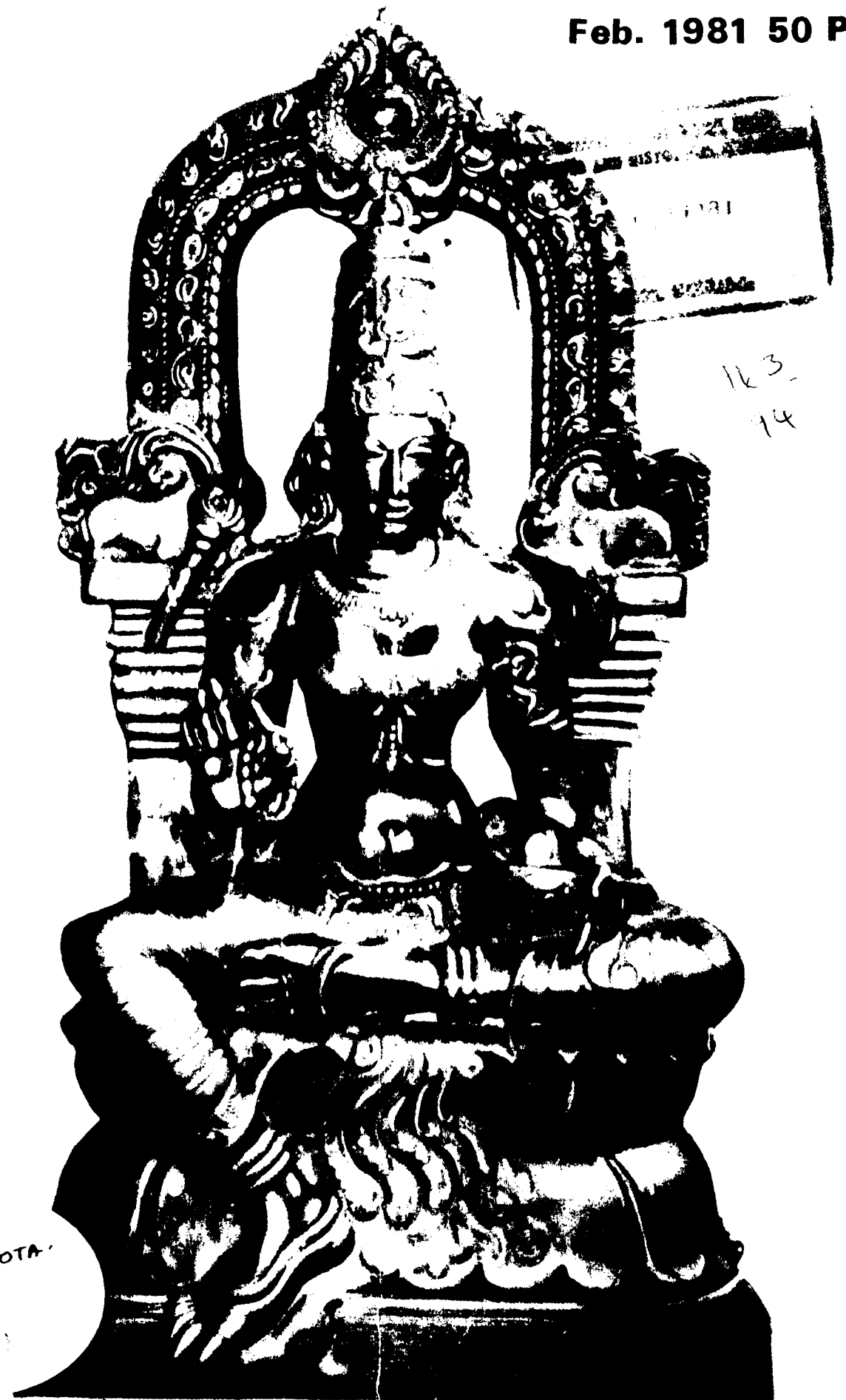
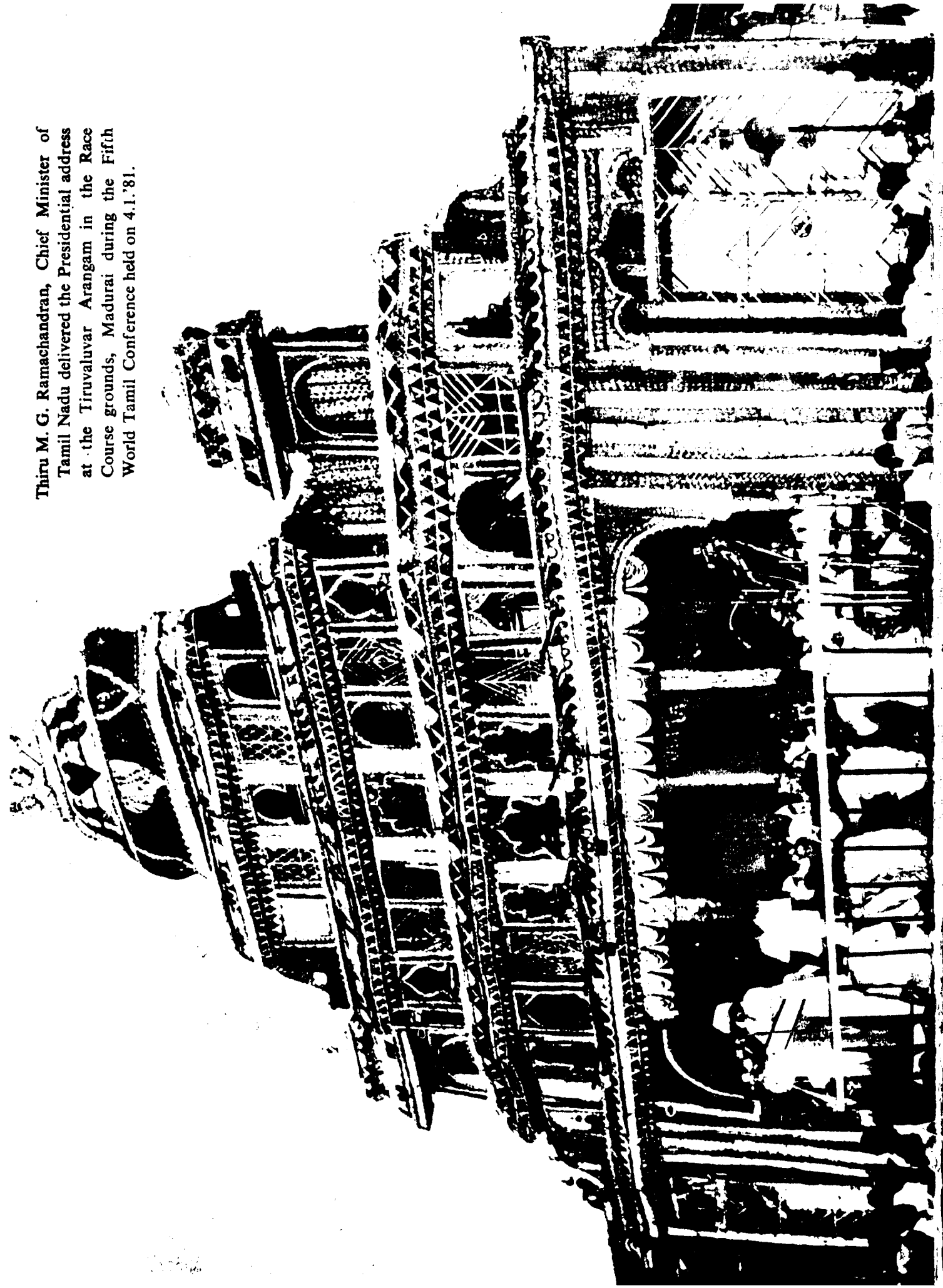


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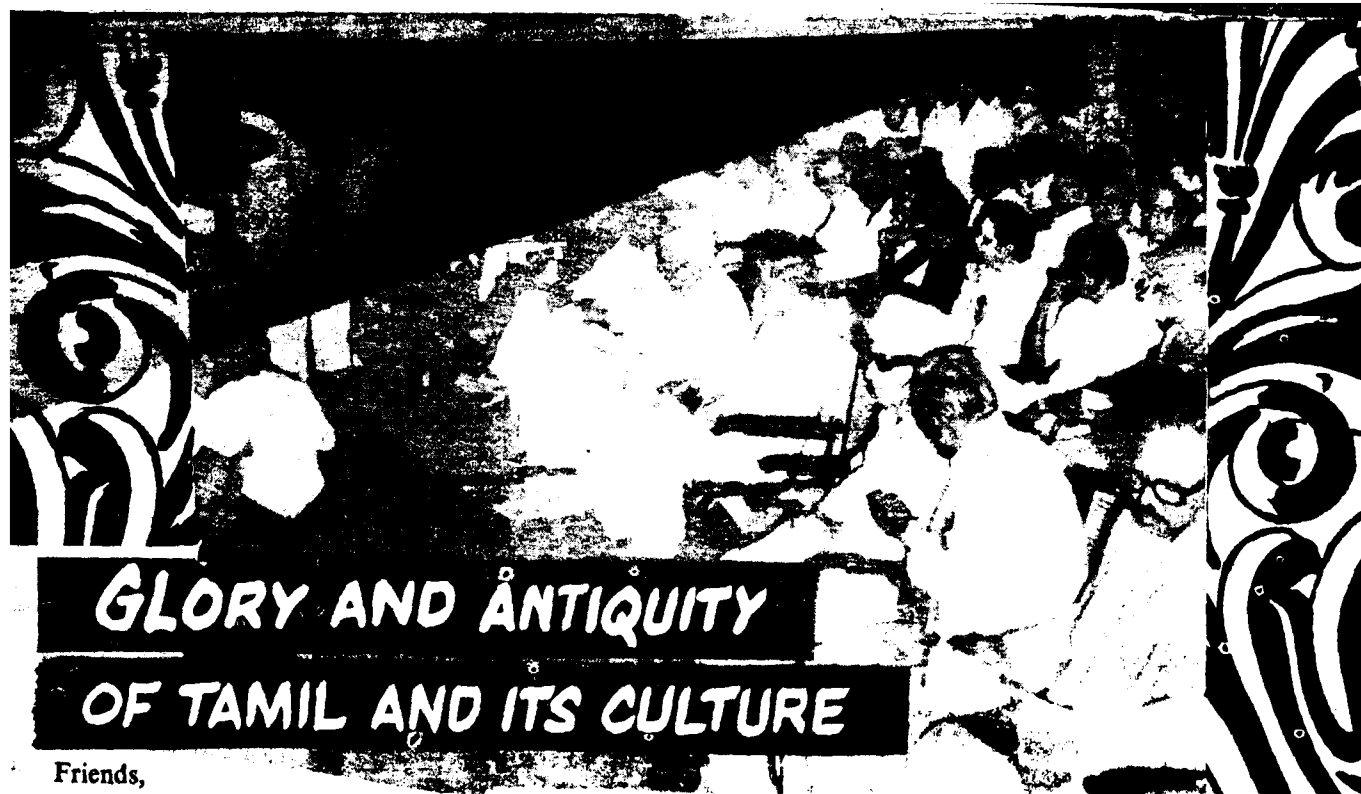
Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu delivered the Presidential address at the Tiruvaluvar Arangam in the Race Course grounds, Madurai during the Fifth World Tamil Conference held on 4.1.'81.



Veik  
12

The Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru Sadiq Ali taking the salute at the march past held on the Republic Day on 26.1.'81.  
The Governor and the Chief Minister are witnessing the pageant.





## GLORY AND ANTIQUITY OF TAMIL AND ITS CULTURE

Friends,

I am greatly honoured by the invitation to inaugurate the Fifth World Tamil Conference. Of the four earlier conferences three were held in countries outside India. This fact alone brings out forcefully the international character of the Tamil Conference. Madurai is happy that it has the good fortune to play the host for the fifth conference. I extend a warm welcome to all the delegates who have assembled here, in particular, delegates who have come from abroad.

There has been much scholarly research on the origins and antiquity of Tamil language. This research will go on for a considerable length of time. The research will not be all of a severely academic nature. It has some practical implications. Language is very much bound up with the culture of a country. The depth of a culture is partly measured by its age and the succession of experiences it goes through in the course of its evolution. An erudite scholar has observed that "at least two out of three of the world's earliest civilisations turn out to be connected with people who spoke Dravidian languages". Tamil has been widely regarded as possibly the earliest cultivated and most highly developed of the Dravidian languages. Tolkappiyam the earliest extant record of Tamil is itself good evidence of the antiquity and greatness of Tamil language. This grammatical treatise with the light it throws on many matters, has obviously behind it many centuries of growth of Tamil literature.

A grammatical treatise may be dry reading; but when we come to Thirukkural, the ancient scripture of the Tamil language and its people, the greatness and beauty of Tamil culture is brought out in vivid colours. So great is its catholicity that it is claimed alike by the followers of Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism. It teaches universal humanism. A keen student of ethical and religious thought Dr. Albert Schweitzer, says "there hardly exists in the literature of the world a collection of maxims in which we find so much lofty idealism". Another foreign scholar has described it as one of the highest and purest expressions of human thought. How modern and how catholic Thirukkural rings when it says: "All men are born equal. The differences among them are entirely due to occupations."

Thirukkural could not have sprung up from nowhere or from the head of one exalted individual independent of his surroundings and the culture in which he was brought up. The book reveals not only its own greatness but also the greatness of the culture of which in the field of literature it was its highest product.

