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Tamil Arasu

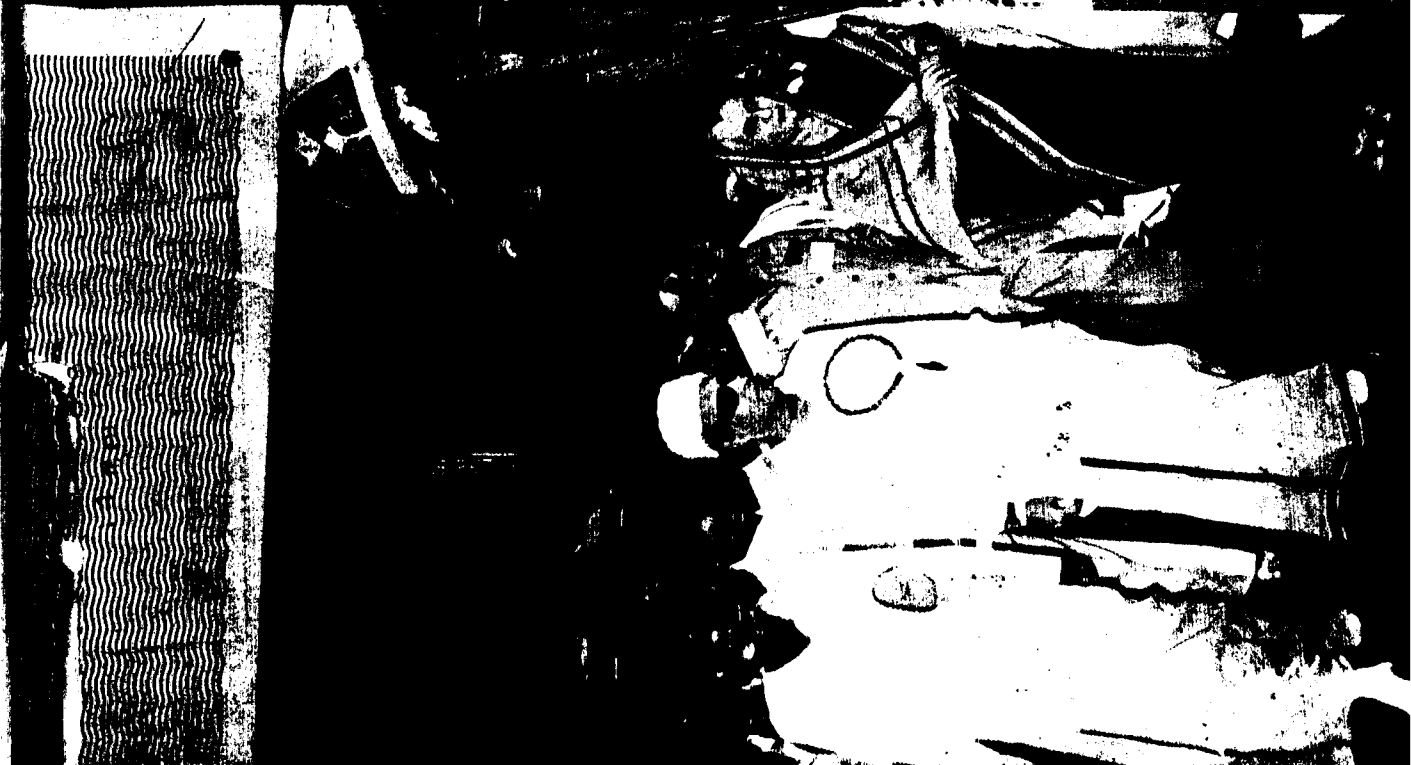
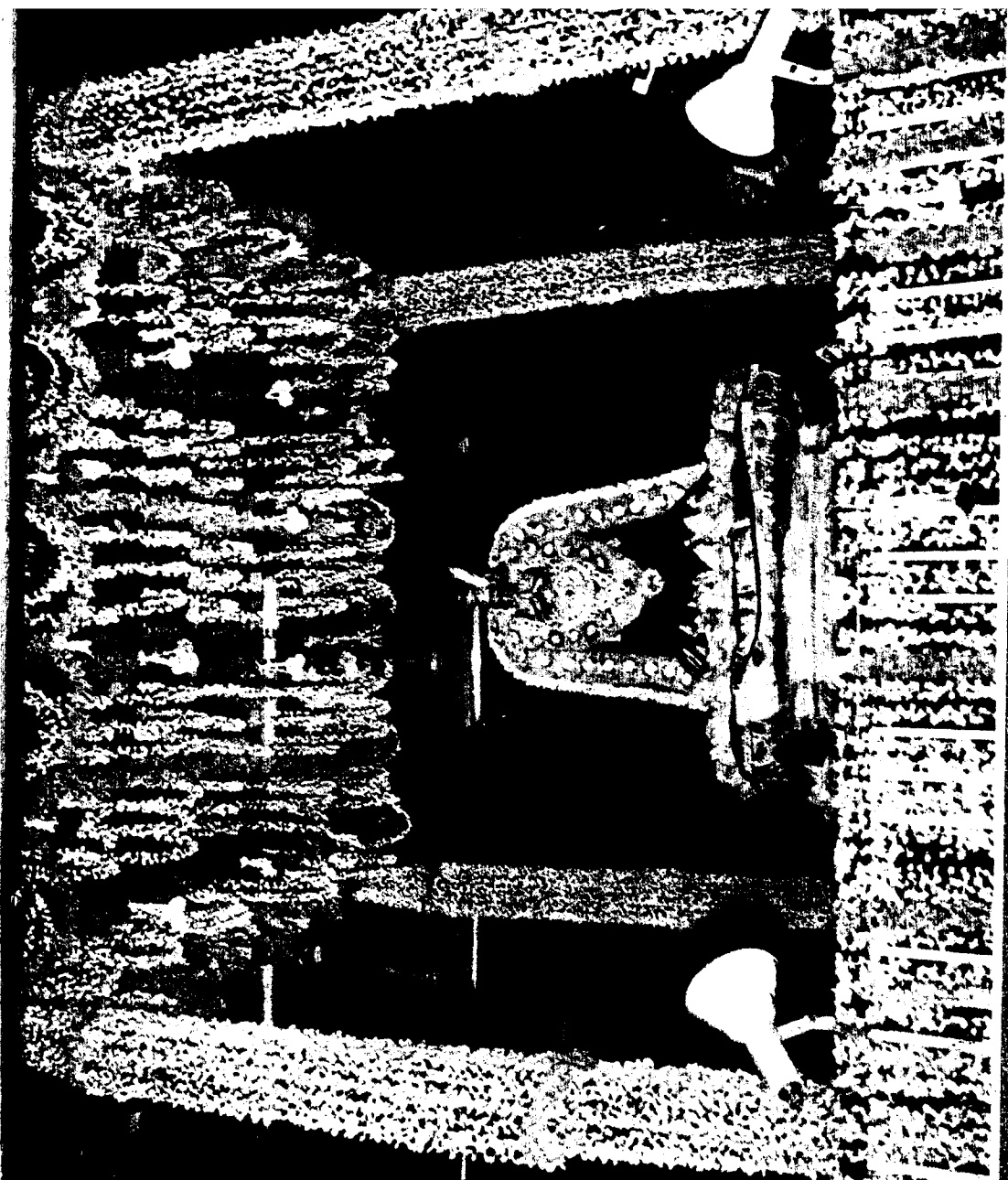
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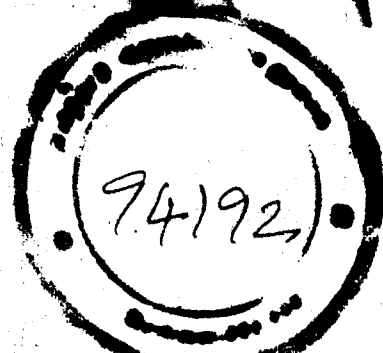


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Tamil Arasu





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Tamil Arasu
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 Rakthatchi - Purattasi - Ippasi

CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTION OF TAMILNADU



Volumes will be required to measure the contribution of the South to the sumtotal of Indian Civilisation. Through the centuries there has been a two-way traffic between the North and the South in goods, ideas and influences. Scholars trace hundreds, if not thousands, of words of Southern origin in Sanskrit. Even in the earliest stages of the recorded history of the South, the impact of the North was already visible.

In later years, the Bhakti movement arose in the South and spread throughout the land. The great Acharyas, Alvars and Nayanmars and their teachings had profound influence on the whole course of Indian religious and philosophical thinking. Kanchipuram is reckoned among the seven holy cities of India and Kaveri among our seven holy rivers. Sikh annals tell us that Guru Nanak visited Rameswaram in his peregrination of the mother land. No picture of India is complete without mentioning Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. Indian poetry in all languages abounds in the praise of the cool fragrance of sandal paste. The riches of the South, its spices and pearls have always constituted a large part of India's foreign trade. In the North, India's links with the rest of the world were forged across the high mountains and in the South across the wide oceans.

In earlier ages, Tamil Nadu had many kingdoms and dynasties which added lustre to our national history having among them the Pandyas, the Pallavas, and the Cholas. Today, we are gathered here to celebrate the 1000th Anniversary of the occasion of the great Chola Emperor Rajaraja, one of the most commanding personalities of Tamil Nadu and a hero of our history. He was known for prowess and statesmanship. In saluting him, I pay tribute also to the entire age which the Cholas represented, 350 years of its striving and the splendour of its achievement.

The Cholas were great warriors and administrators. They prided themselves on having brought the Ganges from the North. They built magnificent temples. The Chola period was one of the golden ages of Tamil Culture. In this period was composed the great Kamba Ramayanam which, like the Kural, is a literary treasure, a heritage of all humankind. Chola bronzes are among the great masterpieces of Indian and world art. The Nataraja is known and celebrated all over the world, not merely as an example of Indian creativity but of the spirit of India. As conceived by Chola sculptors, it has been remarked: "He smiles at death and at life, at pain and at joy alike. Here art is the faithful interpreter of philosophy".



The cultural achievements of the Cholas were made possible by the stability of the administration and the wealth which came of agriculture and trade. Rajaraja and his son Rajendra built a strong navy and developed merchant shipping. Besides nearby lands in our region, Chola traders went as far as China in the East and Arabia in the West. The legendary riches of the kingdom came from this trade as well as from the produce of the Kaveri delta.

The Chola reign was marked by engineering achievements of the highest quality. Apart from its celebrated beauty the grand Temple here is hailed as a monumental piece of structural engineering. The irrigation system and especially the Grand Anicut, which was developed in that age made Tanjore one of the great granaries of our country. An innovator, Rajaraja undertook a comprehensive land survey and created larger revenue units. But he had the prudence to incorporate existing peasant institutions into semi-autonomous local bodies. It has been said: "The most striking feature of the Chola period was the unusual vigour and efficiency of the autonomous rural institutions." The lavish life-style of the emperors—One Chinese traveller recorded that at State banquets there were 3000 attendants—was not at the cost of the poor. Much of the wealth, according to an authority, was returned

to people in ways that advanced their common good. Their society was based on give-and-take.

We know also that Rajaraja Chola, while deeply committed to his own heritage, kept his kingdom open to ideas from abroad. He allowed the king of Sumatra to establish Buddhist monasteries in his dominions and gave them substantial grants. The tolerance which prevailed in the times of the Cholas should be an example for us all.

The Tamil people have been engaged in building a future no less notable than their past. It is because of our plans and programmes that a solid foundation for rural reconstruction and industrial development has been built.

Thanjavur has its own specific individual cultural heritage in Music, art and architecture. Close by is the home of the great Trinity of Carnatic music. The magnificent library built by the Maharastrian rulers who reigned here has one of our greatest collections of ancient manuscripts and literary masterpieces.

The great Tamil people are found all over the world. Their toil and talent has gone into the building of several nations—in Malaya,

in Mauritius, in Singapore, in Sri Lanka, in South Africa and the West Indies. Wherever they have gone, they have taken friendships. In most places, they are treated well and are working along with the local population with a sense of togetherness. However, there are other places where they are suffering. Today our minds and hearts are with the Tamils who have lost their dear ones and whose livelihood and very lives are threatened. We share their anguish. We express our sympathy for them and their desire for security and justice as full citizens.

We should not say any word or speak of any action which would make the situation more difficult or dangerous for the people of Tamil origin in that country. Our reaction should not harm the cause of the Tamils in Jaffna where they are in a majority, in new settlements where majority is being reduced or in other parts of Sri Lanka where they are living scattered. We are concerned with the problem not only because they are Tamils or Indians, but it is a much larger issue of human rights.

The sympathy and moral support of the entire people of India are with them.

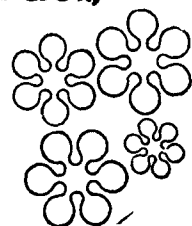
India is now a resurgent, self-confident nation looking to the future with hope. We are proud of our history and of the capacities of our people. Rajaraja Chola led the people to new heights of endeavour and enriched our

heritage. In paying tribute to him we must also remember the poets, the artists, the artisans the soldiers, and the nameless others who have made Indian Civilisation the oldest living civilisation of the world. Let us pledge ourselves to defend this heritage against the onslaught of internal and external dangers.

We expect much from young Tamils in the effort which India is making to evolve a dynamic and modern society. We must never forget that no group or State can flourish without communal harmony and national unity.

My good wishes to you all.

(Speech delivered by Hon'ble Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi at the 1000th Coronation Anniversary Celebration of Raja Raja the Great on 16th September 1984.)



1000th CORONATION OF RAJARAJA CHOLA

The Tamils thronged Thanjavur from all over Tamil Nadu with zeal and zest to witness the historic celebration of the thousandth Anniversary of the Coronation of Raja Raja Chola, the great conqueror, and the greatest patron of Tamil Art, architecture and culture. There were decorations and illuminations adding glamour to the grandeur of the function all over the Thanjavur.

This historic celebration lasted for two days and the first day function started on the forenoon of Sunday the 16th of September 1984. Unmindful of the hot sun, the people assembled at the open playground at Thanjavur and remained there with enthusiasm.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Thirumathi Indira Gandhi inaugurated the celebration. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. presided over the function. Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr. V. R. Nedunchezian welcomed the participants and the public. In his welcome address the Finance Minister said:

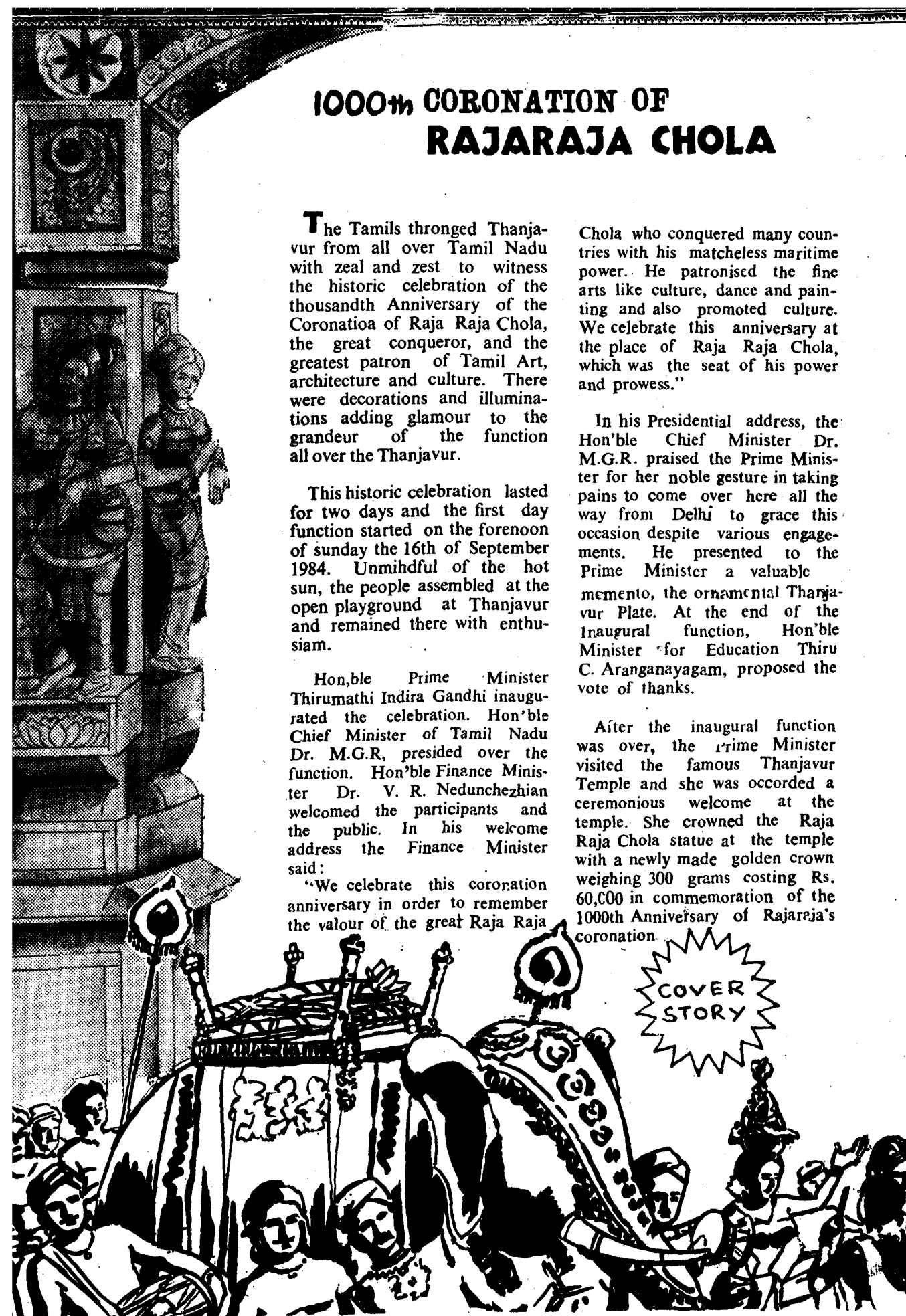
"We celebrate this coronation anniversary in order to remember the valour of the great Raja Raja

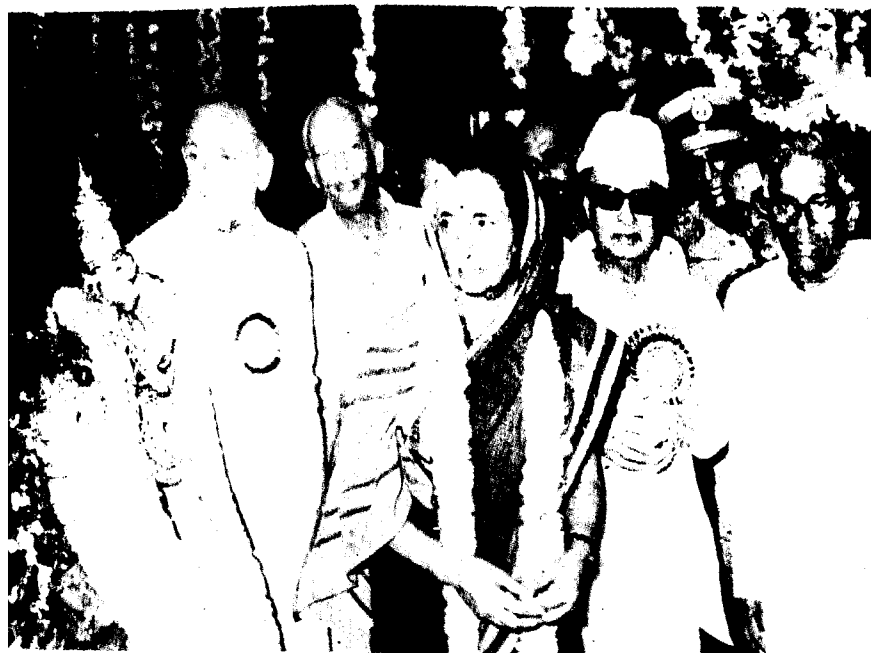
Chola who conquered many countries with his matchless maritime power. He patronised the fine arts like culture, dance and painting and also promoted culture. We celebrate this anniversary at the place of Raja Raja Chola, which was the seat of his power and prowess."

In his Presidential address, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. praised the Prime Minister for her noble gesture in taking pains to come over here all the way from Delhi to grace this occasion despite various engagements. He presented to the Prime Minister a valuable memento, the ornamental Thanjavur Plate. At the end of the inaugural function, Hon'ble Minister for Education Thiru C. Aranganayagam, proposed the vote of thanks.

After the inaugural function was over, the Prime Minister visited the famous Thanjavur Temple and she was accorded a ceremonious welcome at the temple. She crowned the Raja Raja Chola statue at the temple with a newly made golden crown weighing 300 grams costing Rs. 60,000 in commemoration of the 1000th Anniversary of Rajaraja's coronation.

COVER
STORY





In the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, on the first day, Raja Raja Museum was declared open at the Art Gallery of Thanjavur. Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Thiru M.R. Govendan presided over the function. Thiru Natana Kasinathan, Director of Archaeology, welcomed the audience.

Hon'ble Minister for Finance Dr. V. R. Nedunchezian declared open the Museum.

In the evening a Seminar was conducted in the immediate presence of the Hon'ble Minister for commercial Taxes Thiru S. Thirunavukkarasu. Dr. Avvai Natarajan, Secretary, Tamil Culture Department, welcomed the gathering. Dr. Va. Suba. Manickam, former Vice Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University, Thiru K.A.P. Viswanatham, a great Tamil Scholar and a great son of Mother Tamil, Dr. Sivakamasundari, Thiru T.N. Ramachandran, Dr. K.T. Thirunavukkarasu, Thiru Kumari Anandan, Thirukkural V. Munisamy, Director of Tamil Culture, and Porur Santhalingam Adigalar, participated in the Seminar.

Thiru K.A.P. Viswanatham said:

"The history of Tamil Nadu should be written and it must be shown to the world that the civilisation of the Kaveri Region was greater than the civilisation of the Ganges Region".

There was a literary debate in the evening. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Dr. Kalimuthu delivered the keynote address. Sage Scholar Kundrakudi Adigalar conducted the Debate. Thiru Silamboli Chellappan, Director of Tamil Development, welcomed the audience.

There was a spectacular procession in the evening in which the decorated Statue of Raja Raja Chola was taken. Then followed the Valedictory function. Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru Veerasami welcomed the gathering, and Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian presided over the valedictory Function. Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru K. Rajaram and Hon'ble Chairman of the Legislative Council Dr. M.P. Sivagnanam, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru S. Ramachandran and leaders of various Political parties spoke.

Honble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R delivered the valedictory address and said:

"I am very thankful to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for having accorded permission to install the statue of Raja Raja Chola inside the Temple premises. A new metal statue of Raja Raja, six feet in height, will be installed. The history of Raja Raja will be made a subject of study in the educational institutions as suggested here.

The records available in Pali language are kept at the Saraswathi Mahal and these records must be translated by Pali scholars. The Government will give all help for the translation."

The Collector of Thanjavur Tmt. Sosamma proposed the vote of thanks.

Thus ended the historic celebration leaving deep impressions in the minds of the people making them feel proud of their heritage and glory of the past.

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments Thiru R.M. Veerappan, in his keynote address said:

"Raja Raja Chola instituted a democratic form of Government, and called himself 'Jananathan' which means leader of the people. At the time when we are celebrating and singing the glory of Raja Raja Chola who introduced a democratic form of Government, democracy has been protected".

The Minister released a book on Raja Raja Chola in English written by Prof. K.T. Thirunavukkarasu.

Thiru Periyandavan, Assistant Director of Tamil Development proposed the vote of thanks.

The celebrations on the Second day Commenced with a performance by Thiru Ramiah, known for his extraordinary power of memory to quote the Thirukkural couplets in any question on Thirukkural. His performance was an exceptional feat.

Then followed the Poets, Meet presided over by poet Laureate Pulavar Pulamai Pithan. Before the commencement of the Poets' Meet, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Tmt. Gomathi Srinivasan and Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Thiru S.R. Eradha spoke.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

The achievements of Town and Country Planning Department in planning for an orderly development in the context of ever increasing population and socio-economic changes and thereby ensuring a desirable environment is given below:

Regional Plans

The state of Tamil Nadu was delineated into eight viable planning regions in 1970 and regional plans were prepared for them. Due to administrative difficulties in implementing the regional plans it has been decided to adopt the district as a planning region. An urbanisation policy is under active consideration of the Government. This policy aims at provision of urban facilities to the villages at a reasonable distance. The urbanisation policy if implemented will create a hierarchy of settlements covering Metropolitan city, regional growth poles, growth centres and service centres. These centres apart from supporting each other will also serve the rural hinterland and remove the rural urban disparities.

Master Plans

The Town and Country Planning Act 1971 provides for the creation of Local Planning Authorities for urban centres and preparation of master plan for their development. The master plan will provide for planner use of land for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes and also provide for water supply, drainage and other facilities. So far 110 Local Planning areas and 9 New Town development areas have been notified. The Government have sanctioned Master Plans for Mettupalayam, Gobichettipalayam, Rajapalayam, Namakkal and Paramakkudi towns. The Government have also given their consent for preparation of Master Plan for 12 towns and the Master plan.

for 25 towns is under active consideration of the Government.

Detailed Development Plans

In the past four years 61 detailed development planning areas have been notified and 28 detailed development plans have been approved.

Integrated Urban Development Programmes

The Government are implementing two types of programmes.

1. Integrated Development Programme for small and medium towns with the assistance from Central and State Governments.

2. Integrated Urban Development Programme for Towns and Town Panchayats from out of State Government funds.

The current five year plan (1980-85) emphasised the need for development of small and medium

towns. The programme includes provision of infrastructure facilities in the small and medium towns which will serve as service centres for the rural areas. A sum of Rs. 80.00 lakhs is spent on each town which is shared equally by the Central and State Governments.

A total of 177 different projects have been proposed and approved and funds have been released for 147 projects and 40 projects have been completed so far.

The Integrated Urban Development Project being implemented from 1978 has brought a number of benefits like increased job opportunities, more facilities and increase in revenue for the local bodies and thereby ensure an overall development of the State.

Integrated Urban Development Programme (State)

As the Central Government assistance cannot be obtained for all the towns, the State Government have selected a number of Municipalities and Town Panchayats and are implementing certain programmes from out of State funds. Projects implemented under this scheme aim at augmenting the resources of local bodies and provision of basic amenities for urban poor. The funds provided are utilised for providing pay and use toilets, bus stands, shopping centres, etc. A sum of Rs. 586.25 lakhs have so far been sanctioned as detailed below:

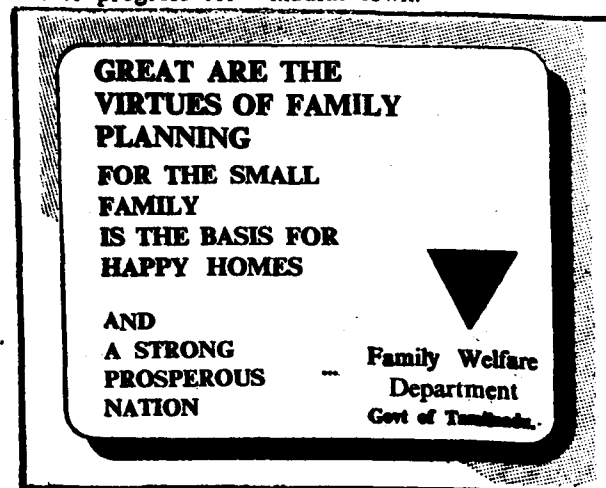
Year	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1980-81	295.00
1981-82	87.50
1982-83	113.25
1983-84	90.50

As many as 171 projects costing Rs 826.35 lakhs have so far been approved. Out of this 76 projects have been completed and put to effective use. The other schemes are expected to be completed before March 1985. Apart from the above, the spill over projects sanctioned for Madurai and Coimbatore during the Fifth Five Year Plan Period are also being implemented.

Traffic and Transportation Plans

A detailed survey for preparing a traffic and transportation plan for Coimbatore has been completed. A traffic operational plan covering traffic administration, bus routes nationalisation, signal system, parking and road widening has been prepared.

A similar survey and preparation of plan are under progress for Madurai town.



Aerial Photography

The Department had undertaken the task of preparing Aerial Photographs for major urban centres of Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchy. The interpretation of aerial photography has been completed which will be used in preparing Master plans, detailed development plan and disposing of day to day problem like building appeals, layout preparation and fixing of street alignments. More than 20 staff and officers of the Department have been trained in Aerial Photo Interpretation techniques at Indian Institute of Remote Sensing Dehradun. The Department proposes to prepare town map on large scale using the aerial photography which will help in preparing other plans.

Urban Information System

In order to collect all the data required for planning of Urban areas a pilot project has been started. Chengalpattu one of the towns under Integrated Development Programme has been chosen and work is progressing. Four reports have been brought out so far. The scheme is implemented with financial assistance from Central Government.

Anti-Disaster Planning

The Directorate has established a Cell to advise the Government on anti-disaster planning. The Cyclone Shelter conceived by the Department has won acclaim. So far works have been ordered to be commenced in 82 sites for cyclone shelters and 20 more approved shelter-sites and additional 20 sites are under the consideration of the Government.

A simple warning device has been developed in collaboration with Anna University of Technology, which will warn the villagers about the impending cyclone. The design will be finalised soon. The Department in collaboration with the Structural Engineering Research Centre, has evolved a core unit made of concrete in which the hut dwellers in the coastal area will keep their valuables at the time of emergency. A training was imparted to the executives and administrative officials about the management of pre-disaster and post-disaster situation.

Other Schemes

With the assistance from UNICEF a scheme for the uplift of the urban poor and for the development of their children is being implemented at Mannargudi. Under this programme, Water Supply, Sanitation, Employment for women and handicapped, nutrition supplement for children are provided. A sum of Rs. 31.12 lakhs is proposed to be spent for the project. A proposal to extend the scheme to Nagapattinam and Pattukottai is under consideration.



SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION OF ANNA PLATINUM JUBILEE

ANNA's Platinum Jubilee was spectacularly celebrated at Trichy by the Government of Tamil Nadu on the 15th of September 1984.

Trichy wore a festive look with decorated arches and illuminations all over the town. There was a rush of people with a shine of pleasure on their faces to Trichy from all over Tamil Nadu.

The function started at Thiagaraja Bagavathar Mandram on 15th September with a Seminar on Anna's traits, talents and services. Earlier, Hon'ble Minister for Dairy Development Thiru K.A. Krishnasamy declared open the Photo Exhibition depicting the life of Perarignar Anna, at the Mandram.

The Trichy District Collector Thiru V.Viswanathan I.A.S., welcomed the gathering. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Dr.K. Kalimuthu, inaugurated the Seminar with his key-note address, full of literary elegance and eulogies to Anna. The Minister said that, with the pearls of his words, Anna enlightened Tamil Nadu that was slumbering in the dark for centuries together.

The Vice-Chancellor Dr.V.C. Kulandaisamy who presided over the Seminar said that Anna intro-

duced a new style of prose-writing in Tamil and he created a feeling among the people that Tamil was not simply a language but it was their very life-force. He was above party politics and he kept cordial relations with all political leaders. What was Lenin to Karl Marx and what was Ashoka to Buddha, Anna was to Thanthai Periyar, carrying his message and propagating his ideals.

Thiru K.A.P. Viswanatham, a great Tamil savant and a noble son of Mother Tamil, said:

"With his great catholicity of mind, Anna embraced even people of various political affiliations. When Mahatma Gandhi died, one person died on hearing the sad news of his death. When Nehru died, two persons died. When Anna died, 42 people died of sheer shock and worry. There are many people who wish to have so many mourners when they die.

Anna was the leader of Tamil Nadu. He became a leader of India. But before he became a leader of the world, death snatched him away".

Kundrakudi Adigalar, the sage-scholar, paid glowing tributes to Anna and said:

"We have gathered here to remember what Anna said and did and to devote ourselves to continue the services left over by him. We think of his greatness and feel his absence very much. He strove to foster amity and integrity among the Tamil people. He never approached any issue emotionally. His approach was always rational and moderate. There are many people who have annotated, elucidated and explained Thirukkural, the Great Book of Righteousness in Tamil, by words. But Anna was an embodiment of all the virtues enunciated by the Thirukkural and he illustrated and elucidated 'Thirukkural' not by mere words but by his deeds. He never became angry. He was more patient than even the sages most of whom were known for only cursing people out-of anger".

Thiru Valampuri John, M.P. said:

"Anna enslaved the Tamil people with the elegance of his unique Tamil style and exuberance of his expressions, beautiful and profound, rational and revolutionary. Anna was the living human symbol of the tenets of democracy, and the embodiment of democracy. He was the living illustration of democracy and we need not refer to the dictionary to

understand the meaning of democracy."

Thiru Thillai Villalan, a former M.P., and a great writer gave a touching account of some incidents in the life of Anna, as he was closely associated with Anna.

"Anna was so kind towards his thambis (brothers-party workers) that he wanted everyone of the party workers to be with him. "One single mother could not bring forth all of us because of nature's limitations and that is why we have been brought forth by different mothers," said Anna.

"Anna was the only political leader who fostered brotherly relations and love among political workers, and he was a unique leader in the political history of the whole world" said Prof. Sathiaselan.

Thiru Thirukkural Munisamy Director of Tamil Culture, said:

"Anna has created a situation in Tamil Nadu that after him, only his 'brother' could rule Tamil Nadu. Anna's political diplomacy must be made a subject of study in schools and colleges so that the future citizens and leaders may adopt his words and ways of dealings in politics".

At the end of the seminar, Thiru V.T. Veerappan, Deputy Director of Information and Public Relations Department proposed the vote of thanks.

In the afternoon, a Poets' Meet was held at the Arangam. Poet Paavalur M. Muthusamy presided over the Meet.

