



**of**

**THE C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR FOUNDATION**

**The Grove, 1 Eldams Road, Chennai 600018**

**[www.cprafoundation.org](http://www.cprafoundation.org)**

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2016**

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## Contents

1.	Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar	7
2.	The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation	15
3.	C.P. Art Centre	37
4.	C.P.R. Institute of Indological Research	76
5.	Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children	107
6.	The Grove School	117
7.	Rangammal Vidyalaya Nursery and Primary School, Kanchipuram	121
8.	C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Memorial Nursery and Primary School, Kumbakonam	122
9.	Each One Teach One	123
10.	Training Adolescent Girls in Traditional Drawing and Painting	127
11.	Vocational Courses	129
12.	Saraswathi Award and the Navaratri Festival of Music	131
13.	Women's Development	132
14.	Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Kanchi, Kanchipuram	133
15.	Temple of Varahishwara in Damal, Kanchipuram	139
16.	Tribal Welfare	141
17.	Inter-School Sanskrit Drama Competition	147
18.	Revival of Folk Art Forms in Schools	148
19.	Health and Nutrition	153
20.	Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation	154
21.	C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre	157
22.	National Environmental Awareness Campaign	176
23.	Kindness Kids	178
24.	Clean Chennai Green Chennai	180



## Acknowledgements

**‘50 Golden Years of The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation’** is a compilation of memories. Some information has been taken from past reports, but most come from the memories of the people who have been working here. The staff of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation have chosen to put together the memories of their contribution over a long period, so that future generations can see the effort that was taken to make a small Foundation with little money and less people into a centre of art, culture and intellectual conversation in Chennai.

To accompany this publication, we have put up an exhibition of ‘50 Years of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation’ where our eight institutes and several schemes have been presented to the people of Chennai.

The interviews with the staff were done by Hema Vijay, a journalist and writer. It was difficult to decide on the people to be interviewed by her, so we decided that those who have been working here for 25 years, or who have been responsible for the establishment of Institutes or project, would be covered. 50 years from now, this book will be old and moth eaten. I hope the young reader who picks it up will appreciate the hard work that was put in the first 50 years to bring the Foundation to international standards in its goals, functioning and management.

The material in this book has been contributed by several staff members. However, a few people have worked hard to put them together into this book and in the exhibition. They are Dr. G. J. Sudhakar, H. Manikandan, K. Shantha, T. Pichulakshmi, Malathy Narasimhan, P. Sudhakar, Kausalya Santhanam, R.Sathyanarayanan, G. Balaji and Y. Venkatesh.

To the unborn child of the future, who will, I hope, read this book, “Happy Reading”.

October 15, 2016  
Chennai

*Dr. Nanditha Krishna*  
*President*  
*The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation*



**Sir C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR**

*(painting by Svetislav Roerich)*

**Sir C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR**  
**November 13, 1879 – September 26, 1966**



Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, who lived to be nearly 87 years, represented a felicitous fusion of the cultures of the East and the West. He bestrode the political, intellectual and cultural arena of India in its pre-independence and post-independence epoch-spanning period, exceeding sixty years, like a colossus.

He started life as an advocate and soon became leader of the Original Side of Madras High Court. He appeared in and won several important cases: *Besant vs. Narayaniah* (for custody of J. Krishnamurthi by his father); the Ashe murder case; Subramanya Bharathi; and V.O. Chidambaram Pillai. He was one of the founders of the Indian Bank and Ramakrishna Students' Home. He was Secretary of the All India Home Rule League and editor of the "New India". He was General Secretary of the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress in 1917-18 along with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru; India's delegate at the League of Nations, Geneva, in 1926-27; and delegate to the First Indian Round Table Conference in London in 1931.

Sir C.P. has left many legacies – in terms of public utility undertakings like Hydro-electric Dams and Industrial enterprises. These include Mettur, Pykara and Lower Bhavani in Tamilnadu, the Pallivasal and Periyar Schemes in Travancore (Kerala), apart from the various industries set up by him (many of them the first of their kind in India). He was responsible for initiating the Cochin, Visakhapatnam and Tuticorin Port Schemes. He was one of the earliest to plead for the linking of the great rivers of India and in particular for the Ganga-Cauvery Project.

A most vital social reform measure for which he made himself responsible was the Temple Entry Proclamation of the Maharajah of Travancore in 1936. It was his condition for accepting the post of Dewan of Travancore and his first act as Dewan. It was the first time the avarnas, as they were known, were accepted into Hindu temples. It was hailed by Mahatma Gandhi as an epoch-making measure. In 1940, he was first to nationalize Road Transport in India and was responsible for the construction of the first cement, concrete road from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin. He was the first in India to start Aluminium Ceramic, Fertilizer and Rayon and other industries; the first to abolish capital punishment, introduce adult franchise and to appoint a lady advocate as District Judge in Travancore.

On February 12, 1946, Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar visited the Government High School at Vellamadam in the then State of Travancore (now Kanyakumari district, Tamilnadu), and inaugurated the scheme of compulsory education for children above five years. He introduced at this school, for the first

time in India, the free midday meal scheme for poor and needy students. He inaugurated the Vanchi Poor Fund and Seethalakshmi Ammal Anna Dhana Samajam (named after his mother) to fund the free midday meal scheme. These two schemes were to have far-reaching results, making Kerala a 100% literate state with the highest levels of education in India. They were the fore-runners for the free midday meal scheme, conceived much later by Shri. K. Kamaraj and introduced by Shri. M.G. Ramachandran, in Tamilnadu.

After retiring as Dewan he became Vice Chancellor of Annamalai University and Banaras Hindu University. He was the Chairman of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Commission, Government of India, in 1960; National Integration Committee, Government of India (as a result of which Parliament passed a bill making the demand for secession an offence); and Standing Committee on University Education, Government of India, in 1962.

THE C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR FOUNDATION, a cultural and educational centre for organizing and administering studies and research in subjects dear to the heart of Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, was founded by his friends and admirers after his passing away, on October 14, 1966. His eldest son, Shri. C.R. Pattabhi Raman, gifted the old family house and the surrounding lands to The C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR FOUNDATION in 1967.

In implementing his marathon welfare projects in Madras and Travancore during an exceptionally critical period of the nation's history, C.P. earned more foes than friends. But generations to come will acknowledge that C.P. was the man of the hour, needed most in a society driven by caste and creed, religion, language and social prejudices.

Sir C.P. was married to Seetha and the couple had three sons - Pattabhi Raman, Venkatasubban and Sundaram.



C P's Father and Mother –  
Pattabhiraman and Rangammal



The young couple -  
C P and Seetha

**Sir C.P. on Education:**

*“The school shall have served its purpose best, fulfilled its object effectively if, in addition to the teaching of the three R’s and all the things that go by the scholastic name, the wonderful niceties of life are also inculcated, without which man as a gregarious animal would be written down in history as a failure.*

*Let the school be the centre, the nucleus, the focus, radiating not distrust, not factions, not a spirit of partnership, but the spirit of oneness and harmony towards conjoint effort and the fulfilment of conjoint purpose and the reaching towards that goal for which all of us are yearning.”*

**Sir C.P. on Culture:**

*“Culture involves a vivid awareness of the meaning of life, a conspectus of the world’s problems in the proper order and relative importance and the deliberate choice of things that are really worthwhile.”*

**Sir C.P. on Law:**

In 1919, Sir C.P. was offered the Judgeship of the Madras High Court. He declined it saying, in his letter thanking the Chief Justice, *“I prefer to talk nonsense for a short while, to hearing it all day long.”*

**THE DEWAN**

by

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM

*[This excerpt from “A Writer’s Notebook” (1949) is reproduced here as a fine assessment of Dr. C. P. by the celebrated novelist.]*

He had the geniality of the politician who for years has gone out of his way to be cordial with everyone he meets. He talked very good English, fluently, with a copious choice of words, and he put what he had to say plainly, and with logical sequence. He had a resonant voice and an easy manner. He did not agree with a good deal that I said and corrected me with decision, but with courtesy that took it for granted I was too intelligent to be affronted by contradiction. He was of course very busy, having all the affairs of the State in his charge, but seemed to have enough leisure to talk for the best part of an hour on Indian metaphysics and religion as though there were nothing that interested him more. He seemed well read not only in Indian literature, but in English, but there was no indication that he had any acquaintance with the literature or thought of other European countries.

When I began to speak of religion in India as being the basis of all their philosophy, he corrected me. “No”, he said, “this is not so; there is no religion in India in your sense of the word; there are systems of philosophy, and theism, Hindu theism, is one of its varieties.”

I asked him if educated, cultured Hindus had still an active belief in *karma* and transmigration. He answered with emphasis; “I absolutely believe in it myself with all the strength of my being. I am convinced that I have passed through innumerable lives before this one and that I shall have to pass through I do not know how many more before I secure release. *Karma* and transmigration are the only possible explanations I can see for the inequalities of men and for the evils of the world. Unless I believed in them I should think the world meaningless.”

### Books Authored by Sir C.P.

Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar was a scholar in English, Tamil, Sanskrit and French. He published many books, and booklets on politics, economics, Indian culture, philosophy, religion, etc. He delivered twenty-one Convocation Addresses at various Indian Universities, which were brought out in book form by Annamalai University, Chidambaram.

- ◆ *C.P. Speaks* - CPR Publications, 2004 (reprint)
- ◆ *At the Crossroads* - CPR Publications, 1980
- ◆ *Religion, Man and Society* - CPR Publications, 1979
- ◆ *Chinese Aggression* - Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, 1962
- ◆ *How to Avert Disintegration* - Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, 1960
- ◆ *Indian Culture* - Munshi Endowment Lectures, 1960 - Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay
- ◆ *All India Convention of Race Relations*, Presidential Address, World Religions
- ◆ *Pen Portraits, Essays and Addresses* - Hind Kitabs, Bombay, 1968
- ◆ *Biographical Vistas* - Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1967
- ◆ *Indian Universities - 19 Convocation Addresses* - Annamalai University, 1964
- ◆ *Dr. Annie Besant - a Biography* - Publications Division, Government of India, 1963
- ◆ *Administration, Then and Now*, 1960
- ◆ *Hinduism and Jainism - Indian Gazeteer* - Government of India
- ◆ *Hinduism and Tolerance* - UNESCO Publications
- ◆ *India and the World of Art* - Chitale Lectures
- ◆ *Uniqueness of Sri Sankaracharya*
- ◆ "C.P." on Himself - Illustrated Weekly of India, November 1959
- ◆ *Fundamentals of Hindu Faith and Culture* - Ganesh & Co., 1959
- ◆ *Psychology, Western and Eastern*, Madras Psychology Conference, 1959
- ◆ *Treatment of Landscape in Eastern and Western Poetry* - 1955
- ◆ *Cultural Freedom and other Essays* - Published by S. Viswanathan, 1950
- ◆ *Phases of Religion and Culture* - Hind Kitabs, Bombay, 1949
- ◆ *Selections from Writings and Speeches* - Edited by Mr. P.G. Sahasranama Aiyar, Trivandrum - 1943
- ◆ *World Forces and Super State - Address to Theosophical Convention*, 1939
- ◆ *Present Crisis - Commonwealth Office* - Adyar, Madras
- ◆ *Federal Idea - Sri Krishna Rajendra Silver Jubilee Lecture* - Mysore
- ◆ *Indian Political Theories - Hon'ble Srinivasa Sastri Lecture*
- ◆ *Women in Vedic & Post Vedic Times* - 1926
- ◆ *Presidential Address to the All India Lawyers Conference Allahabad* - 1921
- ◆ *Memorandum & Evidence Before Joint Committee* - 1919
- ◆ *Criticism of the Montagu Chelmsford Reforms* - 1918

Sir C.P. delivered twenty-one Convocation Addresses at various Indian Universities, which were brought out in book form by Annamalai University, Chidambaram.

## Forewords, Introductions & Prefaces to Various Publications

- ◆ Introduction to “*Swathi Tirunal’s Kirthanams*”.
- ◆ Foreword to “*India’s Legacy - The World’s Heritage*” by Ranganatha Punja.
- ◆ Introduction to “*What Shall We Do*” by S.R. Narayana Aiyar.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Hindu Culture*” by K. Guru Dutt, 1944.
- ◆ Introduction to “*A Primer of Sanskrit Literature*” by K.S. Ramaswami Sastri.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Beggar Princess*” by Dilip Kumar Roy.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Horticulture*” by Dr. S. Krishnamurti.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Vidura Neeti*” by P.N. Menon.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Indo-Chinese Relations*” by Chou Esiang Kuang.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Kannagi - Kovalan*” by Narayanan Nair.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Sikhism*” by Bhair Jodh Singh.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Agricultural Economics in India and China*” by D. Seshadri Sastri.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Book of Talent*” by K.S. Krishnamurthi.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Tamil Translation of Milton’s Paradise Lost*” by R.P. Kulandai.
- ◆ Foreword to “*S. Srinivasa Raghava Aiyengar*” by K. Ranga Raghavan.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Select Speeches of Dr. A.L. Mudaliyar*”.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Soundarya Lahri*” by Ganesh & Co.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Para Psychology*” by Dr. Atreya.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Nityanand*” by Y.G. Krishnamurthi.
- ◆ Foreword to “*The Call of the Jagatguru*” by Ganesh & Co.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Kanchi*” by Dr. M.K. Srinivasan.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Aesthetic Philosophy of India*” by H.H. Maharajah, Mysore.
- ◆ Foreword to “*My Sathabhishekam*” by K.S.R. Sastri.
- ◆ Introduction to “*Throne of Transcendental Wisdom*”.
- ◆ Preface to “*Balancing Technique*” Sri Krishna Swaroop.
- ◆ Preface to “*Faces of Indian Culture*” by R. Srinivasan.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Teachings of Maha Yogi Gorakhnath*”.
- ◆ Foreword to “*The White Umbralla*” by Mackenzie Brown - London.
- ◆ Introduction to “*Indian Languages*” by Sunti Kumar Chatterji.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Yogasana*” by Yogi N. Rajan.
- ◆ Foreword to Sankara’s Teachings in his own Words.
- ◆ Foreword to General Book on “*Astronomy*” by H. Subrahmania Iyer, Trivandrum.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Concise Astronomy*” by H. Subrahmania Iyer, Trivandrum.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Collection of Stotras*” by Y. Mahalinga Sastri.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Cauvery - Mettur Project*” by K.S. Sonachalam, 1963.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Adi Sankara Bhagavan*” by Yogi Sudhananda Bharathi.
- ◆ Foreword to “*K.R.R. Sastri’s Reminiscences*”

- ◆ Foreword to “*Four Chola Temples*” by S.R. Balasubramanian.
- ◆ Introduction to “*S. Kasturi Ranga Aiyangar*” by V.K. Narasimhan, Publications Division, Govt. of India.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Poornadvaita Gospel*” by K.S.R. Sastri.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Saiva Siddhanta*” by Prof. R. Ramanujachari.
- ◆ Preface to “*U.N.O.*” by Jaganou Diagou - Pondicherri.
- ◆ Preface to “*Kamba Ramayanam*” by Pondicherri.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Sociology*” by Dr. Kewal Motwani.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Let us Wake up*” by General Cariappa.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Manickavasagar’s Tiruvachakam*” by N. Kandasami Pillai.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Kamba Ramayanam-Aranya Kandam*” published by Annamalai University.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Tamil Country under Vijayanagaram*” by Dr. Krishnaswami Pillai.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Acharya Hridayam*” by G. Damodaran.
- ◆ Preface to “*Vilambi Nayanar’s Nan Mani Kadhigai*”.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Dr. Rangachari*” by Mrs. Rajam Krishnan.
- ◆ Introduction to “*India’s Fight for Freedom*” by Kanji Dwarakadas.
- ◆ Foreword to “*History of Tamil Literature*” by Prof. T.P. Meenakshisundaram.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Cultural Developments in the Chola Period*” by S.R. Krishnamurthi.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Translation of Kural*” by Mons Ganou Diagow, Pondicherri.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Dr. P.S. Loganathan*”.
- ◆ Introduction to “*The Japjee*” by Sri. Surendra Singh Majithia and Y.G. Krishnamurthi, 1966.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Kamba Ramayanam*” - Translation of Cantos 7 to 14 by S. Nilakanta Sastri.
- ◆ Foreword to “*God in Saiva Siddanta*” - by T.M.P. Mahadevan, Madras.
- ◆ Foreword to Gayakha Sikhmani Prof. Muthiah Bhagavathar’s “*Thyagaraja Vijayam*” in Sanskrit.
- ◆ Foreword to Sri. K. Chandrasekharan’s Biography of his father V. Krishnaswami Aiyar - Kalaimagal Publication.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Ramayana Triveni*” by Sri. K. Chandrasekharan - Central Art Press, 1954
- ◆ Foreword to “*The Nature of Creative Art*” by K.S. Venkataramani - Svetaranya Ashrama, Mylapore, Madras-4.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Astrology or Destiny and Cosmic Factors*” by V. Gore, M.Sc., D.Sc., College of Science, Rajpur.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Om - A Guide to Yoga Asanas*” by Yogiraj V. Subramanya Bua, The Yoga Kendram, Palghat.
- ◆ Introduction to “*The Throne of Transcendental Wisdom - Sringeri Sarda Pitha*” by K.R. Venkataraman.- Sarada Pitha, Sringeri.
- ◆ World Parliament of Religious April 1953 - Inaugural address & articles Sivananda Ashram Rishikesh.
- ◆ Foreword to “*Numismatic Parallels of Kalidasa*” by Dr. C. Sivaramamurthy, Curator, National Museum, New Delhi.

**Publications of the Sanskrit Education Society (regd.) Madras**

- ◆ “*The Teaching of Sanskrit*” by Prof. K. Rama Varma Raja - Foreword by Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, B.G. Paul & Co.
- ◆ “*The Krdantarupamala*” by Pandit Ramasubba Sastri - Foreword by Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar - B.G. Paul & Co.
- ◆ “*The New Model Sanskrit Grammar*” by Sri Krishna Iyengar - Foreword by Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar - B.G. Paul & Co.
- ◆ “*The Sabdatarangini*” by Panditaraja Sastraratnakara V. Subramania Sastri - Foreword by Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar -B.G. Paul & Co.
- ◆ “*The Prataparudravasobhusana*” of Vidyanatha Standard Alankara Work - Foreword by Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar - B.G. Paul & Co.
- ◆ “*The Avyaya Kosa*” Compiled by Pandit Sri Srvatsankacharya - Foreword by Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar - B.G. Paul & Co.
- ◆ “*Nilakantha Vijaya Campu*” of Nilakantha Dikshita Preface by Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar - B.G. Paul & Co.
- ◆ Sanskrit: Essay by Dr. Raghavan - Foreword by Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar B.G. Paul & Co.

**Books on Sir C.P.**

- ◆ “*Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar (A Short Biography)*”, G. Shanmuganathan, Chennai, 2016
- ◆ “*Sadhaneyin Marupeyar Sir C.P.*”, S. Rajamanickam, Sandhya Publications, 2014
- ◆ “*Duty, Destiny and Glory - The Life of C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar*”, A. Raghu, Orient Blackswan, 2014
- ◆ “*Sir C.P. RamaswamiAiyar - A Biography*”, Dr. Saroja Sundararajan, Allied Publishers, Chennai, 2002
- ◆ “*Sir C.P. yum Swatantra Thiruvithamkoorum Vaadavum*”(Malayalam), Prof. Sreedhara Menon, D.C. Books, Kerala, 2000
- ◆ “*Sir C.P. Enna Villanum: Vittupoya Kannigal*” (Malayalam), Prof. Sreedhara Menon, D.C. Books, Kerala, 2000
- ◆ “*American Model Arabikadalil: Sir C.P. yude paraajayapatta Bharanaparishkaara nirdesham*” (Malayalam), Prof. Sreedhara Menon, D.C. Books, Kerala, 2000
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- ◆ “*C.P. - A Short Biography of C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar*”, A. Raghu, Prestige Books, New Delhi, 1998
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- ◆ “*C.P. at 80*”, Associated Printers, Madras, 1959

- ◆ “*The Dewan - A Writer’s Note Book*”, by Somerset Maugham, 1949
- ◆ “*Shashtiabdapoorthi Volume*”, Trivandrum, 1940
- ◆ “*With Profound Respects*” by S. Chidambaram (Sir C.P.’s. Private Secretary for 56 years) - Higginbothams, 1938.

#### Reference Books on Sir C.P.

- ◆ *Ooty Preserved* by Molly Paynter Downes, Hamish Hamilton, London, 1967
- ◆ *Cauvery-Mettur Project* - K.S. Sonachalam, Annamalai University, 1963
- ◆ *Madras High Court Centenary - Commemorative Volume*, 1962
- ◆ *Indian States and Transfer of Power in India* by V.P. Menon, 1957.
- ◆ *Thumb Nail Sketches* by Rt. Hon. V.S. Srinivasa Sastri - S. Viswanathan & Co., Madras, 1946.
- ◆ *Feathers and Stones* - Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya - Padma Publications, Bombay, 1946.
- ◆ *Inside Asia* - John Gunther- Harper, 1939.
- ◆ *Proceedings of Sri Moolam Assembly*, Trivandrum - 1937-1947
- ◆ *Book of South India* by J.C. Malony, I.C.S., London.
- ◆ *An Indian Diary* by Rt. Hon. E.S. Montague, Secretary of State for India, London.
- ◆ *History of the Indian National Congress* - Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Padma Publishers Ltd., Bombay, 1935.
- ◆ *Contemporary South Indian* - Nilkan A. Perumal, The Stationery Empire, 1934.
- ◆ *Proceedings of the Council of State*, New Delhi - 1930-1932
- ◆ *Proceedings of Indian Legislative Assembly - Delhi 1929-1930* - Govt. of India Press, New Delhi.
- ◆ *Who’s Who* - 1923-1966, London.
- ◆ *Statesmen’s Year Book* 1921-1966, London.
- ◆ *Debrett’s Peerages, Knights, etc.* -1921-1966, London.
- ◆ *Proceedings of the Madras Legislative Council 1919 to 1928* - Govt. Press, Madras.
- ◆ *Pilgrimage to Freedom* - K.M. Munshi, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay.
- ◆ *Kalakshetra* - Vol.7, No.2, Kalakshetra, Adyar.
- ◆ *India’s Fight for Freedom* - Kanji Dwarakdas, Bombay.
- ◆ *The Saint of Sringeri in Sacred India* - Dharma Prakash Press.
- ◆ *My Life: Law and Other Things* - M.C. Setalwad, 1970.
- ◆ *We Two* – James Henry Cousins and Margaret Cousins - Adyar.



2

## THE C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR FOUNDATION (CPRAF)

*cprafoundation@gmail.com*



The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation was established in 1966, after the passing away of Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, to continue the work of Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, to serve the interests of the community at large and to promote Indian culture and education, research and socio-economic development.

The Foundation is situated in the Grove, the ancestral home of Dr. C.P., which was gifted to the Foundation in 1967 by the late Shri C.R. Pattabhi Raman, eldest son of Dr. C.P. and former Advocate and Minister of Law, Government of India. The Foundation has field offices at Kanchipuram and Kumbakonam.

### Our mission

- ◆ To provide innovative and specialized education within the Indian cultural ethos
- ◆ To improve the social, economic and cultural lifestyles of diverse populations
- ◆ To strive for excellence

### FOUNDERS – 1966

Mr. C.S. Loganathan  
Mr. T.S. Narayanaswami  
Mr. S. Viswanathan  
Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswami  
Mr. S. Narayanaswami  
Mr. T.V. Viswanatha Aiyar  
Mrs. Rukmini Devi Arundale

**The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation was originally registered on October 14, 1966, at The India Cements Ltd., Dhun Building, 175/1 Mount Road, Madras 2.**

**In 1968, the registered office was officially shifted to The Grove, 1, Eldams Road, Madras 18, when Shri C.R. Pattabhi Raman gifted the ancestral house, The Grove, to the Foundation.**

## PAST PRESIDENTS



Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami  
Mudaliar  
(1966-1974)



Shri. S. Narayanaswamy  
(1974-1990)



Shri. M.V. Arunachalam  
(1990-1996)



Shri. S. Viswanathan  
(1996-2001)



Shri. A.R. Jagannathan  
(2001-2005)



Dr. Sarojini Varadappan  
(2005-2013)

## COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT - 2016

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Mrs. Marlene J. Kamdar

Dr. Sumathi Krishnan

## PROPERTIES OF THE C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR FOUNDATION

### ◆ The Grove, Chennai

The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation is situated in “THE GROVE, the ancestral property of Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar. It has a very interesting history. It was purchased in stages, being part of an extensive property once called ‘The Baobab’, named after a rare African tree in its midst. It belonged to

John Bruce Norton, father of the famous Barrister Eardley Norton, who, in turn, sold part of it, around the year 1875 to P. Chentsal Rao Pantulu, the first Registrar General of Madras. The latter sold part of the land to Conjeevaram Venkatasubbaiyar (who signed as Venkata Subbiah, in official documents, according to the Andhra custom), and C.R. Pattabhirama Aiyar (C.P.'s maternal grandfather and father). The house on the original plot was sold by Chentsal Rao to a famous Unani physician, father of Sir Mohammad Usman, C.P.'s contemporary.

At the time of the purchase, the property was vast, and included the northern part of the present C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Road on the east, Seethamma Road (named after his wife) and adjoining properties to the south. The area surrounding Mowbrays Road (now T.T.K. Road) consisted of paddy fields (where rice was grown even till the 1950s). A water-channel flowed through the southern side of the property connecting the Mambalam and Mylapore tanks. In 1903, a tank was built adjoining Mowbrays Road. A line of casurina trees and Chentsal Rao's plantain garden demarcated the western boundary.

At the time of purchase, in 1882, a part of the building already existed adjoining Yeldham's Road (now Eldams Road). There were also godowns, coach sheds, horse stables, cow-sheds and outhouses in the vast garden area.

On this vast plot purchased by Pattabhirama Aiyar and his father-in-law in Rangammal's name, the enlarged present building was added in 1885-86 and re-named 'The Grove' after the extensive grove of trees in the area. In the 19th century, 'The Grove' property was home to deer, jackal, palm civet, peacock and even leopard (the last seen on quite a few occasions). In fact, the whole area between Alwarpet and Mylapore consisted of paddy fields and jungle. It was for this reason that the house was built right next to the road, as the gardens were considered unsafe to walk through at night.

The porch and entrance were built in the Grecian style / popular in the 19th century. There was a strong room where the cash box and jewellery were kept. 'The Grove' was maintained in its original form by C.P. However, in 1923-24, the central hall, *kalyana-koodam*, was reinforced by steel girders imported from England and mosaic was introduced for the flooring. It was at this time that western-style bathrooms were introduced. (The house achieved the dubious distinction of being one of the earliest houses in Madras to have flush-out toilets which drained into one of the city's first septic tanks!)

The ceiling of what is now the library was imported from Belgium. The flooring here and the marble used elsewhere in the building were imported from Venice in 1923. The four tall black pillars in the central hall are of Burma teak.

This house was known to the local people as the house of the '*naalu kudirai vandi*' (four-horse carriage), because of Pattabhirama Aiyar driving in such a carriage, something looked up to with admiration in those days.

A *kalyana koodam*, hall for marriages, had been built in the centre of the building, but for three generations after it was built, there were no daughters in the family. Surprisingly C.P.'s granddaughter Shakunthala was the first to be married in this hall built for weddings.

The most impressive part of the house was a beautiful drive-way from Mowbrays Road entering into the portico. It was surrounded by statues, a fountain and a swing.

In 1935-36, a suite of rooms was added on the first floor where, for the first time, RCC beams were used. In spite of these additions, the house retains its old-world look and charm to this day.

'The Grove' was gifted by C.P.'s eldest son C.R. Pattabhi Raman to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and the houses registered and administrative offices.

◆ **Brahma Mandiram, Kanchipuram**

Brahma Mandiram in Kanchipuram was gifted by C.R. Patabhi Raman to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. The house itself belongs to the Vijayanagara period (15th-16th centuries), about 500 years old, and has been preserved to showcase a lifestyle of an age gone by, an age of spiritualism and sages, where simplicity and beauty were the hallmark of existence. The house, with its wall paintings and beautiful pillars, belonged to a family of land owners of Damal village, maternal ancestors of C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar. C.P.'s grandfather did something revolutionary in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: he gave the house and his other properties to his only child, a daughter, in an age when girls did not inherit property, when they sat behind the purdah, in zenanas that can be seen in this building. The daughter Rangammal became a powerful matriarch, and has been immortalized in Rangammal Vidyalaya, the primary school established by the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation in the adjoining part of the house. On Raja Veedhi (street), another of her homes now houses the SSKV Girls' School.

Brahma Mandiram now houses the **Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Kanchi**.

◆ **13 A, Mettu Street, Kumbakonam**

In 1941, Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar donated one of the 9 houses owned by his father in Kumbakonam - a house property located at T.S. No. 500, Ward No. 3, Door No. 13A, Mettu Street - to Kumbakonam Municipality, to run a primary school. The Kumbakonam Municipality ran the **Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Nursery & Primary School** till it was closed down in 1999-2000 after which the building was kept vacant.

In the meantime, the unused property had become a den for many anti-social activities. Residents of the locality and public were hoping that something would happen to restore the school and restart educational activities. Being his native town, our PRO Mr. N. Srinivasan appraised the Kumbakonam Municipal Council about the run-down state of the school and misuse of the property. The Council of Management of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation passed a resolution requesting the return of the land and building to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Chennai, for starting a school. Finally, the Municipal Administration Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu, vide their G.O. (2-D) No.5 dated 01-02-2005, agreed to the transfer of possession of the building to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, retaining ownership by the Municipality, for running a school. The area is about 12,000 sq. ft., of which the school building occupies about 5,000 sq. ft., and the building was in a very bad condition. After taking it over, the Foundation undertook repairs and massive renovation of the building.

## **INSTITUTES ESTABLISHED BY THE FOUNDATION**

### **Cultural**

- ◆ **C.P. Art Centre**
- ◆ **Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Kanchi, Kanchipuram**

### **Educational**

- ◆ **Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children** (affiliated to NIOS)
- ◆ **The Grove School** (affiliated to ICSE)
- ◆ **Rangammal Vidyalaya, Kanchipuram**
- ◆ **Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Memorial Nursery and Primary School, Kumbakonam**

## Specialised

- ◆ **C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Institute of Indological Research (CPRIIR)** (affiliated to University of Madras for research leading to the Ph.D. degree in History and Environmental Studies)
- ◆ **C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre** (a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India)

## AWARDS

- ◆ **The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation** was awarded the **Rani Lady Meyyammai Achi 101st Birthday Commemoration Award** for the year 2005 by the Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar Memorial Trust. The award consists of a silver plate, citation and Rs. 1,00,000/-. The award was given to the Foundation for the services rendered towards the upliftment of women on October 11, 2005 at Rani Seethai Hall, Chennai. Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Honorary Director of the Foundation received the award.



## Citation

*“The development of women through education, skill enhancement, and training for acquisition of new avenues for economic and intellectual well-being has been a core mission of the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation (The Foundation). In keeping with this mission, practical, life-help sessions to increase women’s economic independence, which in turn, would help their emancipation, have been a regular feature of women’s programmes.*

*Young and adolescent school girls from economically weaker sections of society reap benefits from the Foundation’s unique sponsorship programme called “EACH ONE TEACH ONE” whereby girls’ from poor families are assured of education up to Std. XII in a good school. This 9-year old project has helped hundreds of poor girl students to continue their school education. Many have already graduated from school under this programme and have gone ahead for higher education. The girls come from women-headed families and this educational opportunity helps prevent them from being used as labourers elsewhere.*

*Not only education but also catering to the needs of special children, the Foundation has established the Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children (SKLC) in 1985. This is an alternative centre for slow learners, dyslexic, autistic and learning disabled children. Experts and specialists in the field of psychology and special education have provided valuable inputs to help several thousand special children receive a basic or vocational education.*

*Skill enhancement programmes for girl children of Mamallapuram have resulted in the adaptation of traditional drawing and painting as a career. The girls are trained in traditional arts and, with their talent and skill, are generating an income, besides marketing their paintings through their own Self-Help Group.*

*Village women of South India are given health, first aid and nutrition education. Several herbal gardens have been established and women are trained in extraction, processing and production of herbal remedies. Many women's groups have been trained in enhancing traditional craft skills for contemporary needs through the adaptation of traditional crafts and inculcation of new skills. Project management and administration are essential parts of every training programme.*

*C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, established in 1989 by the Foundation, provides environmental education, design and training in eco-friendly technologies such as the construction of smokeless chulhas, organic farming, tree plantation, horticulture, vermicomposting and producing bags from waste paper as an alternate to plastics. Thus the achievement of the multiple goals of women's economic independence, better health and environmental protection are met.*

*Tribal women in the Nilgiris have been trained by the Foundation to conserve their art and craft traditions and utilize them to generate an income. Kurumba painting, Kota pottery, Paniya bamboo crafts and Toda embroidery have been adapted for contemporary market needs, thereby conserving the tradition and improving the lives of the tribals.*

*Women's Craft Bazaars are organized regularly to provide opportunities to individual women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups to sell their products. The Foundation provides a permanent outlet in Chennai for the marketing of arts, crafts and other products made by Self-Help Groups, individual women and tribals.*

*The Foundation has helped the disadvantaged sections of society, particularly women, children, tribals and the disabled into independent, confident and successful individuals who can combine the traditional with the modern and derive maximum benefit out of this synthesis.*

## Others

Dr. Nanditha Krishna received the

- ◆ **Nari Shakti Puraskar** from the President of India on International Women's Day celebrations held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on March 8, 2015, for the promotion of Indian arts and crafts; for the conservation and restoration of sacred groves; for the revival of traditional rainwater harvesting and restoration of tanks; for establishing innovative and comprehensive services for children with learning problems and disabilities, namely autism, dyslexia, ADD & ADHD; and for providing free education to disabled children and children from BPL families at the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation.



- ◆ 'Ilakkiya Semmal' from Zakir Hussain's Sri Paadham Academy of Dance, Chennai, for her contribution to Literature on March 22, 2015
- ◆ Sir J. C. Bose Memorial Award instituted by the Indian Science Monitor for her work in environmental education from Justice Venkatachelliah (former Chief Justice of India and Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission) and Justice Santosh Hegde (former Judge of the Supreme Court and the former Lokayuktha of Karnataka) on January 9, 2014, at Bangalore
- ◆ Lion Dr. K. V. Govinda Rao Memorial Wisdom Award for Lifetime Excellence and Title of "Sevaa Rathna" at the 40th Wisdom Award 2012 organized by Wisdom (Monthly Digest), Chennai, on December 13, 2012
- ◆ Lifetime Achievement Award, Loyola Forum for Historical Research (LFHR), Department of History, Loyola College, Chennai, 2012.
- ◆ Acharya Hasti Centenary Karuna Ratna Award, Karuna International and Acharya Hasti Centenary Celebrations Committee, 2010.
- ◆ Millennium Woman Award of the Forum for Women Students, Loyola College, 2000
- ◆ Seva Ratna (from the Centenarian Trust, Chennai), December 1999
- ◆ Stree Ratna (from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai), March 1998
- ◆ Outstanding Woman of Asia (from the University Women of Asia), January 1997
- ◆ Fellow of the Institute of Social Science Research award

**C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre** received the

- ◆ 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sir J.C. Bose Memorial Award – 2015 for its contribution in the field of promoting Environmental Awareness & Education to the Students and the Rural Population, instituted by the Indian Science Monitor in 2016 at Kolkata.
- ◆ Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Award for Environmental Protection from Rotary Club of Madras (East), 2004.
- ◆ Indira Gandhi Paryvaran Puraskar, India's highest environmental award in 2000.

## Shri. C.R. PATTABHI RAMAN



Shri. C. R. Pattabhi Raman was born in 1906 in Madras as the eldest son of Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar. He did his schooling at P.S. High School, Mylapore; B. A. from Presidency College; and L. L. B. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and qualified for the bar from the Middle Temple in 1932. He practised as an advocate after his graduation and, in 1938, became an advocate of the Federal Court, Delhi, now the Supreme Court of India.

He married Saraswathi, daughter of Captain Dr. P. Krishnaswami, Principal of Stanley College, Madras and niece of Pennathur Subramania Iyer, founder of P. S. High School.

The couple had four daughters - Shakunthala (1927-2000), Seetha (1933-1958), Lakshmi and Padmini.

He was a member of the Indian National Congress from his early days. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957 and 1962 from Kumbakonam. In May 1962, he was appointed Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Planning by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and served as the Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting from June 15, 1964 to January 24, 1966. He also served as a Minister for Law and Company Affairs from January 25, 1966 till his resignation in 1967, following the defeat of the Congress in Tamilnadu in 1967.

He was a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India and Advocate of the Madras High Court, Honorary Secretary of the Bar Association of India in New Delhi and Madras and the President of the Madras Bar Association from 1970 to 1978. He had a long and valuable political career as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the Lok Sabha from 1961 to 1962; Deputy Minister for Labour Employment and Planning from 1962 to 1964; Minister for Information and Broadcasting from 1964 to 1966; Minister of Law from 1966 to 1967. In 1967, after his retirement from active politics, he became the Chairman of the Cochin Refineries and held this post till 1975.

He was an active sportsman, having been a Founder and Vice-President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Founder, President and later Patron of the Madras Cricket Association, which he founded along with P. Subbarayan. He played cricket for and captained Madras Presidency and was a Golf Champion in Madras and Ootacamund.

Shri. C. R. Pattabhi Raman was an educationist, being the President of several school committees in New Delhi and Chennai, particularly the P. S. Educational Society; Conjeevaram Girls High School

Union, Kanchipuram; N. K. T. National Girls' High School, Madras, besides being the Chairman of the Blue Cross of India.

He was a philanthropist and major donor of the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and gifted the family house "The Grove" and the surrounding vacant land (about one acre) to the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation in 1968. It is because of his gift that the Foundation is able to function so effectively today. Later, he gifted another 8.5 acres of land at Damal Village, Kanchipuram district, and his family house at Lingappa Aiyar Street, Kanchipuram, with about 8 grounds of land in Kanchi to the Foundation.

He also gave considerable donations to the Jagadguru Shankaracharyas of Kanchi and Sringeri and to Acharya Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan Movement. A Trust called "Dr. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Sama Veda Trust" has been established for the functioning of a Samaveda Pathashala at Kanchi and for conducting the Panguni Uthiram festivities.

He passed away on June 19, 2001, at The Grove, 1 Eldams Road, Alwarpet, Chennai 600018.

**BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF  
Sir C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR  
1879 – 1979**

Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar was born on November 13, 1879. His centenary year – 1979 - was celebrated from November 2 to 9, 1980, with a week of events culminating in a grand function in the beautiful sylvan surroundings of his home – now the Foundation – attended by His Excellency Shri Hidayatullah, Vice President of India, and Shri M.G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamilnadu.

Dr C P Ramaswami Aiyar's birth centenary year saw a week of celebrations between November 2 and November 9 1980. The celebrations covered subjects dear to the life and work of Dr C P. All the functions were well attended and were well covered by the media.

November 2 - Children's day was observed at the beginning of the celebrations. The Children's Society of the C P Art Centre was named "Saraswathi Bala Kendra" after Smt Saraswathi Pattabhiraman. There was a painting competition in which more than 200 children participated. This was followed by games, tea and documentary film on Wild Life, Monday,

November 3 - Lecture on "State and Religious Institutions" by (Dr) Smt Chandra Mudaliar.

November 4 - Lecture-demonstration - "Suggestion and Statement in Natya" – by Sri V.P. Dhananjayan, *Nattuvangam* by Smt. Shantha Dhananjayan, also a well-known dancer.

November 5 - Essay competition for children between ages 11 and 18 on "Practical Planning and Applied Knowledge".

November 5 - A beautiful evening of classical music by Sri Semmangudi Srinivasa Aiyar, accompanied by Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman on the violin and Sri Vellore Ramabhadran on the mridangam. Sri Semmangudi chose to sing for two hours in honour of Sir C.P. in spite of his ill-health.

November 6 - Inter-School Oratorical competition on "The Shaping of Education to suit our needs".

November 7 - Inter-Collegiate Oratorical competition on "Re-vitalising Indian Culture"

November 7 - Symposium on "Dr C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar - The Man and his Work". Dr Malcolm S Adiseshiah spoke on "Dr CP's Contribution to Education"; Sri A Ranganathan on "Dr CP as an Administrator"; Sri S Narayanaswamy spoke on "Dr CP's contribution to Economic and Industrial Development"; Sri K Sankara Menon on "Dr CP as a Writer and Orator" and Sri S Chellaswami on "Dr CP's Contribution to Law". Smt Rukmini Devi of Kalakshetra presided.

On the concluding day of the celebrations, November 9, 1980, a public function was held to mark the completion of the Dr C P Ramaswami Aiyar's birth centenary celebrations. **The Hon'ble Sri M Hidayatullah, Vice President of India, unveiled a memorial plaque on the lawns of "The Grove" and Sri M G Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu opened an exhibition of photographs of "Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar - His Life and Times" and presided over the function. Sri Sadiq Ali, Governor of Tamil Nadu released a special issue of the 'Voice of Samanvaya' and 'At the Crossroads', a collection of essays and speeches of Dr. CP.**

Prizes and certificates were awarded to winners in the painting competition by Smt. Shanti Sadiq Ali and the prizes for the winners of the essay and oratorical competition by Smt. Janaki Ramachandran. Prizes for the painting competition were provided by State Bank of India, Alwarpet.



## EARLY YEARS

The first Honorary Secretary was Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswamy, followed by Mr. S. Viswanathan, Chairman and Managing Director, Seshasayee Paper and Boards. He was a dynamic person with great foresight and compassion for the poor. At this time, Mr. N. Padmanabhan joined the Foundation as Honorary Joint Secretary. Later, when Mr. Viswanathan became the President, Mr. Padmanabhan became the Honorary Secretary of the Foundation. After Mr. Padmanabhan's retirement, Mr. S.K. Natarajan took over for a few years till he left the country and went abroad. Thereafter, Ms. M. Bargavi Devendra became the Honorary Secretary in 1992 and has been contributing greatly to the administrative stability of the Foundation.

In the meanwhile, there have been several eminent presidents:

- Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar (1966-1974)
- Mr. S. Chitra Narayanswami (1974-1990)
- Mr. M.V. Arunachalam (1990-1996)
- Mr. S. Viswanathan (1996-2001)
- Mr. A.R. Jagannathan (2001-2005)
- Dr. (Mrs.) Sarojini Varadappan (2005-2013)

### Lectures and Lecture-demonstrations

The first director of the Foundation was Professor K. Seshadri, former Professor of Philosophy, University of Travancore. Professor Seshadri organized several lectures and symposia.

Prof. Seshadri published four books during his tenure as director: *Heritage of Hinduism* (1977), *Sadhana of Self-Discovery* (1978), *Sadhana of Self-Perfection* (1979) and *At the Crossroads* by Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar (1980), all published by the Foundation.

After the passing away of Prof. Seshadri, Dr. Nanditha Krishna took over as Director of the Foundation in 1981, and Dr. P.K. Sundaram, Professor of Philosophy at Madras University, became Director of lectures and seminars. Dr. Sundaram wrote the book – *Dhyana Yoga in the Gita* (1984) published by the Foundation.

