouraged by the desire of the Tamilians as shown in the unanimity of the opinions expressed by many witnesses before the Tamil University Commission and, more than all helped by the suggestions of eminent thinkers in the field of education, the enthusiastic support and valuable suggestions of members of Government, I was

helped to place the scheme for a University before the Government in the early months of the year 1928. His Excellency Lord Goschen, then Governor of Madras, and the members of his Government, in particular the Hon'ble the Zamindar of Kumaramangalam, Minister in charge of Education and the Hon'ble Sir Thomas Moir, Member incharge of Finance, most cordially responded to my offer of Rs. 20 lakhs and the three colleges with all the lands, buildings and equipment, and soon raised their contribution towards the endowment fund to Rs. 27 lakhs and helped in all the several stages of the Bill.

"In this very first year of its existence the University has attempted the starting of research departments, the equipping of the Library and the provision of staff at the rate of one for every 15 students. Its building schemes are expected to cost 24 lakhs. It is sought to improve the amenities of the place by putting on hand a drainage, a water-supply and an electric supply scheme. It is hoped that facilities for boating, swimming and other kinds of exercise will be given in the near future."

This pace of progress was maintained throughout and when Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar passed away on the 15th of June 1948, he had the satisfaction that the University was growing steadily and in the right direction.

Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar's dream has been fulfilled by the Annamalai University in great measure. In the words of Jawaharlal Nehru, it is "a great seat of Tamil culture and Tamil learning together with science and modern knowledge."

Citation by

COLONEL P. CHANDRA REDDY  
*Vice-Chancellor*

Presenting

THIRU C. N. ANNADURAI  
*Chief Minister, Government of Madras*

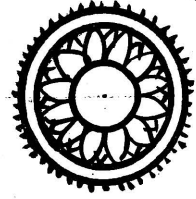
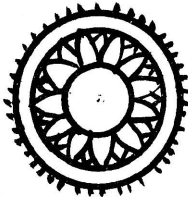
for the conferment of the

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS  
*(Honoris Causa)*

at the

SPECIAL CONVOCATION

held on September 8, 1968



Mr. Chancellor,

I present unto you for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Letters, *Honoris Causa*, the Hon'ble Conjeevaram Natarajan Annadurai, thinker, writer, statesman and best beloved son of TAMILAGAM, to-day.

Born and brought up at the historic town of Kanchi, he has his roots deep in this land and its culture.

While acquiring all the humane learning that the educational system of the day had to offer, he realized very early the true bent of his genius and developed, at College, some special aptitudes, prefiguring his latent interests and pursuits. One of them was the loving study of Tamil, another was the organization of student societies; and yet others were public speaking and journalism, both Tamil and English. Wide reading made him a full man: assiduous writing "an exact man" and discoursing and debating "a ready man".

Thiru Annadurai was thus specifically equipped for public life when he heard the call of the country. He found full scope for his powers and ideals in journalism and the organization of the Justice party and, later on, the Dravida Kazhagam. But, as was inevitable, he went on to form a new party "nearer to his heart's desire": the great Kazhagam which he has led to victory.

If Thiru Annadurai had never entered politics at all, he would still have been recognized as a writer of the first rank in Tamil. It is characteristic of him that he dedicated his artistic talent, as well as his other gifts, to the great cause he served. A very large proportion of his numerous writings is "committed" or "engaged" in a real sense, projecting his social conscience and presenting the burning problems of the present. At the same time, the plays and stories he has written for the film are at once scholarly and immediately appealing to the common man: which is a rare combination of qualities.

ANNA, as he is affectionately called, had already

a quarter of a century's public service to his credit when he entered the State legislature in 1957; and when (in 1962) he was elected to the Rajya Sabha, he had a wider scope for constructive statesmanship. He came to be not only a respected member of the opposition at Delhi but also a very well-known and popular political figure in South India. There was thus a touch of inevitability in the resounding victory he won at the polls in 1967 and his assuming office as Chief Minister of the State.

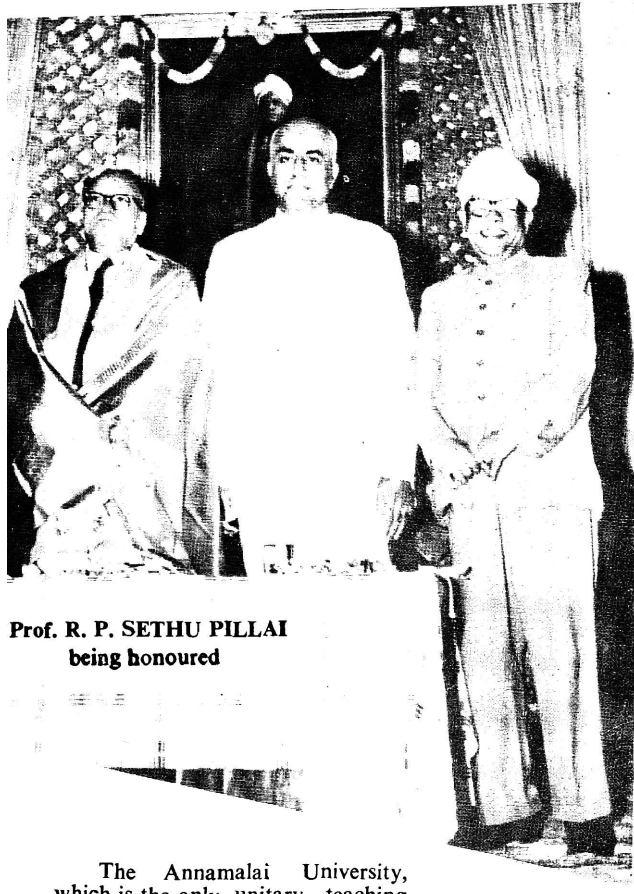
His recent tour in the Western World and the Far East brought him wider recognition, honour and honours academic as well as political. It revealed his statesmanship and his comprehension of national problems in the context of international politics. Foreign critics of India were now convinced that a true son of the South Indian Soil could, at the same time, and a *fort-i-o-ri*, be a staunch guardian of national unity and an enlightened citizen of the world.

By virtue of the fullness and wholeness of his personality, his practical idealism and his identification with the "lowly and the lost", Thiru ANNADURAI has not only earned the trust and affection of the masses in an unprecedented way, but has come to typify what may be called the very genius of the Tamil People. They may well claim that not only through him but in him they have at last come into their own.

It is a matter of particular pride to this University that it shares with the Chief Minister one of his Cherished interests. The promotion of Tamil - the language, the literature and the culture - is our avowed objective, our special concern and commitment. I find a happy augury for the success of our Tamil Mission in this visit of ANNA and his taking an Annamalai Doctorate.

"The path of Duty is the Way to Glory"

I have great pleasure, Mr. Chancellor, in presenting into you, for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Letters, *Honoris Causa*, the Hon'ble Thiru C.N. Annadurai, Chief Minister of Madras.



**Prof. R. P. SETHU PILLAI**  
being honoured

The Annamalai University, which is the only unitary, teaching and residential University of its kind in India, is the result of the benefaction of Philonthropy of Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar. Since it came into being in 1929, it flourshes as a great centre of Tamil learning and research. The historical city of Chidambaram has been well known from the dawn of civilization as a great centre of Saivaism and also for the great cosmic dance of Lord Nataraja. The Annamalai University (Which is situated near Chidambaram,) has become in these fifty years "Mecca of Tamil learning and culture" and now the twin cities of Chidambaram and Annamalainagar (the city which grew around the University) are frequently thronged with the multitudes of Siva and Tamil devotees, from all over the world.

