

*Rajya Sabha Election (August 1977)* : On the expiry of the term of the Rajya Sabha member on 6 August 1975, the members of the newly constituted Assembly elected V.P. Munisamy, the candidate sponsored by the A.I.A.D.M.K. to the Rajya Sabha, on 25 August 1977. He defeated N. Rajaram, the candidate sponsored by the Janata Party by 16 votes to 14.

## II. Newspapers and periodicals.

The destiny of the Fourth Estate being closely linked to that of the printing industry, it would be of some interest to explore the origin of printing before recounting the growth of periodicals and newspapers in the Territory. The popular contention that the first printing press in Pondicherry was established in 1816 does not seem to hold ground. In fact there are evidences to show that there was a press here as early as in the year 1778. Articles 36 and 37 of the *Règlement de Police* of 1778 prohibited the printing of certain types of material in the press without the approval of the *Lieutenant de Police*.<sup>24</sup> Contrary to the usual practice, the *règlement* in question referred to the press as a singular entity instead of referring to it in its plurality. This leads us to the conclusion that there must have been a press in Pondicherry then. According to a scholar\* this press is understood to have been set up at the time of Count Lally. If this were to be correct, then it must have been in existence here even before 1761. Although the fate of this press is not exactly known, it is understood to have been carried away to Madras soon after Pondicherry's capitulation in 1778 according to the same scholar.

Prior to this, important government orders, etc. were conveyed to the public through word of mouth by *tom-tom* from street to street. Handwritten bills were also pasted on the doors of the fort in different languages. Anandarangapillai tells us that an 'European on horse back, attended by the court accountant Azhagapillai, and a drummer, proclaimed, through each street and at the city gates, the order of the Council, copies of which had been exhibited on the 1 March at the court house, fort, town gates and the church. The European first read out the notice in French. Azhagapillai of the accountant caste, next explained the same in Tamil and finally the drum was beaten. The prohibition of the sale of brandy, toddy and other intoxicating liquors was notified in this fashion'.<sup>25</sup>

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The revolution in France created a new awakening among the people in the colonies. More and more people came to evince greater interest in the day to day activities of the government as well as public utility services like the **Comité de Bienfaisance**, **Mont-de-Piété**, Hospital, **Léproserie**, Prisons, Bazaar, etc. They were also increasingly concerned with the prospects of trade, commerce, agriculture and other avenues of livelihood. It was under these circumstances that the Government Press was established in 1816, chiefly for printing official documents and the various laws and regulations and notices of public utility services. Since 1823 important government ordinances and administrative appointments were published in what was then called the **Archives Administratives des Etablissements Français de l'Inde**. From 1828 onwards all laws, orders and decisions of the administration came to be published under the title of **Bulletin des Actes Administratifs** and copies of the **Bulletin** were made available to subscribers.\*<sup>26</sup> Understandably the **Bulletin** carried information relating only to policies and decisions of the government, and did not help reflect popular sentiments nor serve as a barometer of public opinion. The same year a Tamil printing section was added to the Government Press.<sup>27</sup> An 'almanac' is understood to have been published at least some years before 1838, as evident from the preface to the 'almanac' of that year.<sup>28</sup> It carried a list of all public servants in the establishments (Civil list) and other useful information. It was published by Constant Sicé up to 1842 and then by F.E. Sicé from 1850 up to 1856. From 1857, it came to be published by the government under the title of **Annuaire des Etablissements Français dans l'Inde**.

The year 1838 was a significant landmark, for it was on that year permission was first granted by the French Administration to C. Guerre, a Frenchman in Pondicherry to start a journal devoted to political, literary and commercial affairs.<sup>29</sup> He was himself the editor and publisher of the journal. It was on the same year that authorisation was issued to Lachoumanen poullé, a Tamil teacher for starting a Tamil printing press,<sup>30</sup> and to one Vingatarayar to bring out a journal in Tamil under the title '**Soleil Indien**' perhaps the first vernacular journal.<sup>31</sup> Only two years thence was established the Mission Press attached to the Diocese of Pondicherry, through the initiative of Archbishop Bonnand. Father Dupuis who was placed in charge of the press, pioneered the publication of the works of Veeramamunivar. The fate of the two pioneering journals, i.e. the one started by Guerre and '**Soleil Indien**' is not known.