Unfortunately, the records of the early years of the Foundation were destroyed in the floods of 2015. We have reconstructed below some of the activities from the papers we could salvage.

### 1980

Dr. P.K. Sundaram organized 36 lectures and lecture-demonstrations covering a wide variety of subjects such as philosophy, religion, literature, history, fine arts, performing arts, illustrated talks etc, both in Tamil and English.

#### Seminars and Symposia

January 16

- ◆ A 30-day discourse on Tiruppavai, conducted by Vidwan Velakkudi K Varadacharya was organised by the Foundation in collaboration with the Ramanuja Vedantha Centre, Madras. On the concluding day of the discourse, Jan 16, 1980, the Governor of Madras, Sri Prabhudas B. Patwari, presided and presented the sambhavana to the Vidwan.

## 1981

Dr. P.K. Sundaram organized 53 lectures and lecture-demonstrations covering a wide variety of subjects such as philosophy, religion, literature, history, fine arts, performing arts, illustrated talks etc, both in Tamil and English.

### Seminars and Symposia

March 14

- ◆ Symposium on “Theory of Comparative Literature”.  
Speakers: Dr. J. Parthasarathy, Dr. M.S. Nagarajan, and Dr. C.R. Sarma, and Shri. K. Chandrasekaran, University of Madras.

June 12-16

- ◆ Ramanuja-Jayanthi Festival was held for 4 days, inaugurated by Shri. T. Ramaprasada Rao, former Chief Justice, High Court, Madras on June 12, 1981. Two outstanding scholars Shri.P.B. Anangaracharya and Shri. Uthamur Viraraghavacharya were honoured with garlands.
- ◆ Discourses on “Sri Bhasya of Ramanuja” by Shri Tirukkalam Narasimharaghavacharya and Velukkudi Sri Varadacharya.
- ◆ Musical discourses by Sri Embar Vijayaraghava chariar and Smt. R. Vedavalli on Sri Ramanuja.

August 2-September 27

- ◆ Seminar on “Mysticism”, jointly with the Theosophical Islamic Association and the Adyar Lodge Theosophical Society, Madras.
- ◆ Programme connected with Sri Sankara Jayanthi and Sri Ramanuja Jayanthi and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Day.

October 2

- ◆ Mahatma Gandhi birthday, His Excellency Shri Sadiq Ali, Governor of Tamil Nadu, presided and presented clothes to 60 boys of Thakkar Dapa Vidyalaya. There was a spinning yagna by all the boys. The keynote address was by Dr. T.S. Devadass, Reader, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Institute for Advanced Study in Philosophy, University of Madras. Speakers: Shri C. Ramdass, I.A.S., Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Education Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Shri L.V. Ramaiah who gifted 60 sets of clothes to all 60 boys.

December 16-January 15

- ◆ Discourse on Thiruppavai inaugurated by His Holiness Sri Edugiri Ethiraja Sampathkumara Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami of Melkote, Karnataka State. The discourse was conducted by Vidwan Sathabhishekam Shri Govinda Narasimhacharya.

## 1982

Dr. P.K. Sundaram organized 63 lectures and lecture-demonstrations covering a wide variety of subjects such as philosophy, religion, literature, history, fine arts, performing arts, illustrated talks etc, both in Tamil and English.

### Seminars and Symposia

July 31

- ◆ Release of “Music Composers of India” by Mr. K. Chandrasekaran.
- ◆ Sri. T.S. Parthasarathy continued his series of talks. His earlier lectures, published in the form of a monograph.
- ◆ Geeta classes with Sankara Bhasya were conducted by Dr. P.K. Sundaram

January 15-24

- ◆ Lectures on Sri Valmiki Ramayana by Vidwan Sathabhishekam Shri Govinda Narasimhacharya.
- ◆ Ramayana series by Sri V Thiagarajan.

- ◆ Srimad Valmiki Ramayana by Dr. P. Nagaraja Rao, Sri. C. Rangachari, Dr. H.C. Coward, Dr Eric Lott, Dr Richard Frasca, Mr. John Allen Grimes and Dr. Parameswaran (Manitoba, Canada).

## 1983

Dr. P.K. Sundaram organized 45 lectures and lecture-demonstrations covering a wide variety of subjects such as philosophy, religion, literature, history, fine arts, performing arts, illustrated talks etc, both in Tamil and English.

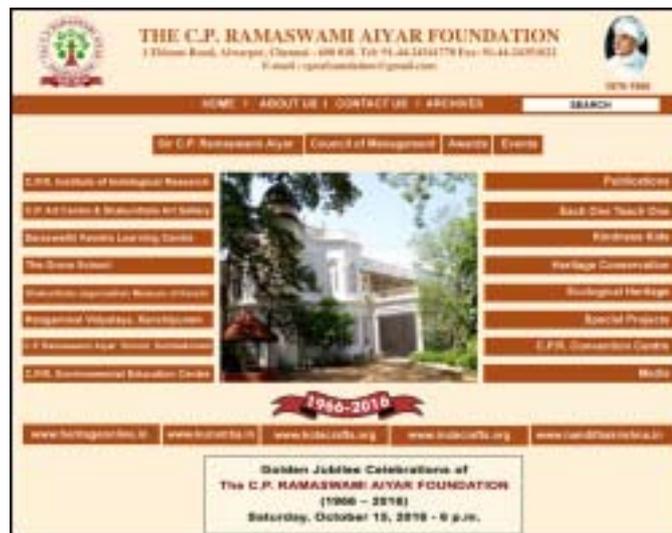
- ◆ Lectures on different aspects of the Vedas by Ubayavendanta Vidwan Madurantakam Viraraghavacharya (in collaboration with Ramanuja Vedanta Centre, Triplicane, Madras.
- ◆ There were lectures on the life history of the great patriots, Veer Savarkar and Subrahmania Bharathi.
- ◆ Sri T S Parthasarathy continued his series of talks with demonstrations (with vocal support) on different Hindi music composers of North India.
- ◆ 68 Geetha classes with Sankara Bhasya were conducted by Dr P K Sundaram.
- ◆ Harikatha Kalakshepam by scholar Kalaimamani N.S. Krishna Bhagavathar of Thanjavur.

July 1 onwards

- ◆ 34 classes on “Brahma Sutras” by Dr P.K.Sundaram.

## 1984

Dr. P.K. Sundaram organized 33 lectures and lecture-demonstrations covering a wide variety of subjects such as philosophy, religion, literature, history, fine arts, performing arts, illustrated talks etc, both in Tamil and English.



I founded C.P. Art Centre in 1978 and C.P.R. Institute of Indological Research in 1981. The same year I was made the Honorary Director of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation.

Shantha joined me in 1978 and, together, we slowly developed the Foundation from a centre of religious and philosophical studies to a dynamic institute which would attract young people. Thus over the years we introduced the following:

- 1978 - C.P. Art Centre
- 1981 - CPR Institute of Indological Research
- 1985 - Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children
- 1989 - CPR Environmental Education Centre
- 1993 - Project - Inter-School Sanskrit Drama Competition for students
- 1997 - Project - Each One Teach One
- 2001 - Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Kanchi, Kanchipuram
- 2004 - Project - Vennirul Art Gallery
- 2004 - The Grove School
- 2005 - Rangammal Vidyalaya Nursery and Primary School, Kanchipuram
- 2006 - Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Memorial Nursery and Primary School, Kumbakonam (take over)
- 2012 - Project - Kindness Kids



**Dr. Nanditha Krishna**  
President  
The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar  
Foundation

Our first Honorary Secretary was Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswamy, followed by Mr. S. Viswanathan, Chairman and Managing Director, Seshasayee Paper and Boards. He was a dynamic person with great foresight and compassion for the poor. At this time, Mr. N. Padmanabhan joined us as Honorary Joint Secretary. Later, when Mr. Viswanathan became the President, Mr. Padmanabhan became the Honorary Secretary of the Foundation. After Mr. Padmanabhan's retirement, Mr. S.K. Natarajan took over for a few years till he left the country and went abroad. Thereafter, Ms. M. Bargavi Devendra became the Honorary Secretary in 1992 and has been contributing greatly to the administrative stability of the Foundation.

In the meanwhile, we have had several eminent presidents:

- Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar (1966-1974)
- Mr. S. Chitra Narayanswami (1974-1990)
- Mr. M.V. Arunachalam (1990-1996)
- Mr. S. Viswanathan (1996-2001)
- Mr. A.R. Jagannathan (2001-2005)
- Dr. (Mrs.) Sarojini Varadappan (2005-2013)

After the passing away of Dr. Sarojini Varadappan, the Council of Management elected me as the President of the Foundation in 2013 and that is where we are in this the 50<sup>th</sup> year.

The Foundation has been able to grow from strength to strength due to a very strong administration consisting of people who have counted every paisa and listed every file. Initially, there was just one person, Ms. A. Kala, who looked after the accounts and administration. Later, Mr. T.S. Sridharan joined C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre as Accounts and Administrative Officer. Then Mr. K. Magesh and Mr. Somenath Mukherjee came on board to give support to the growing administrative and accounting needs of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, and the many constituents of the Foundation.

The base for the administration was set up by Mr. N. Padmanabhan, first Joint Secretary and later Honorary Secretary of the Foundation. He established the accounts and administrative department in the Foundation. Thanks to him, systems were set up and a stable accounts and administrative system was introduced.

Mr. H. Manikandan, as Personal Secretary to Dr. Nanditha Krishna, has maintained all the files of all the constituents of the Foundation, thus making it possible to access information regarding any institute established by the Foundation at any time.

The beautiful garden and the clean environment of the Foundation has been the cynosure of all eyes. It is also very difficult to maintain. Mr. P. Subramani, who moved to Madras in 1987, has been ensuring that the garden remains green even in years of drought and has been planting and replanting several trees in the garden.

In 2015 a new logo was created, consisting of the pipal tree in the garden of the Foundation and eight leaves representing the eight institutes set up by the Foundation.



It was in late 1980s when I was serving in the Tamilnadu State Social Welfare Board as Joint Secretary, that the Director of Social Welfare Department asked me to approach Dr. Nanditha Krishna to lend C.P. Art Centre for a display of articles produced by self-help groups which were promoted by the Department of Social Welfare and NGOs supported by the Tamilnadu State Social Welfare Board. I met Dr. Nanditha Krishna. She was very cordial and readily agreed to extend help. This was the beginning of our friendship. The Department of Social Welfare and the Tamilnadu State Social Welfare Board took advantage of her generosity and organized many exhibitions at C.P. Art Centre, and we made maximum use of the place to popularize the products of NGOs and self-help groups.



**Kumari M. Bargavi Devendra**  
Honorary Secretary

I retired from service in the year 1992, and to my surprise on the day of my retirement, I received a bouquet of flowers from Nanditha with a note asking me to join the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. As I was already committed to help WIA, Indian Red Cross Society and other organisations, I hesitated at first, but Nanditha's affection and friendship made me accept her invitation. Till today, I have no regrets. On the other hand, I am very happy with the growth of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation through the dynamism, dedication, hard work and the versatility of Dr. Nanditha Krishna. I am all admiration at her ability in developing the institution.

When I joined, Saraswathi Kendra was the main activity, apart from C.P. Art Centre lending the hall for organizing exhibitions. Now, like a banyan tree, the activities have spread not only in Tamilnadu, but also in other states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa through C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre. The remodeled C.P. Art Centre is almost fully booked throughout the year.

In the field of education, she has started The Grove School, affiliated to ICSE, which is producing cent per cent results almost every year. She has started a school in Kanchipuram to perpetuate the memory of her great great grandmother, the late Smt. Rangammal; also, a unique museum of folk art in the name of her mother late Smt. Shakunthala Jagannathan. Her mother initiated the 'Each One Teach One' programme to help economically backward children studying in Chennai. It is also growing from strength to strength year after year in helping needy children.

Nanditha has changed the entire atmosphere of the campus with excellent structures to house the new activities and, at the same time, retaining the heritage building and even the trees in the campus. It is heartening to see the blossoming of the versatile personality of Nanditha. She has created employment opportunities for hundreds of young talented men and women. She has proved that she is the chip of the old block and perpetuated the memory of her illustrious ancestors, her great grandfather the late Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar and grandfather late Shri. C.R. Pattabhi Raman.

I feel very proud to be of help to her as the Honorary Secretary of the institutions. Now my association is nearing a quarter century. I feel very happy every time I enter the portals of this great institution which serves society without any expectation, except contributing to the progress of society. To list

another noteworthy activity is CPR Institute of Indological Research. To sustain the activities, she has added an art gallery and a convention centre, cultural programmes and lectures, seminars, yoga classes and exhibitions.

Nanditha is lucky to have the support of eminent members on the Council of Management of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, as well as on the Board of Governors of C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, which is a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, and the efficient and dedicated staff who provide the service with a smile.

My sincere prayers to Almighty to bless the organization to serve society perpetually and to bless Nanditha Krishna and her family for their great service to this great nation.

K. Shantha was the first to join the Foundation after Dr. Nanditha Krishna established C.P. Art Centre. This spirited and sprightly 62-year-old lady is also the senior-most employee, having been with the Foundation for the past 38 years. “I had no knowledge of administration when I joined. I learnt everything on the job, thanks to the guidance of Dr. Nanditha Krishna”, she says.



**K. Shantha**  
Estate Manager & Executive Officer  
C.P. Art Centre

She joined the Foundation for a one-time assignment initially, during an exhibition of Assamese crafts, and has grown to become an indispensable part of the organization. She has seen C.P. Art Centre evolve from little more than a shed to becoming the most happening exhibition hall in the city, with Shantha leaving no stone unturned in locating and booking groups/individuals wishing to exhibit and sell objects of their craft /arts traditions.

She has also been working on all the major events and programmes happening at the Foundation. This includes the centenary celebrations of Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar in 1979-80, when the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. M.G. Ramachandran, visited the Foundation. She was instrumental in the Foundation holding the first ever summer camp in Chennai in 1981, which was followed over successive years by helping thousands of children learn the intricacies of art, puppetry, crafts, and more.

In 1982, she organized a ‘Spoken Sanskrit’ program. In 1983, the project that had her attention was the Revival of Folk Art Forms, sanctioned by the Government of India, which involved training school teachers in folk art forms, so that they could disseminate it to school students. For this, she identified and roped in experts on folk arts like villupattu, folk dances like kummi and kolattam, besides traditional drawing and painting.

1985 found Shantha busy helping raise funds for setting up the Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children. In 1988, it was Apna Utsav, a two-day handicraft exhibition in Port Blair that kept her busy, for which she travelled by ship as a young mother to Port Blair. In 1994, she started the iconic Women’s Craft Bazaar, which has now become a calendar event in the city with over 60 women entrepreneurs participating in it every year. In 2001, it was workshops on Kota pottery and Kurumba painting that kept her busy. In 2004, she helped Dr. Krishna set up the Vennirul Art Gallery at the campus, which now hosts over 30 exhibitions every year. In 2005, she helped the Foundation give training to adolescent girls in traditional drawing and painting. And so it continues.

Today, the Foundation’s campus has become both office and home to Shantha, and the demarcations between the two have blurred even more than before. She was allotted quarters on the campus after her husband passed away. The word around the campus is that “Shantha madam will get it done”.

Shantha is the unofficial PRO of the Foundation. She knows everybody exhibiting or speaking at the Foundation by name, and they all know her, she always has a smiling face and a helping hand for a visitor.



**A. Kala**  
Assistant Director  
Accounts and Administration

Now 48 years old, Kala joined the Foundation in 1987 as a 20-year old accountant. She was the second person to join the Foundation, and has seen it grow to a staff strength of over 150 members. She started her schooling in the village of Alangudi (famous for the temple dedicated to the planet Guru) near Kumbakonam in Thiruvarur district, and followed it up with a B.Com (often studying in the light of street lamps) from the Government Women's College, Kumbakonam, on a Government of Tamil Nadu Scholarship.

When she joined the Foundation, she had very little experience of even handling a telephone. "I learnt everything on the job. I stuck to the principles of sincerity and integrity and never compromised on the quality of my work output", she says.

When she was given the task of handling cash, she ensured accountability down to the last rupee, noting down everything in her neat handwriting. Soon, she was handling accounts for all operations at the campus; then it was five lakhs per annum, now it runs into crores. She has created an accounting system and procedural framework that is clear and effective and can be operated by anyone.

Her interpersonal skills have further enhanced bonding in the organization. She sees God in people; there is no harshness in her administration; there is positive guidance instead of fault finding. "Very few people leave this campus. If they do, it is only for personal reasons", she says.

Generally, the job of an accountant begins and ends with money transactions, but Kala has had the chance to administer the many operations started in the campus and guide its growth during its initial fledgling years. Encouraged by Dr. Krishna, she completed her M.Com., in 1992, besides a B.Ed., which came in very handy for running The Grove School during those early years.

For instance, when CPREEC was established in 1989, she had a huge role to play in its establishment. This included getting ready the massive paperwork needed for that purpose, coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Forest to get the necessary approvals, putting together the by-laws and the Memorandum and the paperwork required for obtaining 12A and 80G exemptions, etc.

When The Grove School was established, she steered the processes involved in buying the property, drawing up the sale deed, the registration of the school, obtaining the various certifications for the school building and the ICSE affiliation, and initiating the running of the school, often working day and night and coming across frequent road blocks. "It was a huge challenge and it was Dr. Krishna's faith in me that convinced and empowered me in sticking on and achieving our targets", she says.

When she delivered her son, she brought her one-month old son to office when there was work to be completed, even if it was an official holiday. When her son joined IIT-Madras, seeing her miss her son, Dr. Krishna gave her a car and asked her to visit her son; when her daughter moved to Bangalore for a job, Dr. Krishna encouraged her to read books and grow herself instead moping around. "Dr. Krishna's guidance has helped me evolve as a better person, and consequently, it has helped my family grow. It has all happened together – the growth of me, my family and the Foundation. The Foundation is another home to me", she says.

Having completed his B.A. in Corporate Secretaryship from Presidency College, and armed with skills in stenography and typing, soft-spoken H. Manikandan joined the then newly established C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC), a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, in March 1991. Initially, he worked under the environmental education officers of CPREEC, doubling up as a receptionist.

In 1995, he was appointed as Personal Secretary of Dr. Nanditha Krishna, the Honorary Director of CPR Environmental Education Centre and the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, a post that he continues to hold till date. His duties include a gamut of assignments,

such as scheduling meetings, updating her website, typing her reports, maintaining documents, sourcing information, and assisting her in all her official work that spans a spectrum of projects, presentations and other activities, considering that she is at the helm of eight major institutes of the Foundation, besides numerous minor projects, and the fact that Dr. Krishna is a member of so many committees, such as the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

“Dr. Nanditha Krishna is a mentor and guide to me, and has been the keystone for my professional growth, I have learnt so much from working under her on diverse projects”, he says. Manikandan now has a good grasp of all the fields that the Foundation works in; this includes eight major projects, such as C.P.R. Institute of Indological Research; C.P. Art Centre & Shakunthala Art Gallery; Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children; The Grove School; Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Folk Art; and Rangammal Vidyalaya at Kanchipuram; C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Memorial School at Kumbakonam; and C.P.R Environmental Education Centre, besides a host of other smaller projects.

And though he was schooled in Tamil Medium, he now converses in impeccable English. Encouraged by Dr. Krishna, he signed up for an M.A. in Public Administration and completed it by correspondence, while still working for the organization. He has also been reading voraciously and armed himself with knowledge on all the projects happening at the Foundation. In fact, the Foundation once deputed him for a two week study tour to Germany to study their environmental management systems and use of solar power.

Besides all this, he also coordinates with the computer department, printing department and the accounts department and oversees the frenetic publishing that keeps happening at the Foundation. Now, he is 47 years old, has completed 25 years of service in the organization, and is indispensable to the organization. Says Manikandan, “My career at the Foundation has been a huge learning experience for me”.



**H. Manikandan**  
Personal Secretary to  
Dr. Nanditha Krishna



**P. Subramani**

Probably, no one visiting the verdant campus of the Foundation would have refrained from commenting on the green cheer and positivity that is experienced here. It is a beautiful campus flanked by huge native trees and vibrant shrubs on a natural mud surface that is one hundred percent litter-free and is almost at a uniform level throughout, with no scope for puddles getting formed, and no scope for mosquito infestation. The credit for maintaining it goes to 62-year-old Subramani.

He had first set foot on the campus in January 1987, hearing of a requirement for someone who could double up as watchman and gardener. He left behind his village Pudukandigai near Nemeli, where he had been farming grain-fed crops like groundnuts, and augmenting his income by handloom weaving.

Once he took charge of the grounds at the campus, he sourced red soil from Chengalpattu, learnt to segregate waste and compost biodegradable waste into manure. He taught himself to graft plants, multiply and nurture saplings (to cater to the massive tree plantation drives taken by the Foundation during the nineties), and even transplant trees, with the help of the botanists working at the Foundation. In fact, the first tree transplantation that happened in the city happened on this campus in 2000, when a neem tree was transplanted to create space for a new building in the campus. The year 2000 also saw Subramani install a rain water harvesting system in the campus, which makes the Foundation one of the earliest in Chennai to do so. He also began to practice permaculture, and develop a kitchen garden and a herbal garden which are now used to teach children in the campus the essentials of urban farming and sustainable living.

Subramani has also successfully managed to care for and maintain the ancient trees in the campus. This includes a 400-year-old pipal tree, a towering rain tree that is over 200 years plus old and 85 feet tall, with a canopy spread over 5,000 sq.ft., a 250-year-old divi-divi tree and a 350-plus-year-old cannon ball tree. The campus is home to 102 species of plants/trees.

“I was basically a farmer. I learnt gardening after I came to the city, on the job. I came like a rough stone, I was sculpted here”, says Subramani. Now he is officially retired, but continues to stay on the campus and oversee the gardening and guide the 21 people who are engaged in managing the grounds.



I shifted from Bombay to Madras when I got married in 1974. My elder son was born in 1977.

I wanted to do research in Indian art, but there was no opportunity for post-doctoral research in Madras. However, as I was never one to be sitting at home, I craved to do something creative, apart from writing which was already my *métier*. I decided to set up an art gallery by constructing a small building in front of my house. My grandmother Saraswathi Pattabhi Raman suggested that I should do it as an activity of the Foundation. Unfortunately, when I gave the proposal to

the Foundation, many of the members, who were senior and eminent citizens of Madras, did not think that a gallery selling paintings and handicrafts was worthy of their support. However, my parents Shakunthala and A.R. Jagannathan, Mr. S. Viswanathan, Honorary Secretary of the Foundation, and my husband Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, supported me and gave me the initial funding.

I took an old asbestos-roofed shed in the Foundation which had been rented out to a company selling batteries, put red tile flooring and a black and white checked false ceiling, and made it into an art gallery. We held our own exhibitions for one or two weeks a month and let it out for the remainder of the time to earn money, so that it could become self-sufficient. The success of C.P. Art Centre was its financial stability - both the gallery and the Foundation were beneficiaries.

Every month, we would bring down the crafts of one state or a single craft, along with craftspersons who would give demonstrations. This was supported by the Development Commissioner of Handicrafts, Government of India, as a part of their Product Promotion Programmes. We would have one week of an art exhibition, paintings and sculptures. The rest of the time it was let out for commercial exhibitions of textiles, crafts, painting, etc. - all variations of art. This was the first time crafts were given a venue and respect in Chennai.

The first exhibition, on August 2, 1978, was that of Andhra Pradesh, which was inaugurated by the then Governor of Tamilnadu, Shri. Prabhudas Patwari. On the second day, Shri. M. Chenna Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, visited the exhibition. This was a big fillip to us as it created good publicity and hype which nobody had anticipated in Madras. Thus the non-believers and naysayers were proved wrong. Today, there is an art gallery on every street in Chennai city.

There were only two people running the C.P. Art Centre for a long time - Shantha and I. We were everything from Managing Director to sweeper and no work was too big or too small!

C.P. Art Centre gave the Foundation financial stability to grow into something much larger. Today, C.P. Art Centre has three galleries for exhibitions and demonstrations of arts and crafts, plus the Vennirul Art Gallery for exclusive art shows. Art festivals and seminars on classical, contemporary and folk and tribal art and topics of general interest have a permanent home in Chennai.

C.P. Art Centre was the first to start summer classes for children in drawing and painting. These were held regularly throughout the year, apart from traditional art, crafts and puppetry. Performances of classical and folk music and dance, and art and environmental activities for children became popular in Chennai.

C.P. Art Centre can be called a pioneer in whatever it did. It brought new creative ideas to Madras-Chennai.



C.P. Art Centre was established on June 29, 1978, with the objective of promoting Indian art and crafts. The C.P. Art Centre organizes exhibitions and demonstration of crafts, art festivals, exhibitions and seminars on contemporary and folk art and topics of general interest, workshops on various arts and crafts, lecture-demonstrations and performance of classical and folk music and dance and art workshops for teachers.



## VENNIRULART GALLERY

### From Steam Bathhouse to Art Gallery

The steam bathhouse is known in Tamil as the Vennirul (literally, the hot water room). A huge andaa or copper container sat on a brick stove fuelled by wood, producing both hot water and steam throughout the day. Later, a coal-fired water boiler was used to produce the same effect. In the Tamil month of Maargali (December-January), a few drops of eucalyptus oil were added to the water to prevent coughs and colds. After the rains, a few drops of citronella oil kept the mosquitoes away.

The bath was a long-drawn and luxurious affair on Tuesdays and Fridays for women and Thursdays and Saturdays for men. It was quicker on other days, but no less luxurious. First came the oil, which was massaged into the body and hair. Oiling the hair is an ancient ritual which maintains the natural colour, promotes luxurious growth and cools the head. Oiling the body softens the skin, removes the heat of the body, increases suppleness, prevents ageing, and provides protection against extreme temperatures.

The oil used in Tamil Nadu was generally nalennai (meaning “the good oil”) (English: sesame seed oil; Hindi: til ka tel), which was a natural dye and prevented greying. To it was added several herbs, dried flowers, leaves and roots, including a small piece of dried red chilli, and the whole boiled. After straining the oil, it was applied all over the body and hair, after which the person would sit in the steam house and sweat it out, not unlike a Turkish bath. Unrefined sesame oil, when massaged into the skin, leaves it amazingly soft and smooth. After a length of time (depending on the commitments for the day), the person would go in for a hot water bath, using the water from the same andaa which generated the steam. The oil on the hair would be washed off with shiyakaai podi (Hindi: shikakaay powder) ground with lentils, herbs, dried leaves and flowers. Finally, the hair was dried over steaming incense.

The body was given equal care. Manjal podi (English: turmeric powder; Hindi: haldi) was used by women over the oil on the face and body on Tuesdays and Fridays, milk on other days. The body was washed with a fragrant-smelling powder made of lentils and dried flowers, which nourished the skin and left it smelling sweet. If the stickiness did not leave the body, kadalai maavu (English: Bengal gram; Hindi: besan) would be used to wash off the remaining oil, to ensure that it did not spoil the rich Conjeeverum sarees traditionally worn by the women. Sandalwood paste was smeared thereafter, to cool the body and as a perfume.

The vessels used for this ritual were unique. The water was heated in a copper vessel, for copper has medicinal properties. The flavoured oil was heated in a thick bronze vessel with a long handle and wheel, to push it along the polished stone benches. The powders were placed in flat-bottomed brass vessels.

After the bath, the women went in for their pooja (prayers), lunch and a nap, followed by a chat session in the adjoining thaavaaram (pillared corridors) and mitham (open courtyard), decorated with frescoes on the walls or Tanjore-style paintings. There were two 200 year old bathhouses in The Grove – one for men and another for women - making up a long corridor-like structure.



The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation retained the old bathhouse with its roof of tiles and glass, and converted it into the **VENNIRUL ART GALLERY** in 2004. Unfortunately, the flooring and stone benches of polished Cudappah stone had broken down after years of non-use and neglect caused by the introduction of bathrooms and hot water geysers, and had to be removed and replaced by tiles. However, the old water boilers and oil and powder vessels remained to take the visitor back to a past when life was slower and luxurious, and health and beauty were regarded as an art form.

The floods of 2015 caused great damage to the VENNIRUL ART GALLERY. Much of the old structure was destroyed and now after standing for 180 years. The main road been laid and relaid over the years, stood a good two feet higher. The mud walls and wooden pillars were badly damaged. The only solution was to lift the floor level and prevent future damage. The Vennirul Art Gallery and the old tiled front building were retained, but an RCC roof replaced the tiles between the Vennirul and the Kalyana Koodam. this renovated space was renamed SHAKUNTHALAM in 2016, with the GOLDEN JUBILEE LIBRARY.

## **C.P. ART CENTRE Events**

### **1978-79**

C.P. Art Centre was inaugurated on July 2, 1978, with an Exhibition of Lepakshi, Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation. Shri Prabhudas Patwari, Governor of Tamilnadu, inaugurated the exhibition. Shri Chenna Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, visited the exhibition.

This was followed by exhibitions of Assam, West Bengal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Pondicherry. The exhibitions were supported by the Development Centre for Handicrafts, Govt. of India, under the scheme of Product Promotion Programme.

### **1979-1980**

The activities of C.P. Art Centre were organized by the Organising Committee comprising Mrs. Seetha Muthiah as Chairman, Dr. Nanditha Krishna as Honorary Director, Mrs. Chandra Sankar, Mrs. Shobha Seshasayee, Mrs. Alagu Muthu and Mrs. Kamala Ravikumar.

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of West Bengal; Meghalaya and Manipur; Madhubani and Dhumka (Bihar); Furniture with Brass Inlay and Old Carved Furniture; and Batik art made by Madras Association of the Hearing challenged.

Other events in the year were...

- ◆ Lecture by Dr. Mulk Raj Anand on "Rediscovery of a Forgotten Culture".
- ◆ Dr. Sunil Kothari - lecture on "The Appreciation of Classical Dances". Dance demonstrations by Shri Vempatti Chinna Satyam and Students (Kuchipudi) and Shri Kelucharan Mahapatra, Guru Ramani Ranjan Jena & Kumari Madavi Mudgal (Odissi).



Dr. Nanditha Krishna, in her capacity as Honorary Director of C.P. Art Centre, was requested to represent Tamilnadu at a conference on the "Future of Performing Arts" at New Delhi. At the valedictory function where Shri Vasant Sathe, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, and Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao participated, mention was made of the good work being done by C.P. Art Centre and it was pointed out as an example of the kind of work required to promote and sustain the arts.

## 1980-1981

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN**, Sambhalpur, Orissa; Kalamkari paintings from Kalahasti; “Heritage of Chettinad Art”; Kadi printing from Hyderabad; Ceramics in collaboration with TACEL (Tamil Nadu Ceramics); natural fibres, reeds, cane, bamboo and grasses; display of macrame, rafia etc; Festival of Lamps organised in collaboration with Poompuhar; and Batik art made by Madras Association of the Hearing challenged.

Other programmes included...

- ◆ Rabindra Sangeet and Bengali Folk Dances by students of the Departments of Dance and Music, Rabindra Bharati University
- ◆ Weekly art classes for children
- ◆ Workshop on Puppetry as a Teaching Aid organized for teachers of Government and Private Primary Schools.
- ◆ Workshop on Creative Arts for children
- ◆ Two month courses in Interior decoration started in collaboration with Asian Paints Ltd. Ms. Stina Vasu and Ms. Sheela Sriprakash were the instructors.
- ◆ Ms. C K, Gariyali, Deputy Secretary, Education Department brought the Education Secretary Government of Ghana, to visit and see the activities of the C P Art Centre.
- ◆ Workshop of Kalamkari was organized, conducted by master craftsmen from Kalahasti.
- ◆ Public Dialogue on the problems in Implementing Civic & Environmental Programmes in Madras City. Participants: Mr. O. Ramachan, Dr. A. Rao (Special Officer, Corporation of Madras), Mr. M. Ahmed (Member Secretary, MMDA) Mr. S.L. Rao, Dr. Rathindra Roy and Mr. S. Muthiah, Dr. Chandran Devanesan presided.
- ◆ **SUMMER CAMP for children held for the first time in Madras. For two months. 45 selected children were given physical training and taught art, puppetry and games.**
- ◆ Discussions on an ‘Introduction to Contemporary Art’ was organized. Speakers: Mr. AS Raman (former Editor, Illustrated Weekly of India), Mr. L. Munusamy (Principal, Government College of Arts & Crafts) and Mr. M. Redeppa Naidu (Artist and Assistant Director, Weavers’ Service Centre).
- ◆ Exhibition of Wildlife photos by Shri M. Krishnan and Shri M. Hanumantha Rao, with daily film shows on wildlife.
- ◆ Exhibition of paintings by Prabha Shah, a hearing challenged artist from Delhi. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs. Tara Cherian.
- ◆ Exhibition of photographs of Banjaras by Christian Jost in collaboration with Alliance Francaise de Madras.
- ◆ Weekly activity classes for children were organised by Miss Bharati Kalyanpur and Ms. Renuka Naidu.
- ◆ Workshop on Puppetry and Animation as a Teaching Aid was conducted by Dr. Nanditha Krishna and Ms. Renuka Naidu for the primary school teachers of the Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan.
- ◆ Art camp for children conducted by Miss Anuradha Naidu.
- ◆ **SPASTIC SOCIETY OF TAMIL NADU was inaugurated by Dr. H.V. Hande, Minister for Health, Government of Tamil Nadu, at the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, who gave free accommodation till they got their own land and building. It functioned here free-of-charge.**

**1981-1982**

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN**, Assam and Tripura; West Bengal & Orissa; Rajasthan; rare lamps from Nepal to Tamilnadu; Indoor and Garden Plants; Jewellery of India - Madhya Pradesh, Bastar, Kutch, Ahmedabad, Tanjore, Todas of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Delhi, etc.

Other events in the year were...

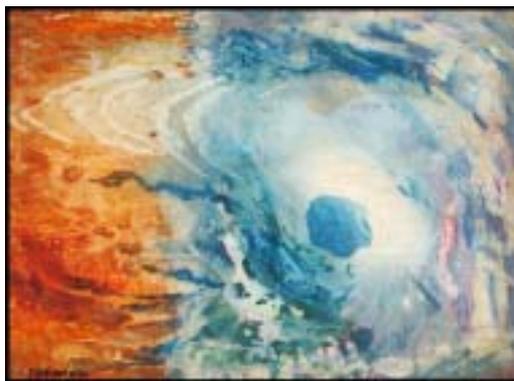
- ◆ 3-month Workshop on Sculpture conducted by Mr. Vijayvel.
- ◆ Course of lectures on horticulture: - “Soils” by Mr. T. Thanikachalam, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu; “Kitchen Gardening” by Mr. T. Thanikachalam; “Roses” by Mr. R. Rajaram, Area Manager, Indo-Fil Chemicals Ltd; “Fruit Trees” by Dr. B.W.X. Ponniah, Dean (Retd), Agricultural University, Coimbatore; “Ornamental Flowers Crafting and Budding” by Mr. R. Rajaram; “Indoor Plants” by Mr. O.T. Ravindran, Botanist; “Cactii and Succulents” by Ms. Indira Mehta; “Fruit Trees”(cont) by Dr. B.W.X. Ponniah; “Coconut Trees” by Dr. B.W.X. Ponniah; “Mushroom cultivation” and “Lawns” by Mr. Ramesh Talwar; “Bonsai” by Ms. Sankari’ Das.
- ◆ **Six-week Summer Camp for children organised with 102 children divided into three sections based on ages.** The camp counsellors were Ms. Susanne Verghese, Ms. Shantha Muralidharan and Miss Jayanthi Rangaswami. Subjects - painting, sculpture crafts, puppetry, music, drama, etc. Entertainments were organised every weekend, the highlight being a puppet show on Pinnocchio by Ms. Renuka Naidu and Family.
- ◆ **A special feature of the Summer Camp’82 was the emphasis on Environment and Animal Welfare.** Animal Welfare Board of India organised film shows every morning. WWF India sent an educational officer from Bangalore to show slides of birds and animals and teach them about nature, characteristics and habitat of Indian wildlife. They were also taught about the ecological importance of trees, animals, birds, reptiles, etc. A painting competition was held for all age groups on “Cruelty to Animals”.
- ◆ Competitions were held in the last week of the Summer Camp. On the last day, an exhibition of the work done by the children over the six weeks was organised and parents and other interested outsiders were invited.
- ◆ **Kaivalyadham Yoga Health Centre and Vivekananda Kendra organised a Yoga Camp.** The exercises were conducted daily at 6.30 a.m and over 40 students participated.
- ◆ Art Activity Classes for children were organised every Saturday beginning June 5.
- ◆ 3 month workshops on Paintings and Sculpture were conducted by Ms. Vasudha Govindan, a qualified artist. Sri Vijayavelu, a noted sculptor conducted a 3-month workshop.
- ◆ 8-week workshop on Gardening.
- ◆ Symposium on The Development of Art Consciousness and the Role of Exhibitions. Chairman – Dr. A.S. Raman, Emeritus Professor and Head of the Department of Painting, Tamil University, Tanjore. Speakers: Mr. Josef James, Madras Christian College, Dr. Rolland Thomas, Director, Alliance Francise de Madras; Sri Sultan Ali and Sri Nandagopal, artists from Cholamandal, Sri V. Jayaraman, art critic and artist, Lalit Kala Akademi.
- ◆ Nature Camp for children
- ◆ Saturday art activity groups organised regularly for children, conducted by Ms. Sangeeta Mehra and Ms. Chhaya Bhagat.

## 1982-1983

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN**, from Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, accompanied by demonstrations by craftsmen; Jaipur, Rajasthan; Exquisite wood carvings, antique boxes, bronzes, metalware and old furniture organised by Aparna Art Gallery; Kolhapur (Maharashtra); Lamps to celebrate Kartigai Deepam; “Jewellery of India”, exhibition organised by Poompohar, Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation with jewellery from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Gujarat.

Other events in the year were...

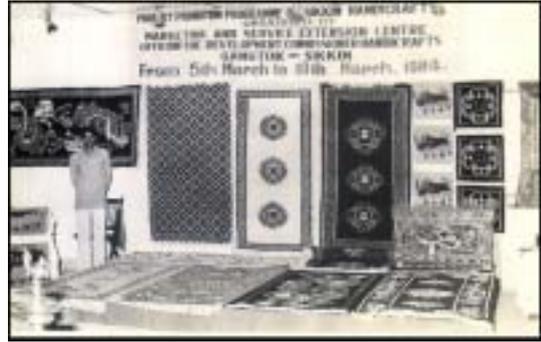
- ◆ “Afforestation”: a talk, illustrated with slides, on the greening efforts at Auroville.
- ◆ Exhibition of surrealist photography titled “Imaginary Voyage” by Werner Poschko
- ◆ Exhibition of paintings by V Hariram from Bangalore.
- ◆ **Art Activities for children conducted every Saturday** by Ms. Sangeeta Mehra, Ms. Sharon Appa Rao & Ms. Malavika Kripal Singh. Workshop on Drawing and Painting conducted by Ms. Vasudha Govindan three mornings every week.
- ◆ **Summer Camp** conducted by Ms. G. Thomas, Ms. Malavika Kripal Singh & Ms. Vasudha Govindan.
- ◆ Mr. Vijayavelu conducted sculpture workshop in clay modelling, metal casting, and plating.
- ◆ Audio-visual programme by Mr. K. Marudachalam of Coimbatore on “Creatures Great & Small” and “Flowers” organised in collaboration with WWF India.
- ◆ Film show on “Eagles come Home”.
- ◆ Symposium on “Birds of Prey”.
- ◆ Exhibition of paper crafts made by two Japanese craftswomen, Ms. Toshile Inagaki and Ms. Aiko Sore, accompanied by other Japanese handicrafts, paintings and Ikebana by Ms. Reido Kurien.
- ◆ Drawing, Painting, Clay Modelling and Crafts classes organised for children on Saturdays by Ms. Dimpri Krishna.
- ◆ Exhibition of batiks, oil and water colour paintings by Ms. Jaya Chandrasekharan.
- ◆ Audio-visual programmes on “Wonders Around You” and “Vanishing Forests”.
- ◆ “Meet the Artist” – programme with Shri Jatin Das of New Delhi.
- ◆ On-the spot painting competition for children on Nature and Conservation.
- ◆ Exhibition of Pottery from Karnataka.
- ◆ Lectures on ornithology delivered by Dr. Salim Ali and Dr.C. Perrins.
- ◆ Workshops on “Puppetry as a Medium of Communication” and “An Introduction to Nature” were organised.



## 1983-1984

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of Andhra Pradesh organised by Lepakshi, A.P. Handicrafts Development Commission;

Handicrafts of Kerala organised by Kairali, Kerala Handicrafts Development Corporation; Bronze and Brass Icons organised by Poompuhar; Handicrafts from Haryana; Handicrafts made by Women; Handicrafts from West Bengal & Sikkim; Wood carvings; Kalamkari & Woodwork from Sri Kalahasti; Eastern Handicrafts, from Agartala (Tripura) and Shillong (Meghalaya); Rajasthan organised in collaboration with the Social Work and Research Centre, Tilonia, Ajmer; handicrafts from Kerala; Lamps.



Other events in the year were...

- ◆ Dr. Jack Frazier of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, USA, delivered an illustrated lecture on “Biology and conservation of Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean”.
- ◆ Dr. C. Mohan Doss of Anna University gave an illustrated talk on “Exploration of the Indian Ocean”, in collaboration with World Wild Life Fund, India.
- ◆ Mr. Preston Ahimaz gave an illustrated talk on ‘Jersey Wild Life Preservation Trust’ and “Echo Parakeet of Mauritius”, organised in collaboration with WWF India.
- ◆ **April 23-May 30 - Summer Art Workshop** conducted by Ms. M Savitri, Miss R Bhanumathi, Miss Shanthi and Miss Radika Verma. About 140 children between the ages of five and sixteen participated. The children were taught drawing, painting, handicrafts, clay modelling, puppetry, music, dance & drama, kolattam & kummi. On the second last day of the workshop, an exhibition of the work done during the workshop was held and children staged dance, Drama and puppet shows. On the last day, the children went to Balamandir and performed for the orphans. The summer workshop children then gifted their items to the children of Balamandir.
- ◆ **May 4-13 - Summer Nature School for children** between the ages of 10 and 16 years organised. Activities included lectures on ecology, forests and desertification, birdwatching, model making and a seminar, all illustrated with charts and slides.
- ◆ Dance Demonstration by Smt. Usha Narayan on “Hastas and Mudras in Abhinaya in the Araiyaar Sevai Tradition”
- ◆ Film “Birds of the Indian Monsoon” screened in collaboration with WWF India.
- ◆ Dr. Nanditha Krishna was invited to attend an Asian Conference of UNIMA organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and UNESCO. The participants were from all the Asian nations and various Indian states and were Directors of Museums, Heads of Departments of Performing Arts; etc.
- ◆ Talk by Mr. Ben King, author of “Birds of South-East Asia”.
- ◆ **Workshop on Indonesian puppetry** conducted by Mr. Bambang Gunarejjo, Director, Wayang Museum, Jakarta, Indonesia, conducted in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.