In the evening the valedictory function of the celebration in which Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. participated was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru K. Rajaram, who was closely associated with Anna. In his presidential address he said: "Trichy is a place where some important decisions that made many a turning point in the



history of Tamil Nadu were taken by Anna. It was here at Trichy that Anna, immediately after his being elected Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, met Thanthai Periyar and that noble deed of his was an indication of his greatness and it raised him high in the eyes of the people".

Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration, Thiru R. Soundararajan delivered the welcome address. Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr. Navalar V.R. Nedunchezian, a beloved associate of Anna unveiled the portrait of Anna and addressing the audience he said:

"Anna roused the slumbering Tamil people and made an awakening among the people. He was not born of an affluent family. He came from an ordinary family. With his mighty pen and mightier tongue Anna, convinced the people and won their confidence".

The Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Thiru A. Chelliah Thevar, in his speech gave details of the housing schemes.

Then, leaders of various political parties spoke paying rich tributes to Anna.

Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation Thiru Y.S.M. Yusuf announced that an amount of Rs. 1 crore was given as Renovation Grant for Wakf Institutions in Tamil Nadu and the first instalment was given by the Chief Minister himself on this occasion.

In connection with the celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of Anna's Birthday, some schemes were implemented. The distri-

bution of 20 Kg. of rice, the Navalapattu Housing Scheme, the Housing Scheme for Police Personnel, the distribution of Renovation Grant for Wakf Institutions, the Award of Thiru-Vi-Ka Prize for the best writer and the conferment of Poet Laureateship were some of the items inaugurated and implemented on this occasion. After awarding all these, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. announced the release of four instalments of Dearness Allowances to the State Government employees as gift on this historic occasion of the Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Anna's Birthday. In his address to the people the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. said:

"Whatever I do would be in consonance with Anna's decision and desire. What is being done by me today is not something that is a new one. It has all been thought of and said when I was acting in films. Now, you have placed me in a position to implement all that was desired and declared earlier. What I have shown and announced in the film 'Naadodi Mannan' (Nomad King) are all the principles of Anna and Anna himself approved of them.

We are implementing not only what we had already announced, but also new schemes that were not announced earlier by us.

All my property must be used for the people and I have already written a Will that after me all my wealth should go to the helpless orphans".

The Director of Information and Public Relations, Thiru C.N. KrishnaBharathi, I.A.S. proposed the vote of thanks praising Anna's intellectual attainments, his greatness and also his simplicity.

This spectacular function of the historic occasion left deep impressions on the minds of those, who had been associated with Anna, who had known Anna and heard his matchless speeches and also of the youngsters who are eager to adopt the ideals of Anna.

There were 913 Industrial Co-operative Societies in the State at the end of December 1983. Particulars of production and sales in such societies are furnished below :

The objective of the State Government has been to apply this instrument of Industrial Cooperatives to yield maximum result both by way of employment and output through the introduction of organisational and infrastructural support. Matches were an instance of location—non-specific Industry which have been taken out of its conventional strongholds to all backward regions on account of its high capital employment ratio. Certain other occupations have been location specific.

Tamil Nadu has been known for its traditional leather industry which was originally devoted to only the production of semifinished leather. In order to upgrade this manufacturing process into that of producing finished leather, four Service Industrial Cooperatives were started to provide basic common facilities in the field of finished leather. Three of them have already started functioning while the fourth one will commence its operations by the middle of this year. Sago and Coir are two areas which have come in for special attention in recent years. Sago is an industry providing employment to over 25,000 persons in Tamil Nadu. A major portion of the Sago and Starch produced in Tamil Nadu is consumed in North India. Because of the financial constraints the Sago and Starch Manufacturers were exploited by the middlemen and the benefits of high price prevailing in the consuming centres could not be secured by the manufacturers. With a view to get better prices to the producers, a Service Industrial Cooperative Society was organised in the Salem District in the year 1981-82. Of the estimated 500 units engaged in Sago and Starch production, 455 units have become members of this Society and their products are marketed by this Society—Consequent on the formation of the Society, the bargaining power of the producers has increased considerably and they were able to realise as much as



EXTENSIVE SERVICES OF INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Rs. 450 to Rs. 520 and Rs. 350 to Rs. 390 per bag of Sago and Starch respectively as against Rs. 225 and Rs. 160 previously. Similarly the agriculturists cultivating tapioca get Rs. 72 per bag as against just Rs. 22 previously.

At the end of March 1980, there were 10 Coir Cooperatives providing employment to 1655 persons. In the last four years alone, 47 new societies have been started, creating employment opportunities for about 5,000 persons. With a view to provide training facilities, a Development and Training Centre has been set up at Thanjavur.

There are at present 13 Tea factories in the cooperative sector in the Nilgiris District, including one under construction. Consequent on this organisation, a small tea grower is now able to get as much as about Rs. 5 per Kg. of leaves as against a paltry Rupee one five years ago. As a result of the working of these cooperatives, more than 80% of the small growers can be said to have been raised above the poverty line.

Tamil Nadu State Industrial Cooperative Bank, set up for meeting the credit needs of Industrial Cooperative Societies advances loans for block capital and cash credit loan for Working capital to member Industrial Cooperative Societies. The loans and advances outstanding as on 30th June 1983 was Rs. 578.00 lakhs as against Rs. 163.00 lakhs during 1973. The profit of the Bank has also increased considerably and it was able to declare a dividend of 12% the maximum contemplated in the Cooperative Societies Act.

Under 20 Point Programme, recently the Bank has formulated a scheme to finance Industrial Co-operative Societies started for the benefit of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Backward Class people at a concessional rate of interest of 8% for a loan upto Rs. 50,000 subject to the condition that the minimum beneficiaries should be 25 in a society. This scheme will help weaker sections of societies in providing regular work to their members.

THE IDEAL SOCIETY OF GANDHI

Radio talk by PERARIGNAR ANNA
on 2.10.1967

To-day is the birthday of Gandhi, the virtuous man of world renown. This day is celebrated all over the country as a day of rejoicing. People pay their loving tributes to Gandhi according to their heart's desire. They celebrate this day by garlanding his sacred portrait, singing songs in his praise, performing 'bajan' in his honour spinning yarn and clearing slums.

There are people who say that he is a man of pure heart and a saint who has come into this world to remove the blemish of our religion.

There are people who say that he is our freedom fighter and a dauntless hero who shattered our shackles.

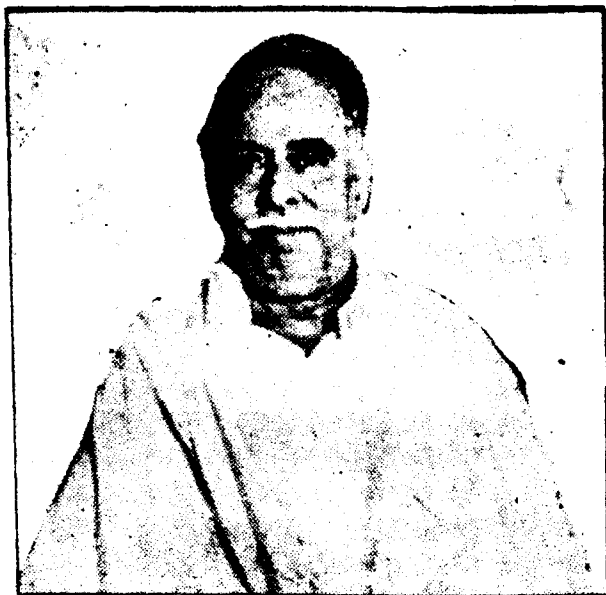
There are people who say that he is a socialist and a champion of the poor who paved the way for the downtrodden to lead a new life.

There are people who say that he is the man who tried to establish 'Gramaraj'.

Thus, there are different kinds of people who praise him with awe and wonder, each according to his own vision and insight. It is a question worthy of investigation for all time to find out in whose vision we find the totality of Gandhi's personality. The reason is that he should not be considered an individual man. He is a symbol of the times and uprising; he is an embodiment of the Renaissance.

If we view him as a politician, we will be content to admire his 'Satyagraha' (war of righteousness) with wonder. He has won tremendous success not only in the political field but also in other fields. He has stamped his mark in all fields. His life and service are modelled in such a way that people in different fields vie with one another in claiming Gandhi as one of their own because he lived and served them. This is the reason why his birth-day is celebrated by the people of different walks of life. He represents an era in the history of our country. He has given splendour and strength and brought about a turning point in all fields.

The progress of a country depends on its progress in all fields, and not in one particular field only. Only from the totality of the progress made, can we judge a country's improvement! We cannot come across such a period of progress often in the history of a country, not even once in a century. Therefore, this day is of special significance not only because it is the birthday of a great leader but also because it symbolises a golden period in the history of our country.



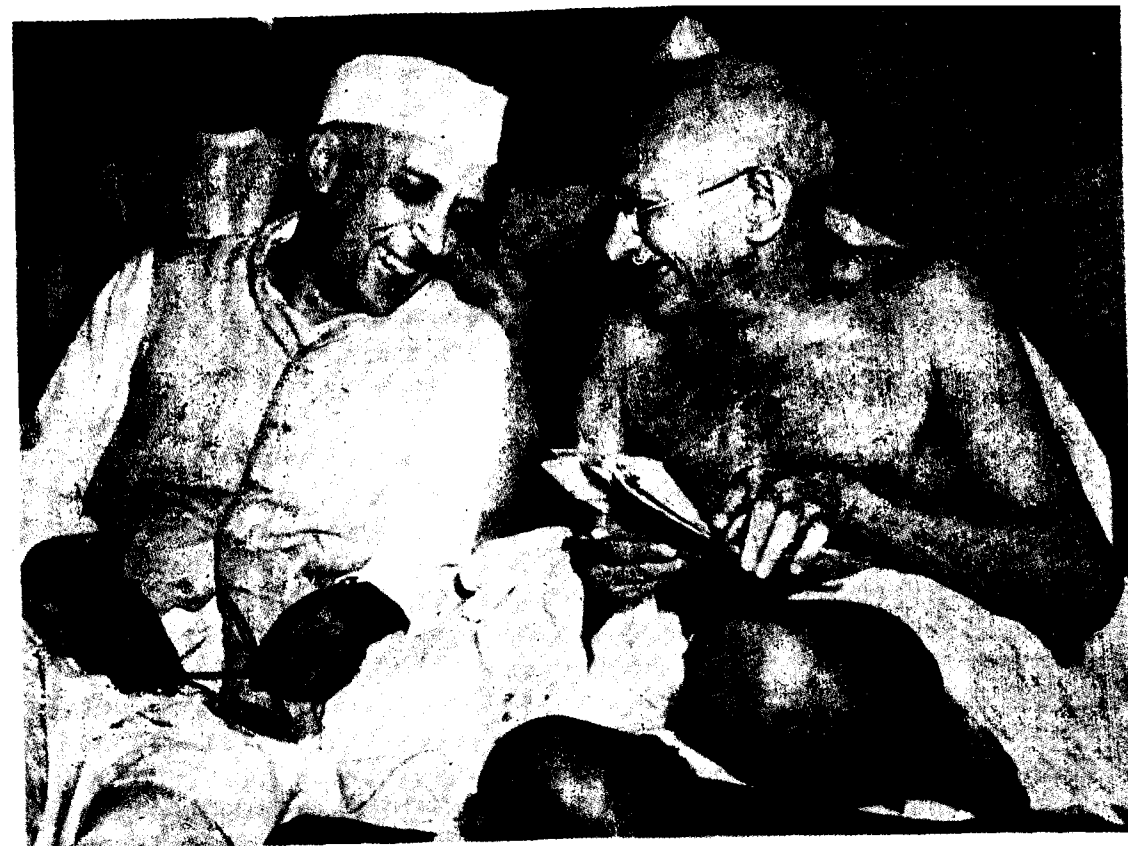
The excellence and splendour of to-day's function should be reflected in our thought and deed for ever. Our celebrations should not end with merely singing eulogies. On the contrary, we should follow in his foot-steps, strive for the ideals he cherished, to preserve and safeguard his heritage and to rekindle the inspirations he gave us.

The beauty of a garland lies in its fragrance. The utility of a lamp lies in its light. Likewise the value of celebrations lies in the excellence of our action.

Let us not be content with defying him as an AVATHAR worth of worship not with singing his fame and remarkable achievements. I would appeal to you to remember and strive for the society he dreamt of, the ideals he propounded and the moral integrity he exemplified.

He did not perform any miracle. But he made heroes of cowards, inspired them to blow the trumpet of freedom and instilled fearlessness in them even in the face of over-whelming obstacles and difficulties.

The poet Bharathi sang in a tone of melancholy thus, "People die of incessant fear and cowardice. There is nothing that they are not afraid of in the world". Gandhi wiped off that fear from our hearts. He raised an army of unarmed men who dared to defy death, facing even the challenge of a fully equipped army. He inspired the little sparrows with the courage to oppose even the mighty vultures. He drove away diffidence



from our hearts. He gave us the patriotic feeling that our country inalienably belongs to us.

He achieved all these not by war but by non-violence, not by killing our enemies but by following the path of virtue, not by preaching hatred but by showing loves.

The exponents of KATHAKALASHEBAM have not seen by themselves the miracles said to have been performed by the great saints of the past. But we have the good fortune to see with our eyes the MIRACLES wrought by Gandhi. This SEMI-NACKED MAN gave a life of glory and honour to millions of our country men. What can be a greater miracle than this!

Even those who mocked at his leadership in the beginning accepted and admired him as the undisputed leader of India after he had performed this 'miracle'. To-day critics say that the path of virtue he showed will apply not only to India but also to all countries in the world which are trying to liberate themselves from the clutches of slavery.

In the 16th century the outside world knew of India only as a country that abounded in cloves and spices, gold and gems and as a country full of simpletons who knew not how to utilize them.

Although freedom-fight was begun like the morning star in the days of Tilak, it was only after Gandhi entered the Congress that the world realised that the whole of India was throbbing with a spirit of awakening and alertness. The world used to view India only through the bright rays of Gandhi's fame.

It was Gandhi who created an agitational attitude which was selfless and did not care for

results. Prior to that, the country was dominated by learned people who begged for freedom by humble petitions.

His appearance, physique, talk, habits and manners were not such as to induce war mentality. But he was able to generate in the minds of millions of our countrymen the spirit of heroism which enabled them to defy even the mighty armies.

In all his public services we cannot come across a strong invective or an unjust act of any self-seeking plan. The influence of his selfless services brought name and fame not only to India but also to the whole of Asia and it spread in such a way as to instil terror even in the minds of the European imperialists who were highly proud and arrogant of colour bar. Heads of foreign Governments flocked to him to listen to his words with rapt attention. Even kings considered it an honour to stay in his humble cottage.

He never felt or said that 'Swaraj' was the end of our struggle. Nor did he fail to tell us how the country and the people should attain a healthy status.

He firmly believed that Swaraj was only a means to an ideal. He stressed that in the history of a country, Swaraj is, no doubt, a golden leaf but not the final one. He preached that slavery should be abolished at all costs because it is an impediment to the progress of the country.

The chains of slavery have been shattered. But let us ask ourselves whether we have succeeded in creating the India of his dreams. Let us have the moral courage to give a negative answer. Let this day instil in our minds the firm determination to create the India that he dreamt of.

He drove away from our minds the fear of the British Government. But have we become fearless in other fields? Certainly not. So long as society consists of the privileged and the underprivileged, the haves and the havenots, the mighty and the weak, how can fear be cast away?

Fear threatens us. Scarcity menaces us. Hatred drives us. Fear should be cast away and virtue should blossom. When we are celebrating the birthday of this great sage, let us dedicate ourselves to this ideal.

We see abundant wealth and abject poverty, magnificent cities and poverty-stricken slums, big factories and bands of unemployed men, religious institutions and profiteers, swindlers, hoarders and black-marketeers side by side. He toiled throughout life not to see such a pathetic sight but to create a clean and ideal country free from these evils.

It is not a country where we see murder and theft, gambling and drinking. It is worse than a forest which is even free from these evils.

Gandhi desired to establish a glorious and unblemished country free from gambling, exploitation, and class hatred. But what is it that we see in India, when we are celebrating his birthday? Communal, clashes, the cruelty of untouchability, the exploitation of the weak by the mighty, rebellion-torn cities, woe-stricken villages, political chicanery and social conspiracies—all these are rampant with none to curb them. The quarrel of linguistic imperialism has not come to an end where democracy is practised.

We are celebrating Gandhi's birthday when we are not in a position to enforce prohibition successfully. Such a deplorable state will not change so long as we reverse Gandhi as a saint and miracle-monger.

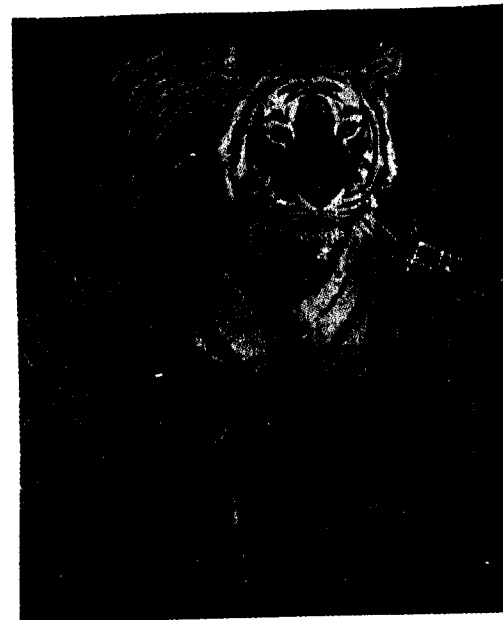
We should realise that Gandhi is not dead but he has become one with us. His thoughts and ideals have not perished. We should have the strong determination to accept them as our ideals. This should be the underlying significance of celebrating the birthday of Gandhi who is no more with us. This is not only a day for proclaiming his immortal fame but also a day for us to resolve to put into practice his excellent ideals since we have accepted them in toto.

In his days the alien Government was frightened to hear his voice of protest and quit India. But many things, such as falsehood, unscrupulousness, illiteracy, inadequacy, castesim and class hatred that should be driven out, are still there. Purity, truthfulness, fearlessness and spirit of service are necessary to drive them away. We are celebrating the birthday of Gandhi only in order to possess these qualities. I should like to remind you of what Jawaharlal Nehru said about the ideal India of Gandhi: "Even the poorest should consider this land as a land of theirs. They should realise that they have power and importance in its set-up. There should not be caste superiority among people. All communities should live in amity and peace. I shall strive to usher in an India of that type."

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ZOOLOGICAL PARK AT VANDALUR

The Government of Tamilnadu decided to establish a modern Zoological Park under the control of the Forest Department at Vandalur in the vicinity of Madras over an area of 510 ha (1,265 acres). The estimated cost of the project is about 7 crores of Rupees. There are 5 Kilo Metre long Circular road and Loop roads inside the Zoological Park to go around and see the animals inside the Park. A Children's Park over an area of 2 ha at the entrance has been established with lawns, beautiful garden, ponds and pet animals enclosures. There are ten rest areas located in suitable places for the public to relax. The entrance for the Zoological Park when completed will have a hillock with caves and water fall in it.

All the animals, birds and reptiles have been transferred from the Madras Corporation Zoo to this Zoological Park.

This Zoological Park is exhibiting 178 mammals of 28 species, 330 birds of 61 species and 31 reptiles of 8 species.

Animals, birds and reptiles are being received from forests of Tamil Nadu and from Zoological Parks of other States. Animals are also procured on exchange basis from Zoological Parks of other States. For example, Nilgiri Langurs and Panthers were given to other Zoos and in exchange Tamin Deer and Hog Deer (from Mysore), Nilgais (from Bombay and Mysore) and Black Swans (from National Zoological Park, New Delhi) were received. Further, an Asiatic lion and two Wild Asses were brought from

Sakkarbaug Zoo of Gujarat State.

The construction of the following enclosures have been completed, and animals, birds and reptiles are exhibited in them.

Enclosure for Lion-tailed Macaque, for Monkey cage, Deer enclosure, Ungulate enclosure, Hippopotamus enclosure, Bison enclosure, Zebra enclosure, Rhinoceros enclosure, Crocodile Ponds (4 Nos.), Birds enclosures (18 Nos.) Walk through aviary and transit enclosures. The enclosures are located in the natural surroundings with a vast area for the animals to move freely. Deer enclosure has been constructed in an area of 2 ha (5 acres). The Hippopotamus enclosure has been constructed in an area of 0.4 ha (1 acre) with 3 moats with a capacity of 2.3 lakhs gallons of water. Further, as the animals are kept in natural habitat they are in healthy condition.

This Zoological Park is functioning with the main aim of breeding the endangered species in captivity. There are ten endangered species in this Zoological Park. Anna Zoological Park has been selected as a breeding centre for Black-bucks by the Committee of Directors of Zoological Parks of India.

The Thamin Deer, which is a very rare and endangered species found in Manipur, has given birth to a young one in this Zoological Park. Hog Deer and Sarus Cranes are breeding well in this Zoological Park. South American Macaw Parrots, which were kept separately in the Corporation Zoo due to want of

space, are left in pair here and has bred in this Zoological Park. Hippopotamus have also been left together here. Further, Sambar, Spotted Deer (Chital), Black-buck have also bred well in this Zoological Park. 9 nos. of sambar have increased to 18. Likewise, 29 Spotted Deer have increased to 50.

On hearing that the animals and birds are kept in natural surroundings and are breeding well, the public are visiting this Zoological Park in large numbers. Students from schools and colleges are also coming in large numbers. For example, during 1984 on Pongal Day 15,000 visitors, on Republic Day 9,000 visitors, on Tamil New Year's Day 5,000 visitors and on Independence Day about 4,200 visitors visited this Zoological Park. On normal holidays about 1,500 and on working days about 700 persons visit this Zoological Park.

The construction of Elephant enclosure has been completed and 7 nos. of Elephants of different age groups have been left in the enclosure which gives the appearance of a herd in the natural habitat. Facilities have been made to see the Elephant herd from the top of the water tank on the hillock. An enclosure for Birds of prey has been constructed and a rare and endangered species, European Black Vulture, is exhibited in it. A walk through aviary has been constructed and water birds are displayed in it.

Construction of islands for Monkeys, and enclosures for Chimpanzees, Ungulates, Lion, Birds, Crocodiles, Otter, Panther and Bear is in progress. Road works in quarters-site area and in loop roads are in progress.

The constructions of a modern Veterinary Centre is nearing completion. At present, water supply is obtained from 5 bore wells and 3 open wells. Further, 1 lakh litres of water is obtained under Palar water supply scheme.

Action has been taken to procure Black Panther, Tiger and Gharial from Nandankanan Zoological Park of Orissa State. Efforts are being made to obtain Rhinoceros from Assam and other rare and exotic animals from foreign countries.

The special features of this Zoological Park are Mono-rail/Rope way, Nocturnal Animal House, Pre-historic animal Park and Safari Parks which are to be established soon.



His Excellency the Vice-President of India Thiru R. Venkataraman and Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. at the reception accorded to the Vice-President by a committee of hosts at Madras on 7th September 1984.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. unveiled the statue of Thiru T.P. Meenakshisundaram, a great Tamil Scholar and the first Vice-Chancellor of the Madurai - Kamaraj University, on 19th September 1984 at the University campus.

newsplex

Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M. G.R. declared open the office building complex for Commercial Taxes Department at Madurai on 19th September 1984.



Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments Thiru RM.Veerappan distributed prizes to the participants of Quiz, Essay and Poster contests conducted in connection with the World Tourism Day Celebrations on 27th September 1984 in Madras.





RAJA RAJA THE GREAT

Natana. Kasinathan,
Director of Archaeology

Rajaraja the Great belongs to the illustrious Chola dynasty which ruled Tamil Nadu from 9th Century to 13th century. Vijayalaya was the first ruler of this dynasty and Rajaraja I was the son of Sundarachela who died at the Golden hall of Kanchipuram in Tondaimandalam.

While Rajaraja was a child, he lost his mother Vanavanmadevi who immolated herself with her husband. Hence he was brought up by his elder sister Kundaivai and his grandmother Sembiyanmadevi who was the most pious queen of Chola Dynasty.

Rajaraja's elder brother Aditya Karikalan is believed to have been murdered by some vested generals. Therefore, the kingship fell on Rajaraja. The subjects of Cholanadu also very much wished to have Rajaraja as their King. But he refused to become king and made his uncle Uttamachola to be crowned. Thus he sacrificed for the cause of his uncle. This state of action must have impressed Sembiyan madevi, the mother of Uttamachola, to be most affectionate with Rajaraja I.

After the death of Uttama Chola, Rajaraja became the ruler in 985 A.D. and ruled for nearly 29 years till 1014 A.D. He annexed neighbouring countries such as Chera and Pandia Nadu just after coming to the throne. His prasasti says that he also conquered Gangavadi, Tadihaippadi, Nulambappadi, Vengi, Kollam and Elam. His kingdom extended upto the Godavari in the North, Sri Lanka in the South, the Arabian Sea in the West, and the

Bay of Bengal in the East. His first achievement was the conquest of Cheranadu. He was the first medieval Chola king who extended his kingdom north of Tamil Nadu.

He was a staunch Saivite. He is called the Chola who discovered the Tirumurai (Thirumuraikandacholan), which is a collection of songs on Lord Siva. But at the same time he lavishly gave gifts to other religious sects also. He is described in the Larger Laiden Copper plates as having endowed the villages of Anaimangalam for the maintenance of a Buddha Vihara built by the King of Kadaram (Sumatra) at Nagapattinam. His elder sister, Kundaivai, is said to have built a Jain temple at Rajarajapuram (now known as Dadapuram in South Arcot District.)

The crowning achievement of his rule is the construction of the Big Temple at Thanjavur. To build this temple he used wealth brought from Malainadu, Pandinadu and Vengi. He collected revenue from all parts of his dominion, for the maintenance of this Big Temple. It is known from epigraphs that he directed many of the important temples in his kingdom to depute danseuses (Nattiyamakalir), to Thanjavur. For their stay he established separate quarters near the temple. The ornaments and bronze images he and his family members donated to the temple are elaborately described in the inscriptions engraved on the walls of the temple.

This magnificent temple is a masterpiece among all the temples in India. Percy Brown, an authority on Hindu and Mugal temple architecture, has written in his book that this Big Temple and the one at 'Gangaikondacholapuram' are as Cathedrals to a village Church when comparing the smaller temples of the same age. The consecration of this temple seems to have taken place on the 275th day of the twenty-fifth year (1009-10) of Rajaraja's reign according to inscriptions. The total height of this temple is 196.5 feet, while the height of the sanctum is 52 feet. This exceeds the height of the Lingaraja temple at Bhuvaneshwar, which is about 160 feet.

The axial structures, the vimans, the ardhmandapa, the mahamandapa and the big nandi are set in a walled enclosure of suitable proportions with a gopura in front in the east. Abutting the wall inside runs a pillared cloister connecting a number of sub-shrines, thirty-five in all, placed at the cardinal points and at intervals along the four sides. There is a second gopura in front. It formed the gateway of a second outer enclosure.

Rajaraja introduced many changes in political, economic and religious fields. He divided this vast kingdom into several Mandalams, Valanadus, and Nadus and named them after his kingdom. He created a sense of duty and unity among his citizens by allowing them to endow the temple built by him lavishly. The temple staff were made to be paid from the treasuries of the villages and not by the royal treasury, because he thought that the villagers also should feel a sense of ownership in the temple.

OVERSEAS CONTACTS OF THE CHOLAS

The Chola period from 10th to 12th centuries may be considered as a period of economic expansion and international trade activities. These centuries were a period which witnessed the emergence of new powers in other parts of Asia too. For instance, the Burmese at Pagan (1014 A.D.), the Khmers in Ankor (950 A.D.), the Sung dynasty in China (960 A.D.) were some of the contemporary powers which took keen interest in the promotion of overseas trade contacts with countries centering around Mediterranean region, the Middle East etc.

There are numerous references to the international trade and foreign diplomacy of the Cholas in the Egyptian and Chinese records besides in the temple inscriptions of South India. According to these sources, the emergence of these powers accelerated the maritime commercial activities of Asian countries as also the international trading communities to travel across the Ocean connecting the eastern and western Asia.

According to Chinese sources, South Indian ports were rated as "Good ports" and intensive trade activities were centering around the coromandal ports. The commercial activities of the Chola ports were administered and regularised by a set of trade organisations. These organisations had not only assumed administrative control over major trade centres

within the Chola empire but also organised the smooth and steady flow of indigenous products into the ports and from where the Chola products may be pushed into the international markets. It may be mentioned in this connection that the Cholas achieved a tremendous success in their overseas trade on account of the efficient role played by the local merchants as well as by the way the inland trade was institutionalised. These merchants organised various powerful, regional, commercial organisations which undertook the responsibility of transporting the local products into the coastal centres. The regional market centres were known as *nagaram* and the commercial organisations were known as *samajam*.

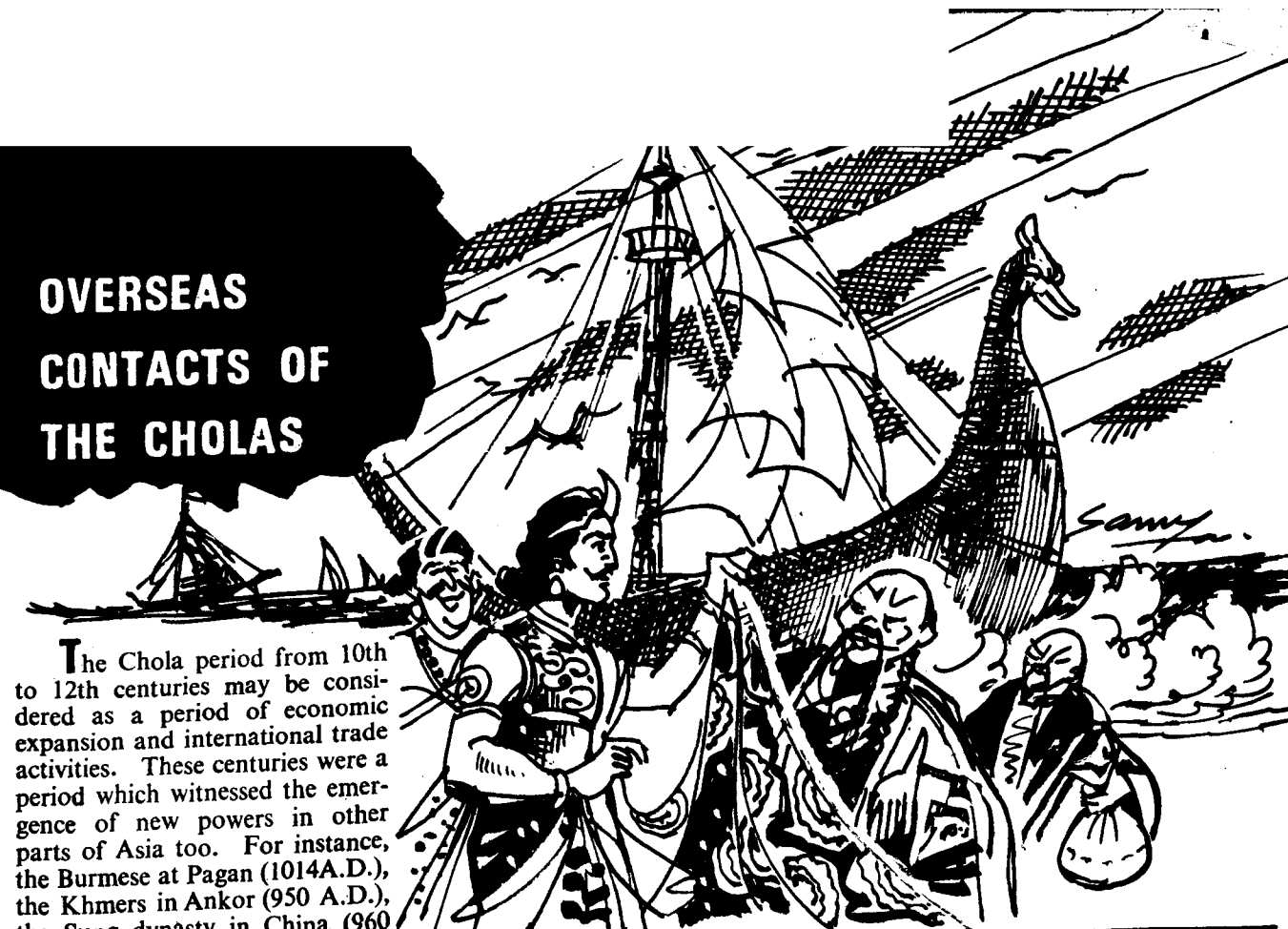
Further, it may be interesting to note that there were Government officials appointed to look after the administrations of the ports. They were helped in their task by the merchant organisations and local assemblies. The activities of the foreign merchants and their contracts with the local people were regularised

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by the Government officials. This organisational set up in the harbours was mainly responsible for the development and expansion of trade activities across the seas. The levy of cesses on various luxury articles brought to the ports by foreign merchants had increased the revenue of the Government to a considerable extent. That is why the Cholas paid special attention to the improvement of ports and overseas contacts.

There were big and small ports in the Chola territory. The ports on the sea coasts were known as 'Pattinam' and those on the inland as 'erivirapattinam'. However, 'pattinams' were handling the exports and imports.

