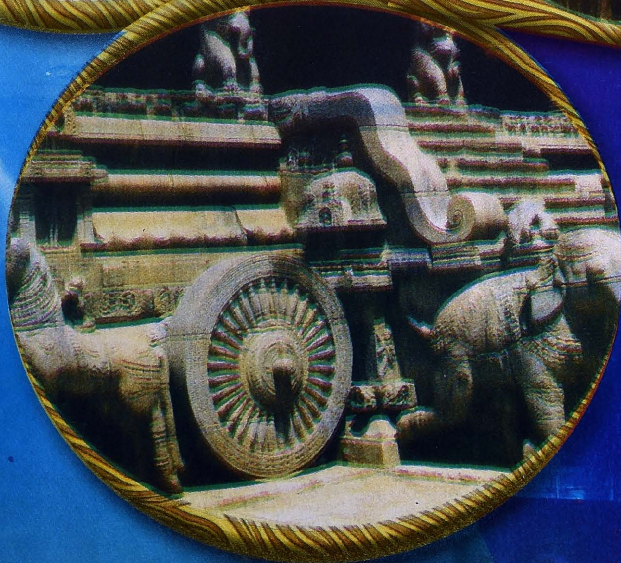
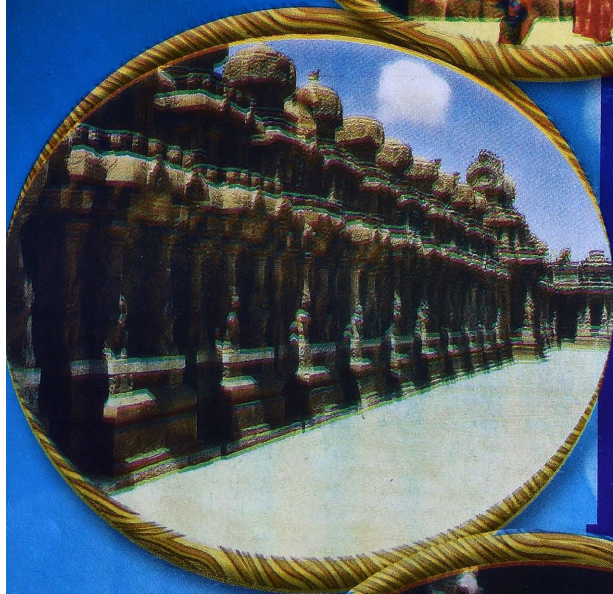
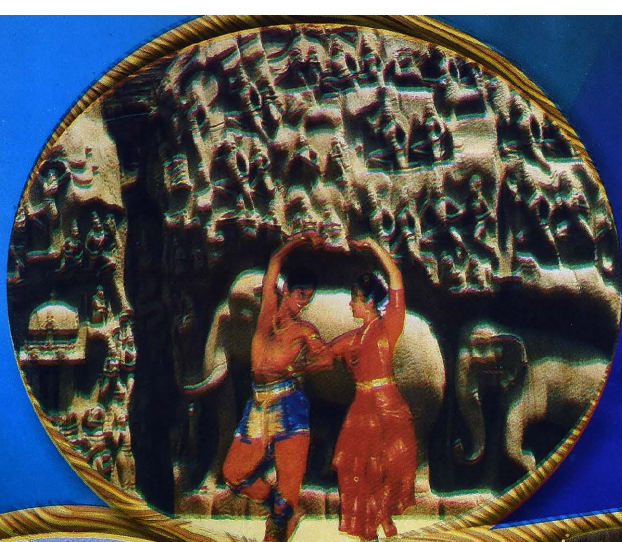
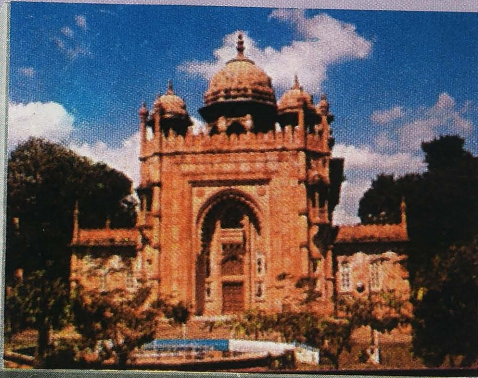


Tamil Arasu

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Tamil Arasu

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In this issue...

Tamil Nadu - is known for its captive beautiful tourist attractions. The Cerulean sky, verdant vegetations, serene lakes, mammoth monuments, artistic temples, scintillating sceneries offer the tourists a feast for eyes, food for thought and banquet for contemplation.

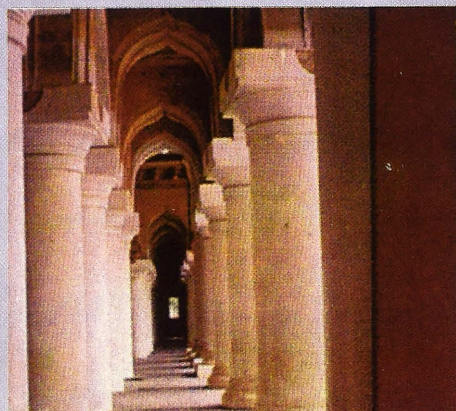
The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation a Government undertaking strives to cater to the needs of the tourists who pour in every year, by way of operating package tours, providing accommodation and extending catering facilities. The chain of hotels with a very well knit communication system takes care of the visitors and make them feel at home.

An attempt has been made to highlight the tourist spots of Tamil Nadu for the benefit of the Tourists.



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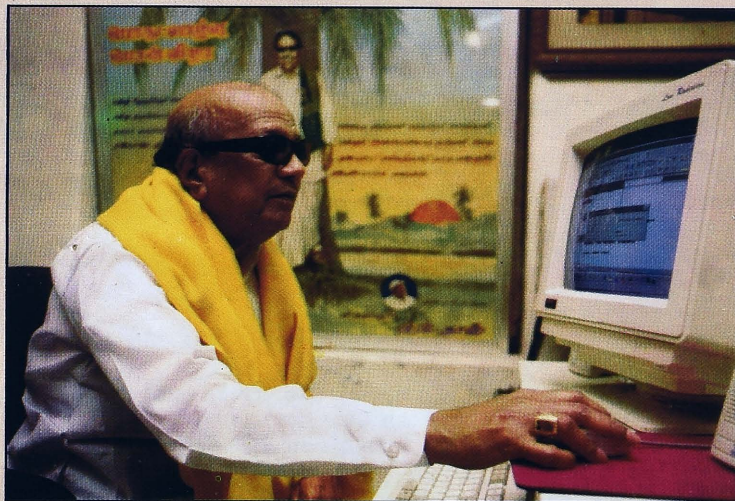


A latecomer to the Indian Information Technology (IT) revolution, Tamil Nadu has nonetheless made remarkable progress in the past five years. Building on the State's inherent advantages large reservoir of IT skills, low-cost of living, investor-friendly public policies, better-than-average infrastructure - the Tamil Nadu Government has multiplied efforts to attract foreign investment into the local IT industry. In 1998, the State

Raising Global Competitiveness of Tamil Nadu's IT Industry

therefore to accelerate the development of its services sectors. Innovative Government schemes are needed to boost the SDP share of services from the present 48 percent to at least 60 percent over the next five years.

might have to de-emphasise some fields and stress others as it moves up the ladder of economic development. Tamil Nadu has intelligently exploited the State's inherent strengths to build a world class base for auto manufacturing. By marshalling those very skills and best practices that helped it become a manufacturing success in the auto industry, Tamil Nadu now stands a good chance to emerge as an IT based services hub within Asia. Having established its reputation as the 'Detroit of India', Tamil Nadu must now strive to build worldwide recognition for being the 'cyber capital of India'.



announced a far-reaching industry friendly IT policy and setup a State level IT task force to implement it. All these efforts have paid off well: software exports have gone from almost nothing to over US \$300 million in 1998. The State's ambitious target for IT hardware alone for the year 2002 is set at US \$1.25 billion - if this target is reached, the region's contribution will represent about 30 percent of the entire Indian hardware production.

In order to achieve sustainable economic growth and be able to join the global knowledge economy, Tamil Nadu needs

Identifying and developing growth industries is not a static process. As their competitive strengths evolve over time, countries will need to shift their thrust from one growth sector to another. For example in the 1960s and 1970s South Korea relied on its low labour costs to build a strong global position in labour intensive and export oriented manufacturing industries. However, since labour cost is not a sustainable competitive advantage, South Korea has gradually shifted its focus to knowledge based industries. Likewise, Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has always been a front runner in the industrialisation process in India, both in terms of industrial output and also of encouraging various new large scale projects. At present, the State accounts for over 11 per cent of India's industrial output and contributes to 15 percent of the country's exports. Its economy is poised to become the second largest in India by 2000. It boasts of a well developed infrastructure (second best in India), a large reservoir of talent that has earned it the reputation of 'intellectual power house' within India. These strengths, combined with a global orientation and investor-friendly bureaucracy, have allowed Tamil Nadu to emerge as a top destination for foreign

investments in India. Latest CMIE statistics indicate that Tamil Nadu now ranks first in the country in investment cumulatively from mid 1991 to April 1999 (IT Department, Government of Tamil Nadu). Tamil Nadu has already leveraged its strong industrial foundations to emerge as a manufacturing hub within India, particularly in the automotive industry, attracting major players like Ford and Hyundai.

Tamil Nadu is now trying to climb up the value chain of innovation and intends to become a major player in the global IT industry. Its Government has recognised IT as a thrust area that has the potential to accelerate economic development of the State. It has multiplied efforts to create a business environment in the State that is conducive for rapid IT development. In 1997 it became the first Indian State to announce a comprehensive IT policy: and it later set up a task force, with representatives from Government, industry and academia, to oversee its implementation. It has also established an IT Department - another first in India - to speed up the adoption of IT within the entire administration. What makes Tamil Nadu's IT policy unique is its dual focus on the 'demand' and 'supply' side of the IT market, as well as its willingness to address both the 'physical' and 'institutional' infrastructure issues, an objective often neglected by other Indian States.

The IT industry in Tamil Nadu has lately been performing very well, growing at a higher rate than its competing neighbour States. Tamil Nadu today has the largest number of software

professionals in India and also boasts of the largest mainframe computing capacity in the country. Chennai, the State capital, is fast emerging as a prominent development centre for multimedia software applications: Pentafour, a local IT firm, now designs multimedia content for Hollywood animation movies. International software majors like Alcatel, EDS

and IBM have already opened offices in Chennai. Domestic software giants like TCS, Infosys and Wipro, too, operate large development centres in Chennai. A NASSCOM study has rated Chennai as the best location for setting up software projects within India.

The World Bank (1999) notes that in order to grow knowledge intensive industries and facilitate their societies' integration into the knowledge economy, developing countries need appropriate infrastructure. They need both 'hard' infrastructure, such as transport and communications, and 'soft' or institutional infrastructure, such as effective legal, financial, and educational systems. Undoubtedly the first step in a successful State level



IT development strategy is the creation of an institutional infrastructure that supports the establishment of an IT industry. The Tamil Nadu Government scores high in this regard. It has set up a forward looking technocratic structure that acts as a major catalyst for IT development in the State. This structure is made up of the IT task force, that provides IT policy guidance, the IT Department which oversees the implementation aspects of the IT policies, and the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) which acts as a 'single window' agency for all IT related investments in the State. The key strength of this technocratic institution is its determination to nurture grass roots support in the administration for each of its



all new investments that Tamil Nadu attracted during the 1990s were in its infrastructure sector. Lately, Tamil Nadu has been actively upgrading its telecom infrastructure. VSNL is already making huge investments to upgrade facilities in Chennai with additional earth stations to increase the bandwidth.

Hi-tech parks are another important part of an information infra-structure. Regional development

IT policy initiatives before implementing it. Seeking such widespread endorsement is a good move and needs to be maintained since grass root support is very critical for the success of major IT projects such as 'e - governance', which aims to make the administration more efficient and responsive. Funding support is available from SIPCOT, ELCOT as well as the State Venture Capital Fund.

Another favourable factor for Tamil Nadu in joining the knowledge revolution is the advanced level of preparedness of its society. The State today boasts one of the highest literacy rates thanks to the emphasis on universal education by successive State Governments. It also has a high teledensity with 75 per cent of rural areas having access to telephones. Moreover PC penetration rate in both business and society 'has traditionally been higher in the State compared to the rest of India'. The recent introduction of computer science as an elective in all State High Schools

is a step in the right direction to achieve the Government's goal of 100 percent computer literacy in Tamil Nadu within 10 years. Furthermore, the 1000 internet community centres being set up by WorldTel all through the State will ensure that even remote areas reap the benefits of the internet. Finally, the adoption of a coding standard for the Tamil font, along with other initiatives (eg. Tamil Virtual University) aimed at using IT as a tool to promote the Tamil language and culture will go a long way in raising IT awareness in the society. All these Government initiatives should help enhance public knowledge and understanding of IT.

Any developing country that wishes to become a knowledge based economy needs to make infrastructure development its top priority. Tamil Nadu, relative to other Indian States has some of the best infrastructure facilities. The Government is deeply committed in attracting foreign investments in this sector. Actually 60 per cent of

theorists have pointed to the significance of high technology zones as contributing to general economic welfare, through the diffusion of economic benefits. Consequently, the Tamil Nadu Government is setting up TIDEL a one million square feet software technology park in the heart of Chennai at a cost of US \$75 million as well as two other IT parks near Chennai. Once these IT parks are completed, Chennai will be much more competitive in attracting software projects coming to the Indian sub-continent.

To successfully integrate into the global knowledge economy, a country also needs quality workforce. Tamil Nadu have no dearth of talent . It has the largest number of software professionals in India and produces 4000 computer science graduates every year. There is no denying the fact that in terms of talent availability in the field of IT Tamil Nadu rates much higher than most other Indian States . The 1997 IT policy has also provided for the diffusion of IT know how throughout the State. Moreover, in

order to fill the gap between formal academic training and industry demand, the Government has set up Tamil Nadu Institute for Information Technology (TANITEC). Modeled on Stanford University, TANITEC's objectives are to upgrade the quality IT training in Tamil Nadu and accelerate the computerisation of the State administration. Besides offering undergraduate and graduate training programmes, it will also conduct cutting edge research and will provide software testing certification services. TANITEC's equity ownership is equally split between Government and industry. This shareholding mechanism allows TANITEC to extend technology into industry and other institutions in the State.

As a recent player to join the IT revolution, Tamil Nadu is in a unique position to avoid errors made by other Indian States that have laid too much emphasis on export led strategies, and have neglected the domestic market.

The Tamil Nadu IT industry is endowed today with two key technological enablers which, if properly harnessed through concerted efforts with the State Government, can help significantly accelerate IT diffusion in the State, and in the process create unlimited business opportunities. These enablers are a standardised Tamil font set and the internet. Therefore all Government initiatives that aim to spur local IT demand need to be driven by two imperatives: "Think Tamil", and 'Think E-commerce'.

Today, most packaged software as well as content on the World Wide Web exists predominantly in English. This has been a major obstacle for spreading the IT revolution around the world. In France, for instance, the internet penetration has been low compared

to other European nations due to the prevalent use of French in everyday life. However, studies have shown that in countries where English is not the primary language, the success of raising IT awareness significantly depends on the availability of software and media content in local languages.

Tamil Nadu Government has successfully developed an encoding standard for Tamil language. Now that a standard Tamil coding is available, the Government could encourage local IT firms to develop software in Tamil and produce online content in Tamil as well. To accelerate this process, a link needs to be established with overseas Tamil scholars like U C Berkeley's George Hart, who have already made strides in using IT to promote the Tamil language.

As a step towards transparency and e-governance, the Government has already set up websites that provide citizens' information services (GISTNIC) and general information of public interest (e.g. Chennai traffic police).

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Tamil Nadu has already produced an 'IT Vision' document that lists major application areas for IT in the society.

'Portals' are websites that act as a gateway, or starting site, for users when they get connected to the Web or that users tend to visit as an anchor site. Most Indian sites do not draw sufficient proportions of traffic from within the country. The Tamil Nadu Government has already created a Tamil Software Development Fund to encourage the rapid growth of Tamil software and Tamil content on the web. So setting up 'portals' in Tamil language and hosting them in Tamil Nadu seems to be the logical next step to bring

online the richness of the millennia-old Tamil culture.

Tamil Nadu is fast emerging as the single largest destination within India for infrastructure investments. Consequently, there is a high potential demand for engineering software, e.g., computer aided design (CAD) system.

Tamil Nadu's share in India's output for leather products is 70 percent. The Indian Government has set an ambitious target of US \$4 billion for leather product related exports by the year 2000. This translates into exports worth nearly US \$2.2 billion from Tamil Nadu ([WWW. focus tamilnadu. com](http://WWW.focus.tamilnadu.com)). One way Tamil Nadu can sustain this lead is by setting up a website for handicraft products, targeted at both domestic and export markets. The same applies to readymade garments since 21 percent country exports in this industry come from Tamil Nadu. Small-scale industries: Internet initiatives have already been launched for the small-scale sector. For instance, the Madurai District Tiny and Small Scale Industries Association (MADITSSIA) is one of the first small-scale industries associations in the country to go online.

*Excerpts from
'Special Articles' Economic
and Political Weekly*



FOURTH WRAPPER

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar
M. Karunanidhi inspecting the
construction of the
Information Technology Park.

Computer is making its impact and effecting changes on all the fronts of the society. It is going to be pioneering science of the present century. Having this developing trend in mind and with a view to ensure that the future Tamil Society should not lag behind being unable to cope the pace of the scientific development, the Tamil Nadu Government headed by Kalam M. Karunanidhi, with a foresight, have devised a magnificent scheme to introduce computer education in all Government Higher Secondary Schools.

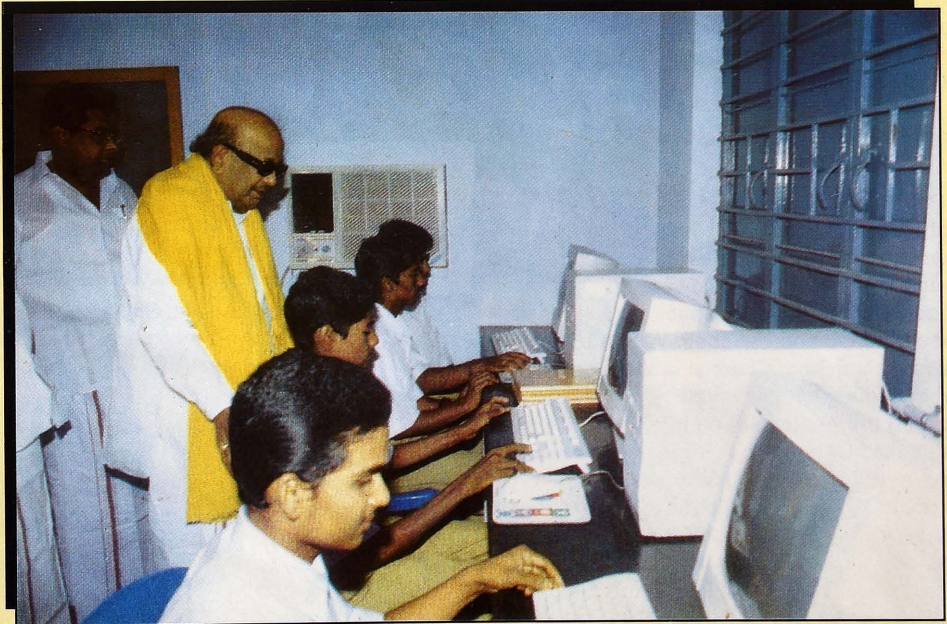
The Tamil Nadu Government desires that all students passing out of schools should be computer literate. A scheme for offering Computer Science, based on curriculum designed by experts, as an elective subject in 11-12 standards in all the 1,200 Higher Secondary Schools in the State

Computer Education in all Government Higher Secondary Schools in Tamil Nadu

who has installed the computers in the Schools. At an average rate of 40 students per school, the scheme will produce about 48,000 students every year eligible for employment in the software industry.

For the first time in the whole of India, computer education in Government Schools is introduced in Tamil Nadu.

To start with, this significant scheme is being implemented in 666 Higher Secondary Schools at



has been inaugurated. The courses are being conducted by reputed Computer Training Firms,

an expenditure of Rs.112 crores. This will benefit 30,000 students. □



hennai, the first city of the south, and capital of Tamil Nadu, though comparatively young, has a chequered history dating back to 1639 when Francis Day and Andrew Cogan, Agents of the East India Company acquired a strip of land granted on lease by the Vijayanagar Emperor. Here was built the Fort St. George for setting up a factory as a nucleus around which arose the British settlements. Gradually but steadily the old, tiny villages like Triplicane, Egmore, Purasawalkam and Chetput were clubbed with the new agglomeration of the fast growing Chennapatnam, as it was known then.

Chennai, widely known as Madras till 1996 has rich tradition and civilisation and it is a blend of the old, and the new, vibrating ceaselessly to keep pace with the rest of India, as the buoyant metropolis of the third most industrialised State. Situated at the entrance to the South Chennai, sprawling on two hundred squarekilometres on the shores, of the Bay of Bengal is not only the gateway to the South, but also the "Queen of the Coromandel".

People in Chennai are deep rooted in their cultural moorings and traditions, even though modernity has its own impact. Chennai is airy, spacious with verdant green patches and beaches. With a population of about six million, Chennai is the fourth largest city in India. It has played a notable role in deciding the political destiny of India on many occasions. Chennai has regained its pride of place in automobile industry as the 'Detroit of the South'. Days are not far away when Chennai may be a 'Silicon City' with high-technological knowledge in software. May be that real India, in her pristine cultural warp and beauty as detailed in history, still lives in Chennai. A visit to Chennai to see the graceful people of glorious land will surely help the visitor to carry home this imprint of Indian heritage.

PLACES OF INTEREST

■ Fort St. George

Fort St. George occupies a place of pride and prominence in Chennai. This bastion achieved name from St. George, the patron saint of England. The State Legislature and the Secretariat are located in Fort St. George. The Fort houses St. Mary's Church which is the oldest Anglican Church in India built in 1680 and the tombstones in its courtyard are the oldest British tombstones in India. This ancient prayer house solemnised the

CHENNAI



marriages of Robert Clive and Governor Elihu Yale, who later founded the famous Yale University in the U.S.A.

■ Fort Museum

While this is the repository of rare exhibits of weapons, uniforms, coins, costumes, medals and some other artifacts dating to the British period, the flag mast at Fort St. George is still the tallest in India.

The Island Ground, the biggest lung space in the city is situated on an island formed by the river Cooum. This ground is the eventful venue of Trade Fairs and the Tourist Fairs held periodically which are season's attractions.

■ The High Court

With the decorative domes and corridors reminiscent of Indo - Saracenic architecture and the adjacent Parrys Corner are the important landmarks of Chennai. This area is always crowded and active. Built in 1892, the High Court of Chennai is believed to be the second largest judicial complexes in the world.

■ The Marina

Marina Beach, pride of Chennai is the second longest beach in the World and has a wide sandy foreshore. Situated on the beach, the Anna and MGR Samadhis which are memorials of the most popular former Chief Ministers of the State attract good crowd everyday. An aquarium is also located on the Marina Beach. Some of the most beautiful buildings in Chennai such as the University of Chennai, Senate House, Chepauk Palace, Presidency College, and Vivekanandar Illam are located on this beach drive.

■ Sri Parthasarathy Temple

This temple in Triplicane is dedicated to Lord Krishna. The temple was originally built by the

Pallavas in the 8th century AD and additions were later made to it by the Chola and Vijayanagara Kings.

■ Kapaleeswarar Temple

Not far from Triplicane, in Mylapore, there is yet another 8th Century Pallava temple. The temple 'Gopuram' (tower) is in the characteristic Dravidian style of architecture. Dedicated to Lord Siva, this temple has some beautiful sculptures, among which the bronze idols of 63 Saivaites Saints (Nayanmars) which adorn the outer courtyard are rare specimens. Also in the courtyard under the old Punnai tree is a small shrine depicting Goddess Parvathi in the form of a Peacock, worshipping Lord Siva. It is from this legend that Mylapore derived its name - 'Mayil' meaning peacock and 'Oor' meaning town. Mylapore swarms with life during the Arubathumooval festival that is held in March-April every year.

■ Santhome Cathedral Basilica

Santhome at the southern end of Marina derives its name from St. Thomas, an apostle of Christ who is believed to have come to Chennai sometime during 52 AD. He was believed to have been killed on St. Thomas Mount just outside the city in 78 AD



and was interned in San Thome beach where a church was later built. Several years after, another church was built further inland and his mortal remains were transferred from the former to the latter. In 1606 the Church was re-built as a cathedral and in 1896 it was made a basilica. The beautiful tainted glass windows at the basilica portray the story of St. Thomas and the Central Hall has 14 wooden plaques depicting scenes of the last days of Christ. In the cathedral is a 3 feet high statue of Virgin Mary which is believed to have been brought from Portugal in 1543.

■ Theosophical Society

The world headquarters of the Theosophical Society formed to facilitate and encourage the study of comparative religions, philosophy and science are situated in a beautiful sylvan setting in Adyar. The Society was founded by Madame Blavatsky and Col. Olcott in U.S.A. and later moved to Adyar in 1882. Apart from shrines of all faiths and the peaceful Garden of Remembrance, there is a 95 year old library which has a very good collection of rare oriental manuscripts written on palm leaf and parchment.

■ Elliot's Beach

Following the road along the coast down south from Marina one comes to Elliots beach where one can spend a few hours relaxing. At the end of this beach are the Velankanni Church, which attracts its own flock of pilgrims and the Ashta-lakshmi temple as it houses eight different forms of Goddess Lakshmi in a unique style of architecture.



■ Kalakshetra

In Thiruvannamiyur, beyond Elliots beach, is Kalakshetra or 'Temple of Art'. It was founded in 1936 by Rukmani Devi Arundale to train, encourage and revive interest in Bharathanatyam which is the

classical dance form of the State.

■ Birla Planetarium

This Birla Planetarium at Kotturpuram situated between Adyar and Guindy, is the most modern planetarium in the country. It houses a modern fully computerised projector which depicts the heavens on a hemispherical dome. The planetarium presents to the visiting public and students audio-visual programmes on various themes in astronomy. Adjoining the planetarium is the Periyar Science and Technology Museum which is of interest to students and other science enthusiasts.

■ Gandhi, Rajaji & Kamaraj Memorials

These three memorials are situated east of Raj Bhavan in respectful memory of great leaders of India.



■ St. Thomas Mount

Atop the 76 - metre high mount where St. Thomas was martyred, is an old church, which was built by the Portuguese around 1514. Among the interesting relics in the church is an old stone cross which the apostle is said to have clutched in his hand while dying. The blood-like stains on the cross have given the name 'Bleeding Cross' and the mystic stains have to this

day been found to be too deep to be removed by scrubbing. On the wall above the altar is an oil painting of the Madonna which was brought to India by St. Thomas and is said to be one of the seven that were painted by St. Luke.

■ The Corporation Campus

Rippon Building of Indo-Saracenic structure named after the Governor General Lord Rippon, the father of Self Government in India, is the seat of Chennai Corporation, the oldest city Corporation in India.

■ Valluvar Kottam

The standing memorial to immortal Tamil Poet-Saint Thiruvalluvar is shaped like a temple chariot and is, in fact the replica of the temple chariot in Thiruvavur. A life-size statue of the saint has been installed in the (39metre tall) chariot. The 133 chapters of his famous work " Thirukkural" have been depicted in bas-relief in the front hall corridors of the chariot. The auditorium at Valluvarkottam is said to be the largest in Asia and can accommodate about 4000 people.

■ Museum, National Art Gallery & Connemara Library

The Pantheon Complex was built before 1789 and was a place of assemblage for the British till it was bought by the Government in 1830. Later, several new buildings were added to it. Today this complex houses the Government Museum, the National Art Gallery and the Connemara Public Library. The museum was established in 1857 and has the country's best collection of South Indian bronzes. Both ancient and modern, among which beautiful bronze icons of Nataraja, Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman are worth mentioning. The museum also has geology, anthropology sections. The Amaravathy Gallery contains rare second century marble sculptures which depict important events in the life of Gautama Buddha. The sculptures were unearthed from the Buddhist ruins at Amaravathi. The National Art Gallery exhibits several beautiful paintings, which include 16th and 18th century ones from Rajasthan, the Mughal period and 17th Century Deccani art. There are display of bronzes from the 10th and 13th centuries and Indian handicrafts from the 11th and 12th centuries.

■ M.G.R. Film City

Set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the sprawling Tharamani area, M.G.R. Film city houses various locations and settings for film-shooting besides dubbing and re-recording theatres. The software city is coming up nearby.