- ◆ Film and video show of Indonesian shadow puppetry “Arjuna Vivaha” screened at CP Art Centre.
- ◆ Exhibition on the “History and Evolution of the Earth”. The big attractions were scaled models of prehistoric animals and a volcano emitting smoke and lava.
- ◆ Exhibition of pen and ink drawings ‘Images of Indira Gandhi’ by S. V. Prabharam
- ◆ Exhibition of Mr. R K Nehru’s collection of coins, match boxes, miniature pictures, post cards & stamps. Photographs taken by the late Mr. V. Narayanan of birds also exhibited.
- ◆ December 26-January 2 - Art Workshop for children.
- ◆ Exhibition of Bhagavata paintings by Smt. P. Vijayalakshmi and Shri P.L. Narasimhamurthi.

## 1984-1985

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN**, of Gujarat Handicrafts; Bronze and brass icons; Cane crafts of Walajapet; Assam; Rajasthani gems, jewellery and textiles, Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh organised in collaboration with Social Work and Research Centre, Tilonia; Kerala Handicrafts; Traditional Lamps; Mysore Terracotta.

Other events in the year were...

- ◆ Workshop on drawing and painting conducted by Shri. A.V. Ilango, artist.
- ◆ Exhibition of botanical paintings by Mr. O.T. Ravindran.
- ◆ **Walajapet, a village near Kanchipuram is well known for its cane work. C.P. Art Centre conducted a rural craft development project in this area.** A survey undertaken by the C.P. Art Centre gave many insights into this art and the reason for the decline. Some of the designs were altered to suit contemporary requirements. The weaves were chosen and developed to provide maximum strength. The project culminated in an exhibition.
- ◆ **Workshop on puppetry as a teaching aid** conducted by C.P. Art Centre at the Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan High School. Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Director gave conducted a workshop on puppetry for the teachers of Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan as part of the C.P. Art Centre’s continuing programme of adapting art forms to contemporary educational needs.
- ◆ Dr. Cheng Xung Nong gave a demonstration of **Chinese Calligraphy and Brush Work.**
- ◆ **Summer Nature School** was organised to help children learn about nature and importance of conservation. Shri Preston Ahimaz and Shri R. Maha-devan of WWF India conducted the camp.
- ◆ Summer Art Workshop organised for 160 children between 3 and 16 to learn drawing, painting, clay modelling, puppetry, music and dance craft and drama. The workshop was conducted by Ms. M. Savitri (music and dance), Miss. R. Bhanu (puppetry), Ms. Mallika (Drawing & printing), Ms. Rama (art for pre-school children), Miss. Radhika Verma (painting and clay modelling), Miss. Sangeetha (Drama) and Miss. Mythili (craft). On final day, the children staged a show of dance, Drama and puppetry. An exhibition of the work done during the workshop was also held.
- ◆ To celebrate World Environment Day a painting competition was organised in collaboration with WWF India.
- ◆ Illustrated talk by Prof. A.J. John Singh.



- ◆ Illustrated talk on ‘Conservation in the desert’ by Mr. Agoramoorthy from Jodhpur University
- ◆ Exhibition of “Sea Turtles and their Conservation” organised in collaboration with WWF and Conservators’ Nature Club.
- ◆ Talk by Romulus Whitaker on Indonesian Wildlife arranged in collaboration with WWF India.
- ◆ **The eminent social worker Baba Amte visited Madras** on his way to Kanyakumari. C.P. Art Centre arranged programmes for him to meet youth groups, voluntary workers and others at the Centre, where he also addressed a Press Conference and a public meeting. Dr. Nanditha Krishna interviewed him on television, representing the host organisation.
- ◆ Exhibition of oil paintings by Mr. A.V. Ilango, on ‘Rhythm’. Smt. Chitra Visweswaran inaugurated the exhibition.
- ◆ Public Meeting addressed by Mr. Sunderlal Bahuguna of the Chipko Movement at C.P. Art Centre.



Mr. Oza speaking with Baba Amte lying down behind.

## 1985-1986

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN**, of Karnataka Terracottas; Wood carvings, stoneware and cane; Rajasthan; Indian Jewellery; Kalamkari from Sri Kalahasti and Wood Carvings from Madhavamala was held. The exhibition was the result of a project conducted by the C.P. Art Centre in Kalahasti. Research was conducted to revive traditional designs which were utilised to produce contemporary items. The project co-ordinator was Shri. Munni Reddy of Sri Kalahasti; Kalamkari fabrics from Sickinaikenpet, Thanjavur district. Shri Emperumal, the sole exponent of this art in Tamil Nadu, demonstrated his art; Kerala; Precious and semi-precious stones, gems, silver jewellery and other fancy jewellery

Other events in the year were...

- ◆ A one-woman show of paintings and drawings by Ms. Hemavathy.
- ◆ Exhibition of photographs and sketches with statistical data, throwing light on Madras city as it was once and as it is today. Consumer Action Group was inaugurated. The hazards of Madras city such as over-population and unhygienic standards existing in slums, traffic, pollution and other details to create a better awareness of the conditions and the need to improve them was highlighted in the exhibition.
- ◆ In collaboration with the Development Centre for Musical Instruments, an exhibition of ancient and rare musical instruments of India was held. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Lalgudi Jayaraman and Shri T. Lokanatha Sarma, Director of the Development Centre spoke on the “Development of Musical Instruments in India”.
- ◆ Lecture by Smt. Vidya Sankar on “The Veena and its potential”.



- ◆ **An exhibition of handcrafted work, organized jointly by “Sewa Bharat”,** a national organization of nine sewas in six states of North India and C.P. Art Centre was inaugurated by Smt. Radha Burnier, President, Theosophical Society, Madras. **Smt. Ela Bhatt, Founder of Sewa, Magsaysay Award winner and Member of Parliament, addressed a public meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with women’s organizations and social workers.** Smt. Jaya Arunachalam inaugurated the exhibition. A delegation of Sewa women from Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi gave demonstrations of their skills.
- ◆ **‘Akshaya’, an exhibition of household utensils of Tamil Nadu** collected from private collections and art galleries, including lead, copper, brass, terracotta and clay articles.



### 1986-1987

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN,** of Kerala; Indian Jewellery from several states organised by Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation; Kerala; Garden terracottas organised by Kaveri (Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation).

Other events in the year were...

- ◆ Dr. Nanditha Krishna was invited to represent the C.P. Art Centre on the Board of the Tamil Nadu Oviya Nunkalai Kuzhu.
- ◆ Painting competition conducted for children between the ages of 5 and 15. Over 500 children participated.
- ◆ **Workshop on vegetable dyeing & block printing conducted by Ms. Sheela Balaji of Soundarya and Mr. Toofan Rafai of Ahmadabad.**
- ◆ Retrospective on the work of Toofan Rafai artist, designer and an authority on vegetable dyeing and printing, consisting of his paintings and designs.
- ◆ Lecture on the “Benefits of Vegetable Dyes” by Toofan Rafai.
- ◆ Illustrated Lecture on “The Valley of Flowers” by Mr. Prabhu.
- ◆ **Summer Art Workshop for children.** Over 200 between the ages of 5 & 15 participated in the morning sessions. About 50 Children from the Corporation Primary School, Vanniyar Teynampet, had a special session in the afternoons. This workshop was organised jointly by C.P. Art Centre and Saraswathi Kendra Centre for Children. A function was held on the last day when the children exhibited their work, dramas, dances, puppet shows, etc.
- ◆ C.P. Art Centre held an exhibition of “Travel Sketches” by Mr. Hussaini.
- ◆ Exhibition of educational books organised by Foresight Publications.



- ◆ Two-day seminar on “Product Development and Marketing” for voluntary agencies and individual craftspeople was organised by the C.P. Art Centre in collaboration with the Tamilnadu Social Welfare Board and the South India Producers Association (SIPA). Nearly 100 persons participated from all over Tamil Nadu. The speakers at the various sessions included representatives of financial institutions, voluntary agencies, marketing organizations and the government. Canara Bank co-sponsored the seminar. A memorandum of recommendations were made and sent to the various funding and training bodies.
- ◆ Workshop on “Environment and Ecology”.
- ◆ Exhibition on “Pollution”, with posters and literature.
- ◆ C.P. Art Centre took up a project of design development with Kamala, a craftswomen working in bamboo. Traditional patterns were transferred on to scrums and printed on bamboo mats, an innovation in this field.
- ◆ Exhibition of educational books organised by Foresight Publishers.
- ◆ “Creative Fun” an art workshop for children

### 1987-1988

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of Kerala, Rajasthan, Northern and Western India, Pondicherry, North East India, Ramavaram Terracottas from Karnataka, pottery by local craftsmen from Madras and Goan pottery.



- ◆ C.P. Art Centre held an exhibition at Port Blair in Andaman Islands at the Apna Utsav festival organised by the South Zone Cultural Centre. 120 craftspersons from 12 villages benefitted from the programme.

### PERFORMING ARTS

- ◆ Smt. T. Muktha has been teaching padams and javalis to 15 senior vocalists of Carnatic Music.
- ◆ The following lecture-demonstrations were held:
  - “The Nama-Siddhanta Cult” by T.S. Parthasarathi, with musical accompaniment by Dr. M. Prameela.
  - “Bharata Natyam and Abhinayam” by Srimathi Indira Rajan.
  - “Sri Narayana Tirtha and His Tarangini” by Shri T.S. Parthasarathi, with musical accompaniment by Dr. M. Prameela.

## PUPPETRY

- ◆ A Puppetry Workshop for the visiting Bashkir State Puppet Theatre of the U.S.S.R. was organized. Local puppeteers were invited and an exhibition was organised, culminating in a puppet show by the traditional shadow puppeteer Ms. Seethalakshmi. There were a total of 75 participating Indian and Soviet puppeteers.
- ◆ Puppetry Workshops were conducted for Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan, St. Christopher's College of Education and CPR Environmental Education Centre. The total number of participants was 240.
- ◆ Several puppetry workshops were conducted at C.P. Art Centre for teachers and students during the year.

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

C.P. Art Centre has been working with several voluntary Agencies from rural Tamil Nadu for craft development. The efforts included design and product development and training in marketing. A part of this was a major 'Craft Bazaar' held at Madras in which the voluntary agencies participated. This training was organized in Madras and craftspeople interacted directly with the clientele. 200 men and 30 women from 32 centres benefitted from this project.

## TRAINING FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Several training programmes were organized for institutions working for the rehabilitation of the handicapped. The programmes were held in collaboration with voluntary agencies working with the handicapped. Three organizations, 24 men and 15 women benefitted from this programme.

## ART

- ◆ Exhibitions of coffee plant sculpture
- ◆ Mysore Paintings. The exhibition of Mysore Paintings was in celebration of the C.P. Art Centre's tenth anniversary.
- ◆ Block Printing by Women's India Trust, Bombay
- ◆ Metal Embossing by Shubha Misale.



## 1988-1989

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN, of North-East India, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Pondicherry.**

A major event was the Dastakari Bazaar where 70 craftspersons from all over India participated. It was organised in collaboration with Dastkar of New Delhi and attracted wide media attention.

## PERFORMING ARTS

- ◆ Smt. T. Muktha has been teaching padams and javalis to senior vocalists of Carnatic Music
- ◆ The following lecture demonstrations were held:
  - 'The Nama-Siddhanta Cult', discourse by Shri T.S. Parthasarathi, with musical support by Dr. M. Prameela
  - 'The Moods of Tagore' - a broad spectrum of Guru Rabindranath Tagore's musical creations arranged by Mr. Sunil Patro with English translation by Mr. Paritosh Sen

- Performance of Rajasthan puppets by Shri Kathputhli-Babulal and Shri Anaram of Rajasthan



#### ART

Several art forms have been exhibited by the C.P. Art Centre. These include

- ◆ Pottery from Goa
- ◆ Coffee Plant Sculpture
- ◆ Exhibition of Sculpture by Mr. S. Gopal
- ◆ Exhibition of Ramayana Paintings by Ms. P. Vijayalakshmi and Mr. P.L. Narasimhamurthi

#### 1989-1990

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of North-East India, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Black terracotta pottery, Goan pottery, batik and jewellery.

Gandhigram Khadi and Village Industries Public Charitable Trust organised an exhibition of rural handicrafts of Tamilnadu.

The 'Tilonia Bazaar' was organised by the Social Work and Research Centre, Tilonia, Rajasthan in August. There was a display of enchanting handicrafts from Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat and Barmer.

#### PERFORMING ARTS

- ◆ Smt. T. Muktha has been teaching padams and javalis to senior vocalists of Carnatic Music.
- ◆ A group of Cambodian artists visited the Foundation and demonstrated Cambodian dance forms.
- ◆ The Dananjayans visited the Foundation on 27th March 1991 and entertained a select audience.

#### ART

Exhibitions were held on

- ◆ "Paintings of Maruti" by Mr. P.L. Narasimhamurthi and Ms. P. Vijayalakshmi. Dr. A.S. Raman inaugurated.
- ◆ "Prints of Early 20th Century - Ravi Varma Paintings". Collections were taken from Ms. Nirmala Seshadri 'Charitra', 'Sheela Enterprises' and Mr. C.R. Pattabhi Raman.
- ◆ "Thanjavur Paintings". Collections were taken from Aparna Art Gallery, Mr. Parthasarathy, Ms. Kannagi Mani, 'Charitra', 'Sheela Enterprises', and 'Dakshin Art Gallery'.

#### WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT

C.P. Art Centre has been working with several voluntary agencies in Tamilnadu for the upliftment of women. This year marketing training and assistance was given to the following women's groups:

- ◆ 'MOOWES', an organisation which helps women entrepreneurs in the field of marketing.
- ◆ 'WHEN Foundation', a women's organization

- ◆ A 'WOMEN'S CRAFT BAZAAR' was organised for the first time to give encouragement to women entrepreneurs involved in traditional craft. More than 15 craftswomen participated and displayed their creations such as beads, shell work, greeting cards, zari work, bags, stuffed toys and mirror work.

#### HELPING THE HANDICAPPED

- ◆ The C.P. Art Centre sponsored an exhibition of batik and other crafts done by the members of the Madras Association for the Hearing challenged. Various associations supporting the hearing-disabled were given encouragement to display and sell the products manufactured by the physically challenged children.
- ◆ Physically challenged craftswomen were sponsored by the C.P. Art Centre to participate in the 'Women's Craft Bazaar'.

#### 1990-1991

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of North India, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. There was also an exclusive show of pottery from Goa. Gandhigram Khadi and Village Industries Public Charitable Trust organized an exhibition on Rural Handicrafts.

'Tilonia Bazaar' was organized by the Social Work and Research Centre, Tilonia, Rajasthan, and Punjab.

C.P. Art Centre and Weavers Service Centre collaborated to bring an exhibition on 'Traditional Textiles of South India'. On display were antique sarees and examples of traditional weaving, printing and batik.



Exhibition of creations from Women's India Trust (WIT), Bombay an organization which teaches destitute women various crafts and helps them generate an income.

#### PERFORMING ARTS

A group of dancers and musicians from Cambodia visited Madras and were brought to the C.P. Art Centre by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (I.C.C.R.) which had organised their visit.

The visitors gave a lecture-demonstration of Cambodian dance, particularly the depiction of various Indian characters such as Rama, Lakshmana, Seetha, Hanuman, etc. There was an interchange of information on common and disparate features of Indian and Cambodian dance forms.

**SUMMER ART WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN** began with a therukoothu called 'Engalukkum Uyir Undu' performed by the Ponnusami Therukkoothu Nataka ManDr.am from Perungattur village, North Arcot District. The performers were children, who are being trained in traditional therukoothu by masters in the field. They held the young urban audience enthralled.

#### WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ September 23-26 - Workshop on Communication Techniques for Women.

The following organizations participated in the workshop: Monday Charity Club, Young Women's Christian Association, MOOWES, Women's India Association, Association for the rural poor, Mangayarkarasi Mahalir Mandram, Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam, Jeevan Jyothi Social Welfare Complex,

- ◆ March 6-8 - 3-day Project Management Training Programme for Women Field Workers engaged in development activities.

#### ART

- ◆ Exhibition of paintings by Mr. P. Ramaswamy

#### 1991-1992

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of North Eastern, India, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. There were special exhibitions of Goan terracotta, Bengal textiles and jewellery, Arts and Crafts of Tamil Nadu (which was inaugurated by Shri F.J. Vaz, Chairman, Tamilnadu Handicraft corporation Development). Various ancient and present day arts and crafts items in textile, bronzes, woodwork, terracotta, sculpture, paintings, musical instruments and metalware.

C.P. Art Centre collaborated with other non-governmental agencies working in the area of rural craft development and organised exhibitions. They were:

- ◆ Gandhigram Khadi and Village Industries Public Charitable Trust which organized an exhibition of rural handicrafts.
- ◆ Social Work and Research Centre, Tilonia, Rajasthan, organised the Tilonia Bazaar in July.

#### ART

- ◆ Exhibition of paintings and bronze of Lord Ganesha
- ◆ Exhibition of oil paintings by Ms. Geetha.
- ◆ In collaboration with the Government Museum, Madras, an exhibition of Roman Antiquities in Tamilnadu was organized.  
A book on "Roman Antiquities in Tamilnadu" by S. Suresh, was released on the occasion.

#### PERFORMING ARTS

- ◆ Programme of devotional music and Marathi abhangs by Aruna Sayee Ram.
- ◆ Performance of Manipuri Dhol Nritya.

#### 1992-1993

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN**, of Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat. There were special exhibitions of terracottas and textiles, jewellery and antiques from Bengal and Maharashtra.

- ◆ Exhibition on “The Palm Tree” organized in collaboration with the Tamilnadu State Palmgur Co-operative Federation.
- ◆ Gandhigram Khadi and Village industries Public Charitable Trust organised an exhibition of rural handicrafts, and herbal preparations.
- ◆ SEWA (Self Employed Women’s Association) organised an exhibition of handicrafts by women from north and western India.
- ◆ ‘Craft Bazaar’ with varied items like wooden toys, cane items, gypsy beads, boutique work, etc. Around 19 organisations, such as Shree Seva Mandir, Little Flower Convent for the Deaf, Life Help Centre for the Handicapped, Ambujam Seva Sangam, Spastic Society, Cheshire Home, etc. participated.

#### ART

- ◆ Exhibition of Paintings by Ms. Aruna
- ◆ Exhibition of paintings by Mr. Eswaran
- ◆ Exhibition of Tanjore paintings by Shri. Soundarajan
- ◆ Exhibition of musical instruments organised jointly with the Department of Handicrafts and the Development Centre for musical instruments, Government of India. About 73 rare and peculiar musical instruments, both real and miniatures, were displayed.

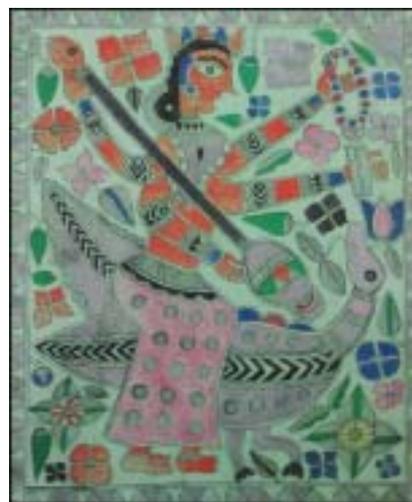
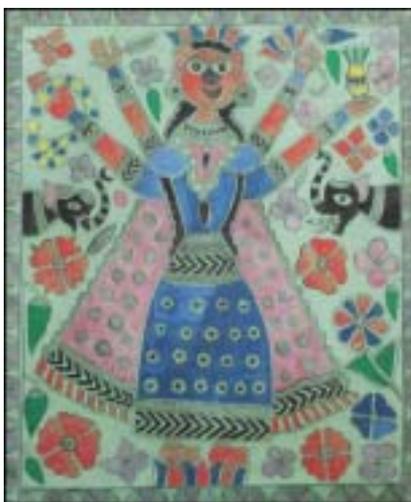
#### 1993-1994

##### **EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Orissa and Karnataka.**

- ◆ Poompuhar (The Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited, Madras) organised an exhibition displaying an exquisite collection of icons, wood carving, jewellery and textiles.
- ◆ Gandhigram Village Industries organised an exhibition of herbal items and khadi saris.
- ◆ SEWA (Self Employed Women’s Association), founded by Ramon Magsasay Award winner, Smt. Ela Bhatt, organised an exhibition of block printing, cane & bamboo, fruits and vegetables dyes, chindi, patchwork cleaning services and handloom weaving.
- ◆ A Craft Bazaar of items made by women with 18 stalls in which craft varied items were displayed, like saris, embroidery, herbal cosmetics, bags, etc.

#### ART

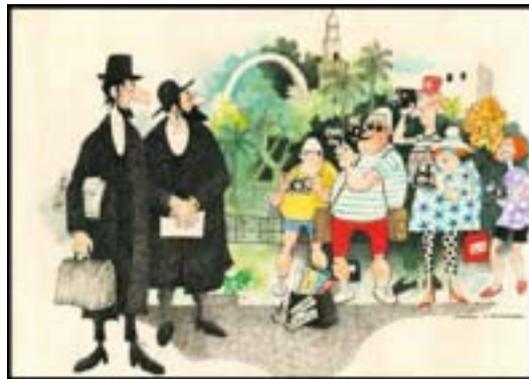
- ◆ An unique exhibition of Madhubhani Paintings, with live demonstrations by craftspersons Shivan Paswan and his wife Shanti Paswan.



- ◆ **Exhibition of paintings organized in collaboration with Very Special Arts India** to develop the talents and artistic abilities of people who have mental and physical challenges, that they may be integrated with the best that the world of the arts has to offer. Paintings of artist Immamuddin who has both hearing and speech disabilities, as well as artists of the Ranthambhore School of Art at Sawai Madhopur were also displayed.



- ◆ **Exhibition of Drawings of Jerusalem by Mario de Miranda** organized in collaboration with the Consulate of Israel and the Shalom India-Israel Centre, Bombay, inaugurated by Mr. Itzhak Gerberg, Consul General of Israel, Bombay. Mr. Mario Miranda also gave a well-attended lecture-demonstration of his cartoons.



- ◆ Exhibition of Cartoons by Ze'ev the renowned Israeli political cartoonist organized in collaboration with The Consulate of Israel and The Shalom India-Israel Centre
- ◆ Exhibition of photographs by Mr. V.K. Rajamani on the "Heritage of Painting in Tamilnadu" which were exhibited at the World Tamil Conference at Thanjavur, was organised.



#### PERFORMING ARTS

- ◆ A musical tribute to Lord Krishna by Bombay S. Jayashri on the occasion of Krishna Jayanthi.

**1994-1995**

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Haryana; Khadi and herbal items Gandhigram Village Industries; Women's India Trust and C.P. Art Centre jointly organised an exhibition of hand block printed items, soft-toys, etc. made by women; The Banaskantha unit of SEWA, (Self-employed Women's Association), founded by Smt. Ela Bhatt, organised an exhibition of the crafts of the region.

**ART**

- ◆ Exhibition of paintings entitled Vriksha by Mr. S. Shankar of Calcutta



- ◆ A photographic exhibition of Jerusalem - Past and Present was organised in collaboration with the Consulate of Israel, Bombay. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Itzhak Gerberg, Consul General of Israel, Bombay.



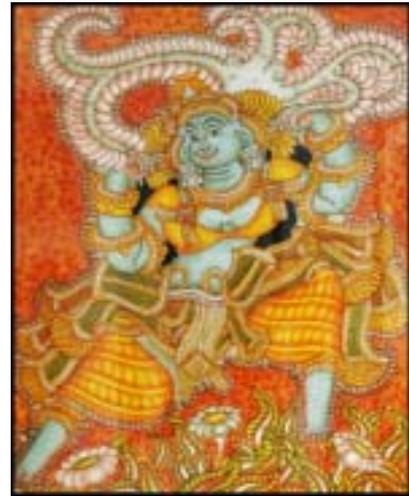
**ART WORKSHOPS FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED**



## 1995-1996

### ART

- ◆ A photographic exhibition of the Archaeology of Israel (as seen from the Air and Mashav (planting seeds of peace) was organised in collaboration with the Consulate of Israel, Bombay. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Itzhak Gerberg, Consul - General of Israel, Bombay.
- ◆ Exhibition of Kerala Mural Paintings by Mr. Saju Thurathil.
- ◆ Exhibition of Miniature paintings by Mr. Umashankar Sharma.
- ◆ Exhibition of paintings in vegetable colours - "Indigo 97" - by Mr. Toofan Rafai.



## 1996-1997

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of North East India, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa and Bengal.

- ◆ Women's India Trust, Bombay, exhibition of hand block printed items, soft-toys, etc. made by destitute women.
- ◆ Exhibition of Terracottas.
- ◆ Dastkari Bazaar, organized by Dastkaar, a Society for craftspersons from New Delhi (sponsored by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India).
- ◆ Exhibition of Batik & handicrafts made by the Madras Association for the Hearing challenged.

### PERFORMING ARTS

- ◆ Classical concert by the Israeli trio of Orit Orbach, Eitan Globerson and Amos Boasson, organized in collaboration with the Consulate General of Israel, Mumbai, at Hotel Srilekha International, Teynampet, Madras-600 018.
- ◆ Music concert by Dr. T. Loganadha Sarma.
- ◆ "Mohini Attam" by Natya Mayuri Smt. Karthiyayini.
- ◆ In memory of the late Smt. Saraswathi Pattabhi Raman, a Harikatha Kalakshepam - Parijatham by Smt. Revathy Sankaran.
- ◆ Exhibition of Terracottas.

## 1997-1998

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Karnataka.

- ◆ Exhibition of Khadi and herbal items organised by Gandhigram Village Industries.
- ◆ Women's Craft Bazaar.
- ◆ Exhibition of Terracottas.
- ◆ Exhibition of hand-block printed items, soft-toys, etc. made by destitute women, through Women's India Trust, Bombay.
- ◆ Women's Craft Bazaar



## ART

- ◆ 50 YEARS LATER - Images Old and New organised in connection with the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence. Based on the Pancha Bhoothas - Earth, Wind, Water, Fire and Space - it detailed India's achievements in these areas for 50 years through art, craft, music, dance and drama.
- ◆ Exhibition of photographs - The Photo Diary of an Officer - by Ms. Chandrakanta Gariyali, I.A.S organised in collaboration with the Tamilnadu Archives. The exhibition was inaugurated by Ms. Latika Padalkar, I.A.S., Principal Commissioner of Land Reforms.
- ◆ Exhibition of Tanjore Paintings of Ganesha by Raja
- ◆ **LOVE INDIA - exhibition of paintings by Prof. Shin Kitamura.** The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri. T.R. Srinivasan, I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Culture, Govt. of Tamilnadu, presided over by Shri. Koichi Ibara, Consul for Japan, Chennai. Shri. S. Sathyamoorthy, I.A.A.S., Joint secretary and Financial Advisor was the Chief Guest.



## 1998-1999

### **EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bhopal, Karnataka, West Bengal and Tamilnadu.

- ◆ Exhibition of hand block printed items, folders, mirror work materials, etc. from Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Ahmedabad.
- ◆ Exhibition of hand block printed items, soft-toys, etc. made by destitute women from Women's India Trust, Mumbai
- ◆ Women's Craft Bazaar. 25 women entrepreneurs participated
- ◆ GANESHA, from the private collection of Smt. & Shri. P. Ramakrishnan.

## ART

- ◆ Exhibition of paintings by Mr. Prashanth Krupa Elangovan (organised in collaboration with Tamilnadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu).
- ◆ Paintings and sculptures by R. Karthikeyan.
- ◆ Creations in different media by Chitrakoot, from Calcutta.
- ◆ Exhibition of paintings by M. Ravichandran. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. V. Palanichamy, I.A.S., Chairman and Managing Director, Tamilnadu Salt Corporation Limited.
- ◆ Paintings by Santhy



- ◆ Exhibition of Ramayana Paintings by P. Ramaswamy.
- ◆ Exhibition of paintings on Men and Gods by K.N. Nambiar. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri. R.M. Palaniappan, Regional Secretary, Lalit Kala Akademi.

C.P. Art Centre entered into a collaborative agreement with Cymroza Art Gallery Mumbai. Two exhibitions were curated and sent by Cymroza Art Gallery.

- ◆ Millennium Moods - an exhibition of paintings by Haku Shah, Paresh Maity, Maxie Cooper, Kaban Amritraj, Avishankar Mitra, J.M.S. Mani, Gautam Vaghela, Vrindavan Solanki and Kahini Arte-Merchant.
- ◆ Painting by women artists - to mark the International Women's Day. Works by Lalitha Lajmi, Rekha Rao, Manjiri Varde, Rajeshree Thakker, Brinda Chudasama Miller and Bharti Prajapati were on exhibition.
- ◆ Graphic Expressions – Print Show 2000 – an exhibition of works of 189 artists.

### 1999-2000

Several exhibitions of craft were held at the C.P. Art Centre gallery including those of the handicrafts of Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Calcutta and Tamilnadu.

- ◆ Women's Craft Bazaar
- ◆ Exhibition of artefacts and paintings produced by the Kota and Kurumba artists.
- ◆ Exhibition of Designs by Handloom Weavers from Weavers Service Centre.
- ◆ Exhibition of hand block printed items, soft toys, mirror work items made by Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Ahmadabad.

### ART

- ◆ Exhibition of paintings by P. Augustine. Mr. A. Selvaraj, Director of Income Tax inaugurated the exhibition.
- ◆ Andal's Thiruppavai in clay figurines and Thanjavur paintings as created by Ms. Malathy Srinivasan.

### 2000-2001

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of handicrafts, furniture, ceramics and terracotta from Ahmadabad, Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh.

- ◆ Exhibition of South Indian Bronzes made by Shri. G. Masilamani Sthapathi. Hon'ble Shri. P.T.R. Palanivelrajan, Speaker, Tamilnadu Assembly, inaugurated the exhibition.
- ◆ Women's Craft Mela

### 2001-2002

**C.P. Art Centre's galleries were demolished, making way for the construction of the Pattabhi Raman Block. Hence, for the major part of the year, the art galleries could not be used. Three new galleries have been built with uninterrupted viewing facilities and other inbuilt infrastructures. In spite of the constraints, a few exhibitions of craft and textiles were held.**

The following exhibitions were held in the latter part of the year:

- ◆ Exhibitions of textiles from Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat .
- ◆ Exhibitions of products made by women entrepreneurs were held in March 2002, coinciding with International Women's week.
- ◆ Exhibition of Kota, Terracotta Pottery and Jewellery made by the tribal women of the Nilgiris.
- ◆ Exhibition of Kurumba paintings by the Kurumba youth of the Nilgiris.

## **2002-2003**

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bhopal, Karnataka, West Bengal and Tamilnadu

- ◆ Handicrafts made by physically challenged artisans
- ◆ Chettinad Handicrafts
- ◆ Products like hand block printed items, folders, mirror work materials made by Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Ahmadabad
- ◆ Handicrafts by Konark Shilpi Samath Samithi
- ◆ Exhibition of Karnataka Handicrafts Development Corporation

## **ART**

The C.P. Art Centre sponsored several exhibitions of contemporary art.

- ◆ Ravi Varma copies by Ms. Jagadheshwari.
- ◆ Landscape painting by Mr. Mahesh.
- ◆ Paintings by Shri. K. Babu, Assistant Secretary, Animal Welfare Board. Inauguration by MJF Lion R. Mohan, Chairman, Lion's Foundation for the Blind.
- ◆ Exhibition of the paintings by the first batch of art students of C.P. Art Centre's Certificate Course.

## **SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS**

- ◆ Exhibition of children's books from Scholastic.
- ◆ Vaasthu items by Divine Retreat.
- ◆ Life of Swami Vivekananda. Swami Baneshananda, Editor, Vedanta Kesari, inaugurated the exhibition.
- ◆ Traditional Hair Ornaments of India collected by Smt. Veena Shroff. Dr. Padma Subramaniam, Director, NRITHYODAYA, Chennai, inaugurated the exhibition.

## **2003-2004**

### **Silver Jubilee Celebrations**

25 years ago, in 1978, the C.P. Art Centre was established by Dr. Nanditha Krishna to promote the traditional folk and contemporary arts of India. This was at a time when arts and crafts found little appreciation and fewer takers. It was inaugurated by the then Governor of Tamilnadu, Shri. Prabhudas Patwari.

The celebrations were inaugurated by His Excellency Shri. P.S. Ramamohan Rao, Governor of Tamilnadu, on August 27, 2003. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Agro Scientist and Chairman of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, presided over the function.

An exhibition on ETERNAL INDIA, depicting the heritage of Indian art and culture, was organized to commemorate the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of C.P. Art Centre. Over two thousand people, consisting

of general public, art and history students of city colleges and students from various city schools visited the exhibition.

Panels were made on Vedic literature; the six systems of philosophy; seers of the Vedas; ashtika and nastika schools of philosophy; conservation of nature in Vedic times; sites of the Ramayana and Mahabharata; Sangam period of ancient Tamilnadu; Buddhism; Jainism; development of ancient scripts; gopuras and vimanas in Indian temples; evolution of Indian architecture; Indian science and mathematics; astronomy; evolution of indigenous technology models; agriculture and history of agriculture; textiles and trade; Indian music and dance; festivals of India; folk dances of South India; handicrafts; Indian sculpture and paintings; Indian legal systems; yoga shastra.



A Carnatic music presentation by Smt. Seetha Rajan and the students of Bala Brindavan was held after the inauguration.

The other programmes were:

- ◆ Screening of video films on Indian Art every day.
- ◆ A quiz competition on ETERNAL INDIA on September 2, 2003 for English and Tamil Medium schools. Thirty three schools participated. The prize winners were

### **English Medium**

I prize	National Public School
II prize	P.S. Senior Secondary School, Mylapore
III	Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar, Chennai

### **Tamil Medium**

I prize	Mct. M. Hr. Secondary School, Mylapore
II prize	Sri R.K.M. Boys High School, Burkit Road, T. Nagar, Chennai
III prize	Corporation Bunder High School, Perumbur

A dance programme on great saints and rulers of ancient India who patronised art was organised by KRISHNANJALI (Smt. Gayathri Balagurunathan and her disciples) on September 4, 2003.

A gallery for exclusive collections of contemporary, folk and tribal art was opened on September 11, 2003. All the major newspapers and TV channels covered the events and the exhibition was welcomed by teachers and educationists. The exhibition was also taken to S.S.K.V. School, Kanchipuram, where it was inaugurated by His Holiness Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham.

Besides the above, the C.P. Art Centre also conducted the following exhibitions during its silver jubilee year.

#### ART

- ◆ Painting exhibition by V.S. Krishnan.
- ◆ Painting exhibition by Subramaniam Brothers.
- ◆ Photographic exhibition by Photozone
- ◆ An exhibition of terracotta items by Sanskriti Arts
- ◆ Paintings by Shri. M. Babu, Kothagiri, Nilgiris.
- ◆ Paintings of almond skin by Mr. Sundaram
- ◆ Traditional Drawing and Painting by the girl students of Mamallapuram

#### CRAFT

- ◆ Moowes – an exhibition of products by women entrepreneurs
- ◆ Kala Srusti – an exhibition of Andhra Pradesh handicrafts
- ◆ Kairali – an exhibition of Kerala handicrafts
- ◆ Handicrafts by West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh
- ◆ Gurjari – an exhibition of Gujarat handicrafts
- ◆ Chettinad Handicrafts
- ◆ Lepakshi – an exhibition of Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts
- ◆ Cauvery – an exhibition of Karnataka Handicrafts Development Corporation
- ◆ Utkalika – an exhibition of Orissa handicrafts
- ◆ Rajasthani handicrafts
- ◆ An exhibition of handicrafts by Ms. Vandana

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Textiles of Bengal
- ◆ Kanchipuram silks
- ◆ Coimbatore Cottons
- ◆ Exhibition by Dastakar

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- ◆ Exhibition of books by Scholastic.
- ◆ Exhibition of Ganeshas by 'The Heritage'

#### PERFORMING ARTS

- ◆ Lecture demonstration on Krishnanubhavam by Sumathi Krishnan (December 13, 2003).

#### PUPPETRY WORKSHOP

A puppetry workshop was conducted by Ms. Anna Sebel, a puppeteer from U.S.A., for 18 teachers from various schools from Chennai and trainees doing their diploma course in Pre-School Kindergarten education on February 2, 2004.

#### 2004-2005

**The VENNIRUL ART GALLERY was inaugurated on September 16, 2004, during Ganesh Chaturthi, with an exhibition of paintings by Asian Contemporary Art and a musical feature IN PRAISE OF GANESHA by Sumathi Krishnan. Exhibitions of ART were thereafter shifted to the VENNIRUL ART GALLERY.**

**EXHIBITION OF HANDICRAFTS, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION BY CRAFTSMEN** of Kairali (Kerala handicrafts); Rajasthan, Poompuhar –Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation; Chettinad Handicrafts; Lepakshi –Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts; Kerala Artisans Development Corporation; Chettinad, All India Handicrafts Exhibition; Kaveri, – exhibition of Karnataka Handicrafts; Socio Economic Development Association; Lepakshi –Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts; Jute crafts by MOOWES; Craft items by Ram Prasad; Torans

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Khadi Sarees and Village Industries products by Padiyur Sarvodaya Sang
- ◆ Bengal cottons
- ◆ Andhra cottons
- ◆ Textiles made by autistic children
- ◆ Book exhibition

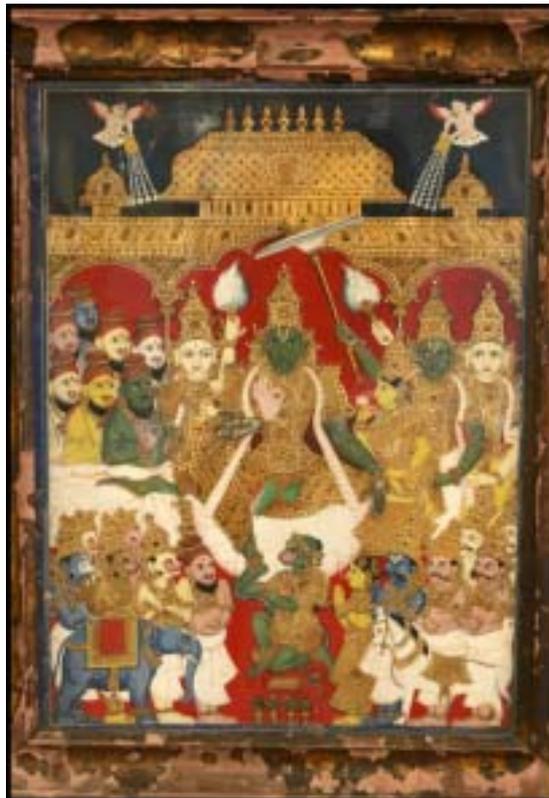
#### PERFORMING ARTS

- ◆ Lecture-Demonstration by Kum. Malavika Sarukkai on the book “*A Celebration of Love - The Romantic Heroine in the Indian Arts*” on June 17, 2004.
- ◆ A musical feature “*In Praise of Ganesh*” by Sumathi Krishnan on September 16, 2004, accompanied by Charumati Raghuraman on the violin and S.J. Arjun Ganesh on the mridangam.

#### 2005-2006

#### VENNIRUL ART GALLERY

- ◆ Exhibition of traditional drawing and paintings by the students of the Foundation’s project to train adolescent girls at Mamallapuram in traditional drawing and painting to enhance their earning capacity
- ◆ Old and antique Tanjore Paintings



- ◆ Antique lamps from the Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Folk Art, Kanchipuram and Diyas and Deepams made by National Association of the Blind, Spastic Society of Tamilnadu and Women's Self-Help Groups



- ◆ Sketches by Premarajan of temples and monuments of India
- ◆ ADS AND OLEOS – Exhibition of Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Advertisements of Oleographs and Calendars

The following exhibitions were held at the Main, Mini-1 and Mini-II galleries of the C.P. Art Centre:

#### ART

- ◆ Paintings by Oviya Creatives
- ◆ Ethnic shades by Srilekha Madhav
- ◆ Ravi Varma Oleographs by Jagadeeswari

#### CRAFT

- ◆ Rajasthani Handicrafts
- ◆ Utkalika – Orissa Handicrafts
- ◆ Kalinga Handicrafts from Bhuvaneswar
- ◆ All India Handicrafts
- ◆ Poompohar – Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation
- ◆ Handicrafts of India
- ◆ All India Handicrafts
- ◆ Cauvery – Karnataka Handicrafts Developments Corporation
- ◆ All India Handicrafts
- ◆ Chettinad handicrafts
- ◆ Utkalika – Orissa Handicrafts

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Textiles of India
- ◆ Erode cottons
- ◆ Chettinad cottons
- ◆ Kutch, bandhini

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

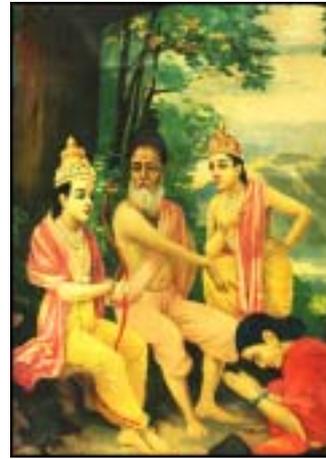
- ◆ Children's books
- ◆ Ganesha
- ◆ Plants
- ◆ Rudraksha
- ◆ Jewellery

**2006-2007**

**VENNIRUL ART GALLERY**

**ART**

- ◆ Scenes from the RAMAYANA in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Oleographs.



- ◆ Paintings by the Art Students of 2005-2006.
- ◆ Paintings of nature, Denmark and icons by Danish artist Birgette Anker.



- ◆ Lord Ganesha in acrylic and water colour paintings.
- ◆ Exhibition of Dolls.
- ◆ Paintings and Sculpture by S.C. Mahesh Kumar
- ◆ Musical Instruments

### **Exhibition of Raja Ravi Varma Oleographs**

2006 was the centenary year of the passing away of Raja Ravi Varma (1848-1906), the pioneer of modern Indian art. His paintings marked a radical departure from the past, combining western techniques of realism with Indian themes, using oil paints. The oleographs of Ravi Varma were of varying qualities, with the early ones closer to the originals than the later prints. The artist had to create many small paintings in order to transfer them on to litho stones. The selection of the paintings was done bearing in mind their marketability and with the definite objective of changing the popular artistic trends of his times. An exhibition, in coordination with American Express and People for Animals, was organized at The Regal Room, Hotel Inter Continental, New Delhi, from August 11 to 15, 2006, to raise funds for Saraswathi

Kendra. A similar exhibition of Ravi Varma Oeographs was held at Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai from January 22 to 27, 2007, when a film on Raja Ravi Varma was also screened.

The following exhibitions were held at the Main, Mini-1 and Mini-II galleries of the C.P. Art Centre.

#### CRAFT

- ◆ All India Handicrafts
- ◆ Chettinad Handicrafts
- ◆ Utkalika – Orissa Handicrafts
- ◆ Kala Srusti – Andhra Handicrafts
- ◆ Kaveri – Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Kutch embroidery and dyes
- ◆ Andhra cottons
- ◆ Chettinad cottons

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- ◆ Books
- ◆ Antique furniture
- ◆ Jute Fair
- ◆ Rudraksham

#### 2007-2008

##### VENNIRUL ART GALLERY

- ◆ Original Oleographs of the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century along with the Maps, Prints & Sketches of Old Madras
- ◆ Exhibition of Ganesha (Serigraphs by M.F. Hussain authenticated by the artist), Tanjore Paintings, Glass Paintings, Acrylic Paintings, Silk and Oleographs and also in Brass, Marble, Terracotta and Navanya figurines) along with live Demonstration on Blown Glass by Mr. Santhosh Sivaram to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi
- ◆ Exhibition of sketches and paintings by J. Soundararjan

The following exhibitions were held at the Main, Mini-1 and Mini-II galleries of the C.P. Art Centre.