Among the Chola ports, Kaverippumpattinam, Mamallapuram, Nagappattinam, Visakapattinam, Tiruvadandai (near Madras), Mylapore (Modern Santhome), Tiruvotriyur, Cudda-



lore deserve mention as they are mentioned in their inscriptions as coastal and commercial centres having contacts with overseas countries as well as with inland trading centres. There are both archaeological and literary evidences to confirm the international relations of the Cholas and their overseas trade contacts. For instance Kaverippattinam was flourishing as a major port during the early Chola period and *Pattinappalai* gives a vivid description of the handling of cargo at this port and the levies charged on the cargo brought in by foreign ships as also the duty put on goods to be exported. These goods were marked with the Chola royal emblem, tiger. The excavations conducted at this port site confirmed what is said about it in *Pattinappalai*. Remnants of a warehouse, Roman pottery, lamp etc. have been unearthed from the site and they suggest that Kaverippattinam was a flourishing port during the Sangam age as also in the subsequent periods. Nagapattinam was the next important port and there were commercial quarters in the city. The inscriptions record that there were merchants from different parts of India such as Quilon, Kolhapur,



Merchants from South East Asia made frequent visits to Nagapattinam during the reign of Rajaraja and his son and successor Rajendra. It was a commercially oriented port with an eye to develop overseas trade contacts. It is well-known that during Rajaraja's time, a Buddhist

Vihara was built at this port city for the use of the merchants from Sri Vijaya and other South East Asian countries. The Chola inscriptions give a detailed account of the articles brought to this port from distant countries, and how they were exchanged for gold and the articles of the Chola country. Rajaraja gifted lands to the Buddhist Vihara at this place only with a view to attract the merchants from Sri Vijaya. During the time of Rajendra the relations between Sri Vijaya and the Cholas were further cemented and Sri Vijaya king made several gifts of gold to Nagapattinam Vihara. It is believed that these gifts were made to improve the relations between the two powers. But at the same time it is surprising to note that Rajendra sent a naval expedition to threaten the Sri Vijaya king and to plunder the island. It may also be interesting to note that the transactions between the Sri Vijayas and the Cholas were done through exchange of gold known as *Chinak-kenn* (Chinese gold) and *Undigaippon*. This fact shows that there was a large inflow of gold during this period.

The merchants from the Chola territory went to foreign countries in connection with their business and earned a lot of money. They were really wealthy as indicated by their endowments made in the far off countries. To cite an example, a merchant from the village Manigramam (near Kaverippattinam) had made endowments to a temple built at Takuapa on the Malay peninsula. This temple was built by the South Indian merchants for their use, as the Nagapattinam Vihara built for those from South East Asia. This is yet another instance to show how influential the Chola merchants were and their status in the global trade activities.

Visakhapattinam was yet another port receiving products from the Malabar coastal areas. The traders (known as Anjuvannattars) from that region were active at the port during the time

of Kulottunga I. The port city was named after the king, as *Kulottunga Chola pattinam*.

The Cholas had established commercial contacts with many foreign countries such as Sri Vijaya, Cambodia, Java, China, Burma, Ceylon etc. These contacts are mentioned in their inscriptions. For example there is a reference to a known king of Cambodia sending presents to Rajendra-I. The Cholas during Rajaraja's time had control over Ceylon and naturally that would have improved their commercial transactions with this island. During the reign of Kulottunga I attempts were made to establish contacts with Burma and China. An inscription of the Burmese king Kyanzittha of Pagan (1077 A.D.) mentions the desire of the king to establish contacts with the Chola ruler. Chinese records also confirm his relations with them. A stone inscription mentions the contacts the Chinese had with the Chola ports. Commodities such as spices, drugs, ivory, coral, pearl, etc. were exported to China. Chinese were very much interested in the silk produced in the Chola kingdom. The Tamil word for silk is *Pattu* and it is mentioned in the inscriptions too. It was the silk produced by silk worms breeding on the mulberry trees. The Chola region could have grown mulberry trees during that period and the Chinese records refer to the coloured silk threads of the Chola kingdom. They seem to have been produced near the modern Pattukkottai near Thanjavur (Pattukkottai in Tamil may mean centre for silk production). This is well attested by the find of Chinese coins in the vicinity of Pattukkottai. They are dated from about 2nd century B.C. to 10th century A.D. But it must also be noted that Chinese and Egyptian silk of fine quality were imported into South India. That suggests fine quality of foreign merchandise had a ready market in South India though the same goods, were produced locally.



PROPOSALS FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT IN TAMILNADU

The Government of Tamil Nadu have requested the Government of India for the inclusion of a number of important roads in the State into National Highways. One such important road link is the East Coast Road from Madras to Kanyakumari comprising of various stretches of State roads of different nomenclature passing through the Districts of Chingleput, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Ramnad, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari. The total length is about 773.20 kilometres in which the improvements are to be carried out for 719.95 kilometers.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have been pressing with the Government of India to Classify about 16 roads in Tamil Nadu as National Highways, and the East Coast Road to a length of about 720 Kms. is the first among the 16 roads. There is an imminent necessity to classify the East Coast Road as National Highway and improve the same.

When improved the National Highway will form a connecting link between National Highways-5 (Madras-Calcutta Road) and National Highway-47 (Salem Cochin Kanyakumari Road).

This will form the shortest link connecting Madras and Kanyakumari.

As a second cross road link in North South direction this will relieve the traffic congestion in the other National Highway (Madras, Trichy, Dindigul, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari Road) to a great extent.

The road passes through the cyclone-prone districts of Chingleput, South Arcot and Thanjavur and the drought prone districts of Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari. The road section in the district of Chingleput, Thanjavur and South Arcot gets badly damaged and even submerged during rainy seasons causing considerable dislocation to traffic and agricultural operations.

In the drought prone districts of Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli, the major industry is the manufacture of salt. Another major industry of the coastal area is fishing and for an effective and timely transport of these, it is necessary to have a reliable and all weather road in the East Coast.

Further, there are two major harbours viz., Madras and Tuticorin, two ports viz., Cuddalore and Nagapattinam and some fishing harbours like Valinokkam along the stretch of East Coast Road. For the full exploitation of the available facilities in these harbours and ports a pucca highway is very essential.

The pilgrim centres such as Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram, Tiruchendur and Kanyakumari lie in the Coastal region. The very heavy pilgrim traffic to Rameswaram all the year round from all over India need an all weather road.

Moreover, from the point of view of defence requirements, in the wake of the current ethnic problem in Sri Lanka it should be necessary to develop the East Coast Road.

The approximate cost for improving the entire stretch to National Highways standards will be about Rs. 53.00 crores for single lane and Rs. 91.50 crores for double lane. The existing stretch of East Coast road has got a major section of the road low lying and is in a very poor standard.

So far in the IV Plan 38 bridge works have been completed under E&I scheme at a cost of Rs. 392 lakhs with a Government of India assistance of Rs. 261 lakhs. Under the VI Plan Government of India have accorded under the E&I scheme approval for improving a length of about 68.4 Kms. of road and constructing 17 bridges at a cost of Rs 300 lakhs with a Government of India loan assistance of Rs. 150 lakhs. Considering the huge cost of the improvements, the loan assistance now being sanctioned by the Government of India is very meagre. If this is to be taken as the basis of assistance for subsequent plans also it will take many more years to achieve the aim, not to speak of the escalation in the intervening years. The State Government also is not in a position to finance such a huge project from its own resources. The only solution is to classify the stretch as National Highway and improve the same.

(Note given by Hon'ble Minister for Backward classes Thiru M. R. Govendan, to Hon'ble Union Minister for Shipping & Transport Thiru Veerendra Patil on 24th September 1984 at New Delhi.)



THE NOMADS — HELP — TAXIDERMY

Narikuravas or Kuruvikarans, a nomadic backward group, are seen scattered in different parts of Madras City and one such small hamlet comprising of forty families in Thiruvannamalai, Adyar, is quite fortunate and lucky since the Shramik Vidyapeeth Institute, (a sub-unit under the Directorate of Non-formal and Adult Education) and the Department of Museums jointly organised a short intensive course in taxidermy for helping them know the scientific techniques of stuffing birds and small animals.

The Narikuravas are a simple and carefree folk. They are active whether they are in the nearby forest or in their huts, tending to the bread-winning duties. They are primarily hunters. With their muzzle-loading guns they never miss their aim and are very sharp in hitting their prey. They own several indigenous traps and nets to catch small

Thiru N. Devasahayam

AND

Thiru P. Jawahar

Curators, Govt. Museums, Madras

birds and rodents in the forests, grooves and hillslopes. Among them a few are engaged in collecting waste paper scattered in the streets and house compounds and they make their livelihood by this. They tend poultry and piggery which are consumed by themselves as well as other. The women are also active and are experts in artistic bead work and they sell beads, needles, plastic utensils etc. on the pavements. Thus, the narikuravar's daily income is not so bright to meet their daily needs; however they are contented and satisfied.

Since hunting is the chief source of income,



area in the forest. Animals like mongoose with elongated thin head while moving or running forward get the head entangled in the noose and struggle to escape. A very conspicuous but heavy trap of the narikuravas is a framed and folding type (1½' x 2½') each frame carrying three to five nylon nooses in them. Twelve to twenty such frames are connected together and they can be spread out to cover sixty to eighty feet in a forest area. Small hopping birds such as quails and partridges when they jump and run about, their legs or their heads get stuck up in the noose or knot and thus they are caught alive.

Thus, the Narikuravas are able to hunt these small rodents and birds, not only for food but also to produce stuffed specimens for decorative purposes, by making use of the skin, horn etc. However much they do in stuffing the dead animals and birds and in trying to give a life-like appearance to them, these products are not up to the expectations and their finish is not up to the mark to fetch good prices in the market. Such ill-stuffed birds and animals in course of time lose their hair, their shape and contour.

With an idea of improving the economy of narikuravas and to help them to produce good stuffed animals based on scientific methods and knowledge, an intensive training-cum-camp in taxidermy or stuffing was organised jointly by the Shramik Vidyapeeth and the Madras Government Museum, for the first three days in September, 83 in the Narikuravas Colony in Thiruvannamalai, Adyar, Madras. The "BEL" organisation which has been working for the upliftment of the narikuravas also assisted in putting up a temporary pandal in the colony and managed to bring about two dozen narikurava men and women to attend the camp. The trainees were very eager to learn the various stages and techniques in taxidermy in a scientific way. Instead of killing the prey by wringing the neck which is cruel, they were taught how to do the same in a delicate way by using chemicals, where an incision is to be made on the ventral side by using scissors or knife, how to remove the skin from the flesh, and to know which are the bones that are to be retained, how to prepare the artificial body with jute and cotton, how to prepare the arsenic paste, how to support the body with iron rods, how to fix artificial eyes, how to give final touches to get the life appearance etc. etc. All this they were taught gradually by demonstrating with actual specimens— a squirrel and a cat. On the third day, the narikurava trainees themselves tried to do the stuffing of squirrels and they succeeded finally. Thus progressive steps have been effectively taken to improve the quality of their art work and widen their prospects.

A few objects such as the teeth of jackals, beads and bead work, traps and nets etc. were collected from the narikuravas and would be on display in a special exhibition in the Government Museum, in due course.

let us briefly look into the different types of traps and nets which they use in their hunting operations. One such net-cum-trap to catch their jackals and the cats, is quite interesting. It is just like the bamboo fish trap commonly used by the villagers and peasants, but there it is composed of threads netted together, nearly twenty feet in length with a broad trumpet-like opening attached to a circular bamboo frame work. The narikuravas will hide close to the distal end of the net and start howling like jackals. On hearing the voice of their fellow-jackal, the other jackals will rush towards the trumpet-shaped entrance and to be tempted to enter in. Once they enter, they are unable to find their exit and meanwhile the narikuravas will run towards the net and catch the jackals. The second type of trap which they use is just like what we use in our homes for catching the rats. It is a box-like cage and it is covered on all sides by thin but strong iron rods with short and accurate trapping mechanism inside. This is light and handy and the narikuravas keep it on the compound walls of houses or by the side of bushes and trees for catching squirrels. The speciality of this indigenous trap is the spring which they use inside for quick action which is the common and same one which we use in our cycles for parking.

Yet another interesting trap is quite simple and is of folding type and is easily held in the hand. It is composed of a long thin nail or an iron wire, the head being provided with a nylon noose and the other end pointed, suitable to be planted in the ground. Such nails numbering about twelve are jointly connected by a common thread, to form a trap, which is conveniently spread around bushy

Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited has been promoted by the Government of Tamil Nadu to implement the prestigious project of manufacturing newsprint and printing and writing paper using as its main raw materials sugar cane bagasse which is at present burnt in the sugar mills. The plant is being established at Pugalur in the industrially backward Karur taluk of Tiruchirapalli district. It is a Rs.195 crore project, half of which is financed by the World Bank. The Company was incorporated in April 1979 and commenced its business in May 1979. The Project took off in September 1981.

At optimum production level, the mill is designed to manufacture 50,000 tonnes per annum of newsprint and 40,000 tonnes of printing and writing paper with flexibility to produce any intermediary combinations of this product mix to meet market and operational exigencies.

The Salient features of the project which is in the final stages of implementation are:

- Land requirement 700 acres (approx.)
- Water requirement 25 mgd.
- Power requirement 30 MVA
- Bagasse requirement 4 lakh tonnes p.a.
- Wood requirement 70,000 tonnes p.a.
- Coal requirement 3.4 lakh tonnes p.a.

The implementation of this project is in the final stage and the following is the status as on date:—

- i) An expenditure of nearly Rs. 150 crore has been incurred;

- ii) Contracts for all major imported and indigenous plant and machinery have been placed;
- iii) The entire land for the project has been acquired;
- iv) Civil construction work is nearly over;
- v) Erection of Paper Machine, Power Boiler, Water Treatment Plant, Effluent Treatment plants and Electrical Substations is in the final stages of completion.
- vi) Necessary agreements have been entered into with appropriate authorities for meeting in full the requirements of water,

power, bagasse, wood and coal.

- vii) Railway siding has been commissioned and already coal rakes have started moving to the site.
- viii) Erection of boilers at the Sugar Mills is also going on as scheduled.

The Project will provide direct employment to about 1,200 personnel besides giving indirect employment to about 5,000.

TNPL will help the country to save foreign exchange to the tune of Rs.40 crore annually by avoiding import of newsprint, the demand for which is growing at 8% per annum besides bridging the gap between demand and supply for newsprint.

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विशेष आवरण SPECIAL COVER



सुब्रमण्य सिवा
जन्म शताब्दी
**SUBRAMANIA SIVA
BIRTH CENTENARY**
4-10-84
पाप्पारपट्टि
PAUPARAPATTI



RELEASE OF SPECIAL CANCELLATION
AND COVER ON SR. SUBRAMANIA SIVA



SUBRAMANIA SIVA - A REVOLUTIONARY FREEDOM-FIGHTER

Subramania Siva, a revolutionary freedom-fighter, was born at Vathalakundu in Madurai District on the 4th of October 1884. He devoted his whole life to the cause of the freedom of India and as a rebellious freedom-fighter from his youth he made great sacrifices. He participated in many struggles and he underwent rigorous imprisonment many times. His powerful oratory roused the people and he was charged by the British rulers with instigating violence.

Siva was a close associate of the great freedom fighters V. O. Chidambaram Pillai and Bharathiar. After listening to Siva's fiery speeches, Bharathiar embraced Siva saying 'O! my Heroic Sivaji'.

Siva played an active role along with V.O.C. and Bharathiar in

implementing the resolutions passed at the Surat Congress Conference under the Presidentship of Tilak.

When V.O.C. and Siva were arrested by the Collector of Thirunelveli, there was wide-spread agitation in Thirunelveli and the police resorted to shooting and 4 persons died on the spot when the police opened fire.

V. O. Chidambaram was sentenced to Exile and Siva was sentenced to 10-year rigorous imprisonment.

When Siva was released after his jail life, he went to Madras and settled at Mylapore with his family. When he was in jail he got diseased.



He edited various journals known as 'Swarajyam', 'Gnanabhanu', 'Prapancha Mitran', and 'Inthia Thesanthri'. He was a great lover of Tamil.

This great freedom — fighter passed away on 23rd July 1925.

His birth centenary is celebrated by the grateful people and a commemoration stamp has been released in honour of Siva.

A commemoration stamp in honour of the great freedom fighter Subramania Siva was released at Vathalakundu, the place of his birth in connection with the celebration of his birth centenary. The Director of posts and Telegraphs, Madurai Thiru Jayaraman released the stamp. Thiru Kumari Anandan M. L. A., Tmt. A. S. Ponnammal M. L. A., and Madurai Subramani Siva, the grand son of Siva, received the special Stamp with the figure of Subramania Siva. At the function, a portrait of Subramania Siva, presented by the Tamil Nadu Government was unveiled.

In connection with the birth centenary of the revolutionary freedom fighter Subramania Siva, there was a procession on the 4th of October 1954 at Pauparapatti in Dharmapuri District from Desabandu Ashram to the grave of Subramania Siva. Thiru R. Subba Rao, a freedom fighter, led the procession participated by N.C.C., the Scouts, students and women. A wreath was placed on the grave and the people paid homage to Siva.

In the evening, the birth centenary of Subramania Siva was celebrated at the Government Higher Secondary School, Pauparapatti. The District Collector of Dharmapuri Thiru V. Manivannan, I.A.S., presided. Special Postal cover was released in honour of the great leader by Postal Superintendent. Thiru K. Selvaraj, Thiru Sabapathy Sharma, the son of Siva's brother, and the Collector Thiru Manivannan, I.A.S., received the special postal covers. Thiru S. Theettaraman M.L.A., and Thiru K. Samarasam M.L.A., participated in the function and addressed the audience paying rich tributes to Subramaniya Siva.



To seek the roots of our art and culture that inspire worship — an art wafting greatness across centuries, a culture resplendent with sublime tradition — to enshrine in our hearts this art, this culture, uniquely ours. It's this the PANORAMA endeavours.

This expresses the theme of a series of programmes launched by the newly constituted Tamil Development Culture Department headed by Dr. Avvai Natarajan as Secretary. It is meant to bring to the attention of the general public the aspects of Tamil culture in an entertaining form. Each programme will consist of a lecture followed by a visual presentation (by way of demonstration or slide shows) of the important points touched upon in the lecture. The programmes will range from music and dance to theatre arts and literature. The constituent departments of Tamil Development-Culture Department would contribute the programmes which would all be arranged in the Museum Theatre and would be open to the public.

The first programme in the series was launched on 26th Sept, 1984 with a lecture demonstration by Dr. Padma Subramaniam on "Tamil Traditional Aesthetics". The programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Thiru C. Aranganayagam. Dr. Avvai Natarajan, Secretary, Tamil Development-Culture Department welcomed the gathering. In her lecture, Dr. Padma Subramaniam traced the concept of aesthetics as expounded in the ancient Tamil texts like 'Tholkappiam', 'Kurunthogai', 'Kamba Ramayanam' and 'Kuravanji' and wherever necessary demonstrated points made by her and this kept the audience spellbound throughout.

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The Role of the United Nations

It is not strange but significant, that so soon after the flare-up on the bank of the Nile and the desert-land adjoining Israel, we are celebrating the United Nations Day, determining not only to stand by that institution but to seek strength and support for it, because an institution with noble ideals, cannot be judged or measured by the failures that beset it, but by the spirit underlying it and the faith generated through it. True, the U.N.O. was not able to prevent the clash between the U.A.R. and Israel, just as it is powerless to end the Viet-Nam War.

Instances to prove the ineffectiveness of the U.N.O. can be and are quoted-sometimes with glee and at other times with agony-but it is important to note, that whenever there is a conflict or a clash, an aggression or animosity, people all over the World think about the U.N.O.—a remarkable fact-for that goes to show that, that institution kindles in the heart

of the people of many a country, hope and confidence. They look to it, as the champion, the only champion of peace and concord, as the only available machinery for putting an end to war and aggression.

The very anger and remorse that many exhibit at the failings of the U.N.O. are the greatest tributes that can be paid to this institution, the U.N.O. It means, that the World wants an institution to prevent war and establish peace, to end aggression and ensure justice—to put a halt to the march of the oppressor. It is because of this high hope, that we get anger and remorse when we find the U.N.O. unable to deliver the goods. We are celebrating the United Nations Day, to make it strong by strengthening our own conviction about the imperative necessity for world peace and concord. An uncut diamond is still a diamond, just as a harp without the player is still a harp.

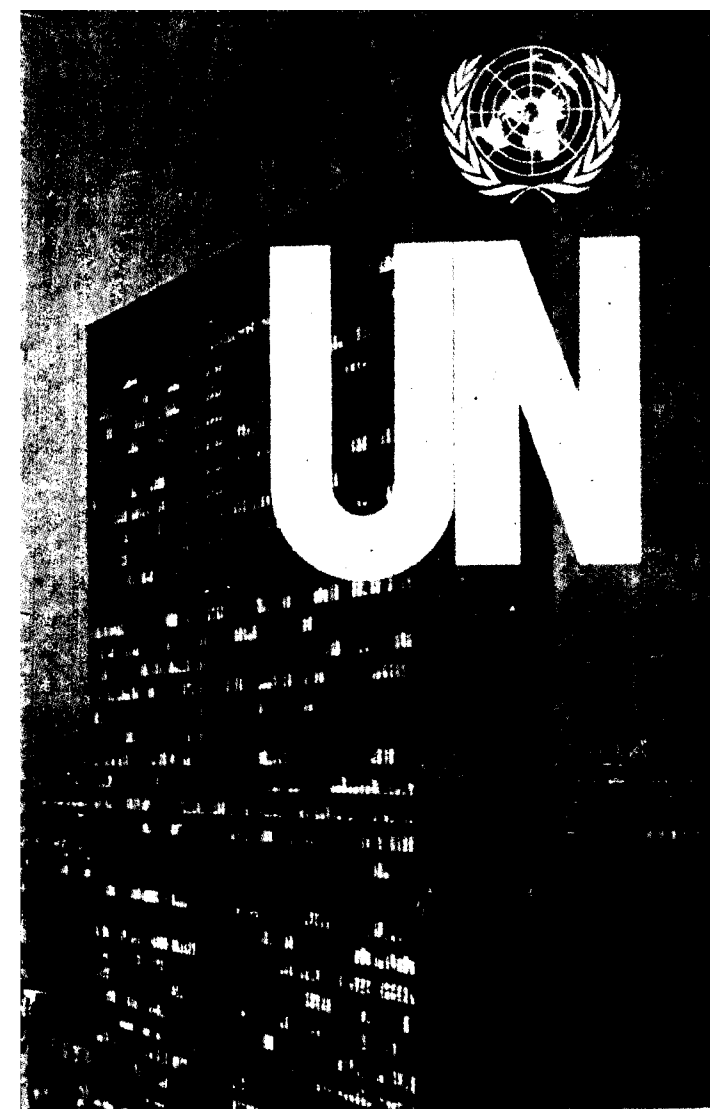
The U.N.O. is the one organisation we possess with a noble ideal and its failing or weakness does not and cannot minimise its necessity or importance. On the other hand one should stand in veneration at the sight of this institution pleading and planning for peace-surrounded as it is by countries with combustible thoughts and nuclear weapons, countries

ANNA

with-covetous eye and the aggressive instinct, countries that are still adopting either cajolery or threat to enslave other countries.

It is in a world, full of armaments and march-pasts, generals and diplomats, A-Bombs and H-Bombs, that this institution, the U.N.O. is functioning and like all Messiahs in strange and savage lands, it is being harassed and humbled, defied and denounced—and yet—and that is significant—it persists in its effort to tame the savage, to pacify the furious and to bridle the avaricious and show them the path of peace and justice. It has not succeeded in all its attempts. There are countries that treat it with contempt—South Africa, Rhodesia and Portugal—the United Nations refuses to retreat, and with hope and confidence appeals to the nobility inherent in the human mind and with a rare missionary zeal, holds aloft the banner of world peace for the past twenty-two years.

People with no vision would certainly have pooh-poohed the very idea of an organi-



sation for world peace, when the U.N.O. was first inaugurated—for the sad history of the rise and fall of the League of Nations was still lingering. It is almost amazing that, in spite of the failure of the League of Nations, men endowed with sobriety and spirituality, met to organise the U.N.O. in a world torn by the Second World War—it was planted almost on the ruins and ashes of the very many capitals of various countries. The dead and the living-dead, the crippled and the maimed, the blind and the desolate—it was with such a background that it emerged forth.

Nothing but a robust faith in the ultimate success of justice could have given them that courage and vision to launch upon this scheme—it was almost like undertaking a perilous voyage in a stormy sea, with no better means than the wreckage of a ship. And this ship has been on the sea, for twenty-two years, braving the waves and currents, infusing hope and solace to those in need of succour. Assessment hence should be made, after taking into account, the odds against this institution, against the general apathy around it and then alone one could find out the correct estimate.

In a world wherein countries were expected to be always in preparation either to attack or repel onslaughts, ready to send its emissaries along with spies, arrange lavish receptions at capitals while shattering the borders, in such a world, one finds to-day that massive building from where the flags of more than a hundred countries fly side by side, acclaimed with equal honour, announcing to the world that they are different countries but belong to one world, that they have separate existence but for a common objective, that they have riches and strength of various dimensions to be pooled together for the common good, that they are partners in the noble task of bettering the world as a whole to recognise and respect one another, to create and cultivate friendship and comradeship, to abhor war and practise peace, so that the individual energy of the various countries might be blended for the common and noble task of making man lead a fuller and happier life, freed from fear and famine, pestilence and ignorance, violence and vandalism—in short to give man what is his due—his dignity as human being.

For, who but the aggressor makes beast out of man, desert out of orchards, ruins out of cities, poverty amidst plenty. The purpose of the U.N. is to be always on the lookout for such an aggressor—for he is a wily person, capable of changing his shape and tongue—and the U.N. should be always vigilant to detect him, expose him and with the combined strength and good-will of others, deter him from his attempt. Not an easy job indeed beset with many a danger, a job that demands strength and sacrifice—and the twenty-two years of its life, has shown that there are enough doughty warriors to carry on this crusade—in spite of failures, in spite of sarcasm and contempt—and it has given hope to many a noble soul.

The Late Pope John has declared with warmth, "It is our earnest wish that the U.N.O. in its structure and in its means, may become even more equal to the magnitude and nobility of its tasks and that a day may come when every human being will find therein an effective safeguard for the rights which derive directly from his dignity as a person."

War is a negation of human values. Saints and Statesmen, Poets and Pastors, and above all commanders of victorious armies have been condemning war as the manifestation of depravity and a denial of the dignity of man, and yet war followed war, because there was no better forum than the battle field; no better argument than the bursting of shells to resolve a dispute, settle an issue and maintain a right.

The United Nations Organisation is the forum for settling disputes without war through discussion, enunciation and action. Delegates from member countries discuss the issues which divide them laying their case before the world and, instead of butchering men, attempt to argue their point.

The U.N.O enunciates the principle, which member-states are expected to follow in their relationship with other states.

The U.N.O also sends forth peace markers to help settle disputes. The fact that member-states have accepted this process for the settlement of dispute, is by itself a historic achievement, for it shows that states are prepared to accept, at any rate in principle, that war should be out-lawed.

Lack of sincerity, influence of powerful blocs, delay and lack of determination, often-times mar this process and ignite war, but this will be minimised to the utmost degree, if and when the U.N. is strengthened, if people all over the world stand by its principles and make their states champion the cause of peace. To-day's celebration is an appeal addressed to one and all to stand by and strengthen the U.N.—for as the illustrious Dr. Radhakrishnan has pointed out: "The U.N.O hopes to supply that soul or that conscience to the world community which is emerging."

But for the U.N.O to become effective to prevent war and banish injustice, "it should become the eye that does not slumber, an eye that is everywhere watchful and attentive" as Woodrow Wilson once declared.

To argue that since the U.N.O is feeble in strength it need not be maintained, is to blind that eye too and grope in darkness and court disaster and what better authority than Mr. Eisenhower, former President of the United States, is needed to point out the necessity for United Nations? Says that great victor, "If the United Nations once admits that international disputes can be settled by using force, then we will have destroyed the very foundations of the organisation and our best hope of establishing world-order—that would be disaster for all."

Though conscious of the inherent and imported defects in it, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, remained one of the stoutest champions of the United Nations and declared, "if any attempt is made to change the essential nature of the United Nations, it will not lead to another or a more powerful organisation

which can work for peace. It would only mean the break-up of something that is actually and potentially valuable, with nothing to take its place."

That is why thoughtful men appeal to all to strengthen this organisation and make it an instrument of authority and power in the affairs of the world and not to leave the world to be devastated by this war-monger, for as the Secretary-General of the United Nations U-Thant, says, "No Nation however powerful and wealthy is now-a-days sufficient unto itself."

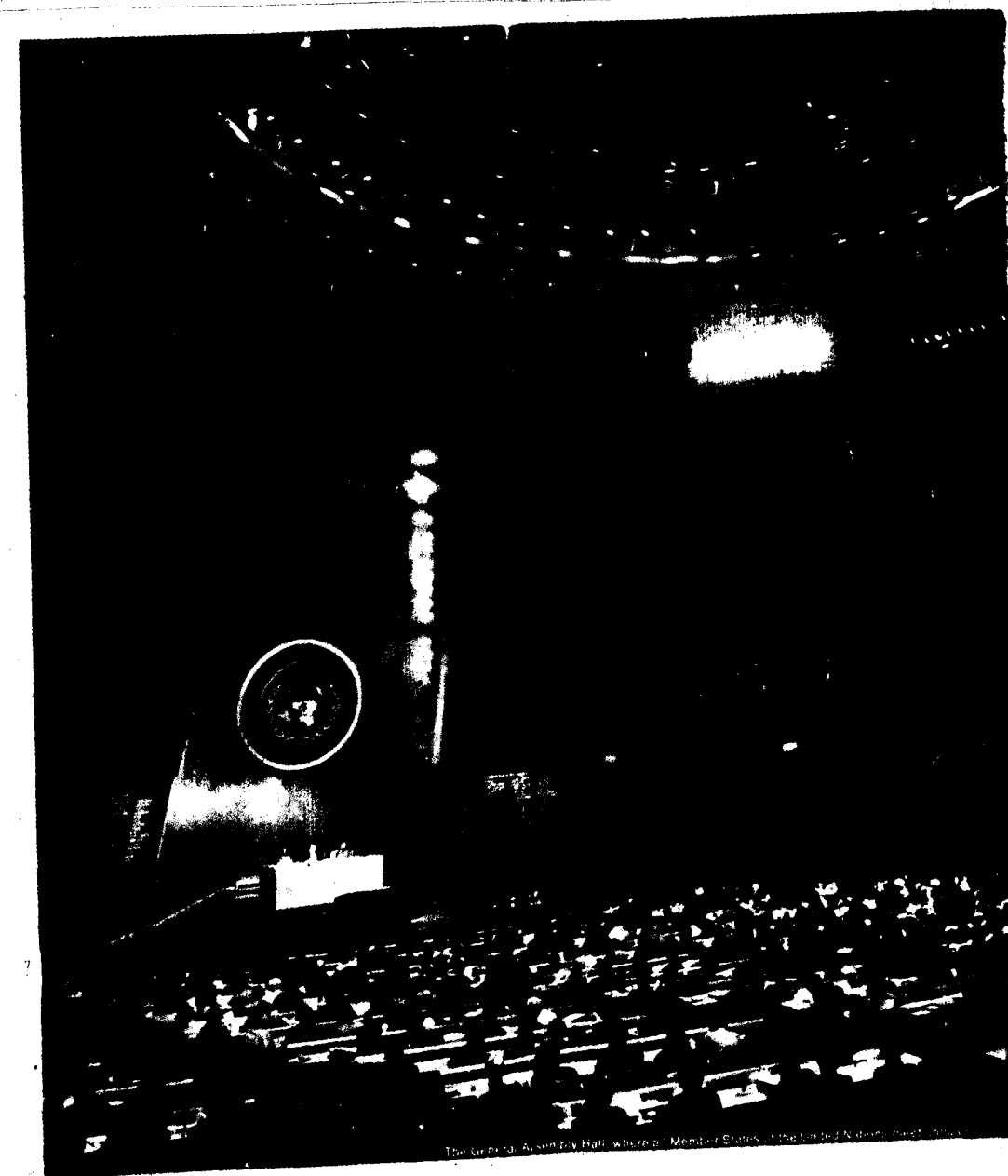
Many a country has now realised that it cannot remain in splendid isolation or on the top of the ruins of other countries, it can remain only along with other countries, accepting and practising the principle of brotherhood of man.

Weak as it is, the United Nations has been successful in averting war on many a front, in localising conflicts, in speeding up the process of peace and in setting up posts for cooling and softening of the inflamed countries. Along the lines between Israel and Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation has been keeping watch ever since 1949. The peace keeping force in Cyprus-4000 strong-has maintained order between Greek and Turkish Cypriots since 1964. We have the military observers group along the cease-fire line in Kashmir.

Thus it will be seen that this institution is step by step proving its worth and rightly claims the loyalty of all sensible persons. The passage of years has served to illustrate that the United Nations with the support of its member states, is the best system of International co-operation that man has yet devised for using his immense skill and resources in the cause of peace.

While the preventive power of this institution evokes our support, its curative power, through its various units, for health and education, human rights and freedom, has endeared it to us.

To countries far and near, come teams of experts in all walks of life, to help and guide, assist and enrich, nations that are not endowed with enough resources. The United Nations team can be found wherever there is need, ready to offer its helping hand, to alleviate, mitigate and eradicate human suffering, whether of the body or the mind, ready to coax nature to yield its riches to people who are poor, to instil courage to the docile, hope to the weak and humanity to all.



Even those who are not enthusiastic about the United Nations in its peace-finding mission, do applaud its role in the sphere of catering to the needs of the under-developed and developing countries.