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\* The rate of subscription for the Bulletin was reduced in 1841, *vide* B.A.A. 1841, p. 161.

The next authorisation to start a private journal under the style of **L'Impartial de Pondichéry** was issued only after about eleven years i.e. in 1849 to one Brun.<sup>32</sup> The **Moniteur Officiel des Etablissements Français dans l'Inde**, started appearing from 1850. This journal seems to have appeared for almost 43 years i.e. up to 1893. While the order authorising the publication of '**Soleil Indien**' was brief and matter of fact, those authorising Guerre's journal and **L'Impartial de Pondichéry** significantly laid down a number of conditions as they were politically oriented. The editor and publisher were responsible to ensure that articles appearing in the journal did not violate the press and other established laws of the land. These journals were under obligation to publish free of cost all laws and regulations issued by the administration. Further it was required that soon after printing, one copy of the journal should be deposited in the Office of the Public Prosecutor. As regards the tariff rates to be charged for publication of court matter in the journal, the **Procureur Général** was declared competent to finalise them. At the request of Brun, the **arrêté** of 14 August 1849 prescribed the tariff rates for publication of court notices in his journal '**L'Impartial**'.<sup>33</sup> When the publication of the journal was stopped in 1850, the advertisements were authorised to be published in '**Le Moniteur Officiel des Etablissements Français dans l'Inde**' as per the **arrêté** of 30 March 1850.<sup>34</sup>

Since 1850 a number of private printing presses came to be established in the town. Between 1851 and 1874 authorisation was issued to not less than ten printing presses in Pondicherry. There were facilities for printing in Tamil in all the presses. Some enterprising printers also had provided facilities for carrying out printing operations in Telugu, English and Sanskrit as well.

The period that followed the proclamation of the Third Republic in France was more than eventful and served as a stimulant for the articulation of public opinion on important issues of the day. The growth of printing industry on the one hand and the constitution of **Conseil Général** and **Conseils Locaux** and the launching of local self-government in 1880 came as a boost to the Fourth Estate. The Pondicherry-Villupuram Railway which was opened for passenger traffic on 14 October 1879 brought news of the developments in India almost everyday. The **décret** of 21 September 1881 gave Indians the right to renounce their native personal law and be governed by the French Civil laws. The question of **renonciation** was the hottest topic discussed during this period. Mention may be made of the brochure '**Les Indigènes de l'Inde Française et le suffrage universel**' published by M.D. Moracchini in 1883. The

décret of 26 February 1884 changed the mode of election to the **Conseils Locaux**, the **Conseil Général** and the Municipalities. Voters were classified into three categories, viz. Europeans and their descendants, **renonçants** and **non-renonçants**. In British India, the Indian National Congress was launched in 1885. In 1888 Tilak who undertook a tour of South India to stimulate the yearning for freedom among the people, visited Pondicherry also and stayed at Thirumudi Nataraja Chettiar Choultry unnoticed for four days. On the fifth day prominent people of the town who recognised the visitor arranged for a public meeting and presented him with a copy of the French '**Code Penal et Code Civil**'. It was thus altogether a period of great awakening.

It was during this period that many journals dealing with social and political issues were started. Almost all of them carried pungent criticism of the voting system, the electoral lists, the representatives of the people, and even the bad condition of the roads. Even Governors and Mayors were not spared. Judged by modern standards some of the articles which appeared in these journals may be considered fearless, direct to the point and often vehemently critical of the administration. The press thus enjoyed some measure of freedom of expression.

In the course of the 50 years between 1850 and 1900, apart from '**Petit Bengali**' which appeared from Chandernagore, a large number of periodicals appeared from Pondicherry or Karaikal viz. **Commerce de Pondichéry** (1855), **Le Courrier de l'Inde Française** (1872), **Le Progrès de Karikal** (1879), **Le Progrès de l'Inde Française** (1883), **Satyabimani** (1882), **l'Inde Française** (1883 and 1893), **Le Républicain de l'Inde Française** (1885), **Bulletin Météorologique et Agricole** (1886), **L'Indouessane** (1887), **L'Echo de Pondichéry** (1887), **Vigadapradapam** (1888), **India-gup and gossip** (1889), **Union Républicaine** (1891), **Sri Soudjanarandjini** (1893), **Le Temps de L'Inde Française** (1883), **Mezzo-terme** (1883), **Le Pondichérien** (1894), **l'Hindou** (1895), **l'Indépendant** (1897), **Vidyabivarthini** (1897), **Le Jeune Patriote** (1897) and **Le Patriote** (1898). Almost all of them were weeklies.