The Tamil language and the culture associated with it grew in many ways as century followed century and many new challenges emerged and

**Thiru SADIQ ALI**  
GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU

new situations arose to which it gave its fitting response. The human mind, human emotions and spirit expressed themselves in a multitude of ways and enriched the language and its literature. There were times when Tamil literature was largely secular but there were other times when religion and spirituality left their deep impress on it and formed the basic approach to reality. The religious and philosophical trend in Tamil literature continued upto the last century. There were many renowned saints whose service to Tamil literature was next only to their service to religion. There were many schools of ethical and religious thought which revealed the breadth and depth of the Tamilian spirit. The great contribution Jainism and Buddhism have made to Tamilian thought and the development of the Tamilian language is well known. Sanskrit was, of course a fertile source of strength and inspiration. At a later period came Islam which made its own impact and contributed to the growth of Tamilian literature and added a new element in its social and religious thought. Christianity came last making its own distinctive contribution and bringing with it the beginnings of the modern period.

Adventures of the mind and spirit were not confined to art and literature. The Tamil part of India had wide contacts with several countries of the world. There was much shipping activity and foreign trade which greatly served to widen its outlook and add to its material riches. The Sangam classic Pattinappalai

describes Kavirippattinam flourishing in internal and external trade. The imports and exports in that city port are recorded thus:

"The horses that came across the sea  
The pepper that came through land  
Gold and Gems from the northern mountains  
Sandal and Akil from the Western ghats,  
Pearls of the South seas, coral of the eastern sea  
Products of Ganges and those of Kaviri  
Foods from Ceylon and goods from Burma  
Rare and great in abundance gather  
And luxuriantly mix in its market streets"

We come across many references to Tamils and their culture in the writings and travelogues of foreigners. These substantiate the references in Tamil literature to the commerce of Tamilakam with the western countries and Graeco-Roman world. These are also corroborated by the description provided by the Greek and Roman writers and geographers of the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. Strabo says in 25 B.C. that he saw about 120 ships sailing from Hormus to India. Strabo also speaks of two Pandiyar embassies to the Court of Emperor Augustus.

The advent of British rule and foreign influences introduced new literary forms and patterns like novel, short story, essay, travelogue and biography which gradually assumed great importance. The struggle for independence brought in its wake literary resurgence in Indian languages. Poet Subramanya Bharathi who tuned patriotism to music and poetry, roused the masses and inspired them with his patriotic fervour. Bharathi was the pioneer of the movement which freed the Tamil language from the bondage of scholars and pundits, and brought it within the reach of the common man. Bharathi's poems were inspired by patriotism. Bharathi richly deserves the tribute of being hailed as the poet of Nava Bharath. Behind his patriotic outpourings was a vision of new India to be shaped by a social and economic revolution. Bharathi's traditions have been carried forward by a host of modern writers who have widened the base of Tamil and enlarged its appeal to the common man. The works of late Dr. M. Varadarajan whilst they reveal profound scholarship, also make an appeal to the common man and

infect him with a sense of values. Against the background of this rich cultural heritage, it is no wonder if the study of Tamil literature has aroused the active interest of the international academic fraternity. Almost all the major countries of the world have, in their academic institutions, departments of Tamil studies at different levels.

The School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London has made valuable contributions to Tamil through many distinguished scholars like Dr. John R. Marr and R.E. Asher.

Tamil studies had a hey-day in Oxford during the tenure of Dr. G.U. Pope. In this university under Professor Burrow, a number of students have taken their Doctorates. Also there are facilities for research in Tamil in Cambridge, Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh Universities in the United Kingdom.

In the Soviet Union, many institutions and Universities offer courses in Tamil Studies. Leningrad University and the Moscow Institute of Orientalists offer facilities for courses in Tamil language and literature. Andronov's "Colloquial Tamil and its Dialects" is a pioneering work in Tamil dialect study. A Russian-Tamil Dictionary was compiled by him and his students.

### DECORATIVE ARCHES

Five archways built on five approach roads to the city stand as imposing memorials to the greatness of Tamilnadu.

The Pandyan Thoranavayil at the Aruppukottai road was declared open by Thiru S. K. Balakrishnan, Mayor of Madurai. Thiru Andi Thevar, M. L. A. presided.

The Cheran Thoranavayil near Pasumalai at the Madurai-Tirumangalam road, was inaugurated by Thiru K. A. P. Viswanathan. Thiru M. A. Muthiah Chettiar presided.

The Nakeetar Thoranavayil was declared open by Tmt. Sathiyavani Muthu M. P., under the presidency of Thiru T. P. M. Periaswamy, Secretary Tamil Sangam, Madurai.

The Cholan Thoranavayil was inaugurated at Ramanathapuram Road by Thiru N. Mahalingam. Thiru M. Bhaktavatsalam, former Chief Minister of Tamilnadu presided.

The Angayarkanni Thoranavayil at Thenni road was declared open by Thirumuruga Kripananda Variar. Tmt. Soundara Kailasam presided.

In the United States, the Universities of Pennsylvania, California, Chicago, Washington, Cornell and Hawaii, among others, offer opportunities for learning Tamil language and literature and doing research in them. Dr. George Hart, Fishman and Emeneau, have done exemplary service to Tamil in that country.

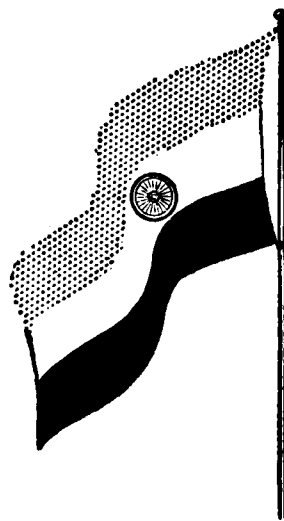
In France, the *Ecole Nationale des langues orientales* introduced Tamil teaching as early as 1868. The French School of Far Eastern Studies, founded in 1900, has been concentrating on Dravidian Studies.

Other than these, Germany, Holland, Poland, etc., and many Universities in Sri Lanka and Malaysia are making significant contributions to Tamil Studies.

All this should make us both proud and humble, proud for obvious reasons but it is good if we keep our pride within right limits and let it be used for wider ends. It was Gandhiji who first, in this modern period, laid great stress on the development of our mother-tongues and regional languages and their fullest possible use for all our work in the varied fields of life. It was natural that our struggle for freedom gave the study of Tamil a great impetus. There were other sources of encouragement and development of Tamil after India became free. That the Tamil language and culture has, down the centuries, travelled abroad to several parts of the world is an additional source of inspiration. With all these advantages, a main source of strength lies in the fact that Tamil besides being sweet is a vital language, flexible, expressive and capable of growth and expansion.

There is a vast explosion of knowledge in the world of today and new arts and sciences are all the time springing up. To absorb all this new thought and new knowledge, Tamil I do humbly feel, whilst preserving its own distinctive characteristics, has to throw its doors wide open for the influx of new words and new ideas. It is thus that a language grows and embraces in its scope the totality to human thought. It is very right and proper that this Fifth World Tamil Conference is allowing itself to be guided by the spirit of the ancient Sangam poet who said that 'the world is my house and everyone my kinsman'. May I again, as I leave you with this message from a great poet, offer you my warm greetings and express the hope that your deliberations will be fruitful in many ways.

Vanakkam



## Hearty Greetings on the Republic Day

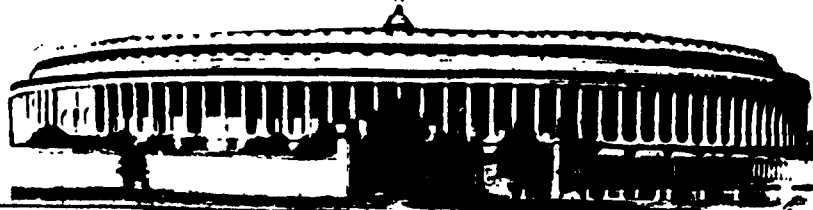
On January 26, 1950 the people of India laid the foundation of a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic. In the past 31 years we have many achievements to our credit.

We have

- Set up democracy on a strong foundation;
- Overcome chronic food shortages;
- Emerged as one of the most industrialised countries;
- Risen to be a top ranker in Science and Technology;
- Fought off successfully three external aggressions
- And our voice counts in international forums.

Yet much more has to be achieved for securing complete social justice to all and raising the standard of living of the people.

This can be done only through strong bonds of national unity.



**Consolidate National Integration And Strengthen  
Secular Forces For Progress And Security**

day 88/328

The Chief Minister Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, presiding over the inauguration of the Fifth World Tamil Conference announced that a World Tamil Sangam would be soon established at Madurai.

The Chief Minister said the purpose of the World Tamil Sangam would be to establish rapport among the Tamil speaking population all over the world and also to explore ways and means of enriching the Tamil language. Scholars and intellectuals in Tamil would be consulted about the World Sangam and the Government would look after the administration of the Sangam, whose aim would also be to let the world know the pristine glory and the rich literary heritage of the language. The co-operation of all people connected with the language and culture would be enlisted for the purpose.

The Chief Minister also said that on September 15 of every year, during the occasion of Anna's birthday celebrations would be conducted to bring about a liason between the Tamil-speaking population in all parts of the globe. He emphatically said the present conference had no political moorings and political overtones at all. There just could not be any political controversy about the conference. The conference was entirely devoted to the propagation and exploring the many labyrinths of the language. "If we talk about any regime, the purpose of the conference will be defeated", he added.

Thiru Ramachandran also made a strong plea for the invention of a kind of Tamil that would be entwined with the masses life "The Tamil that is spoken and written by a common worker should be akin to that of the Tamil that is being spoken from a literary platform. Efforts should be made in this direction," he said. "This Tamil should be easily understandable by the toiling masses. And this Tamil should have both grammar and rich literature," he added. The world Tamil Sangam to be established could give protection to that kind of Tamil that would be enmeshed with our lives", he also said.

Referring to the several pleas made by many speakers during the inauguration for the acceptance of foreign words in Tamil and also for the introduction of letters like "z" and "f" in Tamil, Thiru



Ramachandran said any reform in a language should aim at the reduction in the number of letters in a language. He said the addition of letters to a language would result in confusion and be a burden to the learners. He requested the delegates to discuss this and give their suggestions.

The Chief Minister also said efforts would be taken to implement the use of Tamil in courts in full measure. He appealed to the people to make it a point to use Tamil in all their avocations.

Referring to some remarks made by Thiru Amirthalingam, Sri Lanka Opposition Leader about the troubles they had in conducting the world conference in the past in Sri Lanka, Thiru Ramachandran made it clear that one could not interfere in the regime of another country but help would be given for the propagation of Tamil.

**EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH  
OF CHIEF MINISTER.**

# MIRROR OF LONG, SPLENDID HISTORY OF TAMILNADU

THE CHIEF MINISTER OF KARNATAKA THIRU R. GUNDURAO

"Friends of Tamil Nadu and distinguished writers of Tamil,

I am exceedingly happy to be here today and to open this Exhibition organized in connection with the Fifth World Tamil Conference. On behalf of the people of Karnataka I convey cordial greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu and to writers in Tamil Language. There are speakers and writers of Tamil from different parts of the world here. About twentyfive percent of the population in Sri Lanka speaks Tamil. Tamil is the third language in Malaya. There are thousands of speakers of Tamil in South Africa and other countries. I convey my greetings to all the friends who have come here from abroad and the speakers of Tamil outside the country who have not been able to be here with us physically. I know their hearts are here.

Tamil and Kannada are closely related and the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have lived in friendship and co-operation for thousands of years. Tamil is one of the Dravidian languages and this is probably the oldest. Kannada is the second oldest Dravidian language. Tamil literature has a long and great history. Its history stretches over more than two thousands years. It has a literature rich in quality. Some of the most distinguished writers of India come from Tamil Nadu. We, in Karnataka, are familiar with the work of some of the giants of Tamil literature. Who has not heard of Thirukkural? It has been translated into several languages outside India. It belongs to the Wisdom Literature of the world. Shilappadikaram has been translated into Kannada. Kannagi is a wellknown figure to Kannada readers and has won their admiration. The great Shaiva devotees and the Alvars are remembered with reverence in all parts of India. Their devotional songs have been translated into other languages. Kamba-Ramayana is wellknown like the Tulasidasa Ramayana in Hindi and Kumara Vyasa Bharata in Kannada. In more recent times all India has

claimed a patriotic singer like Sri Subramanya Bharati. He was a revolutionary poet. His songs stirred the hearts and inspired the Indians when they were sunk in slavery. In more recent times, Rajaji has come to be revered both as a statesman and as a writer. I may recall here that Rajaji translated some stories of our great Kannada writer Masti Venkatesh Iyengar. Fortunately in recent years great works in Indian languages are being translated. So we have come to share the literary gems of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

In fact, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka share a glorious cultural heritage. Literature is only a part of this magnificent heritage. Shri Purandara Dasa of Karnataka has been regarded as the father of the Karnatak Music. But both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have bestowed the most affectionate patronage on Karnatak Music. Some of the greatest musicians of South India belongs to these two States. They have delighted millions of lovers of music in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The Dravida style of architecture has flourished in both these States. Pilgrims visit Rameswaram and Kanyakumari, Madurai and Tanjore and Kanchipuram and Annamalai in Tamil Nadu and Srirangapattana, Sringeri and Udupi in Karnataka. The temples are quite often of the same style. In recent times the people of the two States have fought together for the freedom of the country. Leaders in these two States frequently toured these areas and were equally wellknown in the two States. Rajaji, of whom Tamil Nadu is justly proud, graduated from Central College in Bangalore. Sir C.V. Raman, a distinguished son of Tamil Nadu, came over to Bangalore. We are glad and proud that he spent so many years with us in Karnataka.

