This being a study of "Nation-Building and Local Leadership with reference to Tamil Nadu", and particularly focussing on the municipal councillors of Coimbatore Municipality, a brief account of the general features of (a) Tamil Nadu in general and (b) Coimbatore Municipality in particular is necessary.

I. DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF TAMIL NADU POPULATION

Constituted under the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, with border adjustments in terms of the Pataskar Award, the State of Tamil Nadu comprises the Tamil speaking area in the southernmost part of the Indian peninsula. Originally termed Madras State in 1956, it was re-named Tamil Nadu in December 1968. It is bounded on the north by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, on the west by Kerala, on the east by the Bay of Bengal and on the south by the Indian Ocean. In terms of size, it is the eleventh largest State in the country with an