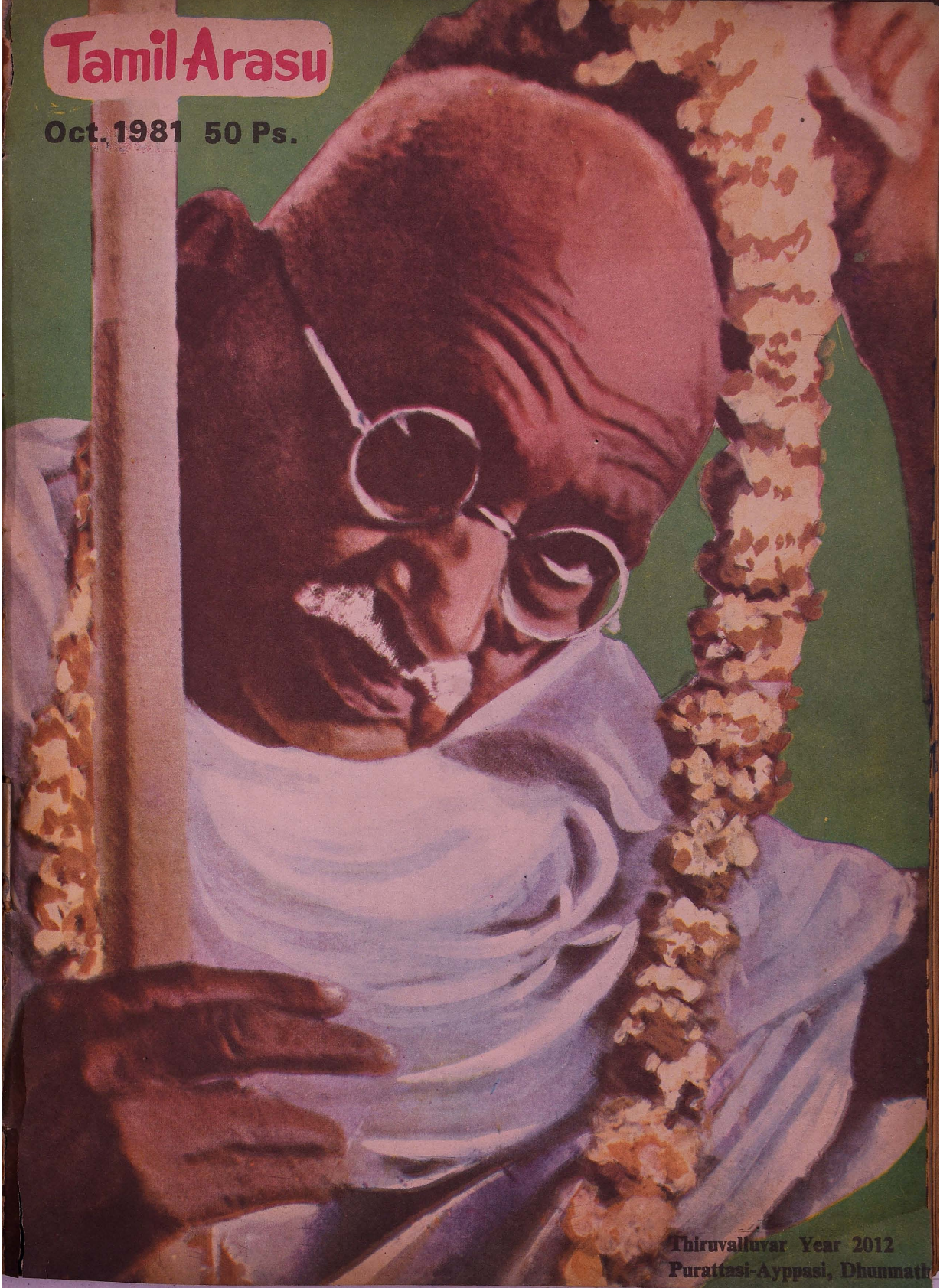


Tamil Arasu

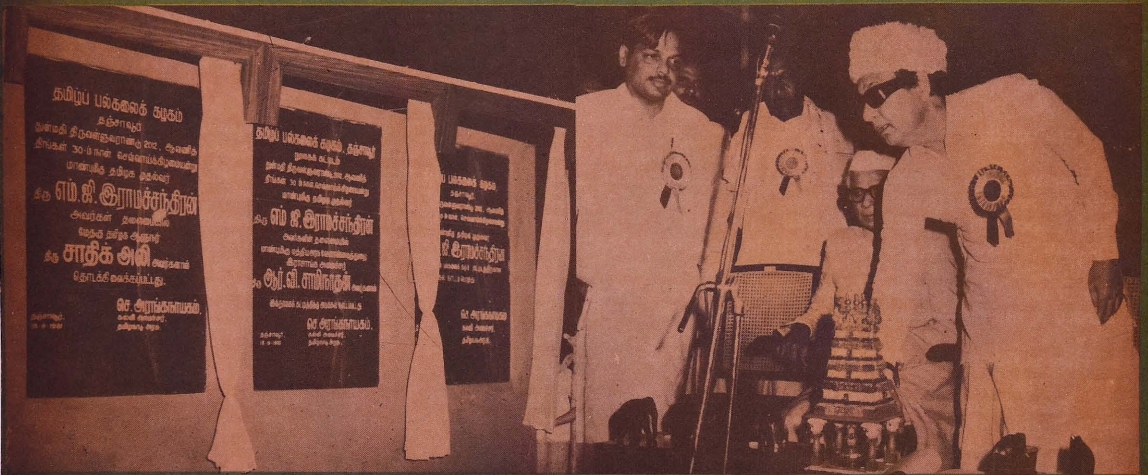
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Thiruvalluvar Year 2012
Purattasi-Ayppasi, Dhanu-math



INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF TAMIL UNIVERSITY AT THANJAVUR



15-9-1981-17-9-1981



WILD LIFE

INDISPENSABLE TO MANKIND

C.M.'s Appeal

The first week of October is being celebrated every year as Wild Life Week. The object of these celebrations is to bring to the attention of the people that the animals, birds and the marine breeds are preserved and protected in their natural habitat.

The tiger and peacock have been selected as our national animal and bird respectively, thereby manifesting our interest in protecting our wildlife. As far as our country is concerned, all our wild life are regarded as our national wealth.

The Government of Tamilnadu has provided wild life sanctuaries in the State where these animals and birds could live in their natural

surroundings and the public could view them. Apart from providing security to the wild life those sanctuaries serve as tourist attractions and also help earn valuable foreign exchange.

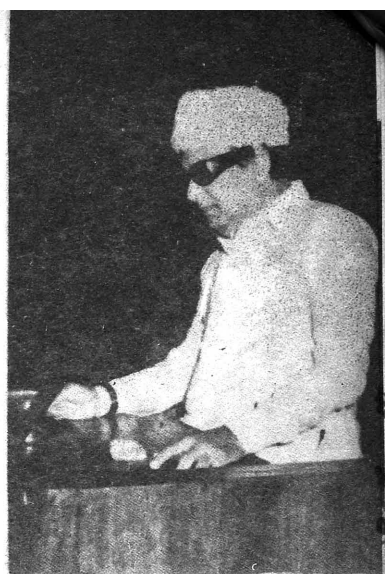
Let us on this occasion take a pledge to ensure that wild life in this country do not come to any harm. The wild animals roaming in their natural habitat are pleasing sights to human eyes. The number of certain rare species of animals has gone down rather rapidly due to indiscriminate poaching by some antisocial elements.

Life in the forest has been affected to a great extent due to disproport-

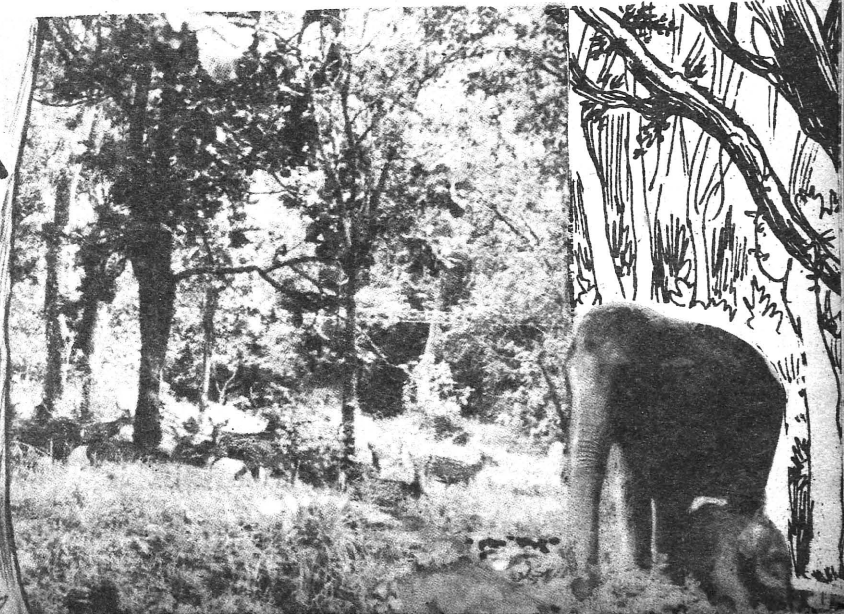
ionate growth in population resulting in man claiming more lands for his occupation as also the employment by him of modern weapons to conquer wild life.


Though man is said to be a social animal, still he does not realize the feelings of other living creatures. The unlimited growth in population would gradually overrun the forest areas and the day is not far off when we shall be seeing wild animals only in the museums. By protecting the birds and animals, we are doing a great service to posterity.

Having realised the indispensability of wild life to mankind, it becomes our duty to protect them.



Tamil Arasu
OCTOBER
1981
Vol: XII
No: 4





PRESERVE WILD LIFE for POSTERITY

To emphasize the importance of wild life, which is becoming rare and extinct and to make the public realize its importance, the wild life week is celebrated during the first week of October every year coinciding with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. This is the 27th Wild life week being observed in our country.

The flora and fauna co-exist. The land, soil, water and sunshine, are essential for their existence. If there is disturbance of any one of these factors, it would cause general detriment. The repercussions, if not felt immediately, are sure to surface at some later date.

Not much harm was done to number the wild life by the humans, so long as their growth was restricted. It is learnt that out of 1,600 species of wild life which were in existence in South India about 200 species have become extinct. As the human population grew, man began to destroy wild life, particularly animals.

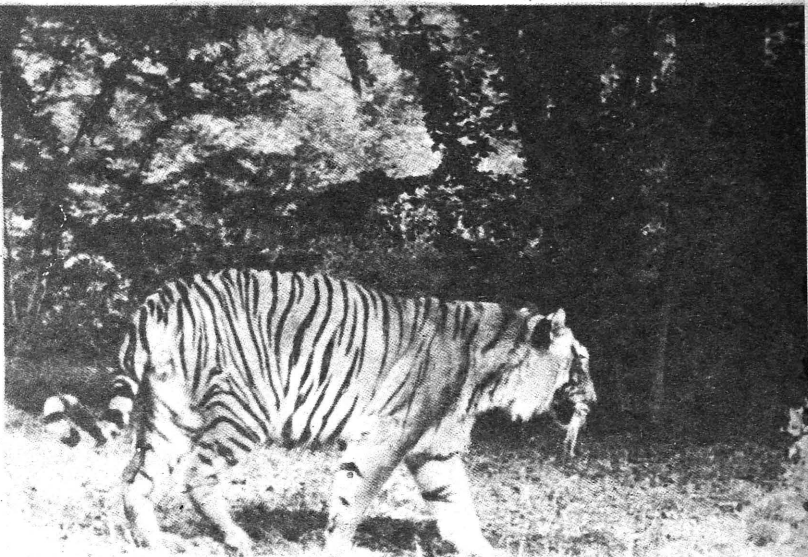
The one-horned rhinoceros, which was found in North India i.e. in our own times, we hear that from the Punjab in the West to the Maharaja of Sarguja had killed Assam and West Bengal in the east, 1,100 tigers in his lifetime and the area, are now observed to be confined to a few pockets in Assam and spread over a 2,000 square mile. Our country, which had an estimated population of 40,000 tigers at the West Bengal. The lion, which was a beginning of the century, has today thriving species in the forests of only 1,872 according to the latest North India, is now found only in census. Millions of American the Gir forests of Gujarat. Some bisons have been slaughtered indiscriminately for their skin and their time ago, a naval officer had killed about 80 lions in Kathiawar. District,

Gujarat. The Cheetah which inhabited the whole of Central India is gradually vanishing and is to be seen only in some zoos. The sturdy bison, which roamed the entire country, can now be seen only in the wild life sanctuaries of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Tamilnadu. The Bengal Tiger noted for its ferocity, has been wiped away from the whole world.

We learn that the Bengal tiger was erased from life by the administering of poison in phases during the years 1964-69 and that the skins of 5,000 tigers have been exported during the year 1969 alone. According to the latest statistics 3 lakh wildlife are killed for their hides every year.

A country denuded of forests is poorer to that extent. Forests and wild life are interdependant. Without forests, there is no wild life. Likewise, if there is no wild-life, forest areas gradually diminish. The forests provide fruits, grass and shoots for the animals to live on. The wild life helps the plant life to increase. The birds, bees and butterflies help in pollination. The excreta of the fauna acts as the manure for plants. The insects which attack plants become a source of food for birds. The birds and animals which live on fruits help to spread the seeds, which in turn help plants and trees to grow. Besides birds and animals, the insects also help in soil protection and plant life development. A smoothly operating concomitant life-cycle obtaining among wild life is being disturbed by man's avarice.

Could anyone believe that the huge Sahara desert of today was in years gone by a dense forest, from where war elephants were supplied to the Roman Empire? The "cradle of civilization" which comprised of the middle east countries of North Africa and Arabia were once fertile jungles which served as sanctuaries for a number of wild animals. Felling of trees, excessive grazing by cattle, indiscriminate killing of animals have all contributed to the conversion of this vast area into a desert place. Mohenjodaro, which flourished as a great city of civilization, 5,000 years ago, stands as an arid desert before our eyes today, retailing its tale of woe. Therefore, it is seen from nature that forests and wild life should be preserved for the benefit of mankind itself.