I have mentioned only some instances to recall the history and the traditions that we share. The river Cauvery born in Karnataka flows into Tamil Nadu. There are differ-



ences of opinion about the use of these waters. But, both of us—the people of Karnataka and the people of Tamil Nadu—are the children of this river. In times of difficulty and crises these two States have shared food and electricity. I am, therefore, glad to be herewith you today, it is a great day for Tamil Nadu. I share in your excitement and in your joy.

Language is a precious asset of the people. It is a store-house of the people's knowledge. It is a mine of the people's culture. It is a part of their life—a very very precious part. It is a sweet force which binds people together. It is a link between the past and the present. The people of Tamil Nadu are rightly proud of their language and their literature. I am sure this Exhibition reflects the greatness and the glory of Tamil Nadu. I am sure it holds the mirror of the long and splendid history of Tamil Nadu and its people. I have no doubt it will be both a store-house of knowledge and a thrilling and inspiring experience. I congratulate the organizers on the devotion with which they have got up this Exhibition. I am confident lakhs of people will flock to it. I have no doubt the organizers will be fully rewarded. I deem it a privilege to open this rich exhibition. Friends, once again I offer you cordial greetings on behalf of the Government and the people of Karnataka. We hope to have a World Kannada Conference soon. I am sure representatives of Tamil and Tamil Nadu will give us the joy and their company. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have long and glorious histories. They have much in common and they have lived in friendship and co-operation. We have to march onward hand in hand as citizens of a great and glorious country. I am sure with co-operation and understanding we can solve all problems and we can welcome the future with a bright and confident smile.

Thanking you Vanakkam.



Conceived as a major project forming part of the V World Tamil Conference, the exhibition was designed to depict the glorious tradition of Tamil culture, civilization, language and literature.

At the very entrance one is traditionally greeted by three magnificent archways which are proof of the architectural, and aesthetic excellence of the Pandya, Chera and Chola kingdoms.

The Cholan archway with the figure of two tigers - the symbol of the Chola dynasty embossed on the sides in symmetrical fashion greets the visitors entering the exhibition grounds.

The Chera archway with an imposing structure of the bow and arrow, the Chera dynasty symbol bisecting the entrance, and the Pandyan archway with two figures of fish, the Pandya symbol greet the visitors.

Various Government departments which have put up pavilions vie with one another to depict most attractively the growth and development of Tamil culture and civilization by various literary works in Tamil.

Typifying this uniqueness is the pavilion put up by the Department of Hindu Religious and charitable endowments, with its three imposing gopurams at the entrance.

Various forms of Hindu Religious worship and changing forms of temple architecture, as adduced by famous Tamil literary works like Silappathikaram, Thirumurgatruppada and Manimekalai have been portrayed through attractive models.

The gopuram at the frontage has a carved figure of Goddess Meenakshi. The other two gopurams are designed on Vaishnavite and saivite models. The three gopurams

will form a permanent feature of the swami Sankaradas Auditorium. Jewels from five famous temples have also been displayed.

The Tamil Development Department has designed a brilliant model portraying the five Tamil lands Kurunji, Palai, Mullai, Marutham and Neidhal in natural settings.

There is a sound and light feature in almost all the pavilions.

The pavilion of the department of archaeology has been erected in the most imaginative manner, in the form of a fort guarded by warriors on horse-back and surrounded by a moat. A number of invaluable artifacts excavated recently by the department have been kept on display.

A skeleton which was found as a heap in an urn dug out of Kovalan Pottal in Madurai is on display. The skeleton is that of a man—a citizen of Madurai who might have lived 2,000 years ago.

The newly discovered cave paintings in Nallapadi in Dharmapuri district, said to be the earliest paintings in Tamilnadu and belonging to the Neolithic and stone ages are in display.

The pavilion of the Tourism Department has a geographic model of Tamil Nadu pinpointing its various landmarks. It has also improvised models of seven tourist attractions. Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Tiruchitrambalam temple, Poompuhar, Mamallapuram temple, Mudumalai Forest Reserve, Meenakshi temple and Rameswaram temple incorporating the sound and light feature.

The Madurai-Kamaraj University has on display a Tamil book entitled "Guna Muraimaigalin Villakam" published in 1781. Through its various exhibits, the university elicits the universal appeal of the Tamil language and its influence on other languages of the world.

The cultural heritage of the Tamils and the administrative practices of the ancient Tamil kings have been depicted through colourful models, quoting the evidence available in Tamil literary works such as "Purananooru". An attractive gadget spotlights certain words in foreign languages which have their roots in Tamil.

The Forest Department has exhibited an array of photographs of natural scenery, describing the spirit and subtle meanings of excerpts from Tamil poetry. This is set against a background of bamboo stems.

Materials discovered in excavation in the ancient historical sites of Uraiyur, Azhagiri and Kanchi are on show. Artifacts and photo enlargements showing Roman amphorae or drinking vessels imported from Italy in the early centuries of the Christian era, ring wells, bricks of large sizes are displayed. Pottery with ancient Tamil inscriptions are also displayed.



The P.W.D. pavilion has displayed models showing various stages in the development of the dam irrigation system in Tamil Nadu right upto the Periyar-Vaigai system.

The exhibition venue, in all its illuminated splendour, provides a grand spectacle of a mini-town abounding in temples and sculptural marvels and depicting the historic traditions culture, language and literature of the Tamils.



## Kumarikandam Tamil kooru Nallulakam

Thiru E.K. NAYANAR,  
Chief Minister of Kerala

I am very happy to participate in this function connected with the Fifth World Tamil Conference. When your dear Chief Minister Makkalthilakam Thiru M. G. Ramachandran invited me to attend this Conference, I had to accept it because of the very close and cordial relations that we maintain with each other. Besides, Kerala and Tamilnadu are adjoining states and we have many common problems to face. Above all, there is the historical fact of centuries of intimate association that we two peoples have. In fact, our language Malayalam is a sister language of Tamil. It is on record that the present Kerala was once part of Tamilnadu and that the main language of Kerala was Tamil. This close linguistic and cultural affinity is a thing which we two peoples can never forget. Tamil is a very rich language with a very ancient and glorious cultural heritage. It is this great cultural heritage of the Tamil people that marks them out as one of the most ancient people inhabiting the Indian sub-continent.

There are in fact many theories regarding the genesis of Tamil and the Dravidian languages. There are also many theories regarding the land inhabited by the Tamil people. Of these, the theory of the continent of Lemuria denotes the most ancient heritage. The present film which I am going to inaugurate deals with this theory. According to it, in the pre-historic era, the land of the Tamil people extended and spread across the present-day Sri Lanka and part of the Indian ocean upto Africa. Some of the languages

spoken by certain African people have many things in common with the Tamil language. So also, there are certain customs among certain African peoples which are akin to that of the Tamils. According to this theory, most of this land mass got submerged into the ocean during a period of violent volcanic eruptions. Of course, there is a school of thought which maintains that there is no scientific evidence to prove this theory. But this concept of the continent of Lemuria is widespread among the Tamil people. There are also different views regarding the extent of the land mass called Lemuria.

"Tamil Kooru Nallulakam" is specifically mentioned in the preference to Tolkappiyam. This noteworthy treatise on Tamil grammar has been assigned to the Third century B. C. This being a book of an advanced type, it goes without saying that Tamil language, the Tamil people and Kumari Kandam, the land of the Tamil is much older. In "Periplus" Kumari is described as a Peninsula, a port and as a place of pilgrimage. In *Chilapathikaram*, the ancient epic of the Cheras, there is specific reference to the vast land mass south of Kumari which got submerged in the sea. No body can miss Illanko Adikal's reference to:

"Pahruliyattudan Panmalai  
Adukkathu,  
Kumarikkodum Kodumkadal  
Kolla."

The great commentator of  
"Chilapathikaram" Adiyarkku

Nallar has described in detail the areas which got submerged in the sea. The Sangham work "Kalthokai" also refers to the existence of a land mass south of Kumari which got submerged in the sea due to volcanic action.

So, from all evidence, it is an undisputed fact that the Tamil language and the Tamil culture is one of the oldest of all cultures in the world. It is now accepted on all hands that the Dravidian languages were not confined to South India as now. One theory is that Dravidian languages have been widespread in northern India as well. Certain tribal languages spoken even today in Kashmir and in Baluchistan have certain common features with Dravidian languages. Certain features of the Dravidian are also found in the Rigveda, the earliest Indo-Aryan literature. It is also believed that in Mohanjodaro, which marks the high-peak of Indus-valley civilization, the language spoken was a kind of Proto-Dravidian. It has been established that certain inscriptions in the Mesopotamian valley revealed the Tamil connection. In the Vedas also, there are references about Tamils and their trade with North India and the countries beyond. There has been reports recently in the Press that the inscriptions on the Pyramids of Egypt have close links with Tamil. Tamil is recognised as one of the national languages in Sri Lanka and Singapore. It is an accepted fact that Tamil is a more ancient language than Sanskrit and that this literature is rich and varied. In the circumstances, it is only in the

fitness of things that the organisers of this great conference took care to remember and reconstruct the glowing memories of a glorious past and to present to us the great story of a great people and their rich civilization in the form of a film so that all of us could see it with our own eyes.

Of the ancient Tamil literature, some are a common heritage to us both Malayalees and Tamils. 'Chilapathikaram' as you are aware is one of the greatest epics in Tamil literature. This was written around 200 A. D. by Prince Ilanko belonging to the Chera dynasty whose kingdom included part of to-day's Kerala. The story of "KANNAKI" and "KOVALAN" was narrated to Prince Ilanko and King Chenkuttuva when they were on a tour on the banks of river Periyar. Ilanko Adigal wrote this great epic on the basis of this narration. This historic city of Madurai where we are meeting now and the river Vaiga that flow by it, are the places where the last scenes of this great epic took place. Later, the Chera king Chenkuttuva made an idol of Kannaki and enshrined it in a temple at Kcdurgalloor in Kerala. That temple is today worshipped as Sreekarumba Bhagavathi temple. I am aware that the story of Kannaki is a household story among the Tamil people and it is a story which binds us Malayalees and Tamils together. The great names of the Bhakti poets, the great kings Cherman Perumal and Kulasekara Alwar, live ever fresh in our memory. The author of the first Tamil drama "Manonmaniam" Prof. Sundaram Pillai belongs to Alleppey in Kerala. Thus throughout the past, in the field of grammar, in the field of epics, in the field of drama, in the life of the people, there is a thread of common heritage. The place-names, the festivals, the description of nature in Sangham Literature—all bear the stamp of the area now Kerala. Thus the Malayalees and the Tamils have been growing up together. It was only with the development of the Malayalam language through a particular historical process of growth that the people west of the ghats ultimately developed as a distinct nationality.

Viewing the entire development of the various peoples that inhabit the world, we find a similar process of growth and development regarding many languages and peoples. India itself is a witness to this great transformation. Through years of historical process, various dialects and mother-tongues spoken by vari-

ous tribes and emerging nationalities have grown and developed into full-fledged languages. In this process, certain already developed languages have decayed and died. That is how we find that Sanskrit, the once powerful language of India, is a dead language today. So was the fate of Latin the once flourishing language of Europe.

### VIVID PICTURE OF LEMURIA

A vivid presentation of Lemuria or Kumarikandam, which some old Tamil traditions hold was a lost continent to the south of the present India, where the first two Tamil Sangams, located in Tenmadurai and Kapatapuram flourished, was provided in a film Kumarikandam. The film is a flash back to a glorious civilisation.

The film, made in colour depicts a striking, cataclysmic, event. Aeons ago nature made the continents. They were all united together. But tremendous physical charges separated them, leaving a kind of pendant to what is now India, almost linking the sub-continent with Africa. This was Lemuria.

The first Tamil Sangam functioned in Tenmadurai on the banks of the river Pahnilli running across Lemuria, South of the Indian sub-continent. The Pandya ruled beneficently and like a patriarch. He was a great patron of Tamil. But nature destroyed his land in course of time. The second Sangam was established on the luscious banks of Kavatapuram. It too waxed gloriously until it fell victim to the fury of the Ocean and with it was destroyed the glory that was Kumari Kandam.

The most striking part of the film depicted the Pandyas rescuing of the classical poems that he could and bringing them to Madurai, suffering indescribable hardships. The last dramatic scene depicts him placing the precious bundle at the feet of the Goddess of Tamil.

In this connection, I may point out that rich culture that Tamil has imbibed through ages is against narrow sectarian walls that divide people, as well as against narrow national chauvinism. The great poet of 'Purananooru', Kanniyen Poonkuthanar had sung "Yathum Oore Yavarum Kelir". We, the Malayalees also have imbibed this great culture. And that is why today you find Tamils and Malayalees making their homes in the

various parts of India and the world. This quality of inculcating the best of other culture and living in harmony with other people is a common trait of the Tamils and Malayalees. In keeping with this noble tradition, Kerala has been enthusiastic to give all encouragement to Tamil. We have a large number of Tamil-medium schools as well as schools where Tamil is taught as a second language. Tamil is an optional language in many colleges. The Tamil Department of Kerala University has developed into a major department which provides facilities for Post-graduate studies and research. About 150 Post-graduates and some 25 persons with Doctorates of Kerala University are now holding high offices in various parts of the world contributing to the development of Tamil studies. Besides our Calicut University too is conducting courses in Tamil upto post-graduation.

Thus from the ancient past to the present day, there is a common-bond that binds the Tamil and Malayalee peoples. Today, this is also reflected in our common approach to matters of federalism, democracy, social welfare, education and many other fields of economic, political and social activity. This broad common harmony in outlook is in keeping with our common heritage. This bond of friendship between we two peoples is unbreakable, as we both are bound to all other peoples of India through innumerable bonds of common ties. And Malayalam being a sister to Tamil, I need not tell Tamil what its duty is towards its sister. I am sure that Tamil will always stand by its sister. And as a member of the great Tamil family, let me recite Thirukkural by way of conclusion:

"Keda aa vazhivantha keenmai  
Keenmai  
Vidaara vizhaiyum Ulaku".

