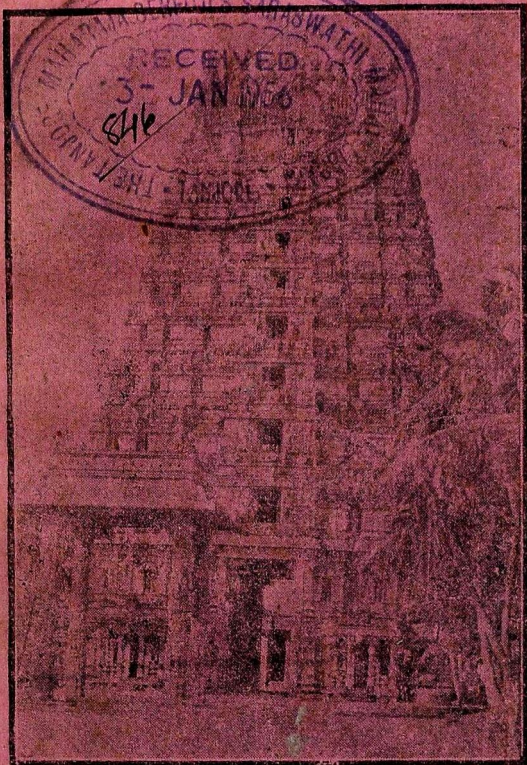


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KANCHI TEMPLE GUIDE.



SRI EKAMBARANATHAR GOPURAM.

GANAPATHI READING ROOM,

92, Kamakshi Amman Koil St., Kancheepuram.

ce: 1955. 0-3-0.

Om-Tat-Sat.

1552

Guide to Temples of Kancheepuram (Gold Nagar)

Foreword.

There are innumerable Temples belonging to SAIVA and VAISHNAVA in exclusion of other religious ones. From ancient days, INDIA is otherwise called BARATHA DESA. After the cessation of the British rule in India, the era of SWARAJYA commenced in the year 1947 in consequence a remarkable Satyagraha (non-violence) launched by the eminent leadership MAHATMA GANDHI.

KANCHEEPURAM is otherwise called the "CITY OF TEMPLES." There are about 275 sacred places for Saivaites and 18 for Vaishnavites. Kancheepuram is one of the SEVEN important holy places and considered as a place by thinking of which one can attain salvation. The other six holy places are "Ayodhya, Banares Mathura, Dwaraka, Avanthi (Ujjain) and Thiruvannamalai. There are booklets (Sthala Puranam) for every city composed by persons of Divine knowledge. Among the seven holy places mentioned above, two are considered as most sacred, i.e., KANCHEEPURAM and BANARES. Out of these two, Kancheepuram stands first. A short description of the temples of this holy city is a long-felt need and this small booklet will, I wish, prove to be of some help to the visitors to see and enjoy the architecture and worship the divine forms in the temples of Saivaisam and Vaishnavism.

The author of this booklet has done his best possible to gather all information regarding the history of each temple and has spared no pains to present everything in a concise manner. If any of the readers desire any addition or alteration or corrections to be made, the author will feel thankful to them to see them incorporated in the next edition.

This hand book, I think, will help the visitors to have a general idea of all the temples within the local limits of Kancheepuram. Pallava dynasty ruled with their capital at Kancheepuram during the 6th Century. Kings Rajasimha and Mahendravarma have made themselves popular among the Pallava kings.

Kailasanathar Temple and Vaikuntaperumal Temple are striking examples to show us the Pallava Architecture. Pallavas first followed Saivaisam and there after some rulers were followers of Vaishnava faith. Between 600-700 A. D. Sri Sankaracharya the great reformer of Hindu Religion and founder of Advaita philosophy, preached his principles here and an image of his now remains installed within the precincts of Sri KAMAKSHI TEMPLE, where pujas are being performed according to Vedic rights. Jains and Buddhists also stayed here and Thiruparuthikunram is the place where a Jain temple exists even today. The Buddhists left for Ceylon in 800 A. D. or so. Sri Ramanujachariar, follower of Vishishtatva philosophy, born at Sriperumbudur, stayed here for some time and converted many to his faith.

Out of the many ancient temples, one is called Sri EKAMBARANATHAR TEMPLE situate in Big Kancheepuram and the other one is Sri DEVARAJASWAMI TEMPLE (otherwise called Varadar temple)

in Little Kancheepuram. (In Big Kancheepuram one other ancient temple dedicated to VAIKUNTA PERUMAL was built by Parameswara Varman II of Pallava dynasty. This is similar in architecture to the one found in Kailasanathar temple. The inner portions of the compound walls contain inscriptions and architecture describing the Vedic and other Itihasa stories.) There are some small cells in the ornamental tower wall in Kailasanathar temple, built by Rajasimha Pallava. The same style of carvings and cells are to be found in SEVEN PAGODAS (otherwise called Mahabalipuram), situate at a distance of 40 miles from this place, 18 miles from Chingleput and 42 miles from Madras). During the reign of one of the Pallavas, a follower of Buddhist faith, pilgrim from China came to visit this place.

Description in short and details of the route to the temples are given below. THIRUKALUKUNDRAM, hill of sacred kites, lies 9 miles south of Chingleput with a temple dedicated to Lord Siva at about 500 feet above ground level. Here two kites used to visit daily at about 11 A. M. and take their food from the hands of a Pandaram. These two kites are considered to be two saints visiting the hill daily from time immemorial. Seven pagodas are famous for its carvings in stone and among the rock cuts, Mahishasuramardhani, Arjuna's Penance, Krishna Mandapam, Pandava's five chariots and the Butter ball are worthseeing. The SHORE TEMPLE gives pleasant delight to the visitors.

(Kancheepuram, otherwise called as Dakshina Kasi, is a storehouse of beautiful monumental arts. This was the capital for Pallavas, Solas and lastly to Vijayanagar kings. In Kamakshi temple there remains installed by Sankarar one CHAKRA in front of

Goddess Kamakshi, to attract the pilgrims. POIGAI ALWAR, one of the 12 Alvars who have sung about the praise of Vishnu, was born here near Ethothakari temple in Vishnu Kanchi.

With the hope this small booklet will serve as a valuable guide to the visitors.

V. SADASIVAM.

Short description of the Temples with routes, Kancheepuram.

1. THIRUKKALIMEDU, This temple dedicated to Siva lies south-east of Railway Station at a distance of $3/4$ th of a mile. This place is otherwise called Sathyaviratham and Siva is known by name Sathyaviratheeswar, God Indra worshipped here and hence it is also called Indirapuram. The tank is known as Indratheertham and a bath on Wednesdays is considered as auspicious. This lingam was also worshipped by Vinayagar, Parvathi, Murugar, and Buthan. One who visits this place will have no re-birth. This place once covered by Karai bushes came to be known as Karaikadu. There are TWO REST HOUSES in the road leading to this place, one maintained by Municipality and the other by P. W. Department. Pilgrims can command all facilities in JAVULI-KADAY CHOULTRY (Free) situate at Gandhi Road. (Hodgsonpet).