■ Rajaji Hall

Built by Edward Clive to celebrate the English Victory over Tipu Sultan, this august Hall was originally the banqueting hall of the Governor's residence. This hall was built in the shape of a Greek temple. It has soaring flight of steps. This hall is renamed as Rajaji Hall and is now used for important public functions.

■ Guindy National Park

The Deer Park 595 acres in extent, situated adjacent to Raj Bhavan was originally a part of the Governor's Estate. It is botanically very interesting in as much as it is the only one of its kind to carry even today a derelict vegetation truly representative of the natural thorny scrub jungle of our southern dry zone interspersed with more than 30 tree species which include a number of centuries old gigantic shady banyan trees. This park with a net-work of roads, footpaths, nature trails, lakes and ponds, all situated amidst sylvan surrounding offer good opportunities for viewing wild life.

The main faunal attraction of this park is the occurrence of rare Indian Antelope popularly known as the Black Buck found nowhere in the World except India.

This is also a sanctuary for the endangered spotted Deer, white Buck, Bonnet Monkey, Small Indian Civet Cat, Jungle cat, Jackal, common mongoose and the common palm civet cat.

The incidence of bird life is also equally interesting. Many birds like the King Fisher, Blue jay, Golden backed Woodpecker, Crowpheasant yellow wattled Lapwing, Red wattled Lapwing, blue faced Malkoha, Shrikes, Koels, Doves, Minivets, Munias, Barkets, Parakeets, Grey partridge, tailor birds, robins, drongos, quails, beack paradise, flycatcher and the stone curlew can be seen here.

■ Arignar Anna Zoological Park

Animals are exhibited in a large open island type enclosures with simulated natural environment. Other attractions are Nocturnal Animal House, Safari Parks, walk through Aviary, Pre-historic animal park, Zoo education and interpretation, Prey-Predator enclosures and an Aquarium.

Battery operated vehicles are available for taking visitors around the zoo, besides elephant ride and Lion Safari vehicles.

■ Temples around Chennai

There are a number of temples situated in the suburb of Chennai that of worth visiting for their architecture and sculptural marvel. The most popular temples are: Devi Karumariamman Temple, Thiruverkadu-Kamatchiamman Temple, - Mangadu, Marundheeswarar Temple - Tiruvanmiyur, Tiruvoteeswarar Temple - Tiruvotriyur, - Perumal Temple - Tiruneermalai, Murugan Temple - Kundrathur, Perumal Temple - Thirumazhisai, Siva Temple- Thirumullaivayal, Murugan Temple - Tiruporur, Veeraragava Perumal Temple - Thiruvallur, Nithya Kalayani Temple - Tiruvidanthai, Veera Anjaneya Temple- Raghavendra Temple and Raja Rajeswari Temple - Nanganallur.

■ Amusement Parks around Chennai

Amusement parks around Chennai are Kishkinta (near Tambaram), Little folks, MGM dizzy world and V.G.P Golden Beach (on the way to Mamallapuram).

EXCURSION

■ Crocodile Bank (44 kms)

Not far from Mamallapuram, this crocodile breeding and research centre is run by Madras Crocodile Bank Trust. Here several species of Indian crocodiles and alligators around the world are bred in captivity. These reptiles are kept in their natural habitat in open pools and can be viewed from a safe proximity. This farm breeds crocodiles to augment the crocodile population of wildlife sanctuaries.



■ Covelong (48 kms)

A seaside village, offers unique subtle environment. A Durga Temple and Catholic Church attract pilgrims from Chennai and neighbouring districts.

■ Dakshin Chitra

True to its tradition of preserving its rich cultural heritage, Tamil Nadu can boast of an 'Art Village', otherwise called Dakshin Chitra near Muttukkadu on the way to Mamallapuram. Founded by the Chennai Craft Foundation, mainly associated with women art and craft lovers and connoisseurs, Dakshin Chitra has the models of traditional handlooms and the replica of the houses of Kancheepuram Silk weavers. The craftsmen and the weavers are at work to demonstrate their skill and dexterity in their trade. To the thrill of the visitors the weavers and the craftsmen present the actual function of their looms and chisels. Until expansion of the Chitra Kudam is gone through the present two sections of Kerala and Tamil Nadu give an insight into the life-style and craftsmanship of the people of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

■ Muttukkadu (36 kms)

This is an ideal picnic spot. TTDC runs a Boat House where facilities for boating and wind surfing are available. □

Tamil Nadu Women Development Project was jointly implemented by Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Limited, Indian Bank and NGOs, since 1989. In continuation of IFAD assisted Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project, Mahalir Thittam is being implemented since June '98 onwards. Mahalir Thittam is an expansion of the IFAD Project. This project lays emphasis on the qualitative and socio economic aspects of development of women rather than more targets. In this unique project which is based on the lessons learnt during the implementation of the IFAD assisted project since 1989-90, the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, (DEW) NGOs and commercial banks come together to work to

achieve common objectives related to socio economic development.

The Budget allocation for last year was Rs.8 crores for this project. During this financial year Rs.33 crores has been allocated for the implementation of the Project in all the 28 Districts (excluding Chennai).

MAHALIR THITTAM - TO ACHIEVE SOCIO - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN

Formation of Groups

Under this project NGOs select the villages, where the need for intervention is acute. A household survey is conducted in the villages and poor women are organised to form a cohesive, mutually supporting group. At present the Mahalir Thittam groups have members not exceeding 20 though earlier groups were sometimes larger. The group selects among themselves a leader called Animator. The Animator conducts two to four meetings every month in the evening times, when they are free from daily works. The group members save a regular amount of Rs.20 to Rs.100 every month. The monthly saving amount is decided by the group themselves. In some groups, the members save as much as they can. Animator facilitates the groups functioning and maintains the group records such as cash book, loan ledger, savings ledger, general ledger, minutes book, receipt and payment vouchers. She is given various modules of training, in different spell for 32 days covering general orientation to accounts and leadership development and so on. For every 17 groups, PIU had posted





supervisors for monitoring the groups in the IFAD scheme. Now, the NGOs have appointed supervisors for monitoring Mahalir Thittam in the villages and they also formed cluster level federations of SHGs where groups are interested in networking with other SHGs.

Rotation of Savings

The group rotates the savings mobilized by way of small loans to the needy members for various purposes like consumption as well as production purpose at an interest rate ranging from 24% to 36%. As the groups mature in handling the small loan rotation over 2 to 3 years, the groups bring down the rate of interest from 36% to 24% for consumption loans and some groups adopt variable interest rates for different purposes i.e., for consumption 24% and for productive activities 12% to 18% interest. These small loans repayment is cent percent. As the recycling is fast, own funds increases faster due to the accrual of interest incomes.

Training

To bring about any social change, first awareness has to be created among the beneficiaries. With this in view, training under the project assumes greater significance at all levels and for all the participants. Training is

given to the group animators, supervisors and representatives. Now training for members has also been introduced. The training modules are prescribed by Project Monitoring Unit.

Link up with Banks

After the group stabilizes over a period of 6 months or more in the management of its own funds by way of regular meetings, regular savings, giving internal loans and recovering the loans with interest, the groups are linked up with the bank for external credit under the project. The group members are credit linked in a phased manner. The group identifies the activity and discusses the feasibility and viability with the individual prospective beneficiary. Then the group resolves and recommends the loan for specific economic activity.

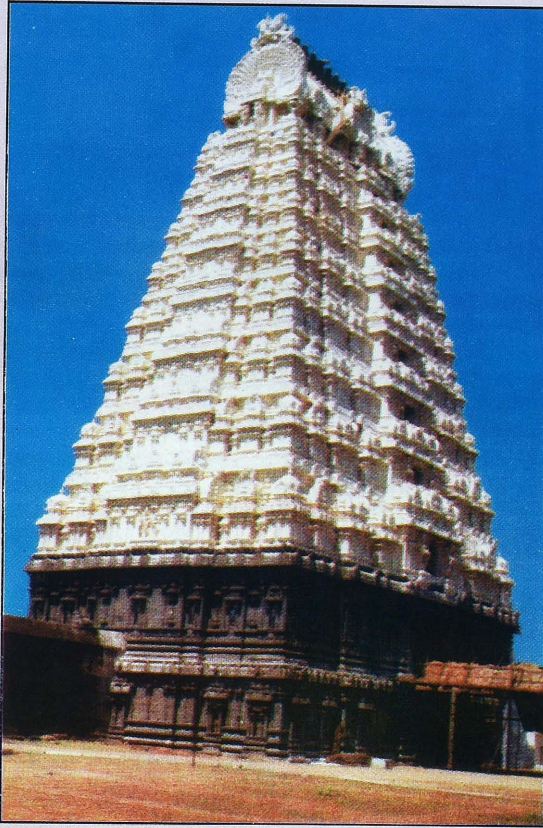
Non-Credit Services

Besides focussing on economic upliftment, the groups focus their attention on all-round development of the beneficiaries and their village as a whole. So, the groups take up responsibility of delivering the non-credit services like literacy, health and environmental issues.

"IFAD PROJECT" is a milestone in enlarging our reach to the poor through rural women.



KANCHEEPURAM



Kancheepuram 72 kms. from Chennai is known as one of India's Seven Sacred cities. Kancheepuram was the historical capital of the Pallavas. It was under the Pallavas from 6th to 8th Century A.D. and later became the citadel of the Cholas, Vijayanagar Kings, the Muslims and the British. It has been a centre of Tamil learning and culture and religious background for centuries.

Kanchi is also a well known centre of the finest silk sarees made in the country. Kanchi has magnificent temples of unique architectural beauty

bearing eloquent testimony to its glorious Dravidian heritage. Adi Sankaracharya established his episcopal seat (Kamakoti-peatam).

Kancheepuram is the birth place of C.N. Annadurai, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu affectionately called as "Anna" by the people of Tamil Nadu.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Tamil Nadu (TTDC),
Railway Station Road,
Tel : 22553 and 22554
Grams : Tamil Tour, Fax : 04112-22551

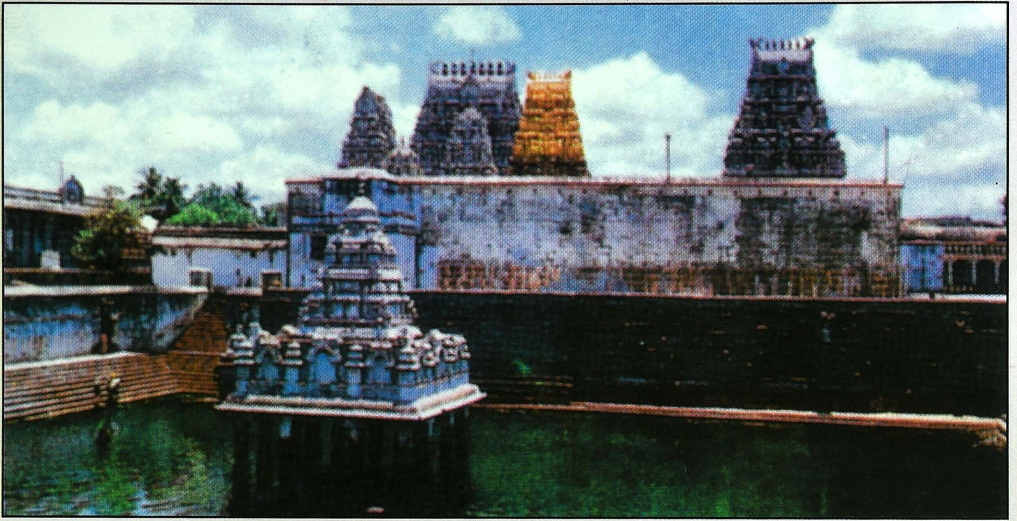
There are a number of unclassified hotels with boarding and lodging facilities. The rates vary from Rs.50 to Rs.700.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Vaikunta Perumal Temple : This is one of the important Vishnu temples built by the Pallava King Nandivarman Pallavamalla in 7th Century AD. Numerous inscriptions are found in this temple relating to the wars between the Pallavas and Chalukyas. The presiding deity Lord Vishnu is depicted in sitting, standing and reclining postures.

Kailasanathar Temple : Built by Rajasimha and his son Mahendra in the 8th Century AD, this temple is noted for its architecture and sculptures. There are 58 small shrines situated around the main shrine as a compound wall. Paintings of Fresco-style adorn the inner walls of the shrines. Sandstone was used in the construction of this temple.

Ekambareswarar Temple : Another ancient temple of Kancheepuram, it has been renovated by the Pallavas, the Cholas and the Vijayanagar Kings. The 57 metres (188') high Rajagopuram is one of the tallest towers in South India. The 2,500 year old mango tree inside the temple has 4



branches, each yields different varieties of mangoes. This temple has five spacious corridors (prakarams) and a beautiful 1,000-pillar-hall.

Varadarajar Temple : Varadarajar temple is a massive and impressive edifice. The hundred - pillar hall erected during the Vijayanagar period in this temple is noted for its exquisite sculptures. The ornamental rings carved out of a single stone in a chain at the four corners are the special features of the hall.

Kamakshi Amman Temple : This is one of the three holy places of Sakthi worship in India, the others being Madurai and Varanasi. The temple in the present form was built by the Cholas during 14th Century AD.

Anna Memorial : Kancheepuram is the birth place of Dr. C.N. Annadurai, the scholar statesman, affectionately called 'Anna', meaning "Elder brother"

by the general public. His house located here has been converted into a memorial.

Deemed University - Enathur (5 kms) : Rustic rural setting adorn this village. Kanchi Sankara Madam has set up a University for Advanced learning at Enathur. Library with ancient books, palmleaf manuscripts on various subjects are housed in this University complex. 60 feet-high statue of Adi Sankara is put up in front of the University. Hundreds and thousands of pilgrims, scholars frequent this place regularly.

Handloom Industry : The temple city is also world renowned for the gorgeous hand-woven silk sarees of myriad rich colours, noted for their shine finish and matchless beauty.

The exquisite silk sarees are woven from pure mulberry silk in contrasting colours and have an enviable reputation for lustre, durability and finish.



EXCURSION

Thiruparuthi Kundram (5 kms) : This is a suburb of Kanchi on the southern bank of the Vegavathi river. It was a centre of Jainism.

Thiruthani (42 kms) : Thiruthani is one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya. Situated on a hilltop, the temple

is accessible by a flight of 365 steps and also by a ghat road. The steps represent number of days of year. Thiruthani is said to be the place where the Lord married Valli, one of his two consorts. The Karthigai festival in December is celebrated with great pomp and splendour. This small town is also the birth place of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, philosopher-statesman and former President of India.



Vedanthangal (48 kms) : It is one of the major water bird sanctuaries in India. Storks, Egrets, Cormorants, Darter are some of the birds which arrive here during season. Along the lake bund there is a 24' high observation tower commanding the panoramic view of the sanctuary. Season : October - March.

Uthiramerur (28 kms) : An ancient Siva temple built according to silpa sastras that contains inscriptions about village administration in those days is situated here. There is also an ancient Vaishnavite temple which is massive in structure. It is multi-storeyed with Ashtanga Vimana.

Thiruperumpudhur (29 kms) : It is the birth place of Saint Ramanujar, the father of Vaishnavite Philosophy and hence an important pilgrim centre for the Vaishnavites. A memorial for Sri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, is situated here.

Vandalur (35 kms) : The new sprawling, 1,265-acre Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, the biggest in South India, has, among other species, a superb collection of tropical mammals, birds and reptiles. The animals are in vast natural enclosures enabling them to move freely.

Gingee (110 kms) : This famous fort is situated near Thiruvannamalai. This fortified city is built on seven hills, the most prominent of which are Krishnagiri, Rajagiri and Chandragiri.

Festivals :

- Brahmothsavam : January, March, April, May and June.
- Garudotsavam : May.
- Car Festival : January, April and May.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Temples

Kamakshi Amman Temple, Varadarajar Temple, Ekambareswarar and numerous other temples.

Churches

Protestant Church near Railway Station, Roman Catholic Church at Konerikuppam.

Mosque

Jamma Masjid, Hajarathsa Burhana, Avulia, Dargah.

Transport

- Air** : Nearest Airport is at Chennai.
- Rail** : It has a railway station on the Chengalpattu- Arakkonam line, which can be reached (via) Chengalpattu from Chennai.
- Road** : It is well-connected with all major cities by road.
- Bus Services** : Regular bus services available from Chennai and other places. Tourist Taxis can be hired from Chennai for a day's trip to visit Kancheepuram, Mamallapuram and Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary. TTDC and ITDC conduct daily- tours to these places from Chennai. Town-buses, taxis, auto rickshaws and cycle rickshaws are available to go around the town. ●

Vellore, is now pulsating with activity as a commercial, administrative and medical centre. It had the privilege of being the seat of the Pallava, Chola, Nayak, Maratha, Arcot Nawabs and Bijapur Sultan Kingdoms. Vellore grew into a bustling town gradually since 6th Century changing the rulers and growing in importance. It has an ancient fort and a well preserved temple. The fort constructed around the seventeenth century is one of the exquisite specimens of military architecture in South India. It was described as the strongest fortress in the Carnatic in 17th Century and witnessed the ghastly massacre of European soldiers during the mutiny of 1806. The temple inside the fort is said to contain sculptures which surpass even those of Madurai. Vellore is famous for a Christian Medical College and Hospital which attract patients and research scholars from all corners.

PLACES OF INTEREST

■ Vellore Fort

Dating back to the 13th Century this ancient Fort is the main attraction for tourists. This historically famous fort retains the past glory with its ramparts, battlements, turrets, posts,

VELLORE

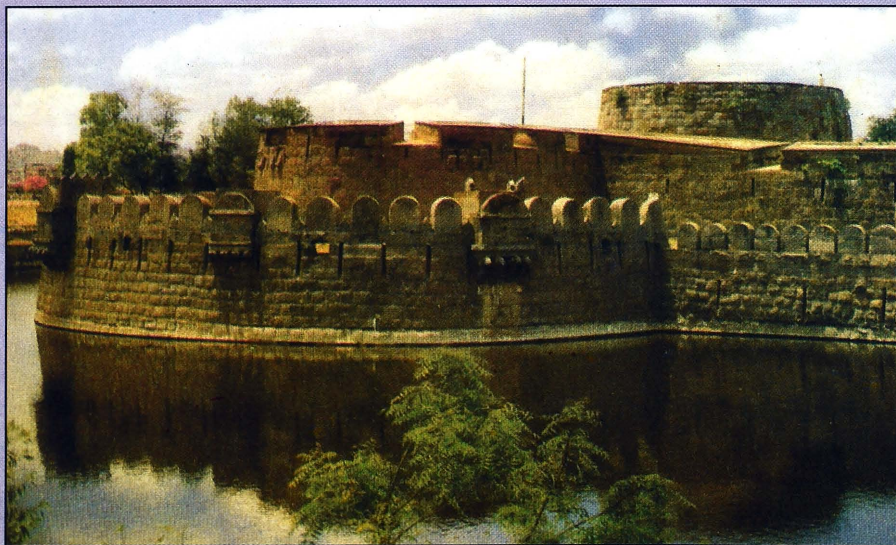
sally gates and with perennial water supply. It is fortified by double walls and the main walls are made of massive granite blocks laid one over the other without using mortar. The fort houses a church and many buildings are now used as Public Offices.

■ Muthu Mandapam (Pearl Palace)

This is a memorial built around the tombstone of Vikramraja Singh, the last candy Tamil ruler. Situated on the bed of Palar river, it is just one k.m. North of Vellore town at a walking distance. An aquarium, a Children 's Park, a lawn and three decorative arches are to be added to this Memorial.

■ Jalagandeeswarar Temple

The temple inside the fort, is dedicated to Jalagandeeswarar and is noted for its sculptures, which speak volumes of the exquisite craftsmanship of the highly skilled artisans of



that period. The sculptures in the Porch on the left of the entrance are connoisseurs. It has a big marriage hall adorned with elegant engravings and monolithic sculptures.

This temple was used for a long time as an arsenal and remained without deity. A few years back it has been sanctified with a deity Lord Siva which is worshipped by pilgrims and tourists.



■ Government Museum

Situated adjacent to the main bus stand in the Lakshmanaswamy Town Hall, this is a multi purpose Museum maintained by the Department of Museums of Tamil Nadu Government. It treasures ancient and present day curios relating to anthropology Art and Archaeology, Botany, Geology, Numismatics, Pre-history, Zoology etc. The historical monuments of the erstwhile composite North Arcot District are gracefully depicted in the Gallery. This Museum is kept open on all days between 9.00 am and 12.30 pm and 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm except on holidays and admission is free.

■ C.M.C. Hospital

If Vellore attracts a floating population of 5000 every day, it is because of the world famous C.M.C, founded in the early part of the century by a dedicated American Medical Missionary, Dr. Ida. Scudder. This has grown in size and stature treating thousands of both in-patients and out-patients in all branches of medicine. Besides a world famous Cancer ward and Neurological Ward, it has a Mental hospital and a College of Nursing.

EXCURSION

■ Amirthi

Twenty four km South of Vellore is the panoramic Amirthi forest rich in its variety of flora and fauna. A half of this jungle is cleared to serve as a tourist spot while the other half is developed as

a Wildlife Sanctuary.

■ Elagiri Hills

Considered as the Ooty of North Arcot District, this stands eloquent amidst four mountains, at a height of 920 metres above sea level. A solemn summer resort, this place has comfortable lodging house and rest houses. A church with exquisite craftsmanship and a beautiful park adorn this hills as an ideal tourist spot.

■ Virinjipuram

This magnificent temple dedicated to Lord Siva is famous for its devotees who throng here with ardent belief that a dream on the last Sunday of Karthigai month will reveal their fortune of being blessed with an offspring, the Lionfaced Simmakulam tank is considered to be very sacred.

■ Jalagamparaai

Jalagamparaai water falls situated 17 kms from Tirupattur is a fine picnic spot where the deity is in the form of 'VEL' (a kind of spear). The Murugan temple attracts the tourists throughout the year.

■ Javadu Hills

Jamanamarathur 40kms from Polur is the main village in Javadu hills which is famous for its sandalwood trees and fruits bearing trees, its

altitude carries from 300 to 1000 mts, the Beemanmadavu water falls in the thick reserve forest; 12 kms from here is worth for hand - trek obstacle of wild stream during rainy season. Kavalur observatory the biggest in Asia is worth visiting on second Saturday of the month by the tourists.



■ Thiruvannamalai

It is one of the important pilgrimage centres of Tamil Nadu. Though Hindus seek God in the form idol - its their strong belief that God is also in the form of light - the symbolic idealist represented in Thiruvannamalai. The Deepam festival in the month of Karthigai is very popular and it attracts many devotees. The Sculptures in the pillars and courtyard are the eyes of the art lovers. The idol lingam is huge that it makes one wonder at the artistic spirit of those artisans.

Ramanashramam is world renowned. Large number of foreign as well as domestic tourists congregate here.

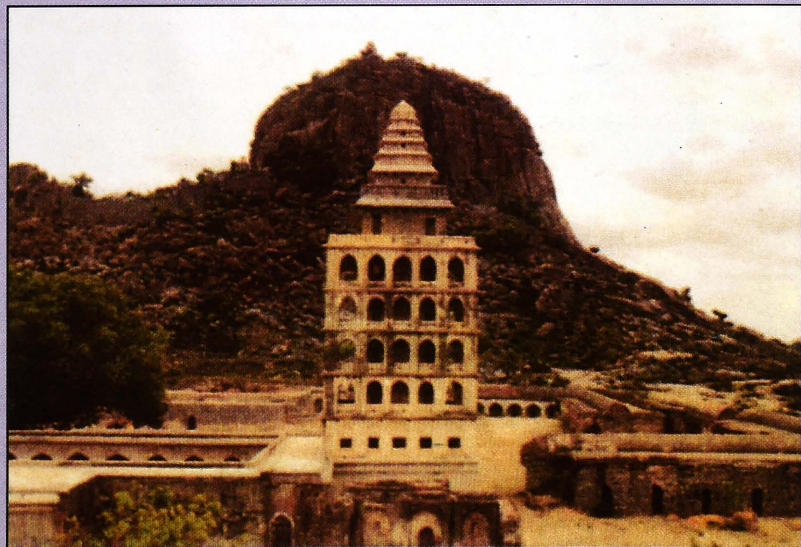
■ Gingee

Gingee the famous fortification of Chola Dynasty was built about 700 years ago. Vijayanagar Emperors, Marathas, the Mugals held it after the Cholas and it was in the hands of the French for 11 years in the 18th century. Many ballads describe the heroic exploits of Raja Desingh. It is 104 Kms. from Vellore. The fort of Gingee is really worth seeing. The historical monuments speak volumes about the past glory.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Tamil Nadu,
Ranipet
Tariff Ranging from
Rs.90-350
☎ 04172, 44012

Inspection
Bungalow, P W.D.
Vellore : 23066



"If a farmer calculates his cultivation cost and return, what he gets as profit is not even a bite", says an adage in villages in Tamil Nadu. Time was when agriculturists found it difficult to make both the ends meet. Agricultural operation was a gamble in monsoon. The cultivator was in perennial



A FAIR DEAL TO FARMERS AND CONSUMERS

indebtedness. Urban-based middlemen and lack of rural market were great constraints obliterating agricultural activity. To keep farming even at subsistence level was Ultra Vires to the farmers, not to speak of a margin of profit.

Agriculture has witnessed a sea- change after 1969 in Tamil Nadu. A unique feature of the farmers in Tamil Nadu is they are adaptive and progressive. Extension education, new techniques in farming methods, better seed, pest control, timely release of water, land reforms and reclamation works all initiated by the Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi during his tenure in 1969-76, 1989-91 and last four years from 1996 - have added a new impetus to farm production and given confidence to the farmers to enrich their life and to intensify their production operation. From the state of being a marginal state in food production, Tamil Nadu has attained a surplus level.

It has been recorded that the total food production including cereals was 67.96 lakh metric tonnes during 1995-96 and the production had shown an upward trend of 76 lakh metric tonnes and 95 lakh metric tonnes during the period of 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively while it reached an all-time high of 103 lakh metric tonnes during 1998-99.

Tamil Nadu ranks second in rice production at all India level after Punjab. In rice production there has been a comfortable increase. The rice production was 52 lakh metric tonnes during 1995-96 which has increased to 60.16 lakhs metric tonnes in 1998-99 and the target for 1999-2000 is 100 lakh metric tonnes, and as things stand today the target is within the reach. True to his ingenuity in innovative measures in all fields of socio-economic life of the people in Tamil Nadu, Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has broken new grounds in raising rural market infrastructure to enable the farm producers to get fair and remunerative price for their goods without giving any room for the operation of middle-men

and agents who hold sway over price fixation.

The farmer's Shandy (Uzhavar Sandhai), a new rural market infrastructure and a concept designed by the Chief Minister K. K. K. Karunanidhi as announced in his budget for 1999-2000 is a novel scheme bringing the farmers to a common market place to sell their vegetables, fruits, tubers, flowers and greens etc., at affordable price without the intervention of the 'Mahamai' shopkeepers and urban-based commission agents who exploit the producer and the consumer as well.

While inaugurating the first Farmer's Shandy at Madurai, the temple city, on October 14, the Chief Minister said that the vegetable producing farmers sell the vegetables and fruits to the traders from the urban centres at a very low price and the traders sell the same items at high price to retail traders and cart - carrier sellers who, in turn, sell at a higher margin of profit to the consumers in the urban areas. As a result the sweat and toil of the producer - farmer at the field do not fetch him reasonable price and profit, and the consumers pay higher prices to the retailers and



This scheme of farmer's Shandy fulfills the ever-increasing demands of the farmers -big and small and marginal - for a suitable rural market which could serve not less than ten villages abutting the Urban or semi-urban centres. Economists, particularly agricultural and rural economists and sociologists were pleading for long for markets of this kind of farmer's Shandy which eliminates the middle men and their allurements.

street vendors. This is an avoidable exploitation of the vulnerable rural farming men and women and the innocuous consumers at the last end of the process. The vegetable producing centres within a radius of about 20 kms. Like Chekkanoorani, Melur and Valayangulam which produce large quantity of Vegetables like brinjal, lady's finger, cowpeas, gourd and bitter-gourd, tomato, raw-banana, pumpkin, drum-stick, onion of two varieties, coconut, flowers and greens of

high nutritious value can transport their products in buses free of luggage charges and the porters for unloading and loading are no longer allowed to harass the farmers at the Market. The Farmer's Market at Madurai has been functioning very successfully to the satisfaction of the farmers and the customers. The consumers who were at the mercy of the street vendors enjoy fresh and green vegetables at affordable price even for the variety of vegetables the supply of which may be depleting from the farms.