I thank your Chief Minister Makkalthilakam M. G. Ramachandran for having invited me to this great function. After all, it is a family function. And I thank you all for the patient hearing you have given me.

With these words, I inaugurate the film depicting the rich past of the Tamil people.

Thank you, Thank you all once again.



*Hon'ble Chief Minister, distinguished Chairman, learned delegates, ladies and gentlemen,*

At the outset, let me thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for giving me this rare privilege and honour of associating myself with the Fifth World Tamil Conference—a landmark in the cultural renaissance of the South. On this historic occasion I would like to convey the fraternal greetings and good wishes of fifty million Telugus to the gracious people of Tamil Nadu in general and Fifth World Tamil Conference in particular.

#### **Pioneering Spirit**

We have been following with real admiration your exertions to bring together the Tamils from different parts of the world to a common platform and exchange views on the fast changing scenario on the socio cultural plane over the years. The First International Conference on Tamil, it will be recalled, was held in April, 1966 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Two years later in January, 1968 the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Arignar Anna of revered memory organised the Second International Tamil Conference at Madras amid scenes of unprecedented enthusiasm. It was this conference that put forward the proposal to establish an International Institute of Tamil Studies. One recalls with pleasure that the venue of the Third International Tamil Conference was Paris on the continent. Meeting in July, 1970, the Paris conference emerged as a symbol of the pioneering spirit of a great people in the East to give expressions to their yearnings on the cultural plane in the West.

#### **Worthy of Emulation**

Perhaps, it was but fitting that their cultural evolution should blossom in a great and historic city which on more than one occasion down the centuries changed the course of the history of mankind. In January 1974, Sri Lanka hosted the Fourth International Tamil Conference that turned out to be a literary treat to the scholars from Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. Today, the Fifth World Tamil Conference is meeting at Madurai in the heart of Tamil Nadu, making a milestone in the renaissance of the Tamils. We are proud nay even envious of your sustained efforts to foster your cultural growth on the international plane with missionary fervour. I look upon this as a most admirable trait that is worthy of emulation.

#### **Fuller Growth of Literature**

As I stand here I should say I feel thrilled; I feel inspired by what I see and hear around me. The magnificence of spectacle, the cultural pageantry and the intellectual effusion around me are all bound to make an enduring impact on the present as well as the rising generation in this part of the country. Festivities apart, an occasion like this offers a unique opportunity for intellectual interaction between various schools of thought in your literature and history, culture and customs. In ultimate analysis, this promotes a appreciation of the mainstream of our common heritage an understanding and appreciation that is necessary for the fuller growth of our contemporary literature in particular.

## **LEGACY OF ENDURING IMPACT**

**ANJIAH,**  
Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Legacy of Enduring Impact**

I also believe that an occasion like this provides a meeting ground of main linguistic denominations, of course, in a limited way who may converge on the scene to enjoy the spectacle and festivities. They understand one another and in due course love one another thus paving the way for concord and harmony so very necessary for national integration. In this context I would like to refer to an important aspect. What counts an occasion like this may not be the intellectual effusions thrown up by the events nor the union of hearts brought about among various linguistic denominations. The impact they leave behind is more important as well as significant. We in Andhra Pradesh still cherish the memory of the First World Telugu Conference in 1975 and its enduring impact on us. As such, we look forward to the Second World Telugu Conference that is slated to meet at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in April this year.

#### **Blossomed into their Choicest**

The Tamils and the Telugus as you are aware are an ancient people. Their history, their cultures and their languages are as unique as they are ancient. They are intertwined and intermingled because they all blossomed into their choicest on the banks of the Krishna and the Cauvery in the same region—the sun kissed South. While the Tamils are proud of their contribution to the development of Telugus' cultural history,

the Telugus are equally proud of their part in the progress of Tamil Nadu. Here one recalls with pleasure the monumental work done by the Nayaks of Madurai in this part of the country. Again, while the creative enthusiasm and the meaningful experimentation in arts almost faded away in Andhra Pradesh during the post-Krishna Deva Raya period it, was Tamil Nadu that extended its patronage for the development of Telugu arts. For instance, the Yakshagana, the Pada Kavita, the prose literature and several other literary forms flourished here. The large hearted rulers of Madurai patronised the art experimentation of both the linguistic denominations with equal love and regard.

#### **Symbol of Cultural Cohesion**

Although many instances of this nature could be cited here with ease, my mind goes back to a unique example—the shining example of Saint Tyagaraja. He was born at Tiruvurur in Tanjore district in the heart of Tamil Nadu in 1763. As a musicologist and composer he stands on a pinnacle of eminence. In a larger sense, he is a living symbol of cultural cohesion as well as linguistic harmony, transcending a plethora of barriers between man and man in this country. On this occasion and from the podium of the Fifth World Tamil Conference I would venture to hold aloft the supreme example of Saint Tyagaraja to those who indiscretely wallow in linguistic chauvinism and regional exclusivism in many parts of India today.

#### **Hearts Beat in Unison**

As I said earlier the Tamils and the Telugus have been living in one state for centuries in the composite Madras State till they separated way back in 1953. After all, the separation was but a political event and it was brought about to enable the telugus to re-shape their future according to their genius in a separate state of their own. I think beyond this it had no other significance; in fact no other significance ought to be attached to it. Even after the separation, the hearts of two brothers continue to beat in unison. Indeed, we are one, sharing great opportunities with a smile or facing formidable challenges with a stout heart. We agreed to share the Krishna waters with you to augment your drinking water sources, forgetting for a moment the fact that Andhra Pradesh is a drought prone area where every drop is precious. Let us therefore



continue to face together the opportunities as well as challenges in this spirit of concord and comradeship. In other words, this is the message I have brought today from Andhra Pradesh to the people of Tamil Nadu.

#### **Soul of Tamil Culture**

The venue of the conference needs no elaboration. This great and historic city is the soul of ancient Tamil culture. In fact, I should say that every stone here, every tree there breathes history. The towering gopurams around me signify the upward aspirations of man—his relentless quest for the elevation of his soul. The passage of time has only deepened their ethos. It was also a great seat of Tamil literature and language. The Sangam age flourished in this city whose history spans nearly two thousand years the most significant one in the history of South Indian languages. In the heyday of its glory, Madurai was the centre of international trade and commerce in a limited sense. Rome is said to have bought the spices, cloth and precious stones of Tamil Nadu on such a large scale that Roman patriot lamented the drain of foreign exchange! The harbours on both the East and West coasts were full of foreign sailors. Romans are said to have lived in Madurai and some served as the King's bodyguards. Verily, it was a cosmopolitan age.

#### **Glory of Nayak Era**

In the 17th Century, the Nayak kings made an enduring contribution to the growth of temple architecture in and around Madurai. The most famous and distinguished among the Nayak kings was Thirumalai Nayak. He has carved out for himself a niche in the haloed history of Madurai. Thirumalai Nayak Mahal according to records of history was built around 1636. The original structure it would appear was much

larger, four times bigger than the present one. However, down the centuries the Mahal survived the currents and cross currents of history. Today, it proclaims to the world the glory of the Nayak era and the greatness of the Nayak rulers.

#### **Be Worthy of our Heritage**

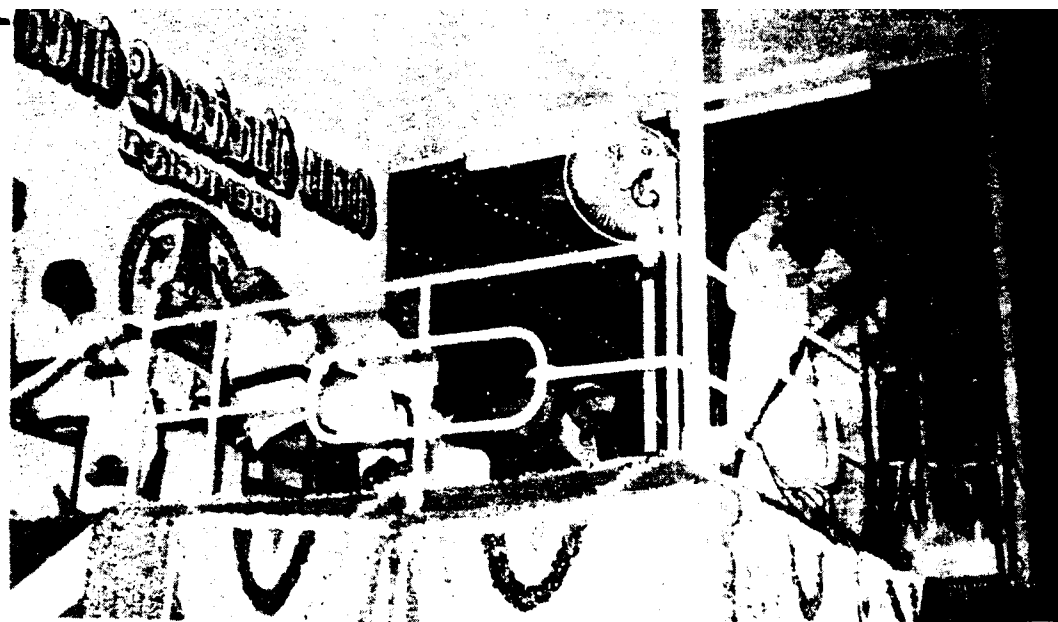
On behalf of the people of my State I have great pleasure in inaugurating the Sound and Light programme in the historic Thirumalai Nayak Mahal today. The programme will lift the curtain over centuries of history of the Tamils, their captains and kings, their language and literature, their princes and prelates. Let us re-live the glorious history of the South. Let us draw inspiration from the past. Let us be worthy of our great heritage.

#### **All Glory to Tamil Nadu**

(Speech delivered by Thiru Sri Ramamurthi, Minister for cultural affairs & Tribal Welfare, Andhra Pradesh)

#### **SOUND AND LIGHT SPECTACLE**

Total cost of the programme is 30 lakhs. Episodes connected with the life of Thirumalai Nayak and also glory of the age of the Tamils like the Sangham, Silappathikaram and so on are depicted through the Sound and Light media. The script has been provided by Thiru K. Kalimuthu, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture. The laying out and technical works have been done by the Philips, and was directed by Thiru A.S.A. Samy, the well known Film Director who has earned the appreciation of all for the Sound and Light show on Periyar E.V. Ramasamy. The whole colour scheme, lighting and concert of the show have been visualised by the artistic director Thiru A.S.A. Samy. Music by Admanathan. Songs have been rendered by Balamurali Krishna; Sirkali Govindarajan and others.



## TAMIL LITERATURE EMBODIES LOFTY IDEAS

Prime Minister's  
valedictory address

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi reiterated that the Union Government would not impose Hindi on anybody.

Hindi was thought of as a link language and if it was imposed it would have the opposite effect of not binding the people together. It was high time that people stopped their linguistic quarrels and learnt more languages shunning narrow-mindedness.

Delivering the valedictory address of the week-long Fifth World Tamil Conference at Madurai, Tmt. Gandhi said it was very wrong to think that "Delhi cared only for Hindi" and that one language could prosper only at the expense of another. She emphasized that Tamil had nothing to fear from English or Hindi and that the Union Government's policy was to encourage all the languages listed under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution besides minor languages and tribal dialects.

Dwelling at length on the pristine purity of the Tamil language and also the cosmopolitan and elect outlook of its literature, Tmt. Gandhi said Tamil was a beautiful blend of both the religious and secular, and its classics showed the people how they could rise above narrow, sectarian interests. Tamil had an old encounter with Sanskrit

and both the languages benefitted from each other.

Tmt. Gandhi said it was only benefitting that this Fifth World Tamil Conference was held at Madurai, the seat of ancient Tamil Academy (Sangham) and that deliberations were conducted for a week on arts, culture and literature of Tamils here.

Thirukkural which was pregnant with meaning was as precious and relevant to modern times as it was relevant centuries ago. Tamil culture was open to new ideas and winds of change in man's onward march. Quoting from Avvaiyar to show that Tamil culture had prospered and attained a high degree of civilization the Prime Minister said that ancient Tamils had traded with Greeks, Egypt and Arabs in spices, ornaments and cloth and Greeks had borrowed from Tamil words like "arisi" (rice). A Roman settlement in Madurai and Roman coins found near Madurai testified to the links that Tamils had with them.

The famous maxim from 'Purananooru' that the 'world is one and all people are kinsmen' testified to the cosmopolitan outlook of Tamils.

Praising the contribution of Tamil and other Dravidian languages to the art and literature of Asia.

she said that Bodhivarma a prince of Kanchipuram, was responsible for the acceptance of Zen Buddhism in Japan and China.

As early as eighth century, people came to Tamil Nadu to learn Chinese, which showed that Tamils were proficient in all languages. The Tamil epic "Manimekalai" was very well-known in Cambodia and Thailand. Tamil was enriched by people from all walks of life and its literary heritage fostered universal value.

Its vast classical literature was written in idiom not far removed from its modern form and thus people who read its literature could easily understand it.

Praising Poet Bharathi's contribution to the freedom struggle, she said his poems whipped up the patriotic fervour of Indians and his work "Panchaliyin Sabatham" set a new dimension in the development of all Indian languages. His poems had a simple metre and diction and it appealed to all strata of people.