2. MANIKANDEESAR. Situate at a distance of four furlongs from No-1, in Thirukachinambi Street. Consequent on taking in the poison emanated from

the Thiruparkadal, the neck of Lord Siva became Blue consequent on the poison staying there, and Lord Siva is thereafter known as MANIKANDA NATHAR. Serpant Vasuki worshipped Siva and the lingam is called VASUGEE SAR. The tank is called Anantha Theertham. Adjacent to this in Ayyangar palayam Street, PANAMANEE SWARAR temple exists:

3. PUNYAKOTEESWARAR. Situate two furlongs south of No. 2. Worshipped by Lord Mahavishnu with lotus flowers to get powers of creation. It was in this tank that Gajendran was caught into trouble by a crocodile when Lord Vishnu came to its rescue and slained the crocodile and gave salvation to the elephant.

4. DEVARAJA PERUMAL: Situate about a furlong east of No. 3, Goddess: PERUNTHEVI THAYAR. Just at the entrance inside the hall GUHA NARASIMHAR is installed, who is otherwise known as ALAGIA SINGA PERUMAL. This temple is an important one among other Vaishnavite temples in Kancheepuram. We are to get Dharsan of Sri. Devarajaswami Perumal only after getting up the hill with 24 steps. Nammalwar, Manawalamamunigal and Ramanujar have sung the praises of Devarajaswami. In Anantha tank Lord ATHIGIRI VARADAR is laid inside the Mandapam who is used to be taken out once in 40 years for Dharsan to public. Saturday is considered to be the auspicious day. 108 pillars mandapam is famous for its beauty, carvings and architecture. Sri CHAKRATHALWAR is on the eastern bank of the tank (Sudarsan and Yoga Narasimmar).

Brahmothsavam used to be done during the month of Vaikasi. Garudothsavam and Car festival

attracts huge crowd. Saint Thirumangai Alwar has sung in praise of this deity. A separate temple is dedicated to VEDANTHA DESIGAR at a distance of one and a half mile west.

5. VALAMAPURI VINAYAGAR: In the south western corner of the outer prakara, ASTHAGIRI VINAYAGAR stands installed by Devas. Worshipped also by Mahavishnu for procuring the Panchasanya (conch) lost by him. AGOBILA Madnm and RANGAGI MADAM. lie near the temple. VAGAVA-THESWAR is to be found in the middle of the river.

6. SIVATHANA ISWARAR: Situate within half a mile from No. 5 in a dilapidated condition with its tank obliterated in Thenambakam limits where Brahma made yagna.

7. SANTHASAYAR: Situate about half a mile from No. 6. Here once Saint Viyasar was punished for having told a lie that God Vishnu only occupies the supreme status among Gods. He has pardoned only after he repented for his sin. The seven lingams worshipped by KASIBAR, KOWSIGAR, ANGREESAR, ATHRI, GOWTHAMAR, BIRUGU, and VASHISTA exist just about two furlongs off from this place towards west.

8. ETHOTHAKARI: Situate about three furlongs off from No. 7. Lord is called SONNAVANNAM PERUMAL and his consort is called KOMALA VALLI, NATCHIAR. POIGAI ALWAR was born in the tank of this temple called Poigai tank. Here Lord Vishnu give dharsan in a lying posture which he had to take to prevent the floods of river Vegavathi coming just to destroy the Yaga of Brahma. PARIMELAZHAGAR and VEDANTHA DESIGAR were born here. Sri.

RAMANUJAR and SANKARAR lived in this place. So also Poets KALAMEGAM and KAMBAR. This place is otherwise called Vegasethu. Lord Vishnu at the request of his devotee had to quit this place for a night and stayed at ORIKKAI for the night and again at the request of the devotee after settlement of the dispute between his disciple and the then ruler of the place, had to take his residence here. Thirumangaiarwar also have sung about this deity. Just about a furlong from the above, there exists a temple where we can have Dharsan of LORD VISHNU WITH EIGHT ARMS Athikesavaperumal with his consort ALARMELMANGAI. The tank is called Gajendra Pushkarani. There are also Sannadhis for THIRUKACHINAMBI and KOORATHALWAR.

9. THIRUTHANKA: (Temple of bright light) situate two furlongs off west of No. 8, adjacent to Vedanthadesigar. Goddess: Maragathavall THAYAR. In one furlong south of this MUKUNTHANAYAGAR is installed in VELUKKAI temple with his consort VELUKKAIVALLI. Saint Birugu worshipped here. On the extreme south for ALAGIASINGAR and AMIR-THAVALLI a temple is dedicated which is now in a decaying condition. This place is called Singaperumal koil.

10. PANATHAREESWARAR: Situate in two furlongs off from above is Aladipillaiyar Koil Street. Here Lord Shiva was worshipped by serpents which were worn by Siva to prevent them from being slain by Garuda, their enemy. In the same street in the north ATHIPATHEESWARAR worshipped by Vishnu invites us. VIRUBATCHEESVARAR and VALATHEESWARAR TEMPLES also are situate near this. At the extreme south there exists a temple dedicated to Vinayagar called ALADI PILLAIYAR

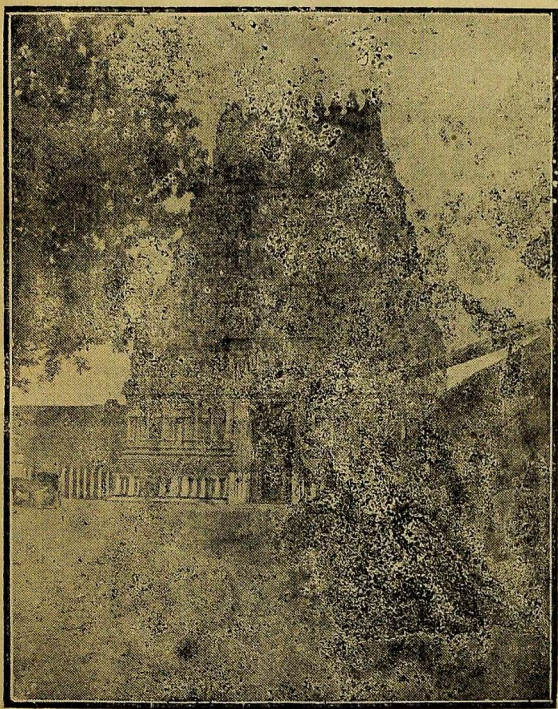
temple. On the western side Goddess KARIKKI-NIL AMARNDAL (one form of Goddess Parvathi) gives dharsan to all her devotees. Friday is the important and auspicious day for Dharsan. SAINT KANIGANDAR installed one lingam and the same is called after his name as KANIGANDEESWARAR.

