

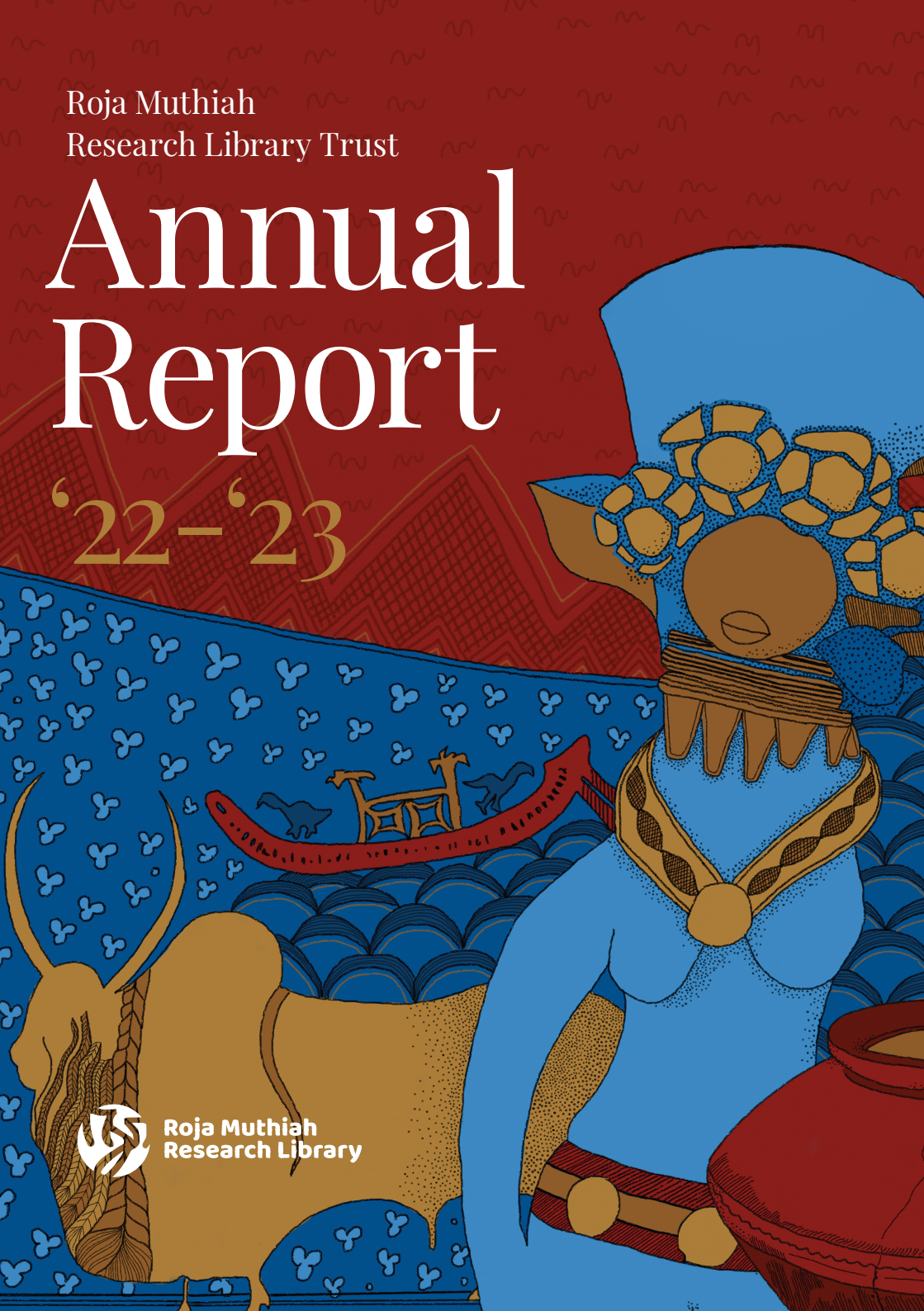
Roja Muthiah
Research Library Trust

Annual Report

‘22-‘23



Roja Muthiah
Research Library



Annual Report

2022-23



ROJA MUTHIAH
RESEARCH LIBRARY TRUST

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Main Objectives

The Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust endeavours to:

- undertake and enable development of libraries and archives relating to South Indian studies in order to serve the needs of scholars;
- preserve and conserve documents of value for research;
- gather and generate knowledge about libraries and archives;
- disseminate that knowledge;
- train librarians and archivists;
- engage in international collaborative efforts for the betterment of services to readers; and
- engage in research in the areas of humanities and social sciences.

The Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust's principal objectives are maintenance and development of the Roja Muthiah Research Library and affiliated such as the Indus Research Centre.



We acknowledge with gratitude the support of

Government of Tamil Nadu
State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu
Anitha Texcot Pvt. Ltd.
DRA Aadithya South City Projects Pvt. Ltd.
Manpro Equipments Pvt. Ltd.
Pace Builders (M) Pvt. Ltd.
PST Engineering Construction
Raja Charity Trust
Rajparis Civil Constructions Ltd.
RPP Selvam Trust
Saint Gobain India Foundation
Sakthi Devi Charitable Trust
SAS Hotels and Enterprises Ltd,
Sri Balaji Traders
Sri Vigneshwara Educational Trust
The Ramco Cements Ltd.
Tube Investments of India Ltd.
URC Constructions



Participants of the research writing course

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ms. Anusha Sundarrajan | Dr. Paul Chelliah Pandian |
| Mr. R. Balakrishnan | Dr. A. Ramesh |
| Dr. P. Balasubramanian | Mr. Saminathan Mathialagan |
| Mr. P. Dhileepan | Mrs. R. Sangeetha |
| Mr. Diwakar | Dr. T. S. Saravanan |
| Mr. G. Emayavaramban | Dr. R. Senthil |
| Mr. Erulappa Thanaraj | Mr. B. Senthilvelavan |
| Dr. E. Gajalakshmi | Mrs. Shailaja |
| Mr. K. Ilangovan | Mr. M. Shanker |
| Mrs. Jeyalakshmi Anandakrishnan | Mr. M. Shanmugam |
| Mr. Karu Pazhaniappan | Ms. Silambarasi |
| Mr. Mathivanan | Mrs. Sivasankari |
| Ms. Meenakshi Balaganesh | Prof. A. Srinivasan |
| Mr. V. Murugan | Mrs. Tara Murali |
| Mr. Nachimuthu Arunachalam | Mr. V. Vasanthakumar |
| Mrs. R. Nagarathinam | Mr. L. Venkatraman |
| Mr. Nallathambi | Mr. S. K. Vimalanathan |
| Ms. T. S. Padmapriya | Mrs. V. Visalakshi |

And all the donors who have generously supported the library

Annual Report Narrative

The year 2022-23 was productive. After two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, RMRL got back to work with activities such as seminars, exhibitions, book releases, Reading Hub discussions, training programme, and new projects.

The Department of Archaeology issued a Government Order providing a grant to RMRL. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister Thiru Thangam Thennarasu for making this possible. This grant will cover the salaries of a section of the staff. We have also approached the Directorate of Public Libraries with a proposal requesting a grant that would meet the salaries of the remaining staff. I hope it will also be considered favorably. We collaborated with the Archaeology Department in organising an exhibition on the hero stones of Tamil Nadu and an international seminar in commemoration of Iravatham Mahadevan.

The government invited me to be part of a committee to work on reforming the Library Act of Tamil Nadu. This committee is tasked with creating a Tamil Nadu Public Libraries and Information Services Act. After a series of meetings, the Committee has drawn up a new set of rules and regulations and submitted them to the Government. I hope this piece of legislation will come into effect shortly and help reform the library services in the State.

RMRL has been working on some important projects. One of them is the digitisation of early cinema communication material, which is funded by the Endangered Archives Programme of the British Library. Another important digitisation project we undertook last year was the digitisation

of the Communist journals, *Marxist (Tamil)* and *Semmalar*, funded by the South Asian Open Archives. The Union Catalogue, a collaborative project with the Government of Tamil Nadu, was completed and the entire set of records was handed over to the Directorate of Public Libraries. We continue to work with IIT Madras' archives and the Music Academy Library in preserving and conserving their collections.

I am happy that we have been able to do wide-ranging activities that are useful to the general public and the corporate sector. We received contributions from some corporate houses for the preservation and conservation of books. Mr. R. Balakrishnan, a Trustee of RMRL, and Mr. Kabir Vellayan, a young volunteer, took the concept of adopting a book to the people through media and corporate houses. I am thankful to all the donors and patrons of the library for their contributions. I hope their patronage will continue in the forthcoming years too. In order to expand the library building and construct a new building on the land allotted by the Tamil Nadu government, the RMRL Trust is planning to reach out to more people in India and abroad to raise funds. We are envisioning the transformation of RMRL into a modern & innovative public space operating in the area of "Library - Archives - Museum - Research". This space will be named as "Tamil Knowledge Campus" and will reflect the culture and identity of Tamils. I hope we will be able to realise our dreams soon.