She regretted that South Indian history had been neglected and quoted from historians to this effect

Striking a personal note, she said that she had always admired Tamil works like Thirukkural. Kam-

baramayanam, and the songs of Bharathi. She had also linked the declamatory powers of Sathya - murthy, Anna, the subtlety of Rajaji and the home spun directness of Kamaraj.

At the end of her speech, the Prime Minister conveyed her Pongal greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu.

The Prime Minister earlier distributed "porkizhis" to the value of Rs. 10,000 to five poets—Avvai Duraiswamy, P. Sri Acharya, Periasamy Thooran, K. Appadurai and M. V. Venugopala Pillai.

Sri Yogi Sudhananda Bharathi, Kamban Adipodi Sa. Ganesan and P. K. Sundararajan were presented with Tanjore plates and honoured with ponnadais.

Sri Kripananda Variar and Vanmeekinathan were honoured with felicitation and citation. However they were not present.

Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister, who presided unveiled the statue of "Mother Tamil" (Tamil Annai).

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Minister said that during the past seven days Tamil poets and scholars have expressed their thoughts, discussed the greatness of the Tamil language and discharged their duty.

Tamil Nadu will not at any time allow for the division of the country nor tolerate violence. It will always work for the strengthening of national integration. The Chief Minister further said that Tamil Nadu will not shirk in discharging its duty.

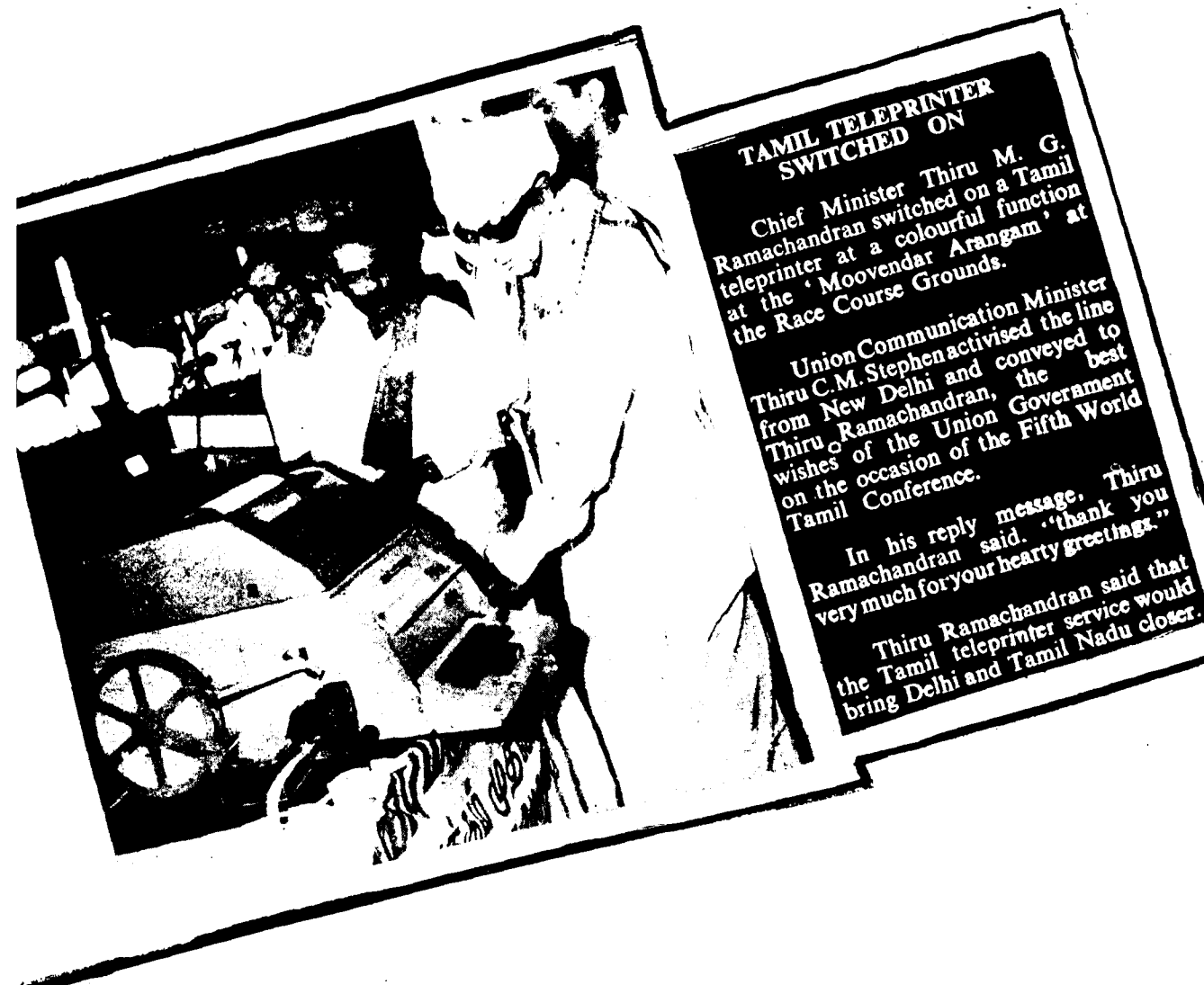
At the request of the Chief Minister the vast concourse applauded to show their concurrence with his view.

The Chief Minister said that it is a matter of pride that Tmt.

Gandhi is not only the mother of the country but also its leader. The Prime Minister's felicitation and valedictory address would be a crowning finale to all the deliberations of the Tamil scholars during the conference, he said.

The Chief Minister had a word of praise to the vast concourse for their good behaviour. He said people who had come from various places have by their self-control proved the culture of Tamil people. The foreign delegates attending the meeting would carry a good impression about the greatmen of Tamilian culture.

Earlier Thiru RM. Veerappan, Minister for Tourism welcoming the Prime Minister and the gathering referred to the Prime Minister's speeches during her visits abroad about the greatness of the Tamil language. To express her love towards the Tamil people, Tamil language, the Prime Minister has come here amidst her multifarious activities, he said.



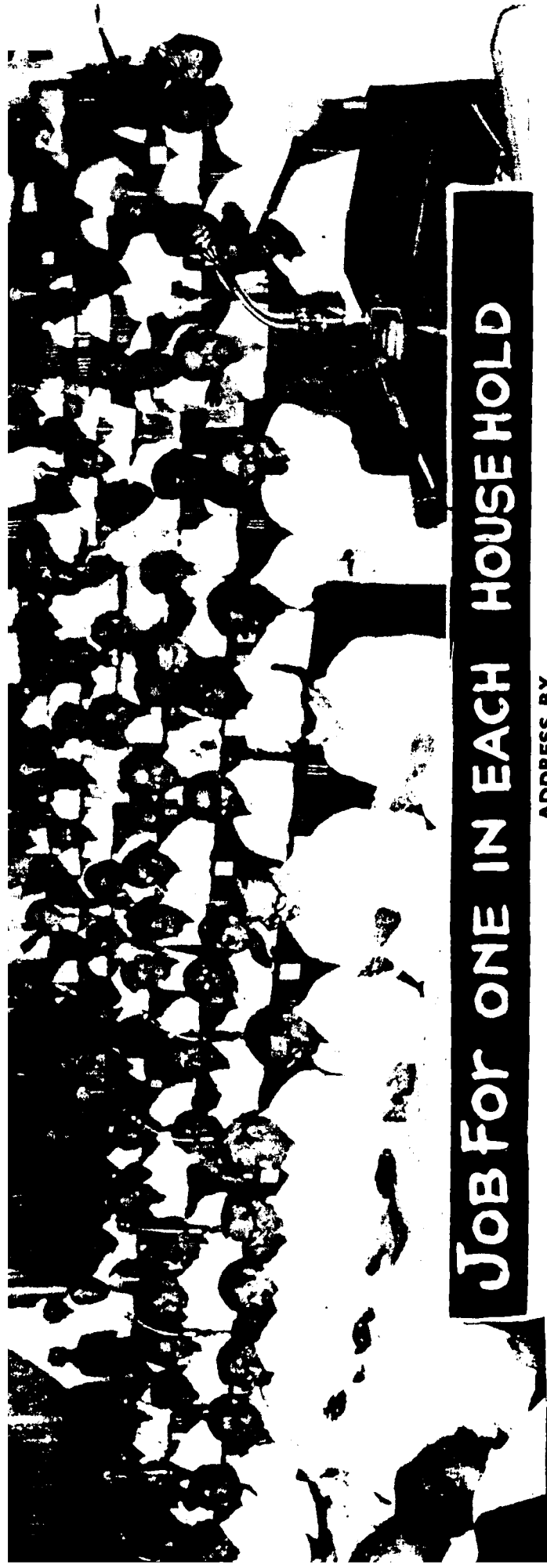
### TAMIL TELEPRINTER SWITCHED ON

Chief Minister Thiru M. G. Ramachandran switched on a Tamil teleprinter at a colourful function at the 'Moovendar Arangam' at the Race Course Grounds.

Union Communication Minister Thiru C.M. Stephen activated the line from New Delhi and conveyed to Thiru Ramachandran, the best wishes of the Union Government on the occasion of the Fifth World Tamil Conference.

In his reply message, Thiru Ramachandran said, "thank you very much for your hearty greetings."

Thiru Ramachandran said that the Tamil teleprinter service would bring Delhi and Tamil Nadu closer.



## JOB FOR ONE IN EACH HOUSEHOLD

ADDRESS BY

**Thiru SADIQ ALI**

GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU

*Honourable Members of the Legislature,*

I deem it a great privilege to meet all of you for the first time in this year. Let me take this opportunity of wishing you a very happy New Year and a very happy Pongal. Let us hope that the current year would usher in an era of prosperity and plenty to the people of Tamil Nadu.

2. The year has begun well with the Fifth World Tamil Conference having just been completed on a very happy note. Government had taken immense pains in drawing up a very well organised programme for holding this Conference in the ancient and historic city of Madurai. This

opportunity has been availed of not only by the Tamil knowing population of this State but also by the lovers of the language spread throughout the country, more especially by those coming from various countries of the world. Through this event, has been made possible to re-live and to re-enact the greatness of Tamil history, the grandeur of Tamil culture and literature and also to show to the world the richness of Tamil heritage.

3. The State also had the signal honour of the Prime Minister of the country gracing the occasion on the final day, which marked the close of the Conference and which drew the appreciation from

several lakhs of people. Addressing the huge gathering at Madurai on the 10th of this month, the Prime Minister assured the people of Tamil Nadu that Hindi would not be imposed on non-Hindi people. The Government and people of Tamil Nadu are very grateful to her for reiterating the assurance given by the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that Hindi would never be imposed on Tamil Nadu.

4. The participation of a very large number of foreigners from different countries of the world in the Tamil Conference, is a clear indication of the very great interest evinced by the foreigners in Tamil language. The State Government would request Government of India to grant scholarships liberally to foreign students visiting this country to learn Tamil and also to help this Government in sending Tamil teachers to foreign countries where the domiciled Tamilians wish to learn this language.

5. Government have also decided to establish a World Tamil Sangam with headquarters at Madurai. This organisation would be staffed by Tamil Scholars who will be undertaking intensive research work. This Sangam will function with complete academic autonomy and with its own branches in various parts of the world. Government will be making all efforts to implement the principle "Engum Tamil, Ethilum Tamil".

6. Another happy development has been the finalisation of the State's Sixth Five-Year Plan recently in New Delhi. After a series of discussions between the Chief Minister and the Union Planning Minister, the State Plan has been fixed at Rs. 3,150 crores which is almost three times as large as the Fifth Five-Year Plan outlay of Rs. 1,122 crores. This is also Rs. 1,000 crores higher than the Rs. 2,150 crore figure envisaged earlier for the 1978-83 Draft Fifth Year Plan. As against a 411 crore rupees State Plan for the year 1980-81, a 514 crore rupees State Plan for 1981-82 has been accepted by the Planning Commission.

7. The State Government has been requesting the Government of India at various forums to increase the quantum of central assistance to the Plan Outlay. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, Central Plan assistance is now determined under what is popularly known as the 'Gadgil formula'. Even at the last National Development Council meeting in Delhi the Chief Minister had suggested that the present criteria under this formula for allocation of funds needed to be changed. In the discussions with the Planning Commission last month, it was reiterated that the backwardness of a State should be judged on the basis of percentage of population below poverty line and per capita Plan outlay of the State instead of the per capita income concept. When the emphasis

is for the elimination of poverty, it is hoped that the Government of India will accept these reasonable proposals.

8. Government views with concern the trend of spiralling prices and the consequent build-up of inflationary pressures. When there is inflation, wage increases are not really going to help them, as this would again refuel fire of inflation. Price increase and wage increase seem to be following each other in a vicious circle. Furthermore not only such wage increases do not bring the desired benefits to this organised minority, but also it throws the unorganised large majority of people below poverty line such as hand-loom weavers, landless labourers, the village artisans, etc., into the grip of misery by further rise in prices. While the organised minority has some clout to get higher emoluments, the hapless majority does not have this. Thus, it is the silent majority which suffers the most. It is very essential that this trend is arrested. In order that the essential commodities are made available at reasonable prices to all sections of the society, especially to the weaker sections, first the public distribution system must be strengthened and next, there must be an all round increase in production of such items. Honourable Members are aware that the Government has already organised a fair price shop in every revenue village in our State, to strengthen the public distribution system. As for

the increased production, my Government is of the view that the farmers must be given all forms of incentives such as higher procurement price, supply of inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, diesel, etc., at reasonable prices without causing any increase in the consumer price.