11. MUKTHEESWARAR: Towards the northeast of the above in Hodgsonpet near CLOTH MERCHANT CHOULTRY this temple exists. Here THIRUKURIPPU THONDA NAYANAR, one of the 63 nayanmars who devoted wealth, soul and body to Shiva and attained mukthi, got salvation. He used to wash the clothes of saints and devotees of Shiva. One day for testing his integrity Lord Siva came as a old man with only one torn and soiled clothe to cover his person and that too in a winter season. This Nayanar asked the saint to give him his clothe for washing, promising to give it back in the evening itself. But owing to the heavy and continuous rains, he was unable to fulfil his promise. He then tried to commit suicide by throwing his head on the washing stone, but was prevented by Lord Shiva and was granted Mukthi.

12. PARASAREESAR: West to No. 11 this temple exists in VALAKKARUTHEESWAR KOIL in Gandi Road. Saint Parasar worshipped here. A temple dedicated to SITHEESWARAR by Sithars lies in Rajampet Street. The tank is called Sidha Theertham, on the bank of the Channel (Katcheri Street.)

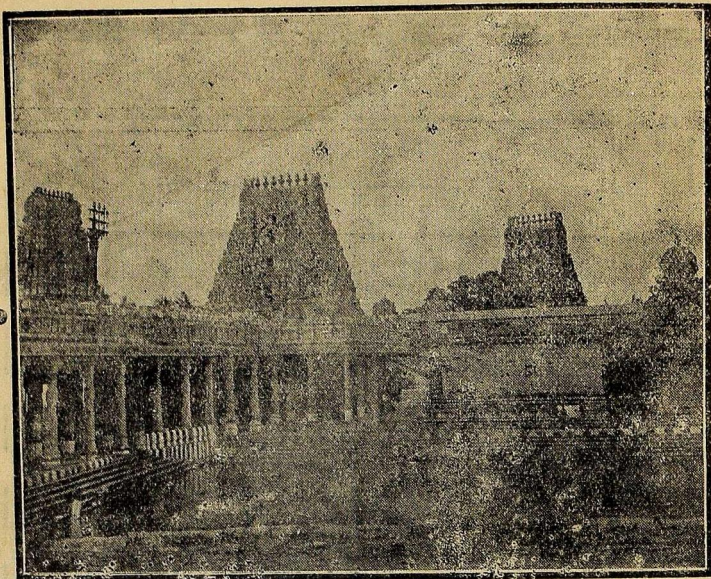
13. THRIKALAGNANEESWARAR: Within the premises of the Bus Stand this temple exists in the garden known as Mathuran garden. This was installed by famous saints to get boon from Lord Shiva to know things that happened in the past, happening

SRI KAMATCHI TEMPLE GOPURAM

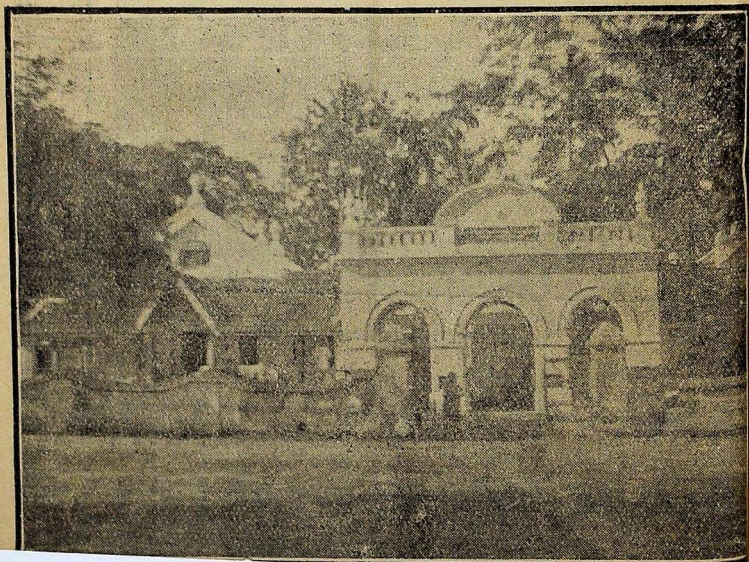


ஸ்ரீ காமாட்சியம்மன் கோபுரம்.

SIVA GANGAI. SRI EKAMBARANATHAR TEMPLE



GOVT. MATERNITY HOSPITAL



present and to happen in the future. This temple was recently renovated and is well maintained.

14. HARISABA BAYAMTHEERTHEESWARAR: This temple is situate in Nellukkara Street in southern row. This was installed by Mahavishnu and worshipped also by Saint Birugu to get himself relieved of the curse of TEN BIRTHS in having killed Giyathi, his wife. MATHANGEESWARAR: In Nellukkara Street at the eastern extremity, there lies a temple opposite to Mission Hospital with a huge lingam installed by SAINT MADANGAR to relieve him from the worldly passion.

15. ABIRAMEESWARAR: In Ulagalandar Street opposite to SANGUPANI VINAYAGAR temple, a lingam worshipped by Vishnu for putting down Mahabali, exists.

16. PERAGAM. ULAGALANTHA PERUMAL: Here Lord Vishnu gives dharsan to his devotees in a gigantic standing posture. The tank is known as Nagatheertham. Goddess: AMIRTHAVALLI NACHIAR. Lord Vishnu Tiruvikraman after measuring the entire world with his two steps finds the head of Mahabali only to place his third step and thus King Mahabali was sent to Pathalalogam. There are Sannadhis TIRU-VOORAGAM (serpant form of Mahavishnu), TIRU-NEERAGAM, JAGATHEESAPERUMAL, NILAMAN-GAIVALLI, TIRUKKARAGAM, KARUNAGARAPERUMAL, PADMAMANI NACHIAR, THIRUKARVANAM Kalvar, Kamalavalli Nachiar. Saint Thirumangai Alwar has sung in praise of these temples.

17. IRAVATHEESWARAR: This is situate in Nellukkara Street just opposite to Kachapeswarar temple. Here Indira's elephant, white in colour, worshipped

Lord Siva to become the head of 8 elephants and consequently got its desire fulfilled.

UTHASJ MUTT FOR SIKHS exists near this temple just opposite to the Municipal Office, Kancheepuram.

18. ISHTASIDDEESWARAR: Situate within KACHAPESWARAR TEMPLE worshipped by Soorya, Kubera and sage Thatheesi. SITHATHEERTHAM (the tank) is famous for curing all diseases. Sundays are auspicious days for having dharsan and especially during SUNDAYS IN KARTHIGAI MONTH large crowds used to come, take their bath and offer prayers for cure of their ailments. KACHAPESAR: Lord Vishnu in the form of tortoise, worshipped Siva. PANCHASANTHI VINAYAGAR, Surya, Vairavar, Brahma, and Durga, all worshipped. MURUKKAI TREE is the place where MAHAVISHNU installed linga for his worship. Tapasi Pillayar and Subramanyar temples are located in Puthar Street.

19. AMAREESWARAR: Situate in Nimanthakara Othawadai Street worshipped by Suras. Adjacent to this there are temples for ALAVUGARA and KADUVETTI VINAYAGAR and RENUGADEVI AMMAL in the tope. PALANI ANDAVAR TEMPLE exists in Rettai Pillaiyar Koil Street.

