

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

38

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Other State matters - Legislation

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 15/9/2020

## T.N. creates Assembly replica to meet COVID-19 challenge

*Almost everything has been reproduced, but with more spacing, at a theatre-cum-convention hall*

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN  
CHENNAI

When the Tamil Nadu Assembly met on Monday, the historic chamber looked just the same. Only, it was not at Fort St. George. Over 150 workers worked for nearly 10 days and nights and multiple departments of the Tamil Nadu government coordinated to recreate a replica of the House a few kilometres away.

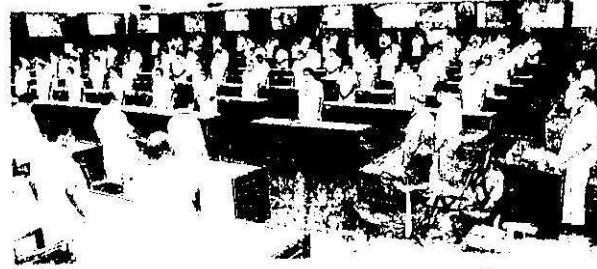
Kalaivanar Arangam, a theatre-cum-convention venue managed by the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Department on Wallajah Salai here, was chosen for the Assembly's three-day session in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was

spacious enough to ensure physical distancing norms for legislators and officials.

After Speaker P. Dhanapal announced the session on September 1, the Public Works Department (PWD), along with the I&PR Department and the Assembly Secretariat, swung into action to create the replica in the multi-purpose hall on the third floor of Kalaivanar Arangam, which offers over 10,000 sq ft of space. Except for the chandelier in the Assembly, almost everything else was reproduced.

### One original remains

Yet, one original piece was retained - the historic Chair of the Assembly Speaker,



Members of the T.N. Assembly paying homage to former President Pranab Mukherjee, MP H. Vasanthakumar and MLA J. Anbazhagan, who passed away recently.

which has been shifted to the temporary venue.

This Chair, resembling the Speaker's Chair in the British House of Commons, was presented in March 1922 by Lord Willingdon, Governor of Madras Presidency and Lady Willingdon, to the President

of the Madras Legislative Council as a personal gift.

The PWD's collection of wooden chairs and furniture in the MLAs' hostel, near the Arangam, came in handy. "It is a mix of own property and hired furniture," a PWD official said. But it everything was replicated.

then what was different to ensure safety norms against COVID-19? "The spacing between rows and columns of chairs. Also, we have installed ceiling fans to circulate air-conditioned and will not close the doors," he pointed out.

The PWD had some portraits of leaders and historical personalities in the traditional Hall at Fort St. George and that came handy, while others were made afresh.

Apart from the Speaker's Chair, seven Secretaries, seven level IAS officers and over 50 journalists, there is a room, including for visiting the Chief Minister and others were also created.

CM  
K