We have been continuously supporting the United Nations, in all its efforts, though sometimes we were not satisfied to the fullest with its performances, for as Jawaharlal Nehru has put it, "We do realise that, if the United Nations is weak, it is because we are weak—nations are weak—weak in their conviction, weak in their sincerity." Our will and strength alone can give the life-force for this hope of mankind—the citadel of world justice and we, in this country, do propose to strengthen the United Nations! Hence this celebration! Hence this appeal!

Help people understand the United Nations. Once the entire back-ground history and construction of this institution is placed before the people, I have no doubt in my mind that all would rally round this institution and the principle enshrined in it and greet it as the greatest gift to humanity, the lonely, but not beaten missionary propagating peace and justice, concord and happiness, the ideal of International Justice and the far-distant but unassailable ideal of one world. To us Tamilians, this was the ideal taught more than two thousand years ago when our poet sang, "Yaadum Voore! Yavarum Kelir!" (அருள் உருவம் காண்க). "All are our countries; the entire humanity is our kith and kin" Let us therefore stand by this institution and help in the realisation of that ideal which is our heritage.

— Radio Talk
on: 23.10.1967

Snippets

Nearly 20,000 State Government Employees in North Arcot District signed a pledge not to press any of their usual demands but to dedicate themselves to make the family welfare programme a success and also to observe 1985 as a childless year.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has launched a three-year special programme involving Rs. 150 crores for the economic and social development of Adi-Dravidas and Scheduled Tribes.

A Survey shows that children with night blindness and other deformities have been cured after regularly taking nutritious noon meal provided by the Tamil Nadu Government, according to Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr. H.V. Hande.

Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Hon'ble Minister for Education gave away the State Awards to 104 primary school teachers and 104 secondary school teachers for their distinguished service on the occasion of Teacher's Day Celebrations.

An endowment for Rs. 35,000 created in the name of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. on behalf of the people of Salem was inaugurated by His Excellency Vice-President of India Thiru R. Venkataraman on 5th September.

A Rs. 5-lakh computer information system will be installed at the entrance of the Connemara Library, Madras to enable a member to know within a few seconds whether a book is available and if so, in which section. If the book has been taken by some other member, all particulars such as the name of the borrower, when it was taken and the date of return will be supplied by the computer. The library will also have a Rs. 17-lakh micro-film unit for preserving old books.

The centrally-sponsored self-employment scheme for the educated unemployed youth will continue to be operative during 1984-85, according to a communication received by the Tamil Nadu Government from the centre.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to create a welfare fund for "rehabilitation of the victims of moral exploitation" and to provide financial assistance to those discharged from protective homes.

Tamil Nadu's Seventh Plan outlay will be more than Rs. 7,000 crores, nearly double the size of the 6th Five Year Plan, according to Hon'ble Minister for Finance Dr.V.R. Nedunchezian.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have decided to set apart Rs. 17 lakhs for prizes to encourage film producers and drama troupes to propagate the small family norm, using the planned family concept on the central theme of their productions.

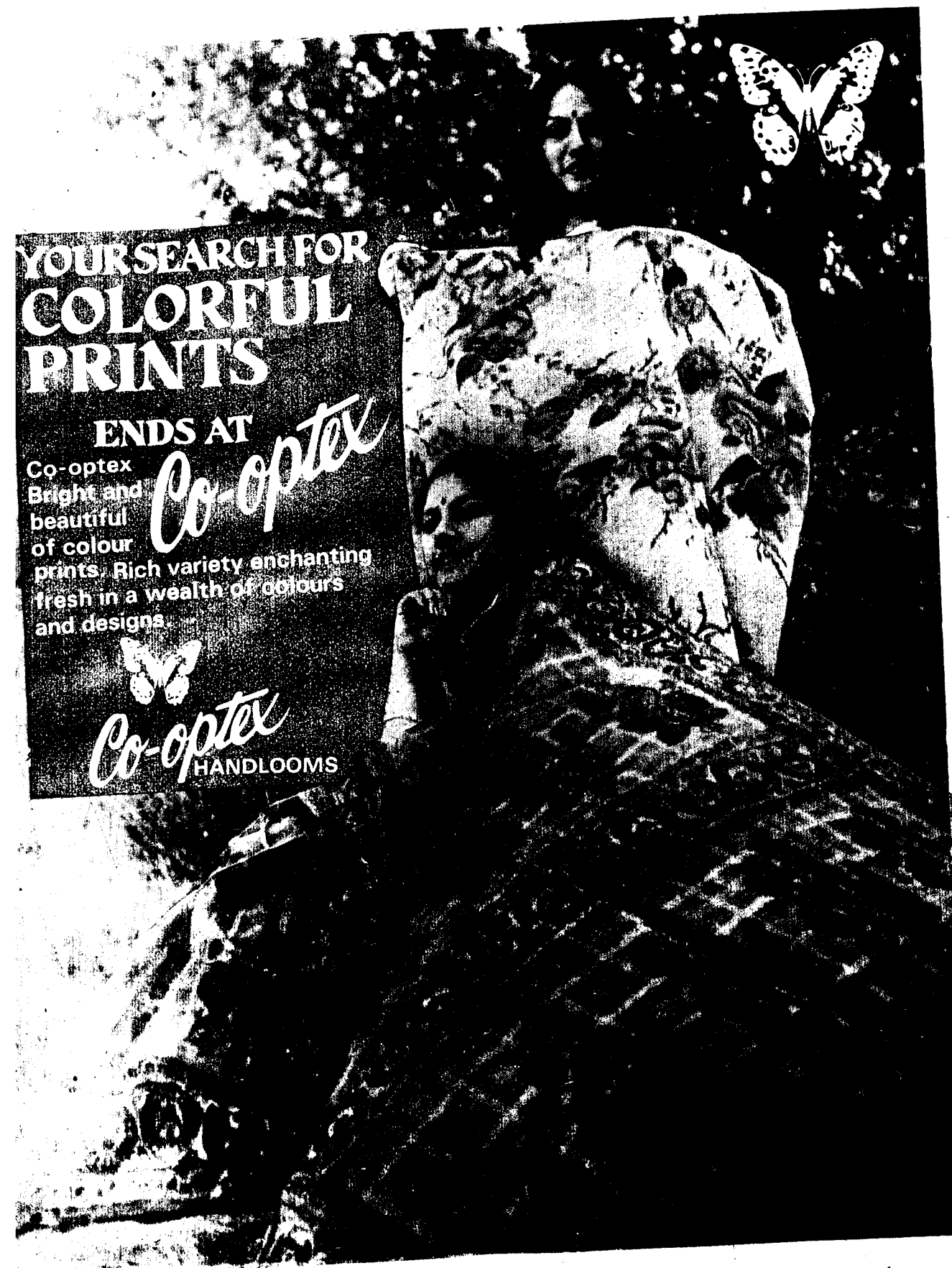
The Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned Rs. 1.73 crores for undertaking a scheme to prevent foot-and-mouth disease among cattle and goats. Inoculation of the animals will be taken up in five stages in the period between 1984 and 1991.

The low power television transmitter, the 136th in the Country and 5th in Tamil Nadu was commissioned in Kumbakonam on 22nd September. Switching on the T.V. Centre, Thiru A.A. Rahim, Minister of State for External Affairs, claimed that 85 percent of the people of Tamil Nadu would benefit with commissioning shortly of the sixth T.V. relay at Neyveli.

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Funeral Procession of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (3-11-1984)

The Mortal Remains of Tmt. Indira Gandhi being consigned to fire at Shantivana (3-11-1984).



Her Love and Regard

"Hon'ble Prime Minister, Tmt. Indira Gandhi, has come over here despite her innumerable pre-occupations and problems, to participate in this World Tamil Conference accepting our invitation out of her deep love and regard for Tamil and Tamil people. She has come to encourage and honour our Tamil Poets and Scholars. I feel extremely happy and elated at this moment as I am overwhelmed by the immense love and magnanimity of our Prime Minister.

I am not simply flattering or exaggerating. She is not only a mother but also the leader of the country and we are proud of having her as our leader."

—Hon'ble Chief Minister **Dr. M.G.R**

(At the Fifth World
Tamil Conference Madurai.)

Tamil Arasu

NOVEMBER 1984 75 P.

Thiruvalluvar Year - 2015

Rakthatchi - Ippasi - Karthigai.



“Every drop of my blood, I am sure, will contribute to the growth of this Nation and to make it strong and dynamic.”



Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Assassinated

Tmt. Indira Gandhi, the beloved Prime Minister of India and the revered leader and mother of millions was shot dead at her official residence, by two of her security guards, the mad and misguided killers who had plotted this dastardly and barbarous assassination.

Both the assailants, constable Satwant Singh of the Second Battalion of the Delhi Armed Police and Sub-Inspector Beant Singh of the security branch of the Delhi Police, were shot at by the Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) commandos while they were trying to run away minutes after they gunned down the Prime Minister under shower of bullets while she was on her way to her office from her residence.

The incident occurred around 9.20 a.m. on the 31st October of 1984, the blackest day in the history of India.

A 12-day State mourning was declared for Tmt. Indira Gandhi.

The most grim political assassination since the killing of Mahatma Gandhi sent India into stunned agony.

The removal from the national scene of the leader with the largest following by violence has shocked the people and politicians.

The fact that the shots were triggered by the very men who were entrusted with her security was an added cause of concern, sorrow and shame.

The country has lost a powerful Prime Minister and the Non-Aligned Movement and world peace have been deprived of a doughty champion by her death. This was echoed in grief voiced by every section in this country and from many parts of the world.

THE CENTRAL CABINET MOURNS:

Thiru Rajiv Gandhi was sworn in the new Prime Minister of India on 31st October 1984.

The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Ashoka Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Zail Singh administered the oath of Office and secrecy soon after he had returned to Delhi from his official visit to Mauritius and North Yemen.

The first meeting of the new Cabinet, presided over by Thiru Rajiv Gandhi, was held immediately after the swearing-in. It adopted a condolence resolution placing on record its profound sense of grief at the tragic death of the great leader and Prime Minister, Tmt. Indira Gandhi.

It said: “The entire nation feels orphaned at the loss of this indefatigable fighter for the country’s integrity and unity.

“In her death, the Non-aligned movement has lost a great steward and the country a great statesman.

“She led the nation through the most difficult years of crisis and external aggression and built up a united and economically strong nation which has become a model of self-reliance.

“While offering our respectful tributes to the memory of a great departed leader, we pledge ourselves to continue the great work of nation-building which she carried on till her last moment. Tmt. Indira Gandhi lived and died for the integrity and unity of India and we call upon the entire nation to maintain peace, communal harmony and unity”.



The Greatest Woman Leader of Mankind

"On this saddest day of my life, I speak to you when I am totally overtaken by the dark cloud of cruel fate. I have lost my dearest friend. We have all lost one of the greatest leaders our country has ever produced, and the world has lost a harbinger of peace who was undoubtedly the greatest woman leader of mankind."

Let our grief not colour our good sense and maturity both as individuals and a nation. The stability of the nation cannot be jeopardised by a handful of sub-human assassins."

His Excellency the President of India
THIRU ZAIL SINGH

NATION ORPHANED

"It is an irreparable loss suffered by the country and it can be mitigated to some extent if the people remained disciplined and duty-conscious. The entire nation feels orphaned."

Hon'ble Finance Minister
Dr. V. R. NEDUNCHEZHIAN

'Combat Secessionism'

"Let us pay homage to the Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, by combating secessionism and violence and promoting communal harmony for which she had worked till her very last breath."

The grief that the nation now suffers should be turned into a dedication to carry forward the crusade for national integration and communal harmony for which our beloved leader worked till the very last breath of her life."

His Excellency the Vice-President
Thiru R. VENKATARAMAN



A CHALLENGE TO CIVILIZED CONDUCT

"The best way of paying homage to the late Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi will be to strengthen the Nation's collective will to condemn violence and disunity. Tmt. Indira Gandhi now joins those who, by the example of their lives and by the manner of their dying, remind of the challenges posed by the forces of violence to civilized human conduct"

His Excellency the Governor
Thiru S. L. KHURANA



WORLD in TEARS



World leaders joined commoners of India in laying wreaths on the body and paying homage to assassinated Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi and paid touching tributes to one of the third world's most outstanding leaders.

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov and hosts of Heads of State and Government and friends of the Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from across the continent stood solemnly before her mortal remains at the Teen Murti House, where it was lying-in-state.

In emotive references to her leadership, not only of India but the entire third world, the leaders said she strove throughout her life for peace, justice and progress. They shared India's loss and hoped the country would complete the unfinished task left by her.

Among the leaders who filed past the body of Tmt. Gandhi were PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Sri Lanka President J.R. Jayewardene, former Sri Lanka Prime Minister Tmt. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Yugoslav President V. Djurancic, Prince Claus of the Netherlands and King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wanchuk.

Arafat Wept:

Arafat, whose fight for the oppressed Palestinians found an

ardent supporter in the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, broke down and wept as he hugged Home Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, at the entrance of Teen Murti house.

Arafat, who used to describe Tmt. Gandhi as his sister, said, "I have come to share the grief of Indians. She was a great sister, a great leader and we can't forget her full support in all the struggles for just causes all over the world. I cannot conceive of India without the presence of Indira. We are searching for words to express our feelings."

"Greatest Leader"

Prime Minister of Ireland G. Fitzgerald who is also President of the European Economic Community placed wreaths on the body of the Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Chinese Deputy Premier Yao Yilin said "We are deeply shocked to learn of the death of Tmt. Indira Gandhi who was one of the world's greatest leaders and her untimely death is not only a loss to India but to the whole world".

Tmt. Sirimavo Bandaranaike who was the late Prime Minister's counterpart in Sri Lanka till a few years back said:

"To me she was a personal friend. I hope her followers would work towards fulfilling her ideals."

She was accompanied by her son Arura Bandaranaike.

Soviet Prime Minister, Tikhonov, in a brief remark, said "We (his delegation) have come here to share the grief of the people of India and deeply mourn it. We have come to share the grief of the entire nation".

"Tremendously grieved"

Portuguese Prime Minister Dr. Mario Soares said "We have been tremendously grieved in Portugal because Tmt. Indira Gandhi was respected by one and all there. I have met her several times and Portuguese people recollect vividly her visit to the country"

He said she had been instrumental in the development of close relations between the two countries which had traditional friendship for centuries.

Prince Claus of Netherlands said India had lost "one of the finest creations of the civilised world. New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange, who had visited India a fortnight back said, "we have come to grieve here, the country whose hospitality we have enjoyed a short while ago"

Respected leader:

Vice-President of Kenya, Nwai Jibaki and Prime Minister of Algeria, Abdul Hamid Brahimi

said Tmt.Gandhi was a respected leader not only in India but in the entire Third World.

Dr.A.Milton Obote, President of Uganda,said the assassination of Tmt.Indira Gandhi was a tragedy. "She died serving not only India but the people of the 'developing countries'".

Pakistan expressing shock:

The Pakistan President Gen. Zia-Ul-Haq sent a letter to the Indian Government expressing "deep shock and horror" at the shooting.

The Pakistani Cabinet held a special meeting and announced a three-day State mourning in the Country. Gen. Zia-in a message to the President Zail Singh, said Tmt.Gandhi had played a decisive role in the evolution of Indo-Pakistan relations.

Shock in Bangladesh: Bangladesh received the news with shock. The President Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad,in a message to the Indian President, condemned the "heinous and barbarous act" and said: "This dastardly act speaks only of the cowardice of those who have perpetrated this crime".

Thailand's tributes: A Thai Government Statement in Bangkok described the killing as "not only a loss for India and its people but for all people who love the democratic system".

Dutch condemnation:

The Dutch Government described the assassination as a "cowardly murder". Expressing its "abhorrence" at the killing, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said: "The Indian people have lost a great Stateswoman".

Austria: The Chancellor Fred Sinowatz of Austria expressed shock over the assassination. "I consider her death a personal loss", he said.

Australia: The Australian Prime Minister, Mr.Bob Hawke, in a message, said he was shocked and saddened. The Australian Government deplores this "wanton act of terrorism", he added.



4-day mourning in Kenya:

The Kenya Government declared a four-day mourning in tribute to Tmt.Indira Gandhi who was often described by leaders as friend of Africa.

Africa stunned: In Africa, several radio stations across the continent interrupted regular services to announce the stunning death.

The President, Mr.Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya, Dr.Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and several others expressed profound grief at the death.

Israel's regret: Israel voiced regret over the assassination. In Jerusalem the Foreign Ministry, in a statement, said it was a 'direct result of a wave of world terror against which action must be taken.'

The Iranian Prime Minister Musavi mourned the death.

UAE message: In Abu Dhabi the United Arab Emirates President Shaikh Zayed condemned the assassination.

GCC message: Sheiks, Princes and Prime Ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council sent messages of condolences. "It is a vile, despicable aggression" said the Emir of Kuwait, Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, in his message to President Zail Singh.

Champion of peace : The Philippines President, Ferdinand Marcos said that with the death of Mrs.Gandhi "India and all of humanity have lost a great and gifted leader". Mr.Marcos said: "Violence has again claimed as victim a champion of peace."

Pope calls it a stain: At the Vatican, Pope John Paul II called the assassination as another factor in a "chain of violence that is staining the world with blood. Speaking at the regular general audience inthe Vatican, the Pope said the news had caused "fear and sorrow" everywhere.

Sorrow in Sri Lanka: The killing evoked shock and sorrow in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation interrupted programmes in the afternoon to announce the news and suspended normal programmes.

The President, J.R.Jayewardene and the Prime Minister R.Premadasa, also condoled the death of Prime Minister Tmt. Gandhi."

In separate messages to Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi and

President Thiru Zail Singh, President Jayewardene and Prime Minister Premadasa of Sri Lanka said her passing away "is not only an irreparable loss to India, but also a grievous blow to the non-aligned movement and the international community".

TULF reaction: Thiru T.Sivathamparam, President of the Tamil United Liberation Front, in a message, said, "the death is a loss to India and the world. The Tamils of Sri Lanka have a special place in their hearts for her. As chairperson of the non-aligned movement she was the ray of hope for all the oppressed peoples."

Africa mourns :

As Africa continued to mourn the death of Tmt.Indira Gandhi



most of its top leaders came to Tanzania, Dr.Kenneth Kaunda New Delhi to attend the late Prime Minister's cremation. Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe President Julius Nyerere of arrived at New Delhi.

USSR SHOCKED AT DEATH OF "OUTSTANDING LEADER"

The Soviet Union condoled the assassination of the Prime Minister, Tmt.Indira Gandhi, and recalled her personal contribution to developing traditional friendship between the two countries.

In a telegram to the Hon'ble President, Thiru Zail Singh, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers said: "We in the Soviet Union are shocked by the untimely death of Tmt.Gandhi. The Soviet people stigmatise the criminals and their patrons, who raised their hand against outstanding leader.

"On behalf of the Soviet people we are

expressing deep condolences to the people and Government of India over the tragic death of Tmt. Indira Gandhi. Please, convey our sincere sympathy to the near and dear of the late Prime Minister.

The glorious name of Indira Gandhi will, for ever, remain in history."

The Soviet media reported the assassination attempt with unusual speed. Tass news agency carried a brief bulletin on the shooting and Radio Moscow made it the main item on its hourly news broadcasts.

Some Moscow radio stations began to play solemn music.



THE WORLD PRESS DEPLORING THE ASSASSINATION

THE world media deplored the assassination of Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi and described her as a leader of world stature.

The Times compared Tmt. Gandhi's murder with that of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948, which shook India.

Villainous assassination (Pravda):-

The Soviet newspaper Pravda and other dailies reported in detail about "the treacherous assassination of the worthy daughter of the Indian people".

Pravda carried Tmt. Indira Gandhi's portrait, profile and termed the act of the killers a "villainous assassination."

"Sovetskaya Rossia", the respected central newspaper, carried a five column spread on the glorious daughter of a great people.

In an 18-minute sequence of Soviet television's prime news programme "Vremys", movie clips were shown of the heart-rending scenes outside the All India Institute of Medical Sciences where Tmt. Indira Gandhi breathed her last.

The African press continued to focus its spotlight on the developments in India following the assassination.

Pictures of the assassinated leader lying in state at Teen Murti house and her son Rajiv Gandhi being sworn in as new Prime Minister were prominently carried by newspapers.

In an editorial, the influential Standard newspaper of Nairobi said the tributes which were being sent to India from all over the world are an indication of the important role Tmt. Gandhi played in the World Community and the respect and admiration she

aroused among her international political colleagues.

It said it would be to the detriment of all Indians if Tmt. Gandhi's assassination were used to spur on communal hatred.

The riots that broke out within hours of the assassination would not deal with the root problem which led to it, the paper observed. They would merely make the problems worse and undermine what had been achieved in the country so far, newspapers said.

The cremation was an opportunity for leaders of all communities in India to create the climate for a new and even better future, it said.

"We, along with all the other many friends India has in the third world, hope and pray that the opportunity will be taken" it said.

In a written statement, President Reagan said he and the Prime Minister "had personal correspondence recently regarding the scourge of terrorism. We agreed upon the necessity for freedom loving States to strengthen our co-operation to stamp out this menace to humanity. Her senseless murder serves as a vivid reminder of the terrorist threat we all confront. We must, therefore, renew our determination to overcome this threat and ensure that Prime Minister Gandhi's accomplishments and memory will serve as an inspiration for humanity."

President Reagan later drove to the Indian Embassy on Massachusetts Avenue and signed the condolence register. He expressed his deep sympathy with the Government and the people of India while talking to the Ambassador Thiru Bajpai, and said Mrs. Gandhi was a champion of human rights, democracy and peace.

"I want to express my shock, revulsion and grief over the brutal assassination", the President said.

SILENT HOMAGE BY ALL PARTIES

THOUSANDS of people participated in an all-party silent procession taken out in the city on 4th November, 1984 to pay homage to the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Leaders of various political parties in the State, Ministers, MPs, MLAs and MLCs took part.

Representatives of all political parties holding their party flags at half-mast formed the vanguard of the procession. They were followed by Congress (I) Seva Dal volunteers and members of the public.

The procession which started around 4 p. m. from Kamaraj Thidal, Teynampet, passed through Anna Salai, Walajah Road and Kamarajar Salai and terminated at Seerani Arangam on the Marina where a condolence meeting was held.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian, Hon'ble Speaker Thiru K. Rajaram, Hon'ble Chairman Thiru M.P. Sivagnanam, were among the participants at the meeting.

A condolence resolution read out by Thiru M. Palaniandi,

President of the TNCC—(I), referred to the late Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi's services in the cause of the poor and downtrodden and described her assassination as uncivilised and barbaric. It appealed to the people to dedicate themselves to continue to preserve the nation's integrity, peace and discipline and democratic traditions and avoid divisions on the basis of casts, creed and religion.

The gathering observed a two-minute silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.



**"SENSELESS MURDER":
U.S. PRESIDENT REAGAN**

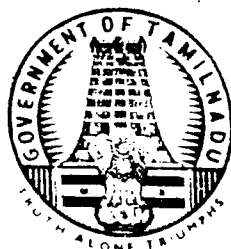
The news about the Prime Minister, Tmt. Indira Gandhi's assassination was received in the small hours of the morning and the U.S. President Ronald Reagan was woken up immediately and informed about it. The President expressed his "deep personal sorrow" at the death of Tmt. Indira Gandhi whom he had met several times and whom he was corresponding with on world issues.

TAMILNADU GOVERNMENTS SORROW

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1984

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MADRAS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1984
AIPPASI 20, RAKTHATCHI, THIRUVALLUVAR AANDU -2015

PART II-SECTION I NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT
(Political)

DEMISE OF Thirumathi INDIRA GANDHI PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

[G.O. R. No. 4633 Public (Political. A), 5th November 1984]

No. II (I) / PUP / 154 (e) / 84

The following resolution of the Council of Ministers, Tamil Nadu is published :—

RESOLUTION

The Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers, Government of Tamil Nadu record their deep sense of sorrow at the sudden demise of the beloved late Prime Minister Thirumathi Indira Gandhi and wish to convey their sincere and heartfelt condolences to Thiru Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, his family and the Government of India.

(By order of the Governor)

K. CHOCKALINGAM
Chief Secretary



HOMAGE TO THE URN IN TAMILNADU

Thousands of people, including school children paid homage to the memory of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at Rajaji Hall in Central Madras where an urn containing the ashes of the late leader was kept for public veneration.

Earlier, the urn was received by Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr. V.R.Nedunchezian and his Ministerial colleagues on 8th November 1984. The Minister placed wreaths on it.

Among those present on the occasion were Hon'ble Ministers Thiru RM. Veerappan, Thiru S. Ramachandran, Thiru C.Ponnaiyan, Thiru K.A.Krishnaswamy Thiru S. Muthuswamy, MPs. and MLAs.

The urn was taken in a decorated van from the railway station to Rajaji Hall in Central Madras.

Many people and Party workers joined the procession as it came out of the Station and on its way to Rajaji Hall. State Ministers, Members of Parliament

and State Legislators led the procession.

Defence personnel of the three Services reversed their arms as the urn was brought to the Hall.

His Excellency the Tamil Nadu Governor S.L.Khurana and Soviet Consulate General V.C.Cherepov also placed wreaths on the urn.

Tmt.M.S.Subbulakshmi, noted singer, sang 'Ram dhun' and other devotional songs at Rajaji Hall while the public filed past and paid homage before the urn.

Earlier, bedecked with flowers, the special train halted briefly at Vaniyambadi, Ambur, Gudiyatham, Katpadi, Walaja Road, Arkonam, Thiruvallur and Avadi Station enroute from Jolarpet. The train was detained for nearly 7 hours at these stations as thousands paid homage to the Prime Minister. Hon'ble Minister for Adi-Dravidar Welfare Thiru Vijayasaratthy received the urn at Jolarpet on the State's border.

A poignant farewell was given to the urn containing the ashes of the late Prime Minister, Tmt. Indira Gandhi, at Meenambakkam Airport.

The urn was taken by an IAF helicopter to Bangalore and from there to New Delhi by a special aircraft.

Amidst moving scenes of sobbing party workers and slogan - shouting women, the Tamil Nadu Governor, Thiru S.L. Khurana, Chairman of the State Legislative Council, Dr. M. P. Sivagnanam, the Speaker of the Assembly. Thiru K. Rajaram, Ministers, and other leaders placed wreaths and paid homage to the departed leader. The local Chiefs of the Armed Forces and the Director General of Police were among others who paid floral tributes.

A contingent of Defence personnel, who lined the tarmac near the VIP shamiana, reversed arms in homage, and the helicopter took off for Bangalore.

Earlier, the Rajaji Hall in the Government Estate, where the urn had been placed for the three days for the public to pay homage, witnessed touching scenes, with the mourners taking their last chance to garland the urn, to the rendering of bhajans and devotional songs.



Tmt. **GANDHI'S** **LAST TWO DAYS**

Tmt. Indira Gandhi, our Late Prime Minister, spent the last two days of her life amidst the people in western Orissa where the tribals and other villagers showed much love and affection for her.

The sight of the Prime Minister brought a glow on the faces of people wherever she went. During these two days she covered seven districts by an IAF MI-8 helicopter and moved freely with the people of the Banda tribe, who had come down from the hills especially to see her. They greeted her with the word "maa".

Tmt. Indira Gandhi who reci-

procated their love and affection, appeared relaxed when with them despite her hectic tour schedule. The Banda Youth joyously danced and sang when Tmt. Gandhi arrived among them.

She addressed the people of the Ballaguda area in Phulbani district and those in Umerkote and Malkangiri.

Leaving Delhi at seven in the morning on Monday by a special IAF plane, Tmt. Gandhi reached Bhubaneswar at 9.00 a.m. in a cheerful mood.

She had been greeted by the Orissa Chief Minister and a huge crowd at the airport. From there

she had moved on to Saintala to lay the foundation stone of a Rs.250-crore ordnance factory being built to manufacture ammunition for sophisticated future generation guns.

Flying with her on the special plane was the British actor director, Peter Ustinov, and his associate, Sheam Smith, and a crew of cameramen making a film on Tmt. Indira Gandhi. Peter Ustinov was shooting for his new TV serial called "Peter Ustinov's people".

One of the journalists travelling with her was a woman columnist from London, Mrs. Baria Ramzi Alamuddin, who had a 40-minute interview with her.

Peter Ustinov and his associates filmed every move of Tmt. Indira Gandhi starting from the take off of the IAF Boeing-737 to the landing of helicopters on improvised helipads.

Despite her 68 years, the agility with which Tmt. Indira Gandhi moved surprised the British actor and his Irish Producer.

In the picturesque district of Phulbani, the tribals in their colourful costumes gave a traditional welcome to Tmt. Gandhi.

From there, she moved on to Umerkote and Malkangiri, returning to Bhuneshwar at 5 P.m. She spent two hours at the Raj Bhawan and met Harekrishna Mehtab for 40 minutes besides talking to the Governor Thiru B.N. Panday, and a number of other people.

Her last lunch

The Prime Minister, Tmt. Indira Gandhi, had her last lunch with hundreds of Army jawans and officers at Gopalpur (Orissa).

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was taken for the Khana (community lunch) specially organised by the air defence units in her honour after she had laid the foundation stone of the air defence guided missile school centre.

Before occupying her seat with the Minister of State for Defence, Thiru. K.P. Singh Deo and Lt. Gen. Bhupinder Singh, she went round and personally met all officers and men. After lunch, she posed for a group photograph with the wives of the army officers.

HER LAST VISIT TO MADRAS

Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi's last visit to the City was to call on ailing Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R on 16th October, 1984.

She airdashed to the City from Delhi, drove down straight to Apollo Hospital and spent a few minutes with the Chief Minister.

The meeting between the two was described by doctors as an emotional one. Prime Minister herself later told newsmen at Raj-Bhavan before flying back to Delhi that the Chief Minister had indicated that he be made to sit up in bed when she entered his room.

After calling on the Chief Minister she had said she would come again if needed.

According to a previous engagement, she was to have arrived in the City on November 13 and unveiled a statue of her father Nehru the day next to the latter's birth anniversary. The Statue, the first of Nehru in the City, is located at the Kathipara junction on GST Road near Guindy.

Her last official visit to the State was on



September 16, to inaugurate the 1,000th anniversary celebration of the Coronation of Rajaraja Chola at Thanjavur.

After resting for nearly 40 minutes, Tmt. Gandhi drove to the PCC Bhawan to make her last appeal to the Congressmen to work for making India a strong and dynamic nation.

After about a 4-minute highly emotional address to the PCC workers, Tmt. Gandhi came back to Raj Bhavan, she enjoyed a quiet dinner in her suite and retired for the day.

Before going to bed, Tmt. Gandhi summoned her Private Secretary, and the Chief Security Officer and made a few changes in her next day's programme.

She advanced the press conference from 6.30 p.m. to 7 a.m. on October 30.

As the clock struck seven, Tmt. Gandhi entered the lounge

hall of the Raj Bhavan which had been prepared for the press conference.

Senior journalists of Bhubaneswar greeted Tmt. Gandhi with a 'Namaskar' to which she replied in traditional Indian style.

After occupying her seat, she invited questions. She was in a good mood and the press conference started on a happy note.

The wide-ranging questions included the presence of nuclear powers in the Indian Ocean, change in the present system of government, relations with neighbouring countries, functioning of opposition parties and implementation of the 20-Point programme in Orissa.

Replying to questions cordially, she at times, pulled up news-

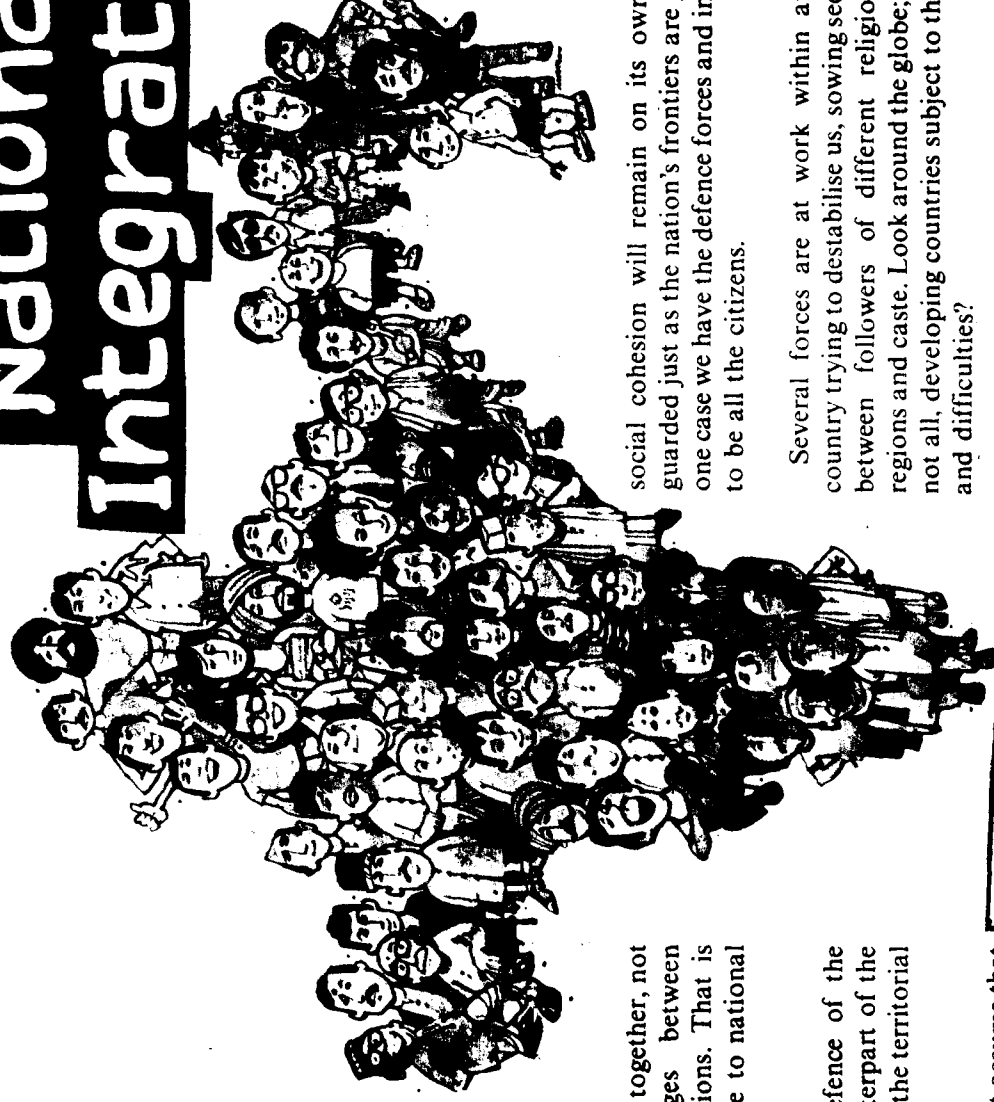
men for being misinformed or not being up-to-date.