The members of the farmer's families are given identity cards and the asbestos - covered sheds with tarpaulin screens to protect vegetables from sun and rain can be occupied free of rent, with no claim for the sheds under the pretext of daily use. A harbinger of one hundred Farmers' Markets has proposed to be opened during the current financial year. The Madurai Farmer's Market has blazed a new trail in rural marketing and dispensing with the traditional system of commission agents and the Tharakars (brokers), a term in parlance in villages, perhaps repugnant in a palatable free market environ. The petty vegetable sellers in various parts of Madurai City notice the fall in their trades.

While the accelerated efforts to achieve the target of setting up hundred Farmers' Markets at a cost of Rs.7 crores, eight markets are functioning now in the districts of Trichy, Tanjavur, Tiruvarur, and Salem and a few more are in the wings.

The maintenance and up-keep of the Farmer's Market throughout the State is another important aspect which has not slipped the attention of the State Agricultural Marketing Department.

The buses plying in such feeder village roads will have luggage carriers so that the general - travelling public are not inconvenienced. The Market Committee ensues in allotting the sales tents on the basis of 'first come, first served'. The sellers form themselves into a Committee to discuss their problems and sort out them among themselves with the least interference from the officials. The District Collectors are expected to ensure smooth working

THE SALIENT FEATURES OF FARMER'S MARKET

- 1. The customers have wide choice of Vegetables fresh from the gardens.**
- 2. No under-weighment. Weights and Measures are available with Market Committees.**
- 3. Price fluctuation is monitored by the Committee of the Farmers and the District Market Committee.**
- 4. Technical assistance for packing and handling of the perishable items is available.**
- 5. The Market serves the cultivators of 10-15 villages situated in a radius of 40 kms. from the city Corporation or Municipal and major towns.**
- 6. Cooperative Bank Branches are set up to encourage thrift and banking habits among the village section.**
- 7. The unsold items can be stored for sale next day. Telephone, Fax, toilet and water supply are available.**

of the markets and give guidance to the farmers and the connected officials.

The Commissioner of State Agricultural Marketing is responsible for the successful functioning of all Farmer's Markets and he sends bi-monthly reports to the Government for appropriate review. For construction of markets, the Government lands are made available free of cost and, if the land belongs to the local bodies, the lands are assigned to the concerned Market Committee on a nominal Lease Amount.

The response of the public is encouraging. 125 farmers in Trichy Farmer's Market had earned Rs.2.75 lakhs on December 1999 by selling about 42000 kgs. of vegetables. On the inaugural day of



the Market in Thanjavur (10-12-1999), the farmers sold a total quantity of 3990 kgs of vegetables, flowers, fruits, greens and other items. The Co-operative Marketing Society of Thanjavur sold 883 kgs. of English Vegetables, and as a result, 80 farmers and 1152 customers were benefited, and the additional value of the sale was Rs.29, 500, according to the Thanjavur District Collector. This kind of transaction and sale are definite indicators that public awareness has been sufficiently generated by media exposure and the farmers have realised the importance of free market forces operation in the Farmer's Markets.

The fresh, green and luscious vegetables and succulent fruits as also affordable price tempt the house-wives to buy large quantity and consume a verity of vegetables. The intake of fruits and vegetables tend to attain the required nutrition level, increased demand for farm produce and elimination of brokers and urban-based traders ensure enhanced profit margin of farmers. This will certainly lead to extensive and intensive cultivation of vegetables and fruits and other items

more in demand in the Markets. Consequently the farmer's life become richer and fuller. A Professor of economics from a rural College boldly ventured to assert that the Farmer's Market is rural community wealth and health enriching programme which, perhaps, calls for provision of technical guidance and intervention, wherever required, by concerned agencies like the Departments of Horticulture, Marketing and Cooperative Bank.

True that the Farmer's Market is a symbiotic endeavour benefiting the buyer and seller - the farmer and customer - bringing them face to face - which deserves emulation by other states where the middlemen flourish at the cost of the hard working poor peasants and farmers. Recently the National Union of Farmers in London has stated "they believed in going to basics and selling their produce directly to the general public could also help keep their business healthy". The Farmer's Market Programme is another feather to the cap of the Chief Minister Kalaingar. M. Karunanidhi, whose innovative schemes bring in succour to the poor and buoyancy to the economy of the State.

FARMERS MARKET IN TAMIL NADU

Farmers market, known as Uzhavar Santhai in Tamil, is an innovative scheme introduced by the Government of Tamil Nadu, to help the farmers at large. It is the first of its kind in whole India. Such a market was first started in Madurai on 14.10.1999. As on date, six such market centres are in existence and the State Government proposes to establish totally 100 farmers markets in the important centres covering the whole State.

who usually corner huge profit in transferring the goods from middlemen to the consumers. When the goods are routed through middlemen, the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. Likewise, as the middlemen at wholesale and retail levels add their respective margins in the sale prices, the goods are sold at higher prices to the consumers. By eliminating the middlemen, this scheme aims at benefiting both the farmers as well as the consumers.

The market place is established in the important centres to help the farmers living in and around that centre. Every market has 80 to 100 small shops or sheds. Each farmer is allotted a shop to sell his produce. The State Government appoints the Marketing Committee to regulate the marketing Centre. The Committee will also have farmers as its representatives. This Committee identifies the farmers and gives them a permit card. Such farmers



Mode of Operation

The farmers market provides the place for the growers of vegetables and fruits to sell their produce directly to the people without recourse to the middlemen. These markets are mainly started to establish a direct link between the farmers and the consumers. There will be no place for the middlemen

alone are being allotted the shops to market their produce. The farmers need not pay any rent or commission for selling their goods at the market. Farmers can transport their produce to the marketing centres free of cost using State Transport Corporation Buses.

■ **Dr. S. Krishnamurthy**



The market is open for the public from 7.00 A.M. to 7.00 P.M. daily. As and when the farmers bring their produce to the market, the committee will fix the prices for the same. The same price will be ruling for that particular commodity for the whole day. The prices are fixed for different commodities on the basis of previous day prices of that commodity in the wholesale market.

Benefits to the farmers

1. In a short period of one month, since farmers market came into existence, it was found that the income of the farmers, who are using the farmers market, has doubled. This is made possible, as the farmers need not spend any amount towards handling and marketing their produce.
2. The rise in the farm income of the farmers is also due to the direct marketing of their produce to the consumers. Wherever middlemen play their role in distributing the farm produce, the farmers do not get remunerative prices. The middlemen of a particular area usually form a cartel and accordingly fix low prices for the agricultural goods. But, the scheme of farmers market enables the farmers to realise just prices for their produce by eliminating all types of middlemen.
3. As the sale at the farmers market is only for cash, the farmers are getting money immediately. This is absent when they sell their produce to the middlemen. Most of the traders make delayed payments to the farmers.

Benefits to the consumers

1. Though the farmers market is established for the welfare of the farmers, the other beneficiary of this scheme is the consumer. Consumer could buy vegetables, flowers and fruits at the whole sale price which is usually only half of the retail price prevailing in the retail markets.
2. The consumers are also getting other benefits in addition to the cheap prices. They are able to buy the goods afresh as the farmers bring their agricultural goods to the market on the basis of day-to-day requirements. The consumers are also assured of fair prices as the marketing committee fixes the prices. The consumers need not go for bargaining, as the same price prevails for the whole day. Moreover the prices are also prominently displayed in front of every shop. They are also assured of correct weighment, as the farmers who sell their goods at the market should use only the balance and weights supplied by the marketing committee.

(Excerpts)

Courtesy : World

Mamallapuram is 60 Kms South of Chennai. Situated on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, it was once a port of the Pallavas. The Pallavas have created many marvellous monuments with Sculptural Panels, Caves, Monolithic Rathas and Temples.

Once a thriving port trading with many distant nations, Pallava chisels have breathed life into stone. The Pallava art at this place emphasise robust earthly beauty, imbibed with life. These monumental splendours and sunny beach resorts attract Tourists from all over the world.



Rathas are supposed to have scooped out of a single rock formation. The big elephant carved out of single rock is unique.

■ The Shore Temple

This is one of the oldest temples in South India. It belongs to the early 8th century AD and is a good example of the first phase of structural temples constructed in Dravidian style.

■ Arjuna's Penance

The world's largest bas-relief measuring 27m x 9m is the pride of Mamallapuram. This huge whale-back shaped rock contains figures of gods, demi-gods, men, beasts, birds and infact, represents the entire creation.

■ Five Rathas

These are five monolithic temples, each created in different styles. They are also known as the Pancha Pandava Rathas, and the four of the

■ Tiger's Cave

It is 4kms north of the main monument complex. It was an open air theatre, where cultural programmes were held. Though it is very near the sea, the place is serene and calm.

■ Mahishasuramardhini

There are nine rock-cut temples. The Mahishasuramardhini cave, contrasting the Goddess fighting a demon on one side, and Lord Vishnu's cosmic sleep on the other, is particularly remarkable one.

EXCURSION

■ Tirukkazhukundram

This small Shiva Temple is situated on the top of the Vedagiri Hill which is 160m high. Just before

MAMALLAPURAM



■ Muttukadu

Situated 30 kms from Chennai on Chennai-Mamallapuram East Coast Road. Boating facilities like wind-surfer, kayak, canoe and snack-bar are also available here.

FESTIVALS AT MAMALLAPURAM

Pongal Tourist Festival is celebrated on a grand scale during the middle of January, and Dance Festival in the month of December and January every year. Sthalasayan Perumal Temple Festival - Masimagam and Brahmotsavam in the month of March.

noon everyday, two white kites stop at the temple and are fed by the temple priests. Legends have it that these two birds are actually saints who stop to rest at the temple on their flight between Varanasi and Rameswaram. There is also a larger Shiva Temple in the town below. At the South-East end of the town is spacious tank whose waters are said to have curative powers. Once every 12 years, a conch is discovered in this tank and thousands of devotees flock to bathe in the tank at this auspicious time. A collection of the conches is displayed in the larger Shiva Temple.



■ Crocodile Bank

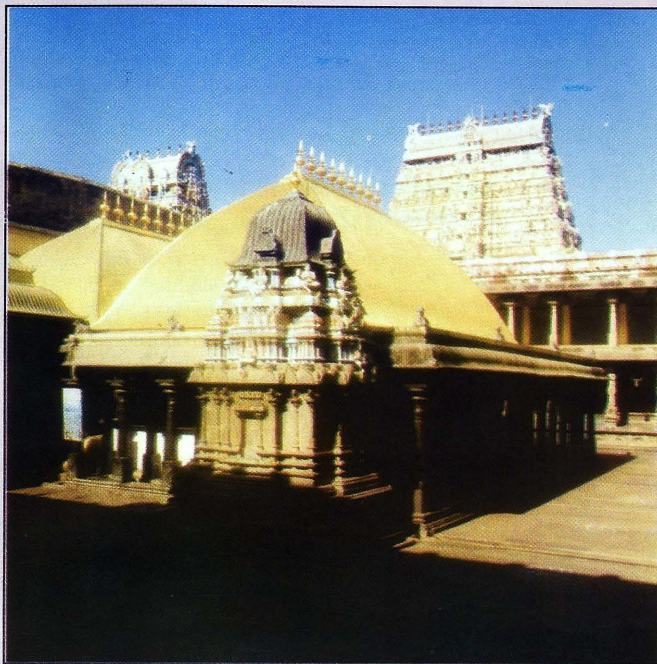
This is a farm where several species of Indian and African alligators are bred in captivity. These reptiles are kept in their natural surroundings in open pools and can be viewed from a safe proximity.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Tamil Nadu (TTDC),
Beach Resort Complex,
☎ 42235, 42361 to 65
Fax : 42268

Hotel Tamil Nadu Unit-II ☎ 42287-Shore temple
Temple Bay (A Unit of
India Tourism Development
Corporation) ☎ 42251 to 42257





Kali Temple

The Thillaikaliyamman temple is on the northern end of the town. It was built by Kopperunjingan who ruled between 1229 A.D. and 1278 A.D.

Annamalai University

It is a residential University founded by Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar. It is on the eastern outskirts of the town and is a great centre of Tamil learning and Carnatic music, now offers educational facilities in various disciplines including Medicine, Engineering, Law etc.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Tamil Nadu,
Chidambaram,
Railway Feeder Road,
Phone : 20056 to 20061

ACCESS

- Air** : Nearest Airport is Tiruchi (168 kms.)
- Rail** : It is connected by rail with Tiruchi, Madurai, Chennai.
- Road** : It is well connected with all major towns. Car Operators, City Bus Services, Cinemas, Post & Telegraphs, Hospital and Chemists are available.

FESTIVALS

- ★ The Markazhi Thiruvadhirai Festival in December-January and Adi Thirumanjanam festival in June.
- ★ In March - April, A 10 day Panguni Uthiram festival.
- ★ Natyanjali festival - February, March.

Chidadambaram greets us with a beautiful temple dedicated to Lord Nataraja-God Siva in the form of Cosmic Dancer. This is one of the few temples where Siva and Vishnu are enshrined under one roof.

PLACES OF INTEREST

The temple located in the centre of the town covers an area of 40 acres. It is one of the ancient temples of Tamil Nadu. The roof of the sanctum sanctorum is covered with gold plates. The presiding deity of the temple is represented by air, one of the five elements of the universe and is known as Akasa Lingam.

The Eastern tower rises to a height of 40.8 metres. 108 Bharatha Natyam Dance gestures can be seen on the Eastern tower as well as on Western tower. The Northern tower rises to a height of 42.2 metres. The Sivakami-amman Temple, the Sivaganga Tank, the thousand pillar hall are other important features of the temple.

CHIDAMBARAM

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Temples : Nataraja Temple, Thillai Kali Amman Temple

Churches : Siluvaipuram Church, Catholic Church, Annamalai Nagar.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Railway Station	22298
Police Station	22201
Post Office	22338
Taluk Office	22338
P.W.D.	22481

RELIGIOUS CIRCUIT

Sirkazhi (20 kms.)

The temple here has three shrines :

Sri Brahmapureeswarar, Sattanathar and Thoniappar shrines. The Goddess Tirunilai Nayaki Shrine, The Shrine of God Child, Gnanasambandar.

Vaitheeswaran Koil (24 kms.)

The place is famous for the Siva temple dedicated to Vaidyanatheeswarar, the healer of all diseases and his consort Thaiyalnayaki.

It is believed that a bath in the Holy Waters of the Siddhamirtham tank within the temple complex will cure all diseases. Nadi Jothidam is a traditional skill popular here.

Vadalur (37 kms.)

Ramalinga Swamigal, popularly called Adigalar, had established the Sathya Gnana Sabai. The sanctum of this Sabha or temple is separated from the main hall by seven screens, of which only three are removed on ordinary days. It is on the 'Thai Poosam' day in December-January, all the Seven screens are removed so that the devotees can have a darshan of the 'Jyothi' the eternal flame. Sri Ramalinga Swamigal had sung thousands of songs which expound the Saiva Siddhantha philosophy. They were compiled into several volumes called 'Thiru Arutpa'.

Mailam (85 kms.)

There is a Murugan temple on a hillock. The Panguni Uthiram festival held in March - April attracts devotees in large numbers from far and near.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HISTORICAL CIRCUIT

Srimushnam (45 kms.)

The famous temple for Vishnu as Bhuvараha is located here. The front Mandapam called the Purushasukta Mandapam was built by the Nayaks in the 17th century and is noted for its architectural treasures. Shaped like a chariot, it is replete with carvings of figures of warriors mounted on horses and elephants. On the pillars



in the centre of the hall are carved royal portraits of the Nayak family who were responsible for the building of the temple.

Arikamedu (75 kms.)

Arikamedu was the earliest Indo-Roman trading centre on the east coast of India. From the excavations here, roman coins, wine jars etc., have been found. Further evidence shows that it was also Buddhist stronghold during the Sangam period.

Gingee (132 kms.)

This place is associated with Raja Desingh. There is a 700 year old fort running over three hills of huge and steep boulders. According to tradition the original fort was built by Kone Chiefs. The fort was ruled by Vijayanagar Nayaks, Marathas, Moghuls, Carnatic Nawabs, the French and the

British. Rajagiri and Krishnagiri are two important fortification and it is a popular picnic spot.

Entrance fee : Rs.2.00 per head

Visiting hours : 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Every Friday free entry.

Gangaikonda Cholapuram (50 kms.)

Rajendra-I, a mighty Chola King, established his new capital here with the magnificent city and temple to Lord Siva. The temple is noted for its massiveness and richly carved sculptures. A big Nandhi in front of the temple made of brick and mortar, a lion headed well with a flight of steps leading to the water level and gigantic Dwarapalakas are the other special features of this temple.

Poompuhar (40 kms.)

Poompuhar, once the biggest port on the east coast, was at its peak under the earlier Chola Kings. The Cauvery, merging with the bellowing sea, was known as Puhar but to the exquisite beauty of the port town, it came to be called 'Poompuhar'. Another name of Poompuhar is 'Kaveripoompattinam'. The greatness of the city is brought out in some of the poems in Sangam literature and also by Silappathikaram and Manimekalai among the epics. The life and time of the Tamil classic 'Silappathikaram' has been recreated at Poompuhar to the immense pleasure

of the Tamils. In order to conjure up the decorative ornamental scenic beauty of Poompuhar, the whole Art Gallery is made to present the environment and atmosphere of the 2nd century A.D. by the creation of the Ilanji Manram, Pavai Manram, the Bhuddist School, Arugan Kottam, Tirumal Kottam and Murugu Kottam, etc. A fine beach and calm water offer good bathing. The Department of Tourism offer shell shaped cottages to the Tourists in the Poompuhar Tourist Complex at a moderate tariff.

ECO-TOURISM CIRCUIT

Pichavaram (16 kms.)

Pichavaram, ranks among the most exquisite scenic spot with abundant and varied tourism resources. The backwaters which are interconnected by the Vellar and Coleroon system offers abundant scope for water sports-towing, kayak and canoeing. The Pichavaram forest not only offers waterscape and backwater cruises but combines another very rare occurrence-the mangrove forest trees permanently rooted in a few feet of water.

The Pichavaram mangroves are considered among the healthiest mangrove occurrence in the world. Pichavaram consists a number of islands interspersing a vast expanse of water and covered with green trees. The area is about 2800 acres and is separated from the sea by a sand bar which is a patch of extraordinary loveliness. To

a botanist, rare species like *Avicennia* and *Rhizophora* will present a special attraction; to a zoologist, no doubt, the sight of numerous birds like Watersnipes, Cormorants, Egrets, Storks, Herons, Spoonbills and Pelicans holds great interest. TTDC offers boating facilities to the visiting tourists. Arignar Anna tourist complex houses, cottages, youth hostel and a restaurant to cater to the needs of tourists. Ph : 89232 (Killai Exchange).

ACCOMMODATION

★ Hotel Tamil Nadu ☎ 20056-61

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For the progress of the Nation in industrial development and social upliftment, road communication and information technology are the most vital infrastructural needs. Bearing this in mind, when the Government of India relaxed the social reforms process during 1991, priority was given for expanding the basic infrastructural facilities. After coming to power in Tamil Nadu for the 4th time in May 1996, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar formed a separate Department for Highways alone at the Secretariat during 1997 and also appointed a separate Minister exclusively for Highways Department during 1998.

In Tamil Nadu, it has been estimated that there are a total of 98,184 bridges existing over the Government roads alone comprising 1315 Major bridges, 7, 014 minor bridges and 89, 855 very minor bridges.

Of this, approximately 3357 bridges need immediate improvements and in some places for restoring traffic with other nearby places, new bridges have to be constructed.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the construction of 106 bridges on Government roads by obtaining

loan assistance to the tune of Rs.360 crores from HUDCO and NABARD. It has been programmed to complete the construction of these bridges before 31.12.2000.

Likewise the Government in another step towards progress have now accorded sanction for the construction of 102 bridges with loan assistance from the above mentioned two financial institutions to the tune of Rs.95.44 crores.

CONSTRUCTION

OF

102 BRIDGES

AND

IMPROVEMENTS

TO

RADIAL ROADS

Rural Roads Scheme

As agriculture is the main and vital activity in Villages, the village people felt that it will be better to have link road facilities with all weather roads to connect them with the nearby Government roads for ensuring easy and quick transportation of their agricultural produces to the nearby marketing centres in towns. To fulfil the above aspirations of the village people, the Chief Minister has created a separate scheme called "Rural Roads Scheme" to serve the above rural people. Under this scheme, all villages having population of 1000 and above, will be provided with link road facilities with all weather roads. The scheme announced by the Chief Minister is the first ever one in India. When the scheme was announced as per 1971 census, the number of villages without having any link road facilities are as below :

- ★ Population 1500 and above - 3762 villages
- ★ Population 1000 - 1500 - 2568 villages

with the creation of first ever new scheme ie. Rural Roads Scheme, by the Chief Minister on 1.7.72 and the subsequent of its implementation all the 3762 villages with population above 1500 were provided with link road facilities with all weather roads before the end of the Seventh (7th) Five year Plan that concluded in 1990. Further all the 2568 villages having population 1000 - 1500, were also provided with link road facilities with all weather roads, in stages and made as Government roads which are now being maintained by Government.

After assuming office the 4th time during 1996, the Chief Minister ascertained that, the number of villages without link road facilities were found to be 517 villages as below :

- ★ Population above 1500 - 140 villages
- ★ Population 1000 - 1500 - 377 villages

For ensuring cent percent connectivity to all these 517 villages, well before the closure of the

current financial year, all the Government approved works, are progressing well to achieve the target.

Further the Chief Minister during the presentation of budget for 98-99, has announced in the floor of the Assembly that all villages numbering 4986 having population between 500 to 1000 will also be provided with link road facilities with all weather roads in stages.



Radial Roads Around Chennai

The high density corridor roads in and around Chennai have inadequate width and strength and as a result the traffic on these roads have been very badly affected.

Due to this, loss of time and consumption of fuel have increased. If this trend is allowed to continue, then, there will be traffic hold up and economic loss in and around Chennai.

To avoid this situation and with a long time perspective in mind and with the able guidance of the Chief Minister, it has been programmed to widen and strengthen the radial roads in and around Chennai, which are lying within 50 km radius. After assessing that there are a total of 251.60 kms of radial roads in and around Chennai, Government have accorded administrative sanction for improvement of radial roads with loan assistance from HUDCO to a tune of Rs.213 crores and it has been programmed to complete all these works before 31.10.2000.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi declared open two flyovers at the junction of Peters Road - Cunronsmith Road and Sardar Patel Road - Gandhi Mandapam Road on 5.2.2000

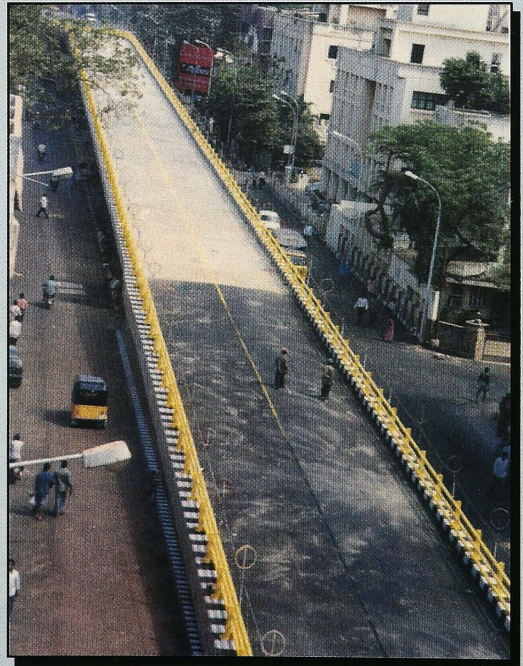
To ease the traffic conjection in the city, fly-overs are being constructed in the following 10 places.

- ★ A flyover near Perambur Railway Station at a cost of Rs. 21 crores.
- ★ At the junction of Peters Road and Conronsmith road at a cost of Rs. 8.50 crores.
- ★ Peters road - Westcot road at a cost of Rs.8.50 crores.
- ★ Pantheon road - Casa Major road at a cost of Rs. 8.50 crores.
- ★ Purasaiwakkam High Road - Hunters road at a cost of Rs.12 crores.
- ★ Dr. Radhakrishnan salai - Royapettah High road at a cost of Rs. 8.50 crores.
- ★ Dr. Radhakrishnan salai - T.T.K. road at a cost of Rs. 15 crores.
- ★ Alwarpet - Eldams road junction at a cost of Rs. 11 crores.
- ★ Sardar Patel road - Latice Bridge road at a cost of Rs.15.50 crores.
- ★ Sardar Patel road - Gandhi Mandapam road at a cost of Rs. 7 crores.

* * *



CHENNAI - The fly over city



Poompuhar, an ancient, historic town, also called as Kaveripoompattinam is situated in Sirkazhi Taluk of Nagappattinam district. Tourists have to alight at Mayiladuthurai Junction, to proceed to Poompuhar by road, visitors from Chennai by train can get down at Sirkazhi. Poompuhar is connected to Mayiladuthurai as well as Sirkazhi by road. The distance from Poompuhar to Mayiladuthurai is 24 Kms. and to Sirkazhi is 21 Kms.

POOMPUHAR

The Tamil Nadu Tourism Department, Government of Tamil Nadu offers the following Lodging facilities :

1. Special Cottage
A/c (SanguType)
2. Shell type
Cottages - 5
(Sippi type)
3. Tourist Lodge
☎ 04364-75439

HISTORY OF POOMPUHAR

Among the dynastic rulers Cheras, Cholas, Pandiyas, who ruled over Tamil Nadu since the time before the Christ, the Cholas who held a place of esteem had this ancient town for their port Capital. Puhar means the estuary of river in the sea.

The port town of Kaveripoompattinam has been mentioned in the temple inscriptions, ancient literature and travelogues by different names like Kaganthi, Sampapathi, Palarpukazh Moothar Mannagathu Vanpathi, Chola-pattinam, Kaberia Emporium and Kolappattinam.

There are frequent references to the important port town in ancient Tamil literature like Akananooru, Purananooru, Pattinappalai, Pathitruppathu, Mutthollayiram, Silappathikaram. Manimekalai, Devaram, Thiruthondarpuranam and Nandhikalampagam. Ancient poli literature like Milindapan, Puttha Jathakakathaikal, Abithamma Avathar and Puthavamsagatha, Travelogues of

Periplus and Merris Erithroy contain the references to this ancient town. Ptolemy and Plini also mention about Poompuhar in their writings.

Somaya a Buddha Pikkuni from Poompuhar donated one of the beautiful sculptural pillars erected by Sunga kings of North India during the 2nd century B.C. The pillar carries the inscription "Kaganthia Somaya Pikkunia Thanam" (Pillar donated by Somaya Pikkuni of Poompuhar.) Buddhism flourished in Poompuhar two thousand years ago.

Details of Poompuhar have been read in the Brahmi inscription dating back to the second century B.C. in "Barkuth" of North India. The historical details of Poompuhar have also been found in the inscriptions of Sayavanam temple at Poompuhar.

The ancient Kings like Sembiyan, Musugundan, Manuneethicholan and Karikala cholan who carried



myths with them, added to the glory of Poompuhar town. Poompuhar grew into a great city during the reign of Karikala Cholan. Inscriptions at Thiruvengadu make a mention of grand festival of Indra, during the later Chola's times. Even after Sangam Chola's period Poompuhar occupied a significant place during the regime of Kalabras. After the Kalabras in the 6th century A.D. Poompuhar came under the Pallava regime and during that time Pallavaneeswaram temple was built by them. The great Saiva Saint Appar and Thirugnana Sambandar have sanctified the temples with their holy hymns.

With the rise of later Cholas in 850 A.D. the city regained its past glory. It is mentioned as "Rajathilaha ValaNaatu Nagoor Nattu Kaveripoompattinam" in the Sayavanam temple inscription of Vikramacholan in the same temple, calls the town "Puhar Nagaram". Later Kopperunchingan also contributed to the grandeur of the place.

EXCAVATION OF POOMPUHAR

Excavation work on Poompuhar city has been in progress since 1910. The excavation conducted by Indian Archaeological Department has revealed the existence of several ring-wells (Urai Kinaru) near the sea-shore. The Sangam literature Pattinappalai tells of these wells.

The excavation has also been taken up near Champapathi Amman and Pallavaneswaram temples, the remains of the various buildings have been found by the excavation in 1960-61. Remains of a brick building and a boat jetty were discovered at Keezhaiyur area in Poompuhar. A water reservoir and the remains of several buildings were found. Relics of a sixty feet long Buddha vihar with rectangular rooms were discovered at Pallavaneswaram. The feet of Lord Buddha (Buddha-padha) in Marble (Limestone slab) was unearthed. This Buddha Padha in limestone resembles the marble feet got from Amaravathi and Nagarjunakonda Buddhist sites in Andhra Pradesh. This Buddha padam of the size $3\frac{1}{2}' \times 2\frac{1}{2}'$ has two feets holy symbols like lotus flower, Poorna Kumbam and Swastikam. Several kinds of brick figures and copper coins were also found.