The great vision of the Founder has been assiduously put into practice by his illustrious and gifted son Dr. Raja Sir Muthia Chettiar of Chettinad, the present Pro-Chancellor of the University. Under the tender care of the present Vice-Chancellor, Justice B. S. Soma-

sundram the University leaps a great step forward and projects its image in its varied activities.

The Department of Tamil is as old as the University itself and its origin can be traced back to the Tamil College, started by the late Raja long before, which later became an integral part of the Tamil Department. The Department has been headed by great savants like K. S. Subramania Pillai, Swami Vipulanantha, Navalar Somasundara Bharathiar, Pandithamani Kathiresan Chettiar and several other scholars of great emience. It is because of the hard and continuous labour of the successive Heads of Departments and distinguished staff (the list of which includes great scholars like Avai Duraiswamy Pillai Dr. U.V. Swaminatha Iyer, R. Raghava Iyengar, N.M. Venkataswamy Nattar, R.P. Sethu Pillai and others) the Department has risen to the present prestigious position and has attained international recognition. The various heads of the Department have painstakingly nurtured diverse

# FIFTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO TAMIL STUDIES

DR. S. AGESTHILINGOM  
*Dean, Faculty of Indian Languages*

branches of Tamil studies viz. Literature, grammar, linguistics, Saiva Siddhantha and Tamil music.

It is well-known that the first M.A. degree course in Tamil was introduced in this University. It has also become the first in the country to award doctorate in Tamil by research, and Professor Dr. A. Chidambaranathan Chettiar was the first recipient of the coveted degree in those days.

The fond hope of the illustrious founder was realised when the Department of Tamil launched various Programmes of Tamil research and learning from time to time. Several research programmes have has successfully implemented. The Department of Tamil has never failed "to give to the world the value of Tamil learning, literature and culture". It has taken up several ambitious scholars and it is needless to say that it has been the torch-bearer of higher research and learning in Tamil.

The list of its achievements is long. To mention a few: The University has brought out sixteen volumes of varioum edition of the *Kambaramayanam* which brought to the University international acclamation and several enquiries were made to the present writer when he was in the United States in 1978 whether the University would bring out reprints of a few Kantas which are out of print and hence unavailable to the researchers in the west. The University collec-



K. S. Subramania Pillai



Pandithamani Kathiresan Chettiar

ted old manuscripts from every nook and corner of the country, compared and culled out very useful materials which embody in the monumental edition. Five volumes of *History of Tamil Literature*—one on Tholkappiyam, another on Saiva Literature yet another on other Religious Literature and still another on 3rd, 4th and 5th century literature and the last one on 13th, 14th and 15th century literature were brought out by the University.

Another important publication is *A Critical History of Twelve Thirumurais* in two volumes which has also earned commendation.

The Sahitya Academy rightly entrusted the work of compiling *The National Bibliography of Books of Literary Merit* to this University.

*A Bibliography of Tamil Men of letters* in three volumes has been compiled on the model of Oxford Companion to English Literature. It contains useful and comprehensive references giving cogent and connected accounts of six thousand Tamil poets.

The Government of India, in recognition of the great service done by the Department of Tamil, made in 1954 a generous grant of rupees three lakhs for the creation of a separate chair for Tamil to mark the Silver Jubilee of the University. On the recommendation of a special committee, the University utilised

this grant by making a giant leap and establishing a Department of Comparative Philology which later blossomed in to a full fledged Department of Linguistics. It is an International Centre for Dravidian Linguistics in general and Tamil linguistics in particular. The Department has done yeomen service not only to the study of Tamil language, and other related topics but to the study of other Dravidian languages as well. Within a short span of fifteen years of its existence it has brought out more than seventy publications which won international acclamation. To mention only a few: It has brought out 14 volumes of Grammar of Tribal languages the importance of which cannot be minimised. Its series of 12 volumes of Tamil dialects has brought out the vitality and the richness of Tamil language hidden in the so-called vulgar speech. The publication of four volumes of *Dravidian Comparative linguistics* is a landmark in the history of the subject. The centre has conducted more than thirty seminars in which scholars from all over the world took part. International scholars like Burrow of Oxford, Emerneau of California, Asher of Edinburgh, Marr of London, Broomfield and Trauttmann of Michigan, Fillizot and Gross of Grance, etc. are frequent visitors whose participation in various programmes is much valued.

The State Government wanted to out-do the Government of India in its recognition of the work of the Department; the opportunity came in 1968 at the time of the International Conference Seminar of Tamil Studies. A Chair in Thirukkural was instituted.

The Twin Departments of Tamil and Linguistics work hand in hand in fulfilling the fond hope of the Founder is disseminating the knowledge of Tamil and Tamil culture, promoting higher learning and research relating to all branches of Tamil studies and understanding and interpreting the great masterminds that the Tamil country has produced in grammar, literature and philosophy.

The various programmes of the Departments highlight the richness of Tamil language, literature and the uniqueness of Tamil culture. New interpretation of Tholkappiyam (the earliest extant work in Tamil), preparation of a 12-Volumes Historical Dictionary of Tamil, an Encyclopaedia of Saiva Siddhandha, a 7-Volumes Historical grammar of Tamil and a 5-volumes Modern Grammar of Tamil form part of the plans for the future. These are properly to launch new courses on Folklore, Drama, Translation and Rhetorics. It is also planned to set up a museum of Folklore to depict the rural life and folk culture of Tamilnadu.

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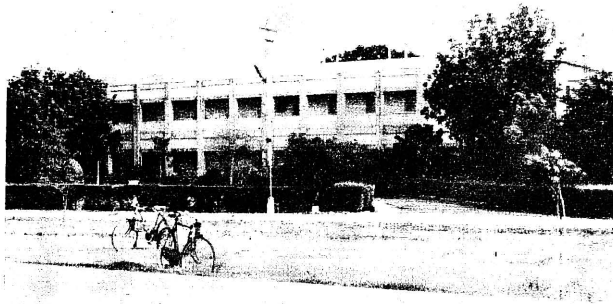
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# Faculty of Agriculture



**Dr. C. N. Sambandam, B.Sc., Ag.,**  
M.Sc., M.S. (Tenn), Ph.D., F.I.S.G  
*Dean, Faculty of Agriculture*

The Department of Agriculture which was started in the Annamalai University in 1951, became a full-fledged College in 1959. Thus the dream of our great founder Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad to establish an Agricultural College at the Annamalai University was fulfilled. Ever since its inception, this Faculty has been receiving the continued help, encouragement and guidance of our illustrious Pro-Chancellor Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah and the successive Vice-Chancellors.

The intake is 100 students for the B.Sc., Ag. Courses and 5 each in M.Sc.Ag. Courses in Microbiology, Plant protection and Agronomy. There is a proposal to start M.Sc.Ag. courses in Agricultural Chemistry, Entomology and plant pathology from the next academic year. Facilities are available for research leading to Ph.D Degree in Agronomy, Agricultural Botany, Agricultural Chemistry, Microbiology, Plant Pathology, Entomology and Horticulture.

The Faculty is situated in the midst of the paddy fields in the eastern sector of the campus. The Experimental Farm with an area of about 200 acres includes an Orchard, Dairy and a Sewage farm. The Class-rooms, Laboratory and administrative block and the hostel are all located in spacious buildings.

The first Head of the Department was Dr. S. Krishnamurthy,

an eminent horticulturist (1951-57). He was succeeded by Dr. G. Rangaswami, a renowned microbiologist (1958-1965). The Faculty is at present being headed by Dr. C.N. Sambandam, a reputed scientist in vegetable breeding. The various Divisions of the College, namely, Agronomy, Agricultural Botany, Agricultural Chemistry, Microbiology and Plant Pathology, Entomology, Horticulture and Agricultural Extension are staffed by able scientists in the respective fields.