20. MASATHANTHALI. EAST of No. 19 in Raja Street in Vanigar Mandapam, there exists a LINGAM IN OPEN YARD installed by Hariharaputhran, born to Siva and Vishnu in the form of Mohini.

21. KAMAKSHI AMMAN: (Kanchi Kamakottam). This temple is situate in the middle of the town and

within KAYATRI MANDAPAM. Lakshmi and Saraswathi are her attendants. ULAGANI THEERTHAM is the tank. KALADI SANKARACHARYA'S idol is installed inside the temple. Friday is the important day and people will visit in large numbers during Fridays in the months of Audi and Thai. There exists A DISC, A FAMOUS ONE. Kancheepuram is the place where GODDESS PARVATHI WAS SENT BY SIVA TO PERFORM 32 KINDS OF CHARITIES FROM TWO MESASURES OF PADDY. One lingam installed by LINGAPPA exists in the south. There are images of MAHAVISHNU in three postures, viz., Standing, sitting and lying in a storied building. Brahmotsava takes place during February-March and floating festival in March of every year, BANGARU KAMAKSHI (idol made of gold) which was originally in this temple is now at a TANJORE TEMPLE. ATHIVARAGAPERUMAL stands installed inside the Gayathri mandapam with goddess ANJILAI NATCHIAR. Thirumangai Alwar has sung in praise of this Perumal. This place is called Tirukkalvanur.

22. KUMARAKOTTAM. West of Kamakshi Amman temple, this temple dedicated to LORD MURUGA and installed by Brahma, exists. Lord Muruga installed one Lingam in the above temple and got himself relieved of his sin for not letting free Brahma from prison who was imprisoned for not knowing the meaning of PRANAVAM, the essential qualification for creation. Vishnu, named ULLUVAR ULLAPERUMAL, also worshipped. Fridays, days in which KARTHIGAI STAR falls and VISAGAM as well as SHASTI days are important for dharsan. KACHIPPA SIVACHARIAR composed SKANTHA PURANAM here. ARUNAGIRI NATHAR, a saint, also sung in praise of Murugar and their images are installed here.

23. JWARAGAREESAR: West of No. 22 within a furlong is situate a temple dedicated to Siva lies in Ekambaranathar Sannadhi Street. JURAGARATHEERTHAM, the tank, will relieve all sorts of fever. THANTHONREESWARAR is south of No. 23. This lingam was worshipped by KANNAN, PANDAVAS AND SAGE UBAMANYU. UTHARI PILLAIYAR, KARPAGA VINAYAGAR and ARASATHAMMAN temples exist in the same street.

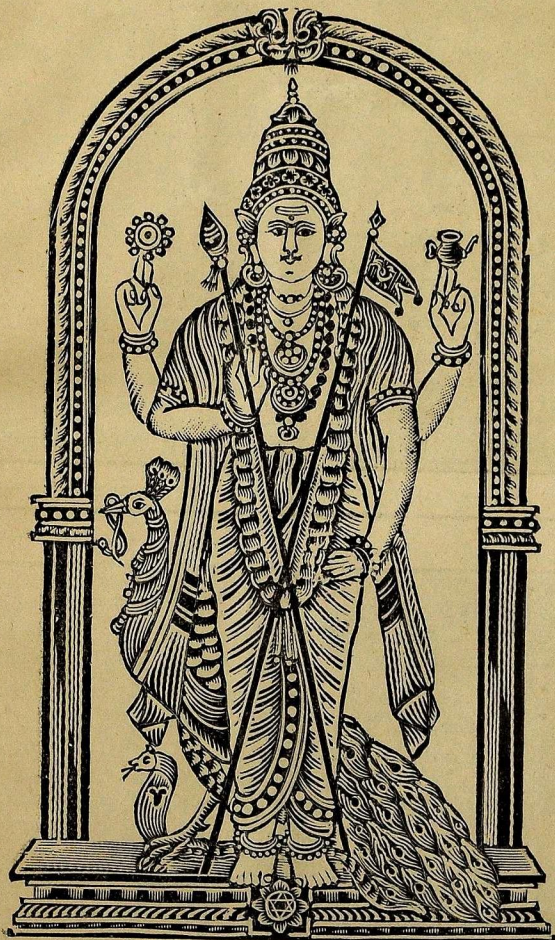
24. PADAGAM, PANDAVAPERUMAL: West of No. 23 this temple dedicated to Pandavaperumal exists. Here Lord Vishnu gives Dharsan to Arjuna in Visvarupa. SOORA VINAYAGAR temple also lies in the street.

25. GENGAIKONDAN MANDAPAM: SRI VEERA ANJANEYA, about 6 feet in height, is installed in this Mandapam. LORD VARADARAJA during the Brahmotsava festival on Vaikasi month halts here.

26. MANDUGANNEESWAR. Situate $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile south-east of No. 24. Sage Mandukannu, consecrated and installed a lingam and got salvation. VANNEESAR worshipped by God Agni exists west of Manduganneeswar. SOWNAGEESAR, worshipped by Sage Sownagar, situate within a furlong from Vanneesar. KANNI KOIL exists at the southern end in Palla Street.

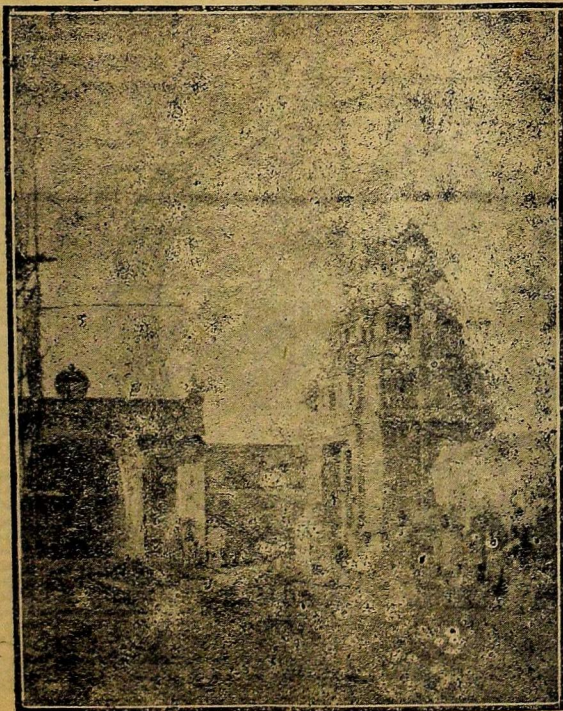
27. KAYAROGANEESWARAR: On the northern bank of the river Vegavathi and south-east of PILLAYARPALAYAM, GODDESS LAKSHMI installed and worshipped a lingam to get herself married to Lord Mahavishnu. GOD YAMA (God of Time) and JUPITER also worshipped here. The tank is known as KAYAROGANATHEERTHAM. A bath in the tank will