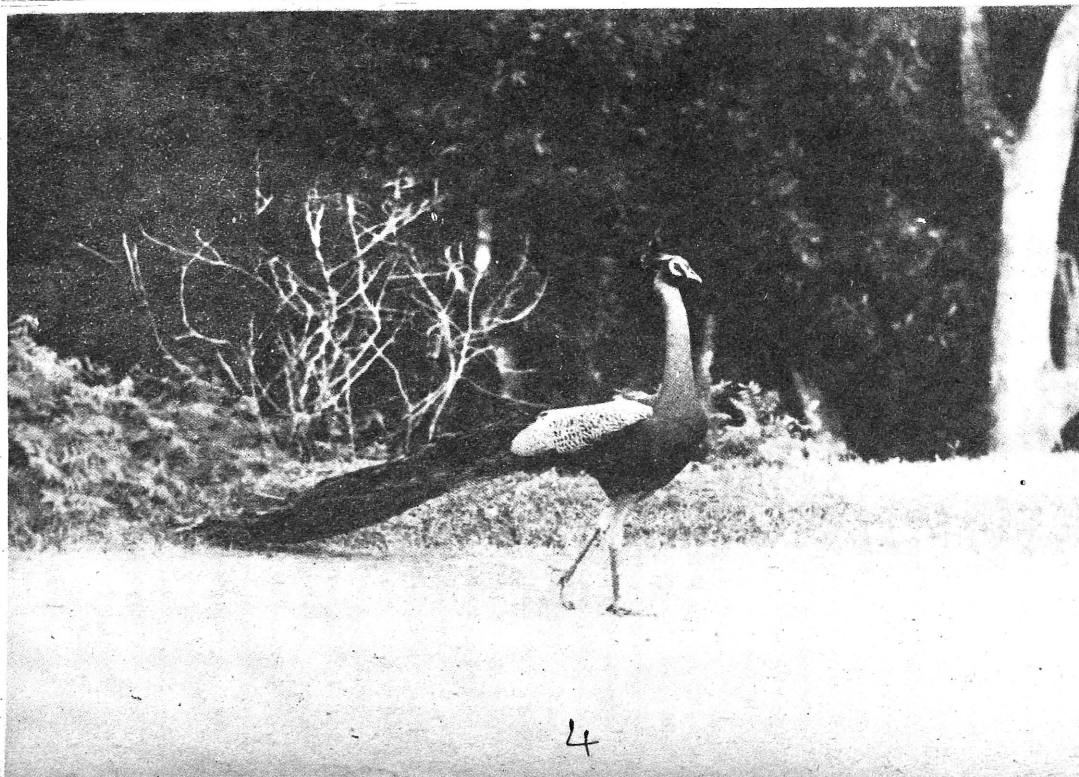
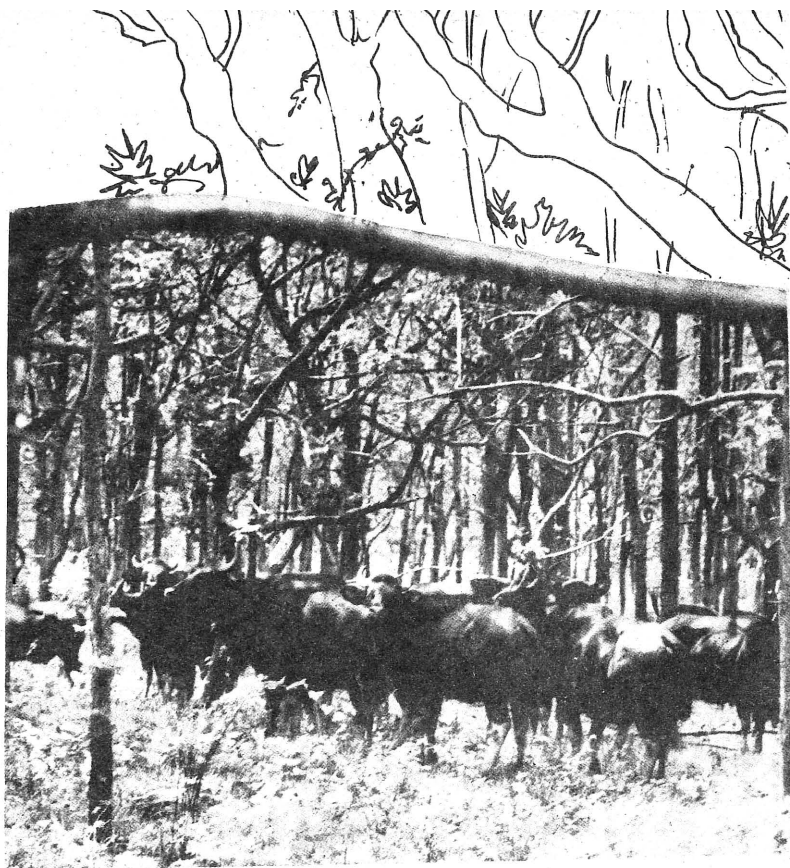


The idea of preserving wild life has been there from time immemorial. As long as 1,600 years ago, Emperor Asoka in his edicts inscribed on the Asoka Pillars, has declared that cruelty to animals would be prohibited. He had also set up a hospital for animals, stating that the life of animals is as important as that of man's. He had also appealed to the people in his kingdom that animals should be treated with love and care.

In 1885, i.e., 125 years ago, the natives of North America in a memorandum to the then American President had laid down a condition to the whitemen who occupied forest lands insisting that they should treat the animals like their own brethern, thereby bringing into focus the fact that mankind cannot survive without wild life.

The construction of a dam was stopped in North America by the public, when it was felt that the project meant a threat to the survival of a certain species of fish. It only goes to prove how far the people in that region were interested in protecting wild life.

The Indian wild life is varied. They are a class by themselves. The majesty of the tiger, the gran-





deur of the elephant, the glamour of the chittal, the beauty of the peacock, attract people all over the world. There is a wide variety of animals and birds in our country which cannot be seen anywhere else in the world. There are more than 500 species of animals and 1,200 species of birds, which are a bounteous gift of mother nature to us. By giving intensive publicity in other countries we could develop Wild Life Tourism and thereby accomplishing substantial increase in the inflow of tourists which will make for considerable increase in our foreign exchange. Kenya, a small country in Africa, ranks third in its income through Wild Life Tourism.

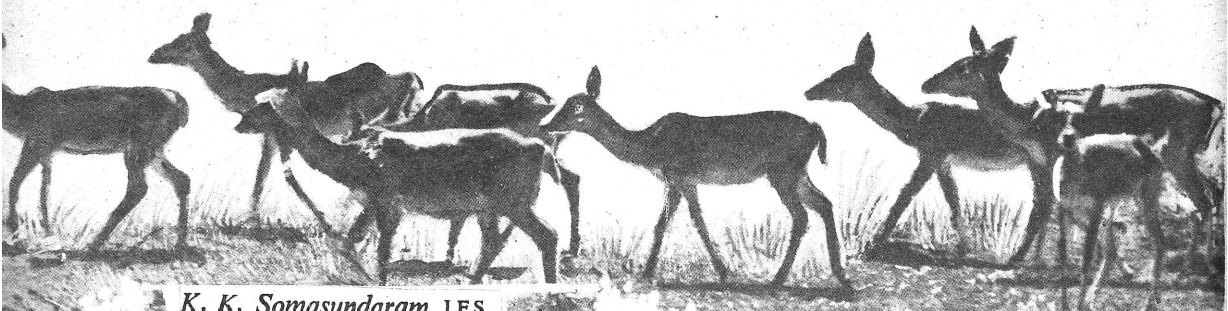
The United States of America earns revenue through 70 lakhs of its people who visit the forests for bird watching. 45 lakhs of its people make a living through photographing wild life. The life of the people of Africa, Ghana, Zaire and the Mediterranean countries depend on the wealth of their forests. Therefore, we have been compelled to take definite steps to prevent atleast our existing wild life for posterity.

Even if the animals do not move out of their habitats, man goes in search of them and kills them. Some drastic action is needed to prevent this. Wild life live on the grass and shoots growing in their environs. It is feared that man will gradually destroy this environment and kill the animals and make them extinct. It is a misconception to regard that animals endanger mankind. On the other hand, it is man who endangers animals. It is man who harms animals and not vice-verse.

I appeal to you to take a pledge in this birth centenary year of Mahakavi Bharathiyar that we should protect wildlife for our betterment and for our posterity recalling the great poet's words : 'the crow and the sparrow are our caste : the lengthy mountains and seas are our tribe.'

(Speech of Thiru R.M. Veerappan,
Minister for
Information & Religious Endow-
ments over A.I.R. on 1-10-'81
in connection with Wild Life
Week.)

GUINDY NATIONAL PARK



K. K. Somasundaram, I.F.S.,
Wild life warden
Madras.



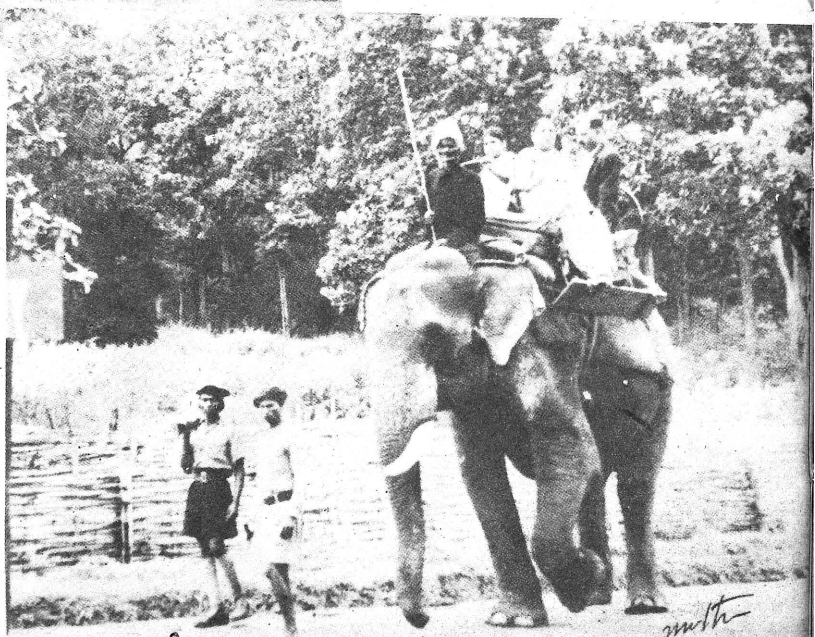
Considering the ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological and zoological importance, the Guindy Park Reserve Forests, as it was called earlier, was notified as a "National Park" during 1978 by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

Situated within the Guindy National Park is the Children's Corner (Also called as the Children's Park) at the North-eastern corner of the National Park south of Gandhi Mandapam. The Children's Corner with an area of about 8.8 hectares was inaugurated by the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on 14-4-1959. Now the park has developed well with plenty of recreational facilities. The park has a variety of mammals, reptiles and birds housed within

Guindy National Park, the only National Park in Tamil Nadu, is unique in being situated within the city limits of Madras. Perhaps no other National Park or a Sanctuary in the country enjoys this special feature. The total extent of the National Park is very small being only 270.57 hectares—but however a unique type of indigenous vegetation called the "dry ever green forests" typical of the coastal region is found here. The park has within itself about 350 numbers of Black Buck the most endangered antelope and about 700 numbers of the most beautiful deer species called the spotted deer or "chital."

The "Madras Snake Park" which is run by the Madras Snake Park Trust is situated within the National Park.



with

cages. The two elephants "Nanjan" and "Alamelu" with their little child "Anuradha" are the star attractions there. "Nanjan" the male elephant which is a well tamed animal arrived at the park a few years ago from Anamalai Sanctuary. Alamelu the female elephant originally belonged to the Nilgiri hills, while both Nanjan and Alamelu provide joy rides to the Children at the park, little "Anuradha" their child, is playful with the children with her mini trunk and cute eyes. She is a "Midget" with short stumpy legs and a trailing tail and she deserves all care. She is now 7 months old and learning to chew sugarcane.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS IN THE PARK

The wild horses (Ponies), which have been brought from the Point Calimere Sanctuary of Thanjavur District (Kodikkarai), have been well trained to provide Joy Rides to the children around the park. 30 paise is charged per round per child. The Midget Train takes the children and the grown ups round the mini-zoo in about 20 minutes. The playful lion-tailed Monkeys (the endangered species for which the Government of Tamil Nadu have created Kalakad Sanctuary), the youthful "Balu", the bear with all his gesticulations, the shining

'Otters' with their gymnastics, the Panthers, Jungle Fowl and a variety of Vedanthangal birds provide a feast to the visitor. Children are provided with amenities to play—the sea-saws, the sloping towers, swings etc. The park has a thick grove of trees providing cool shade to the tourists. Botanical names have been nailed to the trees in Zinc Plates. The entrance fee charged is 20 paise per adult and half of that for the children.

ATTRACTIONS INSIDE THE NATIONAL PARK

The National Park provides an excellent abode for the endangered Black Buck. This is the sole representative in India of the genus "Black Buck". Unlike the deers in the case of antelopes, the horns are not shed annually. This most endangered species which has got a pair of beautiful spiral horns is elsewhere found only in the Point Calimere Sanctuary of Tanjore and portions around Bhavanisagar in Coimbatore District. There are about 350 Black Bucks in the Guindy National Park which breed here unhindered. Mixed with the Black Buck but found in large numbers is the "Chital" or the spotted deer. This is one of the most graceful of the deers. A recent census puts its number around 750. While one enters the National Park one can not miss the Spotted deer in groups of 20 to 30 on the "body road" or "Grize grove". On the other hand Black buck concentrates in open areas. One can never miss them in the "Pologround." Polo and horse riding (Riding School) inside the National Park were suspended a few years ago to avoid disturbance to the Wildlife. The National Park has an interesting flora with about 200 species of herbs, shrubs and trees all native to the area. There are two big tanks called the "Appalankulam" and "Kathankollai" tanks which provide water to the deer. Artificial ponds have been dug up and "Salt licks" (Rock salt) are being placed near the water holes. During summer months the deer are fed with grass brought through lorries at selected spots.