'**Commerce de Pondichéry**' took shape as a venture by the members of **Cercle de Commerce**. This almost marked a new trend in that journals catering to sectional interests started appearing in the territory. To '**Le Progrès de Karikal**' may go the distinction of being the earliest bilingual political weekly to appear from Karaikal. The authorisation was issued to Gnanapragassin and Samyodèar for starting the journal in 1879. '**Satyabimani**' was the first

Tamil journal to appear from Karaikal. From 1883 onwards 'Le Progrès de Karikal' started appearing from Pondicherry as 'Le Progrès de l'Inde Française'. This appears to have had a long lease of life extending up to 1917. It was a pro-government journal which at one time supported Lemaire. It carried articles upholding republican principles supported by quotations from the Kural and the Naladiyar. It strove for the cause of widow re-marriage and also pleaded for extending to French India the law of 22/26 July 1867 which abolished the system of forced labour in France. This periodical was, however, very critical of the then **Député** of Pondicherry and the majority of elected representatives (Conseils electifs). Following a complaint made against this periodical in the **Conseil Général**, Louis R. Rassendrin, its publisher who was also a member of the **Conseil Général**, was imposed a fine of 1,000 francs for defamation by the highest court in Pondicherry on 18 January 1883. 35

In August 1881, M. Pène Siefert, husband of Lousia Siefert, the poetess, published from Pondicherry 'L'Inde Française' although only five issues of the journal appeared. In 1883, another journal under the same title is understood to have been started by **renonçants**. As this was objected to by the old title holder, it assumed the title of 'Le temps de l'Inde Française'. But even this stopped appearing after its tenth issue, following objections raised by 'Temps' of Paris. 36 A journal carrying the same title appeared again from 1893. This journal extended its support to Lemaire and opposed Nadou Chanemouga Velayouda Moudeliar. 'Union Républicaine' was started by Krishnamachariar, father of Mandayam Thirumalachariar, who later founded 'India' (1906), the nationalist weekly of Madras. The **non-renonçants** published the journal 'Mezzo-terme' (1883). 'Sri Soudjanarandjini' never failed to pinpoint administrative lapses or to criticise erring Mayors and Governors. Labour problems were discussed and literary criticism found a place in this journal. It published editorials on the political situation in British-India and carried reports of the proceedings of the Indian National Congress. It also encouraged the publication of short stories and may be described as a fore-runner to the literary journals which started appearing some years later. While 'Commerce de Pondichéry', 'Le Courrier de l'Inde Française' and 'L'Echo de Pondichéry' carried commercial news 'Le Republicain de l'Inde Française' dealt with agriculture, commerce and maritime affairs, 'Le Courrier de l'Inde Française' seems to have appeared from Madras. 'Vidyabivarthini' (1897) was a Tamil journal published by a group of persons interested in neo-Vedantism. 37

The first quarter of the twentieth century is very significant for it was during this period that the vernacular press came to assert its predominance. This was also the period which attracted to Pondicherry such literary luminaries as Aurobindo, Subramania Bharathi, V. Ramassamy (Va. Ra.) and V.V.S. Iyer who in turn contributed so much to enrich the field of journalism. Then there were scholars like Periasamipillai, Bangaru Pathar, V. Doraisamy Mudaliar, etc. who upheld the heritage of the Tamil language. Bharathidasan having been recognised as a poet, made his debut in the field of journalism during this period chiefly through his poems.