These coins were of both rectangular and circular shapes. The chola emblems of the tiger with upright tail and the sun were engraved on them. These coins are considered to be those of Karikala Cholan.

Recently Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department has discovered the remains of several buildings. The National Institute of Oceanography, Goa and the Archaeological Department of Tamil Nadu Government have undertaken off-shore exploration at Poompuhar. Recently they have started a museum here.



POOMPUHAR AGAIN

After the Sangam, Poompuhar town was swallowed by the Bay of Bengal. Though Poompuhar became a prey of times, still a few small villages remain a silent witness to the cruelty of times.

Thirusaikkadu (Sayavanam), Pallavaneeswaram, Melapperumpallam, Keezhapperumpallam, Keezhaiyur, Melaiyur and Vanaguru are some remains of ancient Poompuhar. The Tamil Nadu Government has taken steps to reproduce the glory thus submerged and shattered ancient town on the basis of historical evidences and literary references. In 1973, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu gave crystal form to the lost town, by reproducing it on the basis of the literary evidences. Several symbolical monuments were raised. Silappathikara-Art gallery, Ilanji mandram, Pavaimandram, Nedungal mandram and Kotrappandal found their existence and remain to attract visitors with their artistic splendour.

SILAPPATHIKARA - ART GALLERY

A beautiful seven tiered building of great sculptural value has been built as Silappathikara Art Gallery. The first storey is 12' high and each storey above it has a height of 5'. The top most part which has "Kalasams" has height of 8'. The total height of Art gallery is 50'.

The "Magara Thoranavayil" at the entrance of the art gallery imparts an imposing and beautiful look to the whole structure. Its height is 22 1/2'. It has been designed on the pattern of Magara Thorana Vayil, found in Suruli Malai Mangala Devi Koil. There is also an anklet shaped tank in the Art-gallery. On the sides of this tank are erected the statues of Kannagi (9 1/2") and Mathavi (8 1/2").

Visiting Time : 08.30 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.
02.30 p.m. to 08.30 p.m.

TEMPLES AROUND POOMPUHAR

■ Thirusaikkadu (Sayavanam)

It is situated 2 Kms. from Poompuhar estuary. The temple is for Thirusayavaneswarar and Iraivi Kuyilinam Nánmozhi Ammai Ammal.

■ Thiruppallavaneeswaram (Poompuhar)

This is an ancient and very beautiful temple. Iyarppakai Nayanar and Pattinathar were born here. The Hero and Heroine of Silappathikaram Kovalan and Kannagi were also born here.

■ Melapperumpallam and Keezhapperumpallam

These two thalams are situated very near to Poompuhar and Thiruvengadu. The Valampuranathar temple at Melapperumpallam has Chola's inscriptions. Keezhapperumpallam is at a distance of 2 Kms. from Poompuhar. It is the temple where the famous "Kethu"(Planet) has a separate thalam.

■ Thiruvengadu

Thiruvengadu is situated at a distance of 10 Kms. from Sirkazhi. This is the place where Meykandar was born. "Pudhan" (Mercury) has a separate thalam in Thiruvengadu temple. The presiding deity is Sri Swatharaneswarar.

■ Thiruvakkur

It comes under Tranquebar Taluk. The Siva temple is based on Madakkoil pattern. Sirappuli Nayanar one of the 63 Nayanmars was born at this place.

■ Semponarkoil

The antique temple referred to as Thirusamponpalli in Devaram hymns situated in this place.

■ Thirukkadaiyur (Thirukkadayur)

Thirukkadaiyur is on the bus route between Mayiladuthurai and Tranquebar. It is one of the eight temples (Ashta Veeratta Thalam) glorifying the heroic deeds of Lord Siva. Thalapuram says that Lord Siva exterminated Yama at this place to save the life of Markandeya. It is one of the famous Sakthi Thalams. The holy hymns of Abirami Anthathi, have been sung by the great poet and devotee Abirami pattar in this place. People prefer this place to celebrate their Shastiyaptha Poorthi (Completion of Sixty years).

■ Anantha Mangalam

A village near Thirukkadaiyur. The temple here is noted for the presiding deity of Dasapuja Veera Anjaneyar.

■ **Vaitheeswaran Koil**

This place lying between Mayiladuthurai and Sirkazhi on the bus route is called Pullirukkuvolur in Devaram. This age old temple has the deities of Vaithyanathan (Siva), Thaiyal Nayaki (Sakthi) and Muthukumaraswamy (Murugan). This Temple is famous for its sculptural wonder. It is special Thalam for one of the Navagrahas Angaraha (Sevvai).

■ **Sirkazhi**

It is the birth place of great Saiva Saint Thirugnana Sambandar. The famous Thoniappar Shivalayam is situated here.

■ **Thirunallaru**

The famous Siva temple lies at a distance of 5 Kms from Karaikkal. It is one of the "Sapthavidanga" Thalam. The temple for Saniswara, one of the Navagrahas, is very famous.

■ **Thiruvarur**

Thiruvarur is at a distance of 65 Kms from Poompuhar and 20 Kms from Nagapattinam. This place is noted for Thiyagaraja temple and Thiruvarur Ther (Temple Car). It is the most prominent among the "Ashta Veeratta Thalam". The art gallery depicting the myths of Manuneethi Chola, the grand Kamalambal temple is one of the famous "Sakthi Peedams". The unique feature of the town is that it has three Siva temples at one place. The trinities of Carnatic music Thiyagaraja, M u t h u s w a m y Deekshithar and Shiyama Sastri were born here.

■ **Tranquebar (Tharangambadi)**

It is 35 Kms north of Nagapattinam on the east coastal line of Bay of Bengal. Danish architecture are the attractions of Tranquebar.

■ **Danish Fort**

Even now the Danish Fort built in 1620 exists to exhibit Danish architecture. The Fort is now under the control of Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department and houses an archaeological Museum. This museum is open on all days except Friday.

■ **Zion's Church**

It was built in 1701. It was renovated in 1782-84.

■ **Town Gateway**

It was built in 1792 on Danish Architectural style.

■ **Masilamani Nathar Koil**

This temple built in 1305 A.D. by Maravarma Kulasekara Pandiyan exhibits outstanding architectural niceties.

■ **Former Danish-Governor Bungalow**

This building got its name as it was used as the residence of the Danish Governor in 1784. It is the biggest building in Tranquebar. Now it



is under the control of Tamil Nadu Tourism Department.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES

Bus facilities are available to this place from Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Poompuhar and Sirkazhi.



NAGAPATTINAM

Air : Nearest Airport is Tiruchirappalli (141 Kms).

PLACES TO VISIT

Harbour, Light House and Beach.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Temples : Kayarogaram Siva Temple, Neela Dhayatchi Amman Temple.

Mosques : Dharga at Nagai Pudur Road, Dharga near New Bus-stand, Dharga at Moolakkadai street.

Churches : Loorthu Madha Church, Madharasi Madha Church, T.E.L.C. Church, Protestant Church.

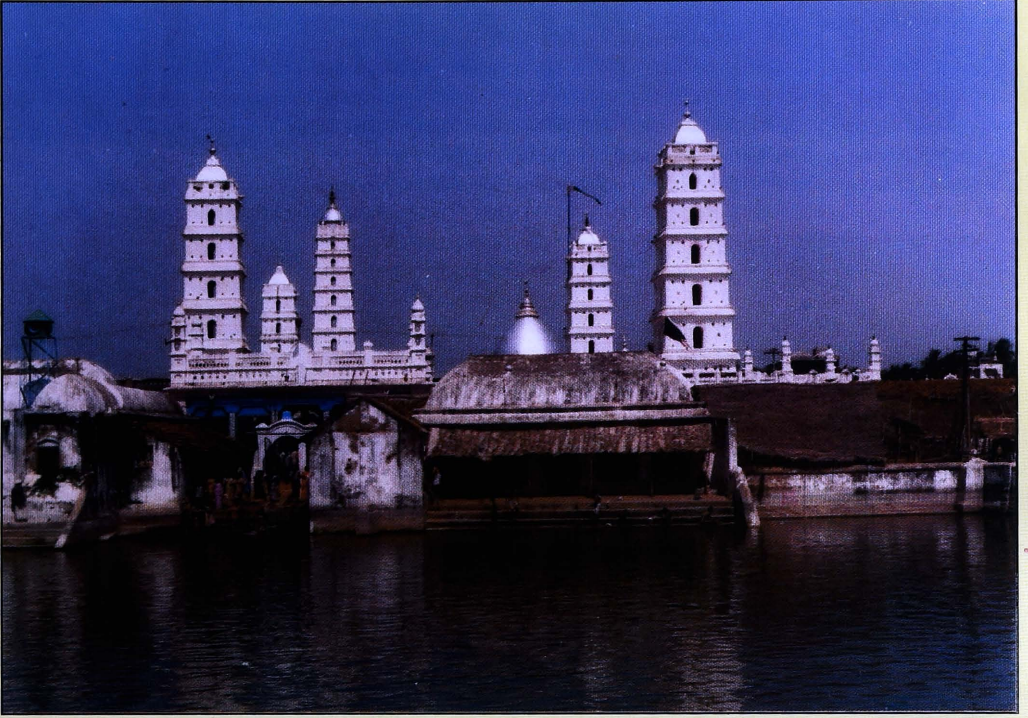
Nagapattinam is a unique District with all its historical and cultural significance. Nagapattinam is one of the constituents of Chola mandalam, acclaimed as the most prominent among the ancient Tamil Kingdoms.

ACCESS

Road : Bus services are available from Thanjavur. Tiruchi, Chennai and Nagore.

Rail : Trains are available to Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Nagore & Chennai.





EXCURSION

□ Nagore

Nagore is at a distance of 5 Kms. North of Nagapattinam, irrespective of caste, creed and religion, people offer their worship at this Islamic shrine. Kandhuri festival during October and November is very popular.

□ Velanganni

Velanganni is situated on the coastal line of Bay of Bengal at a distance 14 Kms South of Nagapattinam. Sacred Arokkiya Madha church here is a holy place for the Christians. People of all religions offer their worship at this Church. The festival during August and September is very famous.

□ Sikkal

Sikkal is on the way to Thiruvavur. This place has an age-old Siva temple where Lord Muruga is worshipped in his popular form Singaravelan.

□ Kodyakkarakai

Kodyakkarakai is 68 kms from Nagapattinam. This place is noted for the bird's sanctuary. Its nearby place Muthupettai with its backwaters attracts the Tourists.

□ Vedaranyam (Thirumaraikkadu)

Vedaranyam lies at a distance of 58 Kms from Nagapattinam. Vedaranyeswarar temple here is worth mentioning. It is one of the "Sapth Vidhya Thalams". The place was the centre stage of Salt Sathyagraha during India's Freedom struggle.

□ Ettukkudi

The distance between Nagapattinam and Ettukkudi is 28 Kms. Murugan temple at Ettukkudi is considered a holy place of Muruga. This temple finds a place in hymns of saint Arunagirinathar.

□ Thirukkuvalai

Thirukkuvalai lying at a distance of 27 Kms from Nagapattinam is one of the "Sapthavidanga Thalams". Thiyagaraja Swamy temple and Angalamman temple are well known.

□ Mannarkudi

Mannarkudi situated at a distance of 56 Kms from Nagapattinam is famous for its Vaishnava temple, Rajagopalaswamy temple. □

Major desilting operations on major rivers, irrigation canals and waterways in all the Districts are undertaken at a cost of Rs.807 crores.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES ON WAR-FOOTING



Tiruchi, situated on the banks of the river Kaveri, is the fourth largest city in Tamil Nadu. It abounds in history. Once the citadel of the Cholas, this strategic city was under the Royal reign of the descendants of the Pandiyas and Vijayanagar. Tiruchi, as it is today, was much too benevolent under the rule of the Nayaks of Madurai. Apart from the Rock with its historicity of spiritual significance, Tiruchi has popular educational institutions built in the second half of 18th century by the Christian Missionaries. Being located in the heart of the State, Tiruchi has a blend of tradition and modernity offering a variety of attractions to tourists for repeat visits too.



HOW TO GET THERE

Rail : Tiruchi is an important junction on the Southern Railways. It connects Chennai, Thanjavur, Madurai, Thirupathi, Tuticorin and Rameshwaram, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Mysore, Kochi, Kanniyakumari and Mangalore on both the metre and broad gauges.

Road : Tiruchi is well connected by road to important places and Southern cities.

Local Transport : City bus service to all places of tourist interest from Central Bus Station and from Chinthamani-Main Guard Gate bus stand. Tourist taxis, auto rickshaws and cycle rickshaws are also available.

PLACES OF INTEREST

■ Rock Fort

The 83m high Rock Fort is the only outcrop in the otherwise flat land of the city. The rock is one of the oldest in the world - approximately 3,800 million years, which makes it as old as the rocks of Greenland and older than the Himalayas. The sheer abruptness of its rise is a thrill in itself, but the actual centre of attraction is not the fort itself, of which very little remains, but the temple at the summit. 344 steps hewn out of rock lead to the top where there are inscriptions dating back to the 3rd century B.C. Hardly anything remains of the ramparts but the Main Guard Gate is still intact. The fort played an important part during the Carnatic wars and according to an inscription, mainly contributed to lay the foundations of the British empire in India. Atop the rock is the Uchipillaiyar Koil, a temple dedicated to Lord Vinayaka from where one can enjoy a panoramic view of

THIRUCHIRAPALLI

Tiruchi. A flight of steps leads to the Mathrubutheswarar or Thayumanaswami temple, dedicated to Lord Siva where the lingam is a projection of the rock itself. Below the Siva temple are two Pallava cave temples that have beautiful sculptures of the 6th and 7th centuries. At the foot of the Rock Fort is a tank and a pavilion which are used during the float festival of the temples. Near the tank is the house where Robert Clive lived when he was in Tiruchi and an 18th century Church built by Reverend Schwartz of Denmark. The house is now part of Tiruchi's famous St. Joseph's College.

■ Government Museum

This is located at 19, Bharathidasan Road. Bronze and stone sculptures are on display here. Admission is free; the Museum is open on all days except Fridays.

■ St. John's Church

This Church built in 1812 St. John Church has louvered doors which open to convert it into an airy pavilion and is located near the Theppakulam.

■ Srirangam (7 kms)

Srirangam, the most important pilgrim centre, surrounded by the waters of Kaveri and Kollidam, is an island town of 600 acres - enclosed within the seven walls of Sri Ranganathaswami Temple, 7 km. away from Tiruchi. The Rajagopuram, one of the 21 gopurams, with 72 mts height, 13 tiered, built in 1987, dominates the landscapes around for miles, while the other 20 gopurams are nearly six centuries old. Srirangam stands today as the biggest temple complex in India.

■ Tiruvanaikkaval or Jambukeswarar Temple (5 kms.)

Situated 2 kms east of Srirangam, this beautiful Siva temple steals the show from the larger Ranganathaswami temple due to its excellent architectural design. The temple is named after the elephant which is believed to have

worshipped Lord Siva here. Installed under an ancient Jambu tree, the lingam is partially submerged by water and is meant to represent God-incarnate as Water.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Tamil Nadu (TTDC),
Mc.Donald's Road 460383, 460384, 460385

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Temple :Thayumanaswamy and Uchipillaiyar temple, Sri Ranganathaswamy temple, Jambukeswarar temple.

Church : Christ Church, St. Paul's Church, St. John's Church, All Saint's Church, Fathima Church.

Mosque : Nadhirsha Mosque near Teppakulam.

FESTIVALS

Mohini Alangaram, Vaikunta Ekadasi, GarudaSevai, Flower Festival and Car Festival at Srirangam-December-January.



The Float Festival at Rock Fort, Teppakulam-March-April.

Samayapuram Mariamman Temple Poochorithal Festival- March-April.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CIRCUIT

■ Pudukkottai (58 kms)

Pudukkottai town is the headquarters of the District of the same name. Once a princely State, the area, which comprises the district, is of absorbing interest to historians, anthropologists, archaeologists and lovers of art. The numerous dolmens, stone circles and other forms of megalithic burials in the district indicate the antiquity of this region dating back to pre-historic and proto-historical times. This tract is mentioned in the Sangam classics. The rulers of Pudukkottai have built several beautiful palaces and also constructed tanks and canals. The Collectorate of the district is now functioning in one of the palaces.



temple has six large skillfully carved statues of Vishnu in the central hall. A 9th century Pallava cave temple dedicated to Siva lies to the South, and in front of this is the Vijayalaya Choliswaran temple. Vijayalaya was the first of the later Cholas and as such, this Siva temple is one of the earliest Chola creations, not as grand as the ones that were to follow. However, glimpses of artistic greatness that was still to come can be seen in the beautiful figures of the dancers in front of the vimana, the elegantly carved dwarapalakas and the figures of other gods.

■ Avudaiyarkovil (94 kms.)

This ancient Athmanathaswamy temple (44 Km from Pudukkottai) here contains life-size sculptures and is noted for its zephyr(granite roof) work. This temple was built in the 10th century A.D.

■ Virallimalai (30 kms.)

The temple of Lord Subramanya is situated on a hillock. There is also a peacock sanctuary.

■ Narthamalai (17 kms.)

Narthamalai has some of the oldest structural stone temples, built by the Mutharaiyars. This

PLACES OF INTEREST

■ Sri Kokaneswarar Temple

The rock-cut cave temple of Sri Kokaneswarar Brahambalal Thirukokarnam is of Mahendravarma Pallava's period.

■ Government Museum

Situated at Thirukokarnam, the museum is at a distance of 5 km. from Pudukkottai station. The rare collections in the sections of Geology, Zoology, Paintings, Anthropology, Epigraphy, Historical Records, etc, are very interesting. The fine sculptures and bronzes of various periods

are the attractive items of the Museum. Open on all days except Mondays and Government Holidays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m and 2.00 p.m, to 5 p.m.

RELIGIOUS CIRCUIT

■ Elakurichi (65 km.)

Elakurichi is famous for the ancient church built by the famous Catholic Missionary Constantine Joseph Beschi, popularly known as Veeramamunivar.

■ Gunaseelam (22 km.)

This place is famous for its temple for Vishnu, known as Prasanna Venkateswarar.

■ Kodumbalur (42 km.)

Also known as Moovarkoil (36 km from Pudukkottai). Of the three shrines only two exist now. These temples were built by Boodhi Vikramakesari in the 10th century A.D. with sculptures of Kalarimurthi, Gajasamharamurthi, Ardhanariswara, Gangadaramurthi, etc., which are masterpieces of art.

■ Vayaloor (8 km.)

Located on the outskirts of Tiruchi. There is a small Lord Muruga temple set in the midst of lush green vegetation

■ Samayapuram (20 km.)

This is a very important place of pilgrimage, famous for its temple dedicated to the goddess Mariamman.

■ Grand Anaicut Kallanai (24 km.)

The grand Anaicut built by Karikalan Chola in the 2nd century A.D. to harness the waters of the Kaveri is one of the engineering marvels of India. Made of stone, the dam is 329m long and 20 m wide and still very much in use. Additions have been made in the form of a road bridge on top of the dam. This is a good picnic spot.

■ Mukkombu (Upper Anaicut) (18 km.)

At the head of the Srirangam island, there is another dam called Upper Anaicut or Mukkombu. Constructed in the 19th century across the Kollidam, this dam has been forced into three sections instead of one long stretch because of the shape of the island. This is also good spot for picnics. This hill station in Namakkal district at an altitude of 1190 mts, is an unexploited pleasure. Sri Arappaleeswarar Temple on the top of the hills called Chathuragiri is one of the oldest. The terrace type 70 hair-pin bend ghat road, the fruits cultivated here, honey,

and the unchanged tribal culture are unique memories. The wonderful Agasa-gangai Waterfall flowing from a height of over 200 ft is a unique scene. Valvil Ori Festival and Tourism Festival are celebrated during August every year.

■ Pulliancholai (72 km.)

Pulliancholai is a beautiful picnic spot at the foot-hills of the Kolli Hills. ★



Kallanai - Grand Anaicut



To bring about an awareness on the prevention of various illness among the rural folks and to educate them in the method of prevention, Free Comprehensive Health Care Scheme has been introduced by this Government. The main aim of the scheme is to conduct free medical camps at Primary Health Sub-centres level and diagnose various diseases and give proper treatment. The other important aim of this scheme is to give utmost care to the people who need continuous treatment, in addition to the treatment to the needy poor who come forward for checkup and treatment during camps. Free check-ups are made and treatment provided for diseases related to eye, teeth,

ear, nose, throat, stomach, diabetes, TB, heart and child birth. Blood tests are done to all persons attending the health camp. This health camp will be conducted in 50 places in every District, every month.

This scheme will envisage health check-ups and treatment to benefit people living in all the Villages, Town Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations in Tamil Nadu. A committee will be formed under the Chairmanship of the District Collector to ensure proper implementation of the scheme.

This committee will decide beforehand, every month, the 50 places where free health camps are to be conducted and give wide publicity to people about the forthcoming health camps. Arrangements will be made for exhibitions, illustrations and video films

Free Comprehensive Health Care Scheme

on health care in order to educate the rural masses.

After check-up, the first aid and the medicine will be provided to the patients. If continuous treatment is necessary the patients will be provided with identity cards with details of hospitals and the days on which the patients should go to Hospitals.



VAZHVOLI THITTAM

With a view to protect the health of the school going children and to create a healthy society, the Government have introduced the Vazhvoli Thittam in schools. An amount of Rs.4.30 crores has been allocated for implementing this scheme.

The details of the patients needing continuous treatment will be fed into the computer and treatment will be continued.

A Special Officer will be appointed to co-ordinate the implementation of the free comprehensive health care scheme in the State level.

The services of the NGOs, the district branches of the Indian Doctors' Association, Medical Colleges, Private Nursing Homes and Specialists in the medical field will be utilised for the conduct of health camps.

Concurrent evaluation will be made by an expert committee during the conduct of health camps and defects will be rectified.

★

Thanjavur rose to glory during the late Chola reign between the 10th and 14th centuries and became a centre of learning and culture. The 'Rice Bowl' of Tamil Nadu, it is known for its exquisite handicrafts, bronzes and South Indian Musical instruments.

WHAT TO SEE

- **Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple** : Built by the great Chola King, Raja Raja- I in the tenth century AD is an outstanding example of Chola architecture.
- **The Palace** : The Palace near the temple is a vast building of masonry built partly by the Nayaks around 1550 AD and partly by the Marathas.
- **Art Gallery** : In the Palace there are a number of granite and bronze statues of the Chola period. Timings : 9.00-13.00 hrs. and 15.00-18.00 hrs.
- **Saraswathi Mahal Library** : In another section of the palace is the library where over 30000 palm leaf and paper manuscripts in Indian and European languages are preserved. Timings: 9.00-13 hrs. and 14.00-17.00 hrs. Wednesday holiday.

- **Tamil University (7 kms.)** : Established in 1981, is engaged in research and advanced study in Tamil.
- **Hall of Music** : Also in the palace is this acoustically perfect ancient music hall.
- **Schwartz Church** : (In the Palace garden) Built in 1779 AD by Raja Serfoji in token of his affection for the Rev. Schwartz of the Danish Mission.

EXCURSION

- **Thirukandiyar (10 kms)** : Temples of Brahmasirekandeshwarar and Harshacimochana Perumal.

THANJAVUR

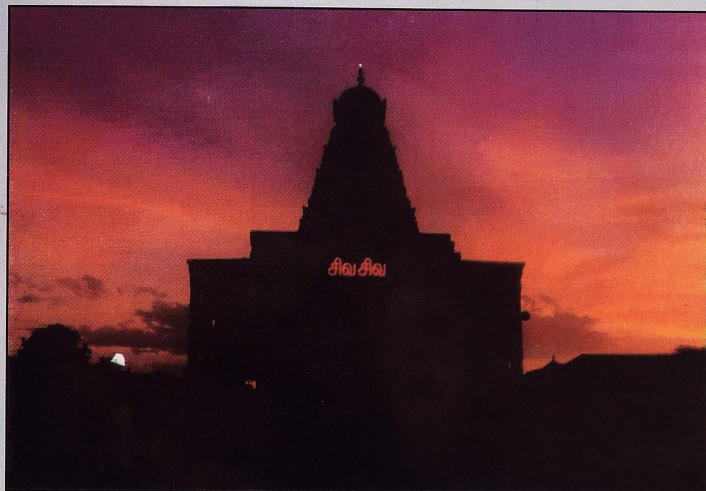
- **Kumbakonam (36 kms)** : Famous for Sarangapani, Kumbeswarar, Nageswara and the Ramaswamy temples. Mahamagam congregation takes place once in 12 years, last held in 1992.
- **Tharangambadi /Tranquebar (105 kms)** : This coastal town was a Danish settlement from 1624 to 1825. There are two churches and a fort. This is one of the special tourist areas.

- **Swamimalai (32 kms)** : One of the six Abodes (Arupadaiveedu) dedicated to Lord Subramanya.

- **Darasuram (34 kms)** : This temple dedicated to Lord Siva, was built by Rajendra Chola. Darasuram is also a silk weaving centre.

- **Thirubuvanam (45 kms)**: 13th century Chola temple dedicated to Lord Siva.





Nadu. This is the birth place of Saint Thyagaraja - One of the musical Trinity.

■ **Thirunallar (101 kms) :** The famous saturn temple town.

RECREATION

Clubs : Cosmopolitan Club, Rotary and Union Club.

Library : Local Library Authority, Tamil University Library, Saraswathi Mahal Library, Municipal Library.

■ **Thiruvaiyaru (13 kms) :** Where the famous Saint Thyagaraja lived and attained eternity. A music festival is held here every year in January in honour of the saint composer.

■ **Nagore (88 kms) :** A renowned Muslim pilgrimage centre.

■ **Velankanni (90 kms) :** Roman Catholic Pilgrim centre.

■ **Kodiyakarai (Point Calimere) (112 kms):** This place is noted for its congregation of migratory water fowl, particularly flamingoes from November to January. Other wildlife like blackbuck and wild ponies are also found here.

■ **Vedaranyam (104 kms) :** Festivals, on full moon days in the Tamil months of Adi (July-August) and Thai (January-February) attract pilgrims from all over Tamil Nadu.

■ **Manora (65 kms) :** The 8-storey victory tower was built by Raja Serfoji in 1814.

■ **Nagapattinam (83 kms) :** Nagapattinam is an important port town. TTDC runs their Hotel Tamil Nadu here.

■ **Tiruvapur (55 kms) :** The Thyagarajaswami Temple here has the biggest chariot in Tamil

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Temple : Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple, Mariamman Koil.

Church : Schwartz Church, St. Mary's Church.

Mosque : Dharga near bus stand & Irwin Bridge.



FESTIVALS

- Saint Thyagaraja Aradhana Musical Festival - January.
- Pongal Tourist Festival - 14th to 16th January.
- Mahamagam Festival in Kumbakonam - February & March once in 12 years. Last held in 1992.
- Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Car Festival - March.
- Muthupallakku Thiruvizha - May.
- Annai Velankanni Festival - August and September.
- Raja Raja Chola Birthday Sathaya Thiruvizha - October every year.
- Nagoor Kandoori Festival - December.

Shopping : Poompuhar Handicrafts Emporium, Gandhiji Road, Thanjavur.

Tourist Information

Government of Tamil Nadu, Tourist Office, Jawan's Bhavan, Opp. Head Post Office, Thanjavur - 1. Tel : 30984

Tourist Information Centre, Hotel Tamil Nadu Complex, Gandhi Road, Thanjavur-1.

Other Information

Post/Telegraph/STD/ISD/Telex/Fax etc.

Courier Services

Raja Mirasdar Government Hospital, Thanjavur 1.



Medical College Hospital, Thanjavur-7.

Important Telephone Numbers

Tamil University	22221
Art Gallery	22823
Public Relations Office	22645
State Bank of India	20082
District Collectorate	30102, 30201



Superintendent of Police	30451
Railway Station	22416

WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Tamil Nadu, TTDC Unit II, Gandhiji Road, Tel : 21421, 21024, 21325

Two thousand six hundred years old Madurai, often referred to as the 'Athens of the East' is the oldest city in Tamil Nadu both historically and mythologically. Reference to Madurai is made in the Indian epic Ramayana and Kautilya's, Arthashastra.

Legend has it that the Pandya King Kulasekara built a great temple for Lord Siva, a Swayambu Lingam once worshipped by Indra-King of Gods. On the day when the lotus city built by the king, was to be named, Lord Siva, made his divine appearance and nectar from his matted locks showered all over the city. This gave the city the name Madhurapuri which grew as the capital of the Pandya Kingdom. Great Chroniclers such as Megasthenes (302 BC) Pliny (77 AD) and Ptolemy (140 AD) had made references to Madurai in their travelogues. Marco Polo visited this city in 1293 AD, followed by Ibn Batuta in 1333 AD. Madurai lies on the banks of the river Vaigai. The temple and the old city adorn the southern bank while modern Madurai with its famous textile mills, engineering industries and vast university campus sprawls around.