We have so far trained 25 scholars for Ph.D. Degree, 160 candidates for M.Sc.Ag. and 1500 for B.Sc.Ag. The aphid tolerant brinjal variety "Annamalai" released by this College has become widely popular not only in Tamil Nadu but also in other states. "Annamalai Musk Melon", released by our Faculty, is a delicious fruit rich in vitamins A and C and minerals. In the current-year, a new vegetable named "Golden Jubilee Tinda" is being released to the farmers of Tamil Nadu. The saline-tolerant paddy variety developed at this college, namely, AU-1 is a boon to the rice growers in the coastal belt of Tamil Nadu, especially for the *Kuruvai* and *Navarai* seasons. It is becoming popular in Goa, Pondicherry and certain other regions. The research work carried out in this University has also resulted in the location of

sources of resistance to musk-melon fruit fly. A high yielding brinjal variety tolerant to spotted beetle has been evolved. Annamalai University first introduced to Tamilnadu the paddy variety *Mashuri*, which was the source *Ponni*, released later by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Tamilnadu. Lignite from the nearby Neyveli was used for the development of a carrier material for bacterial inoculants to crop plants for fixation of atmospheric nitrogen. More than 300 research papers were published by our staff and post-graduate students in reputed national and international scientific journals.

The Faculty has conducted two All India Summer Institutes in Microbiology, in 1955 and 1974, sponsored by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Grants are being continuously received from the ICAR and the State Government for the development of this Institution which has been playing a vital role in the promotion of agricultural education research and extension in the coastal belt of Tamil Nadu. During the Golden Jubilee of the Annamalai University, the Faculty of Agricultural rededicated itself to the service of the farmers with the inspiration and guidance from our illustrious Pro-Chancellor Raja Sir Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad and our revered Vice-Chancellor Justice Thiru B.S. Somasundaram.

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# MY YEARS AT THE ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY

1945 to 1949

X.S. Thani Nayagam, M.A., M.Litt., Ph.D., D.D.  
Formerly Professor of Indian Studies  
University of Malaya  
Joint Secretary General, International Association of  
Tamil Research.

Altogether my post-graduate studies in the Tamil Department for the M.A. and M.Litt. degree took four years during which I was resident most of the time. I am so grateful to Providence that I had this opportunity to be educated at the Centre of Tamil learning.

in no way cut off from the graduate and under-graduate population among whom I formed friendships and acquaintance which were to be life-long. It is very true that the seeds of the International Conference Seminars of Tamil Studies were sown at the Annamalai University.

I have seen so many Campuses all round the world but the Annamalai University campus has a special fascination for me. Its out-lay and architecture, its parks and professors quarters, its treelined avenues and its tennis courts and sports fields have a beauty of their own. It presented for me a real intellectual centre where the brush of mind with mind as Cardinal Newman observed was obtained. The number of associations and their meetings and celebrations, the visits of eminent scholars for extension lectures, the tea parties and dinners, all provided the genuine atmosphere of a residential University. On looking back during the last fifty years and the cause of the Tamil Renaissance, the foremost place should be given to the Annamalai University. No other single institution was so responsible for the revival of pure Tamil, of Tamil oratory, of Tamil music and song, and research into Tamil literature, Tamil history, Tamil religion, Tamil philosophy and culture.

The alumni of the departments of Tamil as well as of History and music spread everywhere the Tamil Renaissance. Many of my contemporaries head departments of Tamil and Linguistics in various Universities of Colleges in India and Sri Lanka. The graduates of the Music College have carried the message of Tamil Isai all over Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka.

Politics was not taboo. It was the period when Indian youth was full of the spirit of independence, and both the Congress party and the Dravida Kalagam found non-brainiac notaries among the student body. The non-brainiac cause was ardently espoused at the Annamalai University. ....

The Vice Chancellor with whom I had the closest contact was Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy. I was a frequent guest at the Lodge. He was not very conversant with Tamil literature and language but he educated himself with English translations of the Tamil classics and gave wise guidance to the development of Tamilology. He was a great thinker, and whatever he spoke was full of wisdom.

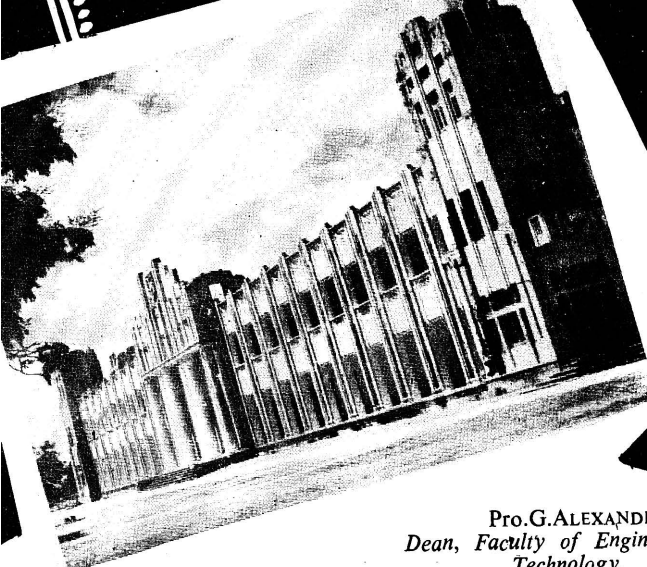
At my time it had a galaxy of eminent scholars in several fields, but I was most acquainted with those in the Tamil field. Professor T.P. Meenatchi Sundaram Professor A. Chidambaranatha Chettiar, Professor G. Subramania Pillai were men who combined Eastern and Western learning. To me whose education up till then had been mostly Western, they inspired confidence and an insight into comparative studies. But I desired to learn Tamil literature and language from the pure well of Tamil undefiled, uninfluenced by western traditions. This desire was realised by my having teachers like Panditamani Kathiresan Chettiar, Pandit Bhuvaram Pillai, Pandit Arunachalam Pillai, Avvai Duraisamy Pillai and Vellaivararar. They set a standard for the study of the Tamil tradition which cannot be surpassed. The campus was made illustrious also by other savants in the humanities and social sciences like Professor C.S. Srinivasachariar, Professor Sathiyathana Aiyer, and Professor P. Subramani Sastri. I was not acquainted with the distinguished scholars of the Science departments but they were also men who had made contributions to the development of literature in Tamil in the Sciences.

I have written almost exclusively of the Annamalai University as a centre of Tamil learning and the Tamil Renaissance. I am not familiar with the work of the other departments which according to published reports are also most praiseworthy. Anytime I have visited the campus in later years I have found development the under lying feature. The brochure published by the University for the Golden Jubilee is a comprehensive statement of the achievements of the past and the plans for the future. One should like to see as part of Tamil Research and History, a Department of Archaeology so that the history of Tamil country may be further illustrated. The Annamalai University remains the centre for scientific research in the South, and will further the development of the Tamil country in all fields of Science and Technology. But it will also continue to be the centre of Tamilology, and that will be its distinctive feature.

Thanks to the munificence and magnanimity of Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, I was resident in the University guest-house which brought me in contact with the visiting scholars Indian and foreign. But I was

To the student body it offers all the advantages of a residential University. It presents a habitual vision of greatness and must engender the gentleman, the fruit of a University education. May this beloved Alma Mater continue to prosper and flourish, and realise the cherished visions of the noble Founder.

# ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGICAL STUDIES



Pro.G.ALEXANDER,  
Dean, Faculty of Engineering and  
Technology.