ENTRANCE TICKETS AND VISIT INTO THE NATIONAL PARK

The entrance tickets for the National Park are issued at the Children's Corner counter at Re. 1

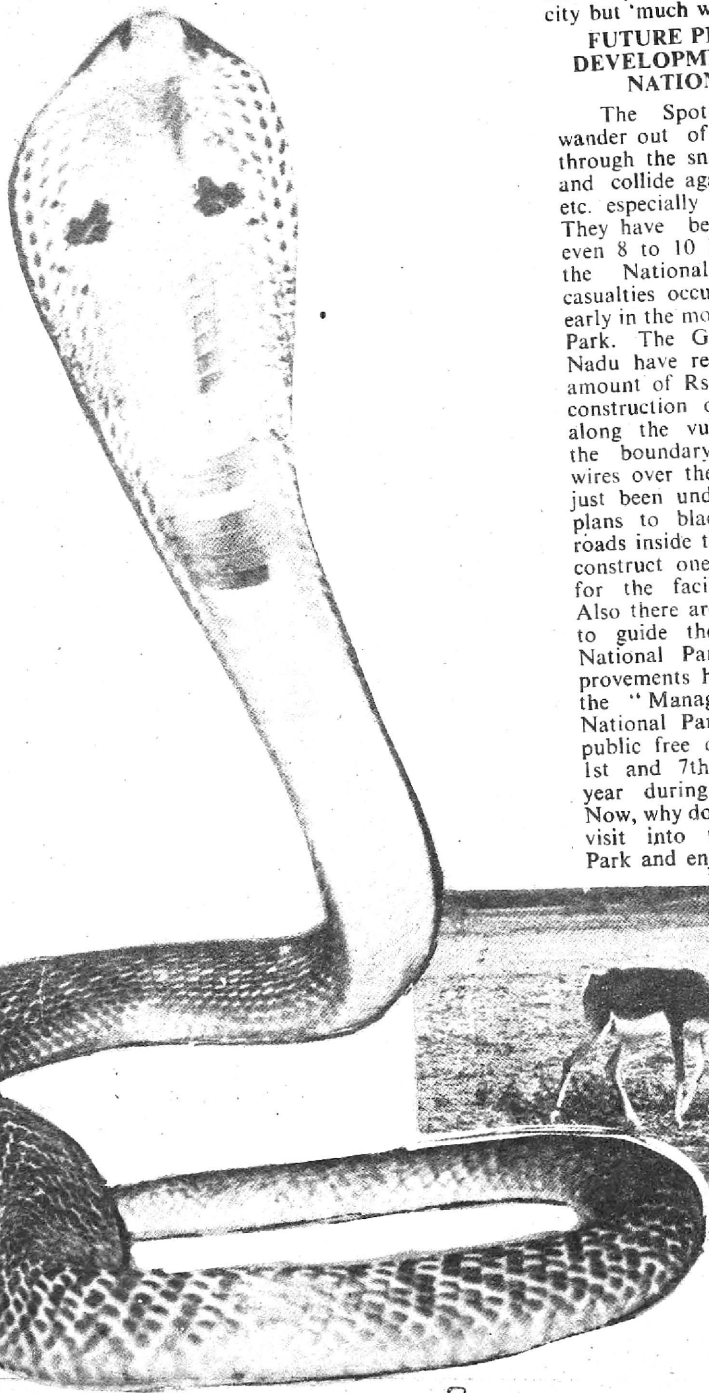


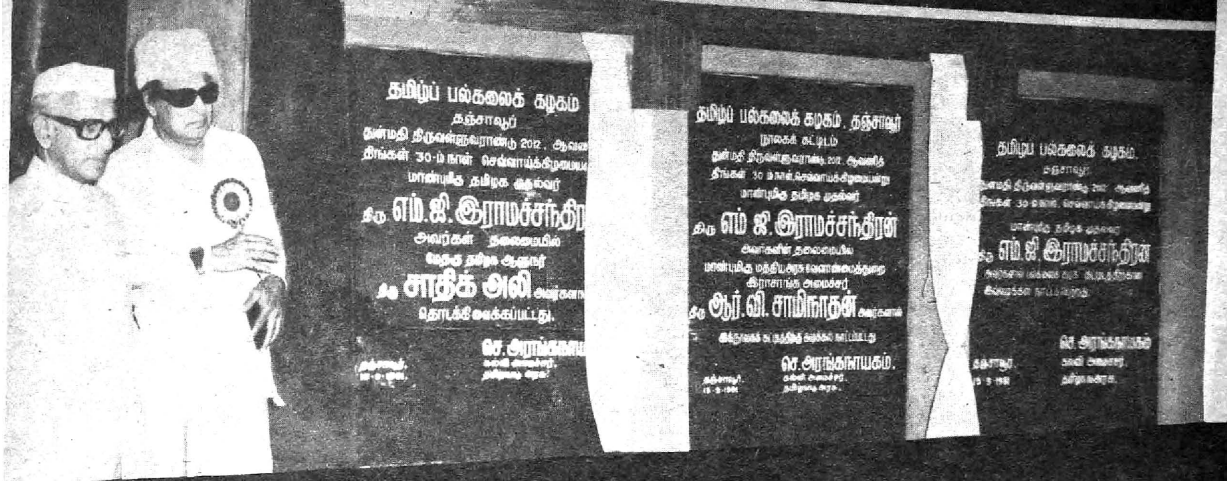
per adult and 50 paise per child. deep jungle. One does not believe Rs. 5 is collected for the cars. that he is in the midst of the City Separate tickets for the still and of Madras. A net work of about movie cameras are being issued. 9.50 K.M. length of roads takes a After entering into the National visitor into all the nooks and cor- Park one feels as though he is in a ners of the National Park. One

can do bird-watching, botanising or watch the nature's beauty in a 'calm and quiet jungle atmosphere far away' from the noise of the city but 'much within it.'

FUTURE PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARK.

The Spotted deer usually wander out of the National Park through the snapped barbed wires and collide against lorries, cars, etc. especially during the nights. They have been found roaming even 8 to 10 K.M. away from the National Park, and several casualties occur before they return early in the morning to the National Park. The Government of Tamil Nadu have recently sanctioned an amount of Rs. 12.50 lakhs for the construction of a compound wall along the vulnerable portions of the boundary and erect barbed wires over them. The works have just been under taken. There are plans to black-top some of the roads inside the National Park and construct one or two view towers for the facility of the tourists. Also there are plans to post guides to guide the tourists inside the National Park. Many other improvements have been proposed in the "Management Plan". The National Park is thrown open to public free of charge between the 1st and 7th of October of each year during the Wildlife Week. Now, why don't you make your next visit into the Guindy National Park and enjoy nature's bounties?





TAMIL UNIVERSITY

ABOVE CASTE, POLITICS

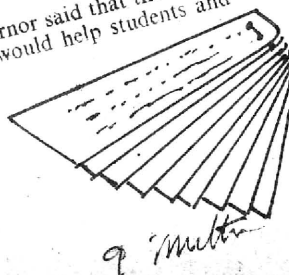
Thanjavur wore a festive look. Flags, festoons, bunting and decorated archways greeted one everywhere. The entire town was illuminated with coloured bulbs. During the nights fireworks reached out to the skies, sparkling and twinkling like stars.

The streets were filled with men, women and children dressed in gay colourful clothes. It appeared as though Bharati's dream of "Sweet tones of Tamil reverberating all over the world" was realised.

TAMIL UNIVERSITY

The Governor of Tamilnadu Thiru Sadiq Ali inaugurated the Tamil University. This university of unitary and residential type will work for furthering the advancement of learning and research in Tamil.

The Governor said that the Tamil University would help students and



scholars from abroad to conduct research on Tamil language and linguistics.

The Governor added the Tamil University would not just concentrate on development of Tamil language alone but would also create an awareness of the salient characteristics of Tamil literature.

The Governor also unveiled the portrait of the Tamil savant Tiruvalluvar.

Thiru R.V. Swaminathan, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, laying the foundation stone for the library building of the University, said the people of Tamilnadu were indebted to the Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran for establishing the Tamil University.

Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Minister for Education, welcomed the gathering.

Tamil University will be above caste and politics.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru M.G. Ramachandran said the Tamil University, for which he had laid the foundation stone, would be above caste, religion and politics.

The rules governing the Tamil University would be so framed that caste, religion and politics would never find entry into this institution, he said.

He said only Tamil scholars and experts would be allowed to take active part in administering this university, which would strive to develop various subjects including engineering, economics and medical science in Tamil.



The Chief Minister said the proposed Tamil Sangam at Madurai would take up intensive research work on Tamil. Both the Tamil Sangam and the Tamil University would play key roles in developing Tamil at world level, he said.

The Minister for Finance, Thiru V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, the Chairman, State Legislative Council Thiru M. P. Sivagnanam and the Vice Chancellor Madurai University Thiru V.S.P. Manickam were among others who spoke on the occasion.



A comparative study of the growth of Universities in India during the last 30 years reveals that the number of universities in Tamil Nadu is substantially less than the all India average. Till the formation of Tamil University, Tamil Nadu had the following universities:

1. Madras University;
2. Madurai-Kamaraj University;
3. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University;
4. Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed University);
5. Perarinar Anna University of Technology.

The Government felt the need for constituting more Universities in Tamil Nadu. Recently legislature has sanctioned the opening of the following two universities.

1. Bharathiyar University; and
2. Bharathi Dhasan University

It has also been the popular opinion in this State that there is vast scope for research in Tamil language and culture and allied matters in Tamil literature. Sanskrit and Tamil are ancient languages of the sub-continent which have made substantial contribution in all fields of life in our country. The only difference between these two languages is that Tamil is a speaking language while Sanskrit is not so. Realising the value of Sanskrit language and the scope its literature has for further studies and research, a University has been set up at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

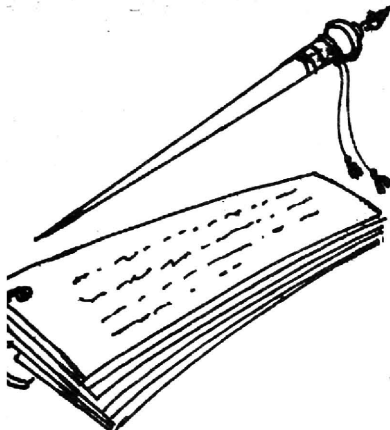
The Government of Tamil Nadu has been for sometime, considering the need for creating such a separate University for higher studies and research in Tamil literature, culture etc. Tamil - a language from time immemorial that has played a dominant role in all fields of Art, Religion, Philosophy, Politics, Medicine etc. of the country deserves to have an apex body of university to undertake continuous high level research and studies. There are no adequate facilities in the existing universities of India to help foreigners and Indians to learn Tamil and undertake research on language and linguistics, art and culture. The urge for creation of such a university was expressed unanimously by a large number of foreigners who evinced interest in higher research studies in Tamil.

TAMIL UNIVERSITY



G. SIVAGURUNATHAN
Special Officer,
Tamil University,
Education Department.





kadu Manram' and cultural programmes on each day also formed part of the inauguration.

The Tamil University has been temporarily located in the Palace Complex renovated at a cost of Rs. 7.8 lakhs and will be shifted to an extensive site when constitution of new buildings for the University will be built soon. The Tamil University shall function as a 'Residential Unitary University'. Similar to other universities, this University shall have a Chancellor, a pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and a Registrar on the administrative side and the Senate and Syndicate as advisory body to start with.

It has been unanimously decided at the Fifth International Conference-Seminar of Tamil Studies—a historic function, held at Madurai in January 1981, to establish a Tamil University exclusively for permitting higher research and studies in Tamil and to arrange for publication of a large number of rare manuscripts available in Tamil and effectively utilise them for higher studies and research in Tamil.

The Expert Committee headed by Dr. V.Sp. Manickam, Vice-Chancellor of Madurai-Kamaraj University which was requested to examine and report on the feasibility of establishing such a university and how it can be organised has clearly stated in its report that the contribution of Tamil in the areas of Prose, Poetry, Drama, Dance, Sculpture, Painting, Medicine, Philosophy and other allied areas is far more extensive than has been realised by the Indian Scholars till to-day. Therefore for undertaking prolonged high level and in-depth research in these fields, scholars and research students with versatile knowledge not only in Tamil but also in ancient languages like Sanskrit, Pali and other Indian Oriental and Occidental languages require to be shaped.

The Government of Tamil Nadu therefore with the above perspective in view, decided to establish the Tamil University. The Tamil University was inaugurated at Thanjavur the granary of Tamil Nadu and the seat of Tamil culture on 15th September 1981, the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna, our late Chief Minister in a fitting manner. The highlight of the inaugural function was the participation of Central Ministers and Education Ministers of Southern States who inaugurated various Faculties of the Tamil University. 'Kaviaragam', 'Valak-

The University will have 5 Faculties with Departments under each faculty. The following are the faculties and departments that will start functioning initially.

1. Faculty of Arts

Department of Sculpture
Department of Painting
Department of Music
Department of Drama

2. Faculty of Manuscriptology

Palm leaf Manuscript Department
Printed Manuscript Department (Rare ancient Books)
Epigraphy

3. Faculty of Developing Tamil

Department of Tamil Studies in Foreign Countries
Department of Translations
Compilation Department

4. Faculty of Languages

Department of Literature
Department of Linguistics.

5. Faculty of Science

Department of Siddha Medicine
Department of Ancient Science
Department of Industries
Department of Architecture

Objectives of Tamil University

The Tamil University will function as a high - level Research Centre.

It will impart training to those residing in India outside Tamil Nadu and also those residing overseas, who desire to study Tamil.

It will facilitate and regulate researches in fields like Art, Culture, Music, Stage-plays, Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Literature, Grammar Linguistics, History, Religion, Philosophy, Geography, Soil Science, Astronomy, Navigation and Shipping, Astrology, Siddha Medicine, Engineering Science and Handicrafts, etc.

It will translate books in other languages into Tamil and vice versa.

Preservation and publication of Palm Leaf Manuscripts and ancient printed manuscripts.

It will search for and compile all the epigraphs concerning Tamil Language, Tamil Culture and History of the Tamils and publish them with its findings based on research.

It will compile and publish the Tamil words, expressions, colloquial terms, words peculiar to Industries and Agriculture which are being used by Tamilians in Tamil Nadu and also in other countries where Tamilians live.

While making research on ancient times, it will be done with an eye on scientific-future development.

It will make research and determine the procedures regarding the development of Tamil Language embodying in itself all the educational fields existing in the developing world and evolving suitable approach therefor.

General

There will be a Museum, Publication Centre and a big Library with sophisticated equipments.

Expenditure

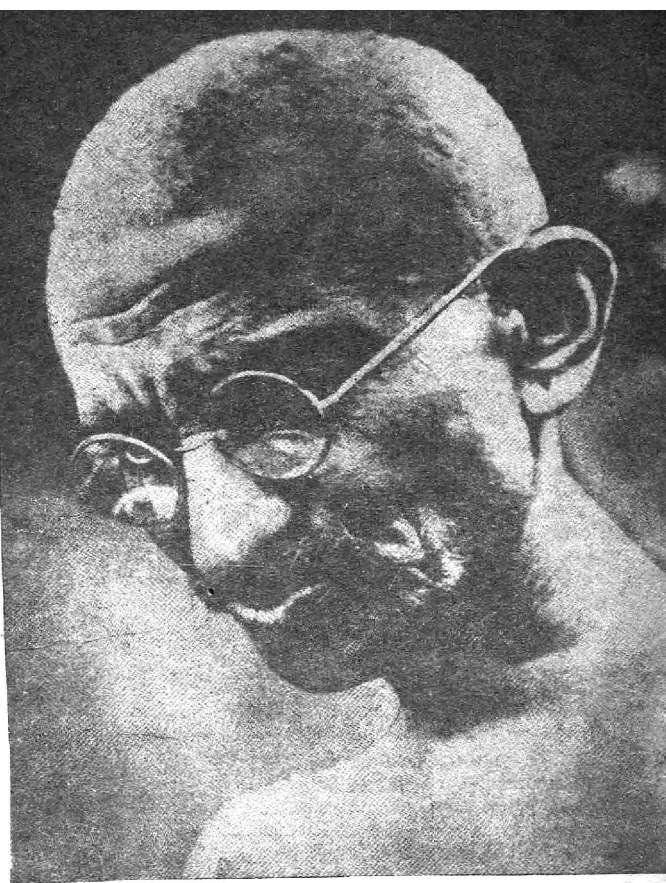
It has been estimated that this project would cost a recurring expenditure of Rs. 23.51 lakhs per year towards payments of salaries and allowances to the officials of Tamil University and a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 7.40 crore towards construction of buildings by the Government initially.

Establishment of the Tamil University at Thanjavur, it is hoped, will definitely fulfil the longfelt aspirations of not only the people of this State but many in other countries who are fascinated by the vast wealth of materials available for further studies in Tamil.

None HIGH None LOW

THIS nation has been accursed by the blight of untouchability. What began in the noble ideals of Varnashrama Dharma has been caricatured into a form of religion which is unacceptable to the mind and spirit of the people of India. The worst form of the caricature is the practice of untouchability. As usual the origins are lost in the midst of antiquity. It is the opinion of savants that what began as punitive measure to those indulging in the eating of flesh especially the flesh of cows has degenerated into the practice of abhorring a whole class of persons whose ancestors must once have practised this socially unacceptable custom.