PLACES OF INTEREST

■ Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple

The temple dominates the old city which evolved around it. The streets run in concentric circles around the temple. The four "veli" streets mark the outer limits of the temple town.

The temple is dedicated both to Meenakshi, the lovely consort of Lord Siva and to Lord Siva himself (Sundareswarar). It is one of the holiest places of worship in South India, drawing thousands of devotees everyday from all over India. It has also been the centre of Tamil culture, literature, art, music and dance over the centuries. When the third and the last Tamil Sangam (Academy of Tamil Literature) met at Madurai, it is said, literary works were thrown into the temple tank, where a divine force caused works of merit to float and inferior literature to sink.

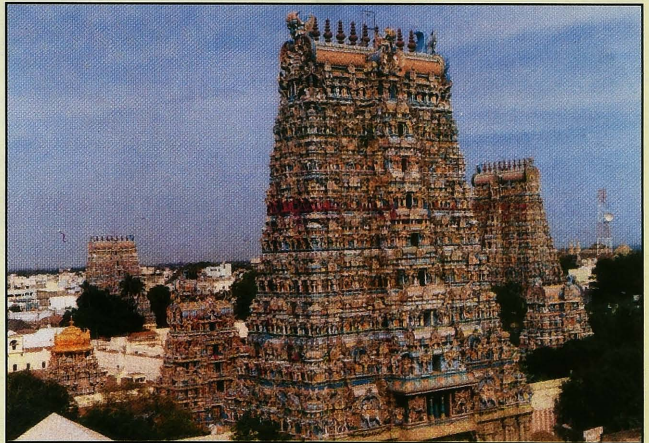
The original temple was probably a modest structure built according to Agamic guidelines.

MADURAI

However, it has grown with the grateful additions of puissant dynasties and victorious monarchs into an enormous complex extending over an area of 65,000 sq. metres. The temple is dominated by four enormous towers (gopurams) over the entrances. The oldest tower is the 13th century Eastern gopuram, opposite to the Sundareswarar shrine, built by Jatavarman Sundara Pandiyan. The Southern gopuram is the tallest and was built in the 16th century. From the top of this tower one can get a panoramic view of Madurai and 11 other gopurams of the temple as well.

■ The Temple Art Museum

A striking feature of the temple is the astonishing structure known as Ayiramkal Mandapam (Hall of Thousand Pillars) in the outermost corridor.



The mandapam flaunts 985 pillars, and each is an elaborate work of art. Each pillar features highly ornate bold sculptures that come vibrantly alive. Viewed from an angle these 985 pillars appear in a straight line-an architectural masterpiece and a marvel indeed! In the outermost corridor (Prakaram) are situated the matchless musical Stone pillars carved of stone. When tapped, each pillar produces a different musical note.

Visiting hours 6.00 am.to 8.00 pm.
Entrance fee : 50 paise.

■ Puthu Mandapam

This Mandapam built byThirumalai Nayak stands between the Eastern tower and the unfinished Raya Gopuram. This hall is noted for beautiful sculptures.

■ Mariamman Teppakulam

This tank, also known as Vandiur Teppakulam, is at the eastern end of the city. It is almost equal in area to that of the Sri Meenakshi Temple. The float festival is held here every year in the month of January/February.

■ Thirumalai Nayak Palace

This palace is about one kilometre south-east of the Sri Meenakshi Temple. The whole building was constructed in Indo-Saracenic style by Thirumalai Naicker.

The palace is open to public from 8.00 am. to 12.00 noon and from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

Admission fee : Re.1/- per head. A sound and light programme, depicting the story of Thirumalai Nayak and of Silappathikaram is organised here daily at 6.45 pm. (English version) and 8.00 pm. (Tamil version). Entrance fee: Rs.5/-, Rs.3/-, & Rs.2/-.

■ Koodal Azhagar Temple

To the west of the city is this ancient Vaishnavite temple with beautiful sculptures. The Lord here is in three poses - sitting, standing and reclining - each depicted one above the other.



■ Gandhi Museum

The museum contains a picture gallery, a gallery of relics, Khadi and Village Industries section and South Indian Handicrafts section. Working hours: 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. and 2.00 pm. to 6.00 pm, on all days.

■ Government Museum

Situated within the Gandhi Museum Complex itself is the Government Museum. It was established during 5th World Tamil Conference which was held in January 1981. Working hours: 10.00 am. to 1.00 pm, and 2.00 pm. to 6.00 pm. (Second Fridays and Sundays holiday)

■ Madurai Kamaraj University

It is 20 kms. from Periyar Bus Stand. This University has a dynamic role in imparting higher education and promoting research studies. This University was established on 6.2.1966 first in Alagarkoil Road. Then from 1973, it has been functioning in University Nagar of Nagamalai Hill.

■ Agricultural College

Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai started in 1965-66 is located on Madurai - Tiruchirappalli Highway, 12 kms. from Madurai City. A constituent College of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, it is the 2nd biggest teaching campus with more than 100 members of staff and 650 students. The campus, 154.14 hectares in area, is famous for its silvan wealth, the only glades being the playgrounds.

☎ 822956-9, Fax No. 0452-822785.

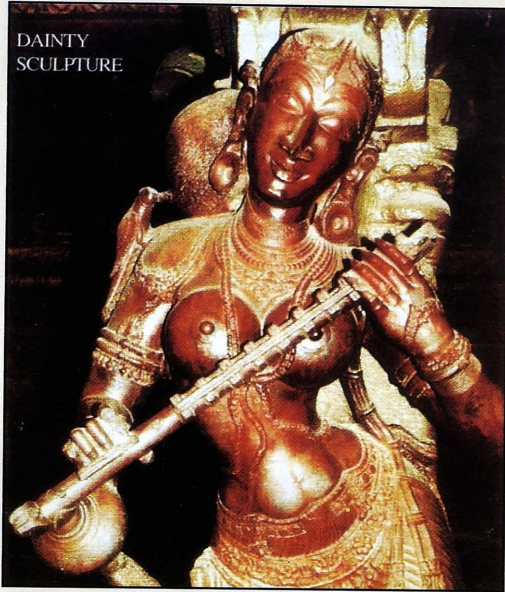
■ Kovalan Pottal

It is 4 kms, from Periyar Bus Stand South of Madurai. Here one can see the ancient burial sites belonging to Sangam period i.e. 300 BC to 300 AD.

EXCURSIONS

■ Thirupparankundram

Eight Kilometres south of Madurai junction, the temple here is dedicated to Lord Subramanya and is one of the six abodes of the Lord. Its inner-most shrine is cut out of a solid rock.



■ Azhagarkoil

It is about 21 kms. north-east of Madurai. The famous Vishnu temple dedicated to Lord Azhagar is at the southern end of the hill Azhagarmalai. Pazhamudhirsolai, one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya, is on the same hill, about 4 kms. from Azhagarkoil.

■ Kodaikanal

A popular hill station, 'Kodai' is located at an altitude of over 2,133 mts. (7,000 ft) in the Western Ghats. It is 120 kms. from Madurai and 80 Kms. from Kodai Road Railway Station.

■ Vaigai Dam

This impressive dam is 69 Kms. from Madurai on the way to the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. It is a picnic spot.

■ Palani

It is 122 kms. from Madurai. A famous pilgrim centre of the South and one of the six Abodes of Lord Subramanya. It can be reached by bus or train. The temple is on a hill in the Palani range of the Western Ghats. The presiding deity is known as Dandayudhapani. Winch available to go to the top of the hillock.

■ Suruli Waterfalls

Suruli Waterfalls is 128 kms. from Madurai on the way to Thekkadi (Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary). This is also a good picnic spot.

■ Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary (Thekkadi)

Located in Kerala State, on the border of Tamil Nadu, it offers game-watchers an exciting prospect of viewing elephant, bison, sambhar, barking deer, wild boar etc. in their natural habitat. It is 155 kms. from Madurai.

■ Transport

Air : Madurai has an airport connecting Chennai, Mumbai and Tiruchirappalli.

Rail : Madurai is a major junction on the Southern Railway.

Road : It is also connected with all the important places of interest by road.

Local Transport : Town buses, suburban buses, taxis, auto rickshaws and cycle richshaws are available.

Automobile Association : 304, West Masi Street, Phone: 22535.

Airlines Offices : Indian Airlines,
☎ 741234. Air India, Phone: 742707.

ACCOMMODATION

■ Hotels

1. Hotel Tamil Nadu (TTDC) Madurai-II
☎ 537461
2. Hotel Tamil Nadu (TTDC) Madurai-I
☎ 737471
3. Hotel Madurai Ashok (ITDC) ☎ 537531

OTHER ACCOMMODATION

Youth Hostel.....	53773
Jawan's Bhavan.....	602216
Meenakshi Nilayam.....	740677
Railway Retiring Rooms.....	740142
Y.M.C.A. Main Guard Square	33649
Y.W.C.A. Vallabhai Patel Road	41853

■ Important Telephone Numbers

Arulmigu Meenakshi	
Sundareswarar Temple.....	744360
Tourist Office, West Veli Street	734757

Tourist Information Centre, Railway Junction.....	742888
District Collectorate	532290/531110
Superintendent of Police.....	744197
Commissioner of Police	744002
Hotel Tamil Nadu, West Veli Street	737472
Hotel Tamil Nadu, Azhagar Koil Road.....	537461
State Transport Corporation	735293
State Express Transport Corporation	
Express Bus Stand	743754
Railway Enquiry.....	743132
Indian Airlines	741234/6
Thirumalai Nayak Mahal	625945
District Public Relations Office	532066

FESTIVAL

■ Chithirai Festival

The Chithirai Festival is held during April-May. On this occasion the marriage of Goddess Meenakshi to Lord Sundareswarar is celebrated. Legend has it that Lord Vishnu as Azhagar rode on a golden horse to Madurai to the celestial wedding of Goddess Meenakshi (Parvathi) with Lord Sundareswarar (Siva).

This is celebrated every year on the full moon day of the Tamil month of Chithirai. Lord Azhagar entering River Vaigai is a spectacular event.

On the occasion, a decorated chariot carrying the two idols of the couple is taken around the town to the tumultuous notes of Nadaswaram and beats of drums. A spiritual ambience descends on Madurai. As the procession passes through the streets and in the vicinity of the "devasthanam", offering of coconuts, flowers, camphor and agarbathis are made by the devotees. A spirit of devotion marked by pomp and gaiety prevades right through the day. The festival draws a mammoth crowd. A trade exhibition and fair organised here lends festivity to the occasion.

■ Government Chithirai Exhibition

The Government Chithirai Exhibition is held from April to June every year.

■ Avanimoolam Festival

This takes place in August - September and is the Coronation-festival of Lord Sundareswarar.

An interesting event during this festival occurs on the ninth day when Lord Sundareswarar is dressed as a worker and taken to the banks of the River Vaigai.

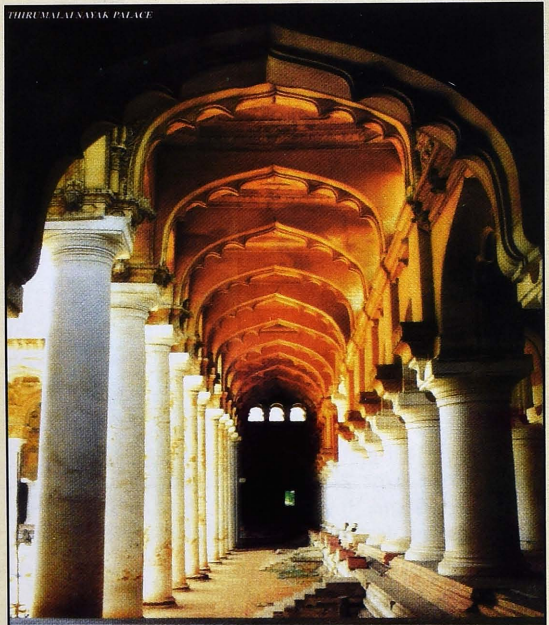
■ Float Festival

This Festival takes place in January-February in the Vandiyur Mariamman Teppakulam. A specially constructed raft decorated with flowers and lights carries the deities around the tank. This festival is a feast to the eyes.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

■ Temples

Meenakshi Temple, Mariamman Temple, Nanmai Tharuvarkoil and Koodal Azhagar Temple.



■ Churches

Rosary Church, St.Mary's Church, West Gate Church, Y.M.C.A. Church, Chapel at American College, Maninagaram Church and Lutheran Church.

■ Mosques

Pallivasal, Kashimar Theru; Pallivasal, South Gate; Sait Pallivasal, South Masi Street; Sangam Pallivasal, Vaigai Bridge; Goripalayam Pallivasal and Santhaipettai Pallivasal. ★

In commemoration of the golden jubilee of India's independence, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced the creation of Samathuvapurams or "Equality Villages" where members of all communities and religions would live in harmony without any differential treatment. These would be

SAMATHUVAPURAM

Egalitarian Habitat



set up in all districts of Tamil Nadu. 100 houses are being built here at a cost of Rs.35,000 per house with modern flush. Equipped with cupboards and doors and windows the houses have concrete roofing.

These houses are being allotted free of cost to 100 people living below the poverty line. Officials visit the villages, convene Gram Sabhas and select 100 beneficiaries, all living below the poverty line. Out of the 100, 40 houses are being allotted to Adi Dravidars,

25 to backward classes, 25 to most backward classes and 10 to people of other communities. The Samathuvapuram complex has water tanks, a community hall; a primary school, library, health centre, fair price shop, noon meal centre, recreation room, park and play ground.

Facilities provided for the Samathuvapuram include town bus from near by town with stop over facility



by all buses plying on the National Highway. Post office and telephone facilities will also be provided. A scheme to extend loan facility for the self employment of youth at the Samathuvapuram is envisaged.

The Collector obtains a written undertaking from each of the 100 families living at Samathuvapuram: Not to permit the setting up of statues of religious

or community leaders, not to sell or pledge the house for a period of 15 years, accept a common burial ground, not to create separate places of worship, not to consume liquor, not to let the house on rent, keep everything hygienic and an agreement that the property be taken over by the Government if any rules are violated.

The brainchild of the Chief Minister, the Samathuvapurams have crystallised the ideals of the Mahatma and brought them to life. While inaugurating the Samathuvapuram, the Chief Minister said, "My wish is that the entire district should become a Samathuvapuram and not alone that, the entire State and above all the entire nation and the world should become a Samathuvapuram".

★ ★ ★

Yercaud in the Servaroyan Hills (Shevaroy Range) of Salem District is a quite and, restful hill station in Tamil Nadu. The Servaroyan Hills as a whole, provide many beautiful vistas and panoramic views. Yercaud itself is a pretty hill station with a pleasant cool climate. Yercaud's temperature never rises above 30°C or falls below 13°C. This is one hill station where one does not feel the biting cold of winter. With such a salubrious climate, Yercaud can be visited round the year. It is an hour's drive from Salem and is the least expensive hill station in India.

PLACES OF INTEREST

■ Yercaud Lake

The first thing that attracts a visitor is the lake. It is a picturesque pool surrounded by gardens and well wooded areas. Boating in the cold water of the lake is enchanting as well as refreshing.

■ The Anna Park

This is a lovely garden, near the lake.

■ Lady's Seat

It overlooks the winding ghat road and provides a breath-taking view. This view is spectacular at

night with the twinkling lights of Salem town in sight. The Tourists can have a panoramic view of the plains below through the telescope mounted at the Lady's Seat.

■ Pagoda Point

Another view point.

■ Killiyur Falls

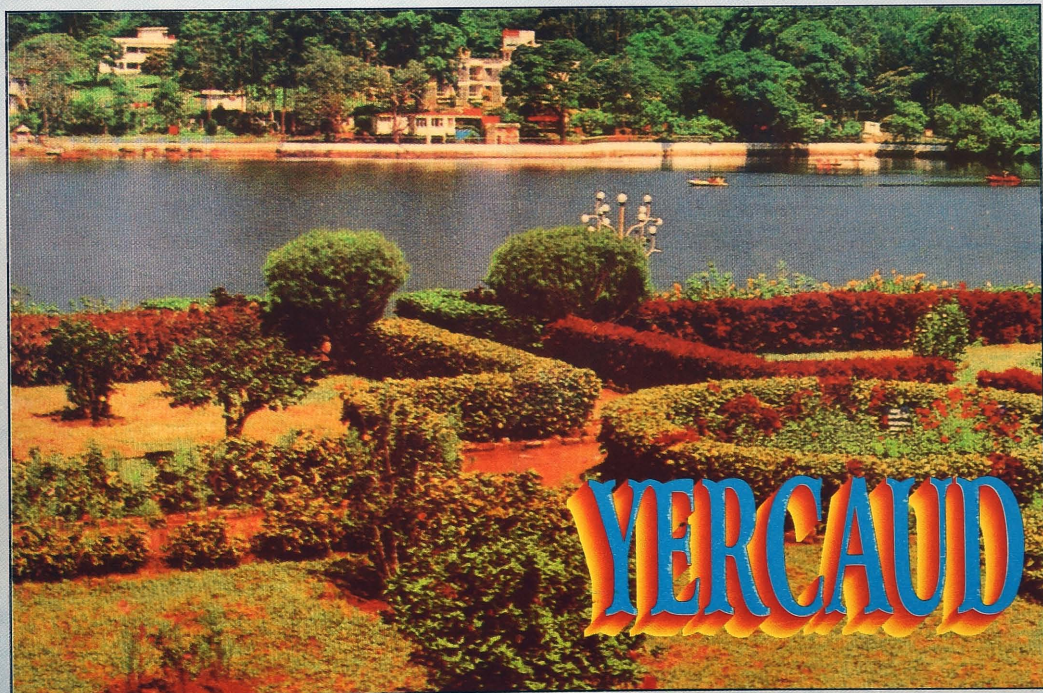
This 3000 feet high water falls is situated amidst picturesque surroundings.

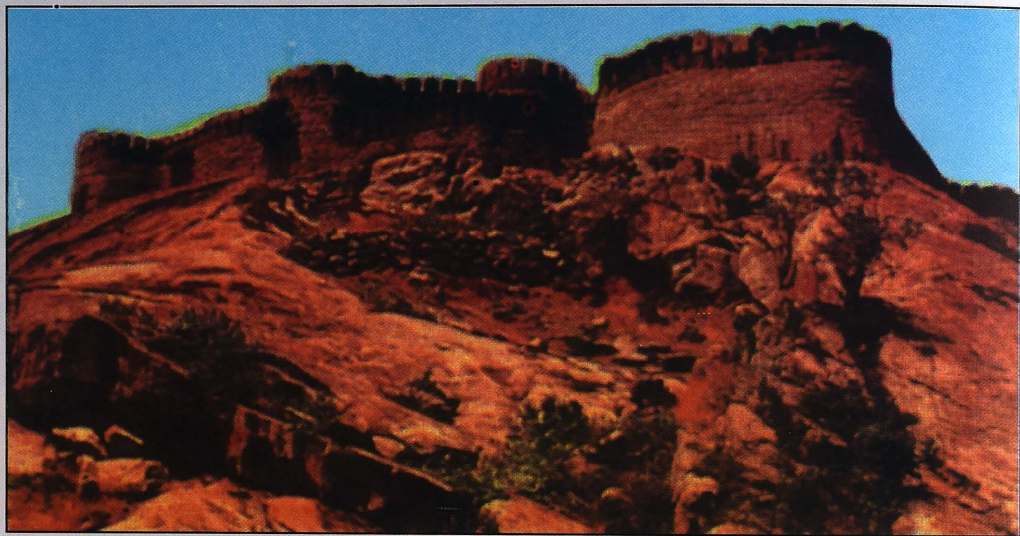
■ The Grange

The castle like building built by the then Collector of Salem, Mr. M.D. Cockburn who first introduced coffee from Arabia and apples and other fruits from South Africa between 1820 A.D. and 1829 A.D. in Yercaud is said to have played an important role in the revolt of 1857 A.D.

■ Bear's Cave

It is situated near the Norton Bungalow on the way to Servaroyan temple. It is an important tourist spot.





■ The Servaroyan Temple

It is situated atop Servaroyan Hill. The tribals here celebrate their annual festival in May every year.

■ The Montford School

The Montford School and the Sacred Heart Convent are the two famous educational institutions at Yercaud imparting education to boys and girls respectively.

■ The Retreat

Started in 1945 by the Brothers of Don Bosco, this institution serves as a Novitiate House where students of the religious order stay and study.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

Ornamental plants at Green House, Orchard-cum-Nursery of rose plants, Silk Farm, Horticulture Research Station, Orchidorium, Lake Park, Salem view (between 16th & 17th bends) are other places of interest.

Yercaud and the entire Servaroyan Hills are known for thriving coffee plantations. Plantains, pears, jack and orange fruits are also grown. Flowers of all varieties flourish here.

■ Attur (51 kms)

There is a well preserved old fort here.

■ Aragalur (74 kms)

Aragalur is about 4 kms South East of Talaivasal on the right bank of Vasishtanadhi. The name of the village in Tamil means 'Village of Six trenches'. The village was ruled by a Prince named Ekambara Mudaliyar who is said to have imprisoned the Chera, Chola and Pandia Kings in his Palace. It has two imposing temples, one is dedicated to Sri Kameswara and the other to Karivaradaperumal. There is a big Buddha statue at Thiyaganur village at the outskirts of Aragalur village.

■ Namakkal (48kms)

The town lies at the foot of a small hillock which is about 200 feet high and about half a mile in circumference. There is a fort on the hillock. There are two rock cut cave temples here, one dedicated to Narasimhaswamy and the other to Ranganathaswamy. There is also a big Hanuman statue of about 20' height here carved out of a single stone.

■ Sankagiri (35 kms)

There is another fort here, the origin of which is traced back to the 13th century A.D.

■ Kodumanal (40 kms)

Kodumanal (40 kms from Erode) It is a tiny village on the banks of the Noyil river. It is an archaeological site dating back to the 2nd century B.C. Here lies the remains of a megalithic settlement.

■ Taramangalam (33 kms)

The town is famous for Sri Kailasanathar Temple. Figures of tortoise, fish, monkey, crocodile are carved out on the walls and granite roofs. The gopuram is bedecked with stucco figures. Statues of Rathi-Manmatha, Vali-Sugriva of the epic Ramayana and Yali with rotating stone ball in its mouth - the rotating lotus flowers in the ceiling are some of the beautiful sculptures.

■ Bhavani (50kms)

The Sangameswarar temple here is situated at the confluence of the rivers Bhavani and Kaveri. It is one of the most important pilgrim centres in South India.

■ Tiruchengode (45 kms)

Thiruchengode is one of the seven Sivasthalams in Kongunadu. The Arthanareeswarar Temple is located on a hillock here. The presiding deity of the temple is represented in half male & half female form i.e. Siva and Sakthi worshipped as one.

■ Poiman Karadu (9 kms)

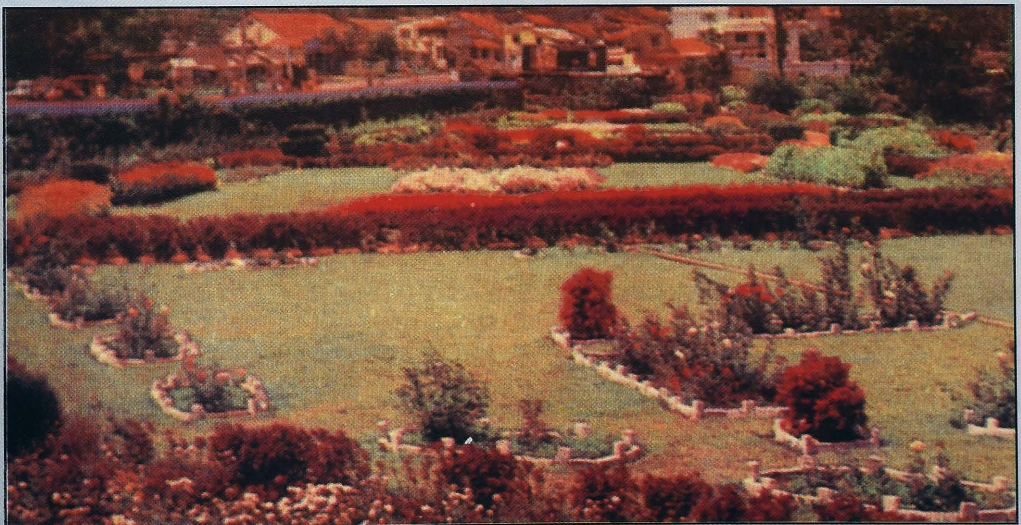
Poiman Karadu, is situated on the Salem-Namakkal National Highway. Seen from the plains to the East of the hill from a particular spot, the likeness of a deer with two horns is visible in a cave between rocks on the hill. The mysterious vision disappears when one gets nearer, hence the name Poiman Karadu.

■ Kolli Hills (100 kms)

This is the second hill station in the district at an altitude of 1190 mts. Sri Arappaleeswarar Temple on top of the hills called Chathuragiri is one the oldest. The terrace type 70 hair pin bend ghat road, the fruits cultivated here, honey, and the unchanged tribal culture are unique memories. The wonderful Agasakangai Waterfall flowing from a height over 200 feet is a unique scene. Valvil Ori Festival and Tourism Festival are celebrated during August every year.

■ Hogenakal Waterfalls (124 kms)

The picturesque holiday spot located on the Cauvery river is an unexploited tourist wonder. Hogenakal means 'Smoking Rock' a name derived from the cloud of mist and spray, that envelops the chasm. A sacred bathing place, Hogenakal is famed for the curative power of its waters. Surrounded by mountains, this place now offers a quiet holiday in comfort.



■ Salem

The name Salem is derived from a Sanskrit word 'SAILAM', denoting an area 'Surrounded by hills', and it was these hills which were responsible for Salem's industrial thrust into the 20th century. The Indian Institute of Handloom Technology, the second of its kind in India, is located here. The Government Museum at Omalur Road contains valuable collections of sculptures and terracottas. Visiting hours: 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm (Friday holiday). The district is rich in mineral wealth. Salem is very famous for its mangoes and stainless steel too.

■ Mettur Dam (52 kms)

The Mettur Dam has been constructed in a gorge, where the river Cauvery enters the plains. The Dam is one of the oldest dams in India. The Dam provides irrigation facilities to Salem, Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur districts for 2,71,000 acres. There is a lovely park close to the Dam. Big industrial units are located here.

■ Dharmapuri (42 kms)

The district headquarters has an ancient temple. Adiyamankottai Fort is 8 kms from Dharmapuri. This place is associated with Adiyaman who ruled from Thagadur. Hanuman Theertham is a water spring on the bed of a river 19 kms from Uttangarai. Krishnagiri 45 kms from Dharmapuri has a dam and a fort and is an industrial centre. Hosur is known for its cattle farm. It is about 90 kms from Dharmapuri and is now becoming an important industrial centre. Thali known as little England, for its climate, is 25 kms from Hosur.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Office at Hotel Tamil Nadu Complex, Salem-I. Phone: 416449. Tourist Information can also be had at Hotel Tamil Nadu, Yercaud and Hogenakal. Tourist Information can be had from the Tourist Office, Collectorate Complex, Dharmapuri. Phone: 04342-61705

HOW TO GET THERE

Airport : Nearest Airport is at Coimbatore (196 kms.)

Rail : Nearest rail-heads are Salem Junction (32 kms.) and Salem Town (31 kms.) and is connected to Chennai, Bangalore, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli.

Bus : Bus services operate from Salem Junction and Salem Municipal Bus Stand to Yercaud frequently. There is no town bus service in Yercaud, but certain buses coming from Salem ply through Yercaud and connect the important villages like Cauvery Peak Valavanthi, Nagalur, Velakkadaai, Swinton Bridge.

ACCOMMODATION

■ Accommodation at Salem

Hotel Tamil Nadu, Dr.Ramakrishna Salai	413066
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■ Accommodation at Yercaud

Hotel Tamil Nadu, TTDC Ltd.	22273
Youth Hostel, TTDC Ltd.	22273

■ Accommodation at Hogenakal

Hotel Tamil Nadu, TTDC Ltd.	54447
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PLACES OF WORSHIP

Temple : Servaroyan Temple, Sri Raja Rajeswari Temple.

Church : Sacred Heart Church, The Retreat Church, St.Joseph's Church, Holy Trinity Church, C.S.I. Church and Lutheran Church.

Mosque : Yercaud Mosque. □

Located 120 kms. away from Madurai, Kodaikkanal is a beautiful hill station at an altitude of about 2133 mts. on the southern tip of upper Palani hills in the Western Ghats. Delicious home-made chocolate is a speciality of Kodaikkanal, and is available in many shops in Town. Don't forget to place your orders in the morning, because you'll find them all gone in the evening.