#### ART

- ◆ Painting exhibition by Kavitha Kannadasan

#### CRAFT

- ◆ Chettinad Handicrafts
- ◆ All India Handicrafts
- ◆ Orissa Handicrafts



- ◆ Rajasthan and Jaipur Crafts
- ◆ Orissa Handicrafts
- ◆ Kairali – Kerala Handicrafts
- ◆ Gujarat Handicrafts

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Chettinad Cottons
- ◆ Gujarat textiles
- ◆ Andhra Cottons
- ◆ Kalamkari

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- ◆ Antique and Colonial Furniture
- ◆ Computer Exhibition
- ◆ Rudraksha exhibition

#### 2008-2009

##### VENNIRUL ART GALLERY

- ◆ Photo exhibit on The Landmarks of New York (an illustrated record of the city's Historic Building) from July 03 to 13, 2008. Nawab Mohammad Abdul Ali, Prince of Arcot, inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of Mr. David T. Hopper, Consul General, U.S.A.
- ◆ Exhibition of Early Portraits of Madras – Etchings, Engravings & Aquatints from the collection of Mr. V. Narayan Swamy. Shri. S. Muthiah inaugurated the exhibition.
- ◆ Navaratri Kolu – Display of Antique Dolls from Kondapalli, Ettikkopaka, Chennapatna, Dolls made of glass, terracotta, clay, cloth and marble powder.
- ◆ Exhibition of Home Linen, Embroidered, printed, woven and jacquards designed by Nirmal Mirza as a fund – raiser for Saraswathi Kendra students.
- ◆ Exhibition of Original Lithographs, Engravings and Etchings of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The following exhibitions were held at the Main, Mini-1 and Mini-II galleries of the C.P. Art Centre.

##### ART

- ◆ An exhibition of paintings by the famed mural artist of Kerala, Saju Thuruthil. Smt. Gopika Verma of Travancore inaugurated the exhibition.
- ◆ Tanjore paintings & contemporary paintings of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was organized at the Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai. A preview was held on March 4, 2009.



##### CRAFT

- ◆ All India Handicrafts
- ◆ Orissa Handicrafts.
- ◆ Chettinad Handicrafts
- ◆ Gujarat Handicrafts.
- ◆ Rajasthan Handicrafts
- ◆ Cauvery - Karnataka Handicrafts Development Corporation

- ◆ Kairali - Kerala Handicrafts
- ◆ Poompuhar – Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Kalamkari
- ◆ Handlooms of Rajasthan, Orissa and Gujarat
- ◆ Kutch Work
- ◆ Handloom exhibition

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- ◆ Rudraksha

### 2009-2010

#### VENNIRUL ART GALLERY

##### ART

- ◆ Exhibition of Wildlife Paintings by J. Ramesh.
- ◆ Pottery
- ◆ An exhibition of rare, unique and never-before-seen aquatints, etchings & engravings of Madras- From The City to the Presidency.
- ◆ Navaratri Kolu – display of Dolls from Kondapalli, Ettikopakka, Chennapatna, dolls made of glass, terracotta, clay, cloth and marble powder.
- ◆ Exhibition of Glass Sculpture by Y.P. Singh.
- ◆ Landscape paintings.
- ◆ Glass paintings
- ◆ Table Linen (embroidered, printed, woven & jacquard) designed by Nirmal Mirza to raise funds for Saraswathi Kendra
- ◆ Traditional paintings decorated with crystal and glass.
- ◆ Pottery by Gramodhaya Sangh
- ◆ Decorated pottery



##### CRAFT

- ◆ Gurjari, Gujarat handicrafts
- ◆ All India handicrafts
- ◆ Poompuhar
- ◆ Handicrafts by the physically challenged
- ◆ Rajasthali – Rajasthan handicrafts

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Mysore silks
- ◆ Bengal cottons
- ◆ Mysore silks
- ◆ Kalamkari block printed materials
- ◆ Chettinad cottons

- ◆ Bandhini, Kutch, tie and dye
- ◆ Designs by Weaver's Service Centre

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- ◆ Rudraksha

#### 2010-2011

##### VENNIRUL ART GALLERY

- ◆ Exhibition of Radha – Krishna – in photos, prints and paintings.
- ◆ Navaratri Kolu – Dolls from Kondapalli, Ettikoppakka, Chennapatna, dolls made of glass, terracotta, clay. Cloth and marble powder.
- ◆ Exhibition of Andal's Tiruppavai in clay figurines and Thanjavur paintings created by Malathi Srinivasan.



The following prominent exhibitions were held at the Main, Mini-1 and Mini-II galleries of the C.P. Art Centre.

##### ART

- ◆ Oil and Fabric Paintings by Ranjani.
- ◆ Paintings by Menaka Naresh.
- ◆ Paintings by Anitha.
- ◆ Exhibition of Glass, Tanjore, Oil and Canvas paintings by Meera.

##### CRAFT

- ◆ Handicrafts exhibition by Hands of India.
- ◆ Kutch embroidery by Kavitha.
- ◆ Gurjari – Gujarat Handicrafts Development Corporation.
- ◆ Poompuhar – Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation.
- ◆ Rajasthali - Rajasthan Handicrafts Development Corporation.
- ◆ Pottery by Anitha.

##### TEXTILES

- ◆ Bengal Cottons
- ◆ Kanchipuram Silks

- ◆ Dastakar Andhra Handlooms.

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- ◆ Indo-Nepal Rudraksha exhibition.
- ◆ Rudraksha and Sphatika.

Mini Gallery – II of C.P. Art Centre has been reserved to promote the crafts and textiles made by women. Many women join together and hold exhibitions.

#### PERFORMING ARTS

- ◆ Concert on Andal's passurams and Jayadeva's Ashtapadi by Ms.Sumathi Krishnan during the lecture by Dr. Nanditha Krishna on Radha in South Indian Tradition at the Foundation.
- ◆ Harikatha by Dr. Prameela Gurumurthy (Head, Dept. of Music, University of Madras) on Kanchi Kamakshi was held on the occasion of the centenary year of Smt. Saraswathi Pattabhi Raman.
- ◆ A musical interpretation by Smt. Sujatha Vijayaraghavan supported by N. Janani Mahalingam on Nava-Vida-Bhakti in Tiruppavai was held at the Foundation.

#### 2011-2012

##### VENNIRUL ART GALLERY

- ◆ 108 Siddha paintings by Prabodaran Sukumar.
- ◆ The Indian Panorama – an exhibition of paintings by A. Anand Kumar.
- ◆ Ganesha – an exhibition of paintings by S. Sundarakannan.
- ◆ Exhibition of photos of Old Madras by Late Shri. M.K. Rangaswami Iyengar and Paintings of Contemporary Chennai by A. Anand Kumar to celebrate Madras Day.



- ◆ Navarathri Kolu - Exhibition of dolls from Kondapalli, Ettikopakka, Chennapatna and dolls made of Terracotta, clay, cloth, marble powder and wood.
- ◆ Vriksha– a saga of trees by Shankar S – an exhibition of paintings. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri. Thota Tharrani, Artist and Film Director
- ◆ The following exhibitions were held at the Main, Mini-1 and Mini-II galleries of the C.P. Art Centre.

#### ART

- ◆ Azhagin Elimai – an exhibition of paintings by late R. Chudamani.
- ◆ Paintings by students of Gurji School of Arts.

- ◆ Ravi Varma oleographs
- ◆ Vriksha – a saga of Trees – an exhibition of paintings by Shankar S. Smt. Suhasini Maniratnam, Actor & Founder, NAAM Foundation and Shri. Thota Tharrani, Artist and Director, inaugurated the exhibition on Thursday, February 16, 2012.
- ◆ Paintings by the students of Srusti School of Arts.
- ◆ Kundan glass paintings
- ◆ Paintings by Manjari.

#### CRAFT

- ◆ All India crafts
- ◆ Orissa Handicrafts
- ◆ Tamilnadu Handicrafts
- ◆ Rajasthan handicrafts
- ◆ Pottery exhibition and demonstration by Gramodaya Sangh
- ◆ Women's Craft Bazaar by women entrepreneurs.

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Kutch embroidery and Bandhini
- ◆ Bengal cottons

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- ◆ Tibetan Medicine and Astrological calculations
- ◆ Rudraksha.
- ◆ Utensils
- ◆ Organic foods.

#### 2012-2013

##### VENNIRUL ART GALLERY

- ◆ Siddha paintings. 108 Siddha Paintings were exhibited.
- ◆ Exhibition of photographs and prints of Old Madras to celebrate Madras Day was organised. Shri. Saidai Duraiswamy, Mayor, Corporation of Chennai, inaugurated the exhibition.
- ◆ Exhibition of Ganesha Icons
- ◆ Exhibition of Ravi Varma Oleographs.

The following exhibitions were held at the Main, Mini-1 and Mini-II galleries of C.P. Art Centre.

#### ART

- ◆ Paintings by Shristi School of Art.
- ◆ Murals by Nanda Kumar.
- ◆ Murals by Manjari
- ◆ Painting exhibition by Manohar
- ◆ Paintings of India – an exclusive exhibition of paintings organised by Poompuhar (Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited).
- ◆ As a part of Ramayana Festival, an exhibition on Ramayana in Painting, Sculpture, popular Arts & Crafts and Books was organised in all the three galleries. It was inaugurated by His Holiness Swami Dayananada Saraswathi and Dr. Subramanian Swamy was the Chief Guest. The exhibition was well attended by the general public, school and college students.



#### CRAFT

- ◆ Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation.
- ◆ Exhibition of Handicrafts by Dhavarthini.
- ◆ Handicrafts by Lakshmipriya.
- ◆ Women's Craft Bazaar.

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Kutch and bandhini.
- ◆ Mysore silks.

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITION

- ◆ The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation along with Archaeological Survey of India (A.S.I) organised an exhibition on Scripts of India from August 4 to 11, 2012. Dr. T.S. Sridhar, I.A.S. (Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamilnadu) inaugurated the exhibition. Dr. D. Dayalan, Regional Director (Southern Region), A.S.I. presided over the function, while Dr. K. Karupiah, Asst. Superintending Epigraphist, A.S.I. introduced the exhibition.

#### 2013-2014

#### VENNIRUL ART GALLERY

- ◆ Celebrating the Leaf – Exhibition of terracotta by M.S. Raja Arunodhayam.
- ◆ Exhibition of the Madras Region Before the British.
- ◆ Exhibition of Eco-friendly GANESHAS made by the students of The Grove School and Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre.
- ◆ Exhibition of paintings by the Kurumba Tribe of the Nilgiris.
- ◆ Exhibition of Dolls from Kondapalli, Ettikopakka, Chennapatna, Terracotta, Clay Cloth, Cloth, Marble Powder and Wood.
- ◆ Exhibition of Paintings of the Varadaraja Perumal, Kanchipuram, curated by Kausalya Santhanam and G. Balaji, was organised.

The following exhibitions were held at the Main, Mini-1 and Mini-II galleries of the C.P. Art Centre.

#### ART

- ◆ Glass paintings
- ◆ Kalamkari

#### CRAFT

- ◆ Rajasthan handicrafts.
- ◆ Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar).
- ◆ Gujarat handicrafts
- ◆ All India handicrafts and handlooms
- ◆ Women's Craft Bazaar
- ◆ Exhibition of Lamps.

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Mysore silks
- ◆ Bengal cottons

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITION

- ◆ Rudraksha

## PERFORMING ARTS

- ◆ A Lecture-Demonstration on Hindustani Music and Carnatic Music – Do the Twain Meet? Discovering their similarities and differences by Lakshmi Sreeram.
- ◆ An Illustrated Musical Feature on **Ganesha – The Auspicious** by Dr. Sumathi Krishnan accompanied by Neela Jayakumar on the violin and V.R. Jayakumar on the mridangam.
- ◆ Bharatha natyam and upanyasam on Andal’s Tiruppavai performed by Zakir Hussain.

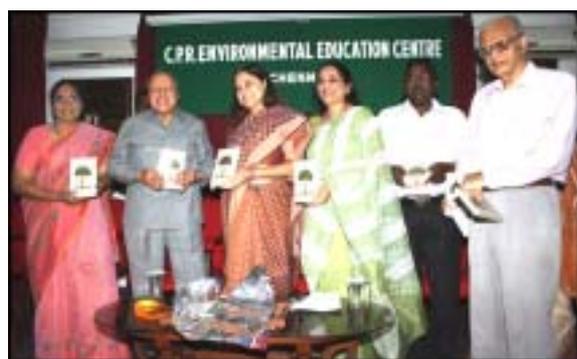
## BHAKTI CLASSES

Saturday and Sunday, August 2013 to April 2014 - Ms. Kalyani Muralidharan conducted classes. These classes involved teaching children slokas, devotional music and bhajans, divine stories and traditional games. About 29 children attended these classes.

## 2014-2015

### VENNIRUL ART GALLERY

- ◆ An Exhibition on Sacred Plants of India was put up at the Vennirul Art Gallery. Ms. Maneka Gandhi, Hon’ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Government of India inaugurated the exhibition and addressed the gathering. Several schools had brought their students to visit the exhibition.



- ◆ To celebrate Madras Week, an exhibition of prints of photographs and paintings of “Madras Then ...” and launch of Calendar 2015 “Once Upon a Time ..... in Madras” in watercolours and acquatints of the photographic era was inaugurated by Dr. Vyjayanthimala Bali. The exhibition remained open from August 21 to 30, 2014.



- ◆ Exhibition of Dolls from Kondapalli, Ettikopakka, Chennapatna, Terracotta, Clay Cloth, Cloth, Marble Powder and Wood for Navaratri Kolu.
- ◆ An exhibition of sketches by Sir Charles Ball in 1857 on “1857 & Before – Revolts and Uprisings”.



- ◆ Khayal – an exhibition of paintings by Vinitha Anand. Ms. Gopika Varma, Mohini Attam Artiste inaugurated the exhibition on February 3, 2015.



The following exhibitions were held at the Main, Mini-1 and Mini-II galleries of the C.P. Art Centre.

#### ART

- ◆ Kalamakari
- ◆ Ravi Varma oleographs

#### CRAFT

- ◆ All India handicrafts
- ◆ Women’s Craft Bazaar
- ◆ Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar) – Handicrafts Awards function

#### TEXTILES

- ◆ Hands of India
- ◆ Bandhini
- ◆ Bengal cottons
- ◆ Mysore silks

- ◆ Pochampalli
- ◆ Hands of India

#### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- ◆ Rudraksha
- ◆ Shell items
- ◆ Books

#### 2015-2016

##### VENNIRUL ART GALLERY

- ◆ Exhibition of Ravi Varma's Yashoda and Krishna photographed by Shri. V.K. Rajamani and Ravi Varma's oleographs.
- ◆ To celebrate Madras Week an exhibition of paintings and photographs of Buildings of Colonial Madras.
- ◆ Exhibition of Terracottas by M.S. Raja Arunodhayam
- ◆ In Search of Lord Krishna – An Archaeological Journey presented by T.K.V. Rajan
- ◆ Exhibition of Ganesha – paintings by K.S. Nandha Kumar and students
- ◆ Exhibition of paintings on The Light Supreme-The Temple of Tiruvannamalai by A. Ananda Kumar and a display of Antique Lamps



The following exhibitions were held at the Main, Mini-1 and Mini-II galleries of the C.P. Art Centre.

##### TEXTILES

- ◆ Co-optex
- ◆ Hands of India
- ◆ Pochampalli
- ◆ Co-optex
- ◆ Hands of India
- ◆ Kutch and Bandhini
- ◆ Co-optex
- ◆ Hands of India
- ◆ Kutch and Bandhini

##### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

- ◆ Rudraksha exhibition
- ◆ Exhibition of Dolls
- ◆ Exhibition of Cotton Saris of Tamil Nadu
- ◆ Screening of Gods in Shackles (Winner of Seven Awards) United Nations Nominated Documentary.



4

**C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR INSTITUTE OF INDOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH  
(CPRIR)**

(affiliated to the University of Madras for the Ph.D. degree in History and Environmental Studies)

*cpriir@gmail.com*



Research was my first love. Since I had completed my Ph.D. in Bombay University, I tried very hard to get a post-doctoral position in Madras University. But the best I could get was a lecturer's position.

Once I had made the Foundation financially stable, I decided to set up a research centre. And thus was CPR Institute of Indological Research born in 1981, the second institute after C.P. Art Centre. I was not interested in affiliation. Instead, I gave fellowships to post-graduates in History and Ancient History and Archaeology and gave them the opportunity to take up research projects in areas of their choice.

Simultaneously, we started holding seminars and conferences on various subjects, starting auspiciously with Shakti in Art and Religion. This was the beginning. Lectures and seminars started flowing thereafter.

Finally, we applied to the University of Madras for affiliation for research in History and Environmental Studies. We were granted affiliation on December 1, 2005, and a new era was born, whereby young scholars could work towards their Ph.D. degree. We take a few students at a time and demand a very high standard of excellence – quality over quantity.



**C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Institute of Indological Research (CPRIIR)** was established in 1981 by the **C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation**. The Institute promotes the study of Indian history, culture, religion, philosophy and the environment. Besides being a centre for research, the Institute also organises conferences, symposia, seminars, lectures and courses every year.

The Institute was set up to research the rich heritage of India, to establish the historicity of Indian literature and to bring together academicians and intellectuals in a spirit of harmonious enquiry. Research into known and lesser-known aspects of Indian religions and culture, Sanskrit and Tamil literature, Indian ethno-archaeology, Hindu deities, art and artifacts and environmental history are the major focus.

The Foundation is recognized as a Research Centre for conducting research leading to the Ph.D. Degree in History and Environmental Studies by the University of Madras.

### Faculty - 2016

<b>Dr. Nanditha Krishna</b> (Member, Indian Council for Historical Research)	Honorary Director
<b>Dr. G.J. Sudhakar</b>	Head, Historical Studies
<b>Dr.V Mohan</b>	Head, Classical languages
<b>Dr. T. Sundaramurthy</b>	Associate Professor
<b>Dr. Sandhyalakshmi</b>	Assistant Professor
<b>Dr. G. Balaji</b>	Assistant Professor
<b>Dr. P. Sudhakar</b>	Assistant Professor
<b>Dr. J. Sumathi</b>	Assistant Professor

### Library



The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation has excellent reference library facilities, with over 20,000 books and manuscripts on various areas of Indian philosophy and religion, art and culture, literature, history, sociology and economics, environment and the humanities, from all over the world. The library contains Sanskrit and Tamil books; rare and old books on Indian religion, art, literature and culture; and modern publications. The library is regularly updated with new books on Indian religion, art, history and the environment.

## **Manuscripts**

The Institute is a partner of the Government of India's National Manuscripts Mission. There are about 5000 paper manuscripts (Sanskrit) and 1500 palm leaf manuscripts.

## **Library of Negatives**

Rare photographs and negatives of historical events, national leaders, monuments, and places of cultural importance are available in the Library.

## **Conservation of Books and Manuscripts**

The Institute has a conservation room with de-acidification and fumigation chambers. Chiffon binding of paper and citronella application on palmleaf manuscripts are carried out regularly.

CPRIIR also conducts regular courses on conservation of books, paper and palmleaf manuscripts, especially for librarians of schools, colleges and other institutions.



The libraries at the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and CPR Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) are frequented by research scholars, interns, journalists, college students and writers, and have become a promising source of authentic information and documentation on a variety of subjects. This library's collection was seeded by the collection of Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, his son C.R. Pattabhi Raman and his daughter Shakunthala Jagannathan. This storehouse of knowledge and wisdom is maintained admirably by its librarians S.P. Vijayakumari and Tamil Malar Kandan.



**S.P.Vijayakumari**  
Librarian, CPREEC

The CPRAF library stocks an exhaustive array of books on philosophy, Sanskrit and Tamil literature, biography, art, religion, history, etc. Rare first editions; ancient palm leaf manuscripts; ancient books that are over a century old, including a book printed and published in 1795, author-inscribed books, special colonial editions, rare photographs, photo-film negatives, ancient coins and other treasures, a collection numbering more than 25,000 books, are found here.

CPREEC's library houses nearly 6800 books on the environment, biodiversity, environmental law, agriculture, forestry, environmental history, biodiversity, wildlife, various encyclopaedias and books on water and soil analysis. There is also an exhaustive array of newspaper clippings on 20 critical subjects, collected over the last 20 years.

Vijayakumari is now into her 24<sup>th</sup> year at CPREEC, having joined in August 1992. In 1989, CPREEC had started a small library with a few book shelves. Vijayakumari systemized the library, sorting, storing and cataloguing the books to perfection, using the auto-library software system that keeps track of all the books in the library. She helps every visitor find the book that satisfies their information requirement. "I read a lot. Only then can I locate a book that the visitor needs," says 53 year old Vijayakumari who has an M.A.(Economics) and Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degrees.

The librarians keep a constant watch on the books and do some preventive methods by cleaning and fumigating the books. 48 year old Kanthan is not just a librarian, but also an expert in preserving old books. He has degrees in M.A. (History) and MLIS from the University of Madras.

"In order to keep abreast with the latest developments, our Director encourages us to attend seminars, workshops, and conferences," says Viji. This way, the librarians learn to preserve books, manuscripts and archives. "We are lucky to have a Director who is voracious reader and a professional writer who has taken special interest in the growth and upkeep of the Library. She frequently visits the library and happens to be the biggest user of this library for writing her books. She has also given her personal collection of books to the both the libraries."

## **PARTNERS**

**C.P.R. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE (CPREEC)**, a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, and the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. CPRIIR collaborates with CPREEC to study the Ecological Traditions and Environmental History of India.

**NATIONAL MISSION FOR MANUSCRIPTS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**, for the documentation and maintenance of manuscripts.

**OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES (OCHS)**, a recognized independent centre of Oxford University, established for the study of Hindu religion, culture, society, philosophies, and languages, in all periods and in all parts of the world and dedicated to preserving and promoting India's cultural heritage through education, publishing, and research. CPRIIR and OCHS have entered into an MOU to cooperate in their efforts to enhance the field of Hindu studies by promoting academic interchange between the two institutes and exchange between the faculty and students.

## **Conferences, Seminars & Symposia**

- ◆ **National Conference on the Iconography of the Hindus, Buddhists & Jains (January 2016)**
- ◆ Architecture of Colonial Madras (August 2015)
- ◆ Popular Uprisings in India with Special Reference to Tamilnadu, 1750-1857 (January 2015)
- ◆ International Conference on the Ramayana in Literature, Society and the Arts, in connection with the Ramayana Festival held by the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation.
- ◆ Apart from the Conference, the festival included an exhibition of the Ramayana in folk, miniature and Ravi Varma paintings, sculptures of the Ramayana epic, and performances of the Ramayana in music, drama and traditional puppetry. Eminent academicians, artists, performing artists, and students mingled together to celebrate the life and times of Rama, the hero of the great epic-February 2013
- ◆ History Today: Theory and Practice – July 2011
- ◆ 1000 years of the Brihadishvara Temple –September 2010
- ◆ Environment and Indian History (National) – January 2008
- ◆ South Indian Bronzes – February 2001
- ◆ Historical Events of the Twentieth Century – December 2000
- ◆ History of Science and Technology in India (National) –December 2000
- ◆ New Frontiers in History (National) – January 1999
- ◆ Iconography and Socio-Cultural Development – January 1998
- ◆ A Conceptual Approach to Indian History – January 1997
- ◆ Teaching History in Schools – November 1997
- ◆ Kartikeya in Art and Religion (National) – March 1996
- ◆ The Future of History in Tamilnadu – December 1995
- ◆ Music and Dance in Indian Art – December 1993
- ◆ Heritage of Kanchi – 1992
- ◆ Heritage of Thanjavur – 1991
- ◆ Shiva in Art and Religion – 1990
- ◆ Women of Tamilnadu – December 1990
- ◆ Shakti in Art and Religion (National) - 1985

### **Research Projects (Completed)**

- ◆ Paintings of the Varadaraja Perumal Temple - 2014
- ◆ Sacred Plants of India - 2013
- ◆ Sacred Animals of India- 2010
- ◆ Art & Craft Traditions of the Nilgiri Tribes – 2006
- ◆ Folk Toys of South India - 2006
- ◆ Varahishwarar Temple – 2001
- ◆ Glossary of Scientific and Technological Terms in Tamil Inscriptions 900-1300 A.D. -2000
- ◆ Folk Arts of Tamilnadu - 1996
- ◆ Painted Manuscripts of the Sarasvati Mahal Library at Thanjavur - 1994
- ◆ Roman Antiquities in Tamilnadu - 1992
- ◆ Women of Tamilnadu - A Survey – 1990
- ◆ Survey and documentation of arts & crafts of the Kota, Kurumba, Irula and Paniya tribes of the Nilgiris.
  - ◇ The Nilgiris was designated as a tribal district sheltering several ancient tribes. A project, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports, Department of Culture, Government of India, was taken up in 2000 to survey the art and craft traditions of four tribes – Kota, Kurumba, Irula and Paniya. The purpose of the documentation was to record the important traditions of each tribe which are in danger of disappearing today. CPRIIR also collected several ethno-archaeological items of the tribes which are on display at CPRIIR's private museum.

### **Research Projects (Current)**

- ◆ Historical Perspective of the Domestic Architecture of Kanchipuram
- ◆ Sacred Groves of Tiruvannamalai district – An Environmental and Historical Perspective
- ◆ History of Environmental Education in Tamilnadu
- ◆ History of the Animal Welfare Movement in Tamilnadu
- ◆ Bhagavata Purana in Sculpture & Painting
- ◆ History and Social Status of the Bhagavata Purana

### **Courses Offered**

The Institute conducts a course annually in one or more of these topics :

- ◆ Indian Art& Architecture
- ◆ Numismatics
- ◆ Indian Epigraphy
- ◆ Historiography
- ◆ Conservation of Old Books and Manuscripts
- ◆ Teaching History in schools

The courses include theory and practical study.

### **Curriculum Development**

CPRIIR has developed curricula and written the text books for standards 5 to 10 for students on Indian history and culture.

## Publications

### Journal of Indian History and Culture

The *Journal of Indian History and Culture* is an annual refereed publication with ISSN registration, which encompasses all areas of historical research. The Journal provides an integrated forum for the presentation of original research papers and thought-provoking reviews to generate innovative ideas in historical research. The Journal focuses on new directions in

- ◆ Indian culture, art, architecture, music, dance and literature
- ◆ Indian literature, religion and philosophy
- ◆ Archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, historiography and anthropology
- ◆ Social, political and economic history
- ◆ National movement
- ◆ Environmental history

### Religion & Philosophy

- ◆ *Proceedings of the International Conference on The Ramayana in Literature, Society and the Arts* (2014)
- ◆ *Valmiki Ramayana*, N. Chandrasekhara Aiyer (2012)
- ◆ *The Setu and Rameshwaram*, N. Vanamamalai Pillai (2012)
- ◆ *Indu madam Orarimugam (Hinduism in Tamil)*, Shakunthala Jagannathan (1995)
- ◆ *Dhyana Yoga in the Gita*, P.K. Sundaram (1984)
- ◆ *Sadhana of Self-Perfection*, K. Seshadri (1979)
- ◆ *Sadhana of Self-Discovery*, K. Seshadri (1978)
- ◆ *Heritage of Hinduism*, K. Seshadri (1977)

### History, Art, Architecture & Archaeology

- ◆ *Paintings of the Varadaraja Perumal Temple*, Nanditha Krishna (2014)
- ◆ *Early History of the Madras Region*(reprint), K. V. Raman (2008)
- ◆ *History of the 20th Century – Lecture Series* (2003)
- ◆ *Varahishwarar Temple*, Nanditha Krishna (2001; 2014)
- ◆ *Kanchi - A Heritage of Art and Religion*, Nanditha Krishna (ed.) (1992; 2006)
- ◆ *Roman Antiquities in Tamilnadu*, S. Suresh (1992)
- ◆ *Shakti in Art and Religion*, Nanditha Krishna (ed.) (1991)

### Folk / Tribal Culture

- ◆ *Tribes of the Nilgiris*, G. Balaji (2007)
- ◆ *Folk Toys of South India*, Nanditha Krishna (2006)
- ◆ *Folk Arts of Tamilnadu*, Nanditha Krishna (2006)
- ◆ *Folk Games of Tamilnadu*, V. Balambal (2005)

### Performing Arts

- ◆ *Muthuswami Dikshitar and Tiruvarur*, Sumathi Krishnan (2005)
- ◆ *Innovative Genius of Bhavabhuti*, A.V. Subrahmanyam (1983)
- ◆ *Music Composers of India*, T.S. Parthasarathy (1982; 2006)
- ◆ *Harikatha*, T.S. Parthasarathi

### Assisted Publications

- ◆ *Madras - Then... Chennai – Now*, Nanditha Krishna, Tishani Doshi & Pramod Kapoor (Roli Books) (2013)
- ◆ *Plant and Animal Diversity in Valmiki Ramayana*, M. Amirthalingam & P. Sudhakar (CPREEC) (2013)
- ◆ *Painted Manuscripts of the Sarasvati Mahal Library*, published by Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library), Nanditha Krishna (1993)
- ◆ *Book of Vishnu* (published by Penguin, India), Nanditha Krishna (2001)
- ◆ *Book of Demons* (published by Penguin, India), Nanditha Krishna (2007)

### Environmental Studies

- ◆ *Sacred Plants of India*, Nanditha Krishna & M. Amirthalingam (published by Penguin Books, India) (2014)
- ◆ *Sacred Animals of India*, Nanditha Krishna ( re-published by Penguin Books, India) (2010; 2014)

### Ecological Heritage of India series (published by C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre)

- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Gujarat* (2015)
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of West Bengal* (2015)
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Punjab*, 2014
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Rajasthan*, 2014
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh*, 2014
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Odisha*, 2011
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Goa*, 2010
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Kerala*, 2006
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Maharashtra*, 2006
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Andhra Pradesh*, 2005
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Karnataka*, 2005
- ◆ *Ecological Traditions of Tamil Nadu*, 2005
- ◆ *Temple Tanks of Chennai*, 2004
- ◆ *Sacred Tanks of South India*, 2002
- ◆ *Sacred Groves of Tamil Nadu*, 1998
- ◆ *Sacred Trees of Tamil Nadu*, 1998

### Lectures, Seminars, Courses & Workshops

#### 1983

#### Research Projects:

- ◆ Ms. Padmaja worked on the '*Iconography of Krishna in Tamil Traditions*'.
- ◆ Ms. Kamalesh Kumari was registered for a project on the '*Position of Women in Traditional Societies in Contemporary Tamilnadu*'.

The task of building up a good reference library on Indological subjects was taken up and the Institute had a fairly good library by the year end and became one of the best in Chennai for Indological research. Adding to Sir C.P.'s personal collection, Shri. K. Vaithianathan, I.A.S. (retd.) gifted 258 books

to the library. Dr. Nanditha Krishna gifted 147 books on Indian art and Culture; Shri. C.R. Pattabhi Raman gifted 989 books on Indian Philosophy, Politics and Culture; and Shri. V.G. Ramachandran donated 6 books.

#### Lectures

- ◆ Dr. Champakalakshmi, Associated Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, read a paper on 'Urbanization in Early Medieval Tamilnadu'.
- ◆ Shri. I. Mahadevan, I.A.S., (retd.) and former Jawaharlal Nehru Scholar and Epigraphist read a paper on 'Is the Soma sacrifice a Harappan Ritual?' The speaker identified a ritual object noticed in the Harappan seals with the part-by-part description of the soma filter and its appendages in Vedic literature.
- ◆ Dr. Asko Parpola, Professor of Indology, University of Helsinki, Finland, presented a paper on 'Recent Advances in the Study of the Indus Script' where he compared the iconography of the seals with that of other Trans-Uralic Cultures, thereby establishing a Dravidian link with the Harappan culture.
- ◆ Lecture by Prof. Idiko Puskas, Professor of South Asian History, University of Budapest, Hungary, on 'Some Aspects of Early Indian History'.
- ◆ Dr. Shobhana Gokhale, Reader, Department of Archaeology, Deccan College, Poona, presented 'New Brahmi Inscriptions from Kanheri Caves' which had been discovered by her.

The Institute also conducted a lecture series for two months on 'An Introduction to Indian Art'. Dr. K.V. Raman, Dr. K.V. Soundarajan, Dr. I. K. Sarma, Dr. Gurumurthy, Dr. Chitra Viji, Dr. P. Shanmugam, Mr. P. Narayana Babu and Dr. Nanditha Krishna delivered the lectures.

#### 1984

Ms. Kamlesh Kumari's project on '*Women in Traditional Societies in Contemporary Tamilnadu*' was nearing completion. Her work included a literature survey, caste survey and the study of the situation in a village. She had travelled all over Tamilnadu in connection with her work. Ms. K.V. Padmaja's work for her thesis on '*Iconography of Krishna in Tamil Traditions*' was nearing completion. A survey of the status of Bommalattam in Tamilnadu was conducted by Shri. Ravi Chellam who had visited traditional families in Kumbakonam and Mayavaram.

- ◆ Under the supervision of Shri. I. Mahadevan, Ms. Kamala Ravikumar undertook a project to develop 30 drawings of the Harappan Seals by drawing. This was a sequel to Shri. I. Mahadevan's paper on 'The Soma Sacrifice – A Harappan Ritual?'
- ◆ Dr. N.K., Prasad, Director of the Geological Survey of India (retd.) delivered an illustrated lecture on the 'Evolution of Life on Earth'.
- ◆ Lecture on 'The Influence of Hinduism on China' by Mr. Wang Xiamyi, Chief Editor, Chinese Literature and Member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, organized in collaboration with Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
- ◆ Talk on 'Indian Studies in the United States' by Dr. Patrick Peebles, Associate Professor of History, University of Missouri, Kansas City, organized in collaboration with the Indo-American Association, Madras.
- ◆ A programme on 'Disarmament and Arms Control' was organized at Kasturi Srinivasan Hall, Music Academy.
- ◆ An illustrated lecture demonstration on 'The Science of Yoga and its therapeutic uses by Dr. Sarada Subrahmanyam, Professor Emeritus, and Mr. Francis Lorin, Director, Centre for De-Yoga, organized in collaboration with Indo-American Association, Madras.

- ◆ A course on spoken Sanskrit was conducted by Mr. Vasu Vaj.
- ◆ Dr. Vimala Begley, Archaeologist, delivered an illustrated lecture on the ‘Archaeology of Arikamedu – A Re-assessment’.

## 1985

Ms. Kamlesh Kumari and Ms. K.V. Padmaja completed their projects. Ms. K. Supriya conducted a survey of ‘*Folk Toys of South India*’ by travelling to several remote villages for information. Mrs. Srilekha Suresh was given a fellowship to work on ‘*Cultural Renaissance of the Vijayanagar Period*’. Mrs. S. Chandra was given a fellowship to work on ‘*The Iconography of Mahishasuramardini*’.

## FESTIVAL OF SHAKTI

The festival was inaugurated by Smt. Rukmini Devi, President of Kalakshetra, Shri. S. Narayanaswami, President of C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, presided and Shri R. Natarajan, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation participated. Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Director, C.P. Art Centre welcomed the gathering and introduced the concept and aim of the Festival.

The inaugural speech was followed by a lecture demonstration on ‘Shakti’ in Dance by Smt. Chitra Visweswaran who described the various aspects of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswathi, ending with a performance of the Soundarya Lahari and Shri Adi Shankara.

A Seminar was organized on “*Shakti in Art and Religion*” with the following speakers: Dr. S.S. Janaki, Director, Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute, spoke on ‘Shakta Literature’; Dr. R. Nagaswami, Director, Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamilnadu, spoke on ‘Shakti in Shaivism’; Dr. K.V. Raman, Professor and Head, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Madras, Chennai, spoke on ‘Village Goddesses of South India’; Shri. N.S. Ramaswami of the Indian Express spoke on ‘Parallelism in Pallava Durga Literature’ and Dr. P.K. Sundaram, Professor of Philosophy, University of Madras, Chennai, spoke on ‘Philosophy of the Shakta Cult’.

A Symposium on “*Women Power*” was also organised as a part of the festival. Speakers: Kum. Kamlesh Kumari on “Women’s Role in Traditional Tamil Society”, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan on “Women and the Law”; Smt Sarah Mathew on “Women and economic independence”; and Smt. Geetha Rao on “Consciousness raising on Women’s issues”.

Lectures:

- ◆ ‘Indian Mythology and Greek Art of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.’ by Dr. David Napier, in collaboration with the Indo-American Society
- ◆ Dr. R. Nagaswami on ‘Chalukyan Art’
- ◆ ‘Tamil Palm Leaf Manuscripts’ by Prof. M.K. Raman of the International Institute of Tamil Studies

## 1986

**The first course on Indian Epigraphy was conducted in Madras by Shri I. Mahadevan**, in collaboration with the Tamilnadu State Department of Archaeology and the Director (Epigraphy), Archaeological Survey of India, Mysore. Eminent specialists were invited from all over India to deliver lectures. The course included field visits. An exhibition on Epigraphy was also conducted. Inauguration was by Shri. H. Harinarayana, Director, Government Museum, Madras.

Speakers: 'Origin and Evolution of World Writing Systems'; 'Classical Decipherment'; 'The Indus Script-I'; 'Brahmi Script'; 'Tamil-Brahmi Script'; and 'The Indus Script-II' by Shri. I. Mahadevan. 'Indian Epigraphy - A general survey' by Shri. K.G. Krishnan, retired Chief Epigraphist, Archaeological Survey of India. 'Chalcolithic and Megalithic Graffiti' by Dr. S. Gurusurthy, Reader, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Madras. 'Kharosthi Scripts in North India' by Dr. Ram Sharma of the Archaeological Survey of India, Mysore. 'Brahmi to Telugu-Kannada' and 'Evolution of Regional Scripts in the Deccan and Influence of Indian Scripts in South and South-East Asia' by Dr. Madhav, N. Katti, Chief Epigraphist, Archaeological Survey of India. 'Vatteluthu Script', 'The Tamil Script', 'The Tamil Grantha and Malayalam Scripts', 'Epigraphy and Indian Numismatics' and by Dr. R. Nagaswamy, Director, Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamilnadu. 'Tamil Inscriptions' by Dr. Y. Subbarayalu, Professor of Epigraphy, Tamil University, Thanjavur. 'Computer Application in the Study of Indian Epigraphy' by Dr. Gift Siromoney. 'Palm-leaf Manuscripts in Tamil' by Professor M.K. Raman, Institute of Tamil Studies, Madras. 'Tamil Script Reform' by Mr. Mohumudi S. Shanmugam. 'Computer Generation of Indian Scripts' by Dr. P.C. Ganesh Sundaram.

#### Lectures

- ◆ 'George Town – Then and Now' by Professor Mattison Mines of the University of California
- ◆ 'Marine Archaeology in Malaysia and India' by Dr. K.V. Gangadharan, Curator, Government Museum, Malaysia.

#### 1987

#### Research Projects:

- ◆ Ms. Srilekha worked on '*The Cultural Renaissance of the Vijayanagar Period*' and Ms. Sumitra Srinivasan on '*Jain Art of South India*'.

#### Lectures

- ◆ 'Ideology and Early Medieval State in South India' by Dr. Champakalakshmi from Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- ◆ Dr. Nanditha Krishna was invited to Singapore to lecture on Indian Art and Craft, Culture and Religion on the Sagafjord luxury liner.
- ◆ A two-day programme on Indian Art and Painting was organized for the 'India Semester' students of the Colgate University, U.S.A.

#### Course

- ◆ A course on 'Tamil Manuscriptology' was organized by Professor M.K. Raman

#### 1988-1989

#### Research Projects:

- ◆ '*Cultural Renaissance of the Vijayanagar Kingdom*'
- ◆ '*Jaina Art in South India*'
- ◆ '*The Nayaka Paintings of Thiruvavur*'

A course 'An Introduction to Indian Art' was organised. Lecturers: Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Dr. K.V. Raman, Dr. P.R. Srinivasan, Mr. Mohammed, Mrs. Rama Narayan and Mr. Sathyamurthi.

Symposium on 'Gita Govindam'. Speakers: Mr. P. Haridoss Giri, Mr. B. Madhavan, Dr. S.K. Durga, Dr. R.N. Sampath, Dr. P. Venugopala Rao and Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal.

Lectures

- ◆ 'Sankara on the Bhagavad Gita' by Brahmasri Varahoor Kalyanasundara Sastrigal
- ◆ 'Kena Upanishad' by Dr. P.K. Sundaram
- ◆ 'Kathopanishad' by Dr. P.K. Sundaram

**1989-1990**

Research Projects

- ◆ 'South Indian Paintings' by Ms. Radha Ravi
- ◆ 'Compilation of the Archives of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar' by Ms. V. Lalitha

Publications

- ◆ 'Mysore Paintings' by Dr. A.S. Raman and Dr. Nanditha Krishna
- ◆ 'Women of Tamilnadu – A Status Survey' by Ms. P. Kamlesh Kumari.

Lectures

- ◆ 'Shankara Gnananjali' by Dr. S.A.K. Durga
- ◆ 'Charvaka' by Dr. Jayamuniaswamy
- ◆ 'Jainism' by Prof. Krishnan
- ◆ 'Walter Lippmann through Indian Eyes' by Mr. N. Ravi and Mr. A.S. Padmanabhan
- ◆ 'Images of Western Women in Mythology – Ancient and Modern' by Dr. Rita Ronsahoff of Columbia University

**1990-1991**

Research Projects

- ◆ 'South Indian Paintings' by Ms. Radha Ravi
- ◆ 'Ramayana in Tamilnadu' by Dr. Ganesan
- ◆ 'Mahayana Buddhism in South India with special reference to Bodhi Dharma' (based on Pali Literature) by Ms. Anupama Munde

Publication: 'Shakti in Art and Religion'

Lectures

- ◆ 'Madras, A Time to Remember (350 years of Fort St. George)' by Mr. S. Muthiah
- ◆ 'Hanuman in Art and Religion (with special reference to Tamilnadu)' by Dr. K.V. Raman, Head, Department of Archaeology, University of Madras.

Seminars

- ◆ 'Women of Tamilnadu – Perspectives and Prospects'
- ◆ 'The Art Heritage of Thanjavur'.

**1991-1992**

Research Projects

- ◆ Dr. Nanditha Krishna, assisted by Ms. S. Sumathra, Librarian, made a study of the 'Painted Manuscripts of the Sarasvati Mahal Library at Thanjavur'.
- ◆ 'Roman Antiquities in Tamilnadu' was carried out by Mr. S. Suresh.

- ◆ A field study of the *Varahishwara Temple at Damal* was conducted by the Institute in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamilnadu. Pallava Inscriptions of the Pallava period and Achuyta Raya of the Vijayanagar period were found.

Publication: '*Kanchi: A Heritage of Art and Religion*'.