After Naupatna she flew to the new home of artillery regiment Gopalpur where she laid the foundation stone of the air defence guided missile training school centre.

Addressing a large gathering of jawans and officers of the air defence units, she said that the government was fully alive to the requirements of the defence forces. She spoke highly of the courage of the army, the air force and the naval personnel and said that the country was proud of them. "You have proved your mettle not once but five times. We have faced the enemies in different directions at different times, but your courage and undaunting fighting capabilities have always taught the enemy a lesson".



National Integration



welcome any move which brings people together, not or confrontation but to build bridges between communities, between races, between nations. That is why we have given such great importance to national integration in our country.

National integration is the internal defence of the country—the domestic and civilian counterpart of the work the Defence Services do to safeguard the territorial integrity of the nation.

No country can ignore defence. It cannot assume that just because it is sovereign, its neighbours will not attack it. It has to be ever vigilant, ever careful not to lag behind technologically. Similarly, we should not imagine that merely because we are free and have a Constitution, the

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social cohesion will remain on its own. It has to be guarded just as the nation's frontiers are guarded. But in one case we have the defence forces and in the other it has to be all the citizens.

Several forces are at work within and outside the country trying to destabilise us, sowing seeds of suspicion between followers of different religions, languages, regions and caste. Look around the globe; are not most, if not all, developing countries subject to the same dangers and difficulties?

We in India are an ancient people. The world has always recognised our land as India or Hindustan or Bharat Varsh. But let us not forget that as a modern nation we are still quite young.

(Address by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at the All India National Integration Council Convention, on 12th January 1984)

Throughout our long history we have had problems between large and small loyalties. We are fortunate that the greatest of our saints and rulers always regarded the entire country as one. We have the example of such shining lights as Sankaracharya, Guru Nanak, Guru Gobind Singh and so on. Several times we have also been politically one and this was at the time of Ashoka, Samudragupta, Akbar—all of whom stressed tolerance and co-operation.

Even when we were split into different political kingdoms we had the consciousness of being Indians. Whenever there was disunity it cost us dear, in economic and political terms. Whenever there was narrowness of mind, it led to quarrels amongst ourselves. Whenever we closed our minds to new ideas, it was our undoing. We came under foreign rule.

The lessons of history and the compulsions of contemporary life demand that the utmost emphasis be placed on political unity.

All of us belong to some religion, we are born in some part of India, we have a particular mother tongue. But none of this should come in the way of our Indianness, of our being Indian.

Justice Beg spoke of the need for a civil religion. I agree with him, but I should like to put it differently. We do not wish any person to think that we are asking him to have two religions. We can be and we are good Indians while being good Hindus or Muslims or Christians or Sikhs or members of any other religion. Our duty as citizens does not ask us to disown our religious or other loyalty. We can practise the faith of our choice, speak the language of our choice and at the same time perform our duties as citizens equally diligently. We can be true to our religion only if

we recognise the other people's right to be true to their religions. Let us remember that every right extends only as far as the right of another.

Justice Beg has pointed out that national integration means the feeling of belonging to one another—not only of belonging to one country. We have had conflicts and tensions. In fact they have always been with us. We had thought that some of these matters would disappear if not lessen, with the gaining of independence. But again we witness the rise of communalism, the rise of regionalism, the rise of casteism, the rise of ignorance of many kinds, of many tendencies which divide and break rather than join and strengthen. All of these feed violence and crime.

Violence is humankind's greatest enemy—whether it is violence in international relations represented by bellicosity, of which the ultimate symbol is the nuclear bomb, or violence in civic and personal affairs.

The incidence of violence brings a bad name to the country as a whole—what happened in Nellie or what is happening elsewhere now. But it is not merely a question of national image or what reputation we have, important as it is. What is even more urgent and vital is that violence and the other tendencies which I have mentioned weaken the very fabric of the nation.

At this conference we are, as happens in most conferences and seminars, preaching to the converted. Our problem is to take the message to others, to the doubters, to the fanatics, and most of all, to those who pay lip-service to national integration but do not accept it in their hearts. Suspicion, prejudice, false images—these are very easy to plant. Like poisonous weeds they also multiply very fast. To counteract them is a very difficult task, needing perseverance, determination, and even

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facing unpleasantness. Sometimes we do not answer questions adequately because it is so much easier to be polite, it is so much easier to take the softer option. But that is not the way to gain your point. I do not mean in any way that you should be rude; I do not believe in rudeness, but I do believe that there are times when we cannot survive without firmness. When basic issues are concerned, when basic values and ideals are being attacked, when people are being used perhaps unwittingly to weaken us, then is the time when every citizen must take the responsibility. Every citizen must feel that the future of his descendants is at stake. He must speak out in India and outside.

On these matters there is a great deal of misunderstanding, misinterpretation and, if I may say so, deliberate, mischievous propaganda outside our country. We have many people living outside who could counter such propaganda. Sometimes they do not have the facts but more often they would rather not have a confrontation.

I hope that this meeting comprising as it does many organisations and people from different disciplines, the intelligentsia, and other groups, will find a way how to approach those who are living outside. Even more important is to help people within our country to meet the wrong propaganda, to dispel the suspicion and mistrust and once more to forge those bonds of comradeship, of companionship, of fellow-feeling and goodwill which bound us during our freedom struggle and which gave us success.

I do not know what your programme is, but I hope that it will not only pass resolutions but that each one of you here will decide to be a crusader in this cause and try to convert as many people as you possibly can and give the inner strength to those who may be a little weaker to persevere and take up the cause.



खून न बहाएँ, आपस में नफरत न करें

First Stamp

LET US NOT SHED BLOOD, LET US SHED HATRED

Indira Gandhi

भारत विश्व अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रथम दिवस कवरेज



To Thiru S. Jaggersoll,
9, Vandi Palayam Road
Chudalore - 2
South Arcot District

Special Commemorative Stamp

A special commemorative postage stamp depicting a portrait of the Late Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi was released by His Excellency the Vice - President Thiru Zail Singh.

R. Venkataraman at Teen Murthi Bhavan on 19th November 1984, the birth day of Tmt. Indira Gandhi.

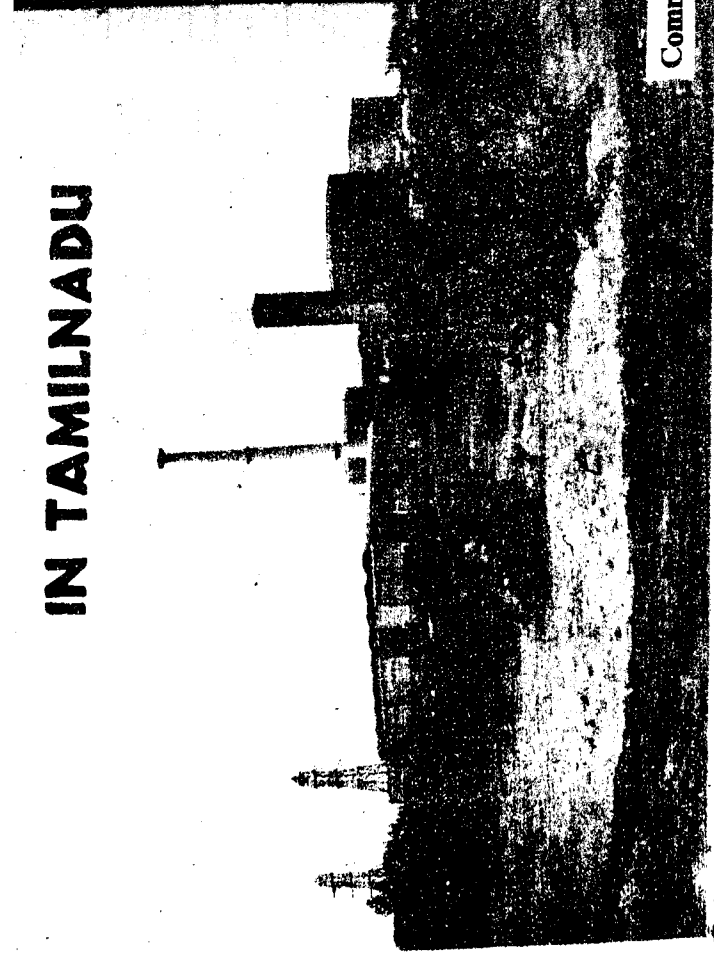
An exhibition of photographs on the life of the late Prime Minister was inaugurated by His Excellency the President Thiru Zail Singh.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi, Members of Parliament and Diplomatic Corps attended the function.





IN TAMILNADU

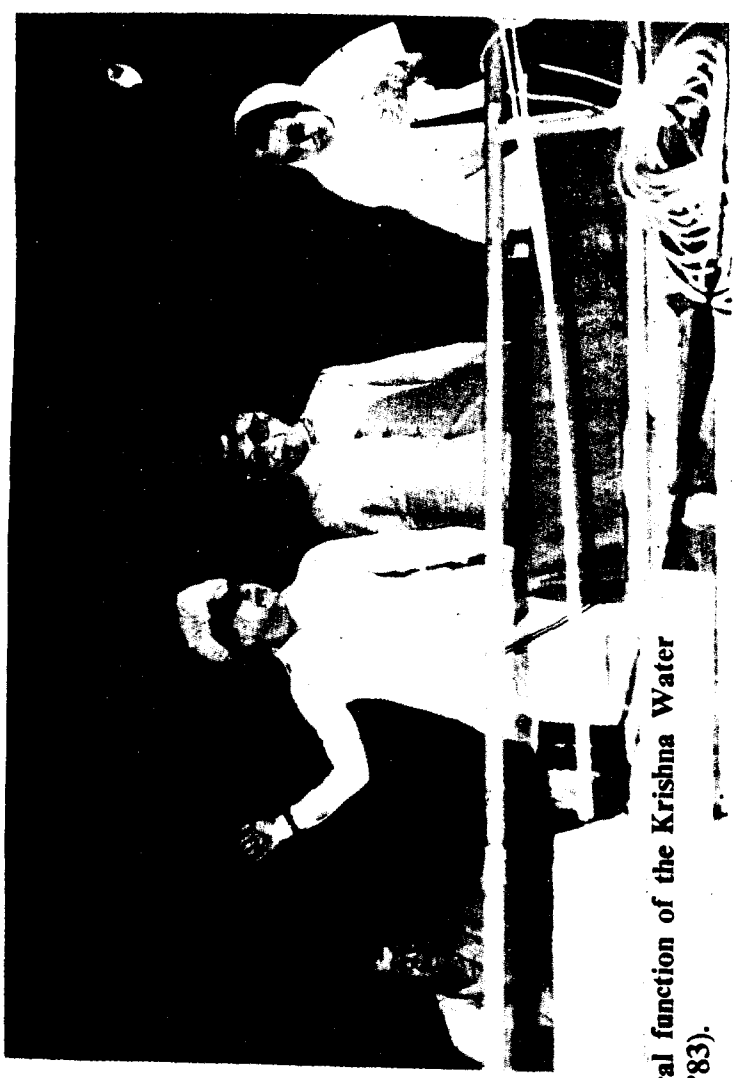


Commissioning the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station. (23-7-'83).

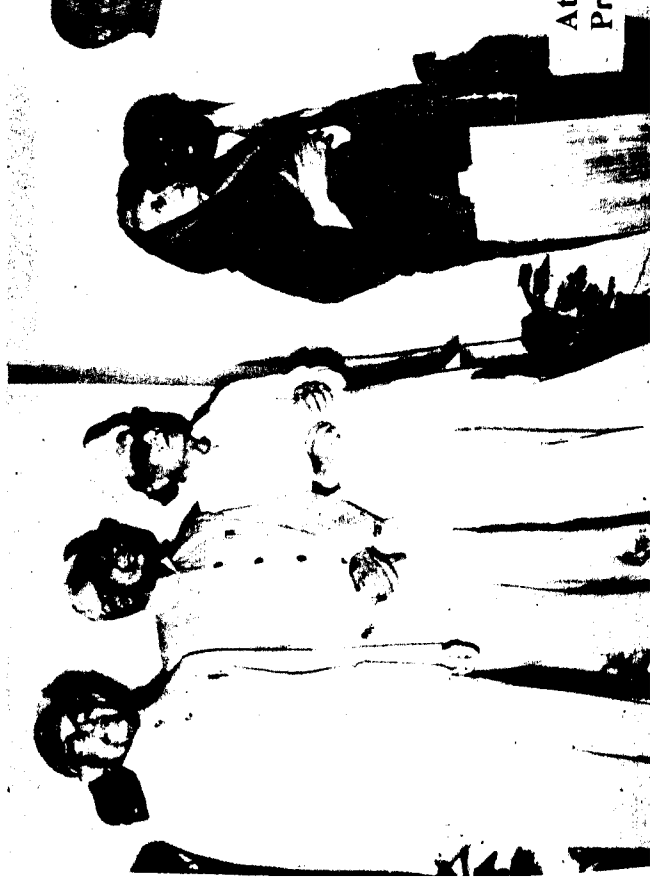


Visiting the drought affected areas (28-3-'83)





At the Inaugural function of the Krishna Water Project (25-5-'83).



At the Inauguration of Madras Port Extension Project (18-12-'83).





Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. who left for New York on 5th November by a special flight was admitted to the Brooklyn Hospital. Help will undergo complete examination before the doctors decide on the treatment to be given to him.

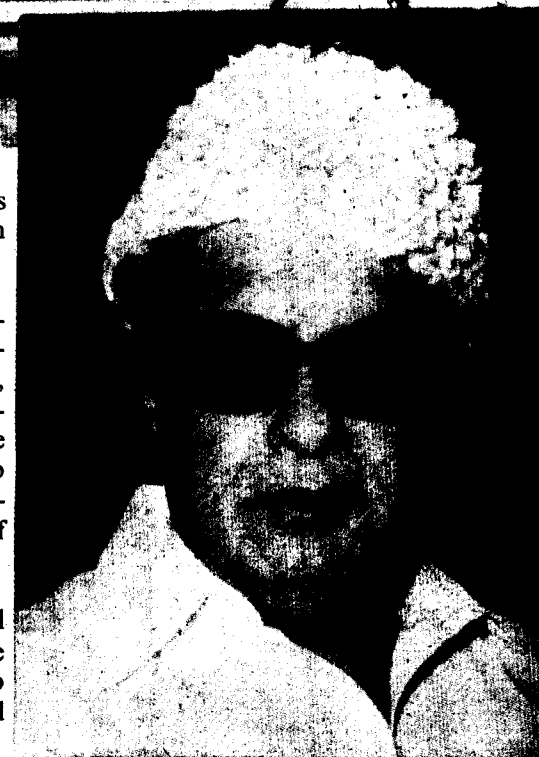
Dr. Friedman, leading Nephrologist, who had recently examined the Chief Minister in Madras, said 'M.G.R. was very sick, but he has improved since I saw him last.'

Tamil Nadu Health Minister Dr. H. V. Hande, said the Chief Minister was slightly better than

he was earlier. "We were anxious that the travel might give him trouble, but he withstood it".

Dr. P. G. Periasamy, President of the Tamil Nadu Foundation in the United States, announced that a special telephone had been set up in the office of the Foundation to provide taperecorded information on the health of the Chief Minister.

Earlier, on his arrival by a special Air India flight the Chief Minister was admitted to Down Town, University Hospital in Brooklyn for treatment.



C.M's Wife thanks Well wishers:

Tmt. Janaki Ramachandran, wife of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. has expressed her gratitude and thanks to all those who prayed for his recovery.

In a statement, she recalled how everyone was taken aback by the sudden hospitalisation of the Chief Minister on October 5, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, who airdashed to Madras not only consoled them but also arranged for the best medical attention by renowned Indian and foreign doctors. The people of Tamil Nadu irrespective of caste, creed and political affiliations and also those from other parts of the country offered prayers and conducted padayatras and yagnas.

INDIRA GANDHI

The Renewer of
Ancient India,
The Pillar of
Its Unity and
The Untiring
Upholder of Peace..

The citation of the Oxford University when the degree of Doctor of Law honoris causa was bestowed on Thirumati Indira Gandhi at an impressive ceremony on November 2, 1971, by the Rt., Hon. Harold Macmillan, the then Chancellor.

India, where the "Light of Asia" was kindled, once the brightest jewel in Queen Victoria's Imperial Crown, that vast extent of land from the Himalayas to the sea; daughter of Resource and Poverty (like Plato's Eros), with over 500 million inhabitants, 14 major languages and 843 lesser, varied in religion and race, yet one federation; 24 years ago at length after long exposure to foreign invaders, recovered her independence and was restored to her citizens as she had scarcely been since the Emperor Asoka (273-243 B.C.), the peaceful, pious and righteous, whose by-name our guest also auspiciously carries, "Priyadarshini", (Dear to Behold).

So India has returned to the Indians, in Swaraj—an immense task, but great the glory for the preservers of its unity and of its democratic government, the reconcilers of old and new.

Of whom our guest is one, of a family that came down from Kashmir and the sources of the Indus to the Imperial city of Delhi, where it acquired the name of Nehru, and she was born in the House of Happiness (Anand Bhawan) in Allahabad, on the sacred river, the Ganges, "the deep silent flow of whose seven rivers" our Virgil too sings, goal of pilgrims who come to bathe and whose ashes will be committed to it; "daughter no less beautiful than her mother", no less great than her father, in as much as it is rarer for a woman to achieve supremacy in a state. We know of only three such elected by the votes of their peoples, hers by far the greatest.



"We have only one adversary—social and economic injustice. We have only one goal—to build a strong, self confident, self reliant, independent India. Come, now let us all work together."

Tmt. Indira Gandhi

Certainly from her earliest years she was plunged and tossed in the sea of politics; at four years she sat on her grandfather's knee during his trial, and when she saw both her parents carried off to prison, she went back to her nursery summoned a full assembly of her dolls, mounted a table as her rostrum, and in a passionate harangue fired them to deserve the same imprisonment, when they grew up, by their work for the freedom of their country. One doll, very dear to her, but British, she had to banish; and years later she had to ensure thirteen months of imprisonment, as we must remember with sorrow.

She had an apprenticeship rather than a childhood, and was always in the thick of the struggle, at its very pivot, when the Mahatma, Father of his country, became closely associated with her family: She fulfilled half of a Roman matrons' boast; shespun wool (like Gandhi), but she did not remain at home; at school in Poona (The pupil s'Own school) she was elected Prime Minister of a mock Parliament, a pointer to the future, and passed to Tagore's University at Shantiniketan. Then with her parents she came to Switzerland, and so here to England, and to Somerville College (1936-41) in this University. Her stay was interrupted (in India Nov. 1938-April 1939) and distracted by various concerns (political) and for her future husband at London School of Economics.

Nor was she enchanted by the details of English history except for Joan of Arc; her father's letters from prison, "Glimpses of World History", had introduced her to the history of mankind.

A dangerous journey in wartime took her back to India, where by marriage she acquired the name of the Master, in no relationship other than spiritual continuity. After her imprisonment, and the births of her two sons, when finally independence was achieved, she stood at

her father's side for eighteen years, as the helper, hostess, companion on many journeys, of the first native Prime Minister.

Next she was elected President of Congress (the fourth Woman to be so) and entered politics on her own account, undertaking ever greater task. It must not be thought that she was wafted to her present eminence by some hereditary claim, as though power passed direct from father to daughter. She certainly follows her father's advice: "Be brave; all else will follow", but she has independently proved herself to her people, and served her father's successor (Lal Bahadur Shastri) faithfully as his Minister of Information and Broadcasting (1964-66).

Finally she was elected leader of the Congress Party and in her second General Election she swept his opponents away with vastly increased authority. She has achieved many reforms already, as you know; the tasks ahead are enormous, especially in the present crisis.

Our gratitude is the greater that she has found time for us, graciously to visit this island, once in the centre, now on the edge of the West, a staging post between the Super-Powers, and to indicate her wish, we hope, to renew the bonds of friendship with us.

So we congratulate ourselves on this festive occasion, and when she returns to her immense tasks our good wishes will follow her, as we invoke every good fortune. Long live her father's symbol, the red rose; long live her mother's and son's the lotus.

I present to you INDIRA PRIYADARSHINI GANDHI, the renewer of ancient India, the pillar of its unity, and the untiring upholder of peace, the Mother of her country, for admission to the degree of Doctor of Civil Law "Honoris Causa".

Madam Prime Minister of India, and guide on its new path: "a woman to lead so great an enterprise"; daughter, pupil and heir at one remove, of the first leader of your free republic, your noble father; you who share the name and continue the spirit of the Mahatma.

I, by my authority and that of the whole University, admit you to the degree of Doctor of Civil Law Honoris causa.



GLIMPSSES OF HER LIFE

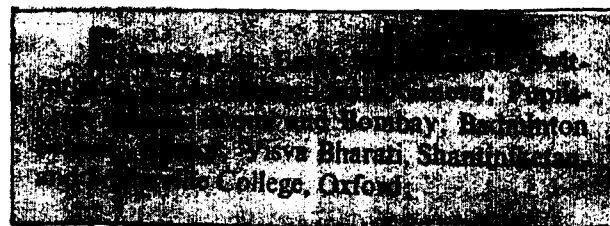
1917
Born in Allahabad on November 19.

1921
First arrest of her father Jawaharlal Nehru, on December 6.

1926
Accompanied parents in March 1926 to Europe for mother's treatment and schooling in Geneva and Bex.

1928
Started Children's Section of Mahatma Gandhi's Charkha Sangh; Started receiving letters (930 in number) in 1928 from Jawaharlal Nehru on pre-history later published as "Letters from a Father to His Daughter."

1936
Death of her mother Kamala Nehru, at Lausanne on February 28.



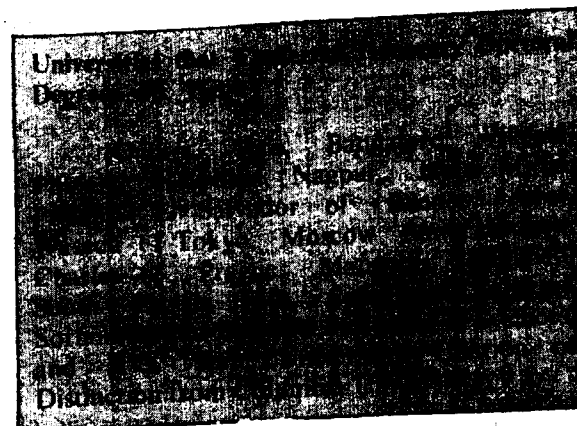
1942
Married Feroze Gandhi on March 26. Attended AICC Session in Bombay on August 8, 1942 where "Quit India" Resolution was adopted.

1942-43
Was imprisoned in Naini Central Jail (September 10, 1942 to May 13, 1943)

1944
Birth of first son, Rajiv, in Bombay on August 20.

1946
Birth of second son, Sanjay, in Delhi on December 14.

1947-48
Worked in Delhi to restore communal harmony on Mahatma Gandhi's instructions.

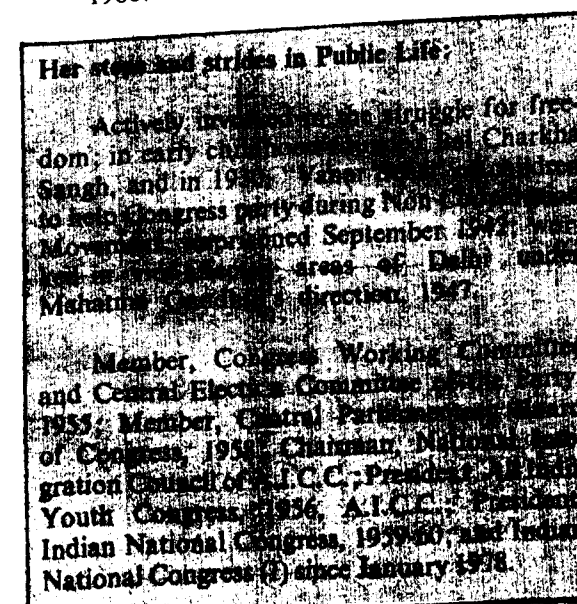


1955
Elected Member of the Congress Working Committee in February. Elected Member, Central Election Committee of the Congress, September 19.

1956
President of Allahabad City Congress Committee, September 22.

1958
Appointed Member, Central Parliamentary Board, in the place of Jawaharlal Nehru on February 23.

1959-60
President of the Indian National Congress from February 8, 1959 to January 18, 1960.



Her steps and strides in Public Life:

Actively involved in the struggle for freedom in early childhood. Lal Charkha Sangh, and in 1928, "Letters from a Father to His Daughter" published. Moved to London in September 1927, was first wife of Feroze Gandhi in 1942.

Member, Congress Working Committee and Central Election Committee, 1955-56; Member, Central Parliamentary Board of Congress, 1958; Chairman, National Integration Council of A.I.C.C., President, All India Youth Congress, 1956; A.I.C.C. President, Indian National Congress, 1959-60; and Indian National Congress (I) since January 1978.



1960
Death of husband Feroze Gandhi, September 8.

1964
Death of Jawaharlal Nehru, May 27. Appointed Minister of Information and Broadcasting in the Cabinet of Lal Bahadur Shastri. Elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from the U.P. Legislative Assembly on August 20.

1966
Elected leader of Congress Party in Parliament on January 19, and sworn in Prime Minister on January 24.

1967
Declared elected to the Lok Sabha from Rae Bareilly, U.P. on February 23. Sworn in Prime Minister on March 13, after the Fourth General Elections.



Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, 1964-66; Prime Minister of India, January 1966-March 1977, and again from January 14, 1980; till the end of October 1984 concurrently Minister for Atomic Energy, September 1967-March 1977 and again from January 1980 and Space, June 1972-March 1977, and again from January 1980; Chairman, Planning Commission; President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; and Chairman, Hindi Sahakar Samiti; held additional charge of Ministry of External Affairs from September 5, 1967 to February 14, 1969; Ministry of Finance from July 16, 1969 to June 26, 1970; Ministry of Home Affairs from June 1970 to November 1973; and Ministry of Defence from January 1980 to January 1982.



Has been associated with a large number of organisations and institutions, some of which are listed below: Founder, Board of Trustees of Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital; Trustee, (i) Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi and (ii) Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust, Mumbai; Secy, Bhavan Trust; Founder and Chairman, Sri Sathyog, New Delhi, from 1954; Chairman, Sri Bhavan Board and Children's National Museum, New Delhi; Founder and President, Kamala Nehru Vidyalaya, Mumbai; Vice-Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education, India; President, Council for Child Welfare, India; Vice-President, National Council for Child Welfare, India.



September 1968

The President, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed promulgates internal emergency on the advice of the Union Cabinet on June 26; National Opposition leaders arrested. The Supreme Court upholds Tmt. Gandhi's election on November 7.

1. Member, (i) Rajya Sabha, August 1962-February 1967; Member, (ii) Fourth Lok Sabha, 1967-69; (iii) Fifth Lok Sabha, 1971-77; (iii) Sixth Lok Sabha, November-December 1978; and, Seventh Lok Sabha (elected from Rae Bareilly (U.P.) and Medak (A.P.) January 1980; failed to retain the Medak seat and relinquished the Rae Bareilly seat; Leader, Congress Parliamentary Party, 1966-77 and of the Congress (P) Parliamentary party since January 1980.



Recipient of United Nations Wildlife Research Award for Protection of Bangladesh, 1972; 2nd Annual Award FAO, 1972; Sachdeva Fellowship Granted by Naga University, India, 1976; also recipient of Mother's Award, U.S.A., 1982; Institute of Arts Award of Italy for outstanding work in the field; The University's Gold and Memorial Burs. for two consecutive years in 1967 and 1968; was also made most admired by the French, according to a poll by the French Institute of Public Opinion in 1971; was the most admired person of the world according to special Gallup Poll Survey in U.S.A.; Diploma of Honour conferred by the Argentine Society in 1971 for the Protection of Animals; order of the Golden Ark of the World Wildlife Fund, presented by Prince of Netherlands, 1982; U Thant Award for East-West understanding, 1982, distinguished Parliamentary Award of Population Action Council of U.S.A., 1982.

1979
The Morarji Desai Ministry resigns, on July 15; Charan Singh sworn in Prime Minister on July 28 and resigns without facing Parliament on August 20; The President, N.Sanjiva Reddi calls for general elections on December 15.

1983 She was made Chair-person of the Non-Aligned Movement at the Delhi meet (March).

1984

The Akali Dal launches agitation demanding implementation of the Anandapur Sahib resolution, review of the Ravi-Beas water distribution and the cession of Chandigarh to Punjab. The political agitation takes a violent turn with the advent of Jarnali Singh Bhindranwale. Scores of innocent people are killed by followers of Bhindranwale, who shifts his residence to the Golden Temple. Following resignation of the Darbara Singh Ministry, the Centre takes over the State administration and the negotiations; the talks fail on February 21, 1984; Akalai leaders burn copies of Article 25 of the Constitution on February 27; Tmt. Gandhi addresses the nation on June 2 and the Army enters the Golden Temple complex to flush out the terrorists on June 5; Bhindranwale's body found on June 7; Army vacates the temple complex on September 25.



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Prime Minister RAJIV GANDHI

The Sixth Prime Minister of India, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi, who is forty, is the youngest of the Prime Ministers India has had so far. He was born on 20th August 1944.

The Prime Minister completed his 40th year on 20 August 1984. He entered politics in 1981 and since then he was expected to be the political heir of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

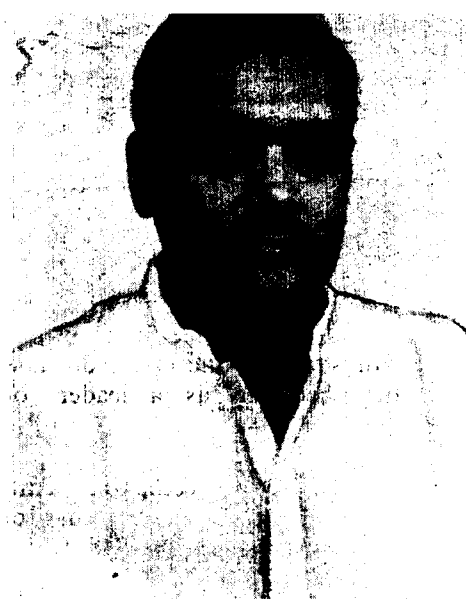
'Rajiv' in Sanskrit means lotus and during his blossoming youth he studied at the Trinity college of the Cambridge University and got his degree.

When Rajiv was born, his grandfather, the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was in jail and it was he who named his grandson 'Rajiv'.

At the age of 10, Rajiv was sent to school and admitted into the school boarding.

In 1962, he went to England and joined the Trinity College and took up Mechanical Engineering.

In 1965, Rajiv met Sonia from Italy whom he married in 1968. It is said by his friends that when he



was a student of the Cambridge University, Rajiv used to work at a bakery during the summer.

Even as a student, he took interest in air-craft technology and in 1968 he joined the Indian Airlines as Pilot-Apprentice. He was a pilot till he entered the political field in 1981.

In 1981, he contested the election to the Parliament from the Amethi constituency and won with a big margin of 2,37,000 votes.

He became the member of the Executive Committee of the Indian National Congress (I) in 1981 and he became the congress (I) General Secretary in 1983.

He went to many countries as representative of the party. He accompanied the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and addressed the 37th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1983.

As Prime Minister of India, Rajiv has become the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement representing 101 nations. Thirumathi Indira Gandhi was elected Chairperson of the NAM in March 1983, and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi succeeds her as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement.



Rajiv with his father, mother and grandfather.



delicacy of feeling, with large and generous impulses. To the weak and the frustrated his heart went out in profound sympathy.

Nehru held the office of the Prime Minister of our country ever since the dawn of independence; and in the long years of his premiership tried to put our country on a progressive, scientific, dynamic and non-communal basis. His steadfast loyalty to certain fundamental principles of liberalism give direction to our thought and life. We can understand the endless surprises of his attitudes and actions; all these fall into their place if we remember his faith in democracy and freedom. He used the existing social and political institutions and breathed into them a new spirit, a new vitality.

Nehru by his series of public utterances educated our people to an appreciation of the values he had cherished. He fought for a high level of human life and

NEHRU,

Great Emancipator of the Human Race

Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the greatest figures of our generation, an outstanding statesman whose services to the cause of human freedom are unforgettable. As a fighter for freedom he was illustrious, as a maker of modern India his services were unparalleled. His life and work have had a profound influence on our mental make-up, social structure and intellectual development. It will be difficult to reconcile ourselves to the image of India without Nehru's active and all-pervasive leadership. An epoch in our

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan,
Former President of India

country's history has come to a close.