Hindus have generation after generation been aware that a certain amount of injustice has been perpetuated against the untouchables but with the customary faith in rebirth and the certainty that atonement of sins follows the soul in each successive birth, Hindus have habitually continued their own harsh treatment of the fifth Caste. The awakened Hindu, however, must be deeply shocked at this treatment of his own fellow beings determined strictly by reason of birth. It was this deep sense of shock that turned Gandhiji into a crusader throughout his life in the cause of the untouchables. He has recalled the sense of sorrow and the sense of disbelief, which he felt



at the tender age of twelve when his first conscious thoughts about this social problem was formed. It was at that time that he cleaned himself after protest when he had touched the so-called untouchable. In the various issues of "Young India" and "Harijan", he had repeatedly dwelt upon the experience in his life and his deep analysis of the root causes of untouchability. He describes it as a "snake with a thousand mouths; through which it shows its poisonous fangs. It defies definition". (Young India 11.7.1929). He has repeatedly urged that untouchability poisons Hinduism even as a drop of arsenic poisons milk.

Gandhiji was convinced that Hinduism like all other religions of the world was on trial and has to prove its worth: He said, 'you must remember that all the great religions of the world are at the present time in the melting pot. Let us not ostrich-like hide our faces and ignore the danger that is at the back of us. I have not a shadow of doubt that in the great turmoil now taking place either untouchability has to die or Hinduism has to disappear.'

Gandhiji has repeatedly brought into focus the fact that untouchability has neither moral nor religious sanction. It is one of those parasitic growths which has sapped the energy of Hinduism. How the partitioners of Sanatana Dharma have continued to cling on to these forms because they felt that stability in society should be obtained at any cost and they were unable to envisage a situation, where caste and together with it untouchability could disappear. It is not a new thing in history that people should be conservative and attempt to preserve known life styles in which they feel safe. But history is also full of illustrations where people who have resisted changes have found such life-styles swept away by the tidal wave of revolution.

It is on a realisation of this sombre writing on the wall that Gandhiji repeatedly gave the clarion call for a change in the outlook of the Hindus. He was very well aware that if Hinduism failed to face the challenge it would itself be destroyed. As an ardent Hindu who practised the highest spiritual and philosophical and moral concepts of Hinduism,

R. PADMAVALLI, M.A.,
Director of Statistics (Rtd)

Gandhi did not wish to see this fine religion perish on account of its refusal to mete out justice to a fifth of the pupoulation that is the untouchables.

Gandhiji's deep concern for the welfare of this section of the people is too well known to need reiteration. His compassion for this inarticulate class of persons drove him to spend as much if not more time and energy organize a better life for them as for the freedom movement. We realized that freedom would be meaningless when a class of persons is allowed to live in an atmosphere of poverty, illiteracy and the darkness of ignorance. His ceaseless striving to make them an accepted part of Hindu society was responsible for many developments which were considered sensational steps in those times. Take for example—the question of temple entry. No doubt Tamil Nadu has seen Tirupanazhvar, Kanappan and Nandan and others who were the chosen of the Gods. But these exceptions never paved the way for the betterment of the class. It required the genius of Gandhiji and the kind of spiritual leadership he provided to view this as a social problem which needed a radical and immediate solution.

After finding that untouchability has no sanction in religion, it is the greatness of Gandhiji that he has proceeded to apply it in everyday life. He has stated that caste Hindus' feeling of superiority over the untouchables has no sanction whatsoever in the sastras. He has said, "If I discovered that those scriptures which are known as Vedas, Upanishads Bhagavad Gita, Smritis etc., clearly showed that they had great authority for untouchability as I have described it to you then nothing on this earth would hold me to Hinduism. I should throw it overboard as I would throw overboard a rotten apple. My reason is offended and my heart is wounded at the very thought that God himself who has created both Savarna Hindus and Avarna Hindus should impose this bar sinister between his children.... But prejudice and superstitions die hard. They cloud the reason, befog the intellect and harden the heart." (Harijan 26.1.1934)

The Mahatma that he was, Gandhiji wanted all distinctions springing from the accidents of birth should be altogether done away with and not only should we have a classless society but also that all

religious distinctions should altogether disappear. He was constantly aware of the unity of all life and he was convinced that the true message of Hinduism conveys just this. The mantras for Vishnu Pooja chanting "Jale Vishnu, sthale Vishnu... Vishnu Parvatha masthabe" which roughly translated means that the Lord is present in water, in land etc, is correct Hindu approach showing that everything is the manifestation of God. There is no room for un-

and woman. This untouchability is the greatest blot on Hinduism, and I have not hesitated to say that, if untouchability lives Hinduism dies. If one may use man's language about God, God has been very patient with us. But I have no hesitation in saying that even God's patience can be exhausted and He will no longer be patient towards this atrocity that man has been doing to man in Hindu India." (Harijan: December 29, 1933).



touchability. in this wide view of Hindu religion.

"I ask you to do one thing. Forget altogether that some are high and some are low. Forget altogether that some are touchables and some are untouchables. I know that you all believe in God as I do; and God cannot be so cruel and unjust as to make distinctions of high and low between man and man, and woman

Are not these observations borne out by the happenings in India today? We require a change in heart, a change in values, a change in the religion which still operates on the four varnas and the fifth which cannot be brought into this fold. The words of warning have been uttered by the greatest Indian of this century and we see that this warning is coming to pass.



PERIYAR COLUMN

As part of the centenary celebrations of Thanthai Periyar, the Periyar Centenary Celebrations Committee had decided to instal memorial columns carrying the golden sayings of Periyar in all the districts of Tamil Nadu. These columns are sculpted by Thiru Ganapathi sthapani the Principal of the school of sculpture, Mahabali-puram. The first pillar would be installed at Tiruchi, the home-base for the social reforms of Thanthai Periyar. The pillar, which is thirteen and a half feet high, has been sculpted artistically and the golden sayings of Periyar have been inscribed on all its four sides.

The first memorial column has been unveiled at Tiruchi on 2.10.'81 by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.G.Ramachandran.

The Chief Minister in his speech declared that the Government is determined to realize the dreams of Periyar and the ideals of Annai.

Thiru V.R. Nedunchezian, Minister for Finance presided over the function. Thiru K.A.P. Viswanathan, Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, Thiru A.P. Janardhanam, M.P., Thiru N.D.Sundaravade-velu and others spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, Thiru K. A. Sundaram, Director of Information and Public Relations, welcomed the gathering.

(Fourth cover story)

NOBLER LOVES

& NOBLER CARES

"Nobler loves and nobler cares. These words appear at the base of the statue of Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, installed in the University campus at Annamalai Nagar. They sum up the man and his mind. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar had his share of the ordinary man's cares and anxieties, but it was a measure of his wider humanity that he gave himself nobler loves and nobler cares. One such love was the Annamalai University which he founded and to which, again in Wordsworth's phrase he was 'unwearing in service.' And so, on this day of jubilation and grateful recollection, our thoughts naturally turn to one, to whom so much has been owed by so many.

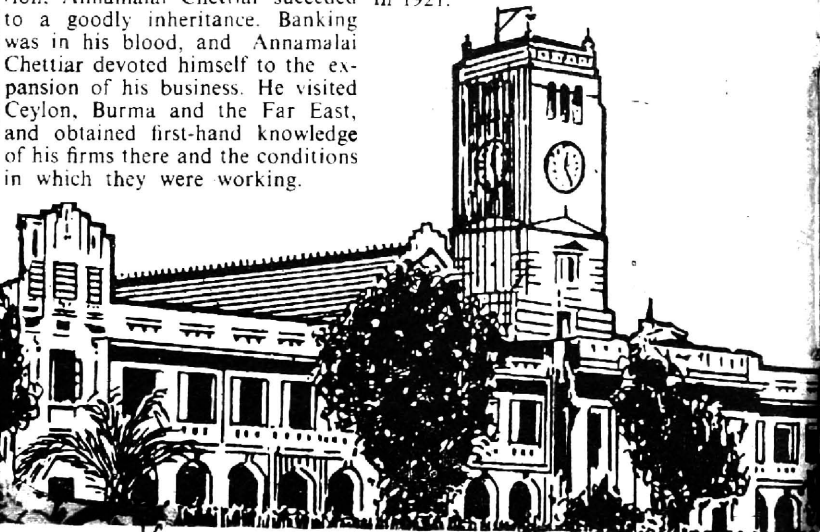
Annamalai Chettiar was born at Kanadukathan, in the District of Ramanathapuram, on the 30th of September 1881. He came of a community known for its business enterprise and active benevolence.

He was the last of the four sons of S.R.M.M. Muthiah Chettiar, a rich and influential banker of his community. Annamalai Chettiar received his schooling at Kanadukathan and at Karur, and was then apprenticed to the family business, of which he quickly gathered the threads. It was a flourishing concern with branches abroad, and when, in due course, the brothers effected a partition, Annamalai Chettiar succeeded to a goodly inheritance. Banking was in his blood, and Annamalai Chettiar devoted himself to the expansion of his business. He visited Ceylon, Burma and the Far East, and obtained first-hand knowledge of his firms there and the conditions in which they were working.

Very early in his career, in 1910, he paid a visit to Europe and spent quite a considerable time in Britain. On his return home he became Chairman of the Karaikudi Union which has since become a Municipality. Karaikudi is the heart and nerve-centre of Chettinad and needed a lot of improving; and Annamalai Chettiar set about improving it.

In 1916, he was nominated to the Madras Legislative Council, where he sat for three years. In 1920, he stood for election to the Council of State, newly established under the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, and was returned for the general constituency (the whole of the Presidency) at the head of the polls. It was a five-year tenure, which he held for three consecutive terms, always by election, and returned every time at the head of the polls.

Annamalai Chettiar's natural bent was for finance, and his appraisal of the forces which influence the turns and twists of the world of finance was sound and sure. He was one of the founder-members of the Indian Bank and was on its Directorate for many years. His grasp of the 'imponderables' of banking and finance led to his appointment as a Governor of the Imperial Bank of India when it was established in 1921.



A philanthropist, he gave liberally to all worthy causes. He built and endowed a Women and Children's Hospital at Kanadukathan and made handsome donations to educational institutions. In 1924 he gave two lakhs of rupees for purchasing a building to accommodate the Ladies' Club at Madras. This building was named 'The Willingdon', and it is a very popular centre of social activity. Nor was he unmindful of the traditional objects of Nattukkottai Chettiar charity. At the same time, he saw that the times called for liberal endowments in the fields of education, medical relief, improved sanitation and so forth. Very early in his life, he came to hold the view that education was the primary need of the country and that, with wider dissemination of education, the other ills of the country would gradually disappear. He felt that there should be more colleges and made up his mind to found and endow a College. He established the college at Chidambaram. The College, named Sri Minakshi College after the Rajah's mother, was formally opened in 1920. The construction of the College building was completed in time for the classes to move into it in July 1923.

Sir Annamalai's services were fast winning recognition. He was already a Dewan Bahadur; and, in 1923, after the establishment of the Sri Minakshi College, a knighthood was conferred on him.

Sir Annamalai was thinking of a University at Chidambaram right from the start and, indeed, had been planning the College buildings and staff quarters with that end in view. He held the view that Chidambaram could well be the home of a University, which would endeavour to preserve Tamil learning and Tamil culture. Sir Annamalai felt that there was a fundamental unity in Indian culture; but he realised the need to redeem and revitalise local variations of it which had suffered through neglect. The resuscitation of Tamil culture, Sir Annamalai regarded as a pious duty.

In 1926, buildings for the accommodation of the science departments were opened. The Science block,

at it was called, in size and appointments, rivalled the Arts College.

In 1927, Sir Annamalai endowed a Sanskrit College and a Tamil College at Chidambaram. Mahamahopadhyaya Dandapaniswami Dikshitar, an outstanding Sanskrit scholar, was appointed Principal of the former, while Mahamahopadhyaya Swaminatha Aiyar, whose scholarship was matched by the grace and simplicity of his style, was made the Principal of the latter. Soon an Oriental Training College was established, to be followed by a College of Music.

In 1928, he made formal proposals to Government for the establishment of a University at Chidambaram. He offered to make over the Sri Minakshi and other Colleges which he had founded, with all the attached hostels, staff quarters, equipment and the grounds on which they stood (about 200 acres in all) to the proposed University, and also make an endowment of twenty lakhs of rupees.

The Government agreed to make a contribution of twenty-seven lakhs of rupees to the endowments fund and did everything in its power to expedite the passage of the Bill into law. The Annamalai University Act came into force on 1st January, 1929.

The Annamalai University started functioning from July 1929. Early in 1929, in recognition of his unique services to the cause of learning, the distinction of a hereditary Rajah was conferred on Sir Annamalai, who came to be known as Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad.

Even while immersed in political affairs, the Rajah did not forget Annamalai Nagar. His thoughts were always with the University. Its development and expansion was his master passion. He was aware that a University, if it was to expand and serve its purpose, should have ample resource and it was his aim, happily achieved, to stabilise its finance and place them on a sound footing. Not a year passed without his making some endowment or other. He also liberally instituted prizes year after year in the names of distinguished visitors to the University. Professor M.S. Duraiswamy, in a striking brochure entitled 'A Pattern of Kingship' quoted from a letter written by the Rajah to a friend of his, "My heart and soul are in Annamalai Nagar".

The Birth Centenary of Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar was celebrated at Karaikudi on 30.9.81 by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Tamilnadu. Thiru M. P. Siva gnanam, Speaker, Legislative Council presided over the function. Thiru S. D. Somasundaram, Minister for Revenue declared open an exhibition depicting Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar's life. Thiru K. A. Sundaram, I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations welcomed the gathering. Thiru K. Kalimuthu, Minister for Agriculture and many other eminent persons spoke on the occasion. Thiru H. M. Pande, I.A.S., Collector, Ramanathapuram proposed the vote of thanks.

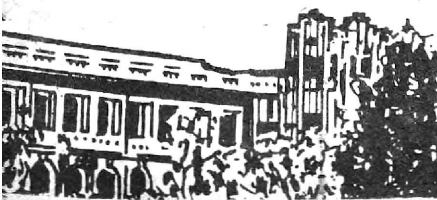
Rajah Sir Annamalai's devotion to music amounted to a passion. He wanted that music, especially Tamil music, should occupy the pride of place in the University, and to this end, not only did he start a Music College at Annamalai Nagar as far back as 1929 but he strove for it unceasingly to the end of his life. A great Conference was held at Annamalai Nagar to consider ways and means to revive Tamil music, and the Rajah to whom the South Indian public looked for guidance and support made an endowment for the purpose. The movement and the impetus given to it were hailed with extreme satisfaction by the Tamil speaking world. The Rajah collected musicians of repute and made them bring out the hidden treasures of Tamil music, encouraged research and arranged the publication of Tamil musical compositions. In this pious work, his collaborator was his distinguished friend Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chettiar. To these two is due the entire credit for the growth of the Tamil Isai movement. The gratitude of the Tamil people for the Rajah's services found expression the putting up of the beautiful concert hall in the city of Madras, rightly designated the 'Rajah Annamalai Manram.'

Widely travelled, he had a wellstored mind and was an engaging talker. He was known for his hospitality which was princely.

To the University and to the Tamil Isai Movement, he continued to give off his best.