#### Courses

- ◆ 'Adhyatma Ramayana' by Shri. Vaidyanatha Shastri
- ◆ 'Upanishads' by Dr. P.K. Sundaram
- ◆ Spoken Sanskrit

#### 1992-1993

#### Research Projects

'*Pre and Post Historic Cave Paintings of Tamilnadu*' by Mr. S. Amarnath

#### Publications

- ◆ '*Roman Antiquities in Tamilnadu*' by S. Suresh
- ◆ '*Ganeshha – The Auspicious ... the Beginning*' by Smt. Shakunthala Jagannathan and Dr. Nanditha Krishna, published by Vakil & Co., Bombay, was released by His Excellency the late Shri. R. Venkataraman.

#### Courses

- ◆ · 'Bhagavad Gita' by Shri. Vaidynatha Shastri
- ◆ · Spoken Sanskrit

#### 1993-1994

Seminar on "Music and Dance in Indian Art" in collaboration with the Institute of Traditional Cultures, University of Madras. Dr. Nagaswami, retired Director of the Department of Archaeology, spoke on 'Music and Dance in Sculptures with special reference to South India'; Dr. J. Andrew, Cortez Greig of the USIS spoke on 'Musical Instruments in 16<sup>th</sup> century miniature paintings'; Prof. Leela Ganapathy spoke on 'Dance in Indian Sculpture and Painting'; Prof. Vedavalli of the University of Madras spoke on 'Music in Indian Sculpture and Painting'; Prof. Jagannathachariar, retired Professor of Tamil, Vivekananda College spoke on 'Music and Dance in Tamil Literature'; Mr. S. Amarnath spoke on 'Music and Dance in pre and proto-historic Painting'; Dr. Kalyanaraman spoke on the 'The Indus Seals'; Shri. S.V. Padmanabhan spoke on the 'Architectural Skills exhibited in Ancient Temples'.

#### 1994-1995

#### Research Projects

- ◆ Mr. S. Amarnath completed the project on '*Folk Arts of Tamilnadu*'.

#### Publications

- ◆ '*Story of Madras*' by Dr. Nanditha Krishna
- ◆ '*Folk Arts of Tamilnadu*' by Dr. Nanditha Krishna

#### Course

- ◆ Three Sanskrit courses were conducted.
- ◆ Shri Vaidyanathan Shastrigal on 'Srimad Bhagavatham'

#### Lectures

- ◆ Dr. Jaya Kothaipillai, retired Vice-Chancellor of Mother Teresa University, on 'Women Studies Today'
- ◆ Mr. S. Muthiah on 'Madras Today and Tomorrow'.
- ◆ Workshop on 'Conservation of Old Books and Manuscripts'.

Seminar: 'The Heritage of Painting in Tamilnadu'

#### 1995-1996

##### Research Projects

- ◆ '*Iconography of Kartikeya*' by Ms. V. Sandhiya Lakshmi.
- ◆ '*Sthala Vriksha and Vriksha Chaitya*' by Dr. Nanditha Krishna and Mr. M. Amirthalingam.

#### Lectures

- ◆ Dr. Daniel White of the University of North Carolina on 'Orientalism and Disease'
- ◆ 'James Anderson and Smallpox Eradication in Early 19<sup>th</sup> century Madras Presidency' by Prof. T.K. Venkatasubramanian of Delhi University
- ◆ 'Politics and Culture and Castes in Early Tamilagam' by Prof. Indira Viswanathan Peterson of Mount Holyoke College, USA
- ◆ 'Kuravanji Dramas of the 18<sup>th</sup> century: Cultural-Historical Perspectives on a Literary Genre and Sacred Geography of the Hymns of the Saiva Nayanmaars'.

#### Seminars

- ◆ 'Karttikeya in Art and Religion'.
- ◆ 'The Future of History in Tamilnadu', chaired by Prof. T.K. Venkatasubramanian of Delhi University.

#### 1996-1997

##### Research Projects

- ◆ The Institute with financial support from the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) took up project on 'Glossary of Scientific and Technological Terms in Tamil Inscriptions 900-1300 A.D.'. Dr. K.V. Raman, retired Professor of Archaeology, University of Madras, headed the project with the assistant of Mr. G. Balaji.
- ◆ Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar's Life and Times
- ◆ '*Iconography of Karttikeya*' by Ms. V. Sandhiya Lakshmi.

#### Lectures

- ◆ Dr. Nanditha Krishna on the 'Introduction to Indian Art and Culture' to students of Loyola College and Women's Christian College,
- ◆ Shri. R. Tirumalai, I.A.S., (retd.) on 'The Role of Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar in the Kaveri Mettur Project and the Mysore-Madras Agreement of 1924',
- ◆ Swami Gauthamananda on 'The Importance of Sanskrit in our National Culture',
- ◆ Shri. T.N. Seshan, I.A.S., (retd.) on 'Whither India?'
- ◆ Prof. T.K. Venkatasubramanian of Delhi University on 'Chiefdom to State: Reflections on Kaveri Delhi Social Formation'
- ◆ Dr. Nagaswami, former Director of Archaeology, on 'The Art of the Sungas'.

Symposium: 'A Conceptual Approach to Indian History'. Speakers were Prof. T.K. Venkatasubramanian, Dr. Bhairavi Prasad Sahu and Mr. Nilanjan Sarkar.

## 1997-1998

### Research projects

- ◆ 'Iconography of Karttikeya' by Ms. V. Sandhiya Lakshmi.

### Lectures

- ◆ Dr. Nanditha Krishna on 'Introduction to Indian Art'
- ◆ Shri. Natana Kasinathan on 'Underwater Archaeology and Future Possibilities'
- ◆ Prof. B. Satagopan on 'Kautilya's Approach to the problem of National Security', Shri. V. Kalyanam spoke on 'Mahatma Gandhi – the Man and His Mission'.

Workshop on 'New Approaches to Teaching History in Schools'. Speakers: Introduction by Dr. Nanditha Krishna; 'Innovative Methods of Teaching History' and 'Careers in History' by Dr. G.J. Sudhakar. 'New Approaches to the study of Ancient Indian History' by Dr. P. Shanmugam. 'New Approaches to the study of Medieval Indian History' by Prof. Asadullah Khan. 'New Approaches to the study of Indian National Movement' by Dr. S. Gopalakrishnan.

Two courses in Sanskrit were conducted during the year.

Seminars: 'Iconography and Socio-Cultural Development' was organized. Dr. K.V. Raman spoke on 'Iconographic Conception Forms – Changing Patterns'. Dr. Srinivasa Desikan spoke on 'Iconography and Cultural Development'. Mr. Natana Kasinathan spoke in 'Sculptural Narration of Siruthondan'. Dr. Nanditha Krishna spoke on 'Iconographic Attributes as Signposts of Social Development'. Dr. Prema Kasturi spoke on 'From Yakshi to Taralanga-Socio-Cultural Perspective of Women in Buddhist Iconography'. Mr. M. Chandramurthi spoke on 'The Icon of Dakshinamurthi' and Mrs. Sandhyalakshmi spoke on 'Iconography of Karthikeya in the Kushana-Mathura period'.

## 1998-1999

### Research Projects

- ◆ 'A Biography of Sir. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar' by Dr. Saroja Sundararajan and Shri. S. Sundararajan.
- ◆ 'A Travancore Journal' edited by Shri. R. Gopaldaswami, I.A.S (retd.).
- ◆ 'Sir C.P. Remembered - The Life and Times of Sir. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar' by Mrs. Shakunthala Jagannathan.

### Lectures

- ◆ Shri. S.S. Pratap spoke on 'Introduction to the Bhagavat Gita'
- ◆ Smt. Shakunthala Jagannathan spoke on 'A Woman Writer in India' and 'The Symbolism of Ganesha'
- ◆ Dr. S. Kalyanaraman spoke on 'The Sarasvati Civilization'
- ◆ Dr. Nanditha Krishna spoke on 'Introduction to Indian Art'
- ◆ Dr. Kothandapani spoke on 'Homeopathy for Hyperactivity and Learning Problems'
- ◆ Dr. Saroja Sundararajan spoke on 'Human Ideals and British Administration'
- ◆ Dr. Sharada Srinivasan spoke on 'Finger-Printing and Stylistic Authentication of Metal Icons'

Symposium: 'New Frontiers in History'. Dr. Arun Bandopadhyay of Calcutta University spoke on 'Issues in Ecological History'. Shri. Krishnan spoke on 'Aspects of Business History'. Mrs. Jane spoke on 'Recent writings on Women's Movements in Contemporary India'. Dr. Nanditha Krishna spoke on 'Environment and History'.

Courses:

- ◆ 'Basic Sanstrit' was conducted by Shri. S. Narayanan
- ◆ 'Bhagavat Gita' by Shri. S.S. Pratap

**1999-2000**

Research Projects

- ◆ 'Rock Paintings of Tamilnadu' by Ms. Y. Pavitra.
- ◆ Mr. G. Balaji on 'Documentation of the Arts and Crafts of Nilgiris Tribes with special reference to Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas and Paniyas'.

Lectures

- ◆ Shri. Randor Guy spoke on 'One Hundred Years of Mylapore',
- ◆ Dr. S. Gopalakrishnan spoke on 'Role of Ideology in the political events of Twentieth Century India',
- ◆ Dr. M.S. Swaminathan spoke on 'From Famine to Self-Sufficiency in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- ◆ Dr. Shashi Tharoor spoke on 'Who is an Indian?'

Symposium: 'Historical Events of the Twentieth Century' was organized as a finale to the countdown to the Millennium. The symposium was chaired by Dr. M. Anandakrishnan. Dr. M.A. Venkata Krishnan spoke on 'The Scientific Temperament of the Twentieth Century'. Shri B.S. Raghavan spoke on 'Non-violence – A New Weapon'. Shri S. Gurumoorthy spoke on 'The Rise and Fall of Communism'. Dr. D. Sundaram spoke on 'Social change in India'. Prof. N.K. Narayanan spoke on 'The Rise and Fall of Nazism and Fascism'. Dr. Saroja Sundararajan spoke on 'From Madras Presidency to Tamilnadu'. Dr. G.J. Sudhakar spoke on 'The National Movement in Indian History'.

**2000-2001**

Research Projects(completed):

- ◆ 'Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar – A Biography' by Dr. Saroja Sundararajan.
- ◆ 'Sir C.P.'s Travancore Journal' by Shri R. Gopaldaswami, I.A.S.,
- ◆ 'Sacred literature of the Hindus' by Mr. P. Sethuraman

On-going

- ◆ 'Glossary of Scientific and Technological terms in Tamil Literature' by Dr. K.V. Raman
- ◆ 'Documentation of the Arts and Crafts of Nilgiris Tribes with special reference to Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas and Paniyas' by Shri G. Balaji

Lectures

- ◆ Mr. Paul Coldwell on 'Contemporary print-making'
- ◆ Prof. K.K. Kusuman on 'Temple Entry Movement in Kerala'

Symposium

- ◆ 'History of Science and Technology in India'
- ◆ 'South Indian Bronzes'

Sanskrit language classes were conducted by Shri. K. Shridhar.

## 2001-2002

### Research Projects

- ◆ 'Documentation of the Arts and Crafts of Nilgiris Tribes with special reference to Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas and Paniyas'
- ◆ 'Glossary of Scientific and Technological terms in Tamil Literature'

### Lectures

- ◆ Dr. Usha Balakrishnan on 'Indian Jewellery'.
- ◆ Dr. Shanthi Pappu spoke on Introduction to Pre- History of South India',
- ◆ Dr. Prameela Gurumuthi on 'The Legacy of Bani Bai'
- ◆ Discussion on 'Women's Studies'

Seventh Annual Conference of the Association of Third World Studies was hosted by CPRIIR during the year. Dr. M. Thambidurai, Minister for Education, Government of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the conference and Dr. M.G.S. Narayanan, Chairman of the Indian Council for Historical Research, New Delhi, presented the keynote address.

## 2002-2003

### Research Projects

- ◆ '*Documentation of the Arts and Crafts of Nigiri tribes with special reference to Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas and Paniyas*' by Mr. G. Balaji was completed.
- ◆ '*Glossary of Scientific and Technological terms in Tamil Literature*' was completed in September 2002.

### Publication

**'Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar – A Biography'** written by Dr. Saroja Sundararajan was released by Dr. Alexander, former Governor of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, in the presence of many eminent citizens of Chennai. Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswami, pro-chancellor, Annamalai University, received the first copy.

### Lectures:

- ◆ Prof. E.V. Gangadharan spoke on 'Marine Archaeology in India present status, new initiatives, avenues and challenges'
- ◆ Shri. R.V. Subramanian spoke on 'Sanchi Stupa', Shrines of Bodh Gaya' and Khajuraho'
- ◆ Swami Bhaneshananda spoke on 'Life of Swami Vivekananda'

Seminar on '*Writing History*'. Dr. N. Rajendran of Bharathidasan University, Trichy, delivered the keynote address.

- ◆ Two courses for Sanskrit language enthusiasts were conducted by Shri Shridar.
- ◆ Course on Grantha script.

## 2003-2004

### Research projects

- ◆ '*Documentation of the Arts and Crafts of Nilgiri Tribes with special reference to Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas and Paniyas*' by Mr. G. Balaji was completed.
- ◆ Dr. Mrs. Balambal was awarded Senior Fellowship by the Indian Council of Historical Research. New Delhi for two years (2003-2005) for the project on '*Status of Women as Gleamed through Tamil Folklore*' through the institute.

#### Lectures

- ◆ Shri Michel Danino spoke on 'India's Cultural continuity from Harappan Times'
- ◆ Shri David Frawley spoke on 'Ancient India and the Vedas'
- ◆ Prof. Frederic Pham spoke on 'The 22 Shrutis of Carnatic Music'
- ◆ Prof. Koenraad Elst spoke on 'Decolonizing the Hindu Mind'

Seminars: 'Cultural Heritage and Security perspectives of Indian Ocean States – Retrospect's and Prospects' organized by Indian Ocean Studies and Research Group (ISROG). Shri. Ambadi Venugopalan, Convener, ISROG, gave the introductory address. Shri. T.N. Seshan, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India inaugurated the seminar.

**Workshop on 'Harappan and Vedic Civilizations'** was conducted for 35 teachers from the schools of Chennai and Kanchipuram. Dr. S. Gopalakrishnan spoke on 'Texture of Time-India's Ancient Civilization reconsidered', Dr. S. Kalyanaraman spoke on 'The Discovery of River Saraswathi', Dr. G. J. Sudhadkar spoke on 'New Sources of Historical Study' and Shri. Michel Danino spoke on 'Vedic Aryans and Indus Saraswathi Civilizations'.

#### 2004-2005

##### Research Projects

- ◆ 'Documentation of the Arts and Crafts of Nilgiri Tribes' with special reference to Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas and Paniyas by Mr. G. Balaji.
- ◆ 'Status of Women as gleamed through Tamil Folklore' by Dr. V. Balambal.
- ◆ 'Folk Games of Tamil Nadu' by Dr. V. Balambal.

#### Lectures

- ◆ Shri. C.V. Ranganathan on 'India, China and the Asian Scenario'
- ◆ Dr. Harsha V. Dehejia on 'A Celebration of Love' (The Romantic Heroine in the Indian Arts).

#### Seminars

- ◆ 'Volunteerism and the NGO Movement'
- ◆ 'Gender Sensitization and Vulnerability Analysis and Participatory Techniques'
- ◆ 'The Teacher, the Scholar and Indian Society'
- ◆ 'Saving Water in Chennai City'

#### 2005-2006

**The Foundation was recognized as a research Centre by the University of Madras for conducting research leading to the Ph.D. Degree in Historical Studies and Environmental Studies.**

Research project: 'Sanskrit Education and Learning in Ancient and Medieval Tamil Nadu – An Epigraphical study by Ms. Chitra Madhavan.

#### Lectures

- ◆ Dr. Nandita Krishna spoke on 'Hinduism'.
- ◆ Dr. Sharada Srinivasan spoke on 'India's legendary Wootz Steel - An Advanced Material of the Ancient World',
- ◆ Benoy K. Behl spoke on 'Early Murals of India'
- ◆ Jaya Subramanian spoke on 'The Most Sculpted Prophet'.
- ◆ Book Discussion on 'Kora' by Tenzin Tsundue. The book is a collection of poems and essays forming a very personal insight into the pain and pathos of being a refugee.

## 2006-2007

Four candidates were enrolled for the Ph.D. programme under the supervision of Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Professor and Director of the Institute.

Dr. P. Sumabala, Assistant Professor in the Institute was recognized as a supervisor for guiding candidates leading to the Ph.D. degree by the University of Madras.

### Research Projects

- ◆ *'Documentation of the Arts and Crafts of Nilgiri tribes with special reference to Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas and Paniyas'* by Mr. G. Balaji under publication.

National Seminar on 'New Dimensions of Historiography - Focus on Folklore' organized by the Department of Indian History of the University of Madras.' Dr. Nanditha Krishna chaired as session and presented a paper on 'From Folklore to Myth' Dr. P. Sumabala presented a paper on 'Role of Barrakatha in the History of Andhra Pradesh' and Mr. G. Balaji, Research officer presented a paper on 'Folklore of Nilgiri tribes as a source of History'.

- ◆ Dr. P. Sumabala presented a paper on 'Geology – A source for the study of our ancient past' in a field workshop on 'Geo- archaeology and human response to landscape evolution' organized by the Department of Geology of the Aiiwa University.
- ◆ Mr. Kameshraj, Librarian of the Institute attended a workshop on 'Preventive Conservation of Manuscripts' organized by the National Mission for manuscripts, New Delhi and the Government Museum, Chennai.

Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Dr. P. Sumabala and Mr. G. Balaji participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Tamil Nadu History Congress held at Stella Maris College, Chennai. Dr. P. Sumabala presented a paper on 'Tamilagam: A land of Telugus – a study of migration of communities', in this session.

**Dr. Nanditha Krishna chaired the Social History session and delivered her Presidential address on 'Social Impact of Environmental Change (with special reference to South India)' at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the South Indian History Congress held at Rajapalayam.**

Dr. P. Sumabala presented a paper on 'Conceiving Mobility: The Tamil Migrations into Andhra Desa' in this session.

A paper entitled 'Tank irrigation in South India – A Case study of Kolovoy Lake' was presented in the same session jointly by Dr. G.J.Sudhakar, Honorary Professor of the Institute along with Mr. Amirthalingam and Dr. P. Sumabala.

Dr. P. Sumabala presented a paper on 'Kortalaiyar River Valley, A cradle of Ancient Civilizations' in the National Seminar on 'Rivers in Tamil Nadu : Life-time of the people' organized by the Department of Indian History, University of Madras, Chennai.

Dr. Nanditha Krishna delivered special lectures on 'Environmental History of India' and 'Conservation Traditions of India' for the participants of the refresher course organized by the Academic Staff College of the University of Madras.

A special lecture on 'Art History of India' was delivered by Dr. P. Sumabala for the students of the Loyola College, Chennai.

Lectures:

- ◆ Prof. David Shulman spoke on 'Peace Movement in Israel,
- ◆ Shri. Iravatham Mahadevan spoke on 'Early Tamil Epigraphy - some recent developments,
- ◆ Prof. D.N. Triparthi spoke on 'Current research trends in the history of ancient India'
- ◆ Dr. P.K. Shukla spoke on the 'Approaches to the study of the revolt of 1857'.

**2007-2008**

Research Projects

Work commenced on the following:

- ◆ Iconography of Karttikeya – Ms V. Sandhiyalakashmi
- ◆ Iconography of Narasimha – Mr. G. Balaji
- ◆ Documentation of the Secular Architecture of Kanchipuram – Ms. J. Sumathi
- ◆ Sacred Groves of Tamilnadu – Mr. M. Amirthalingam

A National conference on the 'Environment and Indian History' was held in collaboration with C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, attended by historians and environmentalists from all over India. The conference was inaugurated by Shri. C.K. Sreedharan, I.F.S, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Tamil Nadu Forest Department who released the book 'Sacred Animals of India' authored by Dr. Nanditha Krishna. Dr. G. Venkataraman, Head, Department of Indian History, University of Madras, delivered the presidential address and Dr. S. Ramachandran, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, delivered the valedictory address.

A booklet on 'The Environment and Indian History', continuing the abstracts of the papers was published and distributed to all the participants.

Dr. Sumabala presented a paper on 'Lesser Known Sources for the study of the history of Tamil Nadu' in the 14<sup>th</sup> annual session of Tamil Nadu History Congress held at the University of Madras, Chennai.

Dr. Nanditha Krishna delivered a special lecture on 'Environmental History of India' for the participants of the orientation course at Ethiraj College, Chennai, organized by the Teachers Recruitment Board, Government of Tamil Nadu. For the course participants, Dr. Sumabala delivered a special lecture on 'Recent Discoveries in the field of Art and Archaeology'.

Dr. P. Sumabala was invited as a special guest by the History Association of Meenakshi College, Chennai to deliver a lecture on 'Migration Patterns.' She also delivered a special lecture on 'Glimpses of Art and Architecture in India' to the students of Loyola College, Chennai.

Dr. P. Sumabala presented a paper on 'Environmental Conservation: A Historic Perspective' in the National Seminar on 'Emerging Trends in History and Archaeology' organized by the Department of History of the Pondyicherry University and she also presented a paper on 'Contribution of Telugus to the Culture Pluralism of Tamilagam' in a National Seminar on 'Composite Tamil Nadu: A study in Cultural Pluralism' organized by the Department of Indian History of the University of Madras, Chennai.

The research projects of the last year were continued during the year. Certain eminent people were invited to deliver special lectures in the Institute.

Lectures: Prof. Takako on 'The Indian Impacts on Japanese Traditional Performing Arts'. Mr. Kazao Minagawa, Consul General of Japan and Dr. Prameela Gurumuthy, member, Syndicate and Professor and Head of the Department of Music, University of Madras, Chennai were the Chief Guests.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor spoke on his book on *'The Elephant, The Tiger and The Cell Phone'* in a meeting co-organised with the Madras Book Club.

Dr. Nanditha Krishna participated in a conference on 'Indian Painting - The Lesser known Traditions' at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, U.S.A. She made a presentation of the hitherto undocumented paintings of the Varadaraja Perumal Temple at Kanchipuram, which illustrated the Bhagavata Purana and Harivamsa as well as the 108 divyadesams of Southern Vaishnavism.

- ◆ Two courses in Sanskrit language were conducted by Shri. K. Sridhar.
- ◆ A course on 'Fundamentals of Indian Numismatics' was conducted. The resource persons included several distinguished people like Dr. T. Satyamurthy, Former Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India.

## 2008-2009

### Research Projects

Six candidates were registered for their Ph.D. degrees in Historical and Environmental Studies of the University of Madras. They were: Mrs. A. Sandhiya Lakshmi on 'Iconography of Karthikeya'; Mr. G. Balaji on 'Iconography of Narasimha'; Mr. M. Amirthalingam on 'Sacred Groves of Thiruvannamalai District – Environmental and Historical Perspective'; Mr. U. Thirunavukkarasu on 'History of Environmental Education in Tamil Nadu'; Mrs. Lalitha Ramadurai on 'The History of Chennai wetlands'; and Ms. J. Sumathi on 'Secular Architecture in Kanchipuram'.

- ◆ Dr. Chitra Madhavan continued with her General Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship of the ICHR through CPRIIR
- ◆ Dr. V. Balambal was awarded a Senior Fellowship of the ICHR to work on 'Status of Women as gleaned through Tamil Folklore' through CPRIIR

Dr. P. Sumabala attended a National Seminar on 'Yakshi in Art, Thought and Literature' organized by the REACH Foundation at Coimbatore and presented a paper on 'Lesser-known forms of Lakshmi'. She also gave lectures on 'Principles and Methods of Archaeology' and 'Recent trends in Archaeology' at Women's Christian college, Chennai.

Mr. G. Balaji, Research Officer and Mr. V. Kamesh, Librarian of the Institute attended a three day workshop on Manuscript Conservation organized by the Regional Conservation Laboratory, Trivandrum.

### Lectures

- ◆ Smt. Seena S. Thuruthil delivered an illustrated lecture on 'Mural paintings of Kerala'.
- ◆ A presentation about – 'KHOJ International Artists Association' in New Delhi was made by Ms. Latika Gupta, Curator and operations manager in Khoj.
- ◆ Zakir Hussain delivered a lecture demonstration on 'Ritualistic Madras as interpreted in Dance'

Course: An Introduction to Indian Sculpture and Architecture

## 2009-2010

### Research Projects

Six research scholars of the Ph.D. programme continued their work.

#### Lectures

- ◆ 'The Technology of Ancient Large Statuary in Italy' was delivered by Dr. Alessandra Guimilia Mair.
- ◆ 'Peace Ethics and India's Gift of Ahimsa' was delivered by Mr. Philip Wollen of the Winsome Constance Kindness Trust, Australia.
- ◆ An illustrated presentation followed by the release of the book 'The Lost River (on the trail of the Saraswathi)' written by Michel Danino took place. Dr. A.K. Gupta, Flower Scientist, ISRO of the Regional Remote Servicing Centre, Jodhpur released the book and Dr. Nanditha Krishna received the first copy. Mrs. Kamini Mahadevan (Consultant Editor, Penguin Books India) presided.

Dr. Nanditha Krishna participated in a panel discussion on the book entitled 'The Difficulty of being good on the subtle art of Dharma' written by Gurucharan Das and Sivasankari at Sheraton Park Hotel and Towers, Chennai.

Dr. Nanditha Krishna delivered a lecture on 'Radha in South Indian Tradition' at the conference on 'Radha – Transformation from Gopi to Goddess' held by Carlton University, Ontario, Canada and School of Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, at JNU, Delhi.

An illustrated presentation on '*Sacred Animals of India*' was made by Dr. Nanditha Krishna at the release of her book with the same name by Ms. Maneka Gandhi (Member of Parliament). Shri. Shekhar Dattatri, Wildlife Conservation Filmmaker received the first copy.

Dr. Nanditha Krishna delivered the Professor R. Sathianathaier Endowment Lecture on 'The History of Trees in Early Indian Culture and Art' at the University of Madras, Chennai.

#### 2010-2011

##### Research Projects

Six research scholars of the Ph.D programme continued their work

The faculty members, research scholars and the staff of CPRIIR attended the National Seminar on 'The Role of Folklore and Ballads in the Reconstruction of the History of Tamil Nadu' organized by the Department of Indian History of the University of Madras.

The following research scholars presented papers: Ms. J. Sumathi presented on 'Folklore in the Architecture of Kanchipuram'. Mrs. Lalitha Ramadurai presented on 'Rivers in Myths and Folklore of Tamil Nadu'. Mr. M. Amirthalingam presented on 'Folklore of Sacred Groves on the East Coast of Tamil Nadu', and Mr. G. Balaji presented on 'Folklore, Cultural and Social Value in Writing: History of Nilgiri Tribes'.

There was presentation and launch of the book entitled '*Paintings in Tamil Nadu – A History*' written by Prof. I. Job Thomas of Davidson College, USA. Mr. Theodore Baskaran received the first copy.

#### Lectures

- ◆ Shri. T. Satyamurthy, Superintending Archaeologist (retd.), Archaeological Survey of India delivered a lecture on Pre-Pallava Temples of Tamil Nadu' (including the findings at Saluvankuppam).
- ◆ 'Music as History of Tamil Nadu' by the author Prof. T.K. Venkatasubramanian was delivered in the Institute. Dr. Prameela Gurumurthy, Professor and Head, Department of Music, University of Madras, Chennai.

- ◆ ‘The History of Fort St. George’ by Mrs. Sathyabhama Badhreenath, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India was organized.
- ◆ A multimedia presentation on ‘Radha in South Indian Tradition’ by Dr. Nanditha Krishna with songs by Dr. Sumathi Krishnan from Thiruppavai and Astapadi.
- ◆ ‘King Serfoji II and The Brihadisvara Temple: Refashioning a Royal Movement in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Thanjavur by Dr. Indira Viswanathan Peterson, David B. Truman Professor of Asian Studies, Mount Holyoke College, USA.

Seminar to celebrate 1000 years of the Brihadishvara Temple was organized. Dr. T.S. Sridhar, I.A.S., Principal Secretary and commissioner, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Tamil Nadu inaugurated it. Dr. Nanditha Krishna, traced the history of the temple in her presidential address. The Seminar, conducted over two sessions, had artists and emphasizing the cultural significance of the monument.

## 2011-2012

### Research Projects

Six research scholars registered for the Ph.D. of the University of Madras continued their work.

Seminar and workshop on ‘History Today: Theory and Practice’. Resource persons were Prof. T.K. Venkatasubramanian, Dr. M.N. Rajesh, Prof. Venkata. M. Ragotham, Prof. G. Chandrika and Prof. N. Rajendran.

**The Institute in association with South Indian History Congress and Department of Indian History, University of Madras, co-sponsored the Thirty second Annual conference of the South Indian History Congress at Chennai.** Dr. Nanditha Krishna released a book titled ‘*Trade and Commercial Contact between England and the Coromandel Coast A.D. 1600 to 1746*’ written by Dr. G. Venkataraman, Head and Professor in the Department of Indian History, University of Madras, on the occasion. Mr. G. Balaji, Research Officer in the Institute presented a paper on the ‘Icon of Narasimha in the sculptures and Paintings of Varadarajaswamy Temple, Kanchipuram’ at the conference.

Dr. Nanditha Krishna delivered the plenary lecture on ‘Cultural Development as a source of Indian History’ at Loyola College, Chennai.

**Dr. Nanditha Krishna received the ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ in the field of History and Social Service awarded by Loyola Forum for Historical Research, Loyola College, Chennai,** on the above occasion.

### Lectures

- ◆ Raghunathabhyadayamu (Yakshaganam) - A Music, Dance and Dialogue narrative by Swarnamalya Ganesh was held at the Institute
- ◆ To Celebrate International Women’s Day, a lecture on ‘Women’s Empowerment – Some Reminiscences by Dr. Sarojini Varadappan was held in the Institute during the year.

Samskrutha Bharathi along with the Institute conducted Spoken Sanskrit classes through a unique syllabus designed to teach Sanskrit through the Bhagavat Gita. To make the Sanskrit language accessible to lay people, Shibiram (a 10-day spoken Sanskrit class) was conducted by Samskrutha Bharathi along with the Institute.

Dr. Nanditha Krishna participated in the launch and panel discussion of the ‘Build your city’ Seminar held at Hyatt Regency.

The book '*Saraswati: Oru Nadhiyin Maranam*', written by Michel Danino (Tamil translation of 'The Lost River') was organized by the Institute and Kizhakku Pathipagam. Dr. Nanditha Krishna received the first copy. Prof. K.V. Raman, Head of Department of Archaeology, University of Madras presided.

## 2012-2013

### Research Projects

Six research scholars who had registered for the Ph.D. program continued their work.

### Lectures

- ◆ Dr. S. Rajavelu, Head, Department of Under Water Archaeology, Tamil University, Thanjavur spoke on 'Recent trends in South Indian Epigraphy and Archaeology'.
- ◆ Dr. G. Venkataraman, Professor and Head, Department of Indian History, University of Madras, Chennai spoke on 'The Importance of Madras as a trading centre on the coromandel coast
- ◆ 'Dr. Swarnamalya Ganesh spoke on 'Past Performing Practices of the Nayak period, a vestibule to Today's Bharathanatyam'
- ◆ Dr. Nanditha Krishna spoke on 'Historical Perspective of Environmental Studies' at the second annual session of the Loyola forum for Historical Research, Loyola College, Chennai.

Mr. G. Balaji, Research Officer of the Institute had attended the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Indian Art History Congress on 'Indian Art and Religion and Interactive Approach' held at Kolkota.

During the year, 124 books were added to the library in various fields of history, art, archaeology, history, culture, religion, music, medicine, philosophy, etc.,

A book entitled '*Pallaki Seva Prabhadamu*' – A Telugu Musical Opera authored by Sahaji Maharaja of Thanjavur and published by the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation was released at SPACES, Beseant Nagar, Chennai. Dr. Nanditha Krishna received the first copy of the book and CD.

## 2013-2014

### Research Projects

Six research scholars who had registered for the Ph.D. program continued their work.

### Lectures

- ◆ Dr. Nanditha Krishna spoke on 'Bhoopala Bharatham' on Maharaja Marthanda Varma and Swathi Thirunal.
- ◆ Dr. R. Nagaswamy spoke on 'The Madras Region before the British: Madras under the Cholas',
- ◆ Dr. Ramakrishna Pisipathy spoke on 'Human Activities in the Early Madras Region citing recent excavations',
- ◆ Dr. Serge Le Guirree spoke on the 'Megalithic Tradition and Tribal Art of Janjati of Central India'
- ◆ Dr. Sunil Kothari spoke on 'Sattriya: Dances of Assam'.

A Seminar was organized on the book '*Paintings of the Varadaraja Perumal Temple, Kanchipuram*' written by Dr. Nanditha Krishna. Several experts - Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Dr. M.A. Venkatakrishnan and Dr. Chitra Madhavan - spoke on aspects of the book and related areas.

## 2014-2015

Dr. G.J. Sudhakar joined CPRIIR as Head, Historical Studies in 2014.

### Research Projects

The research scholars who had registered for the Ph.D. degree programme of the University of Madras continued their work during the year under reference.

### Lectures

- ◆ Prof. A.R. Venkatachalapathy, Officiating Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies Chennai spoke on 'A Magic System: Print Advertising in Colonial Tamil Nadu'
- ◆ S. Liesbeth Bennik of Netherlands spoke on 'Hidden Treasure in the City of Ethor'
- ◆ Dr. S.N. Nageswara Rao, Head of the Department of History
- ◆ Sir Thiagaraya College, Chennai spoke on 'ICT Mediated Research'
- ◆ Prof. N. Rajendran, Head of the Department of History, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli spoke on 'Research Parameters'
- ◆ Prof. Rachel Dwyer spoke on 'Rise of Siddhivinayak in Mumbai'
- ◆ Mr. Arvinth Kumaraswamy spoke on 'Angkor-An untold Story'
  - Dr. Nanditha Krishna gave an introduction to the topic on 'Angkor-wat'
  - Dr. Sunil Kothari gave the critical appreciation
- ◆ Dr. Shaunaka Rishi Das, Director, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, London, spoke on "Hinduism and Modernity"
- ◆ Dr. Rajsekar Basu, Associate Professor in the Centre for Advanced Studies in History of the University of Calcutta, Kolkatta spoke on 'Ruling Classes and NGO's and the issue of Public Health in the Travancore State in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries'
- ◆ Dr. Chitra Madhavan, Historian, Chennai spoke on 'The Splendours of Belur and Halebid – The Art of the Hoysalas' based on the photographs by Shri. G.S. Sessa Rajan of Bangalore
- ◆ Prof. Arun Bandopadhyay, formerly Nurul Hasan, Professor of History and Dean of Arts, University of Calcutta spoke on 'The Forest Question in India in the light of Environmental History'

The public viva-voce examination of Mrs. Sandhya Lakshmi for her thesis entitled 'Iconography of Karthikeya' was held as per the regulations governing the Ph.D. programme of the University of Madras. She was awarded the degree of Ph.D. degree.

Dr. G.J. Sudhakar attended the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the Indian History Congress (The National Body of Historians) held at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Dr. Sudhakar also attended the 21<sup>st</sup> session of Tamil Nadu History Congress held at St. Joseph's College of Arts and Science, Cuddalore.

Mr. G. Balaji, Research Officer, CPRIIR and Mr. Prashanth Krishna, CEO, C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation also participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> session of Tamil Nadu History Congress.

Dr. G.J. Sudhakar and Mr. G. Balaji, attended a National Seminar on 'Heritage and Conservation' at Stella Maris College, Chennai.

A workshop for librarians was conducted by the CPRIIR. Librarians from various institutions in the city participated. Dr. P. Perumal, Conservator (retd.), Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur, and Dr. Jeyaraj, Curator (retd.) Conservation Section, Government Museum, Chennai were invited as resource persons for this workshop. Mr. G. Balaji was the coordinator of the programme.

**CPRIIR organized a two day ICHR sponsored National Seminar on ‘Popular Uprisings in India with special reference to Tamil Nadu – 1750-1857’.** The main aim of the seminar was not only to focus on the political events that led to the rebellions but also the socio-economic factors that underlay the outward brand of events. Another objective was to highlight the rebellions in South India before 1857 that were neglected by historians. About 25 Senior and young scholars from all over the country presented refereed papers. In all about a hundred professors and a hundred select invitees from the public participated.

Sketches by Sir Charles Ball of the events of 1857 were on exhibition.

## 2015-16

### Awards

- ◆ **Dr. K.V. Raman and Dr. R. Nagaswamy were honoured with ‘LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS’ for their contribution to Indian Art History by Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, artist and scholar.**



### Conferences, Seminars and Symposia

- ◆ **A National Conference on the Iconography of the Hindus, Buddhists and Jains was held on January 8 and 9, 2016. Professor Y Sudershan Rao, Chairman, Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi, inaugurated the event.**
- ◆ Dr. K.V. Raman and Dr. R. Nagaswamy were honoured with ‘LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS’ for their contribution to Indian Art History by Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, artist and scholar.
- ◆ Exhibition of icons organized by the Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar) in the Main Gallery of C.P. Art Centre.
- ◆ An art and dance presentation called “DEVA PRATIMA” choreographed by Smt. Latha, Shradhanjali School of Bharata Natyam.
- ◆ Symposium on Architecture of Colonial Madras was organised on August 22, 2015.

### Lectures

- ◆ A talk on The Muziris Heritage Project by Dr. Benny Kuriakose, architect and conservation specialist, on June 20, 2015.
- ◆ Dr. Nanditha Krishna gave a talk on Cheriya Paintings on July 11, 2015. An exhibition of Cheriya Paintings & Masks by artists D. Vaikuntam Nakash and D. Vinay Kumar was held at the Vennirul Art Gallery from July 7 to 11, 2015.

- ◆ Lecture by Dr. Osmund Boppe, Director of Research, French National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris, on Archaeological and Numismatic Evidence of Trade in the Indian Ocean: Discovery of a second century BCE shipwreck at Godavaya, Sri Lanka on August 18, 2015.
- ◆ Lecture on Date of Mahabharata & Krishna- Prospects & Problems by T.K.V. Rajan, Founder Director, Indian Science Monitor & Indo-Asian Foundation for Archaeological Research, on September 5, 2015.
- ◆ Changes in the Religious Demography of India and the world in the last 100 years by Prof. M.D. Srinivas, Chairman, Centre for Policy Studies, Chennai, on October 24, 2015.
- ◆ Participation of Women in the Uprising of 1857, Redefinition of Social Status, Then and Now by Dr. Kirti Narain, Project Director, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Aliganj, Lucknow.
- ◆ Lecture by Dr. Liesbeth Pankaja Bennick on Jacob Haafners India on December 19, 2015.
- ◆ Angahara in the Natyasastra of Bharatamuni – a lecture by Dr. Heather Parker Lewis, Classical Dancer, on December 12, 2015
- ◆ An Illustrated lecture on Indian Deities Worshipped in Japan by Prof. Benoy K. Behl, Renowned film-maker, art historian and photographer, on February 13, 2016.
- ◆ The History of Indo-Roman Trade in 10 Objects by Dr. Roberta Tomber, Visiting Fellow, Department of Conservation and Scientific Research, British Museum, on February 18, 2016.
- ◆ Lecture on Hinduism – A Historical Study by Dr. Rekha Pande, Professor and Head, Department of History, Centre for Women Studies, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, on February 20, 2016.
- ◆ An illustrated talk on the making of Alapadma, The Lotus Unfolds by Shri. Aravinth Kumarasamy, Creative Director, Apsara Arts, Singapore, on February 27, 2016.
- ◆ An illustrated lecture on Traditional Mysore Paintings – An Art Historical Study by Ms. S. Padhmapriya, Research Scholar, on June 11, 2016.

## 2016-17

C.P.R. Institute of Indological Research organised an exhibition of bronze icons from Tamilnadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar) which was inaugurated by Dr. Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairman, Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi, and Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, from January 8 to 13, 2016.

- ◆ Akshayapatra – A seminar on the history, variety and cultural aspects of Tamil cuisine.
- ◆ The Madras-American Connection – A Talk by Mr. S. Muthiah
- ◆ The public Viva-Voce Examination of Ms. J. Sumathi
- ◆ An illustrated lecture on Traditional Mysore Paintings – An Art Historical Study by Ms. S. Padhmapriya.
- ◆ A lecture on From Alexander The Great to Kanishka: Numismatic Evidence in Constructing Early Central Asian and Indian History by Dr. Osmund Boppe.
- ◆ Sir C.P. in Madras – a lecture by Mr. V. Sriram on August 20, 2016
- ◆ Lecture by Mr. K.R.A. Narasiah on History of Madras from Indigenous Sources and Folklore on August 27, 2016.

## EDUCATION

*“The School shall have served its purpose best, fulfilled its object effectively, if, in addition to the teaching of the three R’s and all the things that go by the scholastic name, the wonderful niceties of life are also inculcated, without which man as a gregarious animal would be written down in history as a failure.*

*Let the school be the centre, the nucleus, the focus, radiating not distrust, not factions, not a spirit of partnership, but the spirit of oneness and harmony towards conjoint effort and the fulfillment of conjoint purpose and the reaching towards that goal for which all of us are yearning”.*

- Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar

Education marks the beginning of a child’s journey through life and into adulthood. It provides the foundation for a child’s character, moulding future actions and values. It shapes a child’s personality and creates impressions that will last a lifetime. It is only through education that future of the nation and its citizens can be moulded.



The establishment of Saraswathi Kendra was an accident. The late Dr. Nagarajan of Clarke's School sent a young lady from Bombay, Sheela Seshasayee, for a job. I sent her to several organizations for the mentally challenged, but she came back saying that they were not suitable for her. Her degree was in teaching 'exceptional children'. Finally, I asked her what that meant. That is when I learnt about learning disabilities and problems. All I could offer her was a room, a table and a chair and asked her to find her own students.

In 1985, learning disabilities were fairly unknown. Sheela Seshasayee was trained to teach children with autism, dyslexia, learning disabilities and problems, ADD and ADHD, all of which were quite unknown at the time. Since this was before the days of the computer, we prepared a few OHP sheets on how to recognize these problems in the class room. She first ran a workshop for School Principals and then for Primary School Teachers. Slowly, the students started coming in and doctors realized that there was a place for such children.

The name is derived from Saraswathi, Goddess of Learning. Children who came here with multiple problems surely need her blessings. Saraswathi Pattabhi Raman is also one of the donors of the property where the Foundation is situated, so Saraswathi Kendra was the most appropriate choice of name for this centre.

Sheela had to leave Chennai because her husband was transferred. Fortunately, Vasantha Venkatachalam and Geetha Mohan had already joined Saraswathi Kendra. Vasantha was a psychologist and Geetha was a psychiatric social worker. Mrs. Marlene Kamdar joined Saraswathi Kendra in 1991. A few years later, Sheila Rajkumari, a post-graduate in Home Science and Early Childhood Education also joined Saraswathi Kendra. Together, this team has been the backbone of Saraswathi Kendra, seeing it grow from infancy to adulthood.

By now, Saraswathi Kendra was functioning out of the large reading room upstairs, using Mr. C.R. Pattabhi Raman's sofa for difficult situations. My parents Shakunthala and A.R. Jagannathan came forward to collect the money to put up the initial 5000 sq.ft. of building on land gifted by Lakshmi Subrahmanyam, Mr. C.R. Pattabhi Raman's daughter. It was inaugurated by His Holiness Shri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal on February 10, 1992.