SRI KUMARAKOTTAM SUBRAMANYA SWAMI

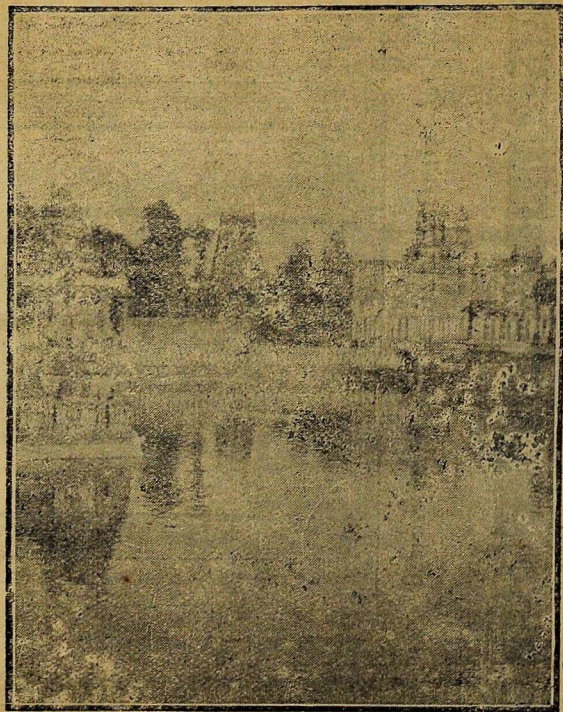


ஸ்ரீ குமரகோட்டம் சுப்ரமணியர் சுவாமி

DESIGAR TEMPLE
AND BRIGHT LIGHT KOIL



SRI DEVARAJA PERUMAL TEMPLE.



relieve a person from all sins committed by him. Ceremonies for the departed souls are usually done here, after which the souls get salvation. Near the tank lie MATHOORAR and MEIKANDAR ATHEENA MADAMS forsaken. KAS AND SINTHAMANI VINA-YAGAR temples are situate very near to these madams.

28. TIRUMETRALI: Situate in the heart of Pillayarpalayam. Originally this was a Vaishnavite temple. During the visit of THIRUGNANASAMBANDAR, this was converted into a Saivite one. Lord Vishnu made penance and attained Sarupam. MUTHEESWARAR and VETHAPUREESWARAR temples are located in the same street with SEERGAZHI PILLAIYAR'S temple at the eastern end. There is one square dais where disputes among the residents of the locality used to be heard and decided.

29. THAKKEESAR: Situate in Kachiappan Street alias Nadu Street, installed and worshipped by the sons of Thakkan. Thakkan once performed a Yagna neglecting Lord Shiva and without giving the Avis to Siva when LORD VEERABADRA AND KALI were created by LORD SIVA and Goddess PARVATHI TO DESTROY the YAGNA. In the battle between Thakkan and Veerabadra, the former lost his life but he was brought back to life with sheep's head at the request of Brahma after which he installed a lingam here and got salvation.

30. VANMEEGANATHAR: Situate north of No. 29 in the fields worshipped by Indra and Vishnu. Big Lingam.

31. VAIRAVEESAR: Situate in Soneeswarar Koil Street worshipped by Brahma after losing one of his five heads owing to his egoism by Vairavar at the

instance of Siva. There are NINE LINGAMS BESIDES VAIRAVAR who is protecting this city as ordered and laid down by Lord Siva.

32. TIRUPARUTHIKUNRAM: On the southern bank of the river VEGAVATHI this village exists. There are ancient images of BUDDHA AND THEERTHANGARS worshipped by Jains. The temple is noted for its paintings and architecture. The main deity is known as MAHAVEERAVARTHAMANAR. DARMAPALA born here. Visitors should not miss this place. WATER PUMPING STATION is situate on the northern bank of Vegavathi with a MUNICIPAL REST HOUSE adjoining. There is one KORA TREE where Buddha had dharsan of the God. One ASOKA PILLAR also exists here. For Centuries, Buddhism, Jainism prevailed and later Hinduism contended for supremacy in this old City.

33. VIDUVASENEESWARAR: Situate south of No. 32 installed by VISHVASENAR who made a dance performance in the presence of VIGADA CHAKRA VINAYAGAR for procuring it to Vishnu. Lord Vishnu also enjoyed the dance performance of Visvasenar filled with ecstasy.

34. BALABADRARAMEESAR: Situate in the fields of Salabogam village, installed by Balaramar during his pilgrimage after refusing to take part in the war between Kowravas and Pandavas. KARUKILESAR is situate in the fields just north of Iyanarappan Street installed by Vishnu to absolve him from the curse of Sage Birugu. The tank is called Manni Theertham.

35. VEERARAGHAVEESAR: South of Putheri Street in the fields lies Lingam installed by Sri Rama

while he was on his way to Ceylon to get back his wife Sita. Here on the advice of Sage Agasthiyar, he installed this lingam. AGATHEESWARAR is situate west of the above in UBANISHATH MADAM also installed by Rama on his return journey.

36. KAILAYAM: Situate about two furlongs of west off Putheri Street worshipped by Sitthars, Budhar and Narathar. During MAHASIVARATHIRI days people used to worship in thousands throughout the night. This is the oldest temple built in or about 700 A. D. by Rajasimha Pallava and famous for its sculpture and architecture of a style exclusively belonging to Pallavas. ANEGATHANGAVATHAM: situate south-east of No. 36 within a furlong installed by VALLABAIGANAPATHI and worshipped by Kubera. About a mile and a half west of ANEGATHANGEESAR, there exists a lingam MUPPURAREESAR in a Mandapam on the road leading to Ambi where Goddess Umai maintained a garden for the use of her puja of her Lord Siva. Asuras Suthaman, Suseelan and Subuthi also worshipped this linga and got their posts of Dwarapalakars (gate sentry) by the grace of God Siva.

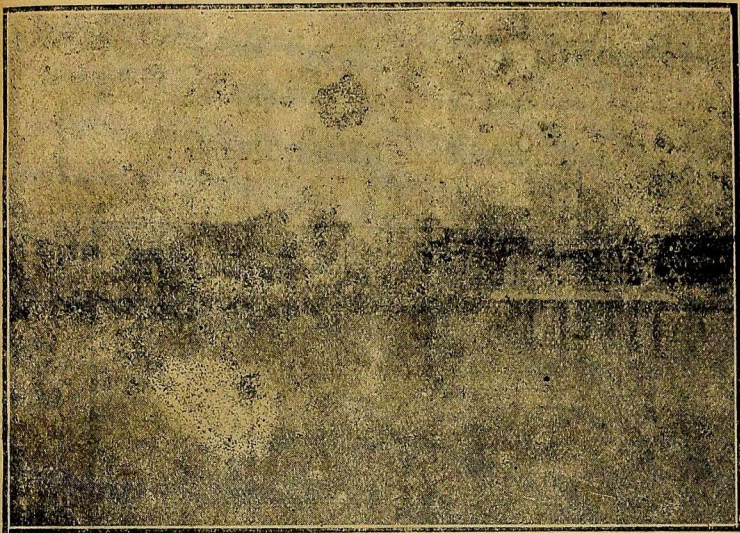
37. VANASUREESWARAR: Situate on the tank bund of OLIMOHAMMADPET installed by VANA-SOORAN, who got full powers over all Ganas after worship. ONAGANTHANTHALI: Situate east of No. 37 about a furlong off a lingam worshipped by Onan and Kanthan exists. These two, bodyguards of Vana-sooran, attained salvation after worshipping here. Saint Sundarar, one of four Saiva Acharyas, has sung in praise of this lingam and got GOLD MOHURS. JALANTHAREESAR: Situate south of the above installed by Jаланthrasooran and after worshipping here has got Salvation.