In the course of the first quarter of the twentieth century numerous journals made their appearance, viz. *Le Démocrate* (1900), *Poudouvai Nesan* (1900), *Union Hindou* (1901), *Poudhuvai Sindamany* (1903), *Sanmarkabodiny* (1903), *Sudessa-Vartamany* (1904), *Nyayabimany* (1904 and 1925), *Surian* (1905), *Muhamadu Samathani* (1905), *Le Liberal de l'Inde Française* (1906), *L'Union Republicaine de l'Inde Française* (1906), *Sarvaviyabhi* (1907), *Le Pionnier* (1907), *Karai Gnanabanou* (1906), *Le Journal de l'Inde Française* (1907), *India* (1908), *Vijaya* (1909), *Souryodayam* (1909), *The Pondy Mail* (1910), *L'Argus* (1911), *Piranchu Nesan* (1913), *Kalaimagal* (1913), *Journal Judiciaire de l'Inde Française* (1913 and 1926), *The Indian Advertiser* (1913), *Sugabiviruthini* (1914 and 1924), *The Arya* (1914), *Karpagam* (1915), *Revue Historique de l'Inde Française* (1916), *Le Collègien* (1918), *Le Commerçant* (1918), *Thamizh Magavu* (1918), *Le Journal Indou-libre* (1921), *Desa Sevagan* (1922), *Kudiarasu* (1923), *Atma Sakthi* (1924), *Parasakthi* (1924), *Merchant* (1924), *Sri Punitha* (1925). Among these, '*Sarvaviyabhi*' is the only Tamil weekly that continues to appear even today without any break. In the early days, this diocesan weekly carried local, national as well as international news besides weather report and trade news. Among these, *Le Journal Indou-Libre*, *Kudiarasu*, *Sri Punitha*, *Le Soleil* (*Surian*), *Nyayabimany*, *Karai Gnanabanou* and the *Muhamadu Samathani* appeared from Karaikal.

The nationalist Tamil weekly '*India*' which began its venture in Madras on 12 May 1906 had to wind up by the end of September 1908. The journal reappeared from Pondicherry from 20 October 1908. Although political events which occurred in different parts of British India and resolutions passed by the Indian National Congress appeared in this journal, local political issues were not discussed. Its entry into British India was soon banned, and it continued up to 19 March 1910. Another English monthly from Madras by name '*Bala Bharatha*' also seems to have appeared from Pondicherry. Sometime later

Bharathi became the editor of *Souryodayam*, started by Saigon Chinnaiyah Ratnasamy Naidu. The 4 December 1909 issue of 'India' carried an advertisement about the appearance of a monthly cartoon magazine by name 'Chithravali'. It is however not known whether it made its appearance at all.

The '*Nyayabimany*' appeared on two different occasions, once from 1904 and later from 1925. '*Vijaya*' the Tamil nationalist daily launched by Mandayam Thirumalachariar first appeared from Madras. As it could no longer continue there due to British harassment, it had to shift its locale to Pondicherry with effect from 7 September 1909.<sup>38</sup> To this may well go the distinction of being the first Tamil daily of Pondicherry.

The '*Journal Judiciaire de l'Inde française*' was a law journal brought out by the Judiciary. There were two different issues of this journal, one which appeared from 1913, another which lasted between 1926 and 1929. Of these journals, '*Le Collègien*' was intended for college students. The '*Arya*' had the distinction of having Sri Aurobindo on its editorial board and served as the spring-board of Aurobindo's philosophy.<sup>39</sup> '*Kalaimagal*', '*Karpagam*' and '*Thamizh Magavu*' may fall under the category of literary journals.

'*Kalaimagal*' was edited by Bangaru Pathar under the auspices of Kalaimagal Kazhagam. '*Karpagam*' was a Tamil literary journal of high standard. Bharathidasan's poems appeared in this journal. V. Doraisamy Mudaliar edited the '*Thamizh Magavu*'. The appearance of these journals is indicative of the revival of interest in Tamil language and literature. While '*Desa Sevagan*' (*Le Patriote*) helped kindle the patriotic fervour, *Parasakthi* and *Atma Sakthi* carried articles on philosophical themes. '*Merchant*' appeared as a messenger of the trading community.