One of the most popular and attractive courses of study offered by Annamalai University is Engineering/Technology. With its extensive buildings housing the various departmental units, the Faculty of Engineering and Technology has established itself as a full fledged one. It has plenty of courses of study to its credit. Thus faculty wise, it emerges as one with the largest intake of students.

Of the Institutions imparting Engineering education in Tamilnadu, this is the oldest, next only to the College of Engineering, Guindy. It owes its birth and existence to deep foresight of its beloved founder, Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar and his illustrious son Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, who could correctly weigh the imbalance in facilities for Engineering studies in the pre-independence era. The need for industrialisation and development of Engineering personnel in the post-independence period were uncannily anticipated by them far ahead. Their enormous efforts and ability for detailed and planned organisation resulted in the emergence of this faculty, sixteen years after the inception of the University.

Started in the year 1945, the Department of Engineering offered courses in the three fundamental branches of Engineering, Civil, Mechanical and Electrical. Later, Chemical Engineering was included under a separate Department of Technology. Both the departments formed part of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.

The Faculty was conceived of essentially as a teaching Faculty. In tune with the times immediately after independence, the Faculty strived its best to and succeeded in bringing out graduates sound in fundamentals of Engineering theory and fully equipped to undertake professional and field practice. This service was to a large extent responsible for mitigating the problems posed by the lack of technical know-how and Engineering administrators.

The students who come out of this Faculty after graduation have had profound success in reaching top positions and in expanding their knowledge in the technological advancement of the nation. Even to-day it is common place to see that the alumni of this faculty reach the top rung of their professional ladder by dint of their hardwork and by their capacity for judicious application.

Thus the University has done yeomen service and has greatly contributed to the technological development of the nation.

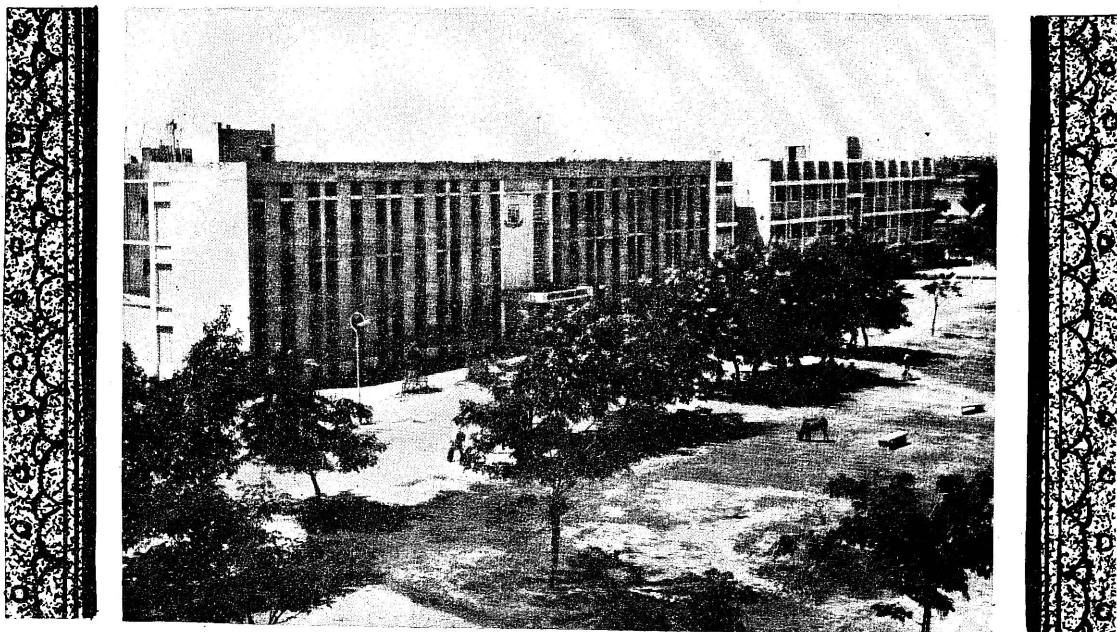
Though started only as a teaching institution, the Faculty has been steadily expanding its activities. It has been constantly revising its syllabi and bringing it in time with modern developments in the field of science and technology. Its endeavour has always been to keep its students informed of upto date information.

In line with this idea, the faculty started post-graduate courses in Engineering. In fact, this University was the first to introduce post-graduate courses as far back as in 1953. At present the University offers post-graduate courses leading to M.E. Degree in all the major and popular branches of studies in Engineering and Technology.

Keeping in view the modern tendency to specialise even at the undergraduate levels the Faculty has introduced new and diversified courses at the undergraduate level itself. B.E. (Civil and Structural), B.E. (Mechanical and Production) and B.E. (Electronics and Instrumentation) are the three recently introduced diversified undergraduate courses. These courses with stress on modern syllabus in subjects of recent prominence are widely popular

## Research:

The Faculty of Engineering and Technology has apart from catering to the demand for field Engineers and Technologists, involved itself actively in the area of Research and Development. Standard and encouraging work has been done in Stochastic Hydrology. Pilot Plant studies for the manufacture of cementitious paddy husk ash on a commercial scale are being conducted with all interest and enthusiasm. Research on Prestressed concrete work as a part of the C.S.I.R. programme has also been undertaken. As a part of develop-



ment in the field of machinery, the regional centre for Extension Service-Modernisation of Rice Processing attached to this Faculty has performed extremely well in designing and demonstrating the principle of several equipments. The development of a Solar Paddy Drier of 1 Ton per day capacity is a unique achievement. Attempts are also on for improving the capacity and application of such devices with promising results. Researches relating to Electrical Power Systems, Relay Systems and Digital Electronics will be further strengthened with the beginning of the computer era in this faculty. The Research Scholars will be trained in the use and application of computer as a third generation TDC 316 ECIL computer with facilities like 28K words of core memory and other accessories is being set up. Studies on Non-catalytic Solid-gas reaction, on Vapour-liquid Equilibrium and Work on Drag reduction have also attained a new high leading to research work at the Doctoral level. Facilities for Ph.D. work in the form of laboratories and libraries have considerably and rapidly improved and as a result there is a lot of involvement and a good scope for inter-departmental activities and sharing of knowledge derived out of hardwork and intense application.

#### Service to Practising Engineers:

This year part-time courses are

also started in not only undergraduate courses but also post-graduate studies. The Civil, Structural, Mechanical and Electrical Departments offer these courses which are of immense help to diploma and degree holders employed in Governmental and private agencies within a radius of about 25 kilometres of this renowned campus.

#### Contribution to the Public:

Consultancy work-construction Design etc. - of Civil and also structural works are readily undertaken by this faculty. Testing of materials, certifying etc. for Government and private Civil works are some of the other services spontaneously rendered by this Institution. The department can also readily undertake survey of fields and demarcation works when needed. Production of Cementitious materials from paddy husk as on a Commercial scale is being steadily developed as a distinct contribution to the rural building Industry which surrounds this campus. Keeping abreast with modern techniques, the principle and profits of prestressed works are being taken up in research to improve the general state of awareness.

The Rice Processing Centre demonstrates the correct methods of running and maintaining modern Rice mills by arranging Field Workshops,

The Quality of rice produced is improved. Individual rice mills are helped to get modernised. Extension programme for the neighbouring State too is chalked out from this centre. The contribution of different capacity Solar Paddy Driers during the fuel crisis is noteworthy. Quite a few Solar gadgets have been devised by this faculty. Testing and Repairing of Sophisticated instruments is yet another services done in the field Electrical and Electronics. Detection of faults and proper rectification done by this faculty have arrested recurring expenditure and thus prevented loss to the consulting organisations.