9. Agriculture, being the major contributory factor to the economy as a whole, forms the most important aspect of the rural economy. In order that not merely the land owning class but the weaker sections in the rural society such as small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural labourers, village artisans, etc., survive, they must be placed on a sound basis. One way of ensuring health in this sector is to fix a remunerative price for their produce. Time and again, my Government has been insisting on the Government of India at almost all forums, to fix a price ensuring reasonable return to the farmers. Price of Rs. 130 per quintal for paddy and Rs. 200 per tonne for Sugar-cane have been urged by my Government. The Government of India however has fixed Rs. 105 per quintal as the procurement price for common variety of paddy and Rs. 130 per tonne as the statutory minimum price of Sugar-cane. My Government, though still insisting on the Government of India to reconsider the above decisions, on its own has fixed price of Rs. 115 per quintal of paddy and Rs. 175 per tonne of Sugar-cane.

10. Keeping the interests of the agriculturists in mind, Government has undertaken a series of measures to help the small farmers who have not been able to repay the co-operative loans due to failure of rains and natural calamities. State Government had approached the Government of India for assistance to write off the loans atleast to the small farmers in respect of short term co-operative loans converted into medium term loans which were outstanding as on 31st March 1980. But this plea for assistance was not accepted by the Government of India. However, the State Government from its own funds, has accorded sanction for Rs. 42 crores for repaying to the co-operative societies, on behalf of the small farmers, the medium term conversion and medium term conversion rephayment loans with interest, including penal interest, as on 31st March 1980. In case there are small farmers who owe money to the co-operative societies as on 31st March 1980 under the above conditions, and who have not been included in the earlier calculations, their loans also would be repaid by the State Government. There are some small farmers who had repaid loans of this nature to co-operative societies earlier. Government felt that the benefit given to the defaulters should accrue to this category of small farmers as well. The refund to be made to them will be adjusted towards the loans falling due against them during the year 1981-82.

11. My Government has also ordered waiving the collection of dues in respect of Takkavi loans. As a result of implementing this order as on 3rd December 1980, a sum of Rs. 20,61,50,077 has been written off benefiting about 9,17,559 agriculturists.

12. Even inspite of these liberal gestures by the Government from its meagre resources, a certain section of agriculturists has been indulging in no-tax campaign against the State Government, urging non-payment of current consumption charges, co-operative loans, taxes to the Government and to the local bodies, etc. When Government took steps to collect the current consumption charges from the agriculturists amounting to about Rs. 35 crores, the various associations of agriculturists and the political parties wanted a dialogue with the Government. My Government held consultations with the representatives from all such bodies twice and at their instance agreed to collect in easy instalments in the form of current dues and corresponding one month arrears, popularly known as 1+1 formula. It is unfortunate that a certain section of the agriculturists organised an agitation, stopping the supply of essential commodities to the towns, thereby causing violence, loss of life and damage to property. In some places, milk and food were spoilt by them. No Government can tolerate this type of activity. Therefore, my Government took appropriate action to maintain law and order. I hope that wise counsel would

prevail among them to see reason and rationale in the stand of Government in helping the agriculturists to the utmost extent.

13. Rainfall in the course of this year has been fairly satisfactory, though not plentiful. However, certain pockets in the districts of Pudukkottai and North Arcot have experienced drought conditions due to failure of monsoons. Government has acted immediately and authorised digging of new wells and deepening of old wells at a cost of Rs. 1.30 crores. In North Arcot district, Government has also ordered remission of land revenue where the crop yield is less than 50 per cent. Relief measures would be taken wherever similar drought conditions become marked.

14. Whenever help is to be provided to the agricultural sector, Government has always kept the interest of the small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers uppermost in its mind. This helpful and sympathetic attitude will be continued in the future also as a policy by this Government.

15. Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Second Amendment Bill, 1980, which has been passed by the State Legislature, has been sent to the Government of India for the assent of the President. When the Bill becomes an Act, it will unearth transfers of land effected between 1st January 1958 and 6th April 1960, with a view to circumvent the

asked to work out comprehensive proposals for enabling a study to be made of the marine mining, marine environment, marine resources, etc., of the East Coast.

18. At the same time, in order to tap the fish wealth in the deeper portions of the sea, the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation has secured technical assistance from Government of India in identifying the type of deep sea fishing trawlers for different fishing areas and the agency from whom these are to be secured. All these measures undertaken by the Government would lead to a better utilisation of the marine resources of this State and would improve the living conditions of the fishermen.

19. Power, being an important infrastructure for economic development, it is proposed to make major investments in this sector in the Sixth Plan to the tune of Rs. 1,023 crores. Lower Mettur Hydel Scheme costing Rs. 89.71 crores and Mettur Thermal Scheme costing Rs. 189.70 crores have already been sanctioned. More schemes will follow suit. However, at present there is a shortage of power necessitating 30 per cent cut on industries, which will be maintained at this level for this water year ending June 1981.

20. For stepping up industrialisation of the State

then proposed legislation on land ceiling. Consequent on this Bill becoming an Act, surplus lands will be available for distribution among landless agricultural persons.

16. Irrigation forms an integral part of Agriculture. As the major river sources are almost exploited, in order to extend the area of irrigation, especially to help the drought prone parts of Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli districts, my Government will hold talks shortly with the Government of Kerala for diverting some of the surplus waters from the west-flowing rivers. It is unfortunate that a settlement on Cauvery River water dispute is yet to be reached inspite of several meetings among the basin States for the last twelve years starting from the year 1968. I hope that at least this year, we would be able to arrive at an amicable solution in the best interest of Tamil Nadu.

17. Allied to Agriculture, is the field of Fisheries. Tamil Nadu is blessed with a long coastal line but the State has not had the good fortune of getting the maximum benefit from this natural gift. As an initial step, State Government has requested Government of India to undertake a study, to survey the fishery resources of the East Coast of India. Government of India has responded stating that this will be examined. As a further step, PAUT has been

and to create employment opportunities Government has been encouraging establishment of industries both in the private and public sectors. With the prospect of better availability of electricity, communication facilities, skilled manpower, etc., I hope that sufficient investments by the private sector can be attracted to our State. Government of India have been addressed to issue a licence for establishing a Sugar Mill with a crushing capacity of 1250 tonnes of cane per day in the co-operative sector in Chengalpattu district. The Newsprint Project to be started in the public sector is also making headway and the Government of India, Planning Commission and World Bank are showing keen interest in this Project.

21. The progressive labour policy, followed by the Government has produced fruitful results. The labour situation in the State was, by and large, satisfactory in 1980. Government is considering amending the Industrial Disputes Act, 1948 with reference to certain provisions on settlement under clause 12 (3) of the Act and also in regard to launching of strikes, the approval for which should be backed by 60 per cent of the labour force. This is now before the Standing Committee on Labour Laws, whose recommendations are awaited.

22. The one problem that is looming large is that of B. & C. Mills, involving about 13,000 families in

Madras City. On the one hand, when the Government is going all out to create new job opportunities for the unemployed, it is really disheartening to note a situation, where even the existing employed is rendered jobless by the closure of this Mill. The State Government is doing its best to resolve this dispute. It is pertinent to point out that this is essentially a matter to be settled by the Government of India involving both the management and the workers. They have convened a series of meetings. Government hope that before long this problem will be amicably solved so that the industry can start working again.

23. Self-Sufficiency Scheme is now being implemented in 69 blocks out of 376 blocks in the State at an estimated cost of about Rs. 43 crores. It is expected that the physical targets fixed for the first batch of 69 blocks will be achieved before the end of the current financial year. This scheme will be extended to additional 120 blocks during the next financial year. Preliminary arrangements are being made to determine the size of the programme and for fixing the targets and arriving at estimates. A High Power State Level Committee is also monitoring the progress of the Scheme.

24. The Food for Work programme now modified and restructured as the National Rural Employment

supply, Government has decided to bring drinking water from River Cauvery, from a point below Kattalai regulator, in Tiruchirappalli district. Chief Engineer has opined that this scheme would provide an additional quantity of 995 million litres of water per day to the City and can be completed in a period of five years. This will provide employment opportunities to about a lakh of persons every day during the construction period. The cost of the project is nearly Rs. 459 crores and the World Bank has shown interest in this scheme.

30. Quick clearance of traffic is another serious problem pertaining to Madras City. The State is actively pursuing with Government of India the proposal for a Mass Rapid Transit System from Madras Beach to Luz at a tentative cost of over Rs. 60 crores.

31. State Government has been pressing the Government of India for quite some time now, for introducing a third level feeder air service in the State. There are many centres of tourist, historic, cultural, commercial and religious importance which are not covered by the Indian Airlines network. Recently, it has been reported that North Eastern region will have the benefit of this third level air service in the course of this month. State Government hopes that Government of India would clear this proposal for Tamil Nadu also at the earliest possible time.

Programme, will be implemented in the State with the utmost vigour to help the rural poor.

25. Government of India opined that it would be desirable to hold the elections to the Local bodies after census work is completed; accordingly, election will be held after this work is over. These elections will be held at the earliest possible and the reins of Local Administration will be duly handed over to the democratically elected representatives of the people.

26. In the field of Education, proposals for establishing two new Universities at Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli were already announced. The legislations to that effect will be introduced shortly. Government is also endeavouring to establish two more Universities—a Tamil University and a University at Karaikudi—during this year itself.

27. With the co-operation of the National Institute of Oceanography, under-sea archaeological explorations in the coromandal coast (i.e., east coast of Tamil Nadu) especially at Kaveripoompattinam is being undertaken by the State Department of Archaeology.

28. Government have recently taken over the management of the Pachaiyappa's Trust, in public interest, for a period of two years.

29. Madras City has been having its own peculiar problems. If the monsoons fail, even drinking water becomes scarce. In order to augment the City water-

32. Prohibition as a measure is an important social reform. However, various views have been expressed even in this august House at various times. I would therefore request the Honourable Members to give their free and frank views on how best we can implement this beneficial measure and whether any rethinking on the policy itself is warranted.

33. The recent hike in the prices of petroleum products has been caused due to an international situation on which none in the country could do anything. Since the petroleum prices have gone up, a rise in the bus fare is inevitable. Government hopes that people of the State would appreciate the reasons for the increase in bus fare.

34. For effective implementation of any policy, it is essential to streamline the administration. In pursuance of this policy, Government abolished the Board of Revenue last year. Since the system of part-time Village Officers was out-moded and not fitting with the modern needs of village administration, Government decided as a next step to abolish all posts of part-time Village Officers. Accordingly, an Ordinance was also promulgated by the Government. A Bill will be introduced in the ensuing session of the Legislature to replace this Ordinance.

35. For any Government to run its affairs, the collection of revenue is an important function.

Honourable Members are aware that a certain section of persons is indulging in anti-social activities such as inciting the agriculturists not to pay land revenue, taxes or other amounts due or payable to Government, to local authorities, to the State Electricity Board or to co-operative societies causing harm and hardship and thereby creating a sense of insecurity in the minds of those who discharge their dues. It had also been brought to the notice of the Government that the sponsors of the agitation were inciting directly or indirectly the use of criminal force against the public servants. As this amounted to anti-State activities and was likely to impair the State apparatus and as it is the foremost duty of the State to ensure protection to the law-abiding citizens, it was found necessary to take deterrent action against such anti-social elements. Therefore, an Ordinance was promulgated in November 1980, to deal with them. A Bill to replace this Ordinance will be introduced in the Legislature shortly.

36. The Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Act, 1980 was enacted to offer debt-relief to persons whose annual house-hold income during the year ended 31st December 1979 did not exceed Rs. 4,800. The intention of this Act was to provide relief only to the poor debtors. But certain provisions of the Act had been interpreted by the affluent classes to their benefit. To rectify this defect, the Act was amended by the Tamil Nadu

to note that instances of communal clashes and the connected violence have come down during the last year when compared with the previous years. The menace of extremists which is a major threat to public peace particularly in certain areas of North Arcot and Dharmapuri districts, has been controlled to a considerable extent. My Government has decided to improve, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the scientific aids necessary for the efficient discharge of duties and responsibilities enjoined on the Police Force.

40. Discipline and morale of the Police Force has been high due to the introduction of several welfare measures, notable among which are the supply of essential commodities at subsidised rates, sanction of risk allowance and creation of a Police Housing Corporation.

41. It is the accepted policy of the Government that atrocities on the weaker sections of the society, particularly on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be dealt with, with a firm hand. Recently, Government have appointed a senior police officer in the rank of Deputy Inspector-General of Police, specially to enforce effectively the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, which is meant for protecting the rights of the members of Scheduled

Debt Relief (Amendment) Ordinance, 1980. A Bill to replace this Ordinance will be brought before the Legislature soon.

37. A certain section of affluent agriculturists has wantonly left their lands fallow or deliberately switched from cultivation of foodgrains to cultivation of firewood like casuarina, to avoid employing agricultural labourers at the wages prescribed by Government. This will lead to a grave situation of tremendous shortage of foodgrains in the not too distant a future, with the attendant disastrous consequence of throwing the millions of poor agricultural labourers into a predicament of daily starvation. To deal with this situation, Government is contemplating introduction of a suitable legislation for takeover of such lands for distribution among the landless.

38. To help such of those unemployed youth who have registered in the employment exchange and who belong to poor families, my Government will initiate action to give them preference in the matter of employment opportunities so that at least one member in such a family gets a job. This is the first step to implement the policy of the Central, State Government to provide employment to atleast one individual per family.