As a man, Nehru combined a fine sensitivity of mind, a rare

burnt his ideals into the understanding of the common people. By his own powerful and vibrant voice, which we will not hear any

more, he created, moulded, inspired and kindled a whole generation of Indians, to a loyalty to the five principles which he held so dear. It is not enough to have great ideals. We have to work for their achievement. Time is the essence of the situation and Nehru had a great regard for the sanctity of time. The pitiless exactions of time take no denial and so the great leader has fallen.

Though in a life of sheltered ease and comfort, he drew himself into the national struggle and became a great leader second only to Gandhi. The part that he played in the national struggle and in the final settlement of the Indian question in 1947 is a part of recent Indian history.

Nehru realized even before the advent of freedom, that our economic re-generation, our progressive modern lives cannot be achieved unless there is concerted planning. After the transfer of power, as the Chairman of the Planning Commission it was he that gave dynamism and power to the various plans which are now being implemented.

The path of Nehru as a nation builder in the early years of India's freedom was beset with fantastic difficulties and formidable challenges. The partition of the country resulting in the exodus of millions of people from one part of the sub-continent to the other amidst scenes of appalling riots, loot and arson brought in its wake problems-political and economic, which defied easy solution. We have outbreaks of communal violence here and there in our country even now. This must have seemed to Nehru a terrific disillusionment of his great work, inherited from Gandhi and developed by himself.

Nehru always had a conviction that India cannot be viewed in isolation from other states of the world. Even before the advent of freedom, he was pleading that the Indian question was a part of the large movement of the oppressed people, fighting against colonialism. He had a love of liberty, not merely for his own people but for all people of the world. He, therefore, expressed sympathy and support for all liberation movements in Africa, Asia and South America. He believed in

the liberty of all without distinction of class, creed or country.

Nehru was a great believer in world peace and the concept of one world community. No one had shown greater faith and allegiance to the Charter of the United Nations than Nehru. He realised that in a thermo-nuclear age, war would mean the extinction of all civilised values. That is why he was convinced that the true role of a statesman in this distracted world lay in the way of lessening tensions and conflicts and bringing about a climate of understanding and mutual accommodation, with a view to settlement of international differences without resort to the horrors of war.

His courage, wisdom and personality has held this country together. It is these qualities which should be cherished, if we are to hold on. Our thoughts today go out to him as a great emancipator of the human race, one who has given all his life and energy to the freeing of men's minds from political bondage, economic slavery, social oppression and cultural stagnation.

Struggle for Solidarity

Divisive forces and tendencies have existed in all societies and at all times. Certainly these forces existed in India ever during the years of the struggle for freedom, but the mainstream of nationalism was powerful enough to sidetrack them and also to fight them, and thus we were able to march ahead. Since Independence, we have had constantly to combat these forces in one form or another. In fact, the struggle for National Integration, the struggle for national solidarity, the struggle for safeguarding the ideals and aspirations embodied in our constitution, has to be waged ceaselessly and tenaciously. I do not think a time can ever come when these forces will not want to raise their head. But it should be our endeavour to create an atmosphere and to create conditions in which this will not be possible and in which the whole of society will react against them.



'Majesties, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests and Delegates!'

These hectic five days have renewed and reinforced our friendship and our togetherness, our faith and our vision. For me it was a special occasion to meet old friends once again and to make acquaintance with new ones. I specially value the advice of President Kenneth Kaunda and President Fidel Castro Ruz, who are experienced past Chairmen. President Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere is known for his wisdom. His Excellency Sekou Toure is the seniormost amongst us. His Excellency Kyprianou is a friend of long standing. President Forbes Burnham's forthrightness and wit have relieved tense moments. Chairman Yasser Arafat and many others have helped to disentangle knotty problems. I have mentioned a few names. But many of you were involved in the behind-the-scenes work, responsible for the smooth running of the Conference. I hardly know how to express my gratitude to



THE NAM- An Assertion of Mankind's will

them all.

The people of Delhi and India were privileged to have such eminent personalities amongst us. The wide-ranging discussions have been educative for our people. Indeed, our deliberations have focussed the attention of all nations on our problems, which are so integral to their own. The cause of peace has gained. Human dignity and equality have gained.

This Conference was held in Delhi under exceptional circumstances and only because Iraq graciously gave up its claim, which had been accepted at the 6th Summit. This gesture was appreciated by all. At that time it was our understanding that the 8th Summit would be held in Baghdad. You all are aware of the later developments.

Some people might have wished the Movement to quarrel and divide. We have disappointed them. We may not agree on everything; who does? but we are of one mind that we must keep together and work together, for peace, for development and for equality among nations and peoples, women and men of all races and creeds.

The Non-Aligned Movement is not a mere or casual collection of individual States. It is a vital historical process. It is a commingling of many historical, spiritual and cultural streams. It is the expression of the aspirations of the long-deprived and the newly free. It is an assertion of humankind's will to survive despite oppression, despite the growing arms race and ideological divisions. My father placed events within a broad conceptual framework. Our Movement has a framework, it has developed principles. More important, it is not dogmatic but dynamic. It is a major Movement attempting basic changes. By asserting the right of self-determination, our Movement enfranchised more than half the world which was under colonial subjection. We continue to fight for the rest. We challenge the doctrine and practice of racism. We now strive to enforce the right to economic equality. The sights of our Movement are set not merely on short-term and limited benefits but on



broad principles to transform the political and economic organization of the world. Non-Alignment embodies the courage and strength of self-reliance. Alignment denotes dependence. That is why something akin to the non-aligned outlook is spreading noticeably even among peoples of aligned countries.

Many of you have very kindly commented on the arrangements and smooth running of the Conference. The credit is not just India's but belongs to each one of you. Without your cooperation and spirit of accommodation we could not have completed our agenda or reached agreement. On the organizational side, we have also been aided in this complex task by an expert and hard working international team of interpreters, translators and secretaries who have slogged long hours. I should like to thank them and all the other agencies and their staffs whose dedicated effort has provided the varied services without which this Conference would not have been possible. I also thank the media, who converged from various parts of the world. Our own workers laboured cheerfully and gave of their best in the service of such eminent world figures and such a worthy cause.

Distinguished delegates, you have palced a heavy burden on me. The Chair or India cannot by itself undertake

one action or another. The solution to the two dominating issues of our day, disarmament and development, cannot be dramatic. But we must and shall persist with all urgency. Only with your continuous and brotherly cooperation can I shoulder this responsibility.

I should like to thank all the distinguished delegates who have taken the trouble to find time from their busy lives to travel long distances and attend this Conference. Their statements have been important expressions of the stands of their Governments, significant for their concern for the critical issues of our times. Their earnestness was evident in the sustained interest they showed in the proceedings, sitting until the early hours of the morning. The Conference has been called a Summit because of the top leadership gathered here, but in another sense we have only established the base camp and have a long climb to the attainment of our goals and ideals. Any expedition, and especially one as difficult as ours, needs a sense of comradeship and a team spirit.

In three years we shall meet again. In the meantime we must keep in constant touch to give effect to our decisions. The Conference is over. The concord must endure.

I thank you warmly and with all sincerity and give to you and to your peoples the greetings and best wishes of the people and Government of India.

(Speech delivered by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at the concluding session of the Seventh Conference of Non-Aligned Countries on 12th March 1983.)



LIKES AND DISLIKES OF Tmt. GANDHI

Tmt.INDIRA GANDHI's personal likes and dislikes, her heroes and heroines, her pastime, her mistakes and concept of happiness were set out in an interview she gave to the West German Newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine.

The questions and answers are below:

Which is the greatest tragedy for you?

The death of the beloved ones.

Where would you like to live?:

In the mountains with giant shady trees and a flowing rivulet of course in India.

What is the greatest worldly happiness for you?:

It does not exist, but I have experienced moments of intensive joy.

Which mistakes do you excuse readily?:

Those committed out of shyness.

Your favourite novel heroes?:

The choice is difficult.

Your favourite heroes in history?:

The Indian philosopher and saint Adi Sankaracharya (788 to 820) and Leonardo da Vinci.

Your favourite painter?:

There are so many.

Your favourite composer?:

Bach and Mozart.

Your dream of happiness?:

Happiness is in the life that we lead and not in dreams.

Which traits do you respect most in a man?:

Straight-forwardness and the desire to understand and help others.

What would be the greatest tragedy, for you?:

Everything that would jeopardise India's independence and unity.

And which in a woman?:

The same.

What you like to be?:

The one I am.

Your favourite virtue?:

By both men and women, the courage which includes moral, intellectual and physical courage.

It depends upon the mood, the weather and the situation. I like some nuances of almost every colour, at the same time, I do not like them. Some colours which I do not like by themselves, appear nice with other colours. But basically, I like autumn colours, the green, the rich red, the gold of the bleaching leaves.

Your favourite Pastime?:

Reading, roaming around in mountains and forests.

Your favourite flower?:

Spring flowering in the mountains.

Who or what would you have liked to become?:

Me.

Your favourite writer?:

Writers and poets are like friends. From many I get something totally different which is enriching in its own way.

Your main character trait?:

To think of people.

Your heroes in history?

Habba Khatoon-a queen of Kashmir (16th century).

What do you respect most in your friends?:

A collective sense of humour.

What do you dislike most?:

Small-mindedness and hateful outlook, hypocrisy and stinginess.

Your greatest mistake?:

I want to let others decide this

Which historical figures do you hate most?:

Hitler - the only man whose mad, sadistic and barbaric deeds we could bear witness to.

Which military performance do you respect most?:

Those of Ashoka (3rd Century) and Akbar (16th century) Both were famous for military courage and victories. Nevertheless, they were men of wisdom, foresight and maturity. After a bloody expedition Ashoka realised the madness and the cruelty of the war and spread the message of tolerance and understanding with all living things.

Which reform do you respect most?:

That which helps those who are in need.

Which natural talent would you like to possess?:

Nice voice.

How would you like to die?:

With dignity and the least amount of trouble for those who love me.

Your present state of mind?:

Worried about the situation in the world.

Your remedy?:

None.

VETERAN LEADER MADURAI MUTHU

Madurai S.Muthu M.L.C., the former Mayor of Madurai and a veteran leader of the Dravidian movement and a valiant fighter for social and political reform, passed away on the 5th of November 1984. He was 69. He was born on the 13th March 1916.

He entered the political field in 1936. He was a devoted disciple of Thanthai Periyar and a beloved brother of Perarignar Anna. He became the first Mayor of Madurai in 1971 and he was again elected Mayor in 1978 for a second term.

From 27th June 1980, he was the Member of the Legislative Council till his death. He was an idealist and a rationalist, uncompromisingly adhering to his ideology.



The mortal remains of Thiru S.Muthu were consigned to the flames

Hon'ble Ministers Thiru K.Kalimuthu and Thiru S.R.Radha, and other leaders were present at the cremation ground.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr. V.R.Nedunchezian expressed grief over the death of Muthu.

In a message he said Muthu had dedicated himself for the service of the people for 47 long years and his death was a great loss to the Dravidian Movement and the Madurai City.

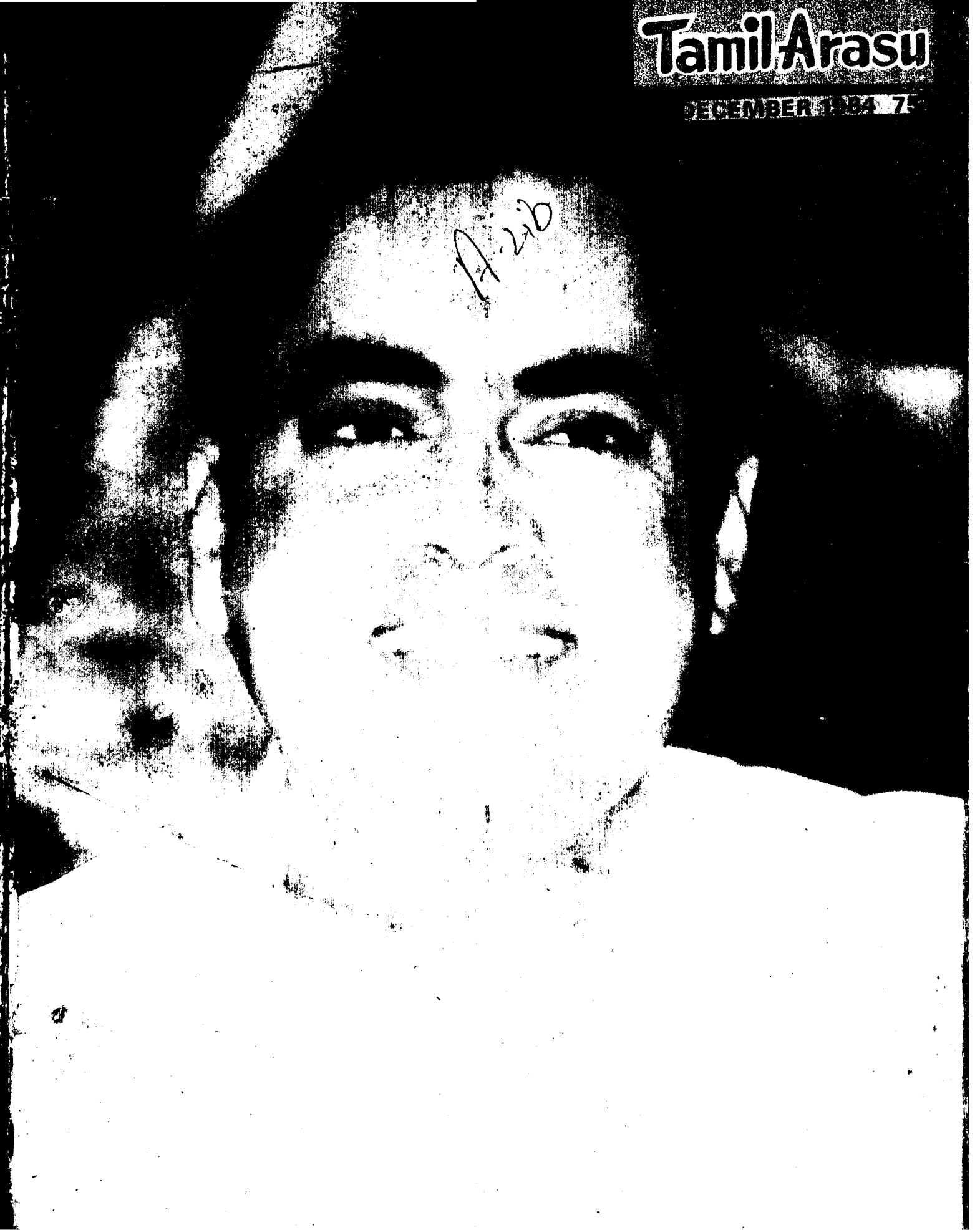
Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments Thiru R.M. Veerappan in his message expressed shock at the passing away of Muthu and conveyed his condolences to Muthu's family.

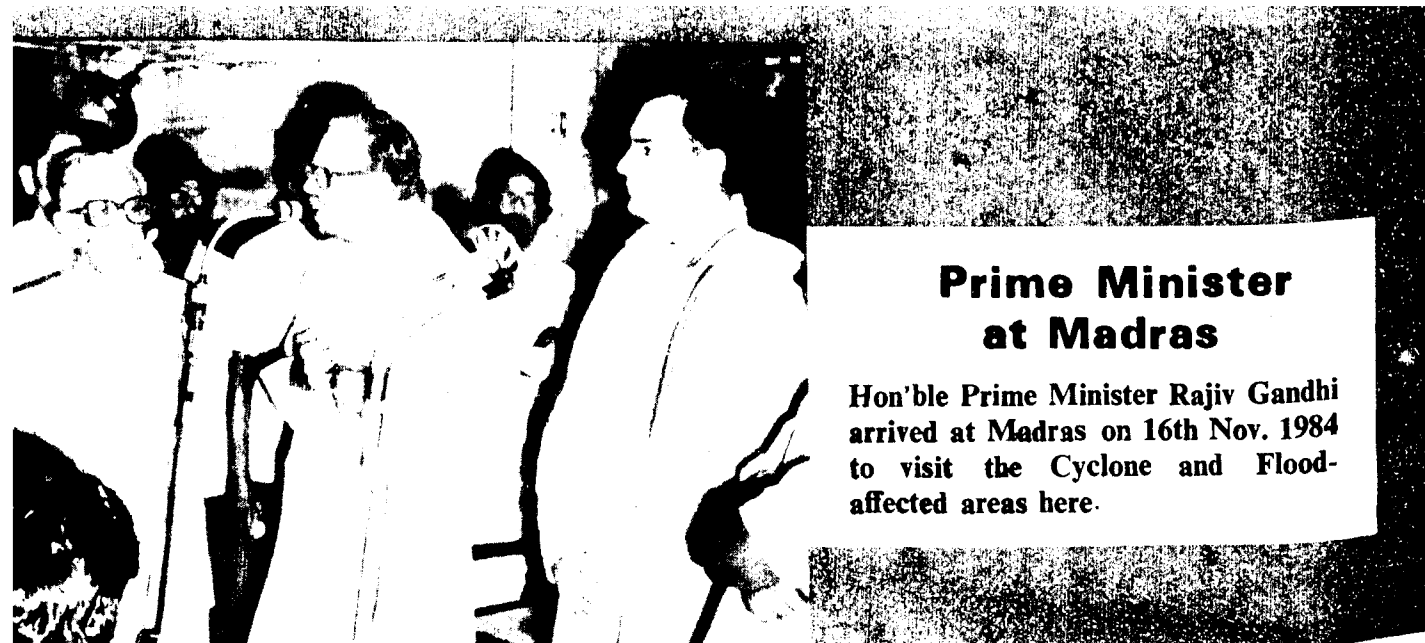


Tamil Arasu

DECEMBER 1984 75

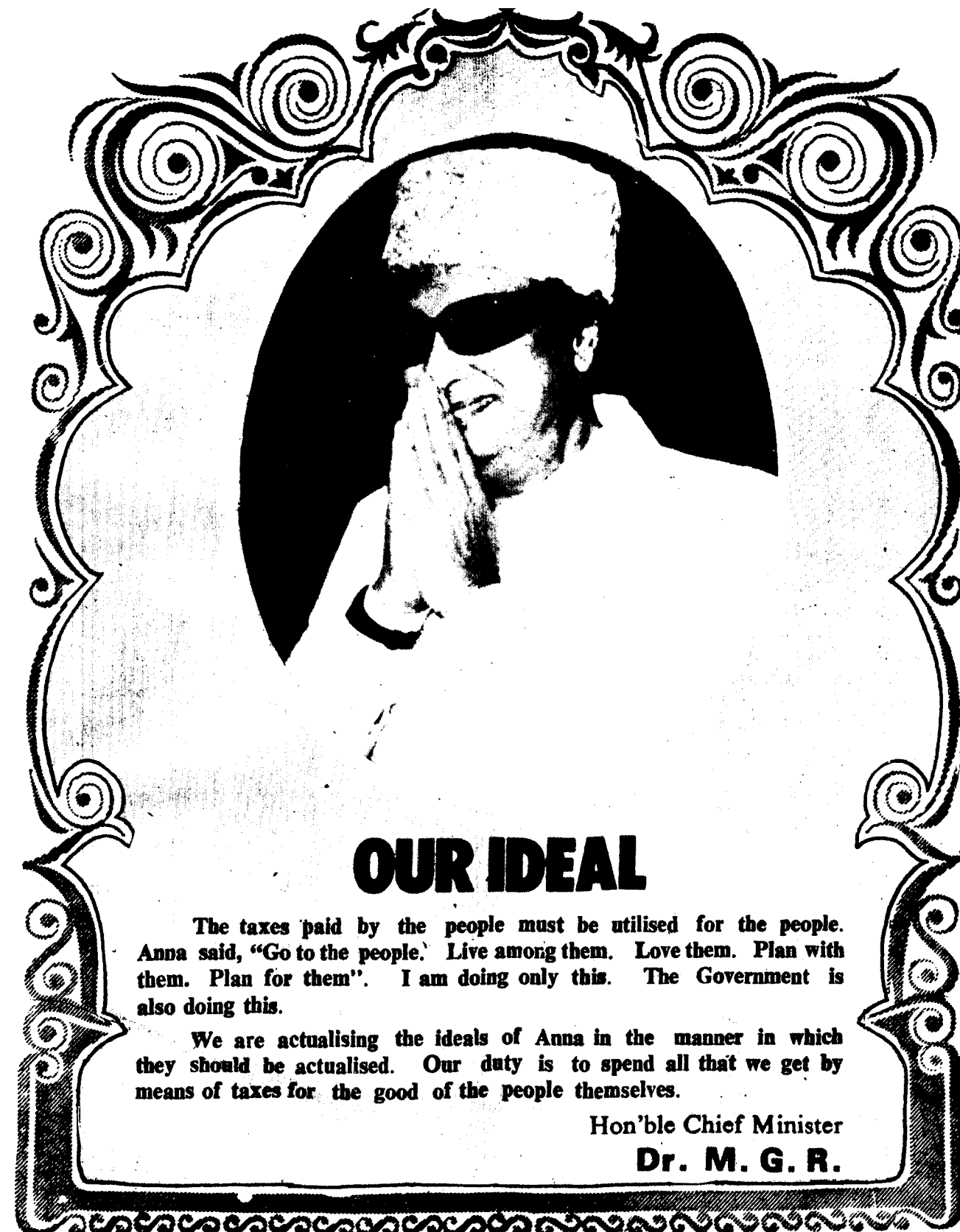
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Prime Minister at Madras

Hon'ble Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi arrived at Madras on 16th Nov. 1984 to visit the Cyclone and Flood-affected areas here.



OUR IDEAL

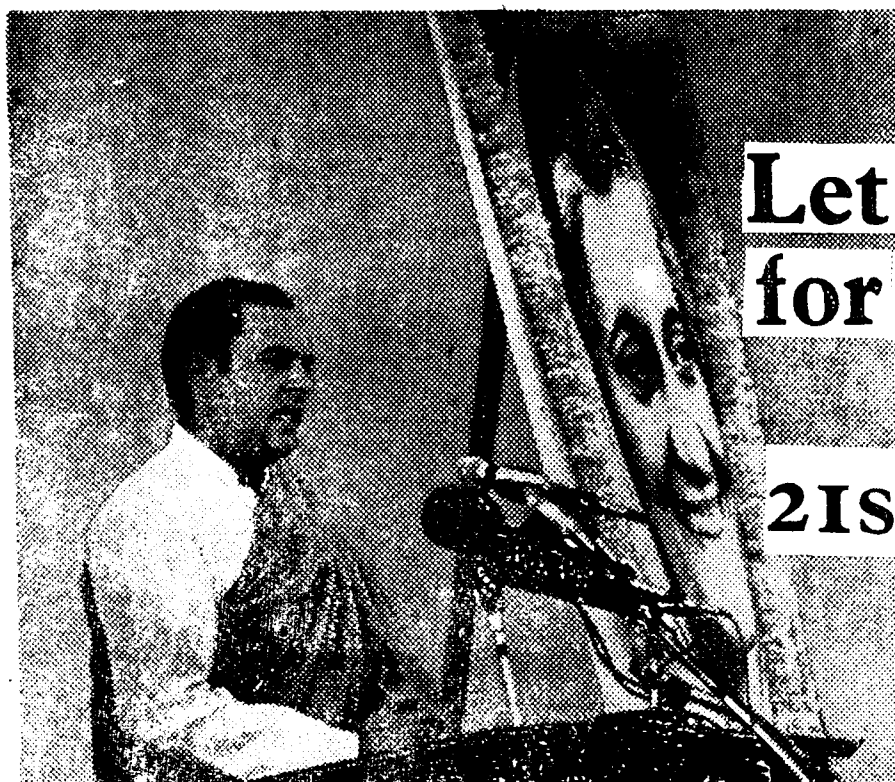
The taxes paid by the people must be utilised for the people. Anna said, "Go to the people. Live among them. Love them. Plan with them. Plan for them". I am doing only this. The Government is also doing this.

We are actualising the ideals of Anna in the manner in which they should be actualised. Our duty is to spend all that we get by means of taxes for the good of the people themselves.

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Dr. M. G. R.

Tamil Arasu
DECEMBER 1984 75 P.

Thiruvalluvar Year - 2015
Rakthatchi - Karthigai - Markazhi



Let us Build for An India of 21st Century

(Hon'ble Prime Minister
Thiru Rajiv Gandhi on a
broadcast to the Nation on
12th November 1984.)

Mahatma Gandhi breathed new life into our ancient land. He brought us freedom and taught us that the highest virtues are truth, love and non-violence. Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundations of a politically and technologically modern India—democratic, secular socialist, non-aligned.

Indira Gandhi built firmly on these foundations. She made the sovereignty of the people a reality and strove to ensure that policies and laws secured their rights. She fought against fanaticism and narrowness in all their forms. She made the nation self-reliant in agriculture, industry and several branches of technology. She battled relentlessly against poverty. Hers was the foremost voice for international peace in our tense and troubled world.

Most important of all, she infused us with self-confidence and a sense of purpose. She gave us back our pride. This splendid heritage has been left to us by Indiraji. I pledge to preserve this previous legacy and to work for a united, strong and prosperous India, an India devoted to the cause of peace.

Nothing is more important than the unity and integrity of our nation. India is indivisible.

Secularism is the bedrock of our nationhood. It implies more than tolerance. It involves an active effort for harmony. No religion preaches hatred and intolerance. Vested interests, both external and internal, are inciting and exploiting communal passions and violence to divide India. Answering communalism with communalism will only help these subversive and secessionist forces. The combined might of the people and the Government will thwart their designs. There is only one India. It belongs to all of us.

Speedy removal of poverty is our basic objective. The Government is judged by the degree and quality of change it can bring about. Five years ago, when the people recalled Indiraji to office, she promised an effective Government and she kept her promise. Food production and energy output have touched record levels. Science has surged forward. Industry has resumed its dynamic movement. Employment opportunities are expand-

ing. The economy has withstood the most severe natural calamities and international crises. The political and economic standing of India in the world is higher than ever.

I reaffirm our adherence to socialism and planning. Without planning we could not have reached where we are. Our aim is continuous modernisation, higher productivity and rapid advance of social justice.

In our Plans, rural development will have priority; greater production of cereals, pulses and oilseeds; spread of irrigation; support for small industries and handicrafts and all-round induction of new technology. Large expansion of employment, specially for rural and urban youth, is essential to reduce economic disparities and to ensure social peace. For this, high rates of growth in agriculture and industry will have to be achieved.

The public sector has played a historic role in laying the foundation of a modern economy. It has to shoulder greater responsibilities; and to become more efficient to generate surpluses for investment.

Within the framework of national policies, the private sector has adequate scope to enhance the productive potential of the economy. But it should acquire the strength competition provides by reducing costs and absorbing new technology. Both public and private sectors must venture out into new fields, improve quality and develop indigenous technology.

Kisans and workers are the pillars of our economy. The focus of our policies on their welfare will be sharpened.

Government will remain unwavering in its resolve to improve the living and working conditions of the scheduled castes the scheduled tribes, backward classes, artisans, agricultural labour, women and the urban poor. The 20-Point Programme of Indira Gandhi, which aims to fulfil the immediate needs of the people, will be faithfully and effectively implemented.

Our greatest wealth is our people. We must enable individuals and families to realise their potential to the full. For this, we shall stress programmes of family planning, nutrition, welfare of women and children, control of disease, elementary and adult education, sport and better communication.

I am committed to improving the quality of service to the people. I want to tell all those involved in this task that if they work with integrity and dedication, they will have full protection from outside pressures and interference. But I also want to tell them that no quarter will be given to the corrupt, the lazy, the inefficient.

Our administrative system must become more goal-oriented. A new work-ethic, a new work-culture must be evolved in which Government is result-bound and not procedure-bound. Reward and punishment must be related to performance. A strong concern for efficiency must permeate all institutions.

The last few years have witnessed notable advances in science and technology. Indira Gandhi had a fine partnership with scientists, which helped the nation. I shall keep up this.

The creative arts give to life the vision of inner truth and beauty. We owe much to our craftsmen who have carried on centuries old aesthetic traditions and to our artists and writers. We have to conserve our priceless heritage and to create an environment in which Art will flourish.

Our educational system needs to be reconstructed as a dynamic force for national growth and integration. I intend to initiate a comprehensive review of the system and to build a national consensus for reform.

For nation-building, the first requisite is peace—peace with our neighbours and peace in the world. Our security environment has been vitiated. Sophisticated arms





have been inducted on a large scale into our neighbourhood and into the Indian Ocean. We can depend on our armed forces to ensure the country's inviolability. The Government will continue to do all it can for the modernisation of defence and the welfare of our service personnel and their families. I take this occasion to greet our jawans and officers, in whose hands the nation's honour and integrity are safe.

Eminent leaders and representatives of the world's nations came here last week bringing to us their peoples' sympathy. I made it clear to them that India will continue its work for international peace, friendship and cooperation.

Jawaharlal Nehru bequeathed to us a foreign policy which Indira Gandhi so creatively enriched. I shall carry it forward. I reaffirm our adherence to the United Nations, to the Non-Aligned Movement and to our opposition to colonialism, old or new. We are determined to work for narrowing international economic disparities.

We want to develop closer relations with each one of our immediate neighbours in a spirit of peace, friendship and cooperation. This is what we have offered to Pakistan. We have always believed that non-interference, peaceful

coexistence and nonalignment should be the guiding principles of our relationship. We shall further pursue the concept of common regional development of South Asia. Our relations with China are improving and we shall continue to seek a satisfactory solution to the difficulties.

We highly value the wide-ranging and time-tested relationship with the Soviet Union, based upon mutual cooperation, friendship and vital support when most needed.

We have always been friends with both the East and the West as they are called, and we want better relations between them.

With the United States of America, we have a multi-faceted relationship. We attach importance to our economic, technological and cultural cooperation with them.

I wish also to assure the peoples of other regions—the Arab world, South-West and South East Asia, the Far East and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America, the caribbeans, and Western and Eastern Europe that we are keen on strengthening political and economic relations with them.

Indira Gandhi reminded us that the most important single

challenge before the world today is the threat of nuclear war. We shall continue her relentless crusade against the arms race. She was equally concerned about the global economic crisis. We shall persevere in the efforts to promote a dialogue between the North and the South and to build a just world economic order.

The assassination of Indira Gandhi is a grave and critical moment. There has been a churning of the subconscious of our people. It is in moments of crisis that India awakens and responds with clarity and new creative endeavour. Out of turmoil must arise an intelligence that builds a vital sense of togetherness, creates order and establishes a deeply human relationship between man and man.

Our heritage, the most ancient, and that left to us by the torchbearers of freedom, rests on secularism and tolerance. Indira Gandhi gave her life in building an India which was rooted in these basic tenets. We have to fuse the wisdom of our seers with the insights and artifacts of science and technology. We have to conserve and cherish our heritage—political, cultural and philosophical. We have to establish a right relationship with our natural resources, strengthen our newly won self-reliance. With this, we must have the courage to boldly innovate, for exchange is demanded in our methods of work, in the absorption of new knowledge, in the values we generate for ensuring a meaningful and creative life for our people.

As we build today so will be the tomorrow. Together we will build for an India of the 21st Century. Together we will transform what needs transformation. Together we will face challenges and obstacles to progress. Together we will create an India that is strong, wise and great—a flame of peace and tolerance.



TO EVOLVE... AN EGALITARIAN SOCIAL ORDER

Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi narrated, "God comes to the poor in the shape of bread."

Arignar Anna said, "I see God in the smiles of the poor."

Tamil Saint Thiruvalluvar in his immortal Thirukkural had given specific characteristics of an ideal state as follows:

"Where there is no terrible famine, no cruel pestilence, no foreign enemy to ravage, where peace always reigns, that is the ideal land."

While on one hand India's population is nearing 70 Crores and a large part of our population is declared to be below poverty line, need there be any surprise at the sight of this off spring being any better? The majority of our children present a picture of poverty itself with sunken cheeks, pallid lips, lack lusture

eyes and emaciated bodies. Nor has it been a surprise that these children have been the despair of our doctors?

How the Scheme was evolved?

"Poverty is admittedly a scourge; All the more poignant when it is the youth that has to bear the brunt of it." This is an old saying. It is true in the fullest sense. The child knows nothing but to cry while in hunger. The idea of providing whole-some food to the needy children stemmed from my own childhood experience of poverty. When hunger haunted my home, a lady next door extended a bowl of rice gruel to us and thus saved us from cruel death. Such merciful women folk elected me as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu having great faith in me:

I have decided to carry out this programme with a view to redress the sad plight of the

PRAISE FOR MEAL SCHEME BY

MOTHER TERESA

Mother Teresa who arrived at Madras from Calcutta on 1st March 1984, had a glimpse of the living conditions in the slums in the city.

She praised the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme of the Tamil Nadu Government and said it should be extended throughout the country.