Courtesy:

Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar
A biographical sketch



T. K. C. had his elementary school education in Tenkasi and high school education in Tiruchirapalli. He continued his F. A. Course in St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirapalli and then had his B. A. Degree Course in Christian College, Madras and Law Course in the Law College, Madras.

He practised as a Lawyer for a few years from 1915 at the Tirunelveli Bar. But he could not continue in the profession as he had an attack of Malaria. It did not allow him to attend to his legal profession for a few years. During his illness he got interested in Kamba Ramayanam. His mind got engrossed in Kamban's poetry and other great works in Tamil Literature. When he was cured of Malaria, he gave up the legal profession and devoted the rest of his life to Tamil Literature, Tamil Music, and Arts. The loss to legal profession was a great gain to Tamil Literature, Music and Arts.

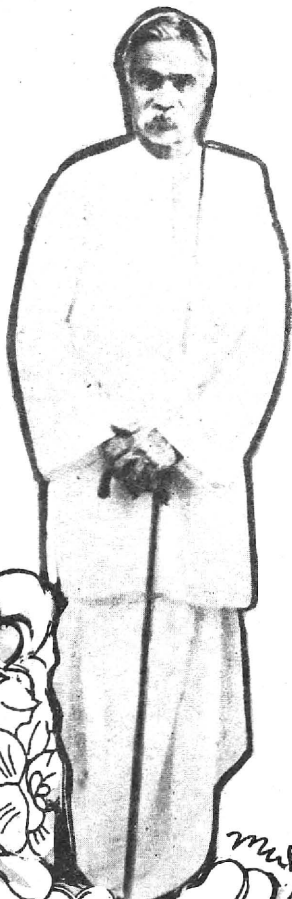
In 1927 he and his lawyer friend S. Kumaraswamy Reddiar were elected to the then Madras Legislative Council. During his tenure as M.L.C. from 1927-1930. he fought for Tamil. He voiced in the Council the feelings of the people against the Government's statement that Bharathi's songs were seditious.

He served with credit as Commissioner of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department from 1930 to 1935. During those years Kalki and Rajaji became his friends. As a result of their association with him, their outlook about Tamil Literature, Arts, Music and Culture took a new turn.

Besides Tamil Literature, he was interested in Tamil Isai and Bharata Natyam. It was he who made the people understand and enjoy the dance of Bala Saraswathi the doyen of Bharata Natyam. Till then dancing was restricted to one community. Later on girls from all communities began to learn Bharata Natyam. In the field of Music he made it clear to the people that Music compositions in one's own mother tongue alone can reach the heart, though compositions in other languages may be enjoyed for their melody. Rajaji,

Deepa Natarajan

Rasikamani
T.K.C.



women (not highly educated) read and enjoy Kamban's epic, goes to him.

From 1942 onwards till his death he resided in the two buildings belonging to the Thirukuttalanathaswamy Devasthanam on the five falls Road, Courtallam.

In 1943, he presided over the First Music Festival organised by the Tamil Isai Sangam.

In August 1947 Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar made a gift of books worth Rupees Ten Thousand to the Santhiniketan Visva-Bharathi University Library. He felt that T. K. C. was the fittest person to hand over the books on behalf of the people of Tamilnadu and sent him with the gift.

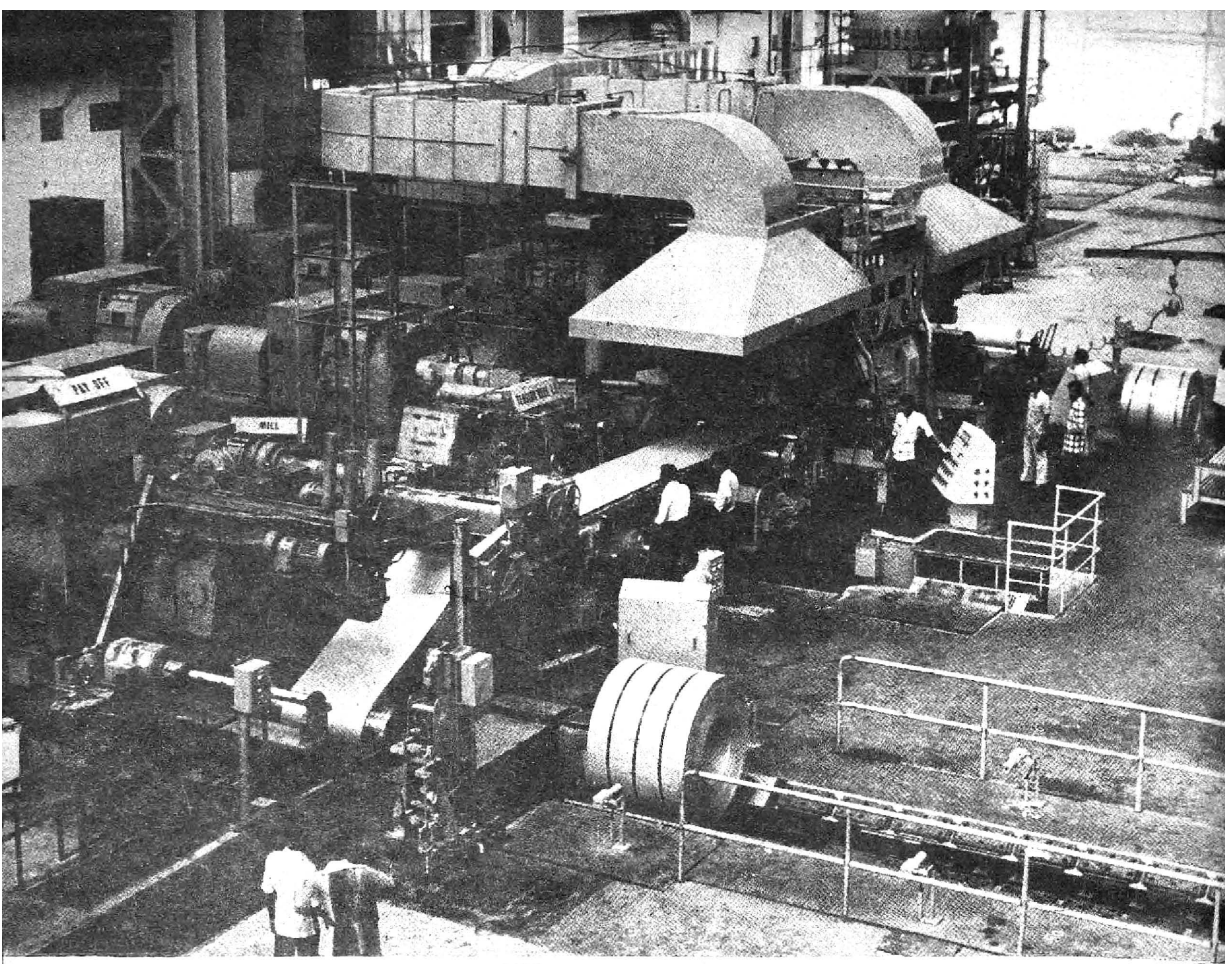
During the years of his life at Courtallam, friends, Tamil Scholars, disciples, political leaders, Government officials, journalists, professors and people from various walks of life visited him and got absorbed in his discourses. They saw how he enjoyed diving into the literary ocean and brought out the gems, which the others also enjoyed. Though the house was only a small one the literary and cultural lustre that came out of it shone through out Tamil Nadu. It drove out the darkness in Literature, Arts, Culture and other fields and shed new light on them.

His date of birth is 18-8-1881. But his birth day celebration is being celebrated on the day of his star of birth according to the Hindu custom. His star of Birth is Rohini. It is a great and rare coincidence that he was born on the Sri Jayanti Day, the day of Sri Krishna's Birth. It is appropriate to quote Rajaji's words about it, "Last Monday was the Birth day of Kannan. The same Monday was the birthday of Poorana Rasikamani T. K. C., who clearly saw the secret of joy derived from Tamil Poetry, the secret of the development of Tamil Prose, the secret of true music, a blending of Raga and Thala, the secret of peace leading to divine devotion, the exalted joy of love and the falsity of pseudo appearance. We celebrated happily the function synchronising the Birth Star of Kannan, the Poorana Avathar of Hari, and the birth star of T. K. C. last Monday. Such celebrations will help wisdom and love to grow in the country."

Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar, R. K. Shanmugam Chettiar and Kalki became his strong supporters and Tamil Isai got a strong hold through their propaganda. But T. K. C. was the root cause.

From 1935 to 1938 he resided in his house at Vannarpet, Tirunelveli. Every Sunday literary friends used to assemble at the circular yard of his house. He gave discourses on Literature, Arts, Music, Education, Culture etc. at those assemblies. Participants were of all social grades and ages. All realised his literary greatness and culled his literary greatness and culture and began praising him. Those who had close connection with him there are now called "Vattathotti Disciples".

His explanatory articles in 'Kalki' under the caption 'Kambar Tharum Kaatchi' are the best of his literary works. Those articles were compiled and published as 'Kambar Tharum Ramayanam' leaving out the interpolations and making proper corrections. The credit for making even ordinary men and



Salem Steel Plant, a sophisticated unit to manufacture wide cold rolled stainless steel coils and sheets, has gone into production on schedule.

This is the sixth steel plant of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to go into production since Independence.

At a simple function, Thiru A. S. Gill, Secretary, Department of Steel, Ministry of Steel & Mines, Government of India pressed a button and commissioned the Sendzimir mill, the kingpin of the cold rolling mill complex. Earlier Thiru K. C. Khanna, Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited opened the Main Works Entry to the Plant. At a ceremony, the first consignment of stainless steel coils and sheets was despatched.

Salem Steel Plant, in its first stage, will manufacture 32,000 tonnes of stainless steel coils and sheets with thickness ranging from 0.3 mm to 4.0 mm and width upto 1250 mm. These will go a long way to meet the country's demand and replace the imports.

On March 13, 1977, the Government of India gave clearance for the first stage of the project which was targeted to be completed in 54 months and commissioned.

**Salem
STEEL Plant
Goes into
PRODUCTION**

M.N Dastur & Co Pvt Ltd are the Consulting Engineers for this project. Hindustan Steel works Construction Limited, a public sector organisation, was entrusted with the civil and structural work. Peugeot Loire of France, well known automobile and steel manufacturers, supplied Salem Steel Plant with the latest technical know-how.

The two 300-metre long Annealing and Pickling Lines adopting neutral electrolyte pickling process are supplied by Dujardin Montbard Somnour (DMS) of France in association with Drever International of Belgium and Ruthner of Austria. Electrics for this are supplied by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).

The 20 high Sendzimir Mill (ZR-22B-52) is manufactured by Hitachi and supplied by Nissho-Iwai of Japan.

The Coil Build-up Line and Strip Grinding Line are supplied by Sundwig of West Germany and Heavy Engineering Corporation of Ranchi.

The Skinpass Mill is supplied by MECON, Ranchi in collaboration with Wean United of the US. It is manufactured by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Calcutta.

Several public sector organisations, besides the above, have supplied bulk of the Indian equipment. Several reputed engineering organisations in private sector have also been associated with the manufacture, supply and erection of equipment.

The different Tamil Nadu Government agencies associated themselves with the project by providing an access road, water and power supply. Salem stainless steel will meet the growing demands of industries like chemical, petro-chemical, fertilizers, and will be used in atomic reactors, dairy equipment, etc. With one Sendzimir Mill, the plant's production capacity is now 32,000 tonnes per year. A proposal is under consideration by the Government of India to instal another Sendzimir Mill and associated facilities on an additional investment of Rs. 30 crores. This will double the capacity of the Salem Steel Plant and will improve its economics.



Presently the hot bands, the input material for Salem Steel, are being imported. A scheme to manufacture, by continuous casting process, stainless steels in the Durgapur Alloy Steels Plant and roll them at Bokaro Steel Plant hot rolling mills, has been approved by the Government. When these Bokaro hot rolled stainless steel coils are used as input in Salem, it is expected that considerable foreign exchange savings will be effected.

Salem stainless steel, through the numerous marketing outlets of Steel Authority of India Limited, will be available to a large number of small industries in the country.

21 Courtesy: Steel Authority of India Ltd., Salem Steel Plant.

Constitution:

Coimbatore Municipality was constituted in the year 1866 under the Municipal Development Act, 1865 with the District Magistrate as its Chairman and 12 members of the Council, out of whom 7 were Government officials and the rest non-officials. The population at the time of inception was 24241, with an area of 6.72 Sq.K. mts. The then annual income of the Municipality was Rs. 22,400/- From the year 1884, the elected Chairman held office. Upto the year 1933, the Chairman attended to the executive functions of the Council also. In the year 1933, a Commissioner was appointed by the Government to attend to the executive functions of the administration. The Municipality was upgraded as a Special Grade with effect from 1-11-63. With a view to upgrade the Municipality into a Municipal Corporation, the Municipal Council was superseded from 30-6-75 as per the orders of the Government dated 27-6-75, and a Special Officer was appointed to look after the affairs of the Municipality from 1-7-75. Subsequently, the adjoining local bodies of Singanallur Municipality, Telungupalayam, Sanganoor, Ganapathy and Kumarapalayam Panchayats, 6 wards of Vilankurichi Panchayat and Coimbatore Rural Panchayat were merged with Coimbatore Municipality with reference to G.O.Ms. No. 1771 Rural Development and Local Administration dated 17-11-78 with effect from 1-12-78 and consequently the areas of the enlarged municipality was increased to 105.60 Sq.K.mts. As the city has significantly developed industrially and therefore to provide civic amenities of high order to the people, the Government upgraded the Municipality into a Corporation with effect from 1-5-81. An I.A.S. Officer was appointed for the Coimbatore Municipality as Special Officer from 1-2-81. The inaugural function of the Corporation was held on 22-7-81 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Population growth:

The population of the Coimbatore Municipality has increased year by year and according to the latest census the population is 6,99,560.

Revenue:

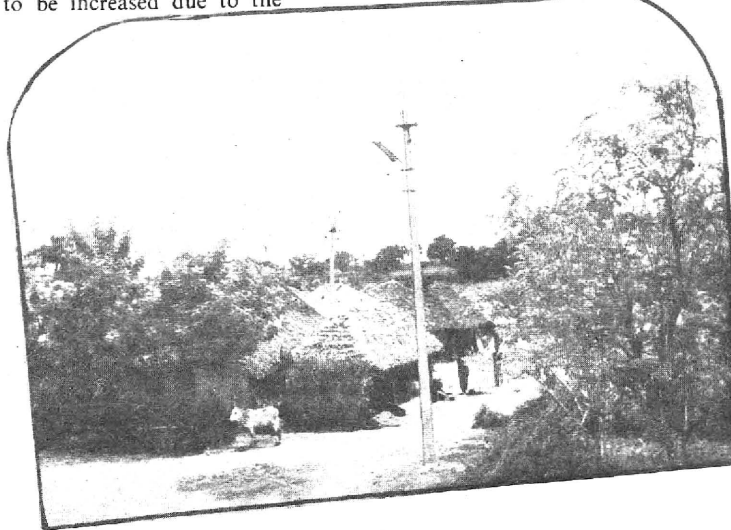
The ordinary receipts of the Corporation is Rs. 4.58 crores and the

ordinary expenditure is Rs. 4.45 crores. Major items of revenue are Property tax, Profession tax, Entertainment Tax, Duty on transfer of property, Income from Markets and Bus stand and grants from Government. The income received from Property tax is Rs. 1.76 crores, and from E.T. is Rs. 1.01 crore. The per-capita income and expenditure as per the accounts for 1979-80 is Rs.80- and Rs. 76- respectively. The revenue of the Corporation is expected to be increased due to the

Mts. consisting of 223.7 black topped surface, 89.3 water bound meccadam and 85.3 gravel road. The expenditure incurred in connection with the original works and maintenance of roads is Rs. 34.82 lakhs in 1979-80.