The town nestles around the man-made Kodai Lake which spreads out in a star shape over sixty acres. Kodai has thickly wooded slopes, well laid out walking paths through picturesque prospects, tumultuous waterfalls and steep rock outcrops. Just a few minutes walk in any direction from the heart of Kodai town, brings the tourist to a spectacular scenery.

Kodai is rich in flora and fauna. In 1861 Major Douglas Hamilton recorded 114 species of birds in Kodai and even discovered two new ones-the Laughing Thrush and the Kodai White-bellied Shortwing. Kodai has a unique plant-the Kurinji, which blossoms once in 12 years, when the hillslopes are of blaze of purple.

WHAT TO SEE

■ The Lake

This 24 hectare lake, skirted by 5 kms long blacktapped road, is a focal point of Kodai. This lake was created in 1863 by Sir Vere Hendry Levinge (1819-1885), who was the Collector of Madurai, retired and settled in Kodai. He constructed the bund to form a lake and stocked the lake with fish. He brought the first boat from

Tuticorin. In 1890, a boat club was formed and the members sailed in the boat. In 1910 a new boat house was constructed. From May 1929 few tourists were only permitted to avail boat ride, as temporary members. Then the boat service was extended to the public and tourists in 1932.

■ Bryant Park

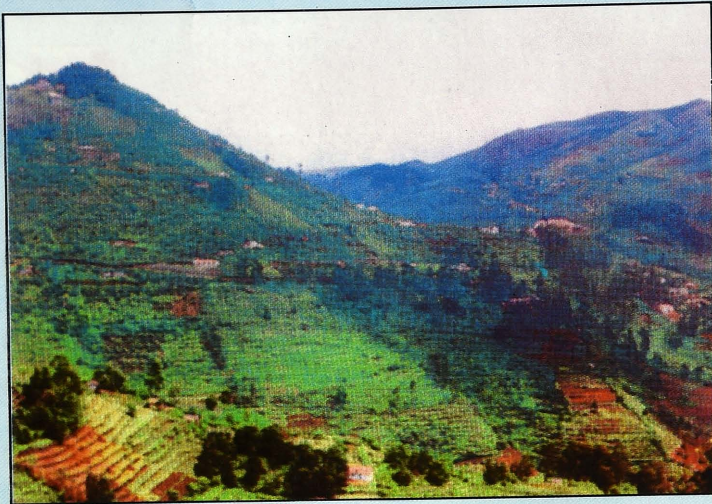
This park is situated on the eastern side of the lake. It is noted for flowers, hybrids and grafts. Cut flowers are exported from here. A glass house which shelters fine varieties of flowers can be seen here. Flower show conducted every year during May, as a part of Summer Festival is to be seen by one and all.

■ Solar Physical Observatory

It is situated 32kms. from the Lake. It's elevation is 2343 metres. It was founded in 1989. This observatory is the top most point in Kodai. Visitors are allowed to closely observe the stars, planetary movements etc., during visiting hours and on prior appointments.



KODAIKANAL



■ The Pillar Rocks

Three boulders stand shoulder to shoulder vertically measuring to a height of about 122 metres providing a beautiful view. It is 7.4kms from the lake. It has a mini garden with lovely flowers.

■ Moer Point

A lovely view of the valley can be seen, which is 3 kms, from the Pillar Rock - Berijam lake road.

■ Silent Valley View

Away from the Pillar Rock - Berijam lake road, this silent valley exists and gives a thrilling valley view. Children may be allowed to see only with precautionary defence steps.

■ Coaker's Walk

This hill-edge path way was identified by Er. Coaker, in 1872. About a km from the lake Coaker's walk runs along a steep slope on the southern side of Kodai. It offers some of the best views of the plains. Entry fee will be collected here.

■ Berijam Lake View

This place gives panoramic land-landscape of Berijam lake and is located before reaching the lake. This is 19 kms, from the Kodaikkannal lake.

■ Kurinji Andavar Temple

This temple situated 3 kms from the lake is a famous shrine dedicated to Lord Muruga. This temple is associated with the Kurinji flowers which carpet the hill sides blooming once in 12 years. Also Kurinji means hill region in Tamil literature. Andavar means God. Hence Lord Muruga is referred as God of Hill here. From this temple one can have a view of Palani and Vaigai Dam.

■ Berijam Lake

It is 21 kms. from Kodaikkannal lake. Periyakulam town gets drinking water from this lake. It is a fine picnic spot offering beautiful scenery. In 1864, Major Douglas Hamilton wrote :

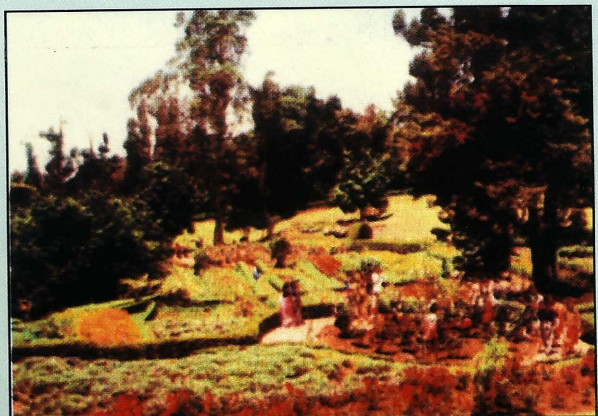
"The vicinity of this lake is in my opinion by far the best site on the hills".

■ Telescope House

To enable the visitors to have a panoramic view of the valley and nearby towns, one telescope house is at Coaker's walk. Entrance fee is collected to see through telescope.

■ Green Valley View

It is about 5.5kms from the lake and very near to Golf Club. It commands a beautiful view of the entire Vaigai dam. As the Valley is very deep and dangerous, this place was once called as suicide point.



■ Fairy Falls

A delightful picnic spot, which is 5 kms from the Kodai lake. Nature has created an artistic bathing base.

Chettiar Park

A neat little park off the beaten tract is in north east corner of the town, on the way to Kuringi Andavar temple.

■ Shenbaganur Museum

This museum is maintained by the Sacred Heart College - a Theological Seminary founded in 1895. It is devoted to archaeological remains and the flora and fauna of the hills. One of the best orchidariums in the country with more than 300 species of orchids is also housed here. It is about 5.6 kms. from the lake. A Spanish Father Ugarthe, contributed his major collections to the Museum. Entrance fee Re. one per head. Visiting hours - 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and 3p.m. to 5 p.m.

■ Silver Cascade

It is 8 kms from the lake. The overflow of Kodai lake come down here as 180 feet high falls. If the water temperature suits, tourists can take bath.

EXCURSIONS

■ Dolmen Circle

18 kms from the lake. Pre-historic remains can be seen there. Original burial urns unearthed in this region and models of dolmens may be seen in Shenbaganur museum.

■ Thalaiyar Falls

Also known as Rat Tail falls which is one of the highest falls in the world (975 feet high). It can be seen while climbing from ghat road to Kodaikkannal by road. Nobody can go to the falls site as no approach route is there.

■ Kukkal Caves

For those who like their holidays in the wilds, this is a campsite. It is 40 kms. from Kodaikkannal. The caves show traces of earliest known inhabitants of the region - the leaf clothed 'Paliyans'.

■ Palani

It is 64 kms. from Kodaikkannal and is a famous pilgrim centre of the South and one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya. The presiding deity of the temple is Lord Dhandayuthapani. Direct frequent buses are available from Kodaikkannal.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air : Airport at Madurai (12kms) and Coimbatore (135kms).

Rail : Kodai Road Railway Station (80kms) and Palani Railway Station

Road : Kodaikkannal is connected by road with all important towns. Regular bus services are available from Kodaikkannal to Madurai, Palani, Kodaikkannal Road, Theni, Dindigul, Tiruchirappalli, Kumuli, Erode, Bangalore and Coimbatore.

LOCAL TRANSPORT

Taxis and vans are available. Limited city buses are available.



FESTIVALS

Summer Festival : Celebrated in May every year. Boat Pageant and flower show are also held on the occasion. It is a major attraction for the tourist. August 15 Salette Matha festival. In December Winter Festival with cultural programmes.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Office (Govt. of Tamil Nadu) : Township Bus Stand, Rest House Complex, Kodaikkannal, ☎ 41675. ★

The Government has ushered in a number of policy initiatives, innovations and procedural changes to ensure a transparent, clean and effective administration.

- ★ The Government has successfully transformed Tamil Nadu into an attractive destination for investment in industrial and infrastructural sectors. A quick and responsive decision making process with investor - friendly policies has created an environment conducive to investment.



TRANSPARENT ADMINISTRATION FOR PROSPERITY



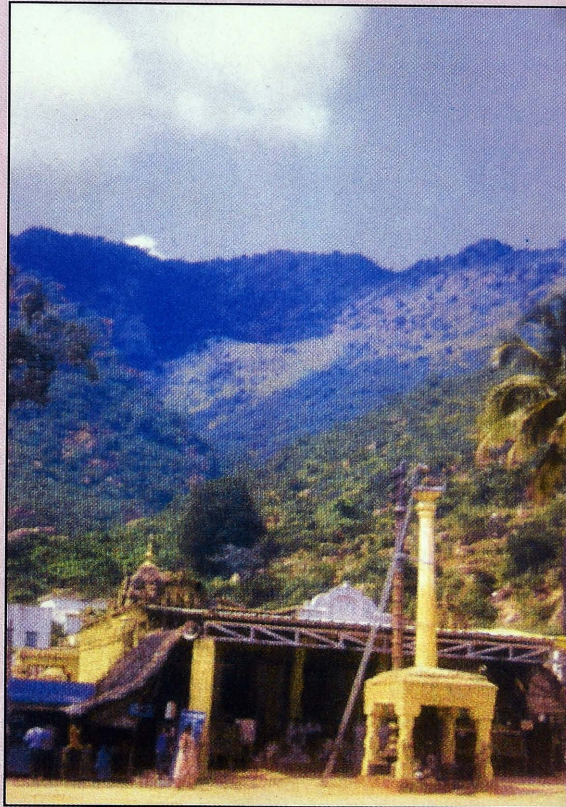
- ★ A single window system for granting approvals to the project proposals.
 - ★ Rules and regulations simplified and hurdles cleared for industrial investments.
 - ★ Increased generation of power with proper distribution.
 - ★ Construction of new ports and upgradation of existing ports.
 - ★ Increased the pace of broad gauge conversion.
 - ★ Upgradation of road networks.
 - ★ A Software Technology Park (TIDEL PARK) is being established at Taramani, Chennai at a total cost of Rs.320 crores. This park will provide world class facilities for Software firms.
- These committed efforts of the Government, has taken Tamil Nadu to the forefront in industrial development. ★

Coimbatore city is the Headquarters of the District and third largest city in Tamil Nadu. As it is exposed to the Palghat gap of the Western ghats it enjoys salubrious climate. This has attracted a large number of textile mills to this region. It is rightly called the Manchester of South India. It is also known for the manufacture of centrifugal pumpsets and a host of engineering goods and handloom products. A large number of technical institutions, the Agricultural University and the Forest College are landmarks of this industrial city.

PLACES OF INTEREST

■ Maruthamalai Temple

Dedicated to Lord Murugan, the presiding deity is known as Dhandayuthapani. This temple located on a hillock is 12 Kms. from Coimbatore Railway Station and Bus stand.



■ Agricultural University

It is about 5 kms from the Coimbatore Railway Station. Though it came into existence on June 1, 1971 its ancestry is much older to that of the earliest started Agricultural University in the country. The nucleus was an Agricultural Demonstration Farm started in 1868 in Saidapet, Chennai which was later shifted to Coimbatore in 1907 and became one of the internationally reputed Agricultural Colleges in course of time.

COIMBATORE

It is this Agricultural College that has been converted into the present Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

■ V.O.C. Park

Named after the freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaram, this park is maintained by the Corporation. There is a mini-zoo and a joy train in the park.

■ Forest College

One of the oldest institutions of its kind in India, the Forest College is situated 3.5 kms. North of the Railway Station. The College Museum is worth a visit.

■ G.D. Naidu Industrial Exhibition

The late G. D. Naidu was a born technocrat. He was a legend in his own lifetime. He had made invaluable contributions to technical, electronics, mechanical and agricultural sectors. He had also established an Industrial Exhibition.

■ The Siruvani Waterfalls and Dam

This waterfalls and the dam are located at a distance of 37 kms. West of the city. The water of Siruvani is known for its taste. The panoramic view of the dam and the falls are of enchanting beauty.

■ Sengupathi Water Falls

This falls is situated 35 Kms. from Coimbatore on the Coimbatore - Siruvani main road.

■ Monkey falls

It is 65 Kms. from Coimbatore and 27 kms from Pollachi on Coimbatore-Pollachi-Valparai Highways.

■ Pollachi

This town is about 40 Kms. from Coimbatore on the way to Parambikulam-Aliyar Project. Next to Coimbatore it is the leading town of the district and an important commercial centre. A temple dedicated to Mariamman and another to Subramanya are located here. There are beautiful stone carvings of a five hooded serpent, a Yali with a chain hanging from its mouth and zodiac signs in the Subramanya Temple.



EXCURSION

■ Avinashi

The Avinashi Lingeswarar temple located here is about 40 Kms. from Coimbatore. Avinashi is also known as South India's Varnasi. Dating back to the 12th century A.D. this is the biggest temple in Coimbatore District built by the Cholas. There are some fine stone carvings in this temple.

■ Tirupur (50 kms.)

An important textile centre in Coimbatore district, it is also famous for its hosiery products. Tirupur is also closely associated with Tirupur Kumaran, one of the valiant freedom fighters.

■ Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary

This Sanctuary is situated at an altitude of 1400 metres in the western ghats near Pollachi (about 90 Kms from Coimbatore). The area of the sanctuary is 958 sq. kms. It has various kinds of fauna like elephant, gaur, tiger, panther, sloth bear, deer, wild bear, wild dog, porcupine, flying

squirrel, jackal, pangolin, civet cat and birds like rocket-tailed drongo, rec whiskered bulbul, black headed oriole, tree pie, spotted dove, green pigeon, etc. The Amaravathy reservoir in the Anamalais has a large number of crocodiles. There are also many places of scenic beauty such as Karikal shola, Anaikunthi shola, grass hills, water falls, groves, teak forests, estates, dams and reservoirs. Arrangements are available at Topslip to take tourists around the sanctuary on elephant back or by van.

■ Topslip

It is a picturesque locale in the Anamalai Hills. It is about 37Kms. from Pollachi. This small town is an ideal picnic spot.

■ Valparai

It is 102 kms from Coimbatore in western ghats in Anamalai range. It has many tea plantations and is a picnic spot.

Parambikulam - Aliyar Multipurpose Project

This project consists series of dams interconnected by tunnels and canals for harnessing the Parambikulam, Aliyar, Nirar, Sholiar, Thunakadavu, Thekkadi and Palar rivers, lying at various elevations, for irrigation and power generation. The scheme is an outstanding example of engineering skill. It is located in the Anamalai range and pleasure boating facilities are available.

■ Thirumoorthy Temple (20 kms)

It is situated at the foot of the Thirumoorthy Hills adjoining the Thirumoorthy Dam. This is about 86 kms. from Udumalpet on the Highway from Palani to Coimbatore. A perennial stream flows by the side of the Sri Amalingeswarar temple and nearby there is a water falls. The Crocodile



Farm at Amaravathi Dam is just 25 Kms. from here. This place is being developed as a District Excursion Centre. Regular buses are available from Udumalpet. Pleasure boating facilities are available.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

■ Temples

Koniamman Temple, Big Bazaar Street, Town Hall, Thandu Mariamman temple, Avinashi Road, Uppilpalayam, Rathina Vinayakar temple, R.S. Puram, D.S. Road, Sri Ayyappan temple, Sithapudur, Sathiyamangalam Road, Kamatchiamman temple, Ukkadam.

■ Churches

St. Michael's Church (Cathedral), Big Bazaar, St. Antony's Church, Puliakulam, Christ King Church, Dr.Nanjappa Road, Fathima Church, Gandhipuram 5th Street.

■ Mosques

Big Mosque, Oppanakara Street, Big Mosque, Kottaimedu, Mosque, First Street, Gandhipuram

PARKS

V.O.C. Park, Uppilpalayam; Gandhi Park, R.S. Puram; Bharathi Park, Thadagam Road, Near Avinashilingam Home Science College; Botanical Garden near Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centre, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Railway Junction, Coimbatore

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Tamil Nadu (T.T.D.C.) 236311-24

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

General Enquiries Railway (Manual)	131
Reservations Railway (Manual)	132
Railway reservation, accommodation availability, confirmation	
English	1361
Hindi	1362
Tamil	1363
Automatic Announcement	133
Chief Reservation Superintendent	300683
Deputy Station Superintendent	301301
Express Bus Stand	434969
T.N. Govt. Transport Coprn.	30132/231967
Enquiry & Complaints	301008
Booking phonograms	185
Telegrams	15
Collectorate	301114-118
Superintendent of Police	317500

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Iyyan Thiruvalluvar Statue at Kanniyakumari

The construction of Thiruvalluvar Statue at Kanniyakumari near Vivekananda Rock has been completed and it was dedicated to humanity by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 1.1.2000, synchronising with the dawn of 21st Century.



Thirukkural is a common scripture for all races and for all times, which has been translated into a number of languages. This didactic literature comprises of three parts known as Aram (Ethics), Porul (Statecraft) and Inbam (Love and Married Life). It has 133 chapters which contain 1330 couplets. To perpetuate the memory of Iyyan Thiruvalluvar a statue has been erected on the rocks of Kanniyakumari seas. Thanks to the untiring efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigarnar.

chapters of ethical code relating to the householders and ascetics - namely the 'Aram'. The 95 feet of the statue denote the second and third part of the book namely the statecraft and allied subjects and formation of home life with love and affection - 'Porul' and 'Inbam'.

Significance of the sculptural details

The height of the pedestal is 38 feet. It denotes the first part of Thirukkural - the 38

The granite stones required for this monument have been brought from Siruthamur, Pattumalaikuppam hills and Ambasamudram hills.

Inaugural function

A grand exhibition of paintings on Thirukkural, Thirukkural recitals, Kavanaga Nigazhchi (ability to attend to 16 events simultaneously by an individual), seminars, book release and poetry symposium marked the grand function of the unveiling the statue of Iyyan Thiruvalluvar on 31.12.1999 and 1.1.2000.

In the evening of 1.1.2000, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar unveiled the statue of Iyyan Thiruvalluvar and the function was attended by leaders of all parties. The Hon'ble Chief Minister made an announcement that the 23 Children who took part in the complete recital of Thirukkural

Technical details of the statue

- ★ The height of the statue 95 feet
- ★ The height of the pedestal 38 feet
- ★ The height of the statue and the pedestal 133 feet
- ★ The height of the face 10 feet
- ★ The height of the trunk portion 30 feet
- ★ The height of the thighs 30 feet
- ★ The height of the legs 20 feet
- ★ The top of the head, neck, knees and feet 10 feet
- ★ The breadth of the palm 10 feet
- ★ The length of the palm leaves 10 feet
- ★ The breadth of the shoulder 30 feet
- ★ The part of the hair dressing 5 feet
- ★ The measurement of the compound wall including the pedestal 60 feet x 50 feet
- ★ 10 elephants each measuring 5 feet and 6 inches
- ★ Total weight of the pedestal, statue and the compound wall 7000 tonnes
- ★ Expenditure Rs.9.65 crores

A team of 500 sculptors and labourers headed by the Chief Sculptor Thiru Vai. Ganapathi Sthapathi executed this monumental work in a grand manner.



would be given a monthly stipend of Rs.1000. In pursuance of this announcement, the Chief Minister ordered that whoever recites, the entire Thirukkural from memory would be given a purse of Rs.1000 every month, throughout his or her life. ★



UDHAGAMANDALAM (OOTY)

The picturesque Nilgiris (Blue Mountains) which form an integral part of the great plateau, standing at the junction of the Eastern and Western Ghats at an average height of 6500 feet above sea level is a nature's gift. It is accessible by winding motorable roads from Coimbatore or by the unique toy train from the little town of Mettupalayam which chugs its way up the dozen and a half odd miles to Wellington. The ambient beauty of this hill station lies in its peaceful ranges surrounded by a misty blue haze - the latter fact having earned it the name of Nilagiri.

The little town Ooty with its rolling green misty mornings and mild evenings made it reminiscent of English countryside. Close by are two smaller and quieter hill resorts - Coonoor and Kotagiri - in the same range. The Nilgiri is known for its coffee and tea plantations, while potato, chincona products, eucalyptus oil, geranium, scented phenol

are some of its other products. It is also noted for its ancient tribes such as the Todas, the Kotas, the Kurumbas, the Panias and the Irulas.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Places of tourist interest are abound and visits to these spots coupled with a picnic lunch or tea, create ample opportunity for spending truly delightful days exploring and making the most of a 'southern sojourn'. Among these attractions, the botanical gardens established in 1847, presents a variety of exotic and ornamental plants. Detailed observation and study of these enable research scholars and students alike to pursue their studies and record their findings. A unique feature of this garden, right in the midst of all the greenery and just below the mini lake, is a fossil tree trunk which is 20 million years old! Both the annual Flower Show of the Agri-Horticulture department and the Dog Show of the South India Kennel Club are held here.

■ Boat House

An artificial lake was made here in 1824 by Mr. Silvan. The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) maintains the Boat House and keeps it open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. throughout the week. Boating facilities and pony rides along the lake side are also available throughout the day.

■ Dodabetta

Other sights in the vicinity include Dodabetta - the highest peak in the Nilgiris about 2623 metres high - 10 kilometres on the Kotagiri Road. Accessible by car, it offers visitors a beautiful view of hill ranges, plateaus and plains around. In clear weather Ooty, Coonoor and sometimes even the far off Coimbatore plain and distant Mysore plateau can be seen. A micro telescope is here and the place is well connected by bus services from Ooty.

■ Avalanche

The ever popular Avalanche, which derived its name from an avalanche here in 1823, is just 24 kms from Ooty. It has some interesting treks and the streams are extremely productive for trout fishes. In fact, angling is one of the Nilgiri-

dweller's favourite pastime with trout, carp and other fish abounding its rivulets and lakes.

■ Pykara Dam

Pykara Dam, also a popular resort, frog Hill and Mukurthi Peak are some of the other interesting excursion locales around Udthagamandalam. For those with a special interest in photography, a visit to the Hindustan Photo Films can offer an interesting change. The factory manufactures photographic materials. The company has established a model room to enable visitors to comprehend the highly technical process, though visitors are required to obtain prior permission. Around Ooty there are some fine vantage points. The Ketti Valley View, the Wenlock Downs, Lamb's Rock, Lady Canning's Seat and Dolphin's Nose are picturesque viewpoints from where one can have a panoramic view of the tea estates, the Coimbatore plains and the Mysore plateau.

■ Coonoor & Kotagiri

At Coonoor, the impeccably maintained Sim's Park which hosts the annual Fruit Show in May every year, is a delight to visit. Ralliah Dam, Kallar Agricultural Farm, Nurliar Agricultural Farm and

Law's Falls are some of the other attractions here. Kotagiri's star attractions include Kodnad Viewpoint and St. Catherine Falls. The options at Coonoor and Kotagiri, though limited as far as the up market hotels are concerned, are mainly in the middle budget categories. The Poompuhar and Kairali Emporia, Handicraft's centres of Women's Welfare Department, the Mission Arts and Crafts and several other places in these hill-stations are good places to shop at.





Climbing up and still faintly out of breath you have a chance to take in the view, which is quiet spectacular. The charming club house beyond the winding road to the right, is straight out of a picture post-card. The rolling fairway below you, slopes steeply down to a valley and then, as though tired of lying low, slopes upward rather reluctantly only to find the effort too much and slopes down again. To the left, the imposing eucalyptus trees hide the terrain beyond and the ground falls away rather abruptly. You can see the top of the trees a hundred yards

ahead, even though they are as tall as the ones standing right next to you.

And then there are the bushes, the darn gorse bushes! Innocent to look at almost like untended tea bushes, deceptively opeque, with a capacity to suck an errant ball deep into an inner shell guarded impenetrable coast of thorns, and they're everywhere.

"In Ooty there's no semi rough and rough lining the fairways. There's only the trees and the bushes".

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Railway Station	0423-42246
TTDC Accommodation	0423-44010/011
(Hotel Tamil Nadu)	44368/44378
Youth Hostel	0423-43665
Tourist Office	0423-43973
Collectorate	0423-42344/42233

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Tamil Nadu, TTDC,	44370 to 44378,
Charring Cross	44010 & 44369
Youth Hostel, TTDC,	43665/43828
Charring Cross	

★ ★ ★

■ Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary

Lying in the Nilgiris District abutting Kerala and Karnataka State, this is situated at an elevation of 1000 metres and extends over an area of 321 sq. kms. A variety of habitats, ranging from tropical ever green forest, moist deciduous forest, moist teak forest, dry teak forest, secondary grass lands and swamps are found. The wildlife includes Elephant, Gaur, Tiger, Panther, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Mouse, Wild Boar, Porcupine etc. The avifauna is varied with minivets, Hornbills, fairy Blue Birds, Jungle Fowls etc. The Reptilians are represented by Python, Monitor Lizard, Flying Lizard etc.

Other picturesque scenic spots in the sanctuary include the Moyar Waterfalls, the Chief Minister's watch tower, Ombetta Swamp, Theppakad elephant camp etc. Elephant ride and vehicle ride along visitor's routes on payment are available.

■ Golf Club

Colonel Ross Thompson, an Englishman, was transferred from Bangalore to Ooty and with him he brought Golf to the Nilgiris. The Club started in 1889, grew into the present 18 hole course of international fame. The present day club is an amalgamation of the ABC Club and the Gymkhana Club. The course itself is unique and playing on it is certainly an exceptional experience.

In order to improve the economic status of poor women and to cultivate the savings habit among them, a "Savings Linked Micro Credit Scheme" is being implemented from 1.1.1999 for women engaged in petty trades in municipal corporation areas. This scheme has been extended to municipalities and town panchayats from 2.5.1999.

The aim of this scheme is to safeguard poor women from borrowing loan at exhorbitant rates

SAVINGS LINKED MICRO CREDIT LOAN FOR POOR WOMEN ENGAGED IN PETTY TRADES



of interest from money lenders and becoming bonded slaves to them, by lending loan at nominal and lower rate of interest through Co-operative Banks. This scheme encourages women to save some amount and make their life prosperous.

For a loan of Rs.100, Re.1 is taken as interest and Rs.99 is given to them. The next day, when they return the amount, they become eligible for availing further loan.

As on 15-3-2000, Co-operative Banks have extended loans to the extent of Rs.6.21 crores to 62,923 women beneficiaries. It is encouraging to note that the recovery of loans is 95 percent under this scheme.

Rameswaram, a small island in the Gulf of Mannar, is a major pilgrim centre. It is connected to the mainland by road and rail bridges. Rameswaram is holy, because Sri Rama, on his return from Sri Lanka, offered his thanks to Lord Siva here. Every devout Hindu hopes to visit Rameswaram at least once in his lifetime. This place is thus equally sacred to both Vaishnavites and Saivites.

The Ramanathaswamy temple is renowned for its magnificent corridors and massive sculptured pillars. Its corridors are the longest in India.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air : Nearest Airport in Madurai - 173 kms. Indian Airlines connects Madurai with Chennai, Tiruchi and Bangalore.

Rail : Connected with all major cities like Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchi and Thanjavur.

Road : Connected with all important towns. City bus service available. Point to Point service. Tourist Taxi, Auto / Cycle Rickshaws and Horse-carts are also available.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Tamil Nadu (TTDC), Rameswaram,
☎ 212277

Hotel Tamil Nadu, Mandapam, ☎ 41512

Hotel Tamil Nadu (Unit-II), Rameswaram
☎ 21071

OTHER ACCOMMODATION

Railway Retiring Room, Railway Station
Rameswaram ☎ 21226



Devasthanam Cottage/Lodge,
The Executive Officer, Temple Devasthanam
Office, Rameswaram ☎ 21223, 21292

PLACES OF INTEREST

■ Ramanathaswamy Temple

The Ramanathaswamy Temple which is close to the sea on the eastern side of the island is renowned for its magnificent corridors with massive sculptured pillars lining it. The corridor is the longest in India. It is 197 metres long (East - West) and 133 metres wide (South -

RAMESWARAM

North). The temple has a tower (Gopuram) 38.4 metres high. The temple as it stands today was built by different rulers at different periods from the 12th Century A.D. onwards.