38. SARVATHEERTHAM: Famous tank of Kancheepuram. On the western bund temples for THEERTHEESWARAR, KASI VISWANATHAR & MALLIGESVARAR exist. They were worshipped by Prakalathar, Parasuramar and Balaramar respectively. HIRANEESAR and KAMESWARAR installed by Hiranya-sooran and Manmatha exist on the southern bank. There are also lingams installed by LAKSHMANA, MALLIGARJUNAR and SITA DEVI. GENGATHAREESWARAR is on the eastern bank installed and worshipped by Varunan. On the northern bank lies SWETHEESWARAR. Mandapam lying there is called Mukthi Mandapam. There is also a temple for ANJANEYA on the eastern bund.

39. NAVAGRAGEESAR: North of Panjupet in the fields, this Temple exists. PARUTHEESWARAR was worshipped by Sun and other member planets. SEVVANTHEESWARAR: God Vairavar brought Ant-hagasooran in his soolam and left him here. SANTHRA ISWARAR: Situate on the eastern side of VELLAIKULAM TANK installed by Moon. GODDESS KALI in the form of SANTHAVALI AMMAN (one of the nine Sakthis) is showering her grace on all her devotees.

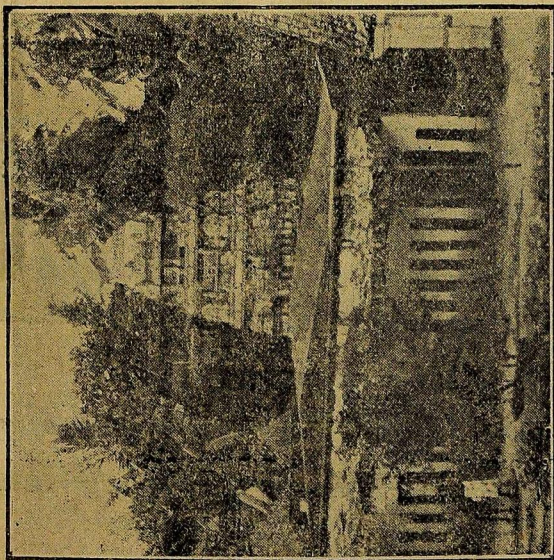
40. SRIEKAMBARANATHAR: Linga in the temple is called PRITHIVI LINGA. Prithivi is one of the five fundamental elements of the world. This temple has three big towers and is situate within a mile from railway station and it is told these were built by Raja Krishna Devarayar. All the four Saiva Acharyas have sung in praise of this lingam, besides SAGE PATTINATHAR. GODDESS PARVATHI made penance here. Lord Shiva allowed the Kamba river to overflow and wash away the Sand Lingam put up by her, but Goddess Parvathi, on seeing floods, embraced her

SARVATHEERTHAM (TANK).



சர்வதீர்த்தம்

SRI CHITRAKUPTHAR TEMPLE (FRONT VIEW)



ஸ்ரீ சித்ர குப்தர் கோயில் முன் தோற்றம்.

SRI KAILASANATHAR TEMPLE.



ஸ்ரீ கைலாசநாதர் கோயில்

Lord to prevent washing away by Kamba river. LORD SHIVA THEN GAVE HER HIS LEFT HALF. The MANGO TREE has four branches representing the Vedas four in number. Under the tree Lord Shiva gives dharsan with Uma. KAMBA AND SIVAGANGA tanks are famous theerthams. Among the seven holy places of the world two are considered as most holy. Even among those two, i. e., KANCHEE AND BANARES, Kanchi stands first which has got 12 names, called as South Benares. One who thinks about LORD EKAMBARANATHA with a pure mind and devotion attains Mukthi, while one attains Mukthi when only he dies at Banares. Saint Sundarar, one of the four Saiva Acharyas, who lost both his eyes on leaving Thiruvothiur on account of breaking a promise, got HIS LEFT EYESIGHT HERE. There are numerous lingams. Among them some are: AGATHEESAR, VEILAKAMBAR, KALLAKAMBAR, MATHALAMANTHAVEESAR, MARKANDEESWARAR, NALLAKAMBAR, and VALEESAR. BASUVESALINGAM is situate on the northern side worshipped by Nandikesar which is situate north of the office and VINDUVEESAR on the southern side. Near Thousand Pillars Mandapam, temples for VIKADACHAKRA VINAYAGAR and MURUGAR exist. This temple stands first among the 32 important temples in Thondai Nadu. SAINT SAKKIYA NAYANAR got salvation by performing puja simply by throwing stones daily at the lingam. Puja is being performed six times a day of which the morning one is by the Charities of Pachaiappa Mudaliar. Maha Vishnu as NILATHINGATHUNDA PERUMAL gives dharsan facing west. Big tower is 188 feet high. Kachimayanam (Lingam) lies near Thwajasthambam.

41. ANANTHAPADMANABESWARAR: Situate in the backyard of No. 10 house, Lingappier Street.

Installed and worshipped by Mahavishnu to absolve him from the sin of his having witnessed the Chess play of Shiva and Parvathi. MADALEESVARAR: A lingam installed and worshipped by MADALI, driver of Indra's chariot exists near the SIVA KANCHI POLICE STATION in dry land.

42. RAMANATHEESWARAR: Situate south of the southern tower of Sri Ekambaranathar, installed by Rama on his victorious return journey from Ceylon. This is as famous as Sethu.

43. MANGALESWARAR: Near GENGAIKONDAN MANDAPAM one lingam installed by Mangalai, the attendant of Parvathi, exists. KADAGESVAR and KANGANEESVAR, worshipped by Parvathi, exist in Goldsmith Street. KANNESWARAR: Situate in north Raja Street installed by Lord Vishnu for procuring a place in Siva temple. KOWSIKEESAR: Situate in North Mada Street of Kamakshi Amman temple installed by Kousiki, Uma's mate, who destroyed Sumbhan and Nisumbhan, demons, in a battle. MAKALEESAR: Installed by a snake by name Makalan lies west of Kamakshi Amman temple. A temple like KAMAKSHI dedicated to GODDESS KALI (PARASAKTHI) is situate near Makaleesar.

44. PIRAVATHANAM: Situate at the northern end of Goldsmith's street. This was installed by Vamadevar to get himself purified and released from the bondage of birth and death. MUKTHEESWARAR temple is situate near this. ERAVATHANAM: Installed by Markandeyar lies west of the above. Markandeyar got himself relieved from the claws of death.