Street lights:

The Municipality is a licensee of the Electricity Board. The total revenue of the scheme is Rs. 3.28 crores and the expenditure is Rs.2.68



execution of various schemes and thereby more amenities can be provided for the public.

Roads:

The length of the roads, maintained by the Corporation is 398.3 K

crores. The net profit for the year 1979-80 was Rs. 60.00 lakhs. In important streets and junctions, 145 Sodium vapour lamps have been provided. 8370 street lights are being



maintained by the Corporation. The line loss is 14.8% and within the permissible limits.

Coimbatore City is having a protected water supply from Siruvani Dam about 45 kilo meters from the City. Water from Siruvani Lake situated on the Western Ghats is diverted to Coimbatore side through a tunnel about 1.5 kilo meter in length and let into an open channel carrying it to the settling tanks at the foot of the hill. From the settling tanks, it is conveyed to the city through gravity mains for a length of 34 kilo meters. The scheme was initially commissioned in the year 1929 for a daily supply of 20 lakhs gallons for a population of one lakh and subsequently improved in stages and the present daily supply is 75 lakhs gallons of water per day. For this growing city with the present population of about 7 lakhs a comprehensive improvement scheme costing Rs. 21.63 crores is now in progress designed for an ultimate population of 9.76 lakhs and for a daily supply of 223 lakhs gallons.

At present there are 22415 house service connections and 763 public fountains serving the old Town. For the extended areas, where there is no protected water supply, bore wells and open wells are provided and there are 249 numbers of such wells now provided with power pumps and distribution arrangements. Where there are no pipe water supply, water is supplied through lorries. Extension of protected water supply to these unserved areas have been included in the comprehensive improvement scheme expected to be completed by the end of 1981.

Public Health:

1608 sanitary workers are engaged in sanitation work of the Corporation. In the enlarged area the

strength of the sanitary workers is found to be insufficient. The total expenditure on Public Health including medical relief works out to Rs. 106.68 lakhs.

Education:

The Corporation is maintaining 95 Educational Institutions as follows:

Higher Secondary Schools 9,
High Schools 7,
Middle schools 15,
Elementary schools 63,
Deaf and Dumb school 1.

The total strength of the pupils is 63,824. It is gratifying to note that some of the Corporation High Schools have produced good percentage of results ranging from 90 to 100. The Corporation is maintaining a Midday Meals Centre kitchen and 12,170 beneficiaries are being fed in all the Corporation Primary Schools. Rs. 66.69 lakhs and Rs. 86.30 lakhs respectively were spent on Secondary and Elementary Education during 79-80.

Medical facilities:

The Corporation is maintaining 12 Dispensaries of modern medicines, 3 Ayurvedic Dispensaries, one Siddha Dispensary, one infectious disease hospital and 9 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Compost:

The Council is maintaining compost depots in five places.

Sewage Farm:

The Corporation is maintaining Sewage Farm for raising grass in 84.95 acres. The council is receiving an income of Rs. 3,20,000/- by way of lease of farm as well as consumption of grass for the Municipal live stock.

Town Planning:

Number of sanctioned schemes : 9

Number of draft Town Planning Schemes : 116.

Private Street Improvement Scheme

Total number of layouts taken up under revolving fund scheme is 10. Total cost of works is Rs. 8.58 lakhs and a sum of Rs. 3.65 lakhs has been sanctioned as loan by Government.

Improvements:

The Corporation has formulated a Master Plan for the development of the City and for augmenting more revenue to the Corporation to the tune of Rs. 48.00 crores. The Master plan includes provision for formation of roads, improvement to the existing roads, Fly over at cross cut road, Gandhipuram pedestrian surface, construction of new school buildings, construction of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and dispensary buildings, Pay and use latrines, construction of Office building for Corporation, construction of City Bus stands at Gandhipuram, and Ukkadam, lorry stand at Ukkadam, construction of Cinema Theatres, re-development of Thiagi Kumaran Market, construction of shops and markets, construction of circle offices, Vehicle Depot, construction of housing scheme for staff, construction of slaughter house building, construction of cold storage plant, purchase of lorries, purchase of rubbish, and night soil carts, development of children's park, Development of Mini Zoo and swimming pool and beautification of Valankulam tank, construction of Electrical crematorium opening of flaying centres etc. It has also been proposed in the master plan to provide lighting facilities with sodium vapour lamps in the important streets at a cost of Rs. 54.00 lakhs and to introduce wireless communication and to have underground cable system. The proposals have been submitted to Government for financial assistance to carry out the above programmes, within a course of five years and orders of Government on the proposals are awaited.

Apart from the master plan, the TWAD Board has taken up a scheme of under ground drainage on behalf of the local body, at an estimated cost of Rs. 597.57 lakhs with loan assistance from Government. The third phase of the project is in progress.

Special Officer,
Coimbatore Corporation.



The Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board was formed in April 1960 to accelerate the promotion and development of Khadi and Village Industries Programme.

The main functions of the Board are to plan, organise and implement programmes for the development of Khadi and Village Industries including the training of personnel with the main objective of creating large scale employment opportunity in rural areas, utilising the raw materials available.

The whole programme of Khadi and Village Industries is based on the practical philosophy that nothing is waste, if properly utilised. The promotion of village Industries was undertaken not only to provide employment opportunity for the rural artisans, but also to utilise the raw materials available in plenty in rural areas for the good of the country, which are otherwise allowed to go waste.

IMPORTANT FEATURES

At present there are 373 Rural Textile Centres. It is proposed to start 150 new Rural Textile Centres during 1981-82.

Government have sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs. 5 lakhs to provide housing facilities to the Khadi weavers; 500 houses will be built up during this year.

The wage for the spinners as well as weavers has been increased. A spinner will get Rs. 5.50 per day and the weaver will get Rs. 12 per day.

The research centre for Khadi industry is being started at Bhavanisagar at a cost of Rs. 5.21 lakhs.

Government have sanctioned Rs. 5 lakhs as subsidy for the erection of 85 cards and 2 scutchers.

Khadi and Village Industries



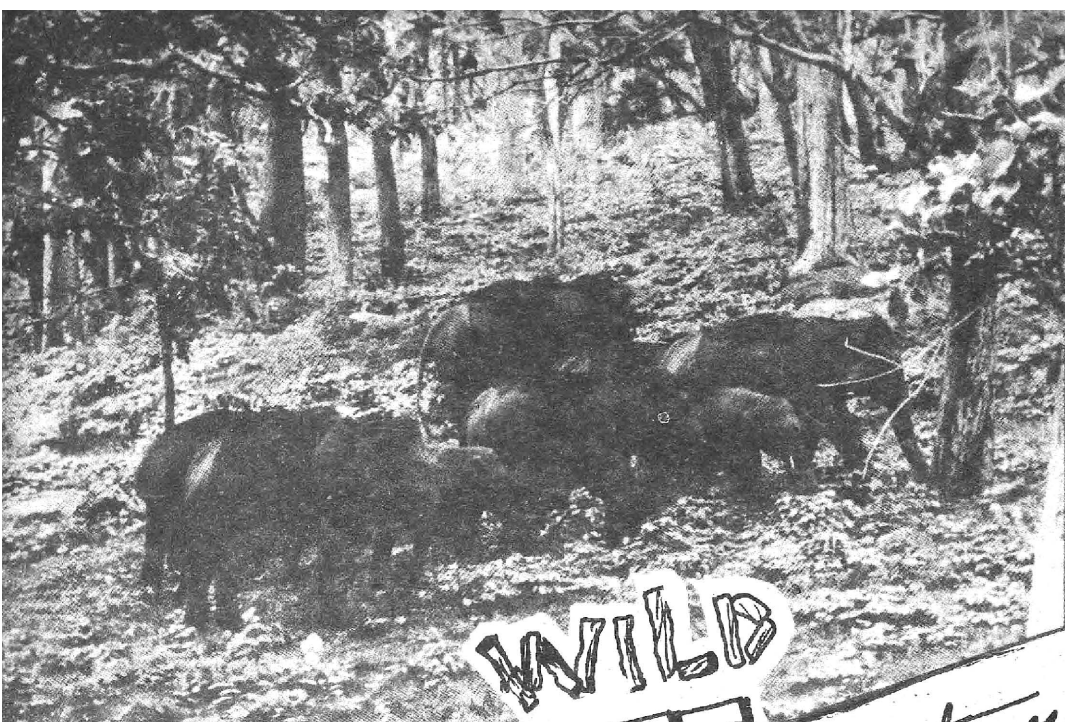
At present there are 155 permanent sales centres. 395 temporary sales centres will be opened during Deepavali season throughout the State.

It is proposed to produce 754 lakhs worth of khadi cloth during this year. The sales is expected to be in the order of Rs. 810 lakhs.

Village Industries articles to the value of Rs.41 crores will be produced during 1981-82 and the sale is expected to be in the order of Rs.45 crores.

Under self - employment programme, it is proposed to give training for 3820 persons. After training they will be given subsidy as well as working capital loan for starting their own individual units under self-employment scheme.





WILD LIFE Sanctuaries



Tamil Nadu State with the total geographical area of 1,30,069 sq. km. is dotted with an extent of 21,737 sq. km. of forests, which are scattered here and there throughout the entire State and thus the wooded area occupies 16% of the total land area. Tamil Nadu is blessed with extensive forest areas strewn with lofty hills, undulating ridges, deep ravines, meandering innumerable streamlets as well as a wide variety of interesting wildlife and is remarkable for its natural beauties. The divergent climatic conditions give rise to a luxuriance of vegetation with a wide range of forests. The lofty trees with thick undergrowth and climbers and fruit bearing trees provide the natural abode for a wide variety of colourful wildlife.

This State is the home of the true Indian fauna of which the Black buck, the Nilgai, Chittal, the sloth bear are the typical representatives. Besides these, there are the important animals like Elephant, Tiger, Panther, Bison, Sambar, Barking deer, the Nilgihilangur, lion-tailed macaque etc.

Sanctuaries which are the veritable natural abode of the countless voiceless denizens of India are zealously protected with great care and diligence against clearing of the forest, exploitation of flora etc. since preservation of the habitat

is of vital necessity for the protection and conservation of the fauna, without which the very object of wildlife preservation will be defeated. Further it is of paramount importance to create and develop a congenial atmosphere for the species, which are at the threshold of extinction and endangered species, so that their population is not only protected against illicit shooting, poaching, hunting and trapping but also increases in number considerably by creating and affording the facilities required by them. Thus in order to achieve the above object and to implement the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, Tamil Nadu Government has established a separate Wildlife Wing with an additional Chief Conservator of Forests for Wildlife as its head, with five Regional Wildlife Wardens with various headquarters at Madras, Ooty, Pollachi, Shencottah, Kalakad under their respective jurisdictions.

Floral and faunal endemism : Endemism is the term for the occurrence of a particular and rare species that is found in small number in a

restricted locality in small pockets but prominent by its complete absence in other places or parts of the country over vast areas. The occurrence of podocarpus in Kalakad sanctuary the only pine outside the Himalayas, Gluta travancinica in Mundanthurai forests, Strobilanthus Kunthi (Kurunji) bursting into violet bloom almost once in 12 years. Col. Drury's orchid, the only Asian Ladies slipper orchid found in Mudumalai sanctuary occurring outside the Himalayas are the typical example of floral endemism, whereas the faunal endemism is characterised by the presence of Lion-tailed macaque in Kalakad sanctuary, the Nilgiri Langur, the Nilgiri Tahr.

Nilgiri Marten, Pale Hedgehog, Slender loris. Duogang in Bay of Bengal Red corol Colony along the Kurusadi Islands.

M.S. KARUNAKARAN, I.F.S.
Forest Utilisation Officer

There are seven Wildlife sanctuaries and one National Park, 17 Waterfowl refuges in the State, of which Vedanthangal and Vettangudi are exclusively for avifauna and Point Calimere sanctuary is mostly for birds although animals are also coming up at Vandalur

MUDUMALAI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY.

Situated at the trijunction of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka States, this sanctuary was formed in 1940 over an area of 321.2 sq. Kms. and located in Nilgiris District, 65 Kms. from Ootacamund on the Ooty-Mysore road. It nestles at the base of the Nilgiri hills, which form the skyline to the south and West of the Sanctuary. The altitude of the sanctuary varies between 910 mm to 1160 mm with an average annual rainfall of 1140 mm. (approx) April to June are the hottest months whereas the coldest months are December and January.

The flora of Mudumalai noticeably varies in different parts of the sanctuary. The forests vary from deciduous scrub on the eastern to dry deciduous and then moist deciduous intermingled with evergreen species towards West. There are also a number of swampy areas in the northern part of the sanctuary.

If there is one place in India, where one can view with comparative ease a single herd of more than four hundred Chittals, seventy to eighty Bison and forty to fifty elephants, that place is Mudumalai

Wildlife Sanctuary in the Nilgiris District. Here animals wander as they like in perfect peace and freedom. Herds of Gaur (Indian Bison) the largest of the bovines now surviving in the world are the greatest attraction.

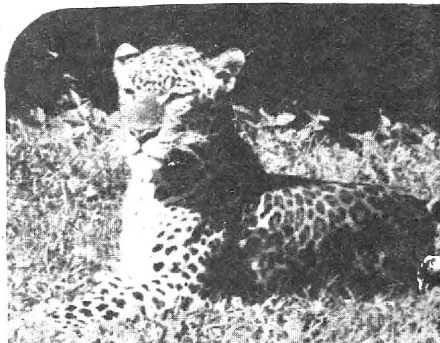
One of the most primitive mammals in the sanctuary is the scaly Ant-eater or Panin, chiefly nocturnal in habits. This creature appears to be the only link now surviving between the reptiles and the mammals. The most dreaded beast of the prey in the sanctuary is the Wild dog. The other carnivores include the Tiger, Panther Jackal, Hyacna, Mongoose, Wild cat, Civet cat, Rusty spotted cat, Ratel and the Leopard. Omnivores are represented by the sloth bear, Wild pig and the porcupine. Other denizens of the sanctuary include Sambar, four-horned antelope (Black buck) Mouse deer, Giant Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Barking Deer, Common Langur and the Bonnet Monkey.

The distribution of reptiles is a interesting as it is varied. Noteworthy among the reptiles are the Python, the largest of the reptiles, Rat Snake, Monitor Lizard, Flying Lizard, Tortoises, Blood suckers and a host of other small reptiles. River Moyar meandering through the sanctuary shelters crocodiles in the deeper reaches.

