

Siva temple unearthed

Perambakkam is a small village in Polur taluk, Tiruvannamalai district. It was formerly known as Periyarunapakkam or Pranavampakkam. There are seven Siva temples on the northern bank of River Cheyyar in the taluk.

Perambakkam too had a Siva temple, which was lost with the passage of time. An astrologer indicated the presence of a Siva temple and revenue records spoke of a large piece of land marked as temple land. The area was excavated and a huge Sivalinga was found as also a beautiful statue of Lord Karthikeya in the form of Arumuga.

While no other deity could be found, the basements pertaining to the shrines of Swami, Ambal, Muruga, Vinayaka, Chandikeswara and Nataraja were found apart from the Mahamantapam and

RENOVATION

kitchen. A large number of stone pillars and other construction materials were found during the excavation pointing to the fact that a temple of massive proportions must have existed 800 years ago.

Types of debts

Through *Prachnam* it was learnt that the deity is Runahareswara - one who clears all debts - and His Consort Mangalambika. 'Runa', here would refer to the three types of debts a human being might incur - financial debts, debt incurred due to neglect of service to God and that incurred due to failure to perform karmas/rituals for forefathers (*pitru*). Scriptures have it that those who worship this deity can have their

burden on account of these debts lightened.

The renovation and restoration of the temple work has been undertaken by the family of the Late Margabandu Iyer, village head. Devotees are requested to contribute in cash or kind to the divine task. Money in the form of cheques and demand drafts drawn in favour of Runahareswarar Temple Committee may be sent to the address at the end or can be remitted directly into the Savings Bank account No. 0388000101089128 with Punjab National bank, Adyar, Chennai 600020 (Bank code: 024 IFSC Code: PUNB0033800).

The address: V. Viswanathan (former GM, ECGC, Mumbai), Coordinator, Runahareswara Temple Committee, B2, Sai Krupa, 7/17 III Main Road, Kasturba Nagar, Adyar, Chennai, Tamil Na-



SET TO BE REVIVED: The site where Runahareswara temple once stood. In the background is the make-shift shrine (circled).

du. 600020. Phone: 044-2442 2163/91-8754405387. **Location:** Near Mattapiraiyur Joint Road, along Polur-Chetput town and Devikapuram. Road. Can be reached from Devikapuram town. Frequent buses and autos are available from Polur town and Devikapuram.