39. The law and order and crime situation in the State have been generally satisfactory. It is heartening

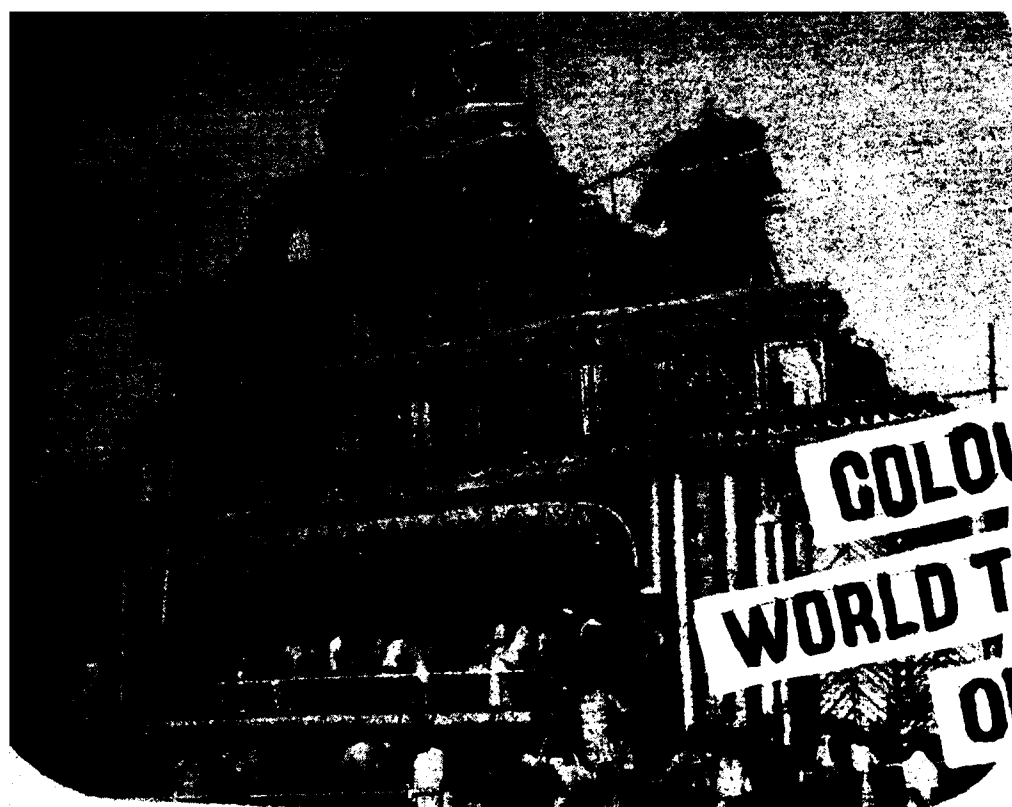
Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Separate police unit to deal exclusively with crimes that are committed on the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are functioning in the districts. Government will not countenance the criminal acts of anti-social elements who are a menace to the community. My Government will take severe action against the anti-social elements who indulge in these heinous deeds.

42. With the combined efforts of the people, the Government of Tamil Nadu and all of you, I am sure that the future will be bright and prosperous. Let us all work together in a spirit of friendship, understanding and co-operation to realise the laudable objectives of promoting the development of the State and improving the lot of the poor and the downtrodden.

*Vanakkam.*

## JOINT SESSION OF THE TAMIL NADU LEGISLATURE

21st January 1981



## COLOURFUL WORLD TAMIL MEET OPENS



Madurai, cradle of Dravidian civilization and seat of ancient Tamil culture wore a festive look on the occasion of the V World Tamil Conference. The race-course stadium, venue of the World Tamil meet, presented a picture of a fairyland with its colourful illumination, festoons and bunting. pomp and pageant, glory and grandeur of ancient Tamil Nadu were recalled during the seven-day meet.

The dais constructed for the occasion was a replica of the Puthu mandapa in thatch. It was very large and spacious. There were as many wooden posts as Tirumala Nayak's marvel has stone columns. The Thanjavur thachartist had lavished his skill on its facade, so that it resembled the Mysore palace.

Four huge pylons near the dais burst into myriads of colored lights. The dais was tastefully decorated with bulbs and glittered with a pleasing array of coloured lights—red, green and yellow.

The Madurai-Kamaraj university was named the "Tholkapiar Arangam" where seminars and symposia were held.

In the "Muthiah Manram" and other art centres eminent artistes viewed with one another to give their best.

Madurai, by night, was a splendid spectacle of light. On the

banks of the famed Vaigai, the four towering gopurams of the Meenakshi temple, stood draped in luminous resplendence. As if in competition, the four tall transmission towers on the Race course grounds leapt before one's eye like pillars of incandescent light. Every building of eminence was beautified by an array of lights.

Fountains in the highways leapt buoyantly in the ambience of many-hued lights.

The sound and light show depicting Tirumalai Nayak's life at Nayak Mahal, the cinemascope film Kumari kandam, the exhibition at Tamukkam grounds and art events at various venues all over the city flowed with humanity. People from every walk of life were obviously baffled by the enormous feast to the eyes and the soul.

The foremost among musicians and artistes of Tamil Nadu gave of their best during their performances to the public.

Scaffoldings along the roads and raised platforms for the people to witness the pageantry of tableaux proved attracted attractions and not as barricades.

One of the most important and famous landmark, the Mariamman Temple Tank was gorgeously decorated with multi-coloured bulbs reflecting myriad secrets from its unplumbed depths.

The grand finale—the long awaited majestic pageant was indeed a very colourful event in itself. Depicting as it did the culture, glory and arts of the Tamils 2,000 years ago, it traced the various important events and milestones in the evolution and development of the Tamil language and its rich culture.

### World Tamil Conference opens

The Fifth World Tamil Conference opened on January 4, 1981 in the temple city of Madurai. A vast concourse of people assembled at Valluvar Arangam. The Governor Thiru Sadiq Ali arrived punctually at 6 p.m. to inaugurate the meet. The function started with the invocation "Tamil Thai Vazhu" rendered by Thiru Sirkazhi Govindarajan.

Welcoming the gathering, Thiru R.M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Religious Endowments said that the recent discovery of a human skeleton at Kovalan Pottal which experts said was 2,000 years old, would indicate that Madurai was an ancient town.

Thiru Sadiq Ali inaugurated the seven-day conference and the international seminar on Tamil studies conducted by the International Association of Tamil Research. Scholars from 23 countries participated in the seminar, either as delegates or observers and a number of educationists and intellectuals attended the glittering function.

The Governor praised the glory and antiquity of Tamil and its culture.

The Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran who presided over the function and other speakers representing a wide spectrum of political opinion in Tamil Nadu hailed the conference being held for the second time in the homeland of the Tamils, as a historic event.

Thiru S. Tondaman, Sri Lanka's Minister for Rural Industries, and delegates from Mauritius, the United States, Malaysia and other countries were present.

Thiru V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Finance proposed a vote of thanks.

Statues of twelve Tamil savants were unveiled and five decorative archways or Thoranavayils were declared open.

The Karnataka Chief Minister Thiru Gundu Rao declared open the World Tamil Conference Exhibition at the Tamukkam Grounds on January 5th 1981. The "Moovendar" Archway at the entrance of the grounds was declared open by Thiru S. Muthu, former Mayor of Madurai.

The Kerala Chief Minister Thiru Nayanar released a documentary on "Lemuria" the lost continent at the World Tamil Conference on the 6th of January, 1981.

Son. et. Lumiere - a sound and light show on Thirumala Naik was inaugurated by Thiru Sri Ramamoorthi, Minister for Cultural Affairs Andhra Pradesh on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Thiru T. Anjaiah.

The statue of Thirumala Naik was unveiled by Thiru S.S. Rajendran, Deputy Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Small Savings consultative Committee.

The World Tamil Conference Souvenir was released by the Chief Justice Thiru M.M. Ismail at the Race Course stadium and the first copy was presented to the Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran.

Thiru M.G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister, while addressing the plenary session of the seminar held at the "Tholkapiar-arangam" said, the proposed Madurai-based world Tamil Sangam will be a closely-knit professional body of scholars and



poets devoted exclusively to the promotion of Tamil research growth of literature and strengthening the links between Tamil communities living in different countries.

Thiru R.M. Veerappan presented "porkizhi" to the winners of the Tamil poets competition under the auspices of the Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple.

Thiru S.S. Meenakshisundram Professor of Commerce, Sourashtra College, bagged the first prize of Rs. 3,000- Dr. I. Arunageethayan won the second prize of Rs. 750- and Prof. V. Duraisamy the third prize of Rs. 501.

Speaking on the occasion, Thiru Veerappan said the competition would be conducted on a State level from next year and the money increased into Rs. 5,000, Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,000 as first, second and third prizes.

Teleprinter service in Tamil was inaugurated on the 9th of January by the Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran. He creeded the first message in the teleprinter. "Greetings on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu" to the Union Minister for communications Thiru C.M. Stephen at New Delhi. Thiru Stephen sent back a message of greetings to

the Chief Minister and the people of Tamil Nadu.

All roads lead to Madurai: The city was on the eve of the curtain down. Madurai known as the city of festivals is accustomed to huge concourses of people. But the final day of the World Tamil Conference had evoked unprecendently large crowds.

The huge congregation of people including the Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi witnessed the colourful spectacle.

The Prime Minister then visited the Meenakshi temple and saw the golden chariot of the deity.

Tmt. Indira Gandhi spent about 45 minutes with the delegates who had come from foreign countries. Later that evening she addressed a vast gathering of public at the race course grounds at the Valedictory function held on 10th January 1981.

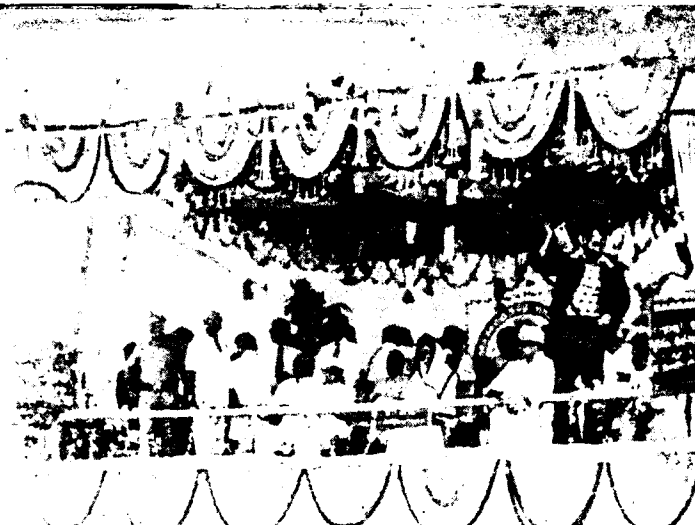
The Prime Minister arrived punctually at 7 p.m. With the invocation "Tamil Thai Vazhu", the function began.

Thiru R.M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Religious Endowments welcomed the Prime Minister and the gathering and referred to the Prime Minister's speeches during her visits abroad about the greatness of the Tamil language. To express her love toward the Tamil people/Tamil language, the Prime Minister has come amidst her multi farious activities, he said.

Thiru M.G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister who presided, unveiled the statue of "Tamil Thai". In his address he said that the Prime Minister by her visit, had shown her regard to the Tamil language and to Tamilians not only in the State but all over the world. The Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran presented to Tmt. Gandhi a huge Thanjavur Art plate, mounted on a rosewood pedestal as a memento.

Tmt. Gandhi in her address said that it was only befitting that this V World Conference was held at Madurai, the seat of ancient Tamil Academy (Sangam) and that deliberations were conducted for a week on arts, culture and literature of Tamils at Madurai.

Thiru V.R. Nedunchezhiyan Minister for Finance proposed a vote of thanks.



## The grand finale

Lakhs of people poured into the city from various parts of the state to witness the colourful pageantry, countless men, women and children dressed in their best were in a holiday mood, had lined up the roads through which the procession passed which turned out to be a splendid spectacle the like of which Madurai city has never witnessed.

As a fitting finale to the week long World Tamil Conference, a fleet of well-conceived and decorated tableaux was taken along the five-km route.

The Prime Minister arrived in an open jeep to the first view point and she was led on to the tastefully decorated podium by the Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran, amidst a standing ovation by the people.

The Governor Thiru Sadiq Ali, the Union Finance Minister Thiru R. Venkataraman, the Union Minister of State for Agriculture Thiru R.V. Swaminathan, the former Chief Minister Thiru M. Bhaktavatsalam were also present.

The Tamilnadu Cabinet Minister Thiru V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, Thiru S. Ramachandran, Thiru S.D. Soma-

sundaram, Dr. H.V. Hande, the speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly Thiru K. Rajaram and the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu legislative council Thiru M.P. Sivagnanam were also on the dais.

Five gaily caprisoned elephants opened the pageant by saluting the Prime Minister. Replicas of ancient Tamil flags were borne past. The first float appropriately carried a group of nadaswaram players, a fit prelude to a Tamil festival.