The sanctuary is a paradise to a bund watcher. Many species of upland game bunds, birds of song and brilliant plumage can be seen

here. The upland game birds comprised of Grey jungle fowl, Peafowl, Spur fowl, Grey partridge. Quails and the Woodcock, the whistling school boy Shama, Common Iora and the languishing Thrush entertain you with their melodies the Racket-toned Drongo, Mimics and the Fairy Blue bird and the orange mimivets dazzle you with the brilliance of their plumage. The other passerines that can be seen here are Blue winged parakeet Goldfronted Choloropsis, Scaly belled Green woodpecker, Red Start Nuthatches, Shrikes, Emerald dove, Imperial green pigeon, Jerdon's Imperial Pigeon, common green pigeon, paradise fly catchers, crested tree swift golden backed woodpeckers and the Malabar great wood pecker and a host of colourful and varied butterflies, glowworms etc.

Approach : Mudumalai can be reached by bus either from Ootacamund or from Mysore. The Ootacamund-Mysore road passes through the sanctuary. Number of buses ply daily between Ootaca-



mund and Mysore. The nearest airport is at Coimbatore, which is 140 Kms and the nearest Railway station is at Ootacamund, which is 60 Kms. from the sanctuary.

Accommodation :

Accommodation is available at the forest Rest Houses at Kargudi, Masanagudi, Abayaranyam with catering facilities, where the charges are moderate.

Amenities :

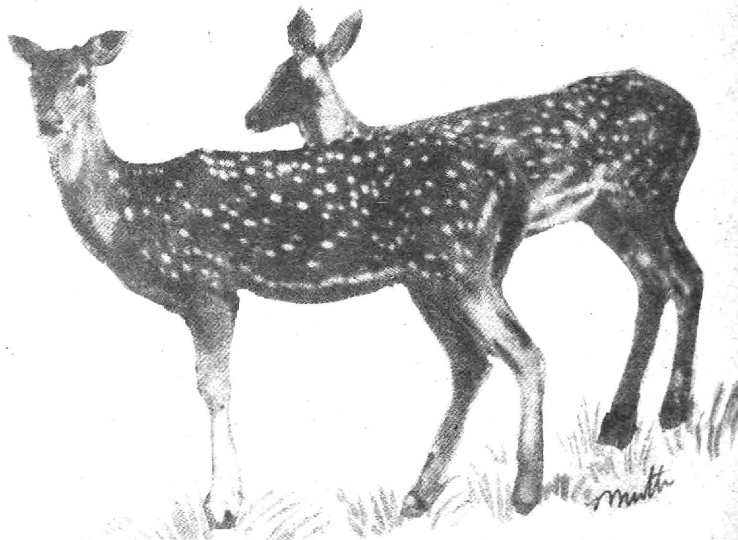
To enable visitors to view Wildlife with ease and comfort tree top machans and observation towers are constructed at suitable places amidst natural surroundings overlooking salt licks and waterholes frequented by wild animals. Two mini buses, one van and one Jeep have been stationed for the use of



visitors. Elephants are available for joy ride on advance booking. There is an elephant camp situated right inside the sanctuary, where visitors experience immense delight while feeding the animals and watching their acrobatics. The best period to visit the sanctuary is between February and June, when the tall elephant grass dries up increasing visibility considerably. The most suitable time to go round the sanctuary is between five to nine in the morning and four to seven in the afternoon.

Mundanthurai Sanctuary :

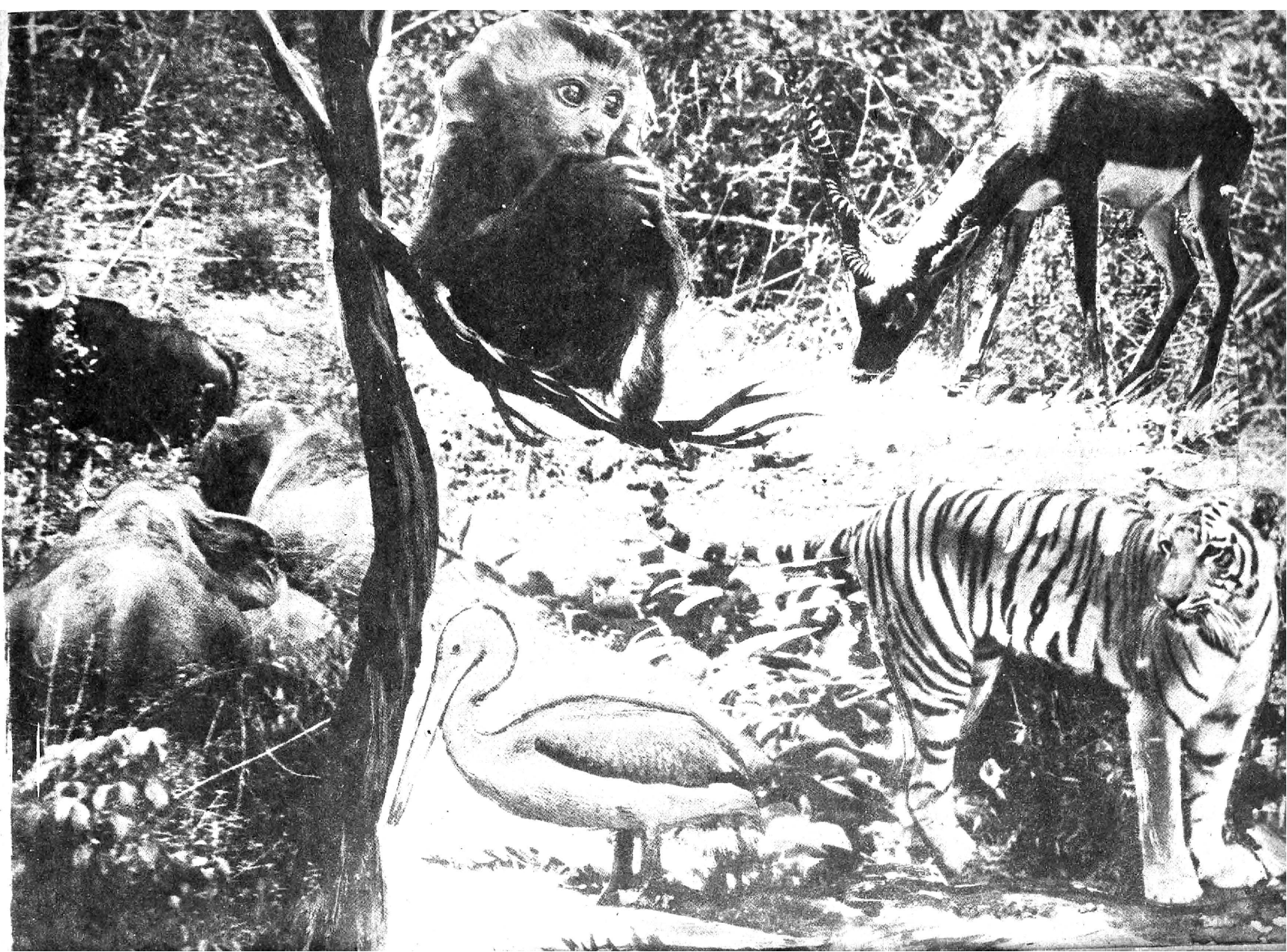
It is a sanctuary first of its kind in India created in the year 1962 for the sole purpose of preservation, conservation and protection of tiger, which is on the threshold of extinction due to reckless killing and poisoning by men and destruction of natural habitat that once abounded this majestic species for urbanisation, development of agriculture, industry and construction of Hydro Electric Projects etc. It is also called as Mundanthurai tiger sanctuary and is over an extent of 567 Sq. km. comprising of the entire Singampatty and Papanasam reserved forests of Tirunelveli forest division. It is approachable from Ambasamudram railway station which is just 45 kms. from the sanctuary. Buses and private vehicles are available at Ambasamudram which will take the visitors to the sanctuary. Madurai is the nearest Airport which is situated at a distance of 200 Kms. Accommodation with all facilities are available at the Forest Rest House at Mundanthurai which is located at the confluence of Servalar and the Thambaraparani rivers and another at Kannikutty. Public Works, Department rest house is available at Ambasamudram from where the sanctuary lies within 40 minutes drive. The average annual rainfall is about 1,200 m.m. and the altitude ranges from 700m. to 2000m. and the best season to visit the sanctuary is from October—January.

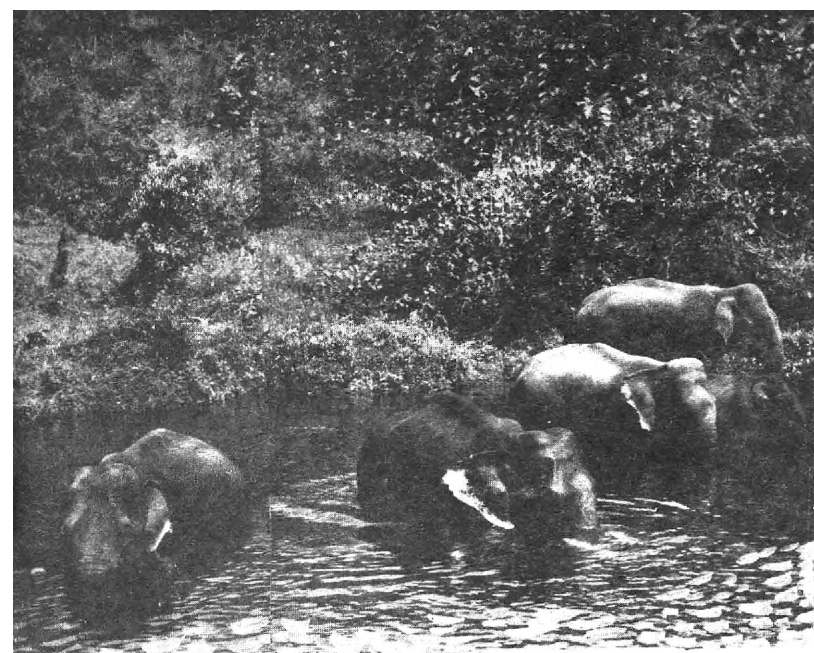


Vegetation varies from dry deciduous type of forests at the foot of hills and it tends to become dense tropical wet evergreen forest at higher altitude comprising of such rare and endemic species viz., Arenga, Bentika, Gluta, Penanga, Podocarpus the only South Indian

found outside the Himalayas and occurrence of orchids such as periphiopodium make this sanctuary as a veritable paradise to the zealous and enthusiastic botanists. Due to the construction of Hydro-Electric Projects, concentration of labour camps, excessive grazing, the density and character of the vegetation has undergone a vast change. Original vegetation has been cleared for raising Teak, Sandal and Salmalia plantations etc. The tiger, the striped big cat, a formidable and ferocious solitary beast, the only existing striped feline is only sighted in remote areas of the sanctuary. Panthers are not frequently met with and the sanctuary still remains a carnivorous country despite the destruction of the habitat. There was a time when the striped feline was sighted at the vicinity of the forest rest house.







Wildlife

Elephant, Bison, Tiger, Panther, Sloth bear, Wild boar, Wild dog, Sambar Chital, Barking deer, Four horned antelope, Mouse deer, Nilgiri langur, Comon langur, Lion-tailed Macaque, Bonnet macaque, are the Chief Primates inhabiting the sanctuary in abundance that thrills the visitors besides a host of avifauna.

KALAKAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

An area of 233.6 Sq. kms. of primeval forests of Kalakadu slopes and Sengaltheri plateau in Tirunelveli district has been declared as a sanctuary in 1976 with the prime object to conserve and develop the rare and threatened primate endemic to Western Ghats alone, the Lion-tailed macaque. Average annual precipitation varies from 1,200 to 1500 mm. Tropical dry deciduous forests are confined along the foot hills, about 500 m. in elevation and further down occurrence of thorn forests are not uncommon. Tropical wet evergreen forests are restricted to Sengaltheri plateau, where the flora is rich and unique. In the large tracts of undisturbed rain forests *Porocarpus*, the only South Indian conifer occurs here which is outside the Himalayas. Accommodation with catering arrangement is provided to the visitors at the forest rest houses at Sengaltheri and Netherikal and transport facilities to view the wild life by van. Best season to visit this sanctuary is between March to September.

The bracing climate, bush green vegetation with the perennial water flowing through a net work of rivers and streams make the sanctuary an ideal habitat for wildlife. This is a paradise for the botanists and ornithologists in the relaxing environs of peace, tranquility and soothing rural beauties in which rare species of flora and variety of birds are accommodated.

Special mention should be made about the common carnivores that are found here i.e. Tiger, Panther, Hyeana, Jackal and wild dogs. While the herbivores are identified with the presence of Elephants, Sambar, Chital, Mouse deer, Barking deer, Nilgiri Tabu etc. Interesting reptiles that are reckoned here are flying lizards, Cobra, King cobra and Python.

Mundanthurai sanctuary is a real treat in store for the tourists as well as for those interested in wildlife. One can see with comparative ease all the non-human primates viz., the Lion-tailed macaque, the Bonnet macaque, Nilgiris Langur, common langur and Slender loris which is typical and quite characteristic in South India even though primarily Mundanthurai is a private sanctuary. The fauna is rich, varied and quite interesting and consists of Sambar, Chital, Barking deer, Sloth bear, Dhole or Indian wild dog, mouse deer or Indian and wild bear etc.

The unifauna with its melodies and sweet lullabies which kindles both the heart and imagination of the ornithologists comprise of Rocket tailed drongo, paradise fly catcher, Hornbills, Southern treepie, Swallow, Shrike, forest owls etc.

Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary

Situated in Coimbatore district among sylvan surroundings and spreading over an area of 958 sq. Kms. and including such areas viz Top slip, Gross Hills, Attakatty and abutting the Kerala border where there is already a wildlife sanctuary Anamalai Sanctuary is by far the largest sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. It is approachable by air from Coimbatore, which is 60 Kms. from the sanctuary and by rail from Pollachi within a distance of 25 Kms. and the best season to visit the inmates of this sanctuary is from April to June. Accommodation is available at the forest rest houses at Top Slip, Varagaliar as well as for those interested in Amaravathi and Sethumadai besides the Public Works department rest houses at Udumalpet, Amaravathi and the one at Attakatti run by the Electricity board with excellent facilities for catering. Transport facilities such as Van, Jeep, Elephant ride are available to the tourist for viewing the Wildlife at close quarters.

The divergent climatic conditions give rise to a luxuriance of vegetation with a wide range of forest types. During monsoon the floor of the forest is carpeted with all types of vegetation and the trees are festooned with creepers. The lofty trees with thick undergrowth and climbers and the fruit bearing trees provide the ideal and natural abode for several varieties of animals and birds. Depending primarily upon the altitude and rain fall the forest in this sanctuary vary from deciduous to semi ever green and then to ever green. On the lower slopes deciduous forests predominate while the semi evergreen forests adjoin the ever-green portions. Ever-green forests are confirmed primarily to the upper reaches of the Punachirange although there are a very few compact isolated patches, in Palakadavu, Ulandi and Mount Stuart blocks of the Thunakadaru Range, Grass lands occur at higher elevations. Rainfall varies from 500 mm to 4000 mm. Lower rainfall is experienced on the eastern slopes whereas a heavy down pour occurs in Western slopes.