A few years later, the Foundation bought the house property between the Foundation and the new building. In 2004, The Grove School was established in this building. Starting as a primary school, its popularity grew so fast that it was decided to take it to the 10<sup>th</sup> standard and affiliate it to the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE). Since The Grove School was started for integrated education and was taking students from Saraswathi Kendra, the numbers also grew. So it was decided to shift The Grove School to the building built by Mr. and Mrs. Jagannathan and move Saraswathi Kendra to the purchased and modified building. Saraswathi Kendra shifted to this new building in 2004 and The Grove School – an ICSE school integrating special children – moved to the building built by my parents.

In 2005, we started Rangammal Vidyalaya in Kanchipuram. And in 2005 we took over the Sir C.P. RamaswamiAiyar Memorial Nursery and Primary School in Kumbakonam. In 1941, Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar donated a house property to the Kumbakonam Municipality to run a free school. The Municipality did so for many years, but closed down the school in 1999. Meanwhile the Municipality had pulled down the old building and replaced it with an asbestos roofed shed. We offered to take it over and run a free school. Finally, they handed it over in 2005, and the school reopened, imparting excellent English-medium education totally **FREE**.



**Marlene Kamdar**



**Vasantha  
Venakatachalam**



**Geetha Mohan**



**Sheila Rajkumari**

**Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children (SKLC)**

In Chennai today, if learning disorders are no longer read as a dead-end in the education of young children, the credit must go to the women who have shaped SKLC and made it an effective model of alternative schooling.

Saraswathi Kendra was started in 1985 as an after-school remedial centre for children where they were counselled, given behaviour modification therapy and academic remedial education by trained psychologists. In 1988, Vasantha Venakatachalam, Vice Principal - Academics at the Kendra now, joined the centre as an assessment psychologist. In the same year, Geetha Mohan, now Principal, joined as a special educator and medical and psychiatric social worker. Marlene Kamdar joined in January 1990 as Chief Counsellor. Sheila Rajkumari, now Vice Principal – Administration, joined in 1992 as a Student Counsellor.

For a year, the three of them coordinated between the home, school and the respective doctors of these children, making for a cohesive three-way system. In parallel, to create awareness, the three of them conducted periodic seminars and workshops on learning disorders and remedial intervention for school principals, teachers, parents, and doctors.

Meanwhile, the team at SKLC found that some children were still unable to cope in their mainstream schools, despite the remedial sessions. Their parents shared that what was learnt at SKLC could not be sustained in the school environment. So, Vasantha, Geetha and Marlene concluded that what was needed was an alternate school system, not just an after-school system. In 1991, an alternate school was started on the campus, with 16 children and four staff, with children enrolled after extensive discussions with parents. Initially, the learning centre was an autonomous body allowing children to fill in the gaps in their education, and taking whichever board exam was best suited for them. Eventually, SKLC adopted the National Institute of Open Schooling(NIOS).It turned out to be a boon as this system allowed for a wide range of subjects to choose from. The centre became an officially accredited open school study centre in 1992. Soon, principals of local schools started referring children with difficulties in subjects like math and language to the Open School system at Saraswathi Kendra.

While SKLC has all regular activities like exams, excursions, sports day, annual day, inter-school interface, computer aided education, yoga, music, dance, etc, each child has his/her unique education plan based on a detailed assessment of the child worked out by the core team of Vasantha Venakatachalam, Geetha Mohan, Sheila Rajkumari and Marlene Kamdar.

Today, the centre deals with an average of 300 students a year, registered at secondary and senior secondary levels of NIOS. It also functions as a full-time, alternate learning centre for around 160 students who enter diverse fields like web design, sports, arts, hotel management, interior design, fashion technology, photography, theatre, etc, with some of the school's alumni having established their own start-ups and others enter mainstream schools and colleges. All this was possible with the vision, guidance and determination of the Hon. President Dr. Nanditha Krishna, say the four ladies.



## SARASWATHI KENDRA LEARNING CENTRE FOR CHILDREN

*saraswathikendra@gmail.com*



### **Mission**

The mission of the Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre is to recognise, understand and establish innovative and comprehensive services geared to the special needs of children with Learning Problems and Disabilities, Autism, Dyslexia, ADD and ADHD, so that they may learn to cope with their studies and general development. Saraswathi Kendra is an alternative form of schooling for slow learners and learning disabled children.

Saraswathi Kendra provides those supplements necessary for the all-round development of the child. Any child whose life is disturbed by problems that interfere with school performance and inter-personal relationships can benefit from this programme.

### **Reaching out...**

The children attending the Saraswathi Kendra have one or more of the following problems.

- ◆ Autism
- ◆ Dyslexia
- ◆ Learning Disabilities
- ◆ Learning Problems
- ◆ ADD / ADHD
- ◆ Habit and Behaviour Disorders
- ◆ Personality disorders
- ◆ Anti-social behaviour
- ◆ Eating and sleeping disorders
- ◆ School phobia

Saraswathi Kendras policy is to help the educable, low I.Q. child develop his/her learning potential, educate himself/herself to the optimum degree and maximum extent possible and develop other latent skills that can be channelled towards giving the child income generation potential and economic security. School dropouts are also submitted.

Saraswathi Kendra does not admit children with problems of mental retardation as neither the required staff services nor the infrastructure for such handling is available.

Any child who remains at the same class level for more than two years, in spite of the Intensive Remedial Education Programme, may be referred to a more appropriate system of education. Similarly, if a child is found appropriate for a regular school, Saraswathi Kendra recommends the return of the child to a mainstream school. The decision of the authorities of Saraswathi Kendra is final in this regard.

Saraswathi Kendra provides free services for those whose family income is below a certain amount, or collects nominal charges for others.

### Staff Services

Saraswathi Kendra is staffed by trained psychologists, therapists and counsellors, social workers and special educators. Saraswathi Kendra is aided by honorary psychiatrists, speech therapists and physiotherapists, neurologists and other medical consultants.

### Class Structure



Saraswathi Kendra does not have classes 1 to 10 / 12, which would brand the child who cannot keep up with his / her age group. Instead, there are levels through which he / she could move seamlessly. The levels are – Primary I, II, III; Junior – I, II, III; Prep – I, II, III.

In 1992, the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation was affiliated to the National Open School, (now the National Institute of Open Schooling or NIOS), for Std. X and XII exams, so that the children can complete their schooling in leisure and also have a certification which would help them further in their lives.

Saraswathi Kendra has

- ◆ Relatively small classroom strength of 6 to 10 students
- ◆ Small informally arranged classrooms
- ◆ Ratio of staff to students maintained at 1:8
- ◆ No definite distinctions as classes I to XII. Students are grouped according to their abilities and may move from one level to another. Upgrading of levels may be done as and when suitable and not necessarily at the end of an academic year.

### Special Events

- ◆ Lectures on health and nutrition are regularly organized for parents and students
- ◆ The students regularly participate in various competitions and functions for students held in Chennai.
- ◆ Weekly parent - teacher meetings and parent counselling meetings are organized to review student progress



Annual Sports Day, Project Day and the other events are conducted regularly



Workshops are held for teachers of regular schools to introduce them to the concept of learning problems and disabilities.



Excursions and field trips are conducted regularly for each class.

## **Programmes**

Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre runs the following programmes for the benefit of children, teachers and families.

### **Basic Reading and Writing Programme**

The pre-school scheme is tailored for children between the ages of 3 and 9 years. By special request from heads of private schools, paediatricians and neurologists, admission is granted to help, at an early stage, children with learning problems. Basic reading and writing programmes on alphabets, numbers and social development, necessary for coping in school, are conducted. After the successful completion of this programme, many children are ready to return to a regular school.

### **Alternate Schooling**

This is run on a regular school pattern, working 5 days a week. Class levels are standard I to XII. The Centre has been handling children between the ages of 10 and 18 years. The students are, however, fitted into varying levels, such as Primary, Junior and Prep, for each subject to suit their academic level. The routine includes yoga, academics, sports/games, art and craft, puppetry, role-play and music classes. Other life help skills are developed by encouraging the children to participate in day-to-day activities of a

public/commercial nature like budgeting, cooking, visiting public offices (bank, post office, etc.), hospitals, etc. Personality development is nurtured and inter-personal skills are taught through individual counselling and constant encouragement to actively participate in the classroom sessions.

Saraswathi Kendra has an integration programme by which children who achieve competency to fit back into the normal school routine are returned to their respective schools. This idea has proved popular with the heads of various schools in the city. Saraswathi Kendra keeps a regular follow-up of the progress of these children, many of who are given remedial attention in the afternoons, after school hours.

### **Remedial and Parallel Education Programme**

This is a programme for regular school-going children. Classes are held one hour a day, every day, after school hours, for children who have been visiting for remedial education, while attending other schools regularly.

Timings: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### **Assessment and Evaluation Programme**

A series of psychological tests, intelligent quotient tests and other evaluation tests are regularly conducted for school children, on behalf of paediatricians and schools. They undergo diagnosis and assessment for IQ, psychological problems and learning disabilities.

### **Autism**

Autism can occur in ranges from “severely affected” to “mildly affected”. Autism is a developmental diagnosis, i.e., it is apparent only as and when the child suffers delay in normal development.

Saraswathi Kendra offers the following facilities and programmes:

- ◆ Basic Reading, Writing and Mathematics Programme
- ◆ Alternate Schooling Remedial and Parallel Education Programme
- ◆ Autism Laboratory for development of communication skills and social behavior
- ◆ “Dr. Dog” a pet therapy programme to help non-communicative children to speak / communicate

### **Dyslexia**

Dyslexia means difficulty in speech, language, reading, writing, spelling and/or expressing thoughts on paper. A dyslexic may have trouble differentiating between left and right, telling the time, tying shoe laces, with mathematics, sequencing and may reverse words or letters.

Saraswathi Kendra offers the following facilities and programmes:

- ◆ Basic Reading, Writing and Mathematics Programme
- ◆ Alternate Schooling
- ◆ Remedial and Parallel Education Programme
- ◆ Dyslexia Laboratory for corrective exercises in reading, writing and spelling

## **Learning Disabilities / Problems**

The concept of Learning Disabilities is a relatively recent one in India. The Learning Disabled child is often an intelligent child who fails at school. A relatively high verbal ability might be present, but non-verbal mental ability may be low. This discrepancy results in the child remaining largely incompetent in social maturity, and this may again affect academic achievement.

Generally, children with Dyslexia and Autism also have Learning Disabilities.

Saraswathi Kendra offers the following facilities and programmes:

- ◆ Basic Reading, Writing and Mathematics Programme
- ◆ Alternate Schooling
- ◆ Remedial and Parallel Education Programme

## **Attention Deficit Disorder (A.D.D.) & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (A.D.H.D.)**

This is the most commonly diagnosed disturbance to learning in children of kindergarten and pre-school age. A.D.H.D. is a disorder characterized by three symptoms:

Saraswathi Kendra offers the following facilities and programmes:

- ◆ Basic Reading, Writing and Mathematics Programme
- ◆ Alternate Schooling
- ◆ Remedial and Parallel Education Programme
- ◆ Autism Laboratory for development of communication skills and social behaviour
- ◆ Dr. Dog a pet therapy programme to help non-communicative children to speak / communicate

## **Special Resources**

### **Soft Room**

The Soft Room is a safe play centre to promote activities that build up gross motor co-ordination, spatial ability and proper reflex movements. These activities are geared towards promoting self-awareness and confidence of the child's physical self.

### **English Language Teaching**

Conversational English and language skills are imparted through a special English Language Teaching (ELT) programme

### **Computer Center**

Donated by the Rotary Club of Madras, along with the Rotary Club of Brattleboro Sunrise, U.S.A., Saraswathi Kendra trains students in Word Processing, Data Entry and Computer Science. The computers are also used as an educational aid.

### **Library**

Saraswathi Kendra has a good collection of books and reference materials gifted by various donors. Library class is an important part of the curriculum, when the children are taught to refer to books, take notes, etc.

## Home Science

A regular kitchen is used to teach the students to cook and clean, while sewing machines, kitchen aids and typewriters help them develop additional skills.

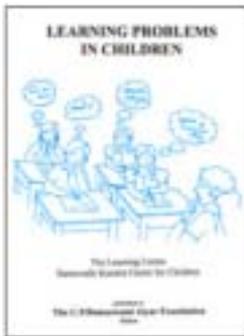
## Recreation Room



Saraswathi Kendra has set up a Recreation Room where children may benefit from indoor games of concentration such as chess, scrabble and carom, as well as traditional Indian board games.

## Publications

Saraswathi Kendra's publications are primarily parental guides. They include



LEARNING PROBLEMS  
IN CHILDREN



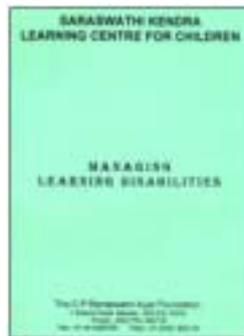
MANAGING AUTISM



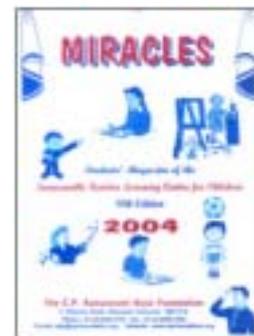
MANAGING DYSLLEXIA



MANAGING  
HYPERACTIVITY



MANAGING  
LEARNING DISABILITIES



The students also bring out an  
annual magazine called MIRACLES

## **Alternate Therapies**

Reaching out to children with learning problems can be through several ways. Although the ultimate goal is to educate them and give them a means of earning an income, this need not necessarily be done with blackboard and books. Music, dance, art, yoga, athletics and cricket coaching are utilized on a regular basis at Saraswathi Kendra.

All these creative therapies are utilized by Saraswathi Kendra to reach out to the children, thereby ensuring that every child has a chance of expressing himself/herself, as well as a hope of basic education and development.

**Yoga** - an essential part of the various programmes offered by Saraswathi Kendra. It helps the children concentrate, controlling their movements and developments. A full time yoga teacher is provided by Saraswathi Kendra.

**Movement and Dance Therapy** - Ramana Sunritya Aalaya (RASA) conducts regular movement and dance therapy classes for the students of Saraswathi Kendra. This helps their physical development and motor control. Many of the alumni and students of Saraswathi Kendra are, today, professional dancers.

**Music** - Regular music classes and exhibitions of talent have helped the children express themselves in music. Many alumni of Saraswathi Kendra are eminent classic musicians and play-back singers.

**Art Therapy** - Art and craft are both a therapy and an activity. Art therapy is used to communicate with hyperactive, autistic and troubled children. A trained psychologist handles the art therapy classes.

Traditional Indian art styles, drawing and contemporary painting are taught regularly to the students. Many alumni are now working as artists, film makers and art directors in the cinematic field.

**Animal-assisted Therapy** - Saraswathi Kendra was the first organization in India to introduce pet therapy in 1996. With the help and coordination of Animals Asia Foundation (AAF) and Blue Cross of India, Dr. Dog was introduced in 2001. Assessors from the Blue Cross of India approve potential Dr. Dogs before they work with the children.

Saraswathi Kendra has had several Dr. Dogs through the years who have helped children with Autism / Aspergers Syndrome communicate and speak. Saraswathi Kendra has also trained psychologists and therapists from other institutions to utilize the Dr. Dog programme to the best benefit of their children.



## Environmental Activities

C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) is a sister organization situated on the same campus, Saraswathi Kendra has been closely involved with many of CPREECs programmes since its inception.

- ◆ The staff of Saraswathi Kendra have been involved in assessing CPREECs publications for children and teachers, as well as assessing the text books for each class.
- ◆ Saraswathi Kendra has been a testing ground for many of CPREECs field projects.
- ◆ Saraswathi Kendra regularly organizes various programmes concerned with nature, wild life and the environment and also involves other schools in this process.



## Puppetry

Puppetry is a method to communicate with children and for children to express their thoughts and feelings. It has helped many non-communicating children express themselves. Puppetry is an essential part of Saraswathi Kendra's programmes.



## Admission

The admission policy is an open one and a formal referral is not necessary. Children may be referred by the heads of schools, teachers, parents or doctors and are accepted throughout the academic year. These students are helped to attain a level best suited to their ability.

One of the main objectives of this policy is to transfer the child back to the mainstream school as and when abilities match. Children who are unable to rejoin a mainstream school are also helped to complete Secondary Examinations conducted by the National Institute of Open Schooling, Department of Education, Government of India.

Admission procedures include a detailed testing and observation period. The testing covers I.Q. personality adjustment, inter-social relationships, aptitude, vocational preference and academic abilities. Any child who satisfies the required criteria for our programme will be admitted, regardless of recommendation or monetary status.

## Consulting Services for Schools and Parents

Saraswathi Kendra provides consulting services for several schools in Chennai and elsewhere in Tamilnadu and conducts workshops for professionals and school teachers on various aspects related to learning problems in children and how to cope with them. The parents of the students are also given professional advice to handle such learning disabilities effectively.

## NIOS

### Affiliation to National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

Saraswathi Kendra is affiliated to the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Students enrolled at Saraswathi Kendra now have the opportunity to complete their Std. X and Std. XII exams through the NIOS” non-formal system.

Saraswathi Kendra is a formally accredited institution, both for the registration of candidates and for the conduct of exams, of the NIOS. Saraswathi Kendra provides weekly consultations, but not regular classes (as per the NIOS system).

The NIOS Senior Secondary Certificate is recognised and accepted by Universities and other Higher Education Institutions all over India.

### Vocational Courses

Vocational education is offered for the following NIOS subjects:

- ◆ Certificate in Computer Application (CCA)
- ◆ Secretarial Practice (PA/PS)
- ◆ Certificate in Library Science (CLS)
- ◆ Library Attendant
- ◆ Library Clerk
- ◆ Plant Protection
- ◆ Water Management for Crop Production
- ◆ Play Centre Management
- ◆ House Keeping

**The Grove School** has been established by the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Chennai. It is a school with a difference, which aims to provide quality education and creative thinking. It was established to provide an integrated atmosphere, whereby the students of SKLC can learn to live and work with regular children.

- ◆ Classes have limited numbers
- ◆ The English is excellent
- ◆ The ambience is unique
- ◆ It is an “integrated” school, which takes in special children along with children of very high IQ.

Website: <http://www.saraswathikendra.org/index.htm>



**THE GROVE SCHOOL***thegroveschool@gmail.com*

The Grove School has been established by the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Chennai. It is a school with a difference, which aims to provide quality education and creative thinking. The School follows the syllabuses for various subjects prepared for ICSE curriculum.

- ◆ Classes have limited numbers
- ◆ The English is excellent
- ◆ The ambience is unique
- ◆ It is an “integrated” school, which takes in special children along with children of very high IQ.

The Grove School aims to develop creativity, analytical reasoning and original thought

In today’s competitive world, preparing a child for academic excellence is essential. But education must also teach a child good values and how to become a good human being, the importance of one’s own culture and traditions as also the importance of living in harmony with all other human beings, and respecting all creation – people, plants and animals. Education should also develop creativity. A child must develop the ability to think innovatively in order to excel in the field of his/her choice.

**The Grove School’s U.S.P.**

- ◆ Classes have limited numbers
- ◆ The ambience is unique
- ◆ The English is excellent
- ◆ Development of creativity, analytical reasoning and original thought

Our aim is Excellence in Academic, Cultural and General Life Skills

**Arts & Culture**

Art – Drawing and Painting - is regular subject in the curriculum. Students’ works are displayed in the Art Corner.

Indian Culture – art and architecture, performing arts, symbolism, festivals and much more – are introduced from Std. III onwards, through video films, site visits, lectures, quiz, etc.

Classical music and dance are taught twice a week to all the students.

### **Sports & Games**

A healthy mind is a healthy body. The School has programmes for the physical fitness of all students. Regular games periods, twice a week, are a part of the school schedule. The students have opportunities to play

- ◆ Football
- ◆ Basketball
- ◆ Cricket

Sports Days are always a gala affair. A separate playground provides outdoor play opportunity for the younger children.

### **Exhibitions & Projects**

A special Assembly is held on Fridays. During this time, students from Std. I onwards present their projects, plays and news from around the world, before the entire school.

Every year, a topic is chosen for an annual exhibition. Each class chooses one area and the exhibition is a result of the children's own efforts.

### **Elections & Houses**

Student Elections are held every year. Children learn to exercise their franchise. The Academic Year starts with the investiture ceremony in which a new body of prefects takes the oath of leading the student body to new heights of excellence in sports, cultural and academic events.

### **Houses**

There are 4 houses:

- ◆ Gulmohar
- ◆ Neem
- ◆ Pipal
- ◆ Tulsi

Inter-house competitions range from sports and culture to academic events.

### **SUPW**

As a part of the SUPW programme, children from Std. VII onwards are taken on visits to old age homes, orphanages and the Blue Cross of India animal shelters and hospital as a part of their community service.

### **Environment**

Students are taught to segregate waste – food, paper and non-biodegradable waste – in their classrooms into different bins.

The entire campus of The CPRAF, where The Grove School is situated, is eco-friendly, with rainwater harvesting, vermicomposting and recycling of plastic. The children are constantly exposed to waste management.

The exhibitions, laboratory and library of C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre are available to the students, who are also raising a herbal garden.

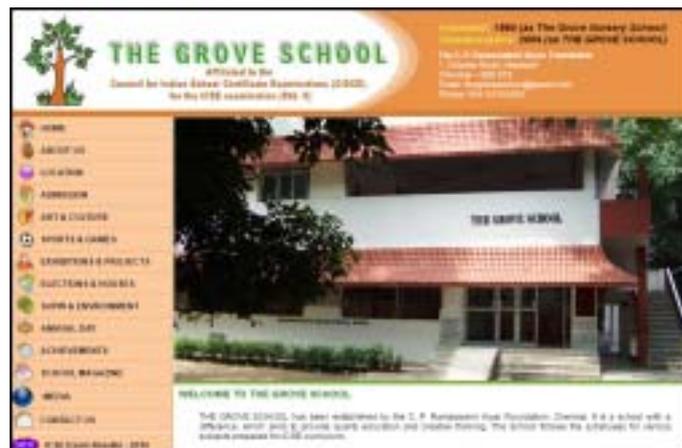
Students are taught to grow plants in the school. There is an internal assessment at the end of the year.

Many subjects are taught in the beautiful ambience of the school's garden.

### Annual Day

Annual Day is held separately for Classes L.K.G. to Class II and for classes III and above, to enable parents to witness their children's talents. Drama, music and dance provide the students an opportunity and environment to imbibe and display their cultural abilities.

Website :<http://www.thegroveschool.in/>





**S.M. Sujatha**  
Principal, The Grove School

The Grove School is a unique school, not just because it is set in the green campus of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation that boasts of many trees that are centuries old, but for many other distinctive reasons.

**It is a school that sees a pass percentage of 100% in its 10<sup>th</sup> standard board exams every year, a school that guided a dyslexic child to score 75% percent in board exams and does not reject a child with a learning problem or disability. It is a school where every child gets to learn Indian classical music and dance, yoga and gardening, needle work and chess, cookery and sports, community and civic activities and more. It is a school that has a unique kindness club that teaches empathy for animals, care for senior citizens, and respect for all humanity. It is**

**a school that also has a trained psychologist, ready to counsel the children who seek it, and a qualified nurse on call.**

When S M Sujatha joined The Grove School, it had 12 staff members and students strength of less than a hundred. After the retirement of Mrs. Kala Doraiswami, Principal, who gave the school a firm footing, Sujatha became the Principal of the school, which employs 40 qualified teachers, and has a students' strength of nearly 400.

Sujatha has guided and seen the school progress from being a primary school to one with a demanding Indian Council of School Education (ICSE) affiliation (which happened in 2009) and becoming a unique school that sees education for what it is – the holistic and wholesome development of children into productive and harmonious members of society.

It was in 2001 that Sujatha joined the Foundation as a 24-year-old, and was posted as research assistant at the Foundation. She was soon posted as Headmistress of the Rangammal Vidyalaya Nursery and Primary School, run by the Foundation at Kanchipuram. Initially it was a nursery school with 18 students but within a span of three years it evolved and upgraded itself to a Primary school. Even though she had to make the huge commute from Tambaram to Kanchipuram every day, she never considered quitting or looking for another job close by. “The positive ambience, growth opportunities and the work culture of the Foundation is such. And later, when I delivered my child, Dr. Nanditha Krishna was considerate enough to post me back at Chennai”, says 39-year-old Sujatha.

“I have grown along with the Foundation. When I joined, I had no idea of running a school. The credit goes to Dr. Nanditha Krishna for reposing confidence in me and letting me grow and develop the institution. No other organization would have given its staff so much freedom and opportunity for growth. The Foundation is like a family, and here, we work as a team”, Sujatha says, adding, “Our students are happy children. That is the most important thing”. Touché.



## **RANGAMMAL VIDYALAYA NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOL KANCHIPURAM**

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Education marks the beginning of a child's journey through life and into adulthood. It provides the foundation for a child's character, moulding future actions and values. It shapes a child's personality and creates impressions that will last a lifetime. It is only through education that future of the nation and its citizens can be moulded.

With the heavy syllabii of the Indian high school systems, the child has to be prepared before joining a regular school. This necessitates an awareness of basic concepts and general comprehension. The child also needs to develop his fine and large motor co-ordination. And learn to communicate in English. However, the child's age requires that all knowledge must be introduced subtly through play and with play materials. Play is a major part of the child's development. Through songs, actions, games and toys, a child can be prepared for the world.

With the child's requirements in mind, the **Rangammal Vidyalaya Nursery & Primary School** was established on Vijayadashami day in 2002, to prepare the child for school. The School conducts classes for children between 3 and 10 years of age. Thereafter, the children may be admitted into the appropriate level of any English medium school.

**Rangammal Vidyalaya** provides

- ◆ Specially-prepared work materials, art and craft items.
- ◆ Toys and play materials

**Rangammal Vidyalaya is named after Rangammal, mother of C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, who owned all the properties that Sir C.P. inherited in Kanchipuram and Damal.**



## SIR C.P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR MEMORIAL NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOL, KUMBAKONAM

*cprafkumbakonam@gmail.com*



**Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Memorial Nursery & Primary School** was established at Kumbakonam to prepare the child for school and managed by the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Chennai.

In 1941, Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar donated a house property located at T.S. No. 500, Ward No. 3, Door No. 17, Mettu Street in Kumbakonam to Kumbakonam Municipality for educational purposes, to run a primary school. The Kumbakonam Municipality ran the **Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Nursery & Primary School** till it was closed down in 1999-2000 and the

building was kept vacant since then.

In the meantime, the unused property had become a den for many anti-social activities. Residents of the locality and public literally were hoping that something would happen to restore the school and re-start educational activities. Being his native place, our PRO Mr. N. Srinivasan apprised the Kumbakonam Municipal Council about the run-down state of the school and misuse of the property.

The Council of Management of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation passed a resolution requesting the return of the land and building to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Chennai, for starting a school.

Finally, the Municipal Administration Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu vide their G.O. (2-D) No.5 dated 01-02-2005 agreed to the temporary transfer of possession of the building to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, retaining the ownership with the Municipality for running a school, and the school was reopened on Vijayadashami day in 2005.

The area is about 12,000 sq. ft. of which the school building occupies about 5,000 sq. ft. and the building was in a very bad condition. After taking it over, the Foundation undertook repairs and massive renovation of the building. About Rs.10,00,000/- is spent annually for running the school, including books, furniture, staff salaries, maintenance, etc.

**THE SCHOOL IS A TOTALLY FREE ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL.** The children belong to the poorest levels of society, such as fruit sellers, vegetable sellers, lorry loaders, etc. The school has been recognized by the State Government since June 1, 2006. The school has 6 teachers and nearly 180 students studying from classes LKG to Standard V.

Eminent educationalists and environmentalists of Kumbakonam Town have come together to form the **Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Forum of Nationalists and Naturalists** for local cultural and educational activities. They carry out several activities for the children of the school.

## EACH ONE TEACH ONE



**Mrs. Shakunthala Jagannathan**  
(January 11, 1927 - March 12, 2000)

Shakunthala Jagannathan, wife of Mr. A.R. Jagannathan, daughter of Saraswathi and C. R. Pattabhi Raman and granddaughter of Seethamma and C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, was born on January 11, 1927, in Visakhapatnam. She did her schooling in Church Park, Madras, and went on to obtain her Masters Degree in Economics, Politics and Indian History from Madras University (Presidency College) and a Masters Degree in Social Sciences from Columbia University, New York. After her marriage on May 12, 1947, to Mr. A.R. Jagannathan, she left for USA where she began her career in the Social Affairs Department of the United Nations, New York, as Research Officer.

In 1955, she joined the Department of Tourism of the Government of India and worked there till her retirement in 1985 as Deputy Director General and Regional Director General of Western and Central Region. During this time, she went over to Air India for a year to start their India Tour Promotion Department. In 1976 she was awarded the Chairman's Award of Merit for outstanding work in the promotion and development of tourism in India by the Pacific Area Travel Association (India) or PATA. She started Guide Training Courses in the Government of India Tourist Office, Bombay, and set up the first full-time Tourism Training Course in India at the Sophia Somani Polytechnic, Bombay, in 1971. She was also the Chairperson of the Travel and Tourism Course of the Garware Institute of the University of Bombay.

Shakunthala Jagannathan was also involved in a lot of social and cultural activities. She was twice President of Altrusa Club of Bombay, President of the Asian Arts and Culture Centre, Bombay, and President of Indus International, Bombay.

She moved to Madras in December 1990. Here she started a scheme "Each One Teach One" at the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation whereby affluent families took the responsibility for a poor girl child's education till Std. XII. She also had a fund through which she gifted thâlis for girls from poor families. She taught the learning disabled children of the Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre. Her

warmth and generosity where legendary and nobody in need was ever sent away empty-handed. She loved people and people loved her. She was a prolific writer who wrote in leading magazines and newspapers on Indian culture, art, travel and on general subjects.

She is the author of

- ◆ *“Hinduism. An Introduction”* (first published in 1984 by Vakils, Feffer and Simons) which has turned out to be a best-seller;
- ◆ *‘India, Plan Your Own Holiday’* (first published in 1988 by Nirvana Publications) with several reprints;
- ◆ *‘Ganesh, The Auspicious ... The Beginning’*, co-authored by her daughter, Nanditha Krishna (first published in 1992 by Vakils, Feffer and Simons) also a best-seller;
- ◆ *‘Elephanta Caves’*, a comic for children in the Amar Chitra Katha series;
- ◆ *‘A Travel Agents’ Manual’* for the Department of Tourism, Government of India, in 1987, for distribution to Agents overseas;
- ◆ *‘Sir C.P. Remembered’* (first published in 1999 by Vakils, Feffer and Simons).

She gave lectures regularly on Indian culture, religion, tourism and travel in India and abroad. She accompanied several tourist ships, such as the Queen Elizabeth II, as the Guest Lecturer on India. She passed away on Sunday, March 12, 2000, leaving behind her husband A.R. Jagannathan and her family consisting of Nanditha and Chinny Krishna, Prashanth and Rudra.

One of Mahatma Gandhi’s suggestions to the people to remove illiteracy was by the policy, “Each One Teach One”.

The late Mrs. Shakunthala Jagannathan, founder Member, started a scheme in 1997 for the education of poor girls to be sponsored for 6 years, from the 7th to the 12th standards. The Lady Sivaswami Iyer Girls Higher Secondary School had been selected for this project. A Sub-Committee was set up for this Scheme with

- ◆ Miss M. Bargavi Devendra
- ◆ Mrs. Meena Arunachalam
- ◆ Mrs. Vimala Krishnamurthi

Girl children who are selected are assured of four years of quality education as well as annual scholarships to cover their expenses, all financed by the foster parents for education in English and Tamil medium schools. This year, those who have completed standard X are being sponsored for a further period of two years till standard XII. The girls come from very poor families such as vegetable and flower vendors and work after school as their income is required by their families to make ends meet.

As of 2015-16, 514 students have been sponsored by various citizens of Chennai who have come forward to educate the less-fortunate girl children. Each donor is given a card with the girl’s photograph, family details, interests and other details. Those children who do not find a sponsor are sponsored by the Foundation itself. Some of the sponsors even pay for private tuitions to improve the marks of their foster children. In this way, charitably minded persons who have the money but no time are able to help poor children.

Every year, the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation organizes a function to issue the certificates to the students. The sponsors are also invited to the function and introduced to the students.

In the year 2003-2004, the project was extended to educate poor boys who are economically backward and in need of sponsorship Key International Foundation, USA.

A record number of 105 students have completed Std. XII in the year 2014-15 which will pave way to build a career of their own for their future. (At Lady Sivaswami - 70 students, Sri R.K.M. Sarada Vidyalaya - 27 students and Rani Meyyammai Girls' School - 8 students).

The project has completed 18 years of its inception. In 2015-16, 453 girls and 61 boys – a total of 514 students - have been sponsored under this project in the following schools of Chennai:

- ◆ Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls' Higher Secondary School, Mylapore, Chennai – 600 004.
- ◆ Sri R.K.M. Sarada Vidyalaya, Usman Road, T-Nagar, Chennai – 600 017.
- ◆ Ramakrishna Mission Higher Secondary School (Main), T-Nagar, Chennai – 600 017.
- ◆ P.S. High School (North), Chennai – 600 004.
- ◆ P.S. Higher Secondary School, R.K. Mutt Road, Chennai - 600 004.
- ◆ Rani Meyyammai Girls Higher Secondary School, Mandaveli, Chennai - 600 028.



Year-wise sponsorship of students

S. No	Name of School	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls Higher Secondary School, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004	50	52	52	72	86	90	134	159	188	198	204	223	232	230	228	234	253	256	231
2	Sri R.K.M Sarada Vidyalaya, Usman Road, T.Nagar, Chennai - 600 017	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	16	28	45	62	79	98	106	114	119	119	121	118
3	Ramakrishna Mission Higher Secondary School, (Main), T.Nagar, Chennai - 600 017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	12	12	12	12	31	4	-	-	-	-	-
4	P.S. Higer School (North), Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	15	24	31	12	24	34	38	52	52	61
5	Rani Meyyammai Girls Higher Secondary School, No. 162, Ramakrishna Mutt Road, R.A.Puram, Chennai - 600 028.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	16	24	40	56	72	84
6	P.S. Higher Secondary School, R.K. Mutt Road, Chennai - 600 004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>514</b>



**Malathy Narasimhan**  
Administrative Officer

53-year-old Malathy Narasimhan is the energy behind the Foundation's publication wing, helping with the formatting, page-making, publishing, and proof reading. She also obtained the ISBN and ISSN numbers for the Foundation's publications division in the year 2000, and compiles the annual reports of all that happens at the Foundation. Alongside, she handles the extremely significant 'Each One Teach One' project of the Foundation, and the annual Sanskrit drama competition organized by the Foundation.

She joined the Foundation in 1991 as a front desk executive who could also handle stenography. She soon started helping out various programmes conducted by the Foundation. In 1993, she was delegated the task of conducting the first Inter-school

Sanskrit Drama Competition, something she has been doing ever since. She also became secretary to the late Mrs. Shakunthala Jagannathan, Dr. Nanditha Krishna's mother and former Union Minister C.R. Pattabhiraman's daughter.

In 1997, Shakunthala Jagannathan started 'Each One Teach One', now in operation at Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls Higher Secondary School, Mylapore; Sri RKM Sarada Vidyalaya Girls Higher Secondary School; T. Nagar, P.S. High School (North), Mylapore; Rani Meyyammai Girls Higher Secondary School, Mandaveli; and P.S. Higher Secondary School, Mylapore. This project involves funding the education of poor students in upmarket schools, children who would have had to discontinue their schooling for economic reasons, for six years, from Std. VII to Std. XII. After Shakunthala Jagannathan passed away in the year 2000, Dr. Nanditha Krishna has been spearheading the programme, with Malathy coordinating with all the schools. If there is a deficit in the money required to fund the education of the needy girls, the Foundation pitches in and donates the needed money. Some donors are more involved with the programme than others and Malathy takes them to the school to discuss, bear medical expenses, give gifts on special occasions, etc. After the December 2015 floods that hit Chennai, many donors came forward voluntarily to donate money for the rehabilitation of the students' families. Malathy relies on word of mouth networking for this program and coordinates with the school, the students and their families and the sponsors.

This is Malathy's 25<sup>th</sup> year with the Foundation. My inspiration is Dr. Nanditha Krishna, says Malathy. Even today I get carried away by her knowledge in many fields and I always think that when she is able to do so many things at a time, I should be fit to cope up with her if not to a greater extent, at least to some extent. I give all credit to her for my work here at the Foundation.

## TRAINING ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN TRADITIONAL DRAWING AND PAINTING TO ENHANCE THEIR EARNING CAPACITY

April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005

### Introduction

Mamallapuram is a World Heritage Site and a major tourist centre in Tamilnadu. It is also the major location for stone sculpture in Tamilnadu. Persons from every caste and religion are engaged in this occupation which has a ready market. To find economic opportunities for the women of Mamallapuram, it was proposed to train fifty adolescent girls in traditional drawing and painting so that their employment opportunities would increase. They could make and sell paintings to the tourists visiting Mamallapuram. Or they may be employed as sculptors' assistants.

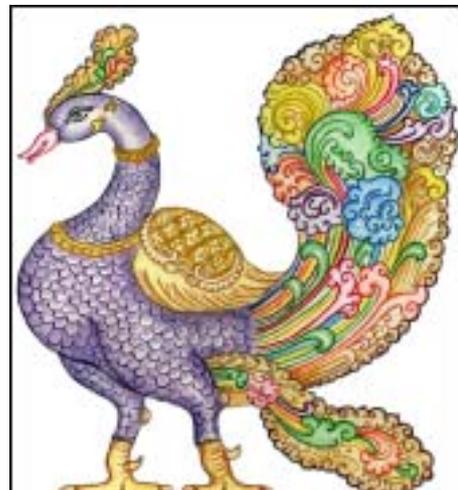
The first batch of fifty trainees completed their beginners course in January 2004. As the maiden training proved, the hidden talent surfaced in the young girls. At the encouragement of the Secretary, Tamilnadu Corporation for Development of Women, a second batch of 50 trainees in the age group of 13 to 20 underwent training in Traditional Drawing and Painting from April 2004.

### Selection process

An aptitude test and drawing test was conducted for nearly 84 students belonging to Pooncheri, Tirupporur, Mel Nemeli Devaneri villages and Mamallapuram. Shri. G. Thirugnanam, the Chief trainer of the course evaluated the entries and chose fifty students.

### Syllabus

- ◆ Pencil sketches
- ◆ Designs
- ◆ Animals
- ◆ Birds



Regular classes were conducted from April 15, 2004, by Shri. T. Gauthaman assisted by Mr. T. Paari.

In order to encourage the student's enthusiasm for the art, the art entries of many students were sent for competitions and exhibitions held by

- ◆ Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
- ◆ Delhi Art Gallery, Delhi
- ◆ Calico Museum of Textiles, Ahmadabad
- ◆ C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre

#### **Exposure visit to Heritage sites**

The students were taken on a field trip to Panamalai to view the Pallava paintings of Parvati in the ancient temple.

## 11

## VOCATIONAL COURSES

## 2002-2005

The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation conducted the following courses:

◆ **The Pre-KG / Kindergarten Diploma Programme for nine months**

No. of participants	-	9 (2002-2003)
No. of participants	-	9 (2003-2004)

◆ **6 months Certificate Course in Art including contemporary and traditional drawing and various paintings techniques supplemented by therapy.**

No. of participants	-	13 (2002-2003)
No. of participants	-	6 (2003-2004)
No. of participants	-	10 (2004-2005)

◆ **Certificate Course in Sanskrit for Beginners and Advanced Level**

No. of participants	-	Beginners	-	65 (2002-2003)
	-	Advanced Level	-	10 (2002-2003)
No. of participants	-	Beginners	-	55 (2003-2004)
	-	Advanced Level	-	5 (2003-2004)
No. of participants	-	Beginners	-	30 (2004-2005)

## **CULTURE**

*The spirit of Indian Culture is a spirit based on courage, it is a spirit with a vision of an eternal immutable law governing all the processes of Universe, from the nebula down to the worm and the rock. It is a culture which postulates continuity of existence and experience as the essence of the universal law. And finally, it exhorts everyone to pursue unflinchingly the truth as he sees it. Ultimately, by means of the apperception of that truth, will come also the realisation of the other basic idea - that there is no distinction between you and me and Brahman.*

*Culture involves a vivid awareness of the meaning of life, a conspectus of the world's problems in the proper order and relative importance and the deliberate choice of things that are really worthwhile.*

Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar

**12**  
**SARASWATHI AWARD**  
**and the**  
**NAVARATRI FESTIVAL OF MUSIC**

In September 2011, in connection with Navaratri, the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation launched the first Annual Navaratri Festival of Music. The Festival was inaugurated by Dr. P. V. Krishnamurthy, Director General (Retd.), Doordarshan Kendra, with the conferment of the Saraswathi Award to Shri. M. Chandrasekharan, Violin Maestro, for his lifetime service in music.

“The Grove”, the building where the Foundation is situated, was once a lively centre of music. Great vidwans of Carnatic music have performed here for the benefit of Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar and his famous guests. Shri. Muthiah Bhagavathar taught Sir C.P.’s granddaughter; Smt. T. Mukta Ammal taught rare padams and javalis in the 1970s; and many great musicians have performed in the Foundation’s famous Kalyana Koodam.

The Saraswathi Award has been instituted in honour of **Smt. Saraswathi Pattabhi Raman** who, along with her husband Shri. C. R. Pattabhi Raman, donated the ancestral family property of “The Grove” situated on No.1, Eldams Road in Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018, to the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. An accomplished musician, Saraswathi Pattabhi Raman sang beautifully. Besides her musical voice, she played six instruments: veena, violin, mridangam, harmonium, flute and piano. She was trained in Western and Indian classical music. In 1977, she collected and published a book of traditional music for weddings, festivals and important events, titled “**Gowri Kalyana Vaibhogame**” (published by LIFCO), which she set to classical notes. It is a little-known fact that she did Social Studies at Cambridge. Yet she never stopped wearing her 9-yard “Madisaar” sari, her diamond ear and nose rings and her bullakku. When Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale asked her why she continued to wear a 9 yard sari after a Cambridge education, Smt. Saraswathi asked what was the connection between her education and her clothes!



Dr. Sumathi Krishnan has been convening this programme since 2011.

The awardees since 2011 include

Shri. M. Chandrasekharan	:	2011
Sangita Kalanidhi Dr. R. Vedavalli	:	2012
Kalaimamani Maharajapuram Shri. S. Srinivasan	:	2013
Kalaimamani Smt. Veena E. Gayathri	:	2014
Dr. Padma Subramaniam	:	2015
Smt. Chitra Visweswaran	:	2016

## **WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT**

### **WOMEN'S CRAFT BAZAAR**

The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, through its various constituents, has been actively involved in women's development. Since 1994, to celebrate International Women's Day, C.P. Art Centre has been organizing annual exhibitions of art, craft, textiles and food items made by women and women entrepreneurs. The Women's Craft Bazaar provides a platform for women to sell their products.