45. VEERATTAKASAM: Situate near the railway line. Sage KONGANAVAR worshipped this lingam

besides Goddess Parvathi and Lord Vishnu. THIRUVATTEESWARAR temple lies near this. MAHALINGAM: In Konerikuppam exists one lingam (big) installed by Brahmā and worshipped also by Vishnu.

46. PAVALAVANNA PERUMAL. South of No. 46 this temple exists. Goddess: PAVALAVALLI NATCHIAR. Tank is known as Chakkara THEERTHAM. Thirumangaialwar has sung in praise of this Perumal. PACHAIVANNA PERUMAL with Goddess MARAGATHAVALLI Thayar exists near this temple. Here Perumal is of green colour while the former is of Red (coral) colour. Sage Birugu worshipped.

47. PANDAVEESAR: Six lingams installed by PANCHA PANDAVAS and their consort DROUPATHI exist in a garden near to No. 46 Temples for PARANJOTHI AMMAN, DARMARAJA, NAVAGRAHAM and PARANJOTHEESWARAR situate near Railway station.

48. MACHEESAR: In East Raja Street a lingam installed by Lord Vishnu with the object of procuring power to destroy Somugasuran in order to get the Vedas from him exists. NAGAREESWARAR: Situate at the southern end and adjacent to this are VEEKABADRAR TEMPLE and SAIBABA MADAM.

49. CHITRAKUPTAR TEMPLE exists in Nellukara Street east of RAMAKRISHNA MUTT. This temple is one dedicated to CHITRAKUPTA while the other exists at BANARES. This temple was built by Kanagarayan during the reign of Chennia, Chola King. In 1911, an idol of Kannaki was unearthed which was buried during the time of war between Moslems and Hindu. CHITRAPOORNIMAI is the day in which the Thirukalyanam (Marriage) festival takes place in this temple every year.

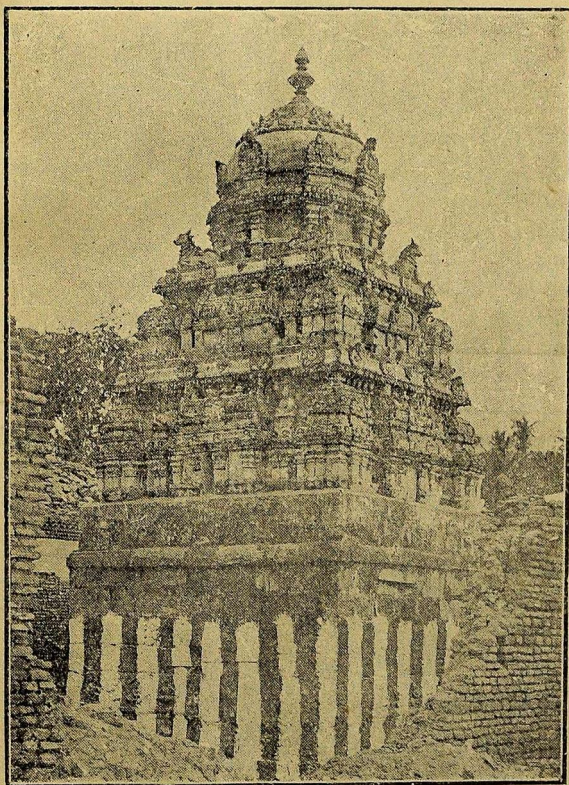
50. **VAIKUNTAPERUMAL:** This is otherwise known as **PARAMESWARA VINNAGARAM**. God: **PARAMAPATHANATHAR**. Goddess: **VAIKUNDAVALLE**, Iramatheertham Tank. Situate at a distance of three furlongs off southwest of railway station. Built by Parameswara Varma Pallavan in 672 A. D. This temple contains numerous inscriptions relating to the battle with Chalukya. **SRI RANGANATHAR** gives dharsan to devotees from the upper flat. This temple is now being looked after by the Archeological department like other ancient temples built by Pallava Kings. A mosque exists south to this like Benares and Ayodya. Besides Saivaite and Vaishnavite temples, there also some **MOSQUES:** and Churches also in this ancient city.

MOSQUES: Mohammadans used to do worship in 13 places. Among those **JUMMA MASJID** and **HAJARATHSA BURHAN AVULIA DURGA** are important. Next to them comes **HAMID AVULIA DURGA**. In Little Kancheepuram near the Police Station there exists one called **HAJARATH HAJEE SAYANSHA DARGA** under the famous **TAMARIND** Tree, one of the five inportants of the City. Urs is being celebrated here for 2 days every year. There is a legend about the dead fish brought from Ferozpur by a Saint and the fish got its life here and so on.

It appears from the accounts, Pallavas reigned tiil 500 A. D., Sozha king till 1013 and Mohamadans up to 1377, Vijayanagar Kings till 1646. Sultans reign commenced in 1677 and after Maharastra till 1750 when the British commenced their reign in 1752. In 1947 we attained **SWARAJYA**.

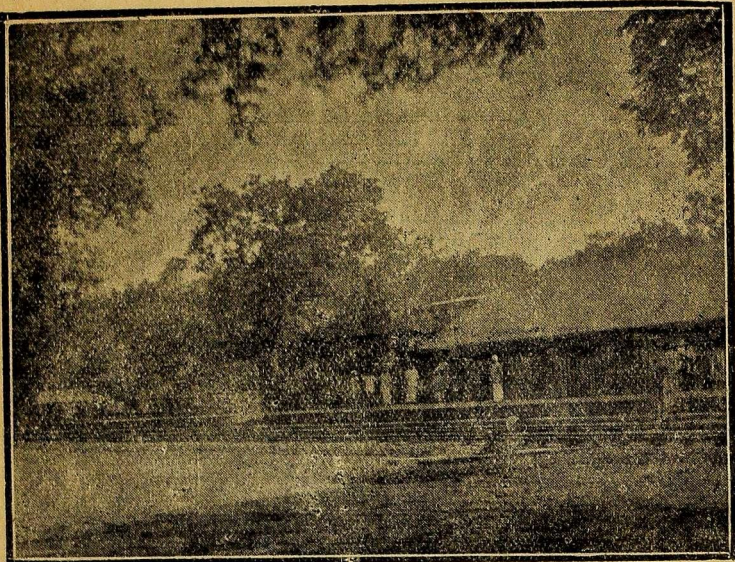
CHURCHES: There are two Churches. One is situate near Railway road opposite to the Govern-

SRI CHITRAKUPTHAR TEMPLE (BACK VIEW)

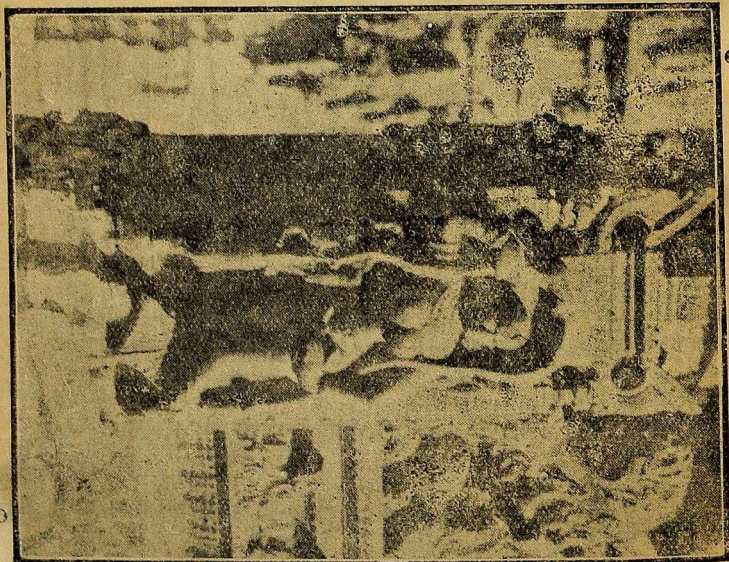


ஸ்ரீ சித்ர குப்தர் கோயில் பின் தோற்றம்.