The period between 1925 and 1954 marks another watershed in the history of the Fourth Estate. The visit of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru and the events of the freedom movement in India in the thirties had created a great impact among the enlightened leaders of Pondicherry. The thirties also witnessed a deep ferment among the working class and a growing clamour for better working conditions and trade union rights. Added to this, the great economic depression and its concomitants of low production, retrenchment, unemployment and labour unrest added to the misery of the people. The events connected with the labour movement, culminating in the July massacre was responsible for the articulation of public opinion. The period also saw

the growing influence of the Self-Respect Movement led by E.V. Ramasamy Naicker. The outbreak of World War II in 1939 also had its effects and the journals had in turn much to write about. The **Franco-Indou Partie** held sway till the end of World War II. The position held by this party was taken over by **Front Populaire** which remained in power for a short period only to be replaced by the French India Socialist Party in 1948. There were one or more journals either supporting or opposing the policies of one or other of these political parties which functioned in the territory. The Governor and the administration came under the attack of some journals which led to their suppression in the year 1938. The journals 'Sudandiram', 'Sugabiviruthini' and 'Kudiarasu' were banned.<sup>40</sup> Further, certain restrictions were placed on the press in 1944 as a war time measure. Violation of these measures entailed imprisonment for a period ranging from one to five years and a fine ranging from 1,000 to 1,000,000 francs. Naturally the journals turned out to be very cautious in their comments. Some of them even came out in support of the government in its war efforts.

The declaration of independence for British India brought about a new awakening among the people leading to a great upsurge. It was also a period of considerable political tension. Journals advocating the cause of Pondicherry's freedom had to encounter many difficulties. But leaflets attacking the French administration were printed outside Pondicherry and distributed in the territory. The newspapers and journals in India strongly supported the cause of Pondicherry's freedom from French rule. The journal 'Indian Union' was subjected to severe restrictions. By the **arrêté** dated 14 October 1954 the Secretary-General in charge of Current Affairs imposed a ban provisionally on the publication of all journals, reviews and periodicals in any language other than French. However the **arrêté** dated 26 October 1954 repealed the above said suspension order only four days before *de facto* merger.

During this period not less than 100 periodicals reflecting a variety of political views, literary tastes and sectional interests were published in the establishments. **Journal judiciaire de l'Inde française** reappeared in 1926. *Paropakari*, **L'Inde nouvelle**, *Djothi* and *Couganda Vacam Vicum Ciriya Poushpam* appeared in 1927. **Le Flambeau** and *Jauharoul Islam* came out in 1928. *Desabandhu*, **Pain de Saint Antoine** (Andoniarappam) and *Chandira* were published in 1929. Those which appeared in 1930 were *Sarprasada Yudham*, *Bharatham*, **Dupleix** and *Thainadu*. Those which appeared in 1931 were **Le Semeur de**



**L'Inde française**, *Alar*, **L'Instituteur** and *Thozhilalar mithiran*. In 1932 appeared *Gnana Bothini* and *Sudhandiranadu*. The next year appeared **L'Inde Française**, *Vithagam*, **L'Inde illustrée** and *Karaikal Mail*. The year 1934 saw the publication of *Sudandiram*, **Circulaire Commerciale**, *Ponmalar*, *Vidusahan*, **Alliance internationale indo-française**, *Desobakari* and *Subramania Bharathiarin Kavitha-mandalam*. The journal '*Sudandiram*' started by V. Subbiah stoutly defended the cause of the working class. It still continues its publication while all others have gone defunct. Demanding the British to quit India, the C.P.I. extended its co-operation to the war efforts of the British in India. As the journal supported the cause of India's freedom, its entry into British-India was banned in 1938. The journal '*Desobakari*' edited by Gnanou Ambroise supported the Franco-Hindu Party. While no journal appeared in 1935, those which came out in 1936 were **Foyer Médical**, **Renaissance** or *Jeasakti*, *Nadagam* and S.S.L.C. Home Tutor. The year 1937 saw the birth of *Sandrorkula Nesan*, *Bharatha Madha*, *Puthuyugam* and *Ethirolu*. In 1938 appeared *Samuhamithran*, *Saraswathi* and in the next year appeared *Pothujana Uzhian*. The year 1940 saw the publication of **Revue de l'enseignement dans l'Inde française** and *Thamizhanangu*. In 1942 came **La Gazette de L'Inde Française** and **Le Trait d'Union**. In the course of 1944 appeared *Advent*, *Balyan*, *Puthu Ulagam*, **Le Guide**, *Thamizh Magan*, *French India*, *Vanoli* and *Karai Murasu*. Of these, '*French India*' edited by Rajamanickam survived for some years. This journal later became the mouth-piece of the French India Socialist Party. The 'Advent' was the first Ashram journal which carried the message of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. The journals published in 1945 were *Vennila*, *Sudanthira Surian*, **Bulletin Mahadjana**, *Kalaignar*, *Nadigan*, *Puthuvai Thozhilalar*, *Catholican*, *Sanmarkka Sanku*, *Kasturibai*, *Thondan*, *Cinema*, *Rasigan*, *Thamarai*, *Suravali* and *Bharatha Sakthi*. **Bulletin Mahadjana** was a fortnightly started by Marie Savery, President of the Mahadjana Party for propagating the policies and programmes of the party. '*Bharatha Sakthi*' appeared under the editorship of Yogi Sudhananda Bharathi. In 1946 appeared *Ayareru*. The year 1947 saw the birth of *Janatha*, *Archana*, *Dakshina*, *Samudayam*, *Nadarkulam*, **Voix de l'Instituteur**, **Jeunesse**, *Couil*, *Bharathi*, *Pithan*, *India Union*, *Kalai Vazhvu*, *League Musalman* and *Sangu*. The journal '**Jeunesse**' not only reflected the policies and programmes of the Indian National Congress but also strongly voiced the demand for freedom for French India.