The Women's Bazaar is an annual feature in the itinerary of C.P. Art Centre's activities. From a mere trickle of half a dozen women entrepreneurs, today the number of women participating in the annual craft bazaar has increased exponentially.

The women belong to a variety of backgrounds: women from rural areas, from Chennai's hutments, middle class women and economically disadvantaged women. They are self-employed, employ other women, market goods made by women and so on. The potential of the entrepreneur varies from pottery to pickle making to weaving and garment manufacturing. This is a worthy cause which encourages women to help themselves. All expenses are covered by C.P. Art Centre.

Around 50 women's groups participate every year. All proceeds from the sales go to the women and/or the women's organizations, which include Women's India Association (WIA) (India's first women's organization), NAAM Foundation (a women's support group, which endeavours to improve the quality of life of the underprivileged single destitute women), Nandini Voice (an association of the visually challenged) and others.

Apart from the annual Bazaar, C.P. Art Centre supports women who wish to exhibit their art or craft.

### **WOMEN and the ENVIRONMENT**

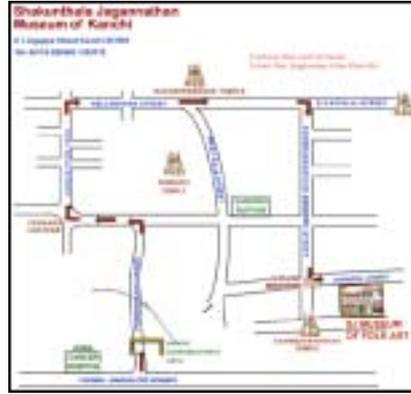
CPRAF has been training women of selected villages in waste management, composting, organic farming, health and nutrition in the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Puducherry. Saplings and seedlings are distributed to the participants and seed banks of local varieties were established by the women self help groups.

The participating women are provided with the saplings and seeds of guava, mango, pomegranate, papaya, lemon, sapota, radish, beans, ash gourd, drumstick, and ladies finger. They are also trained in horticulture.

### **WOMAN ACHIEVER AWARD**

To celebrate Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar's emphasis on women's education, the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation gives an annual award to a Woman Achiever. The awardees included Ms. Hemu Ramaiah, Dr. Kamala Selvaraj, Ms. M. Bargavi Devendra, and Ms. Priyamvatha, P.

## SHAKUNTHALA JAGANNATHAN MUSEUM OF KANCHI KANCHIPURAM



The **Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Kanchi** is unique, in that it has a collection of everyday items that belong exclusively to Kanchipuram, reflecting its ancient and exclusive culture. There are few, if any, museums in India that showcase local culture and artifacts. The Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Kanchi is one-of-a-kind, established in 2001.

The Museum was the brainchild of the late Mrs. Shakunthala Jagannathan, former Regional Director and Deputy Director General of Tourism, Government of India, Bombay (Mumbai). Brahma Mandiram, where the Museum is situated, was her ancestral home, which was gifted by her father C.R. Pattabhi Raman to the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. The house itself belongs to the Vijayanagara period, the 15th-16th centuries, about 500 years old, and has been preserved to showcase a lifestyle of an age gone by, an age of spiritualism and sages, where simplicity and beauty were the hallmark of existence. The house, with its wall paintings and beautiful pillars, belonged to a family of land owners of Damal village, maternal ancestors of C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar. C.P.'s grandfather did something revolutionary in the 19th century: he gave the house and his other properties to his only child, a daughter, in an age when girls did not inherit property, an age when they sat behind the purdah, in zenanas, which can be seen in this building. The daughter, Rangammal, became a powerful matriarch, and has been immortalized in Rangammal Vidyalaya, the primary school established by the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation in the adjoining part of the house. On Raja Veedhi Street, another of her homes now houses the SSKV Girls' school.

Shakunthala Jagannathan gifted her beautiful collection of antique paintings, brass utensils and lamps, musical instruments, textiles and dolls for the Museum, whose collections are based on her personal collections. Some she inherited. Some were acquired. They are a living testimony to Kanchi and its rich heritage.

ADMISSION is free for school children.

The basic architecture of the house has been retained, although the rooms have been modified to display the collections. The visitor enters past the tinnai, through the first kattu and into the kalyâna koodam, where the display begins.

Many of the collections belong to modern Andhra Pradesh, which was once a part of Madras Presidency, and the region was known as Chittoor – North Arcot district.

### **Kalyana koodam**



The Kalyana Koodam or marriage hall was so called because weddings took place here. In the South Indian Brahmin tradition, a bridegroom would come to the bride home, marry her according to Vedic rituals, and take her back to his home. Thus the Kalyâna Koodam was the venue of the wedding of the daughter of the family. At other times it functioned as a living room, where men would meet and transact business, especially the buying and selling of land and agricultural produce.

There is a collection of old **CHERIYAL PAINTINGS** in the Kalyana Koodam. The scroll painting tradition of Cheriyaal was, in the past, a form of audio-visual communication, till it was replaced by television. The members of the Nakashi caste of Warrangal, Telengana, would travel through the villages of Telengana and Andhra Pradesh, singing and narrating stories in the Telugu language, and using the vividly painted scroll as a visual aid. The scroll would contain 40 or 50 panels, each depicting a part of the story, which would be displayed as the story unfolded. These scrolls, in a stylized mode, made for a unique presentation of the epic stories of the Ramayana and Mahabharata, as well as tales of ordinary village life. As Kanchipuram is just south of the Andhra Pradesh border, it was once part of the composite Tamil-Telugu culture.

On the far wall is a cupboard containing **KOLU** dolls, a part of the Navaratri tradition, when dolls are displayed on specially made steps. There are deities, as well as scenes of daily life. Some of the dolls are locally-made out of clay, others are carved out of wood and painted in bright colours from Kondapalli, a village in Andhra Pradesh. The gilt-covered dolls are made of clay and were once fashioned in villages near Pondicherry. This art has now disappeared.

On the third wall is a collection of carved wooden **VAHANAS**, animal vehicles of the Gods, on which are placed figures of the appropriate deity. Murugan rides the Peacock, Shiva the Bull, Ganesha the Mouse, Saraswathi the Swan and Durga the lion.

In the centre of the Kalyâna Koodam are the inevitable of a South Indian home: the oonjal or swing, the “desk” where the family clerk would work, the comfortable lounge furniture and the palanquin, used to carry women of the house, the way Rangamma once travelled before the advent of the car.

On the fourth wall, to the right of the entrance doorway, there are paintings of the history of Kanchi. These alcoves were always beautifully painted as a backdrop for the musicians who sat in the central alcove and entertained the family.

### **Vadyashala- Musical Instruments**

The musical instruments on display were used in both folk and classical music. Each has a social or religious role, but some are no longer in use.



### **Pooja - Prayer Room**

The prayer room of the house, it contains the domestic temple and ritual metal items, used daily.



### **Nadumitham - Central Courtyard**

The open courtyard, an essential part of a typical South Indian house, provides ventilation and light for the whole house. Stone grinders and mills used to pound flour, grind rice, lentils, herbs and spice paste and an old chekku (oil mill) are stored here. The tulsi plant in the centre is both sacred and healthy.

There are also some stone icons which were a part of the family collection.



### **Chitrashala - Paintings**

The dining area was decorated with wall paintings, which provided a congenial atmosphere during a meal. Today it contains a selection of old Thanjavur paintings.



### **Sameyalpathiram - Utensils**

Originally the kitchen, this room now displays cooking vessels of brass, copper and bronze. The vessels were large, to feed a big joint family, and the cooks and helpers were always men.



### **First Floor**

#### **Zenana**

The first floor was the **Zenana**, to which the women of the house were restricted. An aberration in South India, it was the result of the influence of the Muslims of Arcot.



## Summer Room

This room was known as the Machi, where grains were stored or ladies spent hot summer afternoons. Copies of traditional jewellery worn by men and women in their daily lives and at weddings are on display here. The indoor games played by the women to while away their time during the hot summers are also on display.



## Vastralayam - Textiles

Kanchi was an ancient centre of cotton and silk weaving, a continuing tradition. The women designed the exquisite saris and their borders, which are displayed here.



## Second Floor

**The Rooftop Room** was used to capture the summer breeze, as well as provide a silent space for meditation. The image of Kamakshi, the goddess of Kanchipuram district, faces the gopuram (gateway) tower of the Temple of Ekambaranathar, the Lord of the Single Mango Tree.

**The Veda chanting during the Panguni Uttiram (March-April) festival has been held in this building for a few hundred years. Therefore, the Museum remains closed for 15 days during the Panguni Uttiram festival.**



**G. Balaji**  
Assistant Professor  
C.P.R. Institute  
of Indological Research.

In 1996, seeing a newspaper advertisement calling for a research assistant, G. Balaji, who had completed his M.A in Ancient History and Archaeology from the University of Madras, Chennai, applied. He joined the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation as a research assistant. It was his first job and he was 24 years old then. Ever since, his career and that of the CPR Institute of Indological Research have been inseparable.

Dr. Balaji's first project was the documentation of the art and craft traditions of the Kota, Kurumba, Irula and Paniya tribes of the Nilgiri hills. This research took two years of field study, and the findings were published as a book in the year 2006. During the course of this project, the institute ventured beyond research and documentation. "We discovered that the Kurumbas had a painting tradition while the Kotas had a pottery tradition, but did not make much money out of it. So we trained them to use modern art materials and create works of art that would have a market. This has become a source of livelihood for many of them today", shares Balaji.

Another of his accomplishments was the renovation and development of Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar's ancestral home at Kancheepuram into the Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Folk Art, which was thrown open to public view in 2001. Balaji curated the museum's intriguing collection of ancient heirlooms that this house had in its premises, objects the family had collected over generations, such as ancient musical instruments, Kolu dolls, antique folk games, Tanjore and Kalamkari paintings, cooking utensils large enough to feed 1000 people, saris, jewelry, etc. Being a student of ancient history and archaeology, Balaji has also been a part of the Foundation's conservation efforts of the Varahaeshwara Temple in Damal village, Sir C.P.'s ancestral village in Kancheepuram.

He also led the process of affiliation of the institute with the University of Madras, which was granted in 2005. With that, the status of the institute as a research center grew, the number of research projects ever increasing. In fact, Balaji registered himself for a Ph.D. here, on the 'Iconography of Narasimha Incarnation of Vishnu - An Ethno-Archaeological Study', for which he was awarded a doctorate in 2015.

Not just research, Balaji has been busy as a photographer and art curator, and has organized innumerable exhibitions at the Foundation. Alongside, he organizes courses in the Research Institute and also teaches culture at The Grove School run by the Foundation.

"I never had the urge to look for new jobs, because new projects keep coming up at the Foundation, as also frequent seminars and lectures. Here, so much independence is granted for operating projects, and there is so much scope for honing one's skills, getting enriched, and scaling new peaks", says Balaji.

## TEMPLE OF VARAHISHWARAR IN DAMAL, KANCHIPURAM



Damal Village is 10 kilometres due west of Kanchipuram and is a part of the ancient kingdom of Tondaimandalam. It is a small and insignificant village in a large state and a larger nation. But it has contributed greatly to the protection of Tamil Nadu from northern and foreign invaders, taking the brunt of many a battle. In the last few centuries, it has been the guardian angel of the ancient city of Kanchi.

The Shiva Linga of Damal represents Varahishwarar or Lord of Varaha and the presiding deity of the temple that dominates the landscape. The wonder of the temple is that on Rathasaptami day, in the Tamil month of Masi (February-March), the sun's rays fall directly on the Shiva Linga.

The Varahishwarar temple is the oldest known shrine of Damal. The 7th century Pallava elements in the *adishthana* portion of the *mahamandapa* and other damaged sculptures of Nandivarman III Pallava date it back to at least the Pallava period. However, it probably goes back to even pre-Pallava times, when the temple and the Shiva Linga would have been made out of perishable materials (like clay or wood). The temple bore the brunt of the many wars of the medieval and modern periods of South Indian history. For the temple is situated to the west of the village, at its entrance, an easy target for invaders and looters.

The temple also has some interesting sculptures of various forms of Shiva, as well as carvings of incidents of great Indian epic, the Ramayana, on the pillars in the inner and outer verandahs and has 16 sculptures of Bhairava with the dog. Earlier, there were some unique pieces of the Pallava, Chola and Vijayanagara periods. These are now either dilapidated or lost to vandals and neglect.

As a part of our efforts to clean and green the village, children from the Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children, another offspring of the Foundation, went to Damal in 1991 to clean the Varahishwarar Temple along with the students of the Damal Government School. Our chemist, the late N. Muthukrishnan, took up the chemical cleaning of the gopuram and the vimana. Then the villagers asked the Foundation to arrange for the renovation of the temple. We were not for – and continue to be

against – a “renovation”, as we felt that this temple, with its Pallava, Chola and Vijayanagara features, deserved to be retained in its original form.

The Foundation then advertised on behalf of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (H.R. & C.E.) Board of the Government of Tamil Nadu, which had taken over the temple, calling for tenders for the renovation. It was awarded to Shri Subbiah Sthapathi, descendent of a traditional family of temple builders and sculptors of Kanchi. The Foundation then applied for and obtained a grant for the repair of the roof of the temple from the Government of Tamilnadu. The main structure, including the *vimana*, *garba griha*, the open window of the *sanctum* and the front gate were renovated by the Foundation, which also chemically destroyed the plants and weeds growing on the roof, the *gopuram* and elsewhere.

The construction of three new structures – shrines for Devi, Ganesha and Kartikeya – was made possible by Their Holinesses, the Shankaracharyas of Kanchi.

During the years of our work in Damal, the Foundation photographed the temple and its carvings at various stages before and during the renovation. The late Shri. V.K. Rajamani, the well-known photographer, and Dr. P. Sudhakar, Joint Director of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, took detailed photographs of the sculptures and their restoration.



[www.heritageonline.in](http://www.heritageonline.in) is an online magazine on little-known natural and cultural heritage sites of India.



## TRIBAL WELFARE

### TRAINING FOR KOTA, KURUMBA AND IRULA TRIBES

Tribal life in the Nilgiris has been affected by external influences. Initially, it was the colonial western culture. Later in the post independence period, India's developmental programmes have excluded tribal arts and crafts. In order to preserve the art forms of the tribals, the Foundation felt that it is necessary to ensure the continuity of their art. Hence the foundation has been training Kota, Kurumba and Irula youth to revive their traditional arts of pottery making, vegetable dye painting and bamboo craft. The Foundation has trained several Kota women in pottery and Kurumba youth in painting. Their creative endeavour has been channelized during the training to bring out a viable product, to fetch a commercial return.

Tribal art forms, especially those of the Kotas and Kurumbas, are nearly vanishing among the youngsters of the two tribes. Traditionally, the Kotas were potters and the Kurumbas the tribal shamans. Today, they have joined the hordes of cheap landless labour.

In order to preserve the arts and crafts of the Kotas and Kurumbas, it was necessary to ensure the continuity of their pottery of the former and the painting of the latter. The aim of this project was to train Kota and Kurumba youth in their disappearing traditional craft / art respectively, and adapt them for the contemporary market.

The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation regularly organizes exhibitions and sales of their products in metropolitan cities like Chennai and Mumbai with due media coverage.

- ◆ Kurumbas have become artists with a wide market in India and abroad.
- ◆ Kota women have become terracotta craftswomen.
- ◆ In 2013, CPRAF's tribal welfare programme was expanded to include Irula women who were trained in banana fibre plaiting and bag making.

### KOTA POTTERY

The Kota are traditional potters of the Nilgiri District. A scheduled Tribe, they are facing the possible extinction of their traditional practices. In the post independence period, India's development programmes have excluded tribal arts and crafts. Today, the Kotas have joined the hordes of cheap



landless labour. In order to preserve the arts and crafts of the Kotas, it is necessary to ensure the continuity of their tradition of making pottery. Hence they were trained to make small art pottery and terracotta. The aim of this project has been to preserve their craft tradition for posterity and to make it financially remunerative.

A set of tools to do the finishing activities like cutting, smoothening, wedging, sharpening, brushing, cleaning, carving, piercing, polishing, beading, etc, were provided, along with pounding rods, buckets, drum, sieve, cloth material to sieve, pans, mud slingers, pokers, plastic sheets, wire, strings, etc.

## KURUMBA PAINTING

Kurumba drawing and painting is a unique tribal art form of the Nilgiris. This art is related to their rituals. This art could be seen only during festive occasions, although the Kurumbas once used to use these graphic motifs in their day-to-day living.

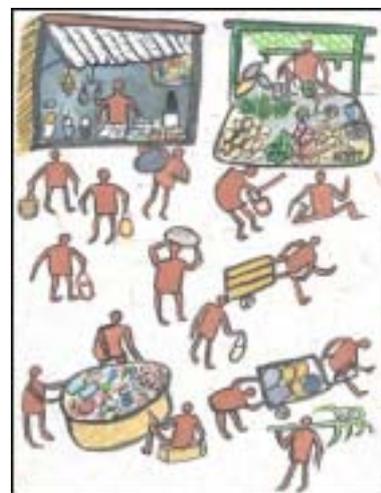
Eluthu paarai is an ancient 3000-year-old rock-painting site in the Kothagiri region of the Nilgiris. The Kurumbas – a tribe of hunters and medicine men – believe that the paintings are the work of their ancestors. Developments of the twentieth century have resulted in the Kurumbas losing their forests, thereby losing their traditional skills.

The paintings are primarily ritualistic, describing various facets of tribal life in the remote forests of the Nilgiris. They depict scenes like the Kurumba huts built of leaves and wood, women drying food grains, men collecting honey, weddings and rituals, earthen pens for hens and wild animals prowling the forest. The Kurumbas love the hills and have an exquisite style of painting. Originally, they drew with burnt twigs and coloured the paintings with a resin extracted from the bark of the Kino tree (*Pterocarpusmorsupium*), leaves and different types of soil and stones were used for different colours. Most of their paintings are done by this method, which though cumbersome and time consuming, is appealing. However, today they also use water colours.

## TIMELINE

### 2014-2015

- ◆ Advance Level Training (ALT) was carried out from March 31, 2014 to May 31, 2014 for 45 days at Vazhathottam village near Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. 20 **IRULA** Tribal women were selected and trained to extract fibre from the Banana plant and making items sponsored by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), Government of India.



**2013-2014**

- ◆ A 3 month (March 22, 2013 to June 21, 2013) Primary Level Training Programme (PLT) was conducted at Vazhathottam village near Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. 20 **IRULA** Tribal women were selected and trained to extract fibre from the Banana plant and making items. At the end of the PLT, 15 women were selected as eligible beneficiaries for further Advance Level Training (ALT).
- ◆ The valedictory function of the PLT on Banana Fibre Extraction and Handicraft at Vazhathottam village was held on July 4, 2013. Mrs. Archana Patnaik, IAS, Collector of the Nilgiris attended as the Chief Guest.
- ◆ The Advance Level Training (ALT) began on March 31, 2014 which went into the next financial year.
- ◆ Exhibitions of Kurumba paintings, Kota pottery and Toda embroidery shawls and Vaghiri bead-work were held at C.P. Art Centre, Chennai.
- ◆ During the ALT programme, the need for machinery, either manual or electrified, was required for extracting and preparing banana fibre.
- ◆ The valedictory function of ALT programme was held on May 30, 2014.
- ◆ Exhibitions of Kurumba paintings, Kota pottery and Toda embroidery shawls and Vaghiri bead-work held at C.P. Art Centre, Chennai.

**2012-2013**

- ◆ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), Government of India, sanctioned a Project on Skill Development Training Programme on Kurumba Tribal Painting for the Kurumba tribes, Skill Development Training on Kota Pottery for Kota tribes in Nilgiris District, in Tamilnadu.
- ◆ An exhibition was organized to exhibit the training they underwent and to market their products.
- ◆ Kota women potters were trained to make miniature artistic pots which were exhibited in the C.P. Art Centre, Chennai.

**2011-2012**

- ◆ Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd, TRIFED, Bangalore, granted funds for further training of more young people at Mettukkal Village, Kotagiri taluk. In this training 20 young members of the Kurumba tribe were selected for a 3 month Primary Level Training Programme.
- ◆ The Primary Level Training (PLT) programme was inaugurated on November 4, 2011 at Mettukal village, Kotagiri Taluk of the Nilgiris District and was completed within a stipulated period of 3 months on February 4, 2012. During this period of training, the trainees were taught the basic methods of painting and the art forms in paper boards.
- ◆ Exhibitions of Kurumba paintings, Kota pottery and Toda embroidery shawls and Vaghiri bead-work held at C.P. Art Centre, Chennai.

**2010-2011**

- ◆ Exhibitions of Kurumba paintings, Kota pottery and Toda shawls with a demonstration of Kurumba painting by Mr. Bala, a Kurumba artists from the Nilgiris.

**2009-2010**

- ◆ Exhibitions of Kurumba paintings, Kota pottery and Toda embroidery shawls and Vaghiri bead-work held at C.P. Art Centre, Chennai.

**2008-2009**

- ◆ Exhibitions of Kurumba paintings, Kota pottery, Toda embroidery shawls and Vaghiri bead-work held at C.P. Art Centre. This helped them to find additional income and ensure the preservation of their arts and crafts.

- ◆ C.P. Art Centre guided the Kurumba artists to provide a calendar for 2009 for C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai.

#### 2007-2008

- ◆ Many Kurumba tribesmen were brought to Chennai and taught screen printing and given a full set of materials including exposure box.
- ◆ Tribal Mela was organized at Ootacamund.
- ◆ The book on ‘Tribes of the Nilgiris – Arts and Crafts of the Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas and Paniyas’ was released at Ootacamund.
- ◆ Exhibitions of Kurumba paintings, Kota pottery and Toda embroidery shawls and Vaghiri bead-work were held at C.P. Art Centre, Chennai.

#### 2006-2007

- ◆ A refresher workshop for Kurumba artists was organized at the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Chennai.
- ◆ Exhibition of tribal products were held at C.P. Art Centre, Chennai.

#### 2005-2006

- ◆ Exhibition of Kota pottery were held at C.P. Art Centre, Chennai.

#### 2004-2005

- ◆ 30 Kota women were trained in art pottery.

#### 2003-2004

- ◆ Exhibitions of Kurumba paintings and Kota pottery were held at C.P. Art Centre, Chennai.
- ◆ Exhibition of Kota terracottas & Kurumba pottery at Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai in June 2002.
- ◆ Training of Kota women in their traditional pottery under NORAD Swawalamban Scheme.
- ◆ Training of Kurumbas in their traditional pottery under NORAD Swawalamban Scheme.

#### 2001-2002

- ◆ Exhibition of Kota terracottas & Kurumba pottery at C.P. Art Centre, Chennai in March 2002.

#### 2000-2001

- ◆ 20 Kurumbas were trained in painting on paper.
- ◆ 20 Kota women were trained in art pottery.

#### 1999 – 2000

- ◆ 1 Kurumba was trained in painting on paper.
- ◆ 2 Kota women were trained in art pottery.

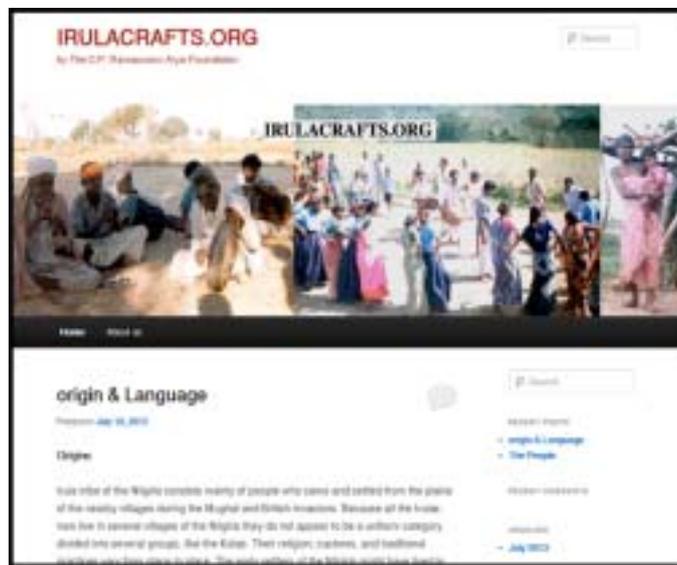
Website: <http://www.kurumba.in/>



Website: <https://kotacrafts.org/>



Website: <https://irulacrafts.org/>





**Y. Venkatesh**  
Artist and Designer

53-year-old Venkatesh joined C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) in 1989 as a 26-year-old. He had earlier completed B.Sc. Visual Communication from the Government College of Arts and crafts. Ever since he joined the Foundation, he has been given diverse creative avenues to express his skill as an artist and designer - to communicate the content and concepts espoused by the various projects undertaken by CPREEC. “The scientists of CPREEC spell out the concept. My job is to ensure that it gets communicated visually, make an impact and gets understood by the layman”, he says. **“No organization respects artists like the Foundation. We are involved in all the activities at every stage.”**

Thus Venkatesh creates illustrations for numerous papers and publications brought out by CPREEC, besides posters and brochures for exhibitions, which make for a massive body of work, as CPREEC has so far conducted over 80 exhibitions. He also makes three dimensional models in diverse materials. He has travelled across the country to all the places where CPREEC stages these exhibitions, as he is the one who can put up and dismantle the exhibits, be it elaborates ones that model a sustainable city and may include elevated tracks and natural energy harvesting systems, or the traditional eco-reverential concept of vriksha devatas. His illustrations and cartoons have managed to draw the attention of visitors; For instance, when CPREEC had put together an exhibition demonstrating the principles and practices of recycling, his creativity had brought out cars with facial expressions calling out for being serviced, fish that converse, trees that smile, etc.

Perhaps one of his most crucial interfaces has been with the Kurumba tribes. When the Foundation decided to work with the Kurumbas to better their lives by teaching them how to channel their art traditions into economically productive pursuits that meet the needs of today’s consumers, Venkatesh stayed for a fortnight at the Kurumba settlement, in one of the Kurumba huts at the village of Vellarikombu that has only 20 huts. A remote settlement Vellarikombu can be accessed only on foot by trekking some 10 km from the nearest bus stand. Venkatesh stayed there for days together in a bid to gain their confidence. He studied their traditional way of painting and worked out how it could be brought out on paper or on gift objects, clothes, glass, canvass, etc. “They are shy people and they are not used to handling modern art material. So for the first few days, I never gave any instruction. I just let them play with pen and paper”, he shares.

And did he learn something from them too? “Plenty. I learnt to tap the sap of trees to make binding fluids; I learn how to make various colours from natural materials – yellow from the Vengai milk that is only a few days old; brown from Vengai milk which is older; soot black from the powdered bark of trees; green from leaves, etc”, he says happily. He also helped them design and make bookmarks from coffee roots, painted over.

Such Kurumba art objects have been exhibited in Delhi and other parts of the country. Many NGOs procure the finished art work from the Kurumbas and sell it, which has become a source of livelihood for the Kurumbas.

## INTER-SCHOOL SANSKRIT DRAMA COMPETITION

In October 1993, the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation conducted the first Inter-School Sanskrit Drama competition. Sixty five students from seven schools participated and spoke in Sanskrit of contemporary problems through ancient characters. The subjects included the greatness of our motherland, truthful Jabala and the destruction of pride. Scenes from Mahabharatha were also enacted. Three eminent Sanskrit scholars - Shri Srivatsanganchariar, Principal of the Sanskrit College, Shri P.Vaidyanatha Sastrigal, and Dr.Vasan Ramanan, Professor, Vivekananda College were the judges.

Although the number of schools that participated was limited, the quality and the excellence of both the level of Sanskrit and the children's acting ability has prompted us to organise the inter-school Sanskrit drama competition as an annual feature on the birth anniversary of Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar.

Students from various famous schools of Chennai take part in the Sanskrit Drama and prizes will be distributed for the best play, best actor, best pronunciation of Sanskrit, etc.

Year	Theme	The Prize Winners for the Best Play
2015	Kalidasa	The Grove School, Chennai
2014	Dashavataram	Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, T. Nagar, Chennai
2013	Great Indians	Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, T. Nagar, Chennai
2012	Valmiki Ramayana	The Grove School, Chennai
2011	Down with Corruption	Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, T. Nagar, Chennai
2010	Any theme	Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, T. Nagar, Chennai
2009	Any theme	Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, K.K. Nagar, Chennai
2008	Unity in Diversity	Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, Nungambakkam, Chennai
2007	Celebrating Diversity	Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, T. Nagar, Chennai
2006	Education – The Right of every Child	Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, T. Nagar, Chennai



## REVIVAL OF FOLK ART FORMS IN SCHOOLS (1993 to 2005)



Folk arts are the common people's creative response to situations, documentation of their hopes, fears and desires their history preserved in oral terms. Some are as old as the civilization itself, some belong to the recent past, some are even contemporary, and an instantaneous creation to a developing concern. A wind instrument, the common flute, is supposed to be the first Indian instrument designed and owned by nature. The wind chatting through, naturally formed holes in bamboo tree produces a fine whistle tune amidst the silent forests which inspired them to dance. Folk songs were practiced when people lived in tune with nature.

Tribals also invented musical instruments and rejoiced in singing and dancing all the way. Farmers of both sexes, while engaged in agricultural activities, would practice a variety of folk songs like watering songs, plough songs, transplanting songs, village guardian deity's songs, harvesting songs, etc. Urbanization has also severely affected the folk singers migrate to nearby urban towns for livelihood making the practice of folk arts in villages coming to an end.

It is imperative that Tamilnadu not only retains but also revitalizes the ethos of folk culture, a priceless heritage containing an enormous wealth of forms and traditions. Hence, the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation took up a project on "Revival of Folk Art Forms in Schools", sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The project seeks to expose children to the finer side of education and development through the revival of folk culture, particularly the performing and plastic arts. The project aimed to bring together folk artists and teachers so that they can pool their skills to convey important values, such as the oneness of people, the wonders of nature and the urgent problems of survival, conservation of natural resources, the importance of good health, hygiene, population control and national integration, through the arts.

Each workshop would have approximately 100 school teachers participated from taluk headquarters of each district. During the time, the participating teachers were introduced to a selection of arts and crafts like folk music, dances, folk arts, folk crafts and puppetry (half a day for each item) by artist-instructors of different art forms. While teaching each and every specific art form in sessions, inputs were also designed to impart environmental education and utilize maximum possible eco-friendly products. They were given all the necessary resource materials. The teachers in turn are expected to teach the same to their students.

For example, in the folk art session, the conceptualization of an eco-hormonal living in the sculptures of the *gopurams* and *vimanas* in temples, the eco-conscious details incorporated in the design of the temple towers to provide rests for cuckoos, parrots and doves during rain and the principle of free movement of air and space involved in deciding the entrance to the temple were explained.

Under folk crafts, general toys and decorative items made of simple eco-friendly materials such as leaves, sticks, vegetables, wood, clay, etc., were taught to the teachers. They were simple in construction and of low cost for ease of replacement and disposal.

Puppetry is a visual art, which provides entertainment and can be used to also convey meaningful messages. Over the years, puppetry has developed into a powerful medium of communication. Puppetry offers a real challenge to the imagination and to the creative ability of the individual. Of all art mediums, it is probably the least restricted in its form, design, colour and movement and the least expensive of all animated visual art forms. The unique quality of puppet theatre is that the puppets are designed and created by the artist as they originate in his imagination. This medium gives a tremendous opportunity for originality not only in presentation but also in writing scripts, preparation of puppets, dialogue, music, manipulation and the final production. There is endless interest and pleasure in creating a puppet, besides using it as a visual aid. The creation and operation of puppet figures involves many craft activities including drawing, painting and cutting, carpentry, wood carving, props preparation, plaster cast making, costume making, clay modeling and stage crafts.

Puppets were made using natural inexpensive materials such as chart paper, old greeting cards, used paper bags, brightly coloured rags, oil paper, old newspaper, broomsticks, small lemon size potatoes and brinjals, poster colours, paint brushes, scissors, glue or fevicol, cellotape and rubberbands. After making the puppets the teachers were divided into groups and each group prepared a script with dialogue, songs and music for the enactment of short skits using the puppets. Some of the themes of the presentations were “Sanitation”, “The Plight of Cauvery”, “Pollution”, “The Geological Classification of Tamil Soils”, *Neidal, Marutham, Palai, Kurinchi and Mullai*”, etc.

While it was not intended and it was never insisted that the teachers should enact presentations at the end of the workshop on environmental themes only, it was curious to note that the teacher participants had on their own chosen to put forth some of their locale specific environmental issues. It was evident that the project discretely created an environmental awareness at the grass root level also.

Mobile exhibitions were organized to acquaint the students and teachers with folk culture, arts, crafts, rituals through miniature models and panels. Exhibits were prepared on folk crafts and puppetry and were displayed at the venue itself as follows:

#### Puppetry

- ◆ Models for conveying message – Bio-diversity, protection of wildlife, protection of forests, pollution, etc.
- ◆ Story Telling : - dog and monkey glove puppets.
- ◆ Poetry : - Bird and butterfly moving cut-outs
- ◆ Models for science concepts
  - Energy conservation :- Pressure cooker, mixie, domestic gas stove.
  - Species differentiation : - Frog and toad, hare and rabbit.
  - Subject themes : - Face masks depicting chemistry, biology and physics.

The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation took up the project on Revival of Folk Art Forms in Schools in various districts of Tamilnadu in the years 1992-93, 1995-96, 1998-99, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2009-10, sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, a joint venture of the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, took the opportunity to introduce environmental education into the curriculum of the project. Right through, the innovative idea of inculcating environmental education in the curriculum of the project through folk media stimulated the teacher participants.

During the 10 years, the project was implemented through regular workshops and refresher workshops for teachers in the following 15 districts of Tamilnadu viz., Chennai, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Kanchipuram, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Nilgiris, Poonamallee (Chennai) district, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Union Territories, Karaikkal and Pudhucherry.

The success of the project was assessed through the students' melas and competitions are enormous and suggest taking it up every year in districts not covered earlier. The programme awakens the teachers' creative potential as any art form has the power to arouse the interest of the viewer. Apart from the teachers, the students, when given an opportunity to acquaint themselves with their cultural heritage, will have an outlet for their creativity, as youth is a vast storehouse of untapped potential. Thus it will be possible to evaluate the efficacy of the project, the delivery systems and the messages conveyed.

We found that there were no attractive books, exposing folk arts and crafts to students. Environmental awareness songs, folk arts and crafts involving eco friendly products introduced to students would definitely be useful and to start up environmental activities, protect natural depletions and conservation at the school level itself.

Further, the follow-up programmes for students envisaged that schools would organize a therukoothu or bommalaatam, instead of an alien play; kalamkari paintings or wall paintings instead of English landscapes on a small sheet of paper and verbally based songs and dramas on environment and nature, protecting forests and wildlife, flora and fauna would go a long way in creating an vivid environmental awareness.

Thus folk artists were brought together; art/craft and music/dance/drama teachers at schools were exposed to traditional folk culture to encourage them latter to bring folk art forms into their curricula. It is imperative that it is our duty to periodically revive and preserve the original folk arts forms.

**STATEMENT SHOWING DETAILS ABOUT BOTH REGULAR  
WORKSHOPS AND REFRESHER WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED IN  
VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF TAMILNADU DURING THE PROJECT PERIOD**

PROJECT YEAR	DISTRICTS COVERED	NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF EDUCATION BLOCKS
1992-93	CHENNAI	4	91	36	6
	KANCHIPURAM	4	82	56	4
1995-96	CHENNAI	6	114	71	4
	KANCHIPURAM	4	86	41	6
1998-99	CHENNAI NORTH	3	97	34	4
	POONAMALLEE	1	81	21	4
	KANCHIPURAM	2	82	56	4
	THIRUVALLUR	2	50	23	4
	NILGIRIS	4	82	39	4
2000-01	THANJAVUR	6	213	105	6
	CUDDALORE	6	112	60	6
2001-02	KANCHIPURAM	6	207	92	4
	THANJAVUR	6	211	110	8
2002-03	THIRUVARUR	6	196	57	8
	KANCHIPURAM	6	162	55	6
2003-04	VILLUPURAM,	6	186	114	6
	TIRUVANAMALAI	6	182	108	6
	PONDICHERRY U.T.	6	221	118	6
2004-06	MADURAI	3	90	64	6
	THANJAVUR	3	92	50	6
	KARAIKKAL, U.T.	3	92	55	4
	KANCHIPURAM	3	91	73	4
	POONAMALLEE	3	90	77	6
	THIRUVALLUR	3	90	82	8
2007-08	THANJAVUR	3	94	82	6
	DENDIGUL	3	103	90	6
	NAGAPATTINAM	3	98	90	6
	THIRUVARUR	3	95	91	4
	VILLUPURAM	3	92	84	6
	CUDDALORE	3	96	77	6
2009-10	MADURAI	4	83	45	6
	NAGAPATTINAM	3	84	50	6
	THIRUVARUR	4	90	48	6
	THANJAVUR	4	87	45	6
	KARAIKKAL	8	210	120	6
	PONDICHERRY U.T.	7	200	120	4
	15 DISTRICTS-TOTAL	150	4332	2539	198



**N. Srinivasan**  
Public Relations Officer

He is a one-man enquiry office for all that is happening at the Foundation and its allied organizations, bringing into public gaze the plethora of activities and developments that take place. Someone who passed up a corporate PR Officer's at one of the major business houses in the country in favour of staying on here, he has grown along with the organization. Having completed 25 years of service here, he has been seeing and communicating to the world the amazing growth of the Foundation. "So much is happening here all the time, it is a great organization to be a part of. I am happy to have been a small factor in its growth", says 54-year-old Srinivasan.

He joined CPR Environmental Education Centre in 1990 as a stenographer-cum-administrative executive, a year after it was established, and is one of the senior-most persons to join the Foundation. Given complete independence in operations, 'Vasan' as he is known to all, has had a rich and varied exposure and experience here.

Besides organizing press conferences and handling communications with the media, he has been involved in numerous projects. For instance, for a project sanctioned by the Ministry of Human Resource Development that involved revival of folk art forms, over a span of 10 years, Vasan visited 15 districts, trained 4332 teachers from over 198 educational blocks in the region, organized workshops on folk arts for them. For this, he had travelled to cities, towns and villages he had never been to, scouted for local folk artists, and organized workshops by them for the school teachers in the area, bringing in concepts on the environment into the sessions. He also helped develop a booklet on Tamilnadu's *Naattupura Kalaigal* (Tamilnadu's Folk Arts) for teachers, which is a much valued resource material today.

It was Vasan who brought the attention of Dr. Krishna to his native village Nemmeli's languishing sacred grove, and eventually the Foundation took up the restoration of the huge grove spread over 25 acres around Nemmeli's Mariamman Temple. "Now the villagers tell me that the grove's restoration has improved the ground water resources in the village, thanks to the numerous rainwater harvesting tanks established in the grove by the Foundation".

Vasan has also had an important role to play in the establishment of the Foundation's Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Memorial Primary & Nursery School at Kumbakonam, and handled the tedious and challenging task of pursuing its reversal with local municipal council authorities, handling its funding and ensuring its registration with the education department officials.

At the Foundation's Chennai campus, he also looks after a convention center used for organising meetings, concerts or other events.

Music is another of his passions, and Vasan has even authored an article on 'Environment and Music'. And of course, no programme organized in the campus is complete without Vasan singing the invocation in his mellifluous voice. He is called the "Aasthaana Vidwan".

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

### TIBETAN MEDICAL CENTRE

It is popularly believed that the Tibetan Medical System is essentially a teaching of the Buddha himself as a way to liberate human beings from the vicious cycle of suffering. Later, with rich contributions from the medical traditions of neighbouring countries like India and China, and developed with the genius of its own people, Tibetan Medicine has emerged as one of the most sought after Alternative Medical Systems. The medicines used are natural herbs that treat the root of the diseases without any unwelcome side effects. In addition to many common ailments, Tibetan medicine is best sought for its treatment of chronic diseases like asthma, rheumatic-arthritis, diabetes, hypertension, cardio-vascular diseases, nervous diseases, gynaecological problems, chronic cold and allergic problems, gastro-intestinal problems, various forms of cancer, psychosomatic disorders, etc.

Sensing the demand and popularity of Tibetan Medicine and being aware of its effectiveness, the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation established and sponsored the Tibetan Medical Centre in Chennai, at the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. The Centre was inaugurated in August 2010 at the Foundation premises by Dr. Dorjee Raptan, Chief Medical Officer of Men-tsee-Khang, Bangalore.

The Tibetan Medical Centre started functioning permanently at the Foundation from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., with a weekly holiday on Monday.

The people of Chennai started treating this as a healing centre for many major chronic diseases like asthma, arthritis, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, cardio-vascular diseases, nervous diseases, gynaecological problems, chronic cold and allergic problems, gastro-intestinal problems, various forms of cancer, and psychosomatic disorders.



Dr. Dorjee Raptan Neshar, the Senior Doctor and Cancer Specialist in Bangalore, visited once a month for serious cases, especially of cancer, which has shown excellent response to Tibetan medicine.

### NUTRITION

Although the Government of Tamilnadu gives a free nutritious midday meal to all children, it was felt that many came hungry in the mornings. It was therefore decided to give them a morning drink, P.S. High School for boys in Mylapore, Chennai, was chosen.

2013-14 - The project was sponsored by Mr. Bala Venkataraman of Wooster, Ohio, USA, who was an alumnus of the school.

2014-15, the project was continued by the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation itself.

2015-16, Mr. Rajesh Mittal has come forward to provide the nutritious drink to the students of Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls Higher Secondary School, Chennai.

## TSUNAMI RELIEF & REHABILITATION

### WOOSTER NAGAR, KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

On December 26, 2004, a severe earthquake on the Indonesian coast in the Indian Ocean precipitated a series of massive waves known as tsunamis that devastated South Asia. The entire coastline of Tamilnadu was hit, particularly fishing villages which lost their homes, fishing boats, nets, household and personal items. Every village had several deaths, most of whom were children.

**The C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, along with the various institutions set up by it including C.P.R Environmental Education Centre, helped rehabilitate 22 villages from the Foundation's own funds and donations in kind given by several trusts and individuals. Relief materials including food, water, medicines and clothes were distributed.**



Nobel Salai at Wooster Nagar

In Pudupattinam village, Kanchipuram District, the families of Angalaamman Kovil Street were badly affected. As a result, 26 families decided to move elsewhere. First it was the pace of relief they received; next it was the question of shelter. The villagers came together to secure a separate plot of land removed from their present location and 500 meters beyond the High tide line as required by the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ). When CPRAF contacted the then special tsunami Commissioner and Collector of Kanchipuram to suggest a village which was in compliance with the CRZ, this small community of 26 families was suggested. There after CPRAF contacted Wooster community, Ohio, through Mr. Bala Venkataraman, and Ms. Bina Venkataraman of Wooster was appointed as the co-coordinator of the project. **A sum of about 40 lakhs was sent to CPRAF by Wayne County Community Foundation, Wooster. CPRAF decided to entrust the work to CPREEC**, in order to form an environmentally sustainable village. The following works were taken up:

- ◆ Construction of 26 houses with attached toilet and bath.
- ◆ Individual rainwater harvesting units for each house.
- ◆ Individual septic tank for each house.
- ◆ Individual staircases for each house.
- ◆ A water tank and pump for water supply,
- ◆ Community vermicomposting pit.
- ◆ Community grey water recycling unit.