The computer centre established recently to promote Research and undertake data processing like pay roll control and Inventory control of the neighbouring industries, is hoped will augment the resources further and prove the faculty's infinite potentiality to serve humanity in ever-widening circles. It is also hoped there will be continuing process in the Industrial consultancy sponsored by private entrepreneurs and research projects backed by the Government Departments and in which the Faculty is already actively engaged.

In short the Faculty of Engineering and Technology is the Kohinoor in the crown that is Annamalai University.

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# Chemical Studies

The Annamalai University played a notable role in modernising chemical education in South India and took a leading part in developing new areas of chemical research in this country. The University made a pioneering effort to revolutionize the teaching of chemistry at the Pre-University level by the introduction of modern concepts in topics such as atomic structure, theory of valence, oxidation and reduction, chemical equilibrium, chemical kinetics and crystal structure. A book entitled "Principles of Chemistry" was specially written by the then Head of the Department of Chemistry (the author of this article) to meet the requirements of the new syllabus. This departure from the traditional mode of teaching did not find an easy acceptance elsewhere as quite a few teachers of other Universities thought that the new syllabus was beyond the comprehension of young students. However, it did not take long for many Universities to see merit in Annamalai experiment and to adopt it. The Annamalai University, being a unitary University, enjoys an advantage over the affiliating universities to bring educational reform with least difficulty. The recently granted autonomy to some colleges no doubt gives them freedom to innovate in the sphere of higher education but it is yet to be seen how far they will succeed in promoting a better sense of motivation and creativity among students.

When the U.G.C. introduced in 1967 the system of conducting Summer Institutes for High School

and College teachers to achieve better teaching in sciences, the Chemistry Department of Annamalai University had the unique distinction of being chosen to conduct the maximum number of Summer Institutes in Chemistry. When the work of the 1969 Chemistry Institutes was reviewed on an all-India basis by the American Consultants associated with the Institutes, the Annamalai Institutes were adjudged as the best. Hundreds of Chemistry teachers from Tamil Nadu and Kerala, who attended the Institutes at Annamalainagar, still remember with nostalgia the fruitful participation they had.

The record of the Chemistry Department of Annamalai University in disseminating chemical knowledge is indeed impressive. To-day

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(V. Balraj, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.A.Sc., F.N.A.,  
Formerly Professor & Head of the Department of Chemistry, Annamalai University; Vice-Chancellor, Nagarjuna University)

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its alumni are teaching chemistry in almost all the colleges of Tamilnadu and a good number are teaching in other parts of India as well. There are quite a few alumni holding teaching and other positions even in far-off and advanced countries like the U.S.A.

A large number of candidates trained in the chemical laboratories of Annamalai University are also working in different parts of India performing specialised jobs in chemical industry, National Laboratories, Atomic Energy Establishment and the like. It is gratifying to recall that an Annamalai M.Sc. Chemistry graduate secured the highest rank among the first batch of science and engineering graduates selected and trained by the Atomic Energy Centre, Trombay, for appointment in its Establishment.

The Annamalai University has earned national and international reputation for the research work done in its Chemistry Department. Many compounds, which are analogous to those used for the treatment of leprosy and tuberculosis, have been synthesised. Some intricate electronic and steric effects operating in organic molecules have been elucidated. The nature of certain chemical bonds was unravelled. The conformations of many molecules were made known. Some secrets of chemical reactivity were unfolded. If the worth of a University is to be judged by its contribution to the discovery and dissemination of knowledge, the worth of Annamalai University may be estimated from the facts given above. There are indeed even more facts which will enhance that estimate. During the past 25 years about 50 candidates took the Ph.D. degree in Chemistry and nearly 200 research papers were published in journals of national and international repute. The spectra of more than 100 compounds newly synthesised at Annamalai University were brought out in a printed form by Sadler Research Laboratories, U.S.A., who provide such spectral data of scientists throughout the world. More than a thousand requests have been received from all parts of the world for reprints of research papers in Chemistry published from Annamalai. The references in books and reviews to the findings made in the chemical laboratories of Annamalai University are many and many more are they in research papers appearing from numerous laboratories of the world.

# Correspondence Courses

Pro. (MRS.) MONICA E. DAVID,  
B.A., M.Ed., M.L.,  
Director & Dean Faculty of Law

Informal education in the Form of Correspondence Courses and Open University System has come to stay as an integral part of the educational system every where. It is encouraged in all parts of the world to enable the dropouts at various stages to continue their education and to fulfil the aspirations of those millions who thirst for further knowledge and better their prospects in life.

The Annamalai University not to lag behind has taken the bold step during this the Golden Jubilee year to bring career oriented education to the doorsteps of the poor, especially in rural areas by starting a Directorate of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education.

The Courses offered are:

1. A three year B.Com Degree Course
2. One year B.Ed. Degree Course
3. One year Diploma in Law Courses
  - A. Company Law with Bank Law and Practice
  - B. Labour Laws with Administrative Law.

Experienced teachers of the formal department of Commerce, Teacher Education and Legal Studies are appointed as lesson writers and lecturers for the contact Seminars. Besides, the B.Ed. department has 10 experienced full-time lecturers who have been transferred from the formal department.

It is a happy augury for the Directorate that our courses are already in full swing. The lessons are being despatched to the students in all the courses.

A word about the B.Ed. Course will not be out of context here, the course provides in-service training to a large number of teachers who cannot afford to undergo the regular course. In every respect it is similar to the regular course offered in Training Colleges with intensive teaching practice etc.

The Kothari Commission on Education has strongly advocated correspondence courses in Teacher Education. On page 83 of the Report it is stated "Correspondence Education. In each State, at least one centre for correspondence education should be established preferable in the State Institute of Education. It should provide pre-service and in addition offer courses of in-service education for all teachers".

It will also interest the public and the educationist that B.Ed. Correspondence Course renders Yeoman service in the cause of secondary education in the face of an exploding population. Statistics will bring this to light. According to United Nations Population projections, India's population in millions will be 717 in 1980; 735 in 1981 and 808 in 1985. To meet the requirements of 13 millions alone the country needs 1,26,500 Schools; 3,72,500 teachers. To estimate the requirements of schools and teachers by 1985 is difficult. If a responsible standard of education is to be provided for school going children by

1985, we have to build twice the number of schools and train twice the number of teachers as was done in the past 20 years. Such large number of teachers can be trained only through the Correspondence Course.

The courses are open to students from all over India. Data furnished below speak volumes of its popularity and utility.

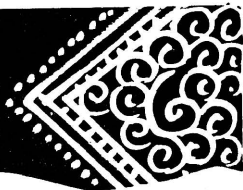
	Application Received	Students admitted
B.Com Degree Course	274	226
Diploma in Law	1,413	1,184
B.Ed. Degree Course	11,823	5,472

The B.Com. students will have one contact seminar of 5 days duration at Annamalainagar. For the Diploma in Law Course there will be one contact seminar of 5 days duration in Madras and Annamalainagar. For the B.Ed. Students there are 2 contact seminars each 5 days duration at centres given below.

Goa, Nellore, Attoor, Courtalam, Coimbatore, Madras and for 8 batches in Annamalai nagar. The second contact seminar may be held also in Salem, Nagercoil and Trichy.

During the 30 working days of intensive teacher training provision has been made for discussions and tutorials by experts in the field.

# Muthiah Polytechnic



Muthiah Polytechnic is named after Padmabushan Dr. Raja Sir M. A. Muthiah Chettiar, Kt., B.A., Litt. It was this great philanthropist who felt the necessity of starting technical education centres at various places to give an impetus to the industrialization of Tamilnadu. Apart from this Institution, he has inspired many of his friends to promote Polytechnics. He himself set an example by establishing the Annamalai Polytechnic at Chettinad, his home-town, in memory of his revered father Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar.