'*Couil*' came out as a Tamil monthly under the editorship of poet Bharathidasan. '*Samudayam*', a Tamil weekly was edited by S. R. Subramanian.

In 1948 appeared *Jeunesse et Joie*, *Maramathu Vimarsanam*, *Manilam*, **La Voix du Peuple**, Bulletin of Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education. The same year the monthly journal "Couil" was permitted to appear as a daily. In the course of 1949 appeared 'Mother India', **L'Éducateur**, **Liberation**, **République Française** and 'The Bulletin of Physical Education'. The journals **La Voix du Peuple** and **République Française** were opposed to the cause of freedom. There followed a significant lull in the birth of new journals during the next few years. Understandably, it was a period when the liberation movement was put down with a heavy hand. *Karai Mail* was the only Tamil weekly which appeared from Karaikal in 1950. *Vimosanam* made its appearance in 1951. A new *Puduvai Murasu* came out in 1952. In 1954 appeared the harmless monthly 'Radio and Amplifier' from Karaikal marking almost the end of an era.

It is interesting to note that journals in Hindi, Gujarathi, English, French and Marathi were published from Pondicherry under the aegis of the Ashram during this period. Many of the journals which appeared during this period were of non-political character. Even those few political periodicals like *Janatha*, *Samudayam*, *India Union*, *Sangu*, *Manilam*, **Liberation**, *Karai Mail*, *Vimosanam* and *Puduvai Murasu* supported the cause of freedom.

The dawn of freedom saw a mushroom growth of periodicals. Between 1955 and 1970 more than fifty periodicals saw the light of day. The first application for starting a journal by name 'The Voice' came from A. Vincent Rao. Other journals authorised for publication in the year 1955 were *Dum-Dum*, *Cocorico*, *Studio*, *Parvatha Kula Mithran*, **L'Impartial**, The Voice of Pondicherry, *Vinochanam*, *Silambou*. The Southern Times, *Soujenital*, *Outtiyogastar Munnetram*, *Ezhai Thozhilali* and Estate Buyer. The same year *Sanjeevan* the Marathi quarterly of Pune (Poona) shifted its locale to Pondicherry.

In 1956 appeared '*Puthuvai Seithigal*', *Kavalan*, **Voix de l'Éducateur**, *Puthuvaimani* and *Congress*. The year 1957 saw the birth of *Vanampadi* and *Arulmari*. In the course of 1957 appeared *Dipti*, *Santhivikatan*, **La Voix Nouvelle** (Poudoukural). In 1958 came *Nabajyothi* and *Tamizh Murasu*. In 1960 appeared *Jananayagam*, *Bal Dakshina*, *Kuyil*, *Desiyam*, = 1 Equals one, *Sakthi*, Newsletter, *Thamizh Selvi*, *Puthuvaikkural*, *Sujanaranjini*, *Anbumalar*, *Thamizhanangu* and *Thamizh Oli*. (The *Thamizhanangu* of 1940 seems to have appeared from Karaikal.) The next year came 'World Union'. In 1962 appeared *Purodha* in Hindi and Bengali. In 1963 appeared 'Annual'. None seems to have

appeared in 1964. The year 1965 is marked by 'World Union Focus'. The 'Bulletin of the Chamber of Commerce' and 'Pondy Observer' started appearing from 1966. Probably none appeared in 1967. The year 1968 saw, 'Jipmer News', 'News from Pondy' and 'I.I.P.A. Bulletin'. The year 1969 saw the birth of *Vaigarai*, *Seelam* and **La Voix des Anciens Combattans et Victimes de Guerre**. And now to close this account, *Yoga life*, *Põrval*, *Agni Siksha*, *Avilan Diary* and *Nabaprakash* appeared in 1970.