*G. Sundar, Director
RMRL, Chennai
June 2023*

Reference Services

We had more walk-ins in the reference service this year after two years of covid pandemic-induced lockdowns. Our reference service received a facelift with the donations of airconditioners by Ramco Cements and of readers' chairs by Mrs. Kasthuri from Chennai. Now, readers can read books and other reference materials more conveniently. In all, 374 scholars visited the library multiple times last year, making use of 1639 books and 72 periodicals. RMRL's 1964 digitised books were also referred to by scholars through the Archive.org portal.

Donations (Books & Periodicals)

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. Annal, Aru | Mr. Radhakrishnan, K. S |
| Mr. Baskaran, R | Mr. Rajadurai, S. V |
| Mr. Kalam, M. A | Mr. Ravishankar, C |
| Mr. Kambapatha Sekaran | Mr. Sambath, P |
| Sankaran , E. | Mr. Sarangan, A |
| Mr. Kannan | Mr. Subbiah, M. V |
| Mr. Lakshmi Narasimhan | Mr. Thalai Madhiyavan |
| Mr. Mahesan Kasirajan IAS | Mr. Thiruvalluvan, I |
| Mr. Mohana Sundaram, R | Mr. Venkatachalapathy, A. R |
| Mrs.Radha Hedge | Centre for Indian Knowledge |
| Mrs. Nalini Sivaraman | Systems |
| Mr. Nalli Kuppuswamy | M. D. T. Hindu College, |
| Chetti | Tirunelveli Tamil Virtual |
| Mr. Panneer Selvam, A. S | Academy |



Image of a postcard from RMRL Collection

Documentation

Under the project named “Union Catalogue for Public Libraries,” 35 lakh MARC records from 21 public libraries for the project were processed and submitted to the Anna Centenary Library for Union Catalogue portal. This portal helps users to look for books available in libraries across the state.

Around 500 books acquired by the Music Academy’s library were cataloged. Their Academy’s webpage was redesigned to make it user-friendly.

Digitisation

We are continuing with the digitisation project “Preservation of Communication Material of an Early Cinema Distribution Company in South India”, funded by the Endangered Archives Programme of the British Library. We are digitising letter correspondences, representative reports, accounts such as daily and weekly collection statements and theatre agreements. These materials gives the reader an understanding of the cinema industry of Tamil Nadu in the 1940s.

We have done two collaborative projects. The first one was the digitisation of two communist magazines, namely Semmalar and Marxist (Tamil). This project was supported by the South Asian Open Archives (SAOA) of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL). For this project, the entire collection was loaned to us by the Communist Party of India's (Marxist) Tamilnadu State Committee. The digital files were ingested directly into Jstor Forum under SAOA open access community.

The second project was supported by the University of Texas for the digitisation of the personal archives of the late Khwaja Ghulam Saiyidain, an educationist and writer from Delhi. He had served as the secretary of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. His archive consists of his personal correspondences with many notable personalities and politicians of India.

We also digitised the books and periodicals from the Music Academy and the papers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

Conservation

The conservation department actively engaged in the 'Adopt a Book' programme. Two main adopters are Tube Investments Private Limited which adopted 100 books on literature, and Saint Gobain India Foundation, which adopted 100 books on indigenous medicine. Also, conservation work was carried out for books adopted by several other individuals. Archival material from IIT Madras was also taken for conservation.

Indus Research Centre (IRC)



In all, 1500 copies of the third edition of the book "Journey of a Civilization" was printed this year and nearly 1200 books of this edition have been sold already. The translation of this book titled (ஒரு பண்பாட்டின் பயணம்: சிந்து முதல் வைகை வரை) was completed by the author Mr. R. Balakrishnan and it has been released.

The IRC organised the lecture 'Āy Lands of South Asia' delivered by Mr. R. Balakrishnan on September 20, 2022.

Extension Activities

Seminars

Two seminars were organised this year. The first one was a two-day programme that focused on the contributions of writers Theodore Baskaran and S. V. Rajadurai to the Tamil Public Sphere. Thirteen papers were presented and several notable persons felicitated the writers.

The second one was the film screening of the movie Parasakthi, and the seminar was organised to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the movie. The event were held in Tagore Film Center on December 24, 2022.