The Muthiah Polytechnic, started in 1958, teaches the four branches of Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Agricultural Engineering at the Diploma level. The Government of India recently appointed a Commission to expand the Agricultural Engineering Branch and Rs. 20 lakhs grant is awaited.

The annual intake is 120. This is the only Poly-

technic to be founded by a University and to have as the Chairman of its Governing Council a Vice-Chancellor now Justice Thiru B.S. Somasundaram.

The Principals of this Polytechnic right from Col. Paul, B.E., D.Sc. (Lond), Thiru P.D. Kumarasan, B.E., D.I.E. (Lond) and now Thiru S.R. Vasudev, B.E., M.Sc. have contributed a lot to the growth of this Polytechnic which is noted for discipline and academic excellence. It has had State First Rank students on its rolls.

This Polytechnic has Students' Chapter, Anto Service centre, and part-time Diploma course in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (in addition to the regular courses.) The Polytechnic conducted an Open House Exhibition in February 1979 which proved very popular.

## Botanical Studies



Dr. K. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR  
*U.G.C. Research Professor of Botany  
Annamalai University*

THE Department of Botany has been known for its pioneering investigations on Cytogenetics of crop plants and the fascinating fundamental structure of the chromosomes, the bearers of hereditary characters of life. New creations of improved varieties of pulses, gourds and sweetpotato through hybridization under the guidance of Dr. K. Rangaswami Ayyangar, are some of the highlights in this line of research.

A well equipped Herbarium, and museum have been developed. Besides, a large Botanic Garden in which rare plants of varied utility have been acclimatised, is another conspicuous adjunct of botanical studies.

Other notable contributions to botanical research are in the fields of Plant Physiology and Plant Ecology. It is in connection with the latter field of research that the department can, with legitimate pride, claim to have brought to light the rich and hidden treasures of man-

grove forest extending over an area of 200 acres in the coastal hamlets of Pichavaram and Kille, 10 Kms and 6 Kms, respectively from the University campus.

These saline marsh bordering on the margin of the meandering back water canals and lagoons display marvellous adaptations to their saline slushy surroundings in the shape of latticed roots and breathing organs. Some of them exhibit an almost anthropomorphic touch, a sense of parental care inasmuch as they rear their young seedlings on their body for a time before they are softly dropped to the ground, so as to avoid their possible decay by the saltish soil. The vegetation with their varied flora of gnarled trees and bushy thickets interlaced with climbers in these marshes provide a grand feast to the eyes. Naturally, Pichavaram has now gained wide fame and found its place in the Tourist Map of India. The Government of Tamil Nadu has already on its anvil, an ambitious programme to develop the Pichavaram area as a fascinating Tourist Centre.

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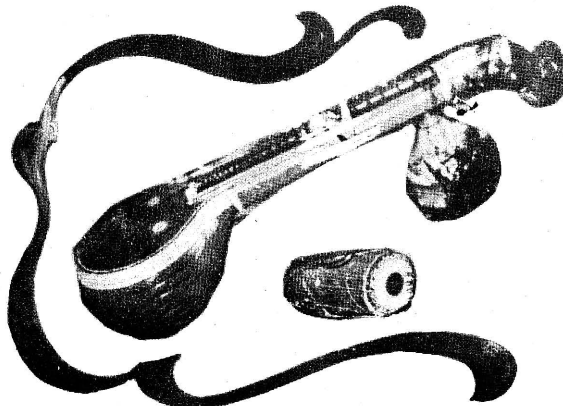
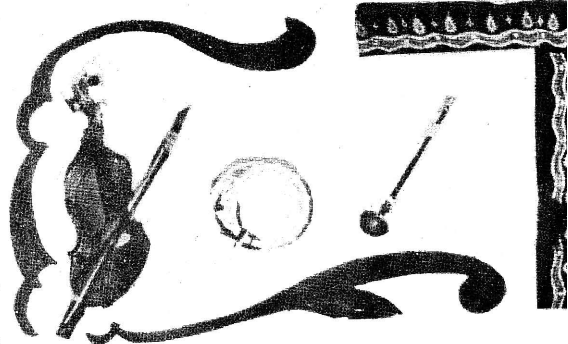
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# Tamil Music Conference

This was when in September, 1941, The Hindu commented adversely on a proposal at a conference in Chidambaram (Annamalai University) that only Tamil songs should be sung in music concerts. The Hindu said the proposal if implemented would mean a ban on songs in other languages like Telugu and Canarese which had produced composers like Thyagaraja and Purandaradasa. The Hindu carried letters for and against the proposals for several days.

Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad whose sponsorship of the proposal started the controversy defended it at a music conference in Madras in October. He said: "My only desire was to give a special impetus to the composition of Tamil songs and the revival of



old Tamil songs. I felt as hundreds of others have felt that there ought to be more songs in Tamil and more songs in Tamil sung at our concerts than is the case at present. I love music. I love to hear its sweet strains. Even wordless elaborations please me. But words set to music please me more. I long to hear songs the meaning of which I can understand. I feel specially thrilled when I listen to Tamil songs sung with fervour and feeling. *Alapana* and *Pallavi* elaborations are all right up to a point. But they are not the whole of music. They may suffice for the cultivated few though even of that I am not sure. But for the common man words of feeling sung with feeling are absolutely necessary. And if words are necessary they must be words which the common man can understand, not words in an unfamiliar tongue"

*A Hundred Years of the Hindu 1978*

# Sri

# Varu

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## Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar

Pro. CHANCELLOR

Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, the Pro-Chancellor since 1948, like his illustrious father, has endeared himself to everyone in the University and has won the high esteem of its alumni for the keen, continuous sustained and abiding interest in improving the educational facilities and amenities in the campus and by giving the University new dimensions and wider horizons. He has proved by his variegated career and his rich experience that he is worthy to carry on the noble tradition of a rare inheritance. He is essentially a man who is full of responsibility above all, for the Annamalai University its greatness and its splendid growth. His interest in the University is something remarkable. The University is always in his thoughts and his constant aim and ambition is to advance its interests. He is unsparing in his efforts to make the Annamalai University one of the foremost institutions of higher learning and research in India.

When Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar took over the responsibilities of the Pro-Chancellorship, he was not new to the affairs of the University. Ever since the idea of a University was born in the mind of his father, he liaised between his father and the Government and others concerned for the establishment of the University. Continued and devoted service to the University has been the passion of his life.

Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar has held high offices as the first Mayor of the Corporation of Madras. Legislator for more than three decades, Member of the Constituent Assembly of India and of Free Indias' Provisional Parliament, Minister for Education in the farflung and composite of the then Madras Presidency, Chairman of the Panchaiyappa's College Trust Board president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Indian Bank Ltd. He is also the moving spirit behind the Tamil Iasi Sangam. In these capacities, he has had unrivalled, rare and unique opportunities for service. He has brought to bear on his noble work for the Annamalai University all the ripe experience thus gathered.

The services of the Rajah Saheb to the University have been admirably summed up by Thiru C. Raja-gopalachari thus:

"The University which bears his father's name owes its continued progress not a little to Rajah Muthiah Chettiar's zeal and good judgment in securing the services of good and able Vice-Chancellors in unbroken succession.