◆ Community centre with a library and children's park.

The keys to the houses were handed over to the families by US Consul General David T. Hopper on January 03, 2007.

The Foundation was approached by Women's India Association (WIA), Chennai, for constructing a Creche and Balwadi for the children of the Tsunami affected families and the work was completed.

300 books were purchased for the Library at the Community Centre which is used by the children and the public.

**CHILDREN'S PARK  
ANUMANTHAIKUPPAM, VILLUPURAM DISTRICT, TAMILNADU**



**Tsunami Park at Anumanthaikuppam village**

As a part of the effort to help the rehabilitation of tsunami affected areas, CPREEC also built a playground for children at Anumanthaikuppam village, Villupuram district. The playground includes an amphitheatre. The park was inaugurated on December 26, 2006 – the second anniversary of the tsunami – by Ms. M. Bargavi Devendra, Hon. Secretary.

## **ENVIRONMENT**



## C.P.R. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

*cpreec@gmail.com*

In 1980-1981, the Foundation had started nature education programmes for young children. Since the school curriculum was bereft of anything outside the textbooks, children were exposed to the garden, identified trees and birds and generally had a jolly good time. In 1983, I became Chairperson of the Tamilnadu Branch of World Wildlife Fund India and both the Foundation and WWF worked together to spread the message of conservation of nature and wildlife.



In 1988, Mr. T.N. Seshan, the then Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, heard of our work and came down to Chennai. He wanted to set up an Environmental Education Centre as a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in South India. The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation was not keen to receive funds from the Government. My friend Shamim Padamsee and I then decided to set up C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre as a separate registered society, established jointly by the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and the Ministry of Environment and Forests. It was very fortunate that, at the time of registration, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan had retired and was relocating to Madras. Therefore, it was most appropriate to request him to become the Chairman of the new organization, which had two representatives of the Ministry and two representatives of the Foundation; Dr. M.S. Swaminathan as Chairman; Shamim and I as members, besides other eminent scientists. In time these would include Mr. D.K. Oza, Dr. Sultan Ismail and Mr. N.R. Krishnan. Later, the Secretary, Department of Environment and Forests; and Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Tamilnadu, were also invited to be on the Board of Governors.

C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) was registered on August 10, 1989 as a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF), Government of India, established jointly by the Ministry and the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation.

After a few years of environmental education, I felt that education was useless unless it led to action. We then decided to take up the restoration of sacred groves. In Tamilnadu, every village has a sacred grove which belongs to the local deity, generally the Mother Goddess. It is maintained by the local people. Over the years, many had fallen on bad days, with road building, agricultural encroachments and so on. We took this as way to involve local people, women, teachers and children in environmental restoration works.

As CPREEC grew, space became a problem. In 2002, the Foundation decided to pull down C.P. Art Centre's old sheds and build three new galleries on the ground floor, besides providing space for the printing press. We built a floor above, which was given on long lease at a nominal cost to CPREEC. In 2008, a second floor came above up the first, which was leased out again at a nominal cost to CPREEC as a training centre. Now CPREEC could grow on its own.



CPREEC has been a pioneer in environmental education in South India and has conducted a variety of programmes to spread awareness and interest among the masses.

### **Mission Statement**

C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) strives to increase awareness and knowledge of key target groups (school children, local communities, woman etc.) about the various aspects of environment.

### **CPREEC fulfils this mission by**

- ◆ promoting environmental awareness among schools, grass-root level organization and the general public.
- ◆ strengthening capacities of educators and practioners (teachers, local NGOs) in the field on environmental education by providing technical support and educational resources.
- ◆ understanding the major environmental issues facing India today and developing innovative solutions.
- ◆ promoting conservation of nature and its resources by emphasizing on the conservation of ecological traditions of India.

### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

- ◆ **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan**, Chairman
- ◆ **Ms. M. Bargavi Devendra**, Hon. Secretary
- ◆ **Dr. Nanditha Krishna**, Hon. Director
- ◆ **Two Representatives** of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation
- ◆ **Secretary**, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India
- ◆ **Financial Advisor**, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India
- ◆ **Secretary**, Dept. of Environment & Forests, Govt. of Tamilnadu
- ◆ **Secretary**, Dept. of Education, Govt. of Tamilnadu
- ◆ **Shri. D.K. Oza**, I.A.S., (retd.), former Vice Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural University
- ◆ **Shri. N.R. Krishnan**, I.A.S. (retd.), former Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India
- ◆ **Dr. Sultan Ismail**, Eco Science Research Foundation

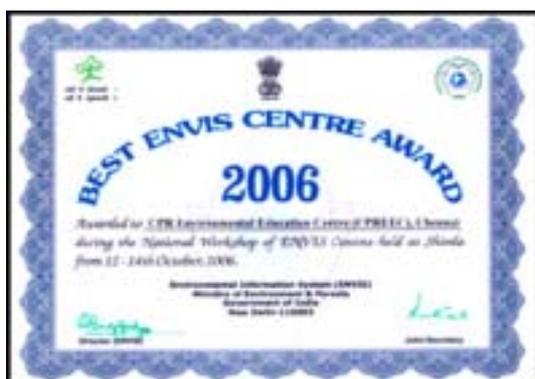
## AWARDS

### INDIRA GANDHI PARYAVARAN PURASKAR



CPREEC was awarded the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Purasakar for the year 1996 for its significant contribution in the field of environment education and nature conservation. The award was presented by the Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of India, at a function at New Delhi on September 19, 2000.

### BEST ENVIS CENTRE AWARD 2006



CPREEC was awarded the **Best ENVIS Centre Award 2006** at the National Workshop of ENVIS Centres – 2006, held at Shimla from October 12-14, 2006. The award instituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, carries a silver trophy of the ENVIS logo, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 50,000/-. Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Director, CPREEC received the award from Shri. Ashok Thakur, I.F.S., Principal Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh.

### Dr. M.S. SWAMINTHAN AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CPREEC was awarded the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environmental Protection – 2004. The award, instituted in 1995, is given by the Earth Care Group in association with the Rotary Club of Madras East. Dr. Swaminathan presented the award at a function held in Chennai on August 4, 2004.



## **SIR J.C. BOSE MEMORIAL AWARD – 2015**

CPREEC received the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sir J.C. Bose Memorial Award – 2015 from Hon. Minister Dr. Rabiranjana Chattopadhyay, Minister for Science and Technology, Government of West Bengal for its contribution in the field of promoting Environmental Awareness & Education to the Students and the Rural Population. The award was instituted by the Indian Science Monitor in 2016 at Kolkata.



## **Facilities**

**CPREEC's ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY is accredited to National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).** It is well-equipped with sophisticated instruments such as the Gas Chromatograph, Atomic Absorption Spectrometer, U.V. Visible Spectrophotometer, High Volume Air Sampler, Stack Monitoring Kit, etc. About 35 water / waste water parameters, 20 soil parameters and four air parameters can be analysed.

**The LIBRARY** has over 6,500 books on environment, ecology and related subjects, including several environmental magazines and journals and large collection of environmental videos, CDs and films are available for the general public. **Press-clipping service** is being provided by our documentation centre, on environmental other related matters (including ecological heritage) and document clippings are also provided that appear in the national media.

The ENVIS Centre at CPREEC also maintains a variety books, journals, reports, paper clippings etc on topics under the broad area of “ecological heritage”.



## Publications Division



The publication division of CPREEC consists of DTP services, editing and printing. We print all our resource materials, books and other display aids in-house

- ◆ on paper made from bagasse, an agro waste
- ◆ in 11 languages - Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, Oriya, Marathi, Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati and English

The publications division also undertakes special printing requests at a nominal rate, especially for educational and charitable organizations.

**The Computer Division** has 35 networked terminals to compile various data pertaining to environmental education, ecological heritage, biodiversity and conservation traditions and practices.

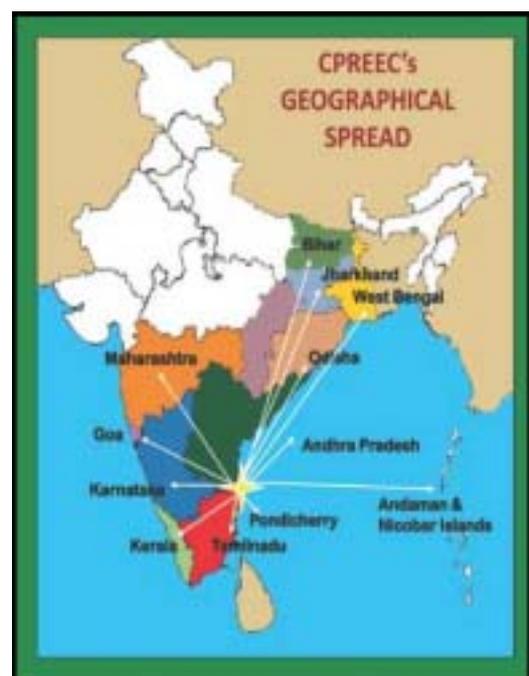
## NGO Network

CPREEC has an extensive network of about 600 NGOs. All educational programmes are carried out in partnership with selected NGOs, Universities, Colleges and Schools.

## Geographical Spread

CPREEC's activities extend to

- ◆ Kerala
- ◆ Andhra Pradesh
- ◆ Maharashtra
- ◆ Bihar
- ◆ Odisha
- ◆ Goa
- ◆ Puducherry
- ◆ Jharkhand
- ◆ Tamil Nadu
- ◆ Karnataka
- ◆ Telangana
- ◆ West Bengal
- ◆ Andaman & Nicobar Islands



## **Environmental Education - Education for Sustainable Development**

CPREEC conducts training programmes for

- ◆ Teachers
- ◆ Women
- ◆ NGOs and Rural Workers

### **Since 1989, We Have Trained / Reached Out To**

- ◆ **Over 52,000 teachers**
- ◆ **About 2,00,000 students**
- ◆ **Over 10,700 schools**
- ◆ **Nearly 31,750 NGOs, villagers & others**
- ◆ **Over 12,500 Advocates, academicians, lawyers and law students**
- ◆ **Over 4,000 industries workers**
- ◆ **Over 10,30,000 people with the video van**
- ◆ **Over 20,800 women in rural areas**

### **CPREEC Award for Environmental Education**

Using the cash award Rupees One Lakh given by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as corpus, the Board of Governors of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre decided to institute an annual **C. P. R. Environmental Education Centre Award for Environmental Education**. The annual award is given to a teacher, preferably from a rural area, who has contributed to the field of environmental education. The award consists of a silver plaque, a citation, as well as a cash prize.

### **Awardees**

2014	Shri. G. Prabhakar	2007	Shri.Swaraj Kumar Kanhar
2013	Shri. S. Ganapathy	2006	Shri.T.R.Rajan
2011	Shri.B.V.Gundappa	2005	Shri. Ramakrishnappa
2010	Shri. Bency Joy	2004	Shri.V.Ramalingam
2009	Shri. Rajendra Pandurang Kerkar	2003	Shri.J.Lakshminarayanan
2008	Smt. Shoba	2002	Shri.M.Ramadoss
		2001	Shri.R.Sankara Narayanan

### **Green Schools of India (GSI)**

CPREEC has devised an innovative and easy way to implement Education for Sustainable Development system called the 'Green Schools of India'. GSI encourages students to become environmentally pro-active.

The broad aims of the GSI are:

- ◆ Environmental education through action.
- ◆ Improving environmental standards of schools.
- ◆ Reduction in the use and wastage of resources.
- ◆ Knowledge enrichment through practical experience.
- ◆ Development of personal and social responsibilities for the school and its environment

Green Schools of India has been implemented in select schools in Chennai, Ooty, Puducherry, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mysore. GSI is an Education for Sustainable Development programme, integrated activities of the National Green Corps (NGC) and eco clubs.

An annual **GREEN SCHOOL AWARD** is presented in Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Nilgiri.

**www.cpreec.org**– All CPREEC’s environmental education publications are available for free download.



### Environmental Law Education

Training programmes, seminars and workshops are organised for the judiciary, advocates, academicians, law students and NGOs. Consultancy services are provided and seminars organised all over India on environmental law and policy.

CPREEC has also launched a web portal on environmental laws of India to disseminate information further. ([www.environmentallawsofindia.com](http://www.environmentallawsofindia.com))



CPREEC's ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM has led to

1. Ban on the exhibition and training of bulls as per the Gazette Notification No.384], New Delhi, Monday, July 11, 2011 [F. NO.27-1/2011-AWD].
2. Declaration of Elephant as National Heritage Animal of India as per Gazette Notification dated 21.10.2010.
3. Ban on Dolphinarium as per Circular F. No.20-1/2010- CZA(M)/2840 dated 17.05.2013.
4. Policy on Prohibition of "finning" of Shark fins in the sea

#### **CPREEC has developed a**

- ◆ National Policy for the Conservation of Sacred Groves and Ecological Heritage Sites (of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India), now included in the National Bio diversity Act, 2002.
- ◆ Green Charter for political parties
- ◆ Draft Rules for the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001
- ◆ Inputs for the Draft Rules to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.



#### **Exhibitions**

- ◆ CPREEC designs three new exhibitions every year and has a bank of mobile exhibitions that travel all over India.
- ◆ Design and development of exhibits & 3-D Models for Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) Mobile Van.
- ◆ Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) mobile Van,
- ◆ Lawrence School, Lovedale, Ootacamund,
- ◆ Andhra Pradesh Forest Department
- ◆ MoEF - for COP 10 and COP 11

#### **Publications**

- ◆ Activity and information books and pamphlets for children
- ◆ Environmental training guides and kits for teachers
- ◆ Researched Publications
- ◆ Colourful and informative posters
- ◆ ECONNEWS - A quarterly magazine
- ◆ Indian Journal of Environmental Education

Now 53 years old, Selvapandian, who had completed B.Sc. Zoology and B.Lis., joined CPREEC in 1991 in the role of an exhibition guide. Soon after, he was deputed to carry out CPREEC's sacred grove projects that involve planned reforestation. 53 sacred groves have so far been restored in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and Selvapandian has been involved in restoring every single one of them, while the environmental education officers do the research needed for this.



**R. Selvapandian**  
Environmental Education Officer

“Nature takes its own course of regenerating. We plant saplings of 80 to 90 indigenous species, appoint a local watchman to take care of the grove and water the plants, all of which is funded by CPREEC”, he says. CPREEC makes an agreement with the village by which CPREEC takes care of the maintenance expenses for three years, after which the village takes over. Seeing the increase in the groundwater table in the area and the other positive fallouts, the villagers are happy to maintain the groves thereafter. Of the 53 restored groves, 90% are well maintained, while roads and temple expansion has happened in the remaining ones.

Alongside the actual restoration, Selvapandian conducts awareness programs through ‘Villupaatu’ and other programs to ensure that the village pujari, local school teachers, students and others understand the ecosystem services rendered by sacred groves and the importance of maintaining them. Selvapandian is someone who has spent months travelling in the “Eco Van”, a multimedia vehicle that moves from village to village to spread the word on the importance of sacred groves and other ecological concepts. Many temples now approach CPREEC to help them grow their sthala vrikshas and sacred groves. Along with the sthala vriksha, Selvapandian helps them grow other useful plants.

Selvapandian also helped conduct the 2011 conference on sacred groves that led to great awareness and many positive measures adopted by various stakeholders in maintaining the sacred groves. He has also carried out CPREEC's Wasteland Development projects in 40 villages in Tamil Nadu, coordinating with the National Wasteland Development Board (NWDB), NGOs and nodal agencies to teach local residents how to grow income generating fruit trees like pomegranate, papaya, etc. He has taught villagers to grow hybrid fodder grass for cattle, rural eco-development programs in villages of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, that includes setting up kitchen gardens, composting waste, making smokeless chulhas, paper bags, etc. And after the 2004 tsunami, he has manned CPREEC's projects to rebuild 26 houses in Pudupattinam village in Kancheepuram district and set up the District Children's park in Hanumanthaikuppam in Vizhupuram district of Tamil Nadu.

He is a good example of a “field officer”, with a wide range of achievements.

## Restoration of Sacred Groves

A sacred grove comprises patches of natural vegetation – from a few trees to several acres – that are dedicated to local deities or tree spirits. These spaces are protected by local communities because of their religious beliefs and traditional rituals that run through several generations.

The degree of sanctity accorded to the sacred groves varies from one area to another. In some forests, even the dry foliage and fallen fruits are not touched. People believe that any kind of disturbance will offend the local deity, causing diseases, natural calamities or failure of crops. In other places, deadwood or dried leaves may be picked up, but the live tree or its branches are never cut.

In India, sacred groves are found all over the country and abundantly along the Western Ghats. Although, there has been no comprehensive study of sacred groves in the entire country, experts estimate the total number of sacred groves in India could be in the range of 100,000 – 150,000.

## Ecological Significance

**Conservation of Biodiversity** – The sacred groves are important repositories of floral and faunal diversity that have been conserved by local communities in a sustainable manner. They are often the last refuge of endemic species in a geographic region and essential for the conservation of Biodiversity.

The groves are often associated with ponds, streams or springs, which support the water requirements of the local people. The vegetative cover helps in the recharging aquifers.

The vegetation cover of the sacred groves improves the soil stability of the area and prevents soil erosion.

Unfortunately, with the disappearance of the traditional belief systems, which were fundamental to the concept of sacred forests, these systems and the rituals to maintain them are now considered mere superstition. Sacred forests in many parts of our country have been destroyed due to rapid urbanization and developmental interventions such as roads, railways tracks, dams including commercial forestry. Encroachment has led to the shrinkage of some of the largest forests in the country. Many are invaded by exotic weeds, while increasing livestock and fuel wood collection are also pressures on the groves.

## CPREEC has

- ◆ **Restored 53 sacred groves**
- ◆ Created one sacred grove. **NENMELI**, a wasteland near Chennai, is now a green forest, with water throughout the year, thanks to CPREEC's land and water conservation efforts. It is an example of integrated watershed development. A herbal garden was established and is now maintained by local women. Local fauna has returned. It has become a model of low-cost replicable afforestation involving local people.

25 other groves have been restored by local people, as a ripple effect.



## Survey and Documentation of Eco Heritage

### Publications

- ◆ Sacred Trees of India
- ◆ Sacred Groves of Tamil Nadu
- ◆ Sacred Tanks of South India
- ◆ Temple Tanks of Chennai
- ◆ Sacred Animals of India
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Andhra Pradesh
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Goa
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Gujarat
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Karnataka
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Kerala
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Maharashtra
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Tamil Nadu
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Odisha
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Punjab
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Rajasthan
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Madhya Pradesh & Chhattishgarh
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of West Bengal

### Conservation of Sacred Tanks

- ◆ CPREEC has surveyed 125 tanks which serve as traditional rainwater harvesting systems in South India and 50 temple tanks of Chennai.
- ◆ CPREEC has desilted and restored yeris (artificial tanks) at Damal, Nenmeli and Kanakammachatram in Tamil Nadu.

**[cpreecenviis.nic.in](http://cpreecenviis.nic.in)** – A website to document and make available information on the CONSERVATION OF ECOLOGICAL HERITAGE AND SACRED SITES OF INDIA.





**M. Amirthalingam**  
CPREEC

Why does a particular tree become the ‘Sthala Vriksha’ of a temple, when so many other valuable trees too abound in the place? How did sacred groves contribute to the local community? What was India’s topography like 5000 years ago? When did the Thar become a desert...? M. Amirthalingam has spent over 25 years finding answers to such intriguing and empowering questions. In the process, he has amassed a huge body of work that has made him an authority on the subject, and the Foundation a point of reference for research scholars across the country.

It was on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1993 that Amirthalingam, M.Sc. M.Phil., stepped into the green and inviting campus of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, giving up his job as a research associate at another organization. Neither he nor the Foundation has had any reason to regret this decision. Indeed, he has grown along with the Foundation, doing ground breaking work that has brought repute to him and the Foundation.

Amirthalingam began by documenting ‘Sacred Trees (Temple Trees) of Tamil Nadu’. It led on to the documentation of 448 Sacred Groves of Tamil Nadu, followed by ‘Sacred Groves and their Management’, a project sanctioned by the TN Forest Extension Division, for which he surveyed 1264 groves across Tamil Nadu. Then came the mega research project ‘Environmental History of India’ that traces the environmental history of India from 3000 BCE to 2000 AD, in which he lists some 750 major events like earthquakes and floods; and ‘Temple Tanks of Chennai’, for which he surveyed, identified and documented 50 existing temple tanks. Alongside, Amirthalingam has also been busy running the Environmental Information System (ENVIS), a website established by the Foundation, besides writing research papers and books.

All of his research findings have come after a voracious reading of primary Sanskrit and Tamil literature, and inscriptions, historical works, Colonial gazettes, etc, besides widespread travel and meticulous analysis.

Now into his 26<sup>th</sup> year at the Foundation, 55-years-old Amirthalingam is has just completed his Ph.D. on ‘Environmental History of India: Ecological and Historical Studies of Select Sacred Groves of Tamil Nadu’, He says, “I don’t see my career as separate from the Foundation’s. I have been enriched by my work for the Foundation”.

### **Women and Eco Development**

- ◆ Raising kitchen gardens or fruit orchards to provide vegetables / fruits.
- ◆ Vermicomposting techniques and establishment of composting pits for solid waste management.
- ◆ Grafting, budding and establishment of tree nurseries.
- ◆ Training in waste paper bag making.
- ◆ Setting up herbal gardens and processing home medicines.
- ◆ Construction and use of smokeless chulhas.

### **Firewood Conservation**

To conserve firewood

- ◆ 118 community smokeless clay chulhas (stoves) established in schools
- ◆ Local potters and women's groups were trained to construct clay stoves Results
- ◆ Improvement in women's health
- ◆ Reduction of firewood consumption

### **Biodiversity Conservation Education**

- ◆ Education for conservation of biodiversity hotspots in and around national parks and sanctuaries
- ◆ Zoos utilized as interpretation centres
- ◆ Awareness programmes conducted in ecologically fragile areas

### **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**

1991 - Establishment of a field office in Ooty for

- ◆ Environmental Education
- ◆ Biodiversity conservation
- ◆ Firewood conservation

### **Our Achievements**

- ◆ Cleaning up Doddabetta
- ◆ Sustainable development in a tribal village -Bokkapuram
- ◆ Establishment of a Gene pool of medicinal plants at Thambatty
- ◆ Herbal gardens for NGOs, colleges, schools and rural communities
- ◆ Firewood conservation through establishment of 305 smokeless chulhas and gobar gas plants
- ◆ Restoration of Sacred Grove at Masinagudi
- ◆ Income generation for Kurumba, Kota and Irula tribals through paintings, pottery and fibre craft respectively
- ◆ Water conservation in 5 tribal villages

### **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

1994 - Establishment of a field office at Port Blair for

- ◆ Environmental Education
- ◆ Workshops for teachers & students
- ◆ Seminars and conferences
- ◆ Exhibitions
- ◆ Generation of resource materials

### **Conferences, Seminars and Symposia**

- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Rajasthan - 2013
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh- 2012
- ◆ Conservation of Sacred Groves to protect local Biodiversity - 2011
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Punjab - 2010
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Orissa - 2010
- ◆ Ecological Traditions of Goa - 2008
- ◆ Environment & Indian History - 2008
- ◆ Conservation of Eastern Ghats (co-sponsor) - 2007
- ◆ Animals for Asia (co-sponsor) - 2007
- ◆ Disaster Management - 2006
- ◆ E-Waste - 2006
- ◆ Ecological Heritage of Kerala - 2005
- ◆ Ecological Heritage of Andhra Pradesh - 2005
- ◆ Ecological Heritage of Karnataka - 2004
- ◆ Traditional Water Harvesting Systems of India - 2004
- ◆ Coastal Ecology - 2003
- ◆ Environmental Journalism - 2002
- ◆ Economic Botany - 2002
- ◆ Environmental Legislation-30 years since Stockholm - 2002
- ◆ Hospital Waste Management - 2001
- ◆ Industrial Pollution and the Law - 2001
- ◆ Environmental Pollution and the Law - 2001
- ◆ Environmental Education for the New Century - 2000
- ◆ Sacred Tanks of South India - 1999
- ◆ Problems in the Enforcement of Environmental Laws- 1999
- ◆ National Conference on the Conservation of Sacred Groves and Ecological Heritage Sites of India - 1998
- ◆ Amended CRZ Notification and its Implications - 1998
- ◆ Media and the Environment – 1997
- ◆ Conserving Our Ecological Heritage -the Tamil Tradition -1996
- ◆ Women and Eco - development - 1995

### **Special Projects**

- ◆ Strengthening Environmental Education in the States and Union Territories of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Tamilnadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India
- ◆ Nodal agency of MHRD for Environmental Orientation to School Education (EOSE) from 1993 to 2006.
- ◆ Environmental Education / Studies syllabus for NCERT and AICTE.
- ◆ Status of Environmental concepts in the School Curriculum and the Effectiveness of their delivery in Tamilnadu for Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune
- ◆ Textbooks on Environmental Science for Standards I to V of Matriculation Schools in Tamilnadu
- ◆ Textbooks on Environmental Science for Stds. I to V under CBSE syllabus
- ◆ Textbook on Environmental Studies for Under Graduate Courses for University of Madras
- ◆ Preparation of Low Cost Teaching Aids with National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi

- ◆ Environmental Education through Folk Arts
- ◆ Training for Kota and Kurumba tribes to adapt their art and craft traditions for the market
- ◆ Conservation / Documentation of Medicinal plants of South India

### **National Green Corps (NGC)**

CPREEC is the Resource Agency for assisting the Nodal Agencies in the implementation of the NGC programme in the States and Union Territories of Tamil Nadu, Goa, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Kerala, Lakshadweep & Minicoy Islands and Odisha. CPREEC's publications were translated and despatched to NGC Eco-clubs all over the country.

### **Status of Urban Water Bodies in Tamilnadu**

CPREEC, in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Government of Tamilnadu carried out a survey on the Status of Urban Water Bodies in Tamilnadu in 30 district headquarters and 358 water bodies.

### **Waste Management**

CPREEC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India, organises capacity building workshops on Bio Medical Waste Management for Medical officers and Health workers and Management of Municipal Solid Waste and plastics for Solid Waste Managers of South India.

CPREEC, in collaboration with the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Bangalore, and District Health Offices of Tumkur and Chitradurga districts has trained the Medical Officers and Para Medical staff members on 'Bio Medical Waste Management'.

### **Biodiversity Conservation**

CPREEC, in collaboration with the British High Commission, New Delhi, implemented a project on "Biodiversity Conservation through Capacity Building" to provide participants an understanding of the design and implementation of sustainable development programmes with special reference to biodiversity conservation. A series of workshops for NGOs and Chief Judicial Magistrates were organized in the states of Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka.

### **Some Important Events**

- **25 Years of CPREEC – October 28, 2014**

A grand function was organised at GRT Convention Centre, T. Nagar, Chennai on **October 28, 2014**. As part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, CPREEC brought out two important publications:

- ◆ *Sacred Groves of India – A Compendium*
- ◆ *Green Pilgrimage for a Clean India*

Shri. Ashok Lavasa, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India released the publications during the silver jubilee celebrations.

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, CPREEC and Shri. Jairam Ramesh, M.P., received the first copies. Shri. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu was also present.

● **Conference on Environmental Education for the New Century, March 15 - 18, 2000**

To provide a platform to prepare a blueprint on environmental education for the new century, this conference was organized involving, eminent scholars, educationists, environmental scientists and activists and to provide a unique opportunity to exchange ideas on the latest trends in the field of environmental education.

The Conference was inaugurated by Her Excellency Dr. (Smt.) Rajani Rai, Lt. Governor of Pondicherry on Wednesday March 15, 2000. The Hon. Director explained the aims, objectives and importance of the conference so that some serious recommendations could be made to put environmental education into action.

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman of the Centre, delivered the Keynote Address and mentioned that sustainable development could be achieved by proper environmental education.

Presiding over the conference, Shri. Rajeev Kher, I.A.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India said that traditional methods of environmental education were not being given importance in the school curriculum. He said that there is an urgent need to introduce traditional methods combined with modern methodologies for putting environmental education into action.

In her inaugural address, Dr. (Smt.) Rajani Rai, Lt. Governor of Pondicherry, said that environmental education in the new century should focus more on activities at school level for the protection of the environment.

The following were released by Dr. Rajani Rai

- ◆ *The Indian Journal of Environmental Education*
- ◆ *Environmental Concerns of India – Malayalam*
- ◆ *Environmental Concerns of India - Telugu*
- ◆ *A Student's Environmental Do-it-yourself Manual – Malayalam*
- ◆ *A Student's Environmental Do-it-yourself Manual – Telugu*

The first day ended with a Bharata Natyam recital on *Pancha Bhoothangal* - a thematic presentation by Smt. Usha Vasanth Kumar & Party depicting the five elements of nature and the impact of pollution on humanity.

**Seminar and Workshop on Environmental Journalism, November 26, 2002**

CPREEC hosted a two-day Environmental Journalism Seminar and Workshop in partnership with the International Center for Journalists, Washington D.C., and the Indian Institute for Journalism and New Media, Bangalore, on November 26 and 27, 2002, for members of SAARC and Asian countries, at the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation. It was the first of a series of workshops to be held in India. Mr. Richard D. Haynes, Consul General of USA, Chennai, inaugurated the Seminar and Workshop on November 26, 2002 at 9.00 a.m.

The two-half day programmes (9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day), included highly interactive discussions and presentations touching on broad issues like what makes a great environmental story and the ethics of journalism. The program also included a special spotlight topic, where experts were invited to focus on an environmental issue of local concern. Ms. Sheela Rani Chunkath, I.A.S., Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai, delivered the Keynote Address at the inauguration. The Panel Discussion that followed the Inauguration had experts discuss the issue from the government, industry and legal perspective. The professional development workshop that followed made use of informal discussion, audio-visual presentations, extensive handouts, tip sheets and hands-on exercises to help improve journalistic practices in building sources, interviewing, alternative approaches to writing environmental stories and then selling them to editors.

The workshop was led by visiting Ford Environmental Journalism Fellow Adam Glenn and Tamara Law, CEO-Director of Projects for Gaia Environmental Consultants of Bangalore. It provided participating local journalists with valuable environmental journalism skills and knowledge that could be put into practice immediately. About 35 journalists from the leading city newspapers such as The Hindu, The New Indian Express, and newsletters such as Madras Musings and Blackbuck attended. Journalism students and members of the CPREEC also participated in the workshop.

### **International Co-Operation**

- ◆ **UNESCO Workshop** to develop self learning materials, modules and curriculum on water conservation
- ◆ **Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change**
- ◆ **Environmental Education for Water Resources Management in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve with UNEP**
- ◆ **Environmental Law Institute (ELI), Washington D.C.**
- ◆ **CITES Capacity building workshop on CITES Appendix II listings of Sharks and Mantra Ray species for Bay of Bengal rim countries.**

### **National Nature Camping**

CPREEC organises Nature Camps for students of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha and Pudhucherry at sanctuaries and national parks.

### **Research and Surveys**

**CPREEC's ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY is accredited to National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).** It is well-equipped with sophisticated instruments such as the Gas Chromatograph, Atomic Absorption Spectrometer, U.V. Visible Spectrophotometer, High Volume Air Sampler, Stack Monitoring Kit, etc. About 35 water / waste water parameters, 20 soil parameters and four air parameters can be analysed.

Surveys and studies of natural resources availability, utilization and management are also conducted by CPREEC on behalf of governmental and non-governmental agencies, particularly surveys of

- ◆ Ground water and waste water
- ◆ Ambient air quality
- ◆ Noise level
- ◆ Soil

## **Sustainable Technologies**

CPREEC has been instrumental in developing

- ◆ Low cost water and soil testing kits
- ◆ Rainwater harvesting units
- ◆ Waste water recycling units
- ◆ Smokeless chulhas (stoves)

## **Surveys of Natural Resources**

- ◆ Supply and demand of fuel wood in Tamilnadu
- ◆ Non-marketed value of forest produces in Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh
- ◆ Sacred Groves and Trees of Tamilnadu; Sacred Tanks of South India and Temple Tanks of Chennai
- ◆ Salt water intrusion in Coastal Aquifers of Chennai City
- ◆ Inventory of sacred groves and preparation of management plan for Forest Department, Government of Tamilnadu
- ◆ Sacred Grove Ecosystem Service Assessment in Inland Plains of Tamil Nadu (SGESA) - Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

## **Lab to Field Technology Transfer**

Low cost WATER and SOIL TESTING KITS have been developed by CPREEC. They are used extensively by NGOs, teachers, students and farmers to test water and soil quality. Knowledge of soil's needs has reduced the application of chemical fertilizers. Knowledge of water quality has motivated Alteration and boiling.



He came to CPREEC as a 26-year-old in December 1989, after completing M.Phil. Botany at the Madras Christian College. He has grown in tandem with the organization, doing valuable work that has enriched both his career and the organization outreach. He joined as an Exhibition Guide and has steadily grown in stature, rising to Educational Officer, Senior Educational Officer, and now Joint Director. To date, he hasn't ever considered moving into another organization. "No other organization would have given anyone so much opportunity and exposure. This is an organization that has let me grow as a researcher, writer and administrator too", he says.



**P. Sudhakar**  
Joint Director, CPREEC

Sudhakar was first deputed to Andhra Pradesh to conduct awareness camps and workshops in villages. In 1991, when CPREEC opened a branch in the Nilgiris, he was deputed to Ooty, where he conducted many campaigns such as the 'Clean Doddabetta' campaign, roping in school students.

In 1992, he wrote his first book *Trees of Madras*. He went on to write several valuable papers and books like *Green healers: Medicinal Plants of India*, incorporating in the book the usage of these plants in Siddha and Ayurveda systems of medicine'. Another major work of his has been *Flora and Fauna of Valmiki Ramayana*, in collaboration with M. Amirthalingam. In 2003, he completed his Ph.D. on *Parks of Chennai: The Floral Diversity and Ethno-botany*.

Sudhakar has been coordinating all events of CPREEC, right from conceptualization and planning (along with CPREEC's Director Dr. Nanditha Krishna), to execution. This includes the Sacred Groves project, greening temple lands. He has aspired and succeeded in establishing not just the projects, but also their ongoing existence and growth. For instance, for the establishment of a Sacred Grove on lands belonging to the Meenakshi Amman Temple, he developed a successful modus operandi of funding for these projects by getting the temples to collect voluntary donations from devotees to support the maintenance of the devotees' respective Star and Rasi trees. This project started in 2006 with 774 devotees on board, and has been growing from strength to strength.

He is the Master Trainer for the US State Department-facilitated GLOBE (Global Learning Observation and Education) Program of NASA in the Philippines, where he received extensive training to train people on 'Land cover Biology' and qualified as International Master Trainer. CPREEC deputed him to attend an environment education program held at Denmark, facilitated by DANIDA. He was selected by the Consulate of the United States, Chennai, to attend the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) in the US. This was a 21-day program that happened in 2010.

He helped CPREEC create three environmental interpretation centres – at Pulicat and Kotappakonda in Andhra Pradesh and Nanmangalam in Tamil Nadu - with funding from the respective state governments. He has also been instrumental in setting up sustainable practices at the campus like the rainwater harvesting system, long before it became mandatory by law, and the vermicomposting units, thanks to which CPREEC is a centre that walks the talk.

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN (NEAC)



The National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC) was launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India during the year 1985-86. NEAC is one of the major programmes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests to involve public participation in conservation and management of the environment.

The main motive of the programme is to create awareness among the public and make environmental protection a people's movement, so that each and every citizen of this country should be involved in the protection of the environment. The local environmental problems must be highlighted during the programme to find a long and lasting solution for them.

To begin with only 150 NGOs participated throughout the country. Today more than 4000 NGOs, from all over the country participate in the NEAC programme. The theme for the NEAC is decided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India every year.

The NEAC is a very vast and widespread outreach programme involving several sections of society and reaching down to the grass root level. This has been made possible because of the decentralized process. The Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) know and work with many of the NGOs on environmental protection. The flexibility of the interaction between the RRAs and the participating organizations makes the programme creative and workable in spite of the vast numbers involved.

The NEAC has thrown up some very creative programmes and useful resource materials, both from the participating RRAs and NGOs. The NEAC has also been a means of understanding which process reaches the people in the most effective way. Thus performing arts are preferred to lectures, cycle rallies are better than seminars. What is common among the preferred processes is the low cost, entertainment value and easy accessibility and comprehensibility.

There is a definite perception of change: NGOs believe that deforestation has decreased in Western Orissa, environmental activism has grown in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and tribal and rural communities have become powerful guardians of their natural resources. There are several environmental "success" stories attributed to the awareness generated by the NEAC.

The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation (CPRAF), Chennai, was chosen by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in 1992-93 to function as the RRA for Tamilnadu and Pondicherry. The Foundation has been appointed as the RRA for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands also from the year 2000-2001. Over 300 NGOs are sanctioned under this scheme every year.

The details of the number of NGOs selected in Tamilnadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are given below:

Year	Number of Participating Agencies	Theme
2014 – 2015	342	Combating Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought
2013 – 2014	270	Bio-Diversity Conservation
2012 – 2013	363	Bio-Diversity Conservation
2011 – 2012	331	Forests for Sustainable Livelihood
2010 – 2011	324	Bio-Diversity Conservation
2009 – 2010	303	Climate Change
2008 – 2009	243	Climate Change
2007 – 2008	173	Bio-Diversity Conservation
2006 – 2007	234	Solid Waste Management
2005 – 2006	525	Solid Waste Management
2004 – 2005	607	Solid Waste Management
2003 – 2004	400	Water – The Elixir of life
2002 – 2003	428	Water – The Elixir of life
2001 – 2002	338	Sustainable Development
2000 – 2001	289	Keep Our Environment Clean & Green
1999 – 2000	228	Keep Our Environment Clean & Green
1998 – 1999	204	Keep Our Water Resources Clean
1997 – 1998	234	A. Pollution, Prevention & Control B. Conservation & Plantation Of Trees For Environmental Protection
1996 – 1997	198	Medicinal Plants
1995 – 1996	233	Women & Environment
1994 – 1995	175	Joint Forest Management and Eco- Development for Youth & Women
1993 – 1994	163	Animal Welfare and Waste Management
1992 – 1993	142	Bio-Diversity
1990 – 1991	61	Save the Environment Save Yourself
1989 – 1990	59	Conserving our water resources

## KINDNESS KIDS

**Kindness Kids** is an animal welfare education project first sponsored by the Winsome Constance Kindness Trust. In 2014-15 it was adapted to HSI India's GO VEG programme.

The aim of the program is to teach children about the importance of kindness to animals and the link between their food and the environment. The focus is on animal suffering, how a vegetarian diet improves human health and well-being, the links between food choices and environmental impact and the importance of kindness to animals.

### Objectives

- ◆ To educate the students about Human-Animal relationships.
- ◆ The links between food production and environment.
- ◆ To reduce animal suffering.
- ◆ To highlight the benefits of vegetarianism and veganism.

### Target Audience

School Students from classes VI – VIII

Locations for 2010-11	Chennai and Pondicherry
Locations for 2011-12	Chennai and Pondicherry
Locations for 2012-13	Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Nilgiris district, Mysore
Locations for 2013-14	Chennai and Gudalur
Locations for 2014-15	Chennai, Ooty, Hyderabad, Puducheri and Karaikal and Bhubaneshwar
Locations for 2015-16	Chennai, Tiruvallur district, Vijayawada, Bengaluri, Nilgiris District, Bhubaneshwar, Cuttack

### Benefits

- ◆ Learn a lifelong message of Kindness and compassion towards animals and fellow beings.
- ◆ Change in traditions, habits etc.
- ◆ Gain support for vegetarianism

### Strategies

Kindness Kids program is planned in three phases.

Phase I- Planning & Preparation

Phase II- Orientation for teachers and students

Phase III- Organization of competitions and giving away prizes

### Resource Materials for the Project

- ◆ Pamphlet – Eating up the world
- ◆ Pledge Cards

- ◆ Badges (For students who sign the pledge card)
- ◆ Wallpapers
- ◆ Activity sheets containing 15 activities

**For Education Officers**

- ◆ CDs on Animals in distress

**For free Distribution to Teachers**

CD containing ...

- ◆ Pamphlet – Eating up the world
- ◆ Animals in distress
- ◆ Wallpaper
- ◆ How to become a Veg Champ/Kindness Champ
- ◆ Pledge Cards

**For free Distribution to Students**

- ◆ Pamphlet on “EATING UP THE WORLD”
- ◆ Pledge Card
- ◆ Chart Paper
- ◆ Stationery – Pencil, eraser, sharpener and crayons.

The students are shown a video on farm animal production in India. They are given a chart paper and crayons and then asked to indicate in their drawing a strong message of kindness towards animals. The first three drawings per school are selected and prizes are given in the month of February/March. The prize-winning students are named **VEG CHAMP**.

The students are given a set of 15 activities of which a minimum of 10 activities have to be carried out in order to win the **KINDNESS CHAMP AWARD**.

**BEST SCHOOL** and **BEST TEACHER AWARDS** are given to the school and teacher who participate actively in carrying out the program.

Website: <https://kindnesskids.org/>



## CLEAN CHENNAI – GREEN CHENNAI

### Aims and Objectives

The primary object of this project was to educate students about what is pollution, how to control it and the various health problems created by pollution and the agencies to which common man has a right for a clean environment. This project was carried out by conducting workshops for teachers and school students.

As the project title needed exhaustive coverage of Chennai, the entire city from Virugambakkam to Santhome, Avadi to Thiruvanmiyur, Anna Nagar to Tambaram, Triplicane to Royapuram - One or two schools from all these areas were participants in the teachers' workshops.

### Teaching Aids & Resource

Materials distributed are distributed to teachers and students during the workshops. Teachers and students of Chennai schools were taught the history of Chennai, its growth and pollution problems in this project which is sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Programmes for teachers, students and field activities are important components of this programme.

### Teaching Aids

- ◆ Activity books on “ Soils” and “Insects that are Man’s Friend” ‘
- ◆ Slides on Bio-Diversity, threatened wild life and Chennai City
- ◆ Old magazines etc.

	2002-2003	2005-2006
Workshops conducted	1	
Teachers training programmes	4	5
Students training programmes	50	50
Innovative programmes	3	1
Students exposure visits	6	1
Students competitions	-	2
Mobile exhibitions	10	10
Resource centre	1	1



**The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation has provided, over the years, FREE accommodation or space for the activities for several organisations. Any organization that performs a service for society and the environment, including animals, has found a helping hand in the Foundation.**

**INDIAN VEGETARIAN CONGRESS and WORLD WILDLIFE FUND – INDIA, TAMILNADU STATE OFFICE,** were provided rent-free office space for many years.

**MEN-TSEE-KHANG, Tibetan Medical Centre's** clinic worked out of the Foundation for quite a while.

**BLUE CROSS OF INDIA's** registered office is still situated in the Foundation.

**NAAM FOUNDATION** holds its monthly meetings for women in the Foundation premises.

**MADRAS PLAYERS** uses the Foundation premises for its rehearsals.

**ABHINAYA** uses the Foundation premises for its annual workshops.

The shortage of space, as a result of the Foundation's growing activities, means that it is no longer possible to provide office space to any organisation.