Please consider these questions and use them to guide your reading of this primary source:

1. The selection is from the first volume of a 13-volume diary kept by a Tamil commercial broker employed by the French in India, named Ananda Ranga Pillai. Given the brief preamble on p. 1, and the entries that follow, what do you understand to be Ananda Ranga Pillai's motivations in keeping this journal?

2. A central theme in the journal is the rivalry between Ananda Ranga Pillai and another Tamil broker, Pedro or Kanakarâya Mudali. What do these entries teach us about this rivalry?

3. Based on this source, on what was Ananda Ranga Pillai's success founded?
THE PRIVATE DIARY
OF
ANANDA RANGA PILLAI

DUBASH TO
JOSEPH FRANÇOIS DUPLEIX
GOVERNOR OF PONDICHERRY

A RECORD OF MATTERS:
POLITICAL, HISTORICAL, SOCIAL, AND PERSONAL
FROM
1736 TO 1761

TRANSLATED FROM THE TAMIL
BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

EDITED BY
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II.—Accounts given in Orme’s History of the murders of Šafdar ’Ali Khán and his son ...

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FROM SEPTEMBER 6TH, 1736, TO JUNE 17TH, 1737.

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I proceed to chronicle what I hear with my ears; what I see with my eyes; the arrivals and departures of ships; and whatsoever wonderful or novel takes place.

Thursday, 6th September 1736, or 28th Āvani of Nala.—At a meeting of the Council held at 8 this morning, M. Dulaurens was appointed a member of Council. At 4 in the afternoon, M. Dumeslier
waited on the Governor, M. Dumas, and informed him that he would continue to be a member only on the condition that he was to be given precedence over M. Dulaurens in the matter of signing; but that if this was not conceded he did not care to retain his appointment. The Governor replied that he was bound to carry out the orders of the Company, and could not with propriety contravene them. M. Dumesquier then rejoined: "Was I not required, in a despatch which came last year by the ship in which you arrived, to affix my signature beneath those of MM. Dulaurens and Signard? In connection with this your predecessor, M. Lenoir, convened a meeting of the Council. He asserted that the Company had passed its order in ignorance of the actual circumstances of the case, and he promised to address the Directors on my behalf, and to cause a revised one to be issued. He assured you that in the event of the Company charging you with disobedience of its instructions, he would take the responsibility on himself, and he begged you to allow me to sign as fourth member, immediately after M. Legou; as had been the practice during his tenure of office. You thereupon undertook that until receipt of a further communication from him, you would continue to me the precedence which I had hitherto been accorded. He then sent for me, and told me in your presence to retain my appointment only so long as I was in the enjoyment of my present honours, and to throw it up whenever I was required to sign after the persons to whom I have alluded. On this, you gave your word that you would respect what he had said, and you have done so for a year. If you will grant me the same privileges for another twelvemonth, I will remain in my present place; if not, I shall be obliged to resign it." To this the Governor replied: "Your functions will continue undisturbed, and your salary will still be the same. The only change required is in the position of your signature, which you will have to affix after those of the gentlemen already mentioned." M. Dumesquier then made answer: "My means are not so insufficient as to compel me to submit to such an indignity. I regard honour as of greater value. I will therefore, give up my post." The Governor exclaimed: "That is left to you," and M. Dumesquier thereupon took his departure.

Monday, 10th September 1736, or 26th Avani of Nala.—The charter authorizing the coining of rupees which, together with a dress of honour, was sent by Nawab Dost 'Ali Khan* from Alambarai, arrived at 8 this morning. Kanakaraya Mudali † came with it. A procession started to receive it,
every 100 seers of silver. For the favour thus shown them, those doing the goldsmith's work of the mint bribed M. Dumas with 2,000 pagodas, at the rate of 400 pagodas for each of their five shops.

[Friday], 4th January 1737, or 25th Märgashi of Nafa.—I give a statement of the number of rupees coined for the Company's merchants from the silver received from them for that purpose. Dollar-silver weighing 224 seers and 65 pagodas-weights* was coined into Rs. 7,249⁴⁄₅, being at the rate of Rs. 2,335 per 100 seers. Coins stamped with a double head, and weighing 100 seers, were reckoned into Rs. 2,316. Thus, for the total weight of 324 seers and a fraction, the value of coins struck was Rs. 1,067⁴⁄₅. The expenses of coining amounted to Rs. 121⁴⁄₅, or Rs. 16 on every 1,000 rupees. The remainder, viz., Rs. 7,446, was paid to M. Legou.

[Tuesday, 16th January 1737, or] 6th Tai of Nafa.—I started for Porto Novo in view to making up into bales, and despatching, the goods required for embarkation on board the ship Maure, which belongs partly to the Governor, M. Dumas, and partly to Imam Shohib, who is about to start for Mocha. There were also stuffs ordered for the Heureux Marchand, and for certain tradesmen, which had to be baled at Porto Novo by me.

Wednesday, 30th January 1737, or 21st Tai of Nafa.—The requisite cargo was placed on board the Maure, which is bound for Mocha. M. Gabriel

* Standard weight of Pondichery pagoda, dwt. 1 g. 10 mi. 6.
Dumas and M. Lefranquety, embarking in a boat at Porto Novo, reached the vessel at about 5. Owing to failure of wind, she remained in sight until 10 to-day, and then disappeared from view.

Thursday [28th February 1737, or 21st Masi of Nafo].—At 9 this night, I returned to Pondicherry from Porto Novo.

[Friday], 1st March 1737, or 22nd Masi of Nafo.—M. Signard, whom I went to see, observed, in a tone of slight disappointment, that I had not paid him a visit for about a month after the departure of the ship. He then said to me: “Kanakarāya Mudali has been ill of diabetes for a month past, and is entirely bed-ridden. His recovery is problematical, and you stand a good chance of being appointed in his stead. I make no doubt of this; it is only a matter of days.” He advised me to assume, in my intercourse with the Governor, a deportment which would evoke feelings of regard, and so to word my language as to make an impression on him; and he favoured me also with other like kind counsels. Thereupon, I paid a visit to the Governor, M. Dumas, offered my respects to the other members of Council, revisited the Governor, and finally waited on M. Dumeslier.

[Friday], 16th March 1737, or 6th Panguni of Nafo.—M. Delorme sent for me and said: “Rangappa, how is Pedro?” How goes it with his complaint?” I replied: “The nature of the malady is such that one cannot be assured that a perfect cure will be effected. For four days at a time there are symptoms of recovery, and then a relapse follows. This seems to be the present condition of his health.” He then said: “You will be his successor. You may be almost certain of this. The Governor and I have considered the matter and have selected you for the post. God will favour you, and it must come about.” Upon this I thanked him, took leave, and came away.

[Saturday], 16th March 1737, or 7th Panguni of Nafo.—A quantity of blue piece-goods was received to-day from Porto Novo. This was made up for M. Dumas into twenty-six bales.

[Wednesday], 20th March 1737, or 11th Panguni of Nafo.—The Sankarapārīk, which will sail for Manilla after she has completed taking in cargo for that place, goes to Madras, and there ships, in order to complete her lading, some fine chintzes. M. Diros, M. Rousselière Dubois, M. Mahé de la Villebague, captain of the ship, native captain Louis Prakāsam, and supercargo Jaganiyāsa Mudali, who is the brother-in-law of Kanakarāya Mudali, have embarked on board the Sankarapārīk, which is to proceed to the roadstead at Mylapore.

She sails for Manilla.