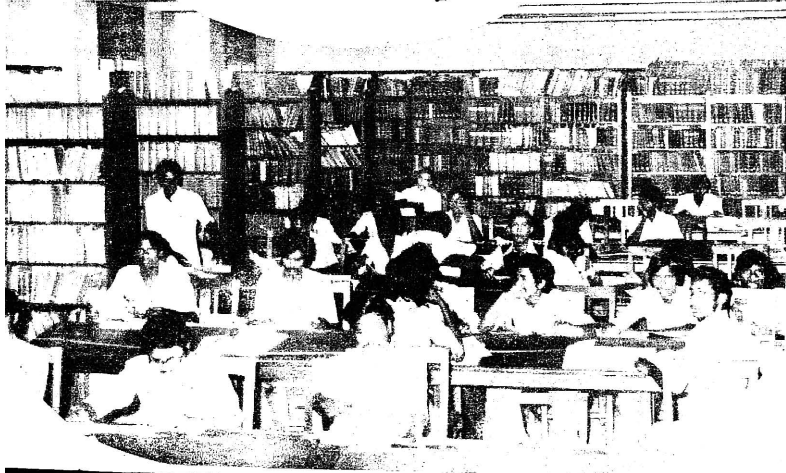
# AN APPEAL TO ALL TAMIL LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS

The V International Conference-Seminar of Tamil Studies will be organised in the great temple city of Madurai (India) in the middle of 1980. There are a large number of Tamil literary associations in India as well as abroad. Attempts are being made to compile a list of such organisations. It is requested that these organisations furnish their addresses and the nature of services they render, to the following address:



Special Officer  
V International Conference  
Seminar of Tamil Studies  
Education Department  
Government of Tamilnadu.  
Fort St. George  
Madras-600 009.

# Annamalai University Library



It has been said that the "Library is the heart of the University! The Annamalai University Library has not only been functioning as the heart of the University circulating the life blood of knowledge into every vein of the scholars, it has also been the very soul of the University inspiring an intellectual atmosphere.

Fifty years back a quality collection of 17,000 books in the Sri Meenakshi College burgeoned into Annamalai University Library. Today this Library, entering into the Golden Era, stands as one of the largest libraries in the country, in quality and quantity. With its collection touching 2,70,000 it is well on its way of reaching the Golden Jubilee target of 3,00,000. Adding at the rate of about 30 books a day it is spending about Rs. 5,00,000 per year on the purchase of books and periodicals. It is currently subscribing to about 1,000 journals.

The Library building located at "the heart of the campus, in a beautiful surrounding, designed by the famous architects Prynne, Abbot and David, is an architectural beauty, unsurpassed. With the built-in area of about 36,000sq.ft.

the interior has been designed functionally providing the maximum convenience for the readers. While the exterior provides an eloquent backdrop for the majestic statue of the Founder, the interior assures the readers a serene and silent academic atmosphere very conducive to serious study. Again as it was at the Silver Jubilee year, a stage has come wherein we have to "Build or burst". Already plans are ahead for expanding the building vertically and horizontally.

If this abode of knowledge can be described as the heart of the campus, the contents of this abode can be said to be a beacon light of knowledge, learning and research. Through scholarly acquisition programme the Library has built up a well balanced collection representing the universe of knowledge, in all its ramifications. While it provides adequate support for the academic pursuits of the University, it also functions as a public Library catering books to every taste, thus fulfilling the demands of the laws of Library Science "Every Reader His Book" and "Every Book its Reader". Special mention should be made of its fine collection of books on Fine Arts, Literature, a good run of the back volumes of

scholarly periodicals in Science and Indology and a rich collection of rare books and palmleaf manuscripts. Among the cherished treasures in the Library are rare manuscripts, first editions, early printed books and valuable treatises on art, long out-of-print, presented to the Library by the Founder Sir Rajah Annamalai Chettiar, Sri. V. Venugopal Chetty, Dr. C.P. Ramasamy Ayer and scores of other well-wishers.

Apart from the conventional books the Library is also building up a non-Book materials collection of audio-visual materials like gramophone records, Educational films, filmstrips, slides, microfilms and microfische.

This open access library is kept open from 8 am to 8 pm and works on throughout the year closing only on a few national holidays. Readers in large numbers make use of the facilities and services of the library. An up-to-date classified catalogue supplemented with an elaborate alphabetical index is maintained for the benefit of the readers. Research scholars and members of the teaching staff are provided with individual study tables and lockers. Intensive reference and bibliographical services are offered to them. Books not available in this library and required for research are procured from other libraries under Inter Library Loan System.

In keeping with the modern trend in Library Service the Library offers reprographic services such as microfilming, photocopying, slide preparing etc. This section housed in an air-conditioned area, is fully equipped with microfilming Unit, Automatic Developing Unit, Enlarger, Slide projector, Microfilm reader, Microfiche Reader etc. A well planned photographic dark-room is attached to it.

Apart from the Central Library, each department of Study has also its own collection of books for the immediate use of the teachers, post-graduate students and research scholars.

Thus, Annamalai University Library, we may say, plays a vital role in fulfilling the aims and aspirations of its Founder, Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar.

V. DURAIRAJAN,  
Librarian Annamalai University.



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# MARINE

# BIOLOGY

In 1951 the University established a Marine Biological Station at Porto Novo (13 Km by train) with the object of investigating the Hydrology and Biology of the Vellar and Coleroon estuaries and the neritic waters Porto Novo. Its situation close to the mouth of the Vellar estuary, connected by extensive ramifications of backwaters with the Coleroon estuary and proximity to sea, estuary and backwaters, as well as fresh waters provide unique opportunities for developing distinctive lines of research.

The University purchased a research vessel made to order for its requirements. The works of the Uni-

versity research scholars at Porto Novo were commended as early as 1955 by top marine scientists of the U.S.A and Germany. A Visiting Committee of the University Grants Commission recommended the station's upgrading into a research centre of all-India character. As a result of it, the Marine Biological Station was converted into a Centre of Advanced Study. It offers post-graduate and Doctoral programmes in Marine Biology. An experimental Aquarium is the cynosure of all eyes. Studies in the Physiology and development of estuarine and marine organisms, particularly fishes, shell fish etc., are carried on with great vigour in this prestigious centre. Biological, physical and Biochemical Laboratories for work in Hydrology are available here. Liberal grants sustain the growth of this centre which has blossomed out into one of the premier research stations in Marine Biology in this country, thanks to the University Grants Commission.

The Centre is presently working on many projects sponsored by the U.G.C. Some of them are:

Marine antagonistic streptomycetes.

Studies of organic matter in the coastal waters Porto Novo.

Bio-Chemical and genetic studies on mullets of Porto Novo.

An environmental inventory of Porto Novo coastal zone.

Culture of the Prawn, *Penacus indicus*.

Research Scholars are engaged in Doctoral studies holding fellowship from U.G.C, CSIR, ICAR, UGCFIP, Department of Atomic Energy, International Foundation for Science of Sweden etc.

A documentary film on the Centre has been produced by the Television Station, Madras, for its educational programme.

The Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, the Fisheries Department of Tamil Nadu, the Indian Bureau of Mines and the Salem Magnetite Company have sought the collaboration of the Centre in their work.

Scientists from other Universities in India and from other countries are deputed to the Centre for training and for reference work in the Centre's Library. All-India Summer Institute for postgraduate students is being conducted in this Centre from time to time under the auspices of the UGC.

Under the Commonwealth Educational Exchange Programme, Colombo Plan, etc., leading scientists come here to deliver lectures. Scientists of this Centre are invited to participate in International Symposia.

The Centre is maintaining close link with the French Institute, Pondicherry, the British Council, National Science Foundation (USAUD) and all Institutes of higher learning in India and abroad.

The Centre has the unique distinction of being the International Editorial Office for reputed International Journals like MALACOLOGICA and MALACOLOGICAL REVIEW which publish original research articles in English, French, German, Spanish and Russian.

