



Friday, 1-1-82

THE WHITE PAPER
ON EDUCATION—

WHAT IS IT?

No paper whether white or black, green or blue, pale or red, has ever been non-controversial.

And the White Paper on Education released by the Ministry of Education cannot be an exception.

We do not wish that any one should suspect that the Minister's White Paper is a white sheet; we mean a penitent's garb in which the wearer confesses sin.

Here is a report issued by the Government to give certain information about changes in the sphere of the administration of education.

Hence it requires to be studied minutely not merely by parliamentarians who have to debate it in Parliament, but also by all educationists and religious organizations.

Religion has been accepted very rightly as a subject in the scheme of studies in schools. It follows that religious education has to be provided for. To do this the set-up should be one in which religious organizations must have a say.

Therefore, it is imperative that religious scholars should meet in conference to scrutinize the White Paper and to suggest necessary amendments.

Though there have been discussions in forums about the White Paper, so far no conference of Hindu Associations has been convened for this purpose.

The Jaffna Region of educational administration has a great responsibility in this matter as the number of schools here is large. Hindus, Christians and Muslims have a stake in the scheme of education.

Thus it becomes necessary that the White Paper on education should be

Researches must be Relevantly Fruitful

(contd. from our last issue)
The doubt seems to have been raised by the possibility of the incorrectness of the data that was originally available to astronomers about the appearance of the Star in the East.

In the matter of dates, the historical records of Hinduism are in a worse position; the margin of error is in many instances as wide as a decade.

One wonders how it has not been possible to find supporting evidence for historical dates by sustained research in other directions such as geological and archaeological discoveries.

To mention one single instance, we may refer to the Ramayana Episode which pictures Ravana as the sovereign of Sri Lanka. He was such a staunch Saiva Devotee that he in his egoism born of spiritual capacity even endeavoured to remove the sacred shrine of Kailasam and locate it nearer his abode. Reference to this aspect had been repeatedly made in the Thirumurais of Saints Appar and Samanar.

Historical accounts give several names of places, rocks, caves and rivulets in Lanka that support the theory of this Island having been the venue of some incidents mentioned in the Ramayana.

There is a popular story that the Little Baas and examined by Religious Bodies before it is taken up for discussion in Parliament in the first week of January

The Saiva Paripalana Sabha which before the Take Over of Schools in Jaffna, through the Hindu College Board of Directors, had been directly concerned with the scheme of Education

The Principals and their deputies of the leading educational institutions in the North must make a move in this matter along with the Saiva Paripalana Sabha

Already the discussion on the White Paper has taken a political bend; but religious associations have to steer clear of political considerations and look at the Paper in the proper manner.

Warning Against Water-borne Diseases

Floods always bring with them after-effects that affect not merely the economy of the area but also the health of the people. Kilinochchi area that was badly hit by heavy rains during November and December this year is said to be in danger of being under by contagious diseases because of the supply of water having been contaminated. The housing of the homeless also adds to the complexity of the sanitary situation.

Whether it is at Kilinochchi or elsewhere the

the Great Baas off the northern coast of this Island were the fortresses of Ravana. In this context we are compelled seriously to think whether expeditions could not be made to explore these two rocks and the surrounding vicinity in the manner of certain recent excavations that were successfully made to salvage sunken warships and recover several bars of gold swallowed by the North Sea during the World War.

Archaeologists who examine discovered coins, images and other articles found in strata of earth are able to give amazing

inferences regarding the age of these things as extending over hundreds of centuries. Cannot such archaeological studies be made in respect of the two Baas, the Adam's Bridge the foot print on the Adam's Peak and other such places of historical import including the excavations at Thiruketheeswaram as can help students of religion trace periods of religious incidents.

Now that scholars of Hindu religious studies from all over the world are due to assemble in conference, we venture to suggest that the World Hindu Conference would do well to resolve to set up a world centre of research as a permanent organization to undertake the scientific study of historical incidents relating to religion from every view-point and in all manner of critical investigation.

Such a step would be a fruitful course of action that can help the elimination of doubts and disbelief in the matter of accepting religious occurrences which have formed the basis of records of Hindu events.

A VERY LANDABLE
UNDERTAKING

The Saiva Siddhanta Church under the inspiring guidance of His Holiness Sivaya Subramuniya Swami, Guru Meha Sanidhanam of Kauai Astheenam in Hawaii has published a Tamil translation of the Saiva Thartha — a Catechism for Saivite Hindus.

The translation has been very ably done by a devotee — Professor Ramaiah of the Government College of Education holds good everywhere.

The rainy season always reminds us of the need for precaution against pollution of water. The preliminary step to counter this menace is to take necessary measures to remove infectious bacteria from drinking water. Boiled water when cooled becomes a healing fluid. Though medical men repeatedly appeal to the people to boil water for drinking purposes, the common man seldom pays heed to these directives.

December and January are months that have a number of religious festivals where the devotees have to use water in plenty for bathing purposes and drinking. Baling out water from wells by the age-old method of the well-sweep and bucket may be laborious and costly now; but then there is the water pump worked on kerosene or by electric current

A part from the warnings issued by the Health Authorities, it should be the responsibility of all that the practice of using boiled water at all times must be a compulsory duty of the house-holder and much more in the Temples, Madams and other institutions where large numbers of devotees congregate and indiscriminately use water wherever it is available and in whatever condition.

Religious organizations owe a duty to their members in this matter. They must teach the need for sanitary method of living and make provision accordingly.

tion in Orathenad, Tanjoer District in India.

What is conspicuously enterprising in this landable work is that one hundred and eight copies of the original hand written script in Tamil have been made for distribution.

The Swamiji Guru, an American Hindu, who has been conveying his Holy Thoughts by means of periodicals in the English Language, has appropriately made arrangements for the translation of these valuable tracts into Tamil for the benefit of the large number of his Tamil speaking disciples.

The publication is picturesque and pleasing. The sequence of spiritual thoughts conveys a cleverly co-ordinated trend of Saiva Siddhanta exposition. It is heartening to learn that the Guru Swamiji will be in Sri Lanka during the month of January 1982 and will hold conferences at his Ashram at Alaveddy.

வான்முகில் வழாது பெய்க் கல்விலார்க் கல்க மண்ணன் கோனமுறை யாச் செய்க் குறைவிலா துயிர்கள் வாழ்க் கானமுறை யந்த கோங்க நூற்றும் கவுள்ளி மல்க மேன்மைகான் கைவாசி வினங்கு உலக மேல்லாம்.

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