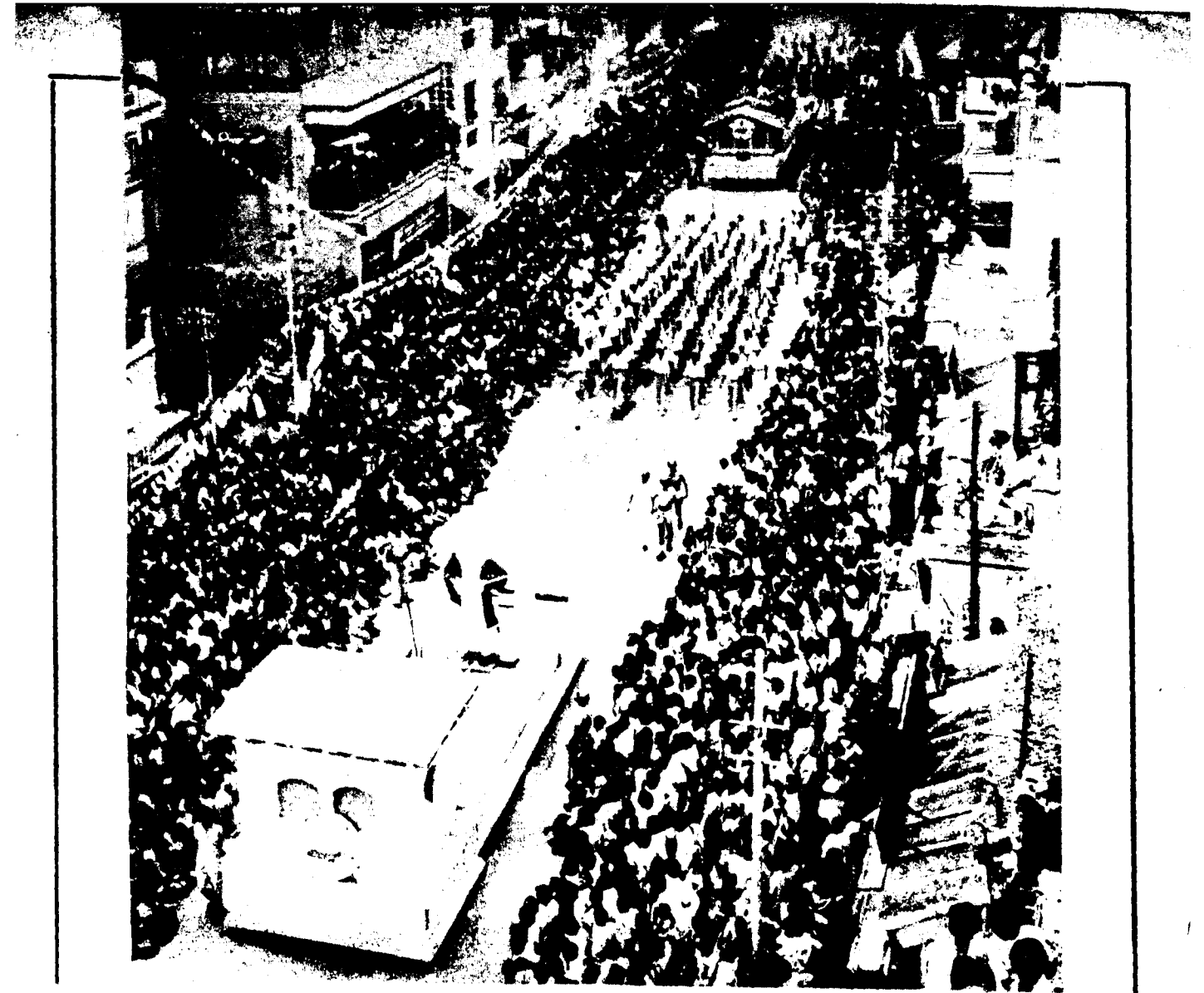
The impressive array of 27 tableaux gave an insight into the glorious past of Tamil Nadu, its literary, cultural and social traditions. The virtues of the ancient rulers of the Tamil country such as their unflinching commitment to justice, exemplary munificence and love of arts and

architecture and the martial arts of the Tamils were among the themes highlighted.

The patronage extended to the poets by the Chera, Chola and Pandya kings, as also the flourishing trade and commerce of the land and the economic affluence of the people, found an eloquent expression in the tableaux.

In between the floats were the ensembles of artistes displaying various dance forms and folk arts. Almost every tableaux was preceded and followed by a march past by N.C.C. cadets (both boys and girls), boy scouts, girl guides, and school boys and girls in uniform.

The police bands of Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts mar-



ched with their resounding drums in the procession.

One of the tableaux depicted the contribution of foreign scholars, Robert de Nobili, C.J. Beschi, Robert Caldwell and Dr. G.U. Pope to the growth of Tamil language.

Religious savants like Tirunavukkarasu, Sundarar, Manikkavasagar, Arunagirinathar, Thirumoolar, Thayumanavar and Ramalinga Swamigal who by their devotional lyrics contributed to the growth of Tamil was depicted in a tableau.

Tiruvalluvar: The float depicted an agricultural scene having in its background a figure of Tiruvalluvar whose magnum opus "Tirukkural" has transcended the linguistic racial and religious barriers in its presentation of the ethical codes.

Another float depicted four Tamil scholars Dr. U.V. Swaminatha Iyer, V.O. Chidambaranar, Maraimalai Adigal and Thiru V. Kalyanasundaranar.

One of the floats depicted the late E.V. Ramaswamy (Thanthai Periyar) highlighting the reforms he had made in Tamil script.

A float depicted the forerunners of modern Tamil drama. Sundaram Pillai, Sankaradas Swamigal, Panmal Sampantha Mudaliyar and Kandasami Mudaliyar.

A float depicting the versatile personality of the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the late Perarignar Anna, as an orator, writer, dramatist and an administrator drew applause from the multitudinous crowd.

Subramania Bharathi the poet patriot, Bharati Dasan, the revolutionary poet, Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam, Namakkal Kavignar Ramalingam the first poet laureate of Tamil Nadu—the modern poets of Tamil renaissance depicted another tableau.

A float depicted a beautiful Temple car showing the skill of the Tamil craftsman. This was followed by Mother Tamil who as legend has it adorns herself with the five great epics as her ornaments. The Silapathikaram as her anklets, the Manimekalai as a girdle around her waist, Valayapathi as bangles, Kundalakesi as her earrings and Jeevaka Sinthamani as adorning her forehead accompanied by the yali the traditional mythical figure found in temples.

For three quarters of an hour Madurai witnessed with great fascination and excitement the floats depicting the scenes from the historic Tamil past drove past the crowd. It was indeed appealing to the imagination which contributed to one of the objectives of the World Tamil Conference. The enormous crowds, possibly the largest in Madurai's history of two thousand years and more made the scene truly memorable.





The statues of 12 Tamil scholars and savants were unveiled at the Tamil conference.

Thiru K. Rajaram speaker of the Legislative Assembly presided over the function of unveiling a statue of Tiruvalluvar the Saint-Poet who gave the fifth Veda to the Tamils near the Madurai and Ramanathapuram collectorate buildings. Tmt. Gomathi Srinivasan, Minister for Social Welfare, unveiled the statue.

The Finance Minister Thiru V.R. Neduncheziyan unveiled a bust of Tholkapiar, a renowned Tamil grammarian and an exponent of the life-style of the Tamils. Thiru P. U. Shanmugam presided.

The memory of Rev. Father Xavier Thaninayagam of Sri Lanka was honoured with the unveiling of his bust at the HIG colony - Sivaganga road junction in Anna Nagar by the Education Minister Thiru C. Aranganayagam. Thiru P. Nedumaran, M.L.A., presided.

A bust of Mayuram Vedanayagam Pillai author of "Prathaba Mudaliar Sarithram", the first novel to be written in Tamil was unveiled by Thiru Raja Mohammed, Minister for Rural Industries. Thiru S. D. Somasundaram Minister for Revenue presided over the function.

A statue of U. V. Swaminatha Iyer affectionately referred to as "Tamil Tatha" and who was the only non-sanskrit scholar to receive the title of "Mahamahopadyaya" was unveiled by Thiru C. Ponnaiyan, Minister for Co-operation. Health Minister Dr. H. V. Hande, presided.

A statue of Robert De Nobili a Jesuit priest of Italy who came to India 400 years ago was unveiled by Thiru S. Muthuswamy, Minister for Transport. Thiru K.A. Krishnaswamy presided over the function.

A statue of Pandithurai Thevar, founder of the fourth Tamil Sangam in Madurai was unveiled by Thiru S. Thirunavukarasu, Minister for Industries. Thiru R. V. Swaminathan, Union Minister of state for Agriculture presided.

A statue of Arumuga Navalar was unveiled by Thiru R.M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Religious Endowments. Thiru M. Muthuswamy, the Special Representative of Tamil Nadu at New Delhi, presided over the function.

A statue of Somasundara Bharathi was unveiled by Thiru K. Kalimuthu, Minister for Agriculture. Thiru Kumari Anandan, Leader, Gandhi Kamaraj Congress presided.

Thiru M. P. Sivagnam, Chairman of the Legislative Council presided over the unveiling of a statue of Thiru V. Kalyanasundaram. Thiru S. Raghavanandam, Minister for Labour unveiled the statue.

A statue of Veeramamunivar was unveiled by Thiru S. Ramachandran, Minister for Electricity. Thiru S. Vijayasathy, Minister for Harijan Welfare presided.

A statue of Desiga Vinayagam was unveiled by Thiru P. Kolandaivelu, Minister for Local Administration, Thiru S. N. Rajendran, Minister for Public Works presided.

#### SOUVENIR RELEASED

The Tamil Sangam that flourished at Madurai centuries ago had been the touchstone of literary excellence and any work that did not get its seal of approval was not regarded by the Tamil community as a worthy piece of literature.

In keeping with this tradition, the sumptuous volume brought out to mark the Fifth World Tamil Conference, now in session, was released, before an assembly of poets (Tamizhaga Pulavar Kuzhu).

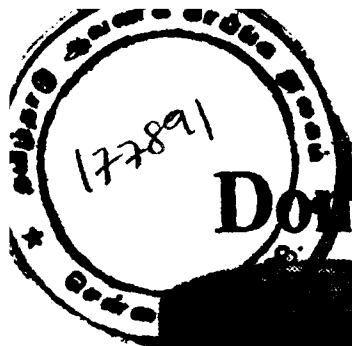
Thiru M. M. Ismail, Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, who released the volume, said the Tamils had every right to be proud of their language and culture, which had irrefutable claims to antiquity.

The Chief Minister, Thiru M.G. Ramachandran, accepted the first copy of the souvenir from Thiru Ismail.

The 700 page publication, with over 100 articles, was verily a treasure-house of Tamil language and culture, said Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhian Finance Minister, head of the Souvenir Committee.







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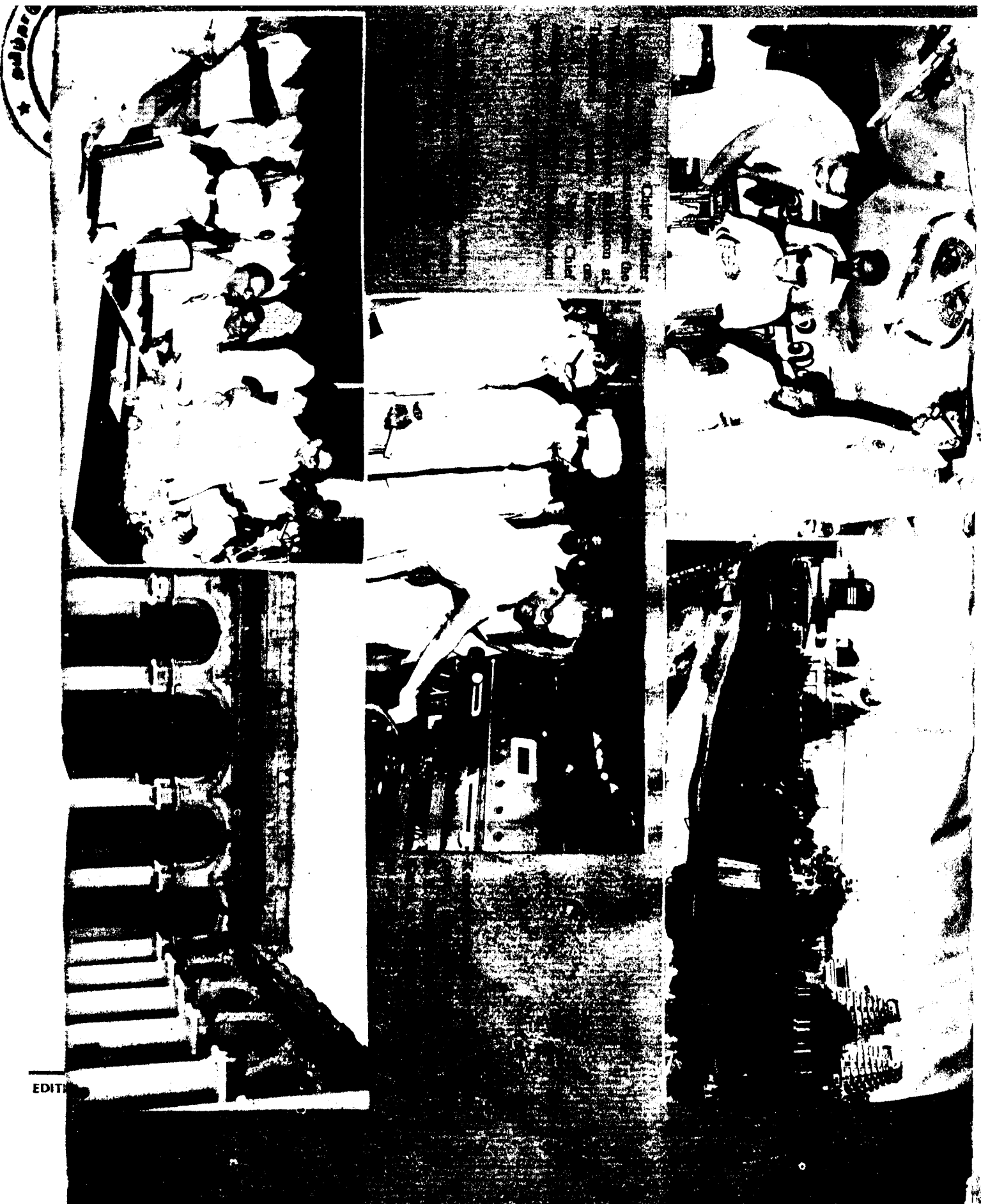
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