Exhibitions

- An exhibition on the hero stone tradition of Tamil Nadu (தமிழக நடுகல் மரபு கண்காட்சியும் ஆய்வுரைகளும்) curated by Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mr. N. R. Elango. The exhibition which was open to the public, was held in RMRL from 13 August 2022 to 22 August 2022.
- An exhibition to showcase the 200 years of the Tamil magazine print culture (இரு நூற்றாண்டுத் தமிழ் அச்சுப்பண்பாடு: இதழ்கள் (1800-2000)) was organised as a part of Tamil Literary Festival, 2023 at the Anna Centenary Library from January 6 to 8, 2023.

The honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
visiting our exhibition on *Print Culture of Tamil Nadu*



Prof. K. Rajan's lecture in the exhibition,
Hero stone tradition of Tamil Nadu



Director Vetrimaaran addressing the audience in *Parasakthi Seminar*

Reading Hub

Reading Hub, an initiative by the Centre for Study in Public Sphere, jointly organised by RMRL and the Dravidian Professional Forum. The following events were organised by Reading Hub.

- A conversation with Seema Chisti about her book, *Sumitra and Anees - Tales and Recipes from a Khichdi Family*.
- A discussion with Karthick Ram Manoharan, author of the book, *Periyar: A Study in Political Atheism* with Meena Dhanda and A. S. Panneerselvan.
- A Conversation with Peggy Mohan, author of the book, *Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of India through its Languages*.
- A conversation with Ruben Banerjee, author of the book, *Editor Missing : The media in Today's India*.
- A conversation with Ananth Krishnan and Stanly Johny, authors of the book, *The Comrades and the Mullahs : China, Afghanistan and the New Asian Geopolitics*.
- Discussion on "Policies for Sustainable Growth of Tamil Nadu" with Mr. Erik Solheim.
- A conversation with Dr. J. Jeyaranjan, author of the book, *A Dravidian Journey* and Dr. PTR. Palanivel Thiagarajan.

Ms. Kamini Dandapani & A S Panneerselvan



- A talk by Vignesh Rajahmani on *Disinformation as Political Communication, Media and Democracy*.
- A conversation with Ms. Kamini Dandapani about her book *Raja Raja Chola - King of Kings*.

Prof. M. Anandakrishnan Endowment lecture at RMRL

- Dr. Murali Shanmugavelan delivered a talk on “Caste & Technology” on January 18, 2023.
- Dr. Baktavatchala Bharathi delivered a lecture “சங்ககாலப் பண்பாட்டுப் படிமலர்ச்சி” on February 17, 2023.

Prof. V. Arasu Endowment Lecture

- Prof. Venkataraman delivered a lecture “தமிழ் இலக்கிய வரலாறு எழுதுதலில் புலவர் புராணம் பெறுமிடம்” on April 8, 2022.
- Dr. S. Karmegam delivered a lecture “புனைவும் இனவரைவியலும்” on January 7, 2023.

Nallasiriyar C. Nallathambi Endowment Lecture

- Dr. Ira. Seenivasan delivered a lecture on “அரண்மனை தோட்டமும் சோலையும்” on April 8, 2023.

- Writer Muthunagu delivered a speech “எனது படைப்புலகம்” on January 7, 2023.

P. Sankaralingam

Memorial Endowment Lecture

Ms. S. Rukmini delivered a lecture on “What data can and cannot tell us about modern India” on February 23, 2023.



Rakesh Endowment Lecture for Justice and Equity

“Is this the Democracy envisaged by the framers of our constitution?” by Thiru. Kapil Sibal on April 16, 2022 at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai.

Training program

Roja Muthiah Research Library organised a two-week course on academic research from February 13 to 25, 2023. This was organised in collaboration with the State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu. In all, 24 students from various parts of the state participated in this course.

Board of Trustees

R. Balakrishnan, Civil Services (Retd.)
Karumuttu T. Kannan, Industrialist
Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan, Academician
Ramani Natarajan, Constitutional Lawyer
G. Sundar (Founder Trustee), Archivist
S. Theodore Baskaran (Founder Trustee), Film Historian, Author
Uma Narayanan, Social Worker
Dr. Urvashi Butalia, Author, Publisher
Prof. M. Vijayabaskar, Economist