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# C. P. - VERSATILE MAN OF ACTION

**"The cleverest man I have met in India."**

**"He has risen by ascending spirals to dizzy heights and I have remained of the earth earthy."**

BOTH these remarks were made about one and the same person. The first is an obvious expression of genuine admiration. The second has in it, more than a hint of irony and sarcasm. The first was made in "An Indian Diary by Edwin Samuel Montague, Britain's Secretary of State for India in the Lylod George Cabinet. The second was made by Pandit Jawanarlal Nehru in his autobiography in 1935. Both refer to the late Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, a many faceted personality, who evoked strong reactions and responses from those who came into contact with him. Whether one liked him or not, nobody could ignore him in his time.

Lawyer, politician, administrator, scholar and savant, Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, popularly known as "C.P." lived a full and event-studded life. In the prime of his career, he had the intellectual vigour and strength of will to try and change the events to his heart's desire. In the evening of his life, he had to reconcile himself to the inexorable course of history. But even in his eighties, he was far from being merely an elder Statesman, for he never allowed himself to be put on the shelf. He had his rise, which was meteoric and his

fall, which was inevitable but he never dropped into dotage or disrepute or the glorified inactivity of valetudenarians. Life was to him, not a brief candle, but a splendid torch, which burned brightly and suddenly without smoking or spluttering.

Born on Deepavali day, a hundred years ago, Ramaswami Aiyar had a brilliant academic career, with distinction in English, mathematics and Sanskrit at Presidency College, Madras. Following in his father's footsteps, he became a lawyer in 1903, swimming into the limelight in the celebrated case of Narayaniah vs Besant, involving the issue of the custody of the former's two sons, one of whom is the now famous J. Krishnamurti. His political career was closely linked with the Home Rule League of Mrs. Besant.

In less than fifteen years' time he was acknowledged as the leader of the Bar, while still on the right side of forty. In 1919, he declined the offer of a Judgeship of the Madras High Court, with his characteristic hauteur, when he quipped: "I prefer to talk nonsense for a short while to hearing it all day long". The next year, he became Advocate General of the Presidency, one of the youngest to be so appointed in pre-Independent India.

He did not stay long in that position, for within three years,

he was made a member of the Governor's Executive Council in 1923 and placed in charge of Law and Police, Ports, Irrigation and Electricity. He had close rapport with the then Governor. Lord Willingdon and Lady Willingdon and was, perhaps the most powerful Indian in the Presidency during this five-year period. He was responsible for initiating the Mettur, Pykara and Bhavani projects and the Cochin, Tuticorin and Vizag port schemes. It was also during this period that he spoke about the plan for linking up the Ganga with the Cauvery, which still remains a dream of the engineer and a slogan of the politician. He reached new heights when he represented India as a delegate to the League of Nations session in Geneva.

Resuming Law practice in 1928, he appeared in a number of famous cases, including the one for Motilal Nehru in his suit for defamation against C.S. Ranga Iyer. He also appeared for a number of Princes, including those of Patiala, Bhopal, Indore and Kashmir. During this five year period of 1928-31, he was elected to the Central Assembly and later to the Council of State. In 1931, he acted for some time as Law member, Government of India, succeeding Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru in that post and played an important role in Mahatma Gandhi attending the Second Round Table Conference in London. He himself had attended the First and the Third Round

Table Conference. while in Government, he strove to abolish the traditional division of the Indian Army into 'Martial' and non-martial' races.

In 1936, he became the Dewan of Travancore and stayed as such till his resignation on the eve of Indian Freedom in 1947. These twelve years were a period of outstanding achievement. They represent the zenith of his rise to an undisputed position in which the Dewan was the monarch of all he surveyed. If he evoked the admiration of some sections within the State and more without, because of his dynamism, he provoked the antipathy of larger sections within

Whoever liked him, and who ever did not like him, it was a fact he helped in the industrial progress and economic development of the State. He initiated hydro-electric projects, like the Pechipara Scheme and expanded the Pallivasal Scheme. He promoted many industries, including fertilisers and chemicals, rayon, cement, aluminium and titanium.

There were many innovations he introduced in the State to bring it in line with and even push it ahead of other advanced States, like Mysore and Baroda. He abolished land revenue and introduced a graded system of agricultural income-tax for the first time. He nationalised road transport and laid a cement road to the Cape. He was the first to abolish capital punishment and introduce adult franchise in a State known for its high percentage of literacy. More outstanding than these was the Temple Entry Proclamation, which made the State a pioneer in this respect. This step won the unstinted admiration of Gandhiji.

On the cultural side, the list of his achievements is quite impressive. The founding of the Swati Tirunal Academy and the revival of the compositions of the Maharaja Swati Tirunal, the renovation of Kaladi, restoration of the Padmanabhapuram Palace and the expansion of the Trivandrum Art Gallery with the late Dr. J.H.Cousins as the Art Adviser are some of them. The foundation of the Travancore University of which he was the

first Vice-Chancellor, with Prof. H.C. Papworth as his deputy later and the starting of the Marine Biological Institute are some others.

He certainly put Travancore on the industrial and cultural map of India. He tapped its natural resources and replenished its income. He modernised it in terms of education and in many other ways. He did all this as a kind of oriental potentate, whose word no one could question. He ruled the feudal State as a kind of Cardinal Richelieu, the grey Eminence, who was the real power not only behind but before and all sides of the throne; in eighteenth century France. The State Congress, fighting for popular representation could not have taken to a strong-willed Dewan

Occasional rumblings notwithstanding, things went on well until the first half of 1947, when the British Government was arranging to transfer power to Indian hands. The question arose about the crown's paramountcy and the residuary powers of the States. Under persuasion and other kinds of pressure, the vast majority of the Indian States were integrated with the Indian Union with the exception of Kashmir, Hyderabad and Travancore. C.P. toyed with the idea of independence for Travancore, with the prospect of sending envoys to Pakistan and other countries.

Feelings ran high everywhere and the atmosphere was tense in July 1947. There was then a serious attempt on his life at a cultural function under the auspices of the Swati Tirunal Academy in Trivandrum. C.P. who was injured and hospitalised, called it a day and bade good-bye to Travancore. This marked a significant turning point in his life. He returned home to Madras for rest and was soon in search of fresh fields and pastures now to engage himself.

From the controversy and headaches of feudal administration, C.P. turned his attention to the quieter fields of culture and literature. In the period after 1948, he toured USA more than once, delivering lectures on Hindu philosophy and Indian culture at Stanford, Yale,

Berkeley, California and other universities and at the East-West Centre at Honolulu. He also visited other countries including British Australia, New-Zealand and China.

In the early 1950's when he was past 75, he took up the career of an educationist, becoming the Vice-Chancellor of Annamalai and Banaras Hindu universities. For some years, he was holding both the posts simultaneously, the first man to do so, and certainly the only man to do so at his age. His public stature and gift of eloquence were a distinct asset in this, as also his quickness of grasp and capacity to manage men and things. He swore by the benefits of liberal education and the humanist ideal summed up in the lines he was fond of quoting:

*"The gains of science, gifts of art;  
The sense of oneness with our kind;  
The thirst to know and understand—  
a large and liberal discontent:  
These are the goods in life's rich hand....."*

In the middle of September 1966, when he was nearly 87, an age at which most people can hardly get out of their bed, C.P. left for England, to collect material for his book of reminiscences, *A History of My Times*. The visit was overdue like the book. On September 26 he died suddenly at the National Liberal Club in London, where he was staying.

His youth was rich in promise, his manhood resplendent in its achievement, and his old age resilient in its capacity for reconciliation. There might have been and in fact, were a few giants in the South, greater than C.P. each in his own field—public life, administration, education and scholarship. But there was hardly any among his great contemporaries who could excel him in a career that combined all the three. For at least a generation, he outshone them all.

—D.Anjaneyulu

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