—Courtesy: 'The Hindu' dated 2nd March '84

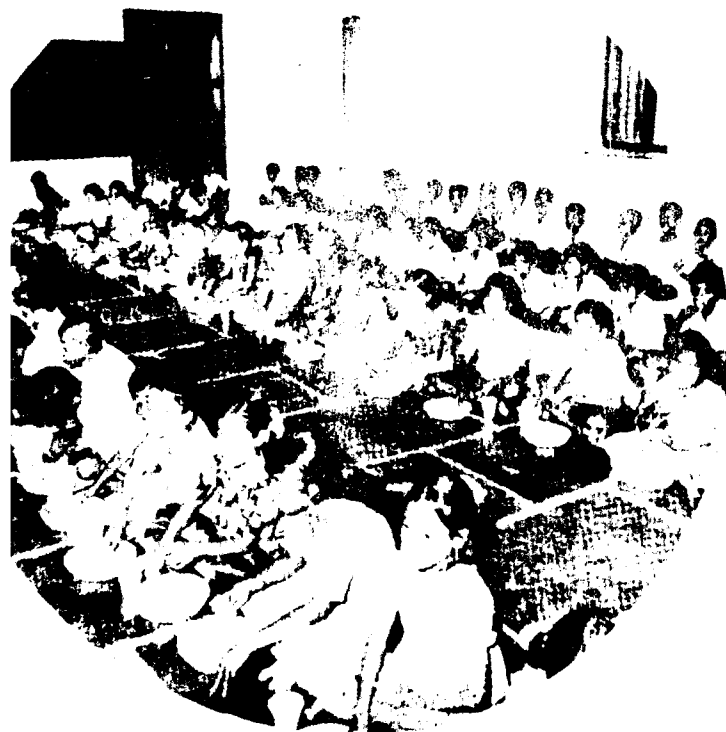
poor and downtrodden living below the poverty line and bemoaning their lot in not being able to provide even single whole-some meal to their children in spite of their efforts in all possible ways. I felt that it is my bounden duty to take immediate efforts to provide atleast noon meal to the poor children in order to eliminate the sufferings of the helpless women. The Government has, therefore formulated a scheme to provide poor children in the age group of 2 to 10 atleast one nutritious food at noon. This scheme will cover children below poverty line all over Tamil Nadu for the provision of a nutritious noon meal free of cost from 1st of July, 1982.

Selfless Service

The programme is not just to appease the hunger of the children, though it is the most important of the aims. We have to build the character of the children in all possible ways and should see them as responsible citizens of tomorrow. The management of the

Creches should shoulder this great responsibility. The teachers should conduct this programme with greater responsibility not minding the extra work involved in it. They should think of the welfare of the 60 lakh children below the poverty line and should develop a spirit of sacrifice in feeding them. I hope that the Officers also will work hard to see the scheme functioning properly and success fully. We should see that this programme is functioning regularly and without giving any room for irregularity. We should see that the children get their meal round the year. I request the management of the child welfare centres and also the headmasters who are responsible for the functioning of this hundred crore feeding programme to eat with the children so as to enable them to know the taste and standard of the food stuff cooked for children. In this connection I will tell you that the basic aim of this Government is to evolve a scheme under which at least one member of every family will be given a job.

(Excerpts from the Speeches of
Dr. M. G. R
Chief Minister of Tamilnadu)



being with children and even more, playing with them. Nothing saddens so much as the sight of children who are denied education, sometimes even food and clothing".

—Pandit Jawaharalal Nehru



The Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme for feeding the children in the age group of 2 to 4 and 5 to 9 was introduced in the Rural areas of Tamil Nadu from 1.7.1982. and in the Urban areas from 15.9.1982. The pupils in the age group of 10 to 14 who were the beneficiaries under the old mid-day meal scheme were also continued to be fed under this scheme for all the days in a year. This scheme was extended to the Old age Pensioners from 15.1.1983.

The children in the age group of 2 to 4 are fed in the pre-school centres where a trained Child welfare Organiser is in charge. Nearly 24.34 lakh children in the age group of 2 to 4 are fed daily in 27,897 pre-school centres functioning now.

The school going children of the age group 5 to 9 are fed in the schools where they are studying. Nearly 39.84 lakh school children are fed daily in 34,087 school feeding centres.

The scheme has been extended to the school children upto the age of 15 from 15.9.84. About 15.53 lakh children in the age group of 10 to 15 are benefitted under the scheme. Nearly 3,360 new school centres have been opened from 15th September 1984. The Noon Meal programme is already in operation in 5281 High School centres.

From 15.1.1983 the scheme has been extended to the Old Age Pension beneficiaries also. The Old Age pensioners are taking their meals from the pre-school or school centres. The number of Old age pension beneficiaries enrolled are 1,99,158. Out of 1,99,158 beneficiaries about 1,10,799 are Old persons, 43,888 are destitute widows, 14,471 are physically handicapped and 30,000 are agricultural

NUTRITIOUS MEAL PROGRAMME at a Glance

labourers. From 1.5.1984 the scheme has been extended to 64,000 old persons who were kept in the waiting list for sanction of old Age pension. On the whole 2.63 lakh old Age pensioner are fed under the scheme at present.

From 1.1.1984 the scheme has been extended to 112 Ex-Servicemen-Widows of Ex-Servicemen who are receiving Old age Pension from out of Tamil Nadu Ex-Servicemen Personnel Benevolent Fund, out of which 41 are widows. They are fed along with the Old age Pensioners in the Pre-school centres nearest to their places of residence.

Free Meal is being served on all the days of the year except on Government Holidays. On the eve of these holidays, which are normally festival days, the children and Old-age Pensioners are given pre-cooked carry home food packets. The children in the age group 10 to 15 are fed only on working days which will come to about 220 days in a year.

All the beneficiaries of Nutritious Meal Programme are also supplied with scientifically prepared tooth powder free of cost.

The scheme has created massive employment opportunities especially to women both in rural and Urban areas. About 1,97,252 have been employed on consolidated pay. Widows and destitute women are given preference in the scheme during employment.

The estimated expenditure involved in this scheme would be about Rs. 180 crores per annum.

I. No. of CENTRES FUNCTIONING:

1. No of Pre-school Centres	27,897
2. No. of Primary School Centres	34,087
3. No. of High School Centres (Newly opened)	3,360
Total	65,344
4. No of High School Centres: (Where the scheme was in existence and where the scheme has been extended)	5,281

BENEFICIARIES OF THE SCHEME

	<i>In Lakhs</i>
No. of beneficiaries in Pre-school Centres	24.34
No. of beneficiaries among Old age Pensioners	2.63
No. of beneficiaries in Primary School centres	39.84



No. of beneficiaries in High School Centres	15.53
Total	82.34

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CREATED UNDER THE SCHEME

(Age group 2 to 9)

	Total	SC/ST	Widows destitutes
1. Nutritious Meal Organisers	34,087	5,116	2,123
2. Child Welfare Organisers	27,897	5,383	2,152
3. Child Welfare Assistants	55,794	11,463	13,045
4. Cooks and Helpers	69,174	8,432	25,137
Total	1,86,952		

Additional Employment created under expansion of the Programme 10 to 15 age group

1. Nutritious Meal Organisers	3,360
2. Cooks and Helpers	6,940
Total	10,300

RESPONSIBLE ROLE OF THE PRESS



It is a matter of great honour and pleasure for me to participate in the inauguration of the National Council Meeting of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists.

The Tamil Nadu Government is proud to associate itself with a conference of all-India journalists of all-India importance, and we are glad to host it in our own humble way.

Our Chief Minister, Dr. M.G.R. would have been very happy to participate in today's function on behalf of the people of

Tamil Nadu but as you are aware, he is indisposed.

On behalf of the Chief Minister, the Council of Ministers and the Tamil Nadu Government, let me extend to you our warm and fraternal greetings for the success of the Conference.

I understand that the National Council of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists is meeting here after a gap of more than three decades. In fact, I see the National Council Meeting of the Indian Federation

of Working Journalists as a clear manifestation of national integration and unity, which must be preserved at all costs. Working Journalists have come here from all parts of the country to symbolise India in its true spirit. You have thus set a supreme example in the task of fighting communal and other disruptive forces whose evil designs have been working to the detriment of what the country stands for—secularism and socialism.

Some of the country's great-men have sacrificed their lives in combating communal and anti-national forces. The names of two Gandhis come readily to one's mind. The third Gandhi who is also threatened by such forces, deserves all our support in putting down such evil forces. The Tamil Nadu Government, I assure you, will support all ventures like those of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists and the Madras Union of Journalists here to promote national Integration and unity. Journalists have a very important role to play in society today, more so in today's complex world, especially during the sensitive political situations and communal outbursts. I appeal to the press to observe restraint in such situations, and maintain high standards of journalism, observe ethics and objectivity, in the interest of the people as a section of them could easily be whipped up into orgies of momentary violence.

Generally, I must say, the press has been functioning in a responsible and restrained manner, though there have been a few unpleasant exceptions.

Rather than the Government enter the picture and try to reform or pull up such erring newspapers, I trust you would yourselves do the needful in the matter of self-regulation. Self-introspection and self-criticism are as important as the right to

criticise, freedom of speech and expression. I am glad that you are going to discuss in-depth a code of conduct for journalists. While some sections of the fourth estate want all other sections of society to behave themselves according to the norms of public life, a few sections of the press refuse to work with any kind of norms and ethics, and think they are above the law of the land.

They misuse and abuse the freedom of the press for political gains or commercial exploitation. I leave it to you as to how to deal with such elements, who work against the overall interests of the people whom we are all meant to serve. The Government on its part is firmly committed

to ensuring the freedom of the press. We encourage free fair views on any aspect of Government functioning.

The Government here has provided several facilities to the journalists, in particular, keeping in mind their occupational hazards, their exposure to risks, their odd hours of work and the high-stress nature of their work. I am often amazed to see journalists being on duty almost round the clock, with dedication and devotion, and with deep commitment for democratic norms and institutions.

I wish you all success in your deliberations, and I join you in your demand for a new wage board or tribunal for employees

of newspapers and news agencies all over the city.

I once again assure you of the State Government's support to all noble causes of your organisation and am glad that important people from different walks of life are here to express similar support to you the journalists who have to play a leading role for the future of the country's unity, secularism and communal harmony.

Speech of Hon'ble Dr. Navalar V. R. Neduncheziyan, Minister for Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu during inauguration of National Council Meeting of Indian Federation of Working Journalists on 24th November 1984 at Rajaji Hall, Madras.)

CONQUEST OF THE PALM TREE

Man has conquered the palm tree! Till now, man had to hobble up nature's skyscrapers, using his brawn, with a cloth tied around is legs as a secure foothold. Using his hands and legs, his a progress up a palm tree or down was very much like that of his predecessors in the wild. With the fabrication of a machine to climb palms, the tedium has been eliminated from the laborious and dangerous job of tree climbing.

The credit of fabricating this climbing machine goes to Devaraj, a graduate of Kollappalur, in Tamil Nadu. His equipment is portable. It is made of steel tubes and pulleys and it costs Rs. 500 a piece. It weighs 5 kgs. only.

The machine can be used to climb palmyrah, coconut and arecanut palms. It is operated manually to carry man up and down. Even the old can use it effortlessly. And the danger of a fall is totally eliminated, besides abrasions on the hand and the chest. The contraption can be moved round the trunk.

Devaraj is a born innovator. A plough he designed can leave three furrows and sow seeds at pre-fixed intervals in all of them. He has also designed a protective goggle which will leave the welder free to use both his hands.

But Devaraj's conquest of the palm tree is the most unique of them all.



THE PRESS - EDUCATOR for DEVELOPMENT

Dr. M.G.R. has developed with the working journalists and the reverence in which he is highly held by the journalists.

I know my limitations and I am conscious of the fact that I have been called upon to do a job, normally beyond the range of a person of my make.

I am no teacher. I do admit, I am only a student.

Dr. Radhakrishnan was assertively right when he said that no one is a teacher unless he continues to be a student.

Most of our national leaders were also journalists and writers. Lokamanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati, Rajaji, Perarignar Anna are the pacesetters in Indian journalism. Their powerful writings generated new awakening in Indian society under foreign rule. "Harijan" and "Young India" edited by Gandhiji and "Dravida Nadu"

I thank the organisers of this convention for the unique opportunity given to me to share a few thoughts with you today.

On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu and on my own behalf as Minister for Information, I extend a warm welcome to the delegates and working journalists from other States. I hope that all will enjoy the pleasant climate in Madras, natural as well as political, and also the hospitality of the people of Tamil Nadu.

First of all, I would like to convey the affectionate greetings of our beloved Chief Minister Hon'ble Dr. M.G.R. to each one of you assembled here. It is a well-known fact that Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. has been a great champion of the cause of working journalists.

I recall, on this occasion, the intimacy that Hon'ble

and "Home Land" of revered Anna speak, volumes of the potency of journalism for building a better social order. Perarignar Anna kindled social awakening among the masses, and created a new force for social transformation.

Journalism today is no longer confined to the printed word but embraces words and pictures transmitted over ether. It is a multi-media output. Each medium has grown as an industry with complex machines and materials manned by armies of men.

In our social set up, the Press deals with the areas of Public affairs and power. As such, the Press is to be considered as a public service rather than an industry.

I am happy to learn that the Indian Federation of Working Journalists founded by the doyen of Indian Press, the late Chalapathi Rao whom you affectionately call as MC, has now over ten thousand members. The Federation fights not only for the rights of the journalists but also for the freedom of the Press. I am aware that they are vigilant in safeguarding the rights and privileges of the fraternity. I am also aware of the fact that almost all the working journalists are free from the fetters of the management, even though there are stray cases where we find that the editorial wing has to fall in line with the policy of the management.

Indian newsmen, by and large, stand comparison with the best talented journalists in any part of the world. They love their job and bring out reports skilfully and imaginatively.

It is needless to say that the journalists are the creative forces. Creativity is construction and not destruction in any form.

The Fourth Estate is, of course, one of the powerful pillars of Democracy.

Every one speaks about the imperative necessity of a free Press, as a basic factor for the smooth functioning of Democracy.

country as a whole, we refrain from divulging certain information. In a democratic society, this is a dire necessity in the interest of social harmony and peace.

We can draw a lesson from the conduct of the daily affairs of our families. Families may have unpalatable happenings. It is but natural that we are not communicating each and every incident to all members of the family.

Some information is withheld from parents.

Some information is not within the reach of children. It is all done in the best interest of the family as a whole.

A nation is a larger family.

Then, are we not right in withholding certain information from the public in their own best interest?

India is a melting pot of all races.

India is a land of many religions.

India is a conglomeration of many languages.

So, in Indian society there is more chance of friction.

There is more chance for the clash of interests.

In such a vulnerable society, working journalists have the greatest responsibility of guiding the society. They must be more careful and far-sighted in their approach. Even a piece of wrong information can cause great damage to society like the wild fires engulfing the green forests. I appeal to the members of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists to provide certain norms and guidelines to avoid sensational reporting and rumour mongering.

It is my duty to remind my veteran journalist friends here that it is high time that Indian Journalists rededicated

But, let us put a pertinent question to ourselves-

What is freedom?

Freedom is not licence;

Freedom is not uncontrolled verbal exercise;

Freedom is not the negation of rules and regulations.

On the other hand, freedom without checks and balances is futile.

Freedom without meaningful restraints is the pathway to chaos.

Freedom should not be understood in the most generalised fashion.

What is freedom to a highly developed society may not be the same for a developing Nation. In a developing Nation like India, Press is linked with the concept of a welfare society.

It is, therefore, imperative that free Press should have a meaningfully responsible connotation in the Indian context.

Otherwise, the so called free Press itself will strike at the very roots of Democracy.

If someone asks me whether I would stand for freedom without restraints or growth with responsibilities, I will stand for the latter.

I stand for a free Press with a new code of conduct evolved in the greater interests of the country. I do not deny that people have got a right to knowledge and information. But, if that knowledge becomes a destructive instrument in the hands of anti-social elements, it is necessary to withhold the information, temporarily at least. In the larger interests of the

themselves to the economic and social development of India and National Integration.

During our freedom struggle, the Press was a weapon to our just fight. The same weapon, aided by modern science and technology, has to be used to serve the people who are our masters.

It enjoins upon the working journalists to fight ceaselessly against sectarianism, superstition, disunity, dissension, discord, disruptive forces and, above all, violence. You are the educators for development. You have to rise to the occasion and serve the Nation.

We have horizons to reach—

We have bridges to cross—

We have paths to pass—

We have miles to go.

Jawaharlal Nehru said: "Freedom is in peril. Defend it with all your might".

Today we are at cross - roads. It is the responsibility of all sections of the society including the journalists to work for a new social order which is our national goal.

I appeal to all the working journalists to stand united and to promote peace, national prosperity and make our land a worthy place to live in amity.

On this occasion, we assure you of our assistance in all possible manner for the promotion of professional efficiency and service to the society.

With these words, I release the Souvenir with great pleasure.

Speech by Hon'ble Minister
for Information and Religious
Endowments at the National
Council Session of the Indian
Federation of Working
Journalists on 24th November,
1984 at Rajaji Hall, Madras.



SCHEMES FOR EX-SERVICEMEN



Since Independence, India has been observing 7th December of each year as the Flag Day to honour the valiant dead, to salute the veteran brave and to renew her pledge with the services personnel who are in active service.

The Flag Day collection is the main and only source of income to the Tamil Nadu Ex-services' Personnel Benevolent Fund. Various schemes for resettlement and rehabilitation and alleviation of distresses of ex-servicemen and their dependents are financed from this Fund. During the year 1983-84, 13,633 ex-servicemen and their dependents were benefitted to the tune of Rs. 26 lakhs. The grants include monthly grant to the destitutes, lumpsum grant, marriage grant, pocket money to the TB/Leprosy/ Cancer patients, Immediate Relief Grant as spot assistance, funeral grant to give a decent funeral of dead ex-servicemen, flood/fire relief grant, educational scholarship/Stipend to the children of ex-servicemen undergoing training in the Tailoring Units and Typewriting and Shorthand Institutes etc.

Rehabilitation Schemes such as establishment of Jai Jawan Stalls, assisting ex-servicemen in Self-Employment Scheme, Bank Loan and Interest Subsidy Scheme are implemented. 204 Jai Jawan Stalls have been established all over the State at a cost of Rs. 6 lakhs so that ex-servicemen and their dependents could rehabilitate themselves and lead a decent life. Further a proposal for establishing 10 more stalls in each District duly financed by the Government of India is under consideration.

12 Bedded wards for Ex-servicemen and their dependents in 18 Taluk/District Head quarters Hospitals at a total cost of Rs. 15 lakhs have been established.

Widows receive considerable assistance in the form of grant for various purposes. Marriage grant of Rs. 500 is paid to all widows of defence personnel towards the celebration of one daughter's marriage. Widows who have lost their husbands in various operations after Independence receive Rs. 600 every year as a token of gratitude and re-

membrance. Such widows are paid Rs. 1,500 towards celebration of their daughter's marriage. Housing grant of Rs. 5,000 is also sanctioned to their widows. So far 98 widows were sanctioned. Housing grant to the tune of Rs. 4,71,000. Destitute widows/ex-servicemen who are above 60 years of age are given a monthly pension of Rs. 50 till their death. So far 125 ex-servicemen/widows have been paid a sum of Rs. 1,38,449.75. Widows of Defence Personnel who retired prior to 1st January 1964 with service pension and died subsequently are not eligible for family pension. In order to help these widows, they are sanctioned a sum of Rs. 50 p.m. and child allowance of Rs. 10 p.m. restricted to two children. So far 1339 widows have been paid to the tune of Rs. 17.88 lakhs. Under a new Scheme of sanction of interim relief to the widows whose pensions are pending sanction, 31 widows have been paid Rs. 17,900.

A sum of Rs. 2,11,737 has been spent towards imparting training in Tailoring to the women dependents of serving ex-servicemen. 5 Leprosy ex-servicemen/

widows have been sanctioned a sum of Rs. 50 per month till their death under a new Scheme introduced recently. A new scheme of sanctioning monthly financial assistance to the ex-servicemen, whose cases have been referred to Indian Red Cross Society for sanction of financial assistance till the time they get sanction has been introduced. Sanction of monthly financial assistance of Rs. 50 per month to totally blind ex-servicemen, who are not in receipt of any financial assistance from any other source has also been

have availed loans of about Rs. 10,36,240 from various Nationalised Banks and State Financing Institutions and a sum of Rs. 27,655 has been released as Interest Subsidy.

"Jawans Bhavans" have been constructed at Vellore, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Thanjavur and a Shopping Complex at Vellore with 72 shops at a total cost of approximately Rs. 37 lakhs. "Jawans Bhavans" at a cost of Rs. 23 lakhs are nearing completion at Madurai and Sivakasi. Additional construction in the existing Jawans Bhavan, Thanjavur is nearing completion at a cost of Rs. 7.75 lakhs. It is also proposed to construct 'Jawans Bhavans' at Cuddalore and Ramanathapuram. A multi

A Book Binding and Paper Cutting Unit has been started for widows and women dependents at a cost of Rs. 50,000 and the unit has since been converted as Printing Press also at a further cost of Rs. 65,000.

Suitable sites have been purchased at a cost of Rs. 42,275 at Coimbatore and Saidapet for the establishment of an Industrial and Ex-services Centres respectively.

In order to familiarise the Ex-servicemen with the various competitive examinations held for appointment in State Government/Nationalised Banks, coaching classes are organised every year and the trainees are paid stipend.



introduced. The quantum of pocket money to TB/Leprosy/ Cancer patients undergoing treatment in TB/Leprosy/Sanatoria has been increased from Rs. 1.50 per day to Rs. 2.50 per day. The quantum of funeral grant has also been increased from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250.

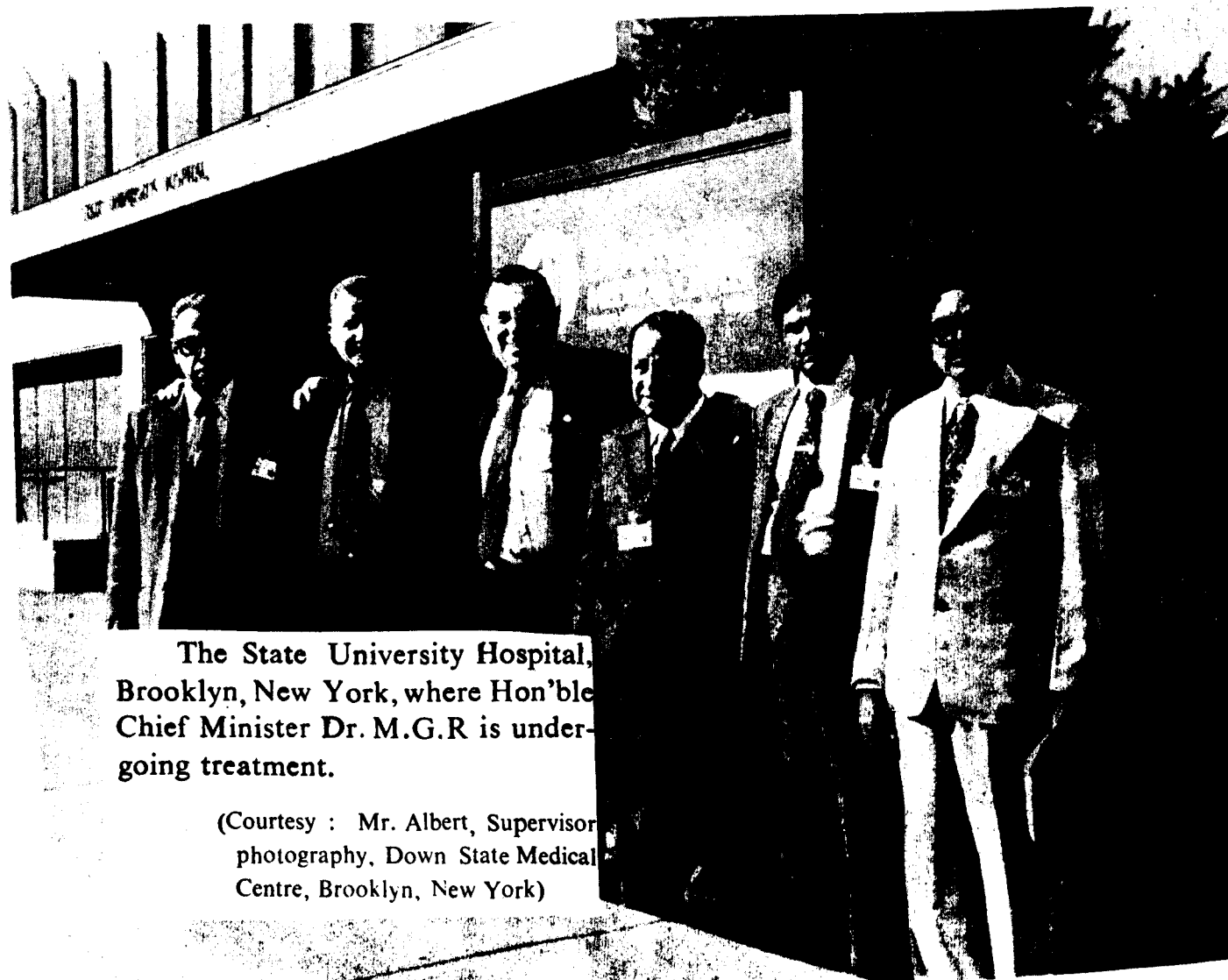
Under the Bank Loan interest Subsidy Scheme, 103 persons

storeyed building styled as Ex-services Centre at a cost of Rs. 44.58 lakhs to cater to the needs of ex-servicemen serving personnel who are passing through this State Capital and to accommodate the office of the Directorate of Ex-servicemen's Welfare is nearing completion. A sum of Rs. 14.10 lakhs has been spent towards construction of Jawans Bhavan / District Ex - services Centre during 1983-84.

All these schemes need large amount of funds. When compared with the sacrifices they made for defending our Motherland, the amount being spent now is very meagre. Since the Flag Day is to remember the valiant defence personnel for their heroic deeds, it is the best opportunity for the general public to honour and to remember them by contributing their mite liberally to the Flag Day Fund.

CHIEF MINISTER D.M.G.R RECOVERS





The State University Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, where Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R is undergoing treatment.

(Courtesy : Mr. Albert, Supervisor photography, Down State Medical Centre, Brooklyn, New York)



Wayback in 1979 when a few Senior Police Officers of the Tamil Nadu called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister for a discussion on the various benefits that can be given to the police personnel, one of the suggestion which the Hon'ble Chief Minister himself made was to have a scheme for building houses for serving as well as retiring police personnel on "OWN YOUR HOUSE SCHEME" basis. The idea of the Hon'ble Chief Minister was that while during service time the police personnel may be given rent free quarters or rent allowance where rent free quarters are not available. what with the round-the-clock onerous duties which the police personnel are expected to perform, they will hardly find time to look after their personal comforts, much less to supervise the construction of houses on their own in these hard days with their limited income and ultimately they will be in lurch without any roof over their head once they retire. It is in this context that the scheme contemplates a roof over the head of every policemen when he retires from service. This scheme is hence unique in many ways and it is a touching recognition of the

policemen's arduous duties while in service.

This proposal was followed up with a formal announcement by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R on the floor of the Assembly on 8th November 1979. After an initial exercise over the type of the organisation we have to have in this connection and the legal formalities to be gone through in this regard, it was again announced on the floor of the Assembly on 29th July 1980 that the organisation for this purpose will be a Corporation to be registered under the Com-

V. VAIKUNTH, I.P.S.,
D.I.G. of Police & Managing Director of Police Housing Corporation.



panies Act. What was initially started as a Housing Cell under the Director-General of Police was later registered as a Company on 30th April 1981 under the Companies Act with an authorised capital of Rupees One Crore.

The enlightened Tamil Nadu Government have many FIRSTS to their credit and this scheme is that way the FIRST of its kind in the Country as a whole. Whereas a number of States in the Country have been having some organisational set-up or other to look after the housing programme for the serving police personnel for building quarters for them during their service-either rent free quarters or on rental basis, only in Tamil Nadu there is a separate scheme and an organisation to construct houses for the policemen on "OWN YOUR HOUSE" basis and the cost of the houses are adjusted towards House Building Advance which they are eligible and sanctioned by the Government. That way, it is for the FIRST TIME that we have launched a scheme for the welfare of the policemen.

No wonder senior officers heading the police housing orga-

nisation from all over the country are visiting us with a view to learn from our experience and with a view to knowing from us as to how to go about this scheme.

When a scheme like this is, undertaken, naturally it is our look-out to see that the cost is kept as reasonably low as possible without sacrificing the quality. It is here that the Government have come to our help in a big way by assigning lands—either poramboke or other types of land at a reasonably low cost, which is a big factor in reducing the cost of the houses. Equally important is the fact that the Tamil Nadu Government has been helping us in a big way by giving loans at reasonable rates of interest and we are also getting levy cement for construction. Added to these benefits conferred to this Corporation, towards reducing the cost of the houses several new systems and measures have been introduced to streamline the procedures with a view to having a proper supervision and check over uncalled for, irregular and extravagant expenditures—both administrative overheads and works expenditure. This has again resulted in the reduction in the cost of the construction. Houses are built again having an eye on cost reduction techniques and use of good materials and by way of bringing down the cost of developmental works like roads, drainage, water supply facilities etc. Having these in mind during the last six months, a number of co-ordination meetings have been held with Collectors of the concerned districts and other departmental heads of the districts to ensure a prompt and purposeful co-ordination so that there is no delay and consequent escalation of cost.

With the result the houses built under this scheme with the same plinth area but with better quality as certified by the Experts in the field are costing far less than such houses built elsewhere.



Funding:—Apart from the Government's assistance by way of Share Capital, loan and ways and means advance, we are also getting loan from HUDCO, New Delhi, with the interest rate which is higher than the normal rate of interest chargeable on Tamil Nadu Government's loans.

The construction of houses under the "NAVALPATTU" scheme which was started in the middle of 1982 has been completed in record time with all the infrastructure facilities like roads, drainage etc. This was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15th September 1984. We have also proposed to build Hospitals, Schools, Super-Market and Library which will be completed soon which the Collector of Trichy has undertaken to initiate action under the N.R.E.P. scheme.

The total cost of this project is Rs. 164 lakhs.

Totally there are 682 houses of all types—72 MIG-I, 45 MIG II, 432 LIG-I, 108 LIG-II, and 18 EWS types. The plinth area and cost of the various types of houses is given below:

	sq.ft	Rs.
i. MIG I	513	45,450
ii. MIG II	420	36,960

iii. LIG I	383	27,640
iv. LIG II	350	25,670
v. E.W.S.	210	15,820

The plot area of the house very from half ground to one ground.

In view of pressing demand from non-police personnel who are also not that economically well-off, for allotment of houses under this scheme—particularly because of the low cost of the houses—we have extended this particular scheme to a limited extent to them as well as on Government's prior approval sanction.

The Navalpattu scheme which was inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Minister on 15th September 1984 is only our maiden venture. We have the second scheme half-way through in Coimbatore. We have again acquired lands in Vadapalani near Madurai and Thimmarajapuram near Tirunelveli where we are proposing to start the construction soon.

The "Own Your Own" house scheme has thus proved to be a great boon to the policemen and their families who will be ever grateful to the enlightened Tamil Nadu Government and the Honourable Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R for their fine gesture.

SOCIAL BANKING ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMME IN TAMIL NADU

V. PARANJOTHI, M.A., D.J.,
Information and Public Relations Officer.



For quite a large section of the people in India, particularly in Tamil Nadu, the easy credit facility, even to the minimum of Rs. 500, available with the banks for productive purpose, was unknown till recently. It is also true that the banking institutions never dared to keep their net wide open to cover the socially and economically disadvantaged groups in society.

The nationalisation of banks in 1969 opened new opportunities to the poor and the hitherto neglected sections to avail themselves of the credit facilities on easy and reasonable terms and interest. The banks in India have passed through three phases namely, 'no role', 'passive role' and 'active role.' The banks are now social institutions, discharging their conventional functions as also the new role assigned to them to realise the social objectives of the Planners. The role of the banks in India has since undergone a sea-change.

We speak of the poor and their deprivation. Who are the poor? Where are they? The economists and sociologists are

yet to see eye to eye in accepting the universality or compatability of the definition of 'poverty' expounded at great length by Rath and Dandekar. Let us be a little pragmatic and accept the findings of recent applied economic surveys. The recent studies show that 75% of the poor people live in rural areas. They are the landless, farm workers, small tenant farmers and the cultivators owning small strips of land that yield no sufficient yield to sustain them and rural artisans including the community service section like the barbers and washermen. The remaining 25% live mostly in urban slums. They are all migratory population from villages, seeking green pastures in growing industrial centres. Their problems have eluded the Indian Planners for a very long time, even after six five-year plans. How can we tackle this ticklish issue? Even in the early twenties Mahatma Gandhi wrote in 'Young India': "To a people famishing and idle, the only acceptable form in which God can dare appear is work and promise of food as wages." The hungry millions ask for one poem—invigorating food. They cannot

be given it. They must earn it." Taking cue from Gandhiji's exhortation and rich experience gained through various anti-poverty programmes including rural self-sufficiency work, Tamil Nadu has left no stone unturned in bringing succour to the poor.

Tamil Nadu is not a fledgling in rural rejuvenation work. Tamil Nadu has been a pace setter in rural development and self-sufficiency programmes. True to its tradition, the Government of Tamil Nadu created the department of Institutional Finance in July 1983 to serve not only as a coordinator between the banks and the weaker sections but also a directing force, giving new pep and fervour to the development agencies implementing IRDP, TRYSEM and NREP, etc. The fixation of targets and monitoring of the programmes is being done by this Department. The beneficiaries selected mainly include Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Backward Class, physically and socially handicapped, widows, destitutes, ex-servicemen, and families of serving personnel and the rural artisans and small craftsmen. Till March, 1984 the various categories of weaker sections who received the loans numbered 1,75,000 and the loan amount disbursed was Rs. 40 crores. The success story of

many a self-employed rural loanee is an eloquent example of the active role played by the Department of Institutional Finance in mobilising the financial resources of the banks and helping the socially and economically backward sections to fight unemployment and under-employment.

