

**SAKTHI FOUNDATION - Uni5  
EDUCATION  
MADRAS CELEBRATED THE FIRST  
INDEPENDENCE DAY ON 15.8.1947**

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This article is the translation from Ananda Vikatan magazine. The editor has visited important parts of Madras on August 15th and observed how people celebrated the very first Independence Day with joy.

Madras city is glowing with lights of colors. I feel the sun has arrived soon in this midnight to enjoy the independence with Madrasies.

In **Thenampet**, Nadhaswarams were played with divine spirit in many temples to welcome the freedom.

AIR was telecasting many patriotic songs.

People were decorating their homes and streets with lights and color papers.

Now I am **Gorge Town** the most crowded part of the city. People were walking towards beach. I asked a person, "where are you rushing? What is the matter?"

He laughed and replied, "I am going to catch the **St. George fort**" [Britain's very first fort in South]

Even I wished to join with crowd and moved towards the Madras fort.

I saw a large crowd gathering to see the flag hoisting ceremony in the fort. I knew Madrasies are sacred to even walk across the road near the fort, but freedom has given them the courage to even enter into the fort. By dawn our tricolored flag got hoisted. People also entered into the office rooms and tore away the British files. *It is very clear that our people must learn many civics ethics to enjoy the real freedom with joy!*

Many said that they can believe that they got freedom after seeing the Indian flag. Few said that we must not once again leave this fort to any one!

When I moved further towards the beach road, I can see the flags waving all across the broad roads and Government buildings declaring the freedom.

When I crossed the bronze statue of George king - 5, I feel he is asking, "Please look at me!"

*Someone has tied our flag in king's hands.*

When I crossed **Madras University** I thought that the buildings must bring out the real education without British makeup.

Now I can see sunrays smearing and blessing the three colors of our flags.

Now I am **Thiuvallikeni**. It is a very important part of the city where Muslims and Hindus live. Even **1000 lamps** area is one such area where I saw people without discrimination hugging each other and pinned the flag to their shirts and sarees.

Now I am **Mylapore**. I am surprised to hear that the Freedom news has reached that area much earlier. So the mood of celebration was at the peak. It is Friday! People are playing crackers! People are shouting that they have made all the demons of slavery to move out of the nation. Rich people of Mylapore hoisted flags in their homes.

Now I am in **Madras Corporation Building** where the freedom fighter Omandur Reddiyar hoisted the flag and people whistled and clapped like the noise of 7 seas.

As the day progressed the celebration mood also increased! It is evening; again I went to St. George fort. The crowd is increasing to see the evening celebrations. Governor Sir.Archebald is going to hoist the Indian flag as the representative of England. Many of our people were also making nuisance which has to be condemned.

Governor came soon but the Prime minister Sri Omandhuraar came late because of traffic jam. When the flag was hoisted, there was a problem in the flag post, flag is not going up. People got tensed. Even Government has not organized a good function. Press people were not given proper places. So they could not shoot what they need. After the function I passed near **G.H** which has been smeared with color bulbs. **Central railway station** has also been well decorated. **Egmore station** can be seen from the Koovam Bridge near Central.

People started celebrating the Independence Day with more spirit at night. People gathered in beach and saw many games and shows. Women are wearing tricolor saree and flowers. Children are holding many flags in their small hands.

It is very nice and blesses to see the Independence Day celebrations in Madras city. I need 1000 eyes to see and admire the festival in future also.

Let us welcome the freedom and say Vande mathram!

Photo: Flag post with Indian flag in St. George fort Madras.