■ Agnitheertham

The Ramanathaswamy Temple faces east. The sea here, about 100 metres from the main entrance of the temple, is very calm and therefore ideal for bathing. The water at this place is considered sacred and known as "Agnitheertham".

■ The Gandamadana Paravtham (Hillock 3 kms)

It is situated on the highest point in the island. Here, the imprint of Lord Rama's feet (Padam) is placed on a chakra.

■ Dhanushkodi (18 kms.)

The southern most tip of the island Dhanushkodi was hit by the 1964 cyclone, yet the Kothandaramaswamy temple here remains intact and it contains icons of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana, Hanuman and Vibishana. It can be reached by road from Rameswaram.

EXCURSION

■ Kurusadai Island (23 kms.)

This and a number of other islands are situated to the west of the Pamban bridge. It is a paradise for biologists and is now declared as a marine eco centre in the country.

■ Ramanathapuram (55 kms.)

Apart from being the district headquarters, this is an ancient town from where the Sethupathis ruled their territory. The Ramalinga Vilasam palace with good paintings, and the tomb of Thayumana Swamikal, a philosopher-saint, are worth visiting.

■ Mandapam (18 kms.)

Connects Rameswaram with the mainland. A boat ride to Kurusadai island can be arranged from here.

■ Tirupullani (64 kms.)

Also called as Dharba-sayanam, the Vishnu temple here, is dedicated to Lord Adi Jagannathaperumal.

■ Sethukarai (68 kms.) : A pilgrim centre.

■ Devipattinam (70 kms.)

Also known as Navabashanam, this coastal village has a temple dedicated to Devi who is said to have killed the demon Mahishasura at this spot.

■ Uthirakosamangai (72 kms.)

There is an ancient Siva temple here. The deity here is carved in Emerald. The annual "Arudhra" Festival in December attracts a large number of devotees.

■ Erwadi (80 kms.)

The tomb of Sultan Ibrahim Syed Aulia who came from Arabia via Cannanore is about 800 years old. It is being visited by pilgrims from different states and countries like Sri Lanka Malaysia and Singapore. The "sandanakoodu" festival is in honour of this muslim saint and takes place in



December every year.

■ **Uppoor (85 kms.)**

There is a Vinayagar temple at this place. It is said that Sri Rama worshipped the Vinayagar here on his way to Sri Lanka.

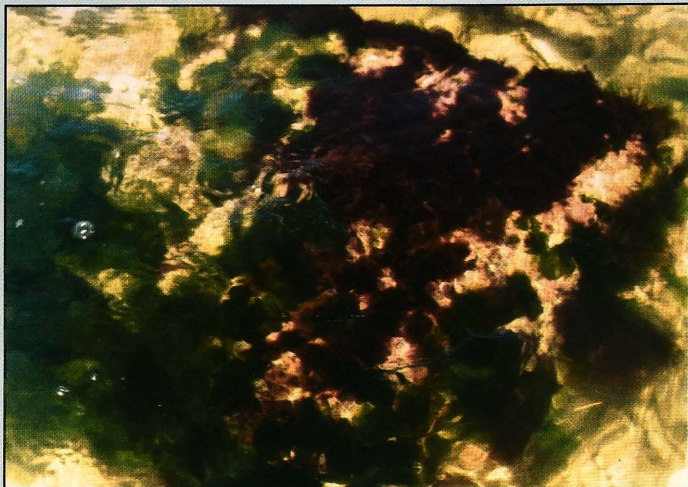
■ **Kanchirankulam (105 Kms.)**

A water bird sanctuary is located here.

(Season : November to February)

■ **Valinokkam (90 Kms.)**

A Seaside Village with a verdant beach and natural scenery. The sea here is very calm.



FESTIVALS

Festivals are celebrated in the Ramanathaswamy temple in connection with Thai Amavasai (Jan), Masi-sivarathiri (Feb-Mar), Thirukalyanam (Jul-Aug) and Mahalaya Amavasai (September).

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Office
14, East Car Street,
Rameswaram.

☎ 21371

Tourist Information Centre,
Railway Station /
Central Bus Station,
Rameswaram.

☎ 21373

Temple information Centre,
(inside the temple), East Side,
Ramanathaswamy Temple,
Rameswaram.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Tourist Office	: 21371
Town Police Station	: 21227
Temple Police Station	: 21246
Railway Station	: 21226
Tourist Information Centre	: 21273
Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation	: 21263

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PLACES OF WORSHIP

■ **Temple**

Ramanathaswamy Temple

Bathirakali Amman Temple

Nambu Nayaki Amman Temple

■ **Church**

St. Joseph Church - Verkodu,

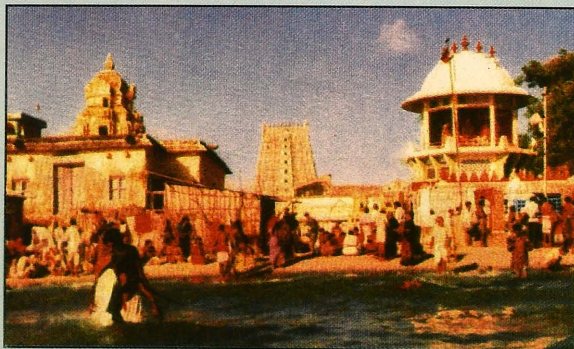
St. Santhiyagu Church - Olaikuda

St. Anthony- Karaiyur; C.S.I. Church

■ **Mosque**

Abul Khapul Dharga

(Half-a kilometre from the
Railway Station)



TAMIL NADU

MANUAL WORKERS

SOCIAL SECURITY

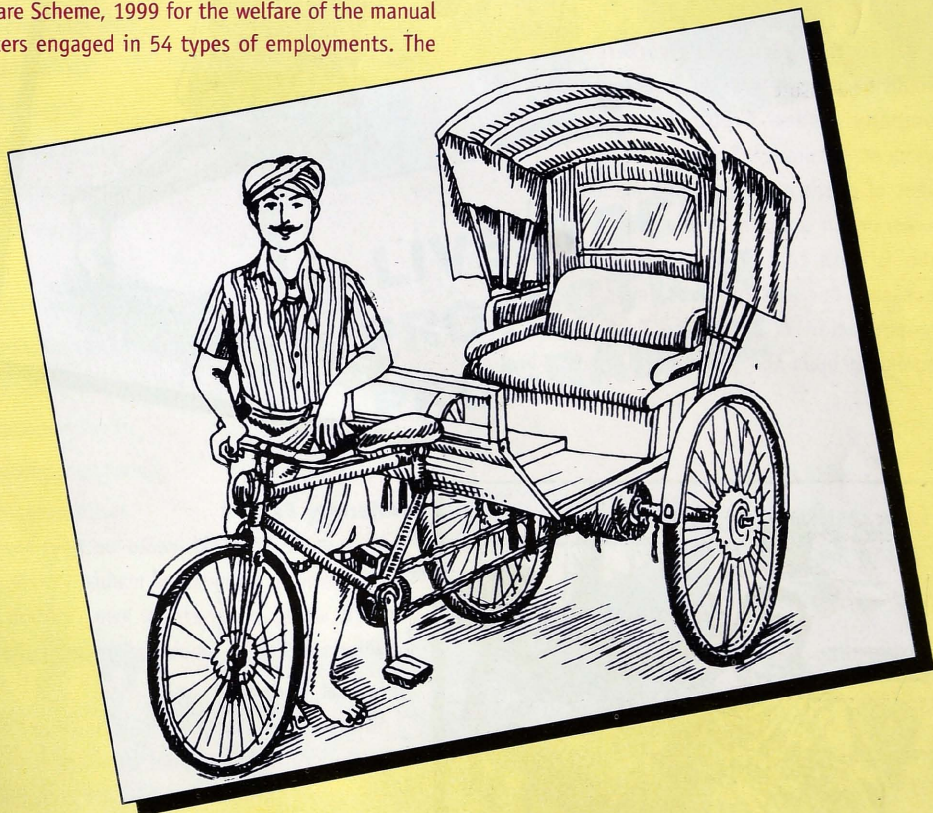
AND

WELFARE SCHEME

The Government of Tamil Nadu have framed Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Social Security and Welfare Scheme, 1999 for the welfare of the manual workers engaged in 54 types of employments. The

hair-dressing and beauty parlour, rag picking, pottery works, etc.

Registration of the workers are done from 26-1-2000. The Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme, Maternity Benefit and Terminal Benefit would be implemented for the registered manual workers. A welfare fund named 'Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund' has been constituted for this. These schemes will be implemented by Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Social Security and Welfare Board. There are 24 members



employments include loading, unloading, stacking etc. in shops, factories, ware-houses, docks, railway yards etc; employment in salt pans, fishing industry, tree climbing, coir industry, tailoring; driving cycle-rickshaws; employment in

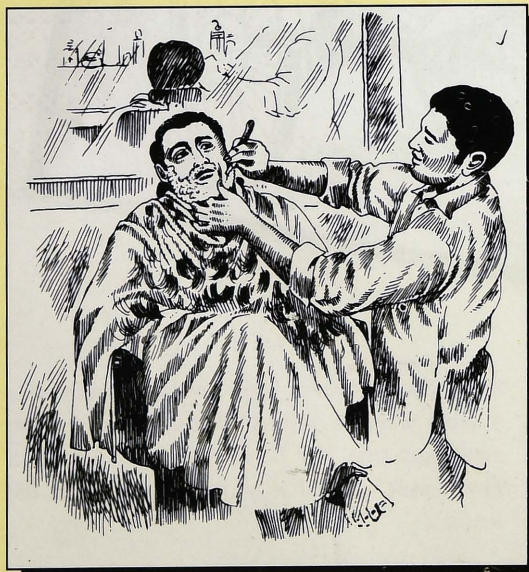
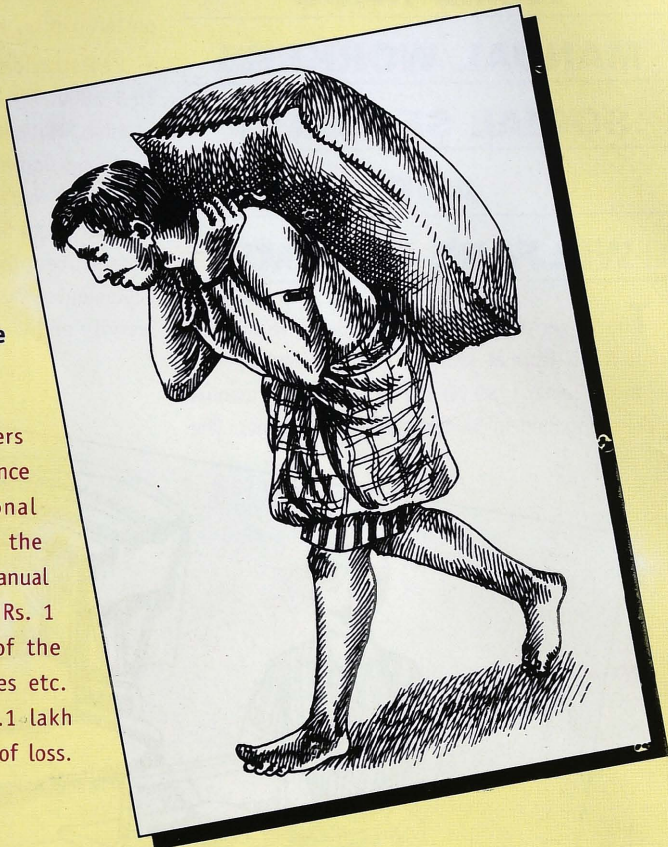
in the Board of which 6 are from the Government, 9 from workers representatives and 9 from employers side. The Commissioner of Labour, a Government representative, is the Chairman of the Board.

The following Welfare Schemes would be implemented for the manual workers.

- ★ Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme
- ★ Maternity Benefit
- ★ Terminal Benefit

Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme

All registered manual workers should be insured with an Insurance Company under Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme. In the event of death of a registered manual worker in an accident a sum of Rs. 1 lakh is paid to the nominee of the deceased. For loss of limbs, eyes etc. compensation is paid upto Rs.1 lakh depending upon the percentage of loss.



Maternity Benefit

A sum of Rs.1,000 would be paid towards this scheme to a registered manual worker. This benefit would be given for two children. For miscarriage Rs.500 would be given.

Terminal Benefit

Under this scheme, if a worker, after contributing to the Boards for not less than 3 years, cease to be a member, his contribution along with compound interest at the rate of 12% and with 25% of his contribution as gratuity would be paid to him or his nominee. If a worker, after contributing less than three years, cease to be a member would be paid his contribution along with interest thereon.

★ ★ ★

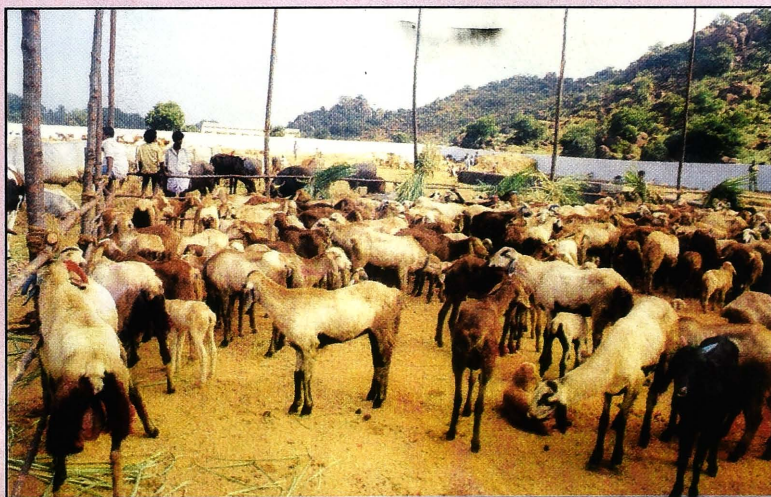
★ Special treatment camps will be conducted once in a month in every Panchayat Union.

★ Veterinary Specialists, Scientists and University Research Scholars will participate in the camps.

★ Immunisation against various diseases, deworming in sheep, surgeries, insemination



LIVESTOCK PROTECTION PROGRAMME



and other treatments are provided to the cattle.

★ Cattle owners are cleared of their doubts regarding treatment by specialists.

★ The farmers are provided with cattle feed and fodder seeds.

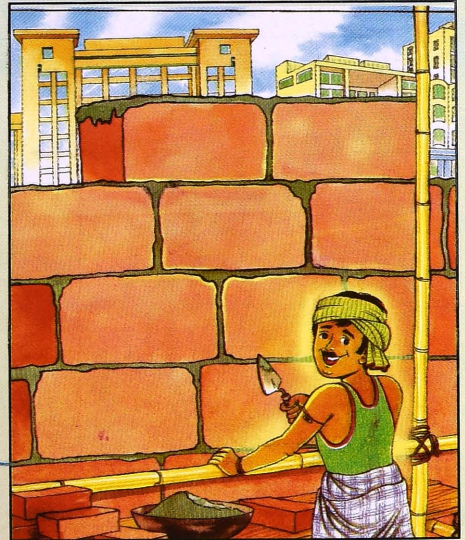
WELFARE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

- ★ Rs.1 lakh is paid to the nominee of the deceased construction worker under the Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme.
- ★ Rs.1,000 is given as marriage assistance for the marriage of the son/daughter of the construction worker.



- ★ On the event of the natural death of a construction worker, an assistance of Rs.5,000 is being given to the legal heir.
- ★ To avail these benefits, construction workers have to register themselves in the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board by paying Rs.25.

- ★ A sum of Rs.1,000 is being paid as maternity assistance to a woman construction worker. This will be given for the miscarriage also. This amount has been enhanced to Rs.2,000 with retrospective effect from 1-3-1999.
- ★ A son or daughter of construction worker on passing 10th standard are given Rs.750 and Rs.1,000 for passing 12th standard as educational assistance.
- ★ Rs.2,000 is being given to conduct the last rites of the deceased construction worker.



Tirunelveli is about 2000 years old and is a town of hoary tradition. Next to Madurai it was an important city of the Pandya Kingdom as it served as their Capital for some time. Situated on the banks of the river Thamiraparani, it is on the way to Kanniyakumari from Madurai. It is a twin town - Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai.

ACCESS

The nearest Airport, Madurai, is 151 Kms away.

Rail : Tirunelveli is an important Railway Junction on the Southern Railway and is connected to all major cities.

Road : Tirunelveli is served by a good network of roads.

SHOPPING

Poompuhar Handicrafts Sales
Emporium
☎ 333391

Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village
Industries Sales Centre ☎ 331437

Kanthimathi Co-optex Sales
Emporium ☎ 334360

FESTIVALS

Car festival of the Kanthimathi
Nellaiyappar Temple is celebrated in
June-July.

Kanda Shasti (Oct/Nov) - Tiruchendur
Murugan Temple

Katta Bomman Festival (Aug/Sep) -
Panchalankurichi.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Government of Tamil Nadu
Tourist Office,
Tirunelveli Railway Junction,
☎ 334788, 334235.

EXCURSION

■ **Kanthimathi Nellaiyappar Temple**:
This temple is situated in the heart of the

city. This is a twin temple dedicated to Parvathi and Siva. Rare Jewels, the Golden Lily Tank, Musical Pillars, the hall of thousand pillars and abundance of sculptures in stone and in mortar are worth seeing.

■ **Tiruchendur** (48 kms) : The temple located here on the shore of the Bay of Bengal is one of the six Abodes of Lord Subramanya. The location of the temple is ideal and draws a perennial stream of devotees. The temple overlooking the singing sea is an inspiring sight. "Kanda Shasti Festival" in which the Sura, the demon is killed by Lord, attracts a large number of devotees.

■ **Tenkasi** (53 kms): The name itself implies that this town is Kasi (Varanasi) of the South. The flagstaff of the temple is noteworthy for its sculptural beauty and is 400 years old.

■ **Papanasam** (42 Kms): This holy place is on the western ghat of Pothigai Hills. Legend has it, that it was close to the Papanasam Falls on the banks of the Thamiraparani river that Siva and Parvathi appeared before Agasthiya, the falls came to be known as the "Agasthiya falls". To commemorate the visit of the divine couple, the Agasthya temple was built there.

■ **Sankarankovil** (56 Kms): Sankarankovil is a unique temple dedicated to Sankaranarayana who is the combined manifestation of Siva and Vishnu. There are two other shrines dedicated to Siva and Parvati. Twice in a year sun's rays fall on the pedestal.

■ **Kazhugumalai** (56 Kms): It was one of the important centres of the Jains. The bas-relief found here are the contribution of Jains and are among the earliest of such works. The Vettuvan Koil (Siva Temple) the rock-cut cave temple is worth visiting.

■ **Srivaikuntam** (37 Kms): Srivaikuntam is famous for the temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu known as Srivaikuntapathiswami with a lofty gopuram. The Thiruvengada Mudaliyar Mandapam is





rich with sculpture of Yalis, Elephants and Warriors. The Ekadesi Mandapam which is opened on Vaikunta Ekadesi days, contains exquisite sculptures. During the conflicting days of the East India Company Forces and Kattabomman, this temple served as a fort. The Kailasanathaswamy temple is another important one. It contains six inscriptions of the times of Veera Pandiya Kattabomman.

■ **Manapad (70 Kms)** : Holy Cross Church at Manapad is an ancient one. It was built in the year 1581. Thousands congregate during the festival season from 1-14th September every year. The church is associated with St Francis Xavier.

■ **Krishnapuram (13 Kms)**: There is a temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The presiding deity is Thiruvengatanathar. There are a number of life-size sculptures in this temple with intricate workmanship.

■ **Kulasekarapattinam (68 Kms)** : The Mutharamman temple 20 Kms from Tiruchendur is known for the popular Dasara festival in September - October where folk dance artistes from all over the State participate in the festival. It is a coastal village with a fine beach.

■ **Tuticorin (48 kms)** : This town is a major industrial and commercial centre and has a harbour. SPIC's fertilizer, a heavy water plant, etc. are located here. It is a major pearl fishing and salt production centre as well.

■ **Pathamadai (30 Kms)** : It is known for its beautiful corai mats. This is also the birth place of Swami Sivanantha, the Saint and Philosopher.

■ **Ottapidaram (65 Kms)** : This is the birth place of V.O.Chidambaram, freedom fighter. His maiden venture in navigation against the East India Company caused his imprisonment. That is why he is popularly called as "Kappalottiya Thamizhan". His home has now become a memorial.

■ **Ettayappuram (72 Kms)** : This is the birth place of the revolutionary poet Subramanya Bharathiyar, His home has become a memorial. Umaru Pulavar Dhansha is also located here.

■ **Panchalankurichi (68 Kms)**: Panchalankurichi, a small but historic village, is 3 Kms. from Ottapidaram. From here the great warrior Kattabomman Known as "Veerapandiya Kattabomman" raised his voice against the British regime in the 17th Century A.D.

■ **Kattabomman Memorial Fort** : The existing memorial fort was constructed by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1974. Sri Devi Jakkammal Temple, the hereditary Goddess of Kattabomman is located near the fort. The cemetery of British soldiers are seen near the fort. Within the Memorial Hall, there are beautiful paintings on the walls depicting the heroic deeds of the saga. The tourists can easily get a good idea about the history of the momentous period from that. The remnants of the old fort is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India.

■ **Courtallam (59 kms.)** : Courtallam, the "Spa of the South" is situated at an elevation of about 167 mts. on the Western Ghats in Tirunelveli



District. It is an excellent health resort. The waters of Courtallam is belived to have medicinal qualities as it flows through forests of herbs. Courtallam is 160 Kms. from Madurai, 137 Kms. from Kanniyakumari and 112 Kms. from Trivandrum. The nearest air-ports are Madurai and Trivandrum. The nearest railway station is Tenkasi which is just 6 Kms. from here. Season July to September.

■ **Temple in Courtallam** : It is dedicated to Lord Thirukutralanathar (Siva). This temple contains many inscriptions about Chola and Pandya Kings. Less than a furlong from here is a small

temple called Chitra Sabha (Hall of Pictures) dedicated to Lord Nataraja and decorated with paintings of rural deities and devotees, puranic stories and religious events. The sabha is one of the five sabhas where Lord Nataraja performed the cosmic dance.

■ **Kalakkadu Sanctuary (47 Kms)** : Situated in an area of 223 Sq. Kms. in the Tirunelveli District, including the foothills of western ghats and adjoining area. The flora ranges from forests of tropical wet evergreen to tropical dry deciduous and thorn forest at Macaque and common Langur, Nilgiri Tahr, Sambar, Sloth, Bear, Gour, Elephant, Tiger, Flying Squirrel, Panther, Wild Dog, Pangoline are some of the wild life seen in this sanctuary. Besides, a wide range of birds and reptiles could be seen. Trekking is allowed with the prior permission from the officials of Forest (Wildlife) Department. Accommodation is available at Forest Rest House at Sengaltheri with catering facilities. Season September to March.

■ **Mundanthurai** : There is nothing to differentiate this sanctuary from that of

Kalakkadu, except the absence of the Elephant and Gaur. Situated in the Tirunelveli District, this 567 Sq. Kms. sanctuary boasts of dry deciduous to tropical wet evergreen forests with patches of pure reeds. Animal wealth includes Tiger, Bonnet macaque, Langurs, Glender Loris, Sloth, Bear, Sambhar, Chital, Wild Dog. Excellent for various species of avi-fauna and varieties of reptiles and insects. Trekking trails are there. Trek with prior permission from the Forest (Wildlife) Department. Accommodation available are Forest Rest House at Mundanthurai with catering facilities and PWD

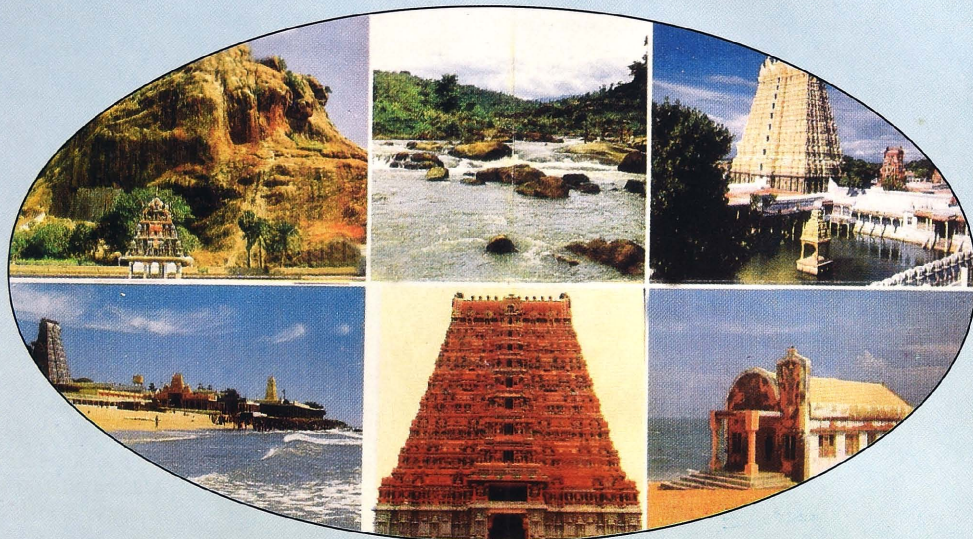
Rest House at Ambasamudram. Authority for the above two sanctuaries is Field Director, Project Tiger, NGO Colony, Perumalpuram, ☎ 552663.

■ **Manimuthar & Papanasam Dams :**

Papanasam Dam is located 49 Kms away from Tirunelveli. This is a beautiful Picnic spot. Another dam in Tirunelveli District is Manimuthar

locales where one can have beautiful panoramic view. A mini Golf Course is also available here.

- **Ayyanar Sunai :** This centre is 40 Kms. from Tiruchendur. There is a natural "Spring" where one can get water throughout the year. A temple is dedicated to village deity Ayyanar. It is a good picnic centre. Nearby is a forest with sand dunes.



Dam. This is 47 Kms from Tirunelveli. Having Salubrious climate and gorgeous gardens, it serves as an excursion centre.

- **Ariyakulam (13 Kms) :** A variety of birds congregate here in large numbers from March to June for breeding. Koonthakulam 30 Kms. from Tirunelveli is another bird Sanctuary.

- **Manjolai :** It is a scenic beauty on the way to Upper Kodaiyar. It is a beautiful picnic spot worth visiting.

- **Upper Kodaiyar :** It is located on the Southern most tip of Western Ghats bordering Kerala. It is a beautiful area where nature is at its best with verdant forests. Tea, Rubber and Cardamom are grown here on a large scale. Manjolai is the best known place here. Kalachi, Nalumukku, Kuthiraiyerri, Oothu are important

Important Telephone Numbers

Tirunelveli Railway Junction	322155
Tuticorin Railway Station	326751
Tenkasi Railway Junction	22234
Tiruchendur Railway Station	42237
Kovilpatti Railway Station	20092
Head Post Office & Telegraph Office, Junction	322816

ACCOMMODATION

Tirunelveli (STD-0462)

■ Municipal Traveller's Bungalow Railway Retiring Room, Rly. Station	322155
■ Circuit House, P.W.D. Vannerpattai	576665
■ Hotel Tamil Nadu (TTDC), Opp. to Collectorate	582200

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SELF HELP PROGRAMME

A Mass Contact Programme is already in existence enabling the officials to meet the public and to redress their genuine grievances. In addition to this, "Namakku Naame Thittam" (Self Help Programme) has been introduced by which the public can plan and execute their priority needs through voluntary efforts.

Namakku Naame Thittam is a Programme implemented by the public on voluntary basis with the financial and technical support of the Government. Minimum public contribution shall not be less than 25% which may be in the form of cash, kind or labour. The activities include provision of basic amenities such as village roads, desilting of tanks and village ponds, construction of Public Health Centres, School buildings, pathways to burial grounds, link roads etc.

Aim of the Scheme

- ★ To involve the public in the implementation of Developmental works.
- ★ To ensure that the entire benefits of the Scheme reach the people.
- ★ To strengthen the relation between Government and public.
- ★ Speedy implementation.
- ★ Quality of works.
- ★ Speedy Socio Economic Development.
- ★ To create self - sufficient and self -reliant society.

Approach to the Scheme

With the help of Government, public can fulfil their needs by themselves through voluntary efforts. This approach should be popularised to sustain in the society over years.