Consultant

R. Balakrishnan, IAS (Retd.)
Honorary Consultant, Indus Research Centre

Research Fellows

A. S. Panneerselvan, Centre for Study in Public Sphere
R. Vijayashankar, Head of Research and Publication

| Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust | | | | | |
|---|------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Balance sheet as at 31st March 2023 | | | | | |
| Particulars | Sch. | As at 31st March 2023 | | As at 31st March 2022 | |
| <u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u> | | | | | |
| Capital Fund | 1 | | 5,69,69,274 | | 5,41,48,398 |
| Endowment Fund | 2 | | 15,98,150 | | 15,98,150 |
| | | | 5,85,67,424 | | 5,57,46,548 |
| <u>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</u> | | | | | |
| Fixed Assets | | | | | |
| Gross block | | 4,79,87,616 | | 4,60,20,525 | |
| Less: Depreciation | | 1,27,28,869 | | 1,15,92,352 | |
| Net block | 3 | | 3,52,58,747 | | 3,44,28,173 |
| Current Assets, Loans and Advances | | | | | |
| Cash and Bank balances | 4 | | 2,42,10,673 | | 2,08,93,375 |
| Prepaid Expenses | | | 11,917 | | 11,929 |
| Interest Accrued on Deposits | | | 4,41,079 | | 3,70,554 |
| Loans and Advances | 5 | | 1,17,564 | | 1,53,542 |
| | | | 2,47,81,233 | | 2,14,29,400 |
| <i>Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions</i> | | | | | |
| Other Liabilities | 6 | | 7,62,100 | | 1,11,025 |
| Grant Received in advance | | | 7,10,456 | | - |
| | | | 14,72,556 | | 1,11,025 |
| Net Current Assets | | | 2,33,08,677 | | 2,13,18,375 |
| | | | 5,85,67,424 | | 5,57,46,548 |

| Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust | | | |
|---|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2023 | | | |
| Particulars | Sch. | For the year ended 31st March 2023 | For the year ended 31st March 2022 |
| | | Rs. | Rs. |
| <u>INCOME</u> | | | |
| Contributions received | 7 | 70,71,113 | 29,14,128 |
| Donations received | | 1,29,86,001 | 53,63,106 |
| Other receipts | 8 | 39,68,261 | 46,11,894 |
| Total Income | | 2,40,25,375 | 1,28,89,128 |
| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | | |
| Operating expenses | 9 | 7,16,429 | 4,18,221 |
| Employee expenses | 10 | 84,83,797 | 62,38,102 |
| Administrative expenses | 11 | 1,07,22,041 | 51,80,662 |
| Depreciation | 3 | 12,82,232 | 9,78,395 |
| Total Expenditure | | 2,12,04,498 | 1,28,15,380 |
| Excess of Income over expenditure | | 28,20,877 | 73,748 |

Accounting Policies

- The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention on accrual basis of accounting.
- The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period reported.
- The income from Digitisation, Documentation, Reprographics, Reference Services and Training is accounted on accrual basis.

Donations are accounted on receipt basis. Interest is accounted on accrual basis.

Project work in progress (WIP) has been recognized on percentage of completion basis.

- The Fixed Assets other than the Books owned by the Library are accounted at cost and depreciated over the useful life of the asset.

The books & periodicals purchased for the collection are recorded at cost and not depreciated.

The books and periodicals received as donation are valued at fixed prices depending on the age of the book or periodical. These rates have been approved by the managing committee after considering the practices followed by similar organisations. These assets are not depreciated.

- v) Depreciation on fixed assets is provided on written down value method at rates arrived at based on the useful life of the asset.

Depreciation in respect of additions made during the year and put to use for less than six months has been charged at 50% of the original rate for the block.

- vi) Investments in Mutual Funds being short term in nature are recorded at cost.

- vii) Foreign currency transactions are recorded at the rates prevailing on the date of transaction.

Notes

Books Collection

- a. Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust (RMRLT) has a large collection of books some of which date back to the 19th century, which are partly owned by the Trust and partly by the University of Chicago (UoC).
- b. The books owned by RMRLT were received as donations from various sources during the past several years. These books were not represented in the books of account earlier and it was decided by the committee of management to bring these books into the accounts. Subsequently, a formula was arrived by the management, based on practices followed by similar organisations and the books received as donations have been capitalized during the year.
- c. As per an MOU entered into between the UoC and RMRLT, the fourth transfer of ownership covers some of the items held by the University of Chicago Library and RMRL and duplicate issues of periodicals. There are 237 books and 14,410 issues of periodicals in this transfer. The approximate average value for books at Rs. 153 or \$2.84 per volume and for periodical issues at Rs. 162 or \$3 per issue yields a total value of Rs. 23,79,300 or \$44,061 for this transfer.
- d. RMRLT also has a collection of books and periodicals on Microfilm which were made using their own resources. These books and periodicals are owned by other organisations and only the microfilms are held by RMRLT. The value of this collection has not been reflected in the accounts.



**Roja Muthiah
Research Library**

3rd Cross Road, CPT Campus
Taramani, Chennai - 113