Out of these, as many as twelve viz. Dipti (Kannada), Nabajyothi (Oriya), Bal Dakshina (Gujarathi), = 1 Equals one (English), World Union (English), Purodha (Hindi and Bengali). Annual (English), World Union Focus (English), *Vaigarai* (Tamil), *Agni Siksha* (Hindi) and *Nabaprakash* (Oriya) were brought out either by Sri Aurobindo Ashram or its affiliated institutions. The Tamil journals *Puduvaimani* and *Congress* were started respectively by the Secretary and Convenor of the District Congress Committee. The English monthly 'Yoga Life' is published by Ananda Ashram. 'Jipmer News' is a fortnightly house journal published by Jipmer. *Thamizhselvi*, *Vanampadi*, *Bharathidasan Kuyil* and *Thamizhanangu* fall under the genre of literary journals. All of them except '*Thamizhanangu*' have gone defunct. The English weekly 'Pondy Observer' now comes out as 'New Times Observer'. '*Vanambadi*' a trilingual weekly was started by Gopady *alias* Mannarmannan. The monthly journal '*Santi Vikatan*' edited by Mougammadalimaricar appeared from Karaikal. Julien Adiceam was authorised to publish '**La Voix Nouvelle**' a bi-monthly journal and to bring out a Tamil edition under the title '*Poudoukural*'. G. Kitchenaraj of Pondicherry obtained authorisation for publication of '*Tamizh Murasu*' a Tamil Weekly. This carried the poems of Bharathidasan.

It is difficult to determine the longevity of most of the journals. Evidently most of them had only a short spell of existence. Journals bearing the same title have appeared at different periods. Even if they ceased publication, no renewal of authorisation was necessary for them to reappear under the same name after a break of some weeks, months or even years. The survival rate of journals had always been very poor. Very often they came out with a flash only to die out in a whimper. This may partly be attributed to the incapacity of local journals to improve their circulation or to compete with those published elsewhere in India. Nevertheless journals such as *Vithagam Puduvai Murasu*, *Bharatha Sakthi* and *India* were popular not only in Tamil Nadu but also in Ceylon, Malaysia, Burma, etc. It is also difficult to discern the policies pursued by the various journals as issues of many old journals

published in the French establishments are not preserved anywhere here. The best collection of old journals is found in France in the annexe of **Bibliothèque Nationale** at Versailles.<sup>41</sup> Another peculiar feature was that most of the journals appeared as bilinguals so as to cater to a larger audience. Among periodicals, weeklies enjoyed the greatest popularity. Although not many dailies made their appearance, none of them were successful either in terms of circulation or even longevity.

Until about the year 1947, all journals and newspapers published outside the territory enjoyed unhindered circulation here. However since then the journals started supporting the cause of French India's freedom and urged upon the French to quit from the French Indian establishments. These developments prompted the then administration to prohibit the entry of journals that advocated the cause of freedom. In November 1948 the entry of 'Janada' into the establishments was banned by the **arrêté** of 9 November 1948. Similarly the entry of the weekly 'Kalki' was banned on 25 November 1948.

The Hindu, The Indian Express and The Mail (all published from Madras) are the common English dailies popular in the territory. Newspapers and journals published elsewhere in India are more popular than local journals. While Tamil journals published in Tamil Nadu are mostly in demand in Pondicherry and Karaikal, Malayalam and Telugu journals published in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh are read in Mahe and Yanam regions respectively.