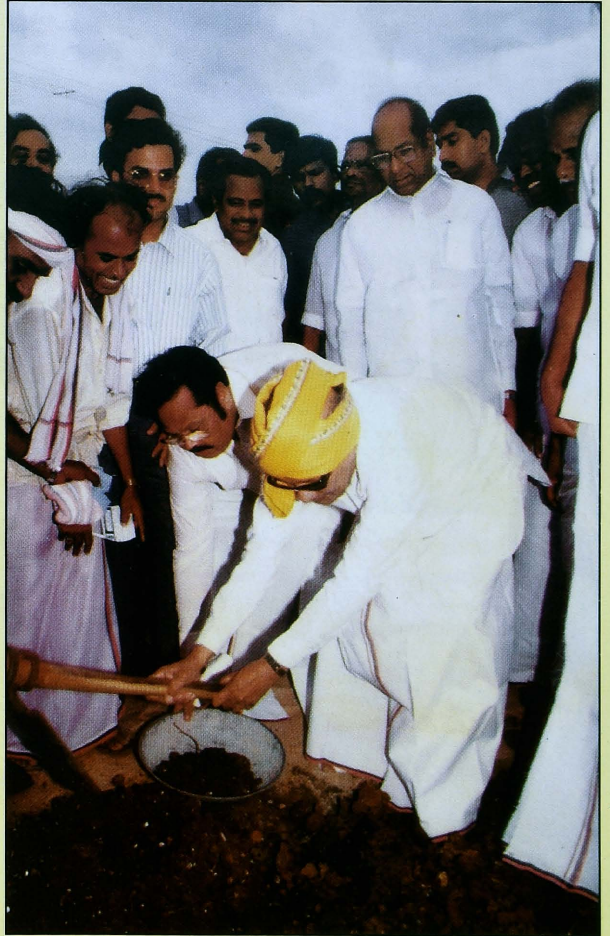
The Scheme provide for the construction of buildings, bridges, canals, deepening of tanks and ponds, creation of assets and also provides for the maintenance of all works such as white washing of buildings, improvement to environment etc.

The scheme provides for the fulfilment of public needs through voluntary contributions of not less than 25% which may be in the form of labour, kind or cash.

Public, Social Service Organisations, Industrial Establishments and other Voluntary Organisations can participate and implement the scheme.

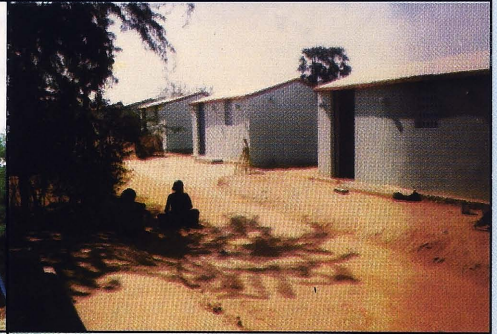
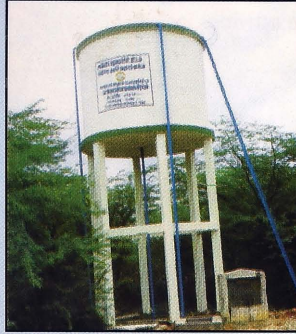
The District Collectors co-ordinate the implementation of the Scheme with the assistance of various Departments.

The allocation for this programme was enhanced from Rs.5 crores in 1997-98 to Rs.10 crores in 1998-99. 9,722

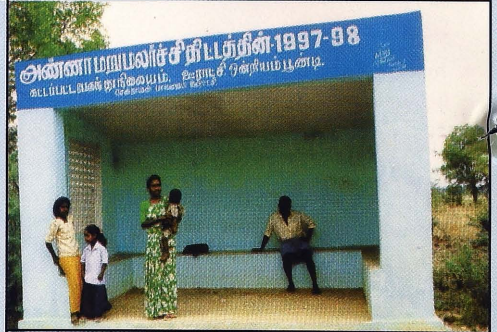


works at a cost of Rs.48 crores were completed. The allocation for the year 1999-2000 is Rs.10 crores. □

ANNA RENAISSANCE SCHEME



The objective of Anna Renaissance Scheme introduced in 1997-98 is to select a village in each Legislative Assembly Constituency every year and develop it into a modern village by providing all basic amenities such as protected drinking water, primary education, primary health care, nutritious food, street lights, link roads, fair price shops, etc. The allocation for this scheme which was Rs.52 crores was increased to Rs.75 crores in 1998-99. 52,943 works at a cost of Rs.353 crores were taken up. For the year 1999-2000, the allocation is Rs.75 crores.



KANNIYAKUMARI

The land's end of India or the point where the three seas meet, is the enchanting Kanniyakumari or Cape Comorin. It is one of the most popular tourist spots in the State and indeed, in the Country. Part of the fascination is, of course, the fact that it is the very tip of the Indian peninsula and the confluence of the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. You'd love to see Cape Comorin during Chitra Pournami (full moon day in April) when the sun and the moon are face to face at the same horizon but other full moon days are also special when you can see the sun set and the moon rise almost simultaneously, as if by prior arrangement.

WHAT TO SEE

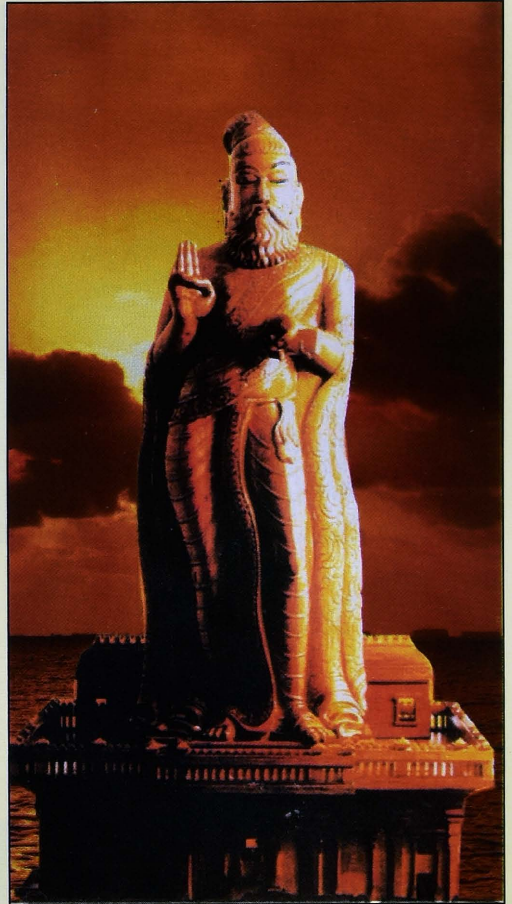
■ Kumari Amman Temple

It is dedicated to Parvathi as Devi Kanya - the virgin goddess who did penance to obtain the hand of Lord Siva.

Darshan Timings : 4.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m and 4.00 p.m. to 8.15 p.m.

■ Vivekananda Rock

This Memorial was built on a rock amidst the seas in 1970. It is dedicated to Swami Vivekananda, the greatest social reformer and



saint India has produced. Swami Vivekananda meditated on the rock where the memorial stands today at the end of 1892 before his departure to Chicago to participate in the World Religious Conference in 1893. A meditation hall is also attached with the memorial. Ferry service is available to reach the memorial.

Time : 7.45 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Fare to Ferry : Rs. 6 per head

Entrance fee for Vivekananda Rock : Rs.6 per head.

■ Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Statue

A huge statue of Tamil Savant-poet, Ayyan Thiruvalluvar in Kanniyakumari is on the line of the Statue of Liberty of New York. The statue has been refurbished with the Dravidian sculptural



Visiting hours :

9.30 a.m. to

5.00 p.m.

Fee : Adults Re.1.00
perhead.

Child 0.50 paise
perhead.

EXCURSION

■ Vattakottai (Circular Fort)

This 18th Century fort overlooking the sea is a fine picnic spot. The sea is calm and suitable for bathing.

details and a modern architectural delight raising over the rock situated adjacent to Vivekananda Rock Memorial. The height of the statue is 133 feet.

■ Gandhi Memorial

The Gandhi Mandapam has been constructed at the spot where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were kept for public view in an urn before a portion was immersed into the three seas. Every year on Gandhiji's birthday on 2nd October, the sun rays fall at the exact spot where the urn was displayed before immersion.

■ Gunganathaswamy Temple

This 1000-year-old temple is said to have been built by Raja Raja Chola.

■ Government Museum

Beach Road,
Kanniyakumari.

■ Nagercoil

The Nagaraja temple is situated here. Though Nagaraja (Serpent God) is the presiding deity, the images of Lord Siva and Ananthakrishna are also enshrined here. The images of the Jain Theerthangaras, Mahavira and Parsvanathar, are found on the pillars of the temple. The Nagaraja is installed on the ground where it was originally found and the sands are scooped out and given



as Prasadam to the devotees. The entrance to the temple is reminiscent of Chinese architecture of a Buddhist Vihara.

■ Suchindram

The Thanumalayan temple here is a repository of art treasures. Musical pillars and a huge 18-foot-high Hanuman statue are proof of the artistic skill of the time. Inscriptions said to be of the 9th Century AD are found in this temple. This unique temple is dedicated to Trimurthy-Vishnu, Siva and Brahma.

■ Udayagiri Fort (34 kms)

This Fort was built during the regime of king Marthanda Varma (1729-1758 AD). It also had a foundry for casting guns. De Lennoy's tomb is in this fort. He was one of the 24 European prisoners taken by King Marthanda Varma in 1741 when he defeated the Dutch at Colachel. He joined King Marthanda Varma and became a trusted General. He trained soldiers in the European method of fighting.

■ Thiruparappu Water Falls

Picturesque spot with an ancient Mahadeva temple.

■ Thiruvattar

The temple here is one of the finest specimens of temple architecture. The



paintings on the walls of the temple are worth seeing. Mathoor Thottipalam is one of the largest and the highest bridges located near Thiruvattar and is about 70 kms from Kanniyakumari. The bridge and the lush green surroundings are noted for scenic beauty.

■ Muttam

A fine beach and light-house. Excellent picnic spot.

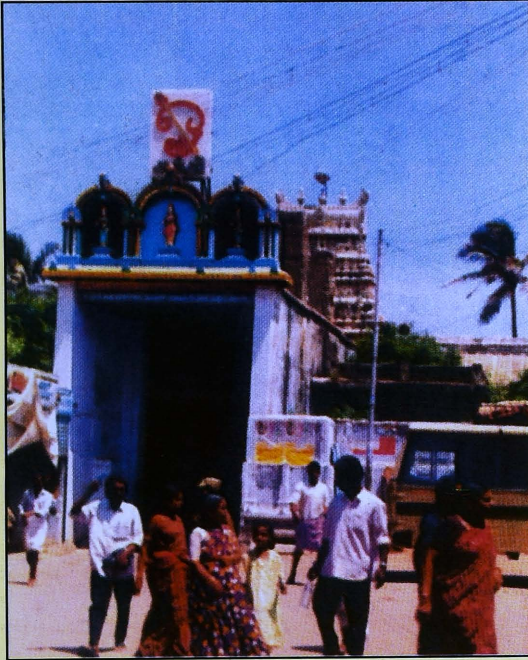


■ Chidarai (Thirucharan- thumalai)

The Jain sculptures are worth seeing. It is a fine picnic spot.

■ Pechiparai and Perunchan Dams

These dam sites are excellent picnic spots. Boating facilities and dormitory-type accommodation are available.



■ Padmanabhapuram (45kms)

This was the Capital of Travancore until 1798 AD. There is a palace inside the fort which covers an area of 6 acres. On display in the palace are many antiquities, including the armoury of the royal family.

In the Ramaswamy temple adjoining the palace, scenes from the Ramayanam have been carved in 45 panels. The palace is open to the public from 9.00-17.00 hrs. Monday is a holiday.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Temples : Kumari Amman temple, Suchindram temple, Gunganathaswamy (Siva) temple and Kumarakoil.

Church : The Holy Lady of Ransom R.C. Church, Kanniyakumari. Sahayamatha R.C. Church, Vazhukampara, St. Xavier's Church, Kottar, Nagercoil, C.S.I. Home Church, Nagercoil.

Mosque : Jamiah Masjid - Thuckalay.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

Tiruchendur (91 kms.)

It is one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya. It is situated on the sea shore, about 100 kms. north of Kanniyakumari. The beautiful Shanmuga Vilasam in front of the temple, overlooking the mighty ocean, is an inspiring sight. Tradition has it that, Lord Subramanya, after his victory over the demon-Soorapadman, came here and offered worship to Siva. The victory is celebrated every year in the Tamil month of Aipasi (October-November).

Kudirai Mozhitheri is a natural spring which is 12 kms. from Tiruchendur. Nanguneri is famous for its Thothadri temple. The lion-tailed monkey can be spotted at the Kalakad Sanctuary. The church of Manapadu is worth seeing.

FESTIVALS

Chithra Pournami Festival - April-May,
Navarathri : September-October. Annual Holy Festival of R.C. Church - Second week of December.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police Station	☎ 71224
Railway Station	☎ 71247
Bus Stand	☎ 71285
Tourist Office	☎ 71276
Vivekanandapuram & Information Centre	☎ 71250
Collector of Kanniyakumari (At Nagercoil)	☎ 33285 33199
Superintendent of Police	☎ 30297 33197
Revenue Divisional Office	☎ 23833
Government Circuit House	☎ 33087

Accommodation

Hotel Tamil Nadu (TTDC)
Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking,
Beach Road,
Kanniyakumari. ☎ 71257/8





Due to the sincere efforts taken by this Government not even a single habitation is left without the facility of drinking water supply in the past three year period in 66,636 habitations in Tamil Nadu.

Further, drinking water supply facility at a full-fledged level has been provided to 49,629 habitations.

TAMIL NADU - the first State in India to :

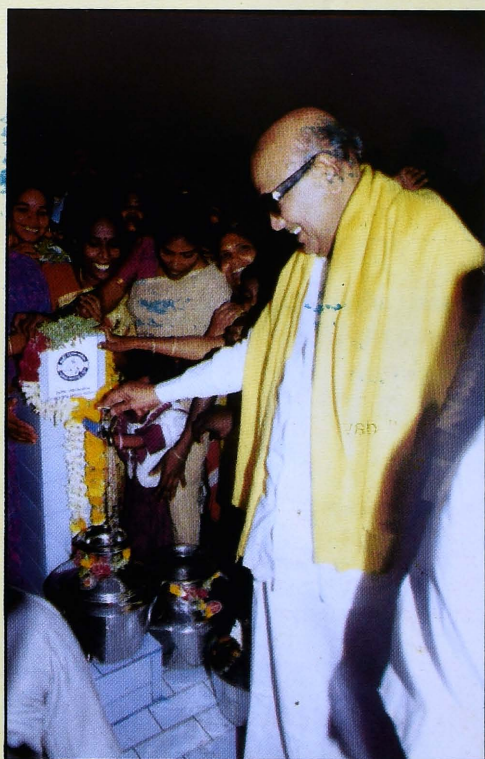
- adopt the goal of piped water supply scheme to all rural habitations.
- provide house service connections in all rural areas.
- provide separate drinking water tank in rural schools.
- increase the level of service in rural areas from the national norms of 40 lpcd to 55 lpcd.

Rejuvenation of water supply schemes

Many of the water supply schemes with substantial funding had become non-functional due to inadequate maintenance. Rejuvenation were carried out for 3,222 individual power pump schemes at a cost of Rs.32.74 crores. Apart from this rejuvenation works were carried out for 233 comprehensive water supply schemes at a cost of Rs.7.1 crores. Rejuvenation works were taken up and completed for water supply schemes benefitting 39 Municipalities, 92 Urban Town Panchayats and 133 Rural Town Panchayats at an expenditure of Rs.12.7 crores.

3, 429 habitations have been identified as fluoride affected habitations in Tamil Nadu. Since 1996, 1720 fluoride affected habitations have been provided with safe potable drinking water at a cost of Rs.64.47 crores. The remaining 1709 fluoride affected habitations would be covered before March 2001.

A scheme to provide protected drinking water to Government Schools without safe drinking water facilities was taken up during 1998-99. As on 31-12-1999 water supply has been provided for 2,148 schools.



Water supply schemes to 11 Municipalities, 44 Urban Town Panchayats and 43 Rural Town Panchayats were completed at an estimated cost of Rs.196.67 crores, benefitting a population of about 19.24 lakhs in the last 3½ years. ★

Chennai City sight seeing Tour

Morning & Evening on all days. 8 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.
1.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

Places Covered

Fort St George, Government Museum, Valluvar Kottam, Snake Park, Kapaleeswarar Temple and Marina Beach. (Government Museum will be closed on Fridays and Birla Planetarium will be covered on that day) (Snake Park will be closed on Tuesdays)

Fare : Non A/c : Rs.75
A/c : Rs.130

MAMALLAPURAM TOUR (ROUND TRIP) (Dravidian Culture Tour)

On all days. 7.00 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Places Covered

- ★ Kancheepuram
- ★ Mamallapuram
- ★ Crocodile Bank
- ★ Muttukadu Boat House and VGP Golden Beach.

Fare : Non A/c. Rs. 180
A/c. Rs.325
(Incl. of breakfast & Veg. Lunch)
(VGP entrance fee extra)

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ONE DAY PONDICHERRY TOUR

On every Saturday and Sunday.
Time : 6.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Places Covered

Melmaruvathur, Thiruvakkara, Pondicherry, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Beach, Auroville, Museum.

Fare : Non A/c. Rs.175; A/c. Rs.275

TIRUPATHI TOUR (Day Trip)

On all days. Dep. Time : 6.10 a.m. arrival after 9.30 p.m.

Places Covered

Tirupathi, Thirumala and Tiruchanur.

Fare : Adult Non A/c. Rs.315

TIRUPATHI TOUR (Night Trip)

On all days. Dep. Time : 10.30 p.m. arrival after 4.00 p.m. on the next day.

Places Covered

Tirupathi, Thirumala and Tiruchanur.

Fare : Adult Rs.370

3 DAYS NAVAGRAHA TOUR (Nine Planets)

Leaves Chennai every Friday at 10.30 p.m. and returns the following Monday by 6.00 a.m.

Places Covered

Vaitheeswaran Koil (Angaraha-Mars), Thiruvendkadu (Budha-Mercury) Keezhperum - pallam (Kethu), Thirunallaru (Sani-Saturn), Alangudi (Guru-Jupiter), Thingalur (Chandra-Moon), Thirunageswaram (Raghu), Surianar Koil (Surya-Sun) and Kanchanur (Sukra-Venus)

Fare : Adult Non A/c. Rs.675

8 DAYS ANDHRA TOUR

Leaves Chennai every Friday at 7.00 a.m. and returns the following Friday by 8.00 p.m.

Places Covered

Narayanavanam, Konai Falls, Sri Kalahasthi*, Nellore, Dip in the Krishna River, Kanagadurga Temple, Vijayawada*, Mangalagiri, Nagarjuna Sagar Dam*, Hyderabad, Salarjung Museum, Charminar, Secunderabad*, Buddha Poorinima, Golconda Fort, Zoo, Manthralayam*, Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi* Lepakshi (Tallest Nandi), Kadri*, Horsely Hills, Thiruthani.

Fare : Single Room Rs.3,380
Double Room Rs.2,750

6 DAYS SOUTH INDIA TOUR

Leaves Chennai Saturday at 7 a.m. and returns the following Thursday by 5.00 p.m.

Places Covered

Bangalore*, Srirangapatnam, Brindavan Garden, Mysore*, Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary, Udhagamandalam*, Perur Temple, Marudhamalai, Coimbatore*, Hogenakkal*, Tiruvannamalai.

Fare : Single Room
Rs.3,150
Double Room
Rs.2,600

8 DAYS TAMIL NADU TOUR

Leaves Chennai every Saturday at 8 a.m. and returns the following Saturday by 6 p.m.

Places Covered

Pondicherry, Pitchavaram, Chidambaram*, Vaitheeswaran Koil, Nagore, Velankanni, Thanjavur*, Rameswaram, Mandapam*, Kanniyakumari*, Tiruchi*.

Fare : Single Room Rs.3,380
Double Room Rs.2,750

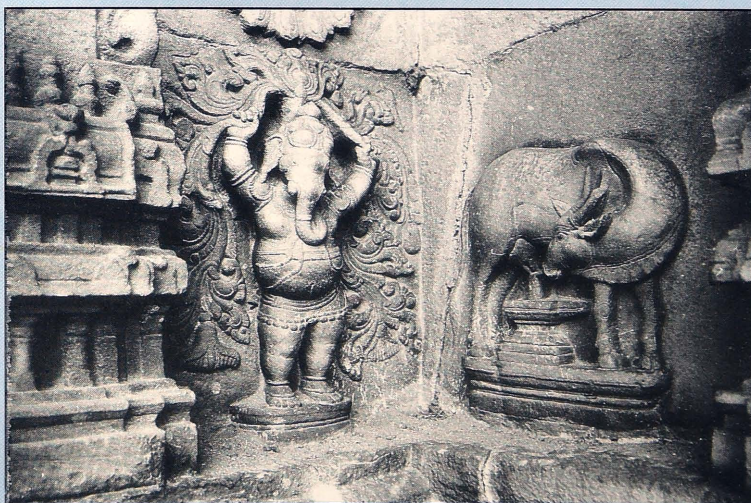
14 DAYS SUNNY SOUTH TOUR

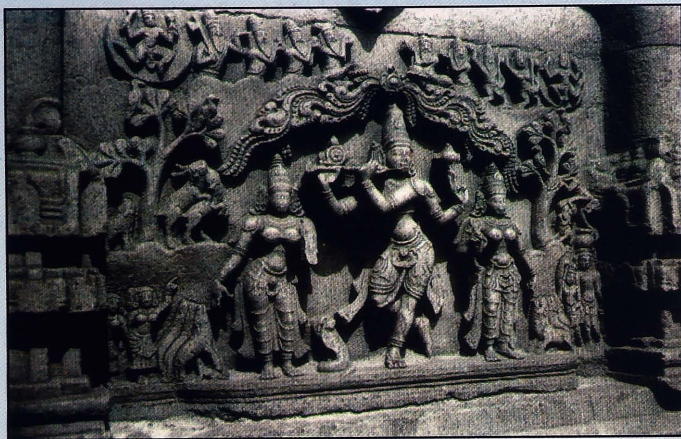
Leaves Chennai at 7 a.m. every 1st and 3rd Wednesday

Places Covered

Tiruthani, Tirupathi*, Tiruchanur, Bangalore*, Mysore*, Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary, Udhagamandalam*, Marudhamalai, Coimbatore*, Guruvayur, Cochin*, Kovalam, Trivandrum*, Suchindram, Kanniyakumari*, Tiruchendur, Rameswaram*, Tiruparan-kundram, Madurai*, Palani, Tiruchy*, Thanjavur, Swamimalai, Poompuhar, Chidambaram*, Pondicherry, Mamallapuram, Kancheepuram.

Fare : Single Room - Rs.7,350
Double Room - Rs.6,000





7 DAYS MOOKAMBIKA TOUR

Leaves Chennai every Sunday at 7 a.m. and returns the following Saturday by 6.00 p.m.

Places Covered

Bangalore*, Shravanabelgola, Halebid, Belur, Hassan*, Sringeri, Mookambika (Kollur), Udupi*, Dharmastala, Subramaniya, Mysore**, Hogenakkal*.

Fare : Single Room - Rs.3,350
Double Room - Rs.2,750

7 DAYS GOA-MANTRALAYAM TOUR

Leaves Chennai every Saturday at 7 a.m. returns the following Friday by 8 p.m.

Places Covered

Ahobilam, Nandyal *, Mahanandhi, Sri Sailam, Mantralayam*, Hampi, Hospet*, Goa**, Bangalore*.

Fare : Single Room - Rs.3,850
Double Room - Rs.3,200

THIRUVANNAMALAI GIRIVALAM

Leaves Chennai every Full Moon day at 2.00 p.m. and returns on the next day 6.00 a.m.

Fare : Non A/c. Rs.150;
A/c. Rs.240

4 DAYS CHOZHANATTU THIRUPATHIGAL TOUR (Vaishnava Temples)

Leaves Chennai every First and Third Fridays at 10.30 p.m. and returns the following Tuesday by 6.00 a.m.

Places Covered

Sirkazhi, Thirunagari, Thirunangur, Thiruvellakulam (Annankovil), Thiruvizhandur, Thirukkannapuram, Thirunagai, Nagapattinam*, Thirukkannamangai, Thirucherai, Thiruvinnagar (Oppiliappan Koil), Thirunaraiyur (Nachiar Koil), Kumbakonam, Thirukkandiyur, Thanjavur, Thirukkarambanur (Uthamar Koil), Tiruchy*, Thiruvellarai, Thirukkozhi (Uraiyur), Thiruvarangam (Srirangam).

Fare : Rs.800

5 DAYS PANDIYANATTU THIRUPATHIGAL TOUR (Vaishnava Temples)

Leaves Chennai every Second and Fourth Fridays at 9.00 p.m. and returns the following Wednesday by 5.00 a.m.

Places Covered

Trichy, Thirumayam, Thirukostiyur, Thirupullani, Mandapam*, Koodalazhakar Koil (Madurai), Thiruthangal, Srivilliputhur, Tirunelveli*, Nava Thirupathigal, Thirukkurungudi, Vanamalai, Madurai*, Thirumohoor, Alagar Koil, Meenakshi Amman Koil, Srirangam.

Fare : Single Room - Rs.1350
Double Room - Rs.1100

12 DAYS MUMBAI - AJANTHA - ELLORA TOUR

Leaves Chennai at 7.00 a.m. every First and Third Saturday.

Places Covered

Bhoganandeeswara Temple, Yoganandeeswara Temple, View Point, Nandhi Hills* Hampi Virupaksha Temple, Monolithic Narasimha, Queen's Bath, Vittala Temple, Badami caves, Badami*, Elephant Stables, Aihole, Pattadakal, Golgumbaz:(Bijapur), Sri Vittal Temple, Pandaripuram, Bandarpur*, Mahabaleeswar (Hill Station), Lake, Jothilingam, Mahabaleeswar*, Pune (Agakhan Palace), Mumbai*, Prince of Whales Museum, Kamala Nehru Park, Hanging Garden, Taraporewala Aquarium, Juhu Beach, Hare Rama Hare Krishna Temple, Marine Drive, Mumbai*, Gateway of India, Elephanta cave, Nasik Muthitham, Shridi Sai Baba Temple, Shridi*, Aurangabad, Bibikamaqbara, Girihadeshwara Temple, Ellora Caves, Khuldabad, Aurangabad*, Ajantha Caves, Nanded*, Golconda Fort, Birla Mandhir, Hyderabad*, Charminar, Salarjung Museum, Zoo, Nandyal*, Mahanandhi.

Fare : Single Room Rs.6,000
Double Room Rs.4,500

14 DAYS PURI - GAYA - KASI - ALLAHABAD TOUR

Leaves Chennai at 8.00 a.m. every
Second and Fourth Saturday.

Places Covered

Suruttapalli, Kalahasti, Nellore*, Mangalagiri, Undavalli Cave, Dip in Krishna River, Kanaga Durga Temple, Vijayawada*, Annavaram, Simhachalam, Visakapatnam*, Khandagiri, Udayagiri, Bhubaneswar*, Puri, Varanasi (Kasi)*, Dip in Ganga River, Temple, Saranath, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi*, Allahabad (Triveni Sangamam, Pathalapuri, Anjaneyar Temple), Maihar*, Nagpur*, Hyderabad*, Golkonda, Birla Mandir, Charminar, Salarjung Museum, Nandiyar*, Mahanandhi.

Fare : Single Room - Rs.5,700
Double Room - Rs.4,500

M night halt places

ADVANCE BOOKING CAN BE MADE AT

1. TTDC Sales Counter at Express Bus Stand
☎ 5341982.
2. Tamil Nadu Tourist Information Centre at
Central Railway Station ☎ 5353351.
3. Tamil Nadu Tourist Information Centre at
Egmore Railway Station ☎ 8252165.
4. Tamil Nadu Tourist Information Centre at
Airport ☎ 2340569.
5. TTDC Sales Counter at
New Delhi ☎ 3363607, 3365358, 6877856.
Calcutta ☎ 4720432, 4729611.
Mumbai ☎ 4031084.
Thiruvananthapuram ☎ 327310.



For further information, please contact :

TAMIL NADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

4, E.V.R. Road, Chennai - 3.

☎ 5382916, 5360294 Fax : 5361385,

Telex : 041-757 Grams : "TAMIL TOUR"

E-Mail : ttdc@md3.vsnl.net.in I'net : <http://www.tamilnadu tourism.com>

★ ★ ★

ASBESTOS SHEET ROOFED HOUSES FOR SLUM DWELLERS

This scheme was implemented in the cities of Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Salem at a cost of Rs.5 crores benefitting 7936 families during the year 1998-99.

It has been planned to construct asbestos roofed houses with compound walls at a cost of



In the budget for the year 1999-2000 it was announced that the Government would provide asbestos sheet roofs to replace thatched roofs for the city slum-dwellers so as to find a permanent solution to their long standing sufferings due to frequent fire accidents.

Rs.21.5 crores to 20611 families during the year 1999-2000.

It has also been proposed to provide asbestos roofed houses with compound walls for further 12082 families at a cost of Rs.15.10 crores.

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