KANCHI RAILWAY STATION



காஞ்சி ரயில்வே ஸ்டேஷன்



A CARVING IN THE STONE PILLAR

ment Hospital built in 1922 and the other is at Konerikuppam built in 1953. The former one is for Protestants, while the latter is for Roman Catholics.

Some important Holy places lying near Kancheepuram.

THIRUPPUKUZHI: Lies about 5 miles west of Kancheepuram. On all NEW MOON days, pilgrims used to visit this temple. Here VIJAYARAGHAVA PERUMAL with MARAGATHAVALLI NATCHIYAR showers his blessings on all his devotees from VIJAYAKOTI VIMANĀM. The tank SADAYU THEERTHAM is a sacred one. Sadayu got Mukthi here. ANTHAKESAR is situate east of the above. NARASINGEESAR. About a mile west of Thiruppukuzhi in Damal, a lingam installed by Vishnu after putting an end to the life of Hiranyakasibu. VARAGEESAR exists north of above, installed also by Vishnu after destroying the demon Hiranyakkan.

THIRUMALPUR R. S.: Lies 13 miles from Kancheepuram on the north and three miles from Thirumalpur Railway Station towards west. Here Lord Vishnu worshipped Siva with 1000 lotus flowers. On finding out that one flower is short, he finished the pooja by sacrificing his own eye. Siva is known here by name MALVANNANATHAR. Goddess: KARUNANAYAGI. The tank is called CHAKKARA THEERTHAM. Saints Appar and Sambandar have sung in praise of Lord Siva. This place is otherwise called as BHUVANAGIRI and VISHNUPURAM. **YOGACHARIAR THALI:** This place situate just a mile away from Thirumalpur locates DAKSHINAMOORTHI temple. AGARAM YOGACHARIAR performed pooja and attained Mukthi. **PARASURAMEESAR:** Half a mile west of the railway station on the bank of the river Palar, a lingam installed and worshipped by PARASURAMAN

to absolve him from the sin in having beheaded his mother RENUGAI as ordered by his father JAMATHAGNI, exists. It is here that Parasurama got his weapon Parasu. RENGEECHURAM (Pallore). Renugai regained chastity after worshipping the lingam installed here. Here there are seven wells in the fields which are ever full of water and feeding the fields. They have connection with our old Poet Avvai.

The following are temples AROUND KANCHEEPURAM IN THONDAINADU.

KURANGANIMUTTAM: Situate five miles south of Kancheepuram.

THIRUMAGARAL: do. six miles south of Kuranganimuttam.

THIRUVOTHCOR: do. 12 miles west of do.

PURAVAR PANANGATTOOR: (Venbakkam) four miles from do.

THAKKOLAM: Three miles from Thakkolam railway station.

ILAMBAYYAM KOTTUR: Six miles from Kadam-bathur Railway station.

THIRUVIRKOLAM: (Koovum) Two miles east of Ilambayyam Kottur.

THIRUVALANGADU: Three miles from the Railway Station (Thiruvalangadu).

TIRUPPASOOR: Four miles from Tiruvallore Railway station.

TIRUVENBAKKAM: three miles from Thirupasocr (now submerged in Poondi Reservoir).

TIRUKKATCHUR: one mile from Singaperumal Koil R. S.

TIRUVIDAICHURAM: five miles from Chingleput Railway Station.

TIRUKALIKUNDRAM: 9 miles from do.

TIRUPORUR: 16 miles from Chingleput.

MAHABALIPURAM: 18 miles from do.

ACHARAPAKKAM: Two furlongs off from the Ry. Station.

TIRUVALAM: Two miles from the railway station.

VALLIMALAI: 8 miles from Thiruvallam.

VIRINCHI PURAM: (Karapuram) one mile from the Ry. Stn.

TIRUVOTRIYLOOR: About two furlongs off from the railway station near Madras.

END

Sayings of SWAMI SIVANANDA

NATURE OF GOD

God is Truth. God is love. God is Light of lights. God is Peace, Knowledge, embodiment of Bliss. God is Sat-chit-ananda, Existence absolute, Knowledge absolute and Bliss absolute. God is Eternity, immortality, infinity. God is Avinashi, Supreme Vastu, all-pervading Essence. God is the only, Sara-Vastu. God is infinite beauty.

That Secondless Supreme Being, who resides in the chambers of your heart as Inner Ruler or Controller or Silent Witness, who has no beginning, middle or end, who is the source of this world, the Vedas, body, mind, senses and prana, who is the pervading, unchanging, who is one homogeneous Essence who exists in the past, present and future, who is self-existent, who is independent, and who is self-luminous is God or Atma or Brahman.

Eternal bliss, supreme peace, eternal satisfaction, infinite happiness, unbroken joy can only be had in God. Your highest duty is to attain this God-consciousness through Ananya bhakti or vichara. You will reach the Goal.

With eternal greetings of love, peace and Om !

At the feet of God.

TWENTY SPIRITUAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Get up at 4 a. m., daily. Do. *Japa* and meditaion.
2. Take *Sattwic Ahara*. Do not over-load the stomach.
3. Sit on *Padma* or *Siddha Asana* for *Japa Dhyana*.
4. Have a separate meditation room under lock and key.
5. Do charity 1/10 of income or one anna per rupee.
6. Study systematically one chapter of *Bhagwat Gita*.
7. Preserve *Veerya* (the vital force.) Sleep separately.
8. Give up smoking, intoxicant drinks and *Rajasic* food.
9. Fast on *Ekadasi* days or live on milk and on fruits only.
10. Observe *Mowna* for 2 hours daily and during meals also.
11. Speak Truth at any cost. Speak little.
12. Reduce your wants. Lead a happy, contented life.
13. Never hurt the feelings of others. Be kind to all.
14. Think of the mistakes you have done(self-analysis).
15. Do not depend upon servants. Have self-reliance.
16. Think of God as soon as you get up and when you go to bed.
17. Have always a *Japa Mala* in your neck or in your pocket.
18. Have the motto 'Simple living and high thinking.'
19. Serve the *Sadhus*, *Sannyasins* and poor and sick persons.
20. Keep a daily spiritual diary. Stick to your routine.

—Swami Sivananda.