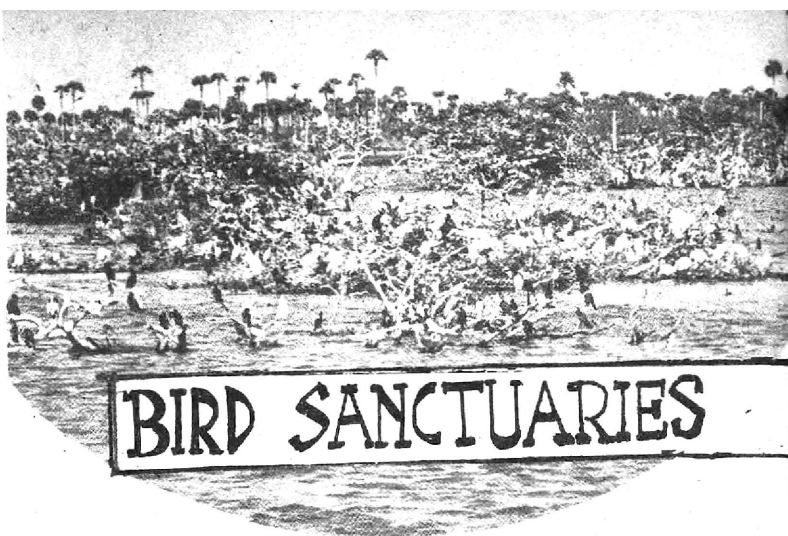
VEDANTHANGAL WATERBIRD SANCTUARY

Vedanthangal waterbird sanctuary is situated at 80 Kms. to the South of Madras along national highways over an extent of 29 hec. which is the most spectacular breeding heronry in the whole of South. The nearest airport is Meenam-bakkam which is 70 Kms. from the sanctuary. It is approachable through Karunguzhi railway station which is 10 Kms. from the sanctuary. The best season to visit this area is November to March. There are regular bus services from Madras, Chinglepet and Tambaram. For accommodation, forest rest house at Vedanthangal is available with catering arrangement and P.W.D. Rest house at Karunguzhi. Formed in 1962 this became the first sanctuary in the State. The congregation of water birds is seasonal lasting for about six months in the year October-November to March-April depending upon the monsoons. It reaches its peak in December-January.

The countryside surrounding Vedanthangal is flat comprised primarily of rocky plains interspersed with scattered bushes and trees viz. Vagai, Babul, Alungi and Palmyrah, which offers ideal place for perching and nesting. A compact grove of Barringtonia trees with their spreading crown found in the sanctuary is quite suitable for nesting. A plentiful and regular supply of fly for the water birds is assured by the combination of agricultural lands and the seasonal inundation in the surrounding irrigation tanks.

The gigantic congregation of waterfowls here is a spectacular scenery. The branches literally come down by the weight of the birds with their fully laden nests. Nesting, hatching and the feeding of the young ones continue from the onset of the breeding season until the young are fledged when the tank dries up in April then the birds depart. At the height of breeding season there are generally five to six thousand water birds in the sanctuary including the young ones.

The birds that breed in this sanctuary are cormorants, Egrets, Grey Herons, Open billed storks, Darters, White Ibises, Spoonbills, Pond Herons, Night Herons, Grebes and Grey Pelicans.



Many migratory birds such as Garganey Teals, Shovellers, Pintails, Crested ducks, Blackwing stilts, Common sand pipers, Green shank, Red shank, spotted sand piper, Little stint, Ringed plover, curlew, yellow wagtails and Grey Wagtails visit the sanctuary in winter.

The other resident birds which resort to this sanctuary are the Coots Spotbill Ducks, Indian Moorhen, Lapwings, Puple Moorhen, River terns and Gulls.

The groves along the lake bund shelter many song and brilliantly plumaged birds viz. the Golden Oriole, Common Sora, Golden-backed wood-pecker, Weaver Birds, Drongos, Robins, Bulbuls, Mynas, Blue jays, Hoopoes, White breasted king Fisher, Pied king fisher, Blue tailed Bee eaters, pied crested cuckos, Tree pie, Sun Birds, Taylor Birds. The birds that are commonly met in the plains are Lapwings, Grey Partridge, Quails, Sky Larks, Hawks and Harriers.

POINT CALIMERE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Created in 1967, Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Thanjavur district with an area of 17.29 sq. Kms. of the Kodaikadu Reserved Forest. Point Calimere Sanctuary is accessible both by train and bus. Thiruchirappalli is the nearest air-port which is 170 Kms from the Sanctuary. It is connected by road from Thanjavur at a distance of 80 Kms. Point Calimere Railway Station is almost

in the midst of the sanctuary. Accommodation with catering facilities are available at the old forest rest house and the modern Flamingo Illam with transport arrangement by Jeep and boats. Best season to visit the migratory birds in this sanctuary is between November and February.

This sanctuary is reckoned for its incredible congregation of migratory waterfowls particularly flamingoes, which are the prize attraction of this place. Five to ten thousand Flamingoes can be seen here at one time during the season. The sky looks pink when such a fabulous flocks of flamingoes take to flight, their numbers almost extending to the horizon. No naturalist can fully capture their splendour and reproduce it on paper. With the exception of the Great Rann of Kutch, nowhere in Asia may such large number of flamingoes be seen. Almost half of the sanctuary would consist of tidal swamps which is called as the Great Swamp which forms the ideal habitat for flamingoes and other water birds.

Mother nature is wreathed in smiles here, the land and the sea holding each other in fond embrace. The vast stretches of creamy sand with a thick pink carpet of Suaeda, the roaring waves, the ozonish whiff, the sylvan setting all conspire to lend the whole place an air of romance. The sunset here is both glorious and magnificent.

During spring the trees and shrubs laden with wild berries red,

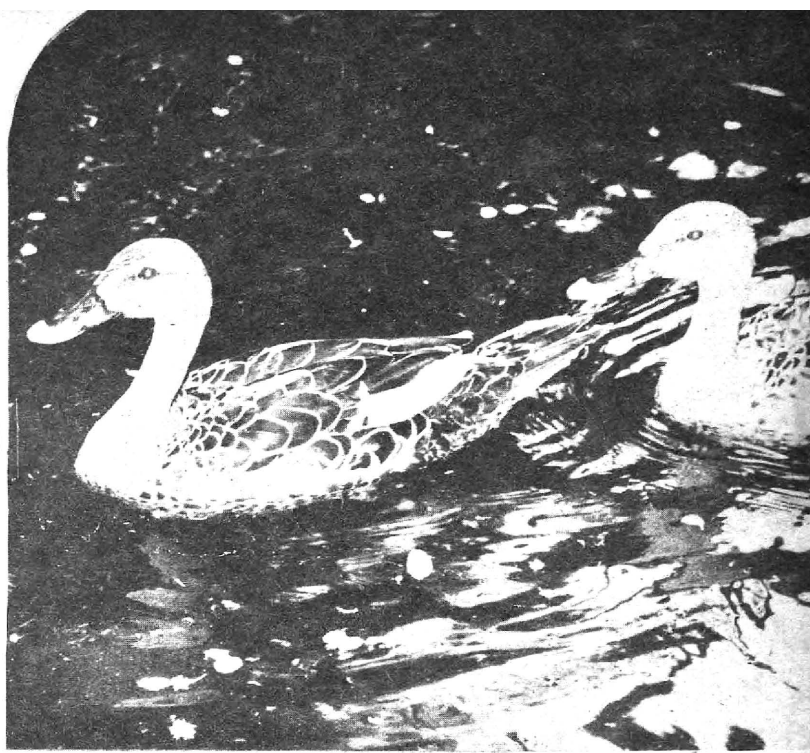
orange and blue, attract thousands of frutivorous birds like the green pigeons, Rosy pastors, Koels, Mynas and Barbets. As the winter sets in a huge wave of insectivorous birds rolls down to congregate at Point Calimere attracted by the abundance of insect and Vegetable food. The place starts seething with paradise fly catchers, Indian Pittas, Shrikes, Swallows, Drongos Minivets, Blue jays, Wood Peckers, Robins, Red startis, Babblers and Barbets.

Every year thousands of migratory birds arrive at Point Calimere, the tidal mud flats and the marshes literally covered with masses of avifauna. Such migrants comprise of Garganey Teals, Shovellers, Whistling Teals, Pintails, Curlews Avocets, Oyster catchers, Black headed Gulls, the great Black backed gulls, whiskered Terns, Little Terns Caspian Terns, Godwits, Golden Plovers, the great stone Plover Sandpiper, Little stints, Red shanks, Green shanks, Ringed plovers, Reef Herons, Whimbrels, Red-necked phalarope etc.

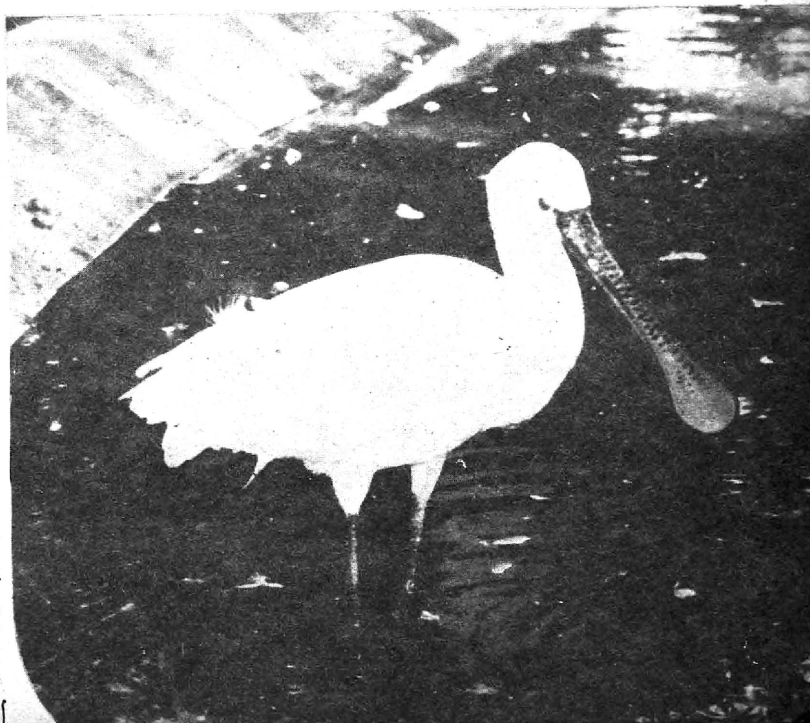
The other half of the sanctuary consists of dense dry evergreen forests known as the Kodikarai deer sanctuary where heavy concentration of Black buck, boar, spotted deer, can be commonly seen around the year. Other mammalian population include Jackal, civet cats, Mongoose and various rodents. Large predators are however prominent by their absence. Vegetation in this area is typically represented by *Memacelon edule*, *Salvadora persica*, *Mabbuxirolia Minu.ops elengi*, *M. hexandra*, *M. li toralis* etc. which are quite characteristic to dry evergreen type.

VETTANGUDI WATER BIRD SANCTUARY

This sanctuary was created in the year 1977 and is situated in a small tank near Tirupattur of Ramanathapuram district which is 55 kms. from Madurai and 26 kms. from Karaikudi. This is ideally located amidst a delectable rural setting in a little known heronry which is just 5 kms. from Tirupattur receiving an average annual rainfall of 900 m.m. (approx.) Grove of babul trees found in this tank whose crown affords an ideal place for perching as well as nestling avifauna. Night herons, little egrets, spoon-

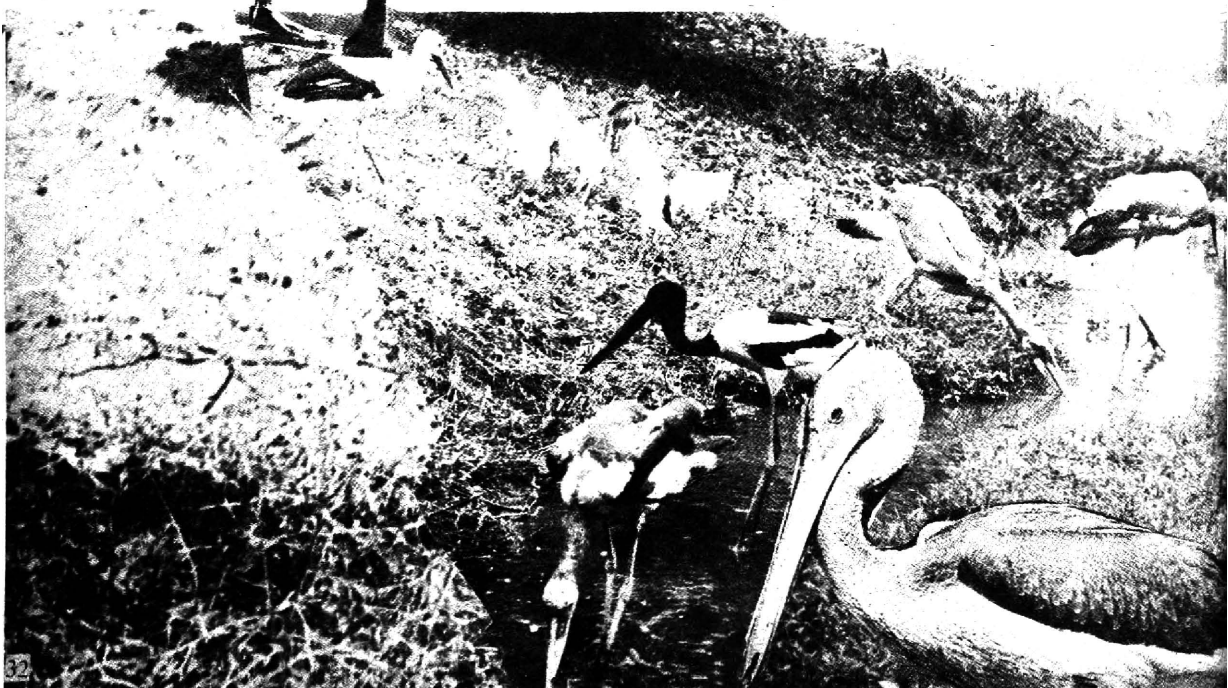


bills, cormorants are the breeding birds that are found in abundance. It is a veritable paradise for a zealous and enthusiastic ornithologist since a large conglomeration of other birds are also sighted in and around the sanctuary. The best time to visit and enjoy the sanctuary is



from November to March where the conglomeration and nesting is at the peak. Facilities to the visitors to watch the birds are afforded by construction of a wooden watch tower. It is located in a commanding place on the bund of the tank which gives an enthralling feast to the eyes and immense joy to the mind. Accommodation for the visitors is available at the P.W.D. Rest House at Tiruppattur. This sanctuary provides an excellent change and relaxation during the breeding season for the weekend visitors from Madurai and nearby towns.

The sanctuaries in their natural sylvan surroundings with their panoramic view offer unrivalled opportunities to the photographer of the nature. For visitors from the cities, it relieves their pressure of the routine mechanised city life and polluted air, with aromatic fragrance from the blossoming vegetation. The calm, quite and enchanting surroundings tend to relax the stress and strain of city life with the charming and sweet melodies of birds. For others, who do not sling a camera on their shoulders, the thrilling experience will remain green in the album of memory. A thing of beauty is a joy for ever and so are the sanctuaries with their grandiose variety of flora and magnificent majesty of the fauna.



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