It may be recalled here that the Royal Edict of June 1776 had created a repository in France for the preservation of all public documents of the colonies. Steps were also taken to ensure the delivery of all publications brought out in the overseas territories in this repository. This arrangement came to be known as '**dépôt légal**'. As many as three copies of every ordinary book and five copies of lithography and engravings had to be deposited in the public library.<sup>42</sup>

The authorisation for publication of journals in the establishments was issued by the Governor by virtue of the powers conferred by article 26 of **Ordonnance Organique** of 23 July 1840. The freedom of the press was ensured by the law of 29 July 1881, which was promulgated in the French establishments in India by the **arrêté** of 26 August 1881. This was a comprehensive law covering all aspects of the press. Under article 3, two copies of all publications

had to be sent to the national collection in France. Under article 10, two copies had to be submitted to the **Procureur de la République**. Under article 7, declarations had to be filed before the **Procureur de la République** by the editor, printer and publisher furnishing details of the publisher as well as the journal. The editor must be a French citizen enjoying all civil rights.

In 1885, instructions were issued to the Governor to despatch without fail two copies of all publications so deposited for the national collection in France. The law of 1881, subsequently amended on several occasions, was modified by the **décret** of 19 March 1912. This step placed certain restrictions on the working of the vernacular press. The ordinance of 26 August 1944, relating to the organisation and ownership of the press, was promulgated in the establishments by the **arrêté** of 18 October 1944.<sup>43</sup>

The system of delivery of books and periodicals (**dépôt légal**) underwent some major changes under the **décret** of 17 July 1946. The **arrêté** of 30 September 1946 determined the organisation and mode of functioning of the registry of **dépôt légal**. Under this order, the **Bureau de l'Information** was placed in charge of this responsibility. These regulations were in force for all practical purposes till 30 September 1963.

Following *de jure* transfer, the freedom of the press in the Territory came to be guaranteed by the Constitution. The Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 extended to this Territory on 1 October 1963 provided for the regulation of printing presses and newspapers in the Territory and also for the preservation of copies of printed books, and for the registration of such books. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 20 of the Act, the Pondicherry Registration of Books Rules, 1964 were notified in the Gazette on 6 February 1964. Under section 11-A and B of the Act, newspaper printers were required to deliver to the government two copies of each issue of the newspaper soon after its publication. Similarly every publisher was required to deliver to the Press Registrar one copy of each issue of such newspapers soon after publication.

Under the provision of the above said rules it was obligatory for all printing presses in the Territory to deliver to the Registrar of Books, three copies of all books printed or lithographed by them.

Out of the three books so delivered, the Registrar of Books was required to deposit one copy each in a separate library meant to serve as a reference library, and to forward the remaining two copies to the Central Government. The rules further stipulated that a catalogue of books printed within the Territory should be maintained by the Registrar of Books. Once every quarter, the catalogue of books published during the said quarter ought to be published in the Gazette. The functions of the Press Registrar are performed by the Director of Information, Publicity and Tourism in Pondicherry. In the outlying regions, the functions are performed by the Administrators. Declarations for starting newspapers are filed before the Additional District Magistrate (Executive).

### III. Voluntary social service organisations

In the early days, the system of charity was so closely knit to the social fabric that merchants had to set apart a small percentage of the price charged for the goods towards public charity. The joint family system provided for the care of the sick, the indigent and the disabled within its fold. The benevolent among the rich sought to perpetuate their names not only by instituting choultries to provide shelter for wandering mendicants and pilgrims but also by endowing properties in favour of choultries, mutts, temples, etc. for feeding the poor. In these age old practices we may perhaps identify the earliest traces of voluntary social service. Only some of these benevolent institutions have survived, while the rest have either been gobbled up by their parasitical progenies or successors or have become defunct.

With the advent of printing and the growth of literacy and the consequent spread of knowledge, people came to be swayed by new ideas and ideals. They slowly came together to seek furtherance of their ideals through organised efforts. Thus sprung up institutions for the advancement for certain castes, for the spread of literacy, uplift of the down-trodden, etc. Certain organisations were formed for the encouragement of sports, language, literature as well as research in various branches of studies, etc. There are now denominational as well as non-denominational institutions in all of these categories.

The missionaries were also involved in organised efforts to provide relief to the sick, the indigent and the disabled. Father Michél Ansaldo, the Jesuit who came to Pondicherry in 1750 may be called the progenitor of the Congregation of St. Louis de Gonzague. The sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph