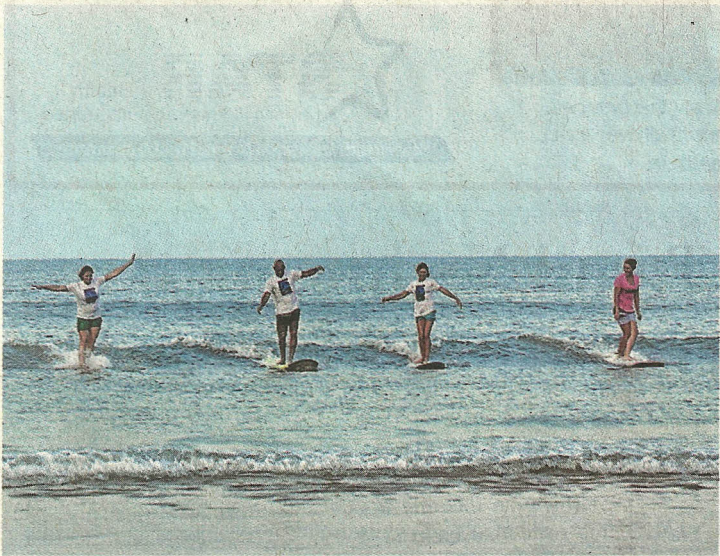




# Sea surfing resort launched in Manapad coast



**ENTERTAINMENT:** Foreign surfers in Manapad coast in Tuticorin district on Tuesday. – PHOTO: N. RAJESH

Staff Reporter

**TUTICORIN:** Collector Ashish Kumar inaugurated the sea surfing resort in the midst of foreign sea surfers at Manapad coast in Tuticorin district on Tuesday.

A team of nine surfers from the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and India surfed over tides in shallow waters of Manapad and the locals were captivated by the water sport. Manapad, a famous pilgrimage site, seems to be an ideal coast for surfing, the foreigners, who have been camping at the coast for the past four days, feel.

The foreigners sported T-shirts that emblazoned 'Magnificent Manapad - Homestay Watersports'. The swirl wind that generated tidal waves was conducive to surfing.

"Manapad has a world class atmosphere for surfing and I googled it to learn its significance," Kate, a surfer from Hawaii, said.

The stint performed by the surfers kindled the interest of adolescent fisher folks, who also had a great deal of time with surfing boards in the sea.

Much to the likes of revellers, water sports centre would be set up at Manapad. Chief Minister Jayalitha had announced it and prelimi-

nary works are under way, Mr. Kumar said.

It would be a major impetus to the tourism industry. Water sports adventure sub-committee would be formed to attract more programmes that would feature surfing, water scooters, kiteboarding, snorkeling and SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) diving.

With concerted efforts by Tourism and Sports officials, these water sports would be organised.

Since Tiruchendur, which attracts a large number of devotees and tourists, is located at few kilometre away from Manapad, tourists could also spend their time with enthusiasm here, Mr. Kumar said.

Arun Miranda, proprietor, Manapad Surfing Resort, said the like-minded people would be trained in surfing at clubs in Chennai and Mangalore.

The trained personnel would guide the approaching tourists at Manapad.

Assistant Director of Fisheries (Marine), Tuticorin, P. Pradeep Kumar, Tahsildar of Tiruchendur, P. Nallasivam, Block Development Officer, Tamil Selvi, Union Chairman of Udangudi, Mallika, and others took part in the event.