Pudukottai is a backward district in Tamil Nadu; as a geographical district administration unit it is only 10-Year old. Transitory migratory character of the people explains the absence of self-employment opportunities and viable self-employment generating openings. Private credit flow or industrial investment in this district is also meagre. Under this condition the district administration wanted to adopt a new strategy to generate employment opportunities for the benefit of the prospective youths, skilled or semi-skilled or unskilled with the assistance of the nationalised banks. The block agencies have been directed to identify such eligible persons and specify the trade in which they can be gainfully placed. The self-employment scheme has helped a considerable number of persons and also generated confidence in the minds of people regarding the benefit and assets accruing from the loan assistance made available by the banks. To illustrate the success of the self-employment scheme in Pudukkottai district, two study cases, in brief, are given hereunder.

Ayyakkannu, aged 40, was employed in a cycle shop for a

meagre daily wage in the village Aranmanaipatti in Pudukkottai district. He is an adept in cycle repair work. He left for Cochin where he worked as a lorry cleaner. His technical skill was not recognised; nor was rewarded suitably. Frustrated with this job, Ayyakkannu returned home. The skill of Ayyakkannu was known to all; his poverty is a barrier to get himself employed usefully to eke out his livelihood. He could not escape from the sight of the Grama Sevak who is a frequent visitor to Aranmanai-patti. With the assistance and guidance of the Grama Sevak, he was identified as eligible for a bank loan to start a cycle shop in the village. Satisfied with the integrity and technical capacity of Ayyakkannu, the State Bank of India sanctioned Rs. 3,400 and arranged for purchase of cycles to let them on hire to the villagers. Cycle is a main mode of transport in this area. Ayyakkannu is all smiles now. He earns Rs.15 a day. He is regular in repaying his monthly instalment of Rs. 125. As a matter of fact, he is not a lotus-eater. He hopes to add a few more bi-cycles to his fleet.

Another interesting story is that of Subramaniya Gurukkal, a priest in a temple. Poojaris or Gurukkals are very poorly paid; many temples in Tamil Nadu are not out of woods as far as their finances are concerned. The payment he receives from the temple is not sufficient to sustain his family of six children. His children looked emaciated, with chunken cheeks. He yearned for a better future; it was far away from him. His innocent enquiries regarding the Integrated Rural Development Programme gave him a new ray of hope. He received Rs. 2500 as loan from a nationalised bank to buy a milch animal. He was regularly paying his bank loan with no default. The milk production earned him good monthly income. He also

received second loan. The calves of both buffaloes raise their ears eagerly, with fumble and numble of their salivary mouths, to hear the happy words of their master. Within a couple of years, Subramania Gurukkal will be able to close the loan account and have the milch animals and the calves as his assets to build a prosperous future.

The poverty alleviating programmes merit careful examination in detail and serious implementation so that the real beneficiaries enjoy the fruits of the schemes. This will help our endeavour to raise the standard of living of the people. In the absence of such serious efforts and sincerity of purpose, the widening gap between the affluent and the poor, the 'haves' and the 'have nots' can't be bridged in a foreseeable future in a country like India. I think it is relevant to remind ourselves of the Manifesto against Hunger by 52 Nobel Laureates issued in 1981.

"If only people are told what is happening, then the world's future which now seems to threaten everyone in it may be changed. But only if we take action."

"Now is the time to create; now is the time for us to live in a way that will give life to others."



unscathed. He was essentially a man of peace, a real humanitarian with goodwill towards all.

With all his simplicity and unassuming nature, one could not, however, fail to see that his nobility was marked by infinite contrasts in his total personality. Always anxious to hear more than to say, Rajendra Prasad was rather economical in the use of words when he did choose to speak. His natural equanimity and innate tolerance made him widely known as a very amicable negotiator and pleasant conversationalist, so much so that in 1946-47 when differences between the Congress and the Muslim League seemed to have become unbridgeable, Mr. Jinnah went out of his way to name Dr. Rajendra Prasad in preference to other Congress leaders for discussing the main points of difference between the two parties. It, however, goes without saying that with all his rustic bearing, his "simplicity" was supported by an urbanity of the most cultured and polished type. A plebeian out and out, he was almost regal in his bearing."

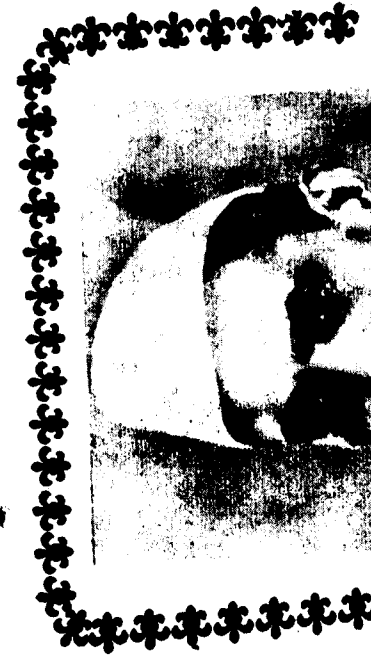
Early Life

Rajendra Prasad was born on December 3, 1884 in a middle class family in village Zeradei of Saran district in Bihar. He acquired fame while still in his teens, when as a student he topped in successive examinations of the Calcutta university. His teachers and many others who came in contact with him thought him to be a prodigy, for Calcutta university of those days encompassed the whole of North-Eastern India, including Bihar, Orissa and Assam, in addition to Bengal.

He brought to bear the same brilliance on his professional work when he started practising as a lawyer at the Calcutta and later at the Patna High Court. His first contact with Gandhiji in Champaran in 1918 snapped his ties with the legal profession at a time when he had begun to command a lucrative practice, and, what is more significant, at a time when his needy family required his help most.

At the Feet of Gandhiji

For years his elder brother, Mahendra Prasad, had been carrying on the burden of the whole family on himself, but hopes of a brighter future which awaited Rajendra Prasad had made light of this burden. Rajendra Prasad, however, disappointed his brother, and leaving the family almost in the lurch decided to give up his legal practice in preference to joining the Congress movement under Gandhiji's leadership. This was, indeed, a rare example of sacrifice.



The First President of Indian Republic

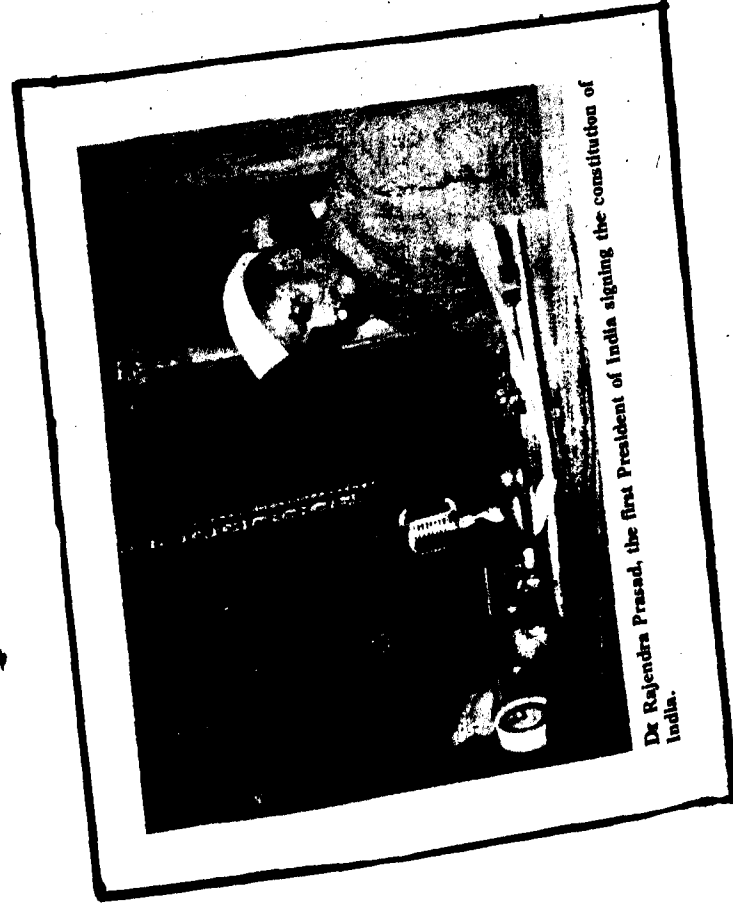
Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of the Indian Republic, was in many respects a true representative of all that is good and worth cherishing in our cultural and social heritage. His contemporaries often described him as a model of simplicity and nobility. He came to be known as "the gentleman of Indian politics". If Gandhiji used to call him *gautamshatru*, one who has no enemies, Sarojini Naidu in her poetic vein once said that he (Rajendra Prasad) is one of those who have never dipped their pen in gall. Truly he was a man who in all the heated controversies of party strife and conflicts of political warfare never caused or received a single bruise. There was a certain sweetness in him and political acerbities always left him





Then followed a quarter century of agitation and suffering, involving periodic going to and coming out of jail. Rajendra Prasad was elected President of the Indian National Congress thrice. He had come to be counted among the first six top leaders of the Congress. Such was his erudition and so close was he to the seat of power that he acquired the reputation of being the draftsman of the Congress. Most of the documents issued and official resolutions adopted by the organisation bore the imprint of Rajendra Prasad's drafting.

In 1946, when the first national government was formed under Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership, Rajendra Prasad was included in it and allotted the portfolio of Food and Agriculture. In the following year he was elected President of the Constituent Assembly—an assignment which he carried out with exceptional ability and dignity. Three years later when India became a Republic, he was unanimously elected its President. He held that august office for over twelve years, a performance which no successor of his is ever likely to repeat.



1959, he posed a similar question. Referring to the legislators he said:

"One of the things which I have sometimes considered rather unfortunate is that while we have provided rather meticulously for the independence of our judiciary and have also provided in a way for the assistance to be given to judges by lawyers in administering the law, there is no provision anywhere that those who make the law know any law at all...."

He raised such questions, of course, in an academic spirit and in a most harmless way, for he believed it was one of the ways of educating the people as regards the Constitution and of stimulating in them sense of responsibility in making the best of it in national interest. Having posed the question he himself sought to answer it by saying that "in a democracy you can only count heads, you do not care to know what lies in those heads!"

The First President of India

It was characteristic of Rajendra Prasad to have announced, soon after his election as President, a voluntary cut in his salary. The result was that he was left with less than five thousand rupees after income-tax deduction out of the salary of Rs.10,000 allowed to him by our Constitution. And he seldom felt the pinch, for by habit he was very economical—almost parsimonious by current standards—and he hated conspicuous living.

That as President he could not help living with the all-round glamour of Rashtrapati Bhavan was another matter. He often thought he was a prisoner in that vast Bhavan. He said once, "Before I joined the Government in 1946, I had very little contact with English officials or with the Governors and Government Houses... Time takes its own revenge and I have been a prisoner of the type I then complained of, for the last ten years or so. I have often told friends that while we were in prison, one warden used to guard dozens or even more prisoners; while in the Rashtrapati Bhavan there are dozens of guards on one man who is grandiloquently called the Rashtrapati, but is, in fact, a prisoner not of law, but of customs, inhibitions and conventions which are no less galling...."

But all the paraphernalia of Rashtrapati Bhavan, its ceremonies and glittering environs left him entirely untouched. In his personal life he continued to be as simple and unsophisticated as ever. He would not connive at any attempt to regularise by making it "official" any expenditure which he knew was incurred on his guests or family. He is known to have once called the officer concerned to explain to him why the bill for his personal telephone calls was so low when he had a number of guests who were using the phone liberally for contacting friends or relations in Patna. On the officer's admission that most of the trunk calls of that nature had been put in official account, Rajendra Prasad expressed his displeasure and asked him to look into the matter again. Subsequently, he paid from his own pocket for most of the personal calls made by his guests.

Orthodoxy discarded

Born and brought up in an orthodox family, in earlier life Rajendra Prasad observed all the taboos in the matter of eating that were the hallmark of Hindu orthodoxy. While studying at Calcutta and later while practising as a lawyer there and in Patna, he never ate anything cooked by a non-Brahmin. But soon he was to change his entire outlook on coming in contact with Gandhiji. In his autobiography he had confessed that a revolutionary change came in his day-to-day life as a result of his close contact with the Mahatma, "I was, for example, a strict observer of caste

An Educationist

In his own right, Rajen Babu was also a bit of an educationist. He had made a thorough study of the current system of education in India and could well expatiate on its merits and demerits as also the reforms which, he thought, were necessary to make it a truly national system for the people's benefit. In 1937 when Gandhiji set up a committee for preparing a scheme of Basic Education, along with Dr. Zakir Hussain, Rajen Babu was also one of its members. His discussions with the successive education ministers whenever they visited Rashtrapati Bhavan used to be pretty long and detailed. In his inaugural address to the first National Integration Conference, among other things, he dwelt on this subject also. Referring to the problem of standardising school education throughout the country, he said:

"I feel that in all principal towns of the South and other non-Hindi speaking regions, particularly in towns where the Union Government staff is stationed, we must have model schools and colleges established on behalf of the Union Education Ministry, providing for education through the medium of Hindi as well as English, but primarily Hindi. I am told in many cases transfers of the Union Government staff mean disruption of their children's education, because the medium of instruction differs from place to place. We could remove this hardship at least partly by opening such schools and colleges at important places. It will be a good idea to start our experiment of national education with these schools...."

This was the beginning of the Central schools of which we have now a few hundreds spread in all parts of the country. Seeing that they are proving to be a great boon, parents have good reason to look back to the source of this idea with gratitude.

A Prolific Writer

Dr. Rajendra Prasad also wrote a number of important books. While in jail during 1942-44, he wrote *India Divided* which at once became a classic for both the opponents and the protagonists of the division of the country as demanded by the Muslim League. He was the first top Indian leader to have written his autobiography in Hindi, the *Atma Katha*, for which the Nagari Pracharini Sabha of Varanasi honoured him with the highest award, the Mangala Prasad Paritoshik. A sincere Gandhian as he was, his *Bapu Ke Qadmon Men*, written after his election as President, soon assumed the status of a text book for all who subscribed to Gandhiji's thinking and his way of solving the country's political and socio-economic problems.

rules and restrictions. I would never eat any food touched by a non-Brahmin, which was not ordinarily eaten by my caste people. Gandhiji told us if this sort of culinary separatism continued we would not be able to carry on public work...."

That was the beginning of the process of discarding orthodoxy, a process which he had perfected by the time he was elected President. Little wonder that in Rashtrapati Bhavan both of his bearers were Muslims. In this regard he had risen above not only caste but also religious denominations.

It was but natural that such liberalisation of views should also change his social outlook. Early in life, Rajendra Prasad had raised his voice against social evils, particularly the evil of dowry which was widely prevalent in his own caste. "When in 1916, I moved from Calcutta to Patna, a few Kayastha friends asked me to sign a pledge that at the time of my sons' marriages, I would not take from the brides' parents in cash or otherwise more than Rs.51/-". I readily signed the pledge because I was at one with that view. When the time of his two sons' marriages came, it need hardly be said, he acted strictly in accordance with the above pledge.

Though temperamentally calm and exceptionally mild, he knew how to appreciate dissidence and bear with difference of opinion. As for the working of the democratic system, Rajendra Prasad vested valid criticism with much value. Addressing a public meeting at Salem (Tamil Nadu) in August, 1960, he said: "The fundamental fact of the Constitution is that we have a Government which is the elected Government of the people, and it is within the competence and power of the people to dictate their wishes to the Government which is none other than their own representative Government. I, therefore, do not need to plead that there shall be no criticism. We may have criticism of the Government policy and programme. Without criticism the Government may go wrong...."

Views on Constitution

Dr. Rajendra Prasad firmly believed that nothing can be truly great which is not right. In all spheres of life, official or private, he was a stickler for correctness. This attitude he brought to bear particularly on matters of constitutional and democratic import. Alluding to our own Constitution which is a written one as against the unwritten one of the United Kingdom, he often stressed the importance of healthy conventions which in course of time acquire the force of law. While addressing a public meeting in Madras in August, 1960, he said that though we had adopted a written Constitution, we should not be scared away by the idea that for that reason

we are completely rigid. He added: "What I feel is that in this country we should develop the conventions which go with democracy in England, and those conventions govern not only the governed but also the people. The elected representative is as much governed by these conventions as the electors themselves. The members of the Government and the party which is in the majority are governed by those conventions as much as the members of the Opposition...."

May be, it was with this view in mind that Rajendra Prasad had earlier decided that the President should stay in South India for a month or so and preside over the Independence Day celebrations in the capitals of South Indian States by turn. In pursuit of this decision, which, as we know, he succeeded in turning into a convention, he had a separate Rashtrapati Nilayam set up at Hyderabad where every successive President has been spending four to six weeks every year. Dr. Rajendra Prasad's idea was to let some part of the glamour associated with Independence Day celebrations be shared by the South as well.

Legislators and Law

In spite of his wide reading and undisputed erudition, Rajendra Prasad was ever willing to hear others. Even if he did not accept the other man's point of view on a given question, he would always appreciate it. What was most striking about him was that one would ever find him open to correction. His all too evident simplicity and modesty seldom failed to disarm his critics. About the Constitution itself, which was framed by a body over which he presided, he would sometimes think aloud and wonder if an amendment here and a change there would not have served the nation better. One of such topics that attracted him related to our legislators and the voters. Would it not have been better, he thought, if our Constitution had prescribed certain minimum qualifications for both. "Our Constitution has been based on the assumption that every adult is not only entitled to express his opinion but that he also does as a fact express that best opinion for the country at large. This assumption may not always be well founded, especially in an age of transition. After all what suits best the largest number is not always the best for the country, all things considered. It would, therefore, seem that something more than mere age should be considered essential for enabling a man to decide on questions relating to a country or nation... what is even more glaring is the absence of any qualification, besides age, even in the person to be elected as a representative."

Again, while addressing the Bar Association of Poona in November



speedy and sure support to small industry - that is SIDCO

The Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation popularly known as 'SIDCO', an enterprise of the Government of Tamil Nadu, was set up in the year 1970 as a Private Limited Company and was later converted into a Public Limited Company in 1971, with the main objective of developing and assisting the Small Scale Industries in Tamil Nadu. The schemes now being implemented by SIDCO, for the benefit of the small scale industries in Tamil Nadu are:

- (i) Marketing support for Small Scale Industries.
- (ii) Provision of infrastructural facilities to Small Scale Industries which includes—
 - a) Industrial Worksheds and developed plots in Industrial Estates
 - b) Built-up sheds for Tiny sector Industries in Rural and backward areas
- (iii) Sanction of Central and State Capital Investment Subsidy
- (iv) Making available Key Raw Materials

- (v) Sanction of Interest Free Sales Tax Loan
- (iv) Sanction of L.T. Power Tariff Subsidy
- (vii) Rehabilitation of Sick Small Scale Industries

The scheme of rendering marketing assistance to Small Scale Industrial units, commenced during the year 1978-79. Though it is the sixth year of operation of the scheme during the last four years, tremendous progress has been made under this scheme.

The supply of tooth powder under Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Programme, commenced last year continues to be maintained satisfactorily. Under this scheme, at present 47 small scale industrial units located all over the state, are manufacturing and supplying tooth powder. Besides this, 12 units are engaged in the manufacture of chemicals and 25 units in the manufacture of packaging materials required under the above scheme. As a result of the scheme, 1,500 persons are directly provided with employment opportunities.

The supply of educational aids required for the Child Welfare Cen-

tres under the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme is continued by SIDCO, and during the year 1983-84 8,184 sets of educational aids at a total cost of Rs. 49.10 lakhs were supplied by the Small Scale Industrial Units. 18 Small Scale Industrial units participated in this manufacturing activity.

The scheme of converting the dental factory sheds in the various Government Industrial Estates and making them available on hire purchase basis has been fulfilled by the Government last year. The scheme covers 783 factory sheds in the 33 Government Industrial Estates that are under the administrative jurisdiction of SIDCO.

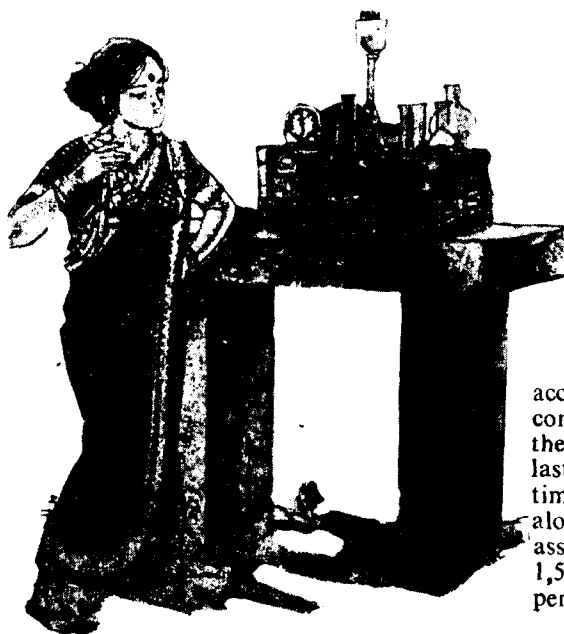
SIDCO has so far constructed 1,169 sheds in 29 locations (13 Government Estates and 16 SIDCO Estates) and allotted 983 developed plots in various Industrial Estates to Small Scale Industries Units. In addition to the above, worksheds are under construction in Kurichi (Coimbatore) Thuvakudi (Tiruchirappalli), Dindigul and Madhavaram.

In the Industrial Estate at Alathur (near Tiruppur) exclusively set up for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals

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industries, construction of work-sheds is now in progress. In the first phase, eleven sheds would be ready for occupation before the end of June 1984. Besides the above 13 plots are being developed for allotment. The total capital outlay both by SIDCO as well as the entrepreneurs at Alathur is expected to be around Rs. 500 lakhs. In all 35 factory sheds and 40 Developed Plots would be allotted in 3 phases. The Industrial Estate at Alathur is the Seventh Functional Industrial Estate of its kind in Tamil Nadu.

SIDCO implements the Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme as well as the State Capital Subsidy for the benefit of the Small Scale Industries from 1974-75 and from 1980-81 respectively.

The Scheme of 15% Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme has been slightly modified with effect

from 1st April 1984 and the Government of India have categorised the backward areas as 'A', 'B' and 'C' categories and announced 25%, 15% and 10% respectively to these areas. There is no 'A' category backward areas in Tamil Nadu. Under 'B' category 30 taluks are made eligible for 15% subsidy and under 'C' category 62 taluks are made eligible for 10% subsidy. The details of sanctions over the years in respect of Central Capital Investment Subsidy are as follows :

Year	No. of units	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
From 1974 - 75 to 1979-80	1245	293.86
1980-81	638	219.69
1981-82	544	213.38
1982-83	2369	894.78
1983-84	672	229.20
	5,468	1,850.91

Compared to the sanctions accorded during the six year period commencing from 1974-75 to 1979-80 the sanctions accorded during the last four years is more than three times. During the last two years alone, the average number of units assisted per one year works out to 1,520 to the value of Rs. 587 lakhs per year.

Tamil Nadu continues to occupy the first place in the country in the matter of availing itself of the benefits of Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme.

The scheme of 15% State Capital Subsidy in respect of small scale industrial units situated in the notified 24 taluks, is implemented by SIDCO with effect from 17-12-79. Subsequently Government have extended the scheme to nine more taluks, namely, Thovalai (Kanyakumari District), Rasiuram (Salem), Avinashi (Coimbatore), Coonoor (Nilgiris), Dharapuram (Periyar), Radhapuram (Tirunelveli), Palani (Madurai), Vanur (South Arcot) and Gandarvakottai (Pudukkottai). Thus, at present, 33 taluks in Tamil Nadu, are eligible for State Capital Investment Subsidy. During the last four years SIDCO has assisted 655 units to the value of Rs. 151.39 lakhs, as detailed below :—

Year	No. of SSI Units assisted	Value Rs. in lakhs
1980-81	104	6.09
1991-82	140	28.65
1982-83	137	22.71
1983-84	274	93.94
	655	151.39

SIDCO also implements the scheme of 10% State Subsidy for selected category of industries introduced by the Government for the benefit of smallscale industries since the year 1983-84. To ensure that adequate employment opportunities are created, this scheme is linked to the employment to be generated by the selected category of industries. 10% of the value of capital assets created, or Rs. 20,000 per any employee on the permanent roll of the company, whichever is lower is sanctioned under this scheme, subject to a ceiling of Rs.10 lakhs per unit. This subsidy is available for four categories of Industries namely (i) Ancillary automobile units (ii) drugs and formulation of scheduled drugs, (iii) Electronics and (iv) Manufacture of equipment, machinery etc., to tap solar energy for domestic and other industrial uses. This subsidy is available even for urban areas not covered by Central/State Capital Subsidy Schemes. Under this scheme so far 7 SSI units have been assisted to the extent of Rs. 5.96 lakhs.

SIDCO procures and distributes scarce industrial raw materials such as Iron and Steel, Coke, Match Wax, Paraffin wax, Lead and Zinc, Potassium Chlorate, Fatty acids etc.. Due to the persistent efforts of SIDCO over the years, the availability of almost all the raw materials that were scarce during the earlier years has since improved so as to meet the full requirements of SSIs in Tamil Nadu. Particular mention should be made about all sections of Iron and Steel and various grades of wax.

The Schemes of Interest Free Sales Tax Loan, Power Tariff Subsidy and Rehabilitation of Sick Small Scale Industrial units are the other schemes continued to be implemented by SIDCO for the benefit of small scale industries.

Under the various schemes implemented by SIDCO employment opportunities have been provided to nearly 1,27,400 persons.

GOVT. LOANS FOR 4 LAKH PERSONS

The Institutional Finance Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu has helped about 3.9 lakh persons belonging to weaker sections to secure loans amounting to about Rs.103.87 crore during the first 6 months of the current financial year from various nationalised banks in Tamil Nadu.

Loans disbursed last year amounted to Rs. 9.76 crore benefiting about 3.75 lakh persons.

Under the scheme of providing employment to educated unemployed youth the banks helped over 21,240 persons with a loan of Rs.33.15 crore during 1983-84.

IN THANJAVUR DISTRICT

Under the Self-Employment Scheme 2,066 persons have got loan from bank and have started industries of their own. Among these 274 are women including 2 widows.

IN CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT

The St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union stood first in the sale of Khadi in 1983. On the occasion of the celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's birth-day at Kuralagam on 2nd October 1984, Hon'ble Education Minister Thiru C. Aranganayagam, presented the Shield to the Union Commissioner Thiru K. Aranganayagam.

City Electricity system to have another division:

The City electricity system has been trifurcated to improve services to the 5.77 lakh consumers.

From November, 1, there are three division - Madras South, Madras Central and Madras North-each under the charge of a superintending engineer.

Originally, the whole city and the suburbs formed one compact system. In 1976 with the growth in number of consumers to 3.1 lakh, the system was bifurcated into Madras South and Madras North. In the last eight years, the number of consumers has gone up to more than 5.77 lakh.

The Chairman of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, said that a separate Anna Nagar division had also been created.

The Nectar



It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here amongst you. But I have a grievance. You have spoken of the nectar of the sound of Tamil but you have given us little occasion to listen to it just now. Many years ago I made an effort to learn Tamil.... I have tremendous respect for all the languages of India and Tamil occupies a very high place. All of you are aware, it is one of our very oldest languages, one with a known and beautiful literature. All of you here have quoted Subramanya Bharati, which is a name known not only in India but anywhere in the world where people respect good writing. I am told and I am happy to learn that modern Tamil writing is also of a high quality, fine and powerful and modern in its expression.

It is a little difficult to give my views on literature when I am in the midst of literary people. The

pen, indeed, is said to be mightier than the sword, and I would like to remind you of an old, old story. I think it refers to a Roman emperor who asked somebody who was with him; what is the best thing in the world? And he said, "Words, language". What is the worst thing? He said, "Words and language". It is not what a thing is but how you use it that matters.

Tamil is not only an Indian language, it is now an international language and many people in Malaysia, in Singapore, in Sri Lanka, speak it. Perhaps you have branches of your Association there which are helping Tamil to grow and flourish in every way and also enabling Indians who are abroad to project a correct picture of India, not only with our difficulties but also with our achievements.

(At Tamil writers Association)

Rupees one crore relief to farmers

Outbreak of Stemborer, a serious pest and blast disease has been noticed due to existing cold weather condition in parts of Tamil Nadu and the Agriculture Department is vigilant in operating the post Surveillance Programme with Rs. 1 crore as operational subsidy and cost of chemicals to the farmers.

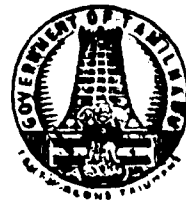
Rs. 58.2 lakhs has been specially sanctioned for the stemborer pest programme and Rs. 42.78 lakhs specially sanctioned for the issue of fungicides for the control of blast disease on paddy in about 50,000 hectares. The unprecedented showers in the start of North East Monsoon coupled with Cyclonic storm made the downpour widespread throughout the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and beneficial to the standing crop of Samba and Thalady paddy. Dry millets like Cholam and Ragi and Pulses were also benefited by rains.

A recorded area of 4.49 lakh hectares is under various Pulses like Redgram, and Greengram this year. To popularise improved varieties of Pulses, seeds worth about Rs. 1 crore are distributed to the farmers in the form of Minikit free of cost. In all, about 400 M.Ts. of quality seeds in 2 kgs. and 4 kgs. Minikit along with Rhizobial culture and DAP will be distributed before March, 1985.

The Department of Agriculture has poised to increase the Cotton area considerably this year to step up the cotton production and offering various subsidies and incentives to the Cotton growers. The cotton production is expected to be 5 lakh bales this year.

Under the special incentive programme for the paddy procurement, chemical fertilisers worth of Rs. 1.66 crores has been distributed in selected taluks of Tanjore, Trichy, Pudukottai and South Arcot Districts.

January	1st Tuesday	New Year Day
"	14th Monday	Pongal
"	15th Tuesday	Tiruvalluvar Day
"	16th Wednesday	Uzhavar Thirunal
"	26th Saturday	Republic Day
March	22nd Friday	Telugu New Year Day
April	3rd Wednesday	Mahaveer Jayanthi
"	5th Friday	Good Friday
"	13th Saturday	Tamil New Year Day
May	1st Wednesday	May Day
June	20th Thursday	Ramzan
"	30th Sunday	Half-Yearly closing of Bank Accounts
August	15th Thursday	Independence Day
"	27th Tuesday	Bakrid
September	18th Wednesday	Vinayaka Chathurthi
"	26th Thursday	Muharam
October	2nd Wednesday	Gandhi Jayanthi
"	22nd Tuesday	Auydha poojai
"	23rd Wednesday	Auydha poojai
November	11th Monday	Deepavali
"	26th Tuesday	Meelad-un-Nabi
December	25th Wednesday	Christmas
"	31st Tuesday	Annual closing of Bank Accounts



Public
Holidays
for
1985



IMMEDIATE RELIEF

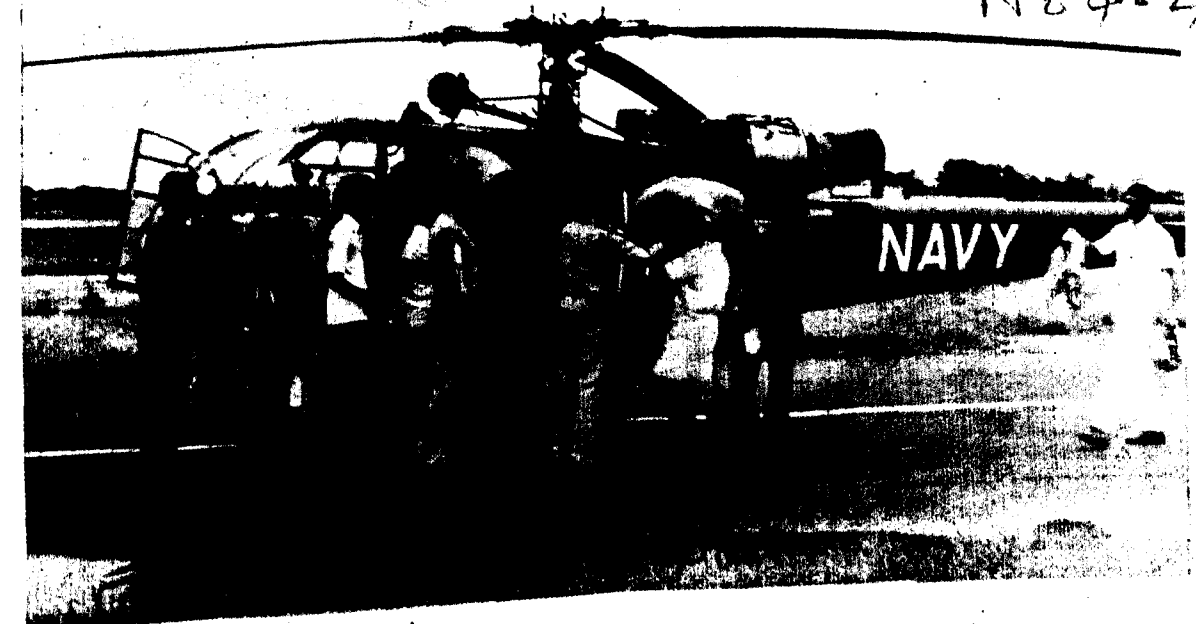
Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi sanctioned ways and means advance of Rs. 7 crores to Andhra Pradesh and Rs 5 crores to Tamil Nadu for taking up cyclone relief works.

He also promised that each State would be given Rs. 15 lakhs from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for helping individuals who had lost their kith and kin and property in the cyclone that lashed the two States recently.

The Prime Minister who airdashed to Madras

on 16th November and had an aerial survey of the cyclone-affected areas of Nellore district and also went by road to the affected areas in Madras, said that the ways and means advance was being announced by him on an ad hoc basis without waiting for the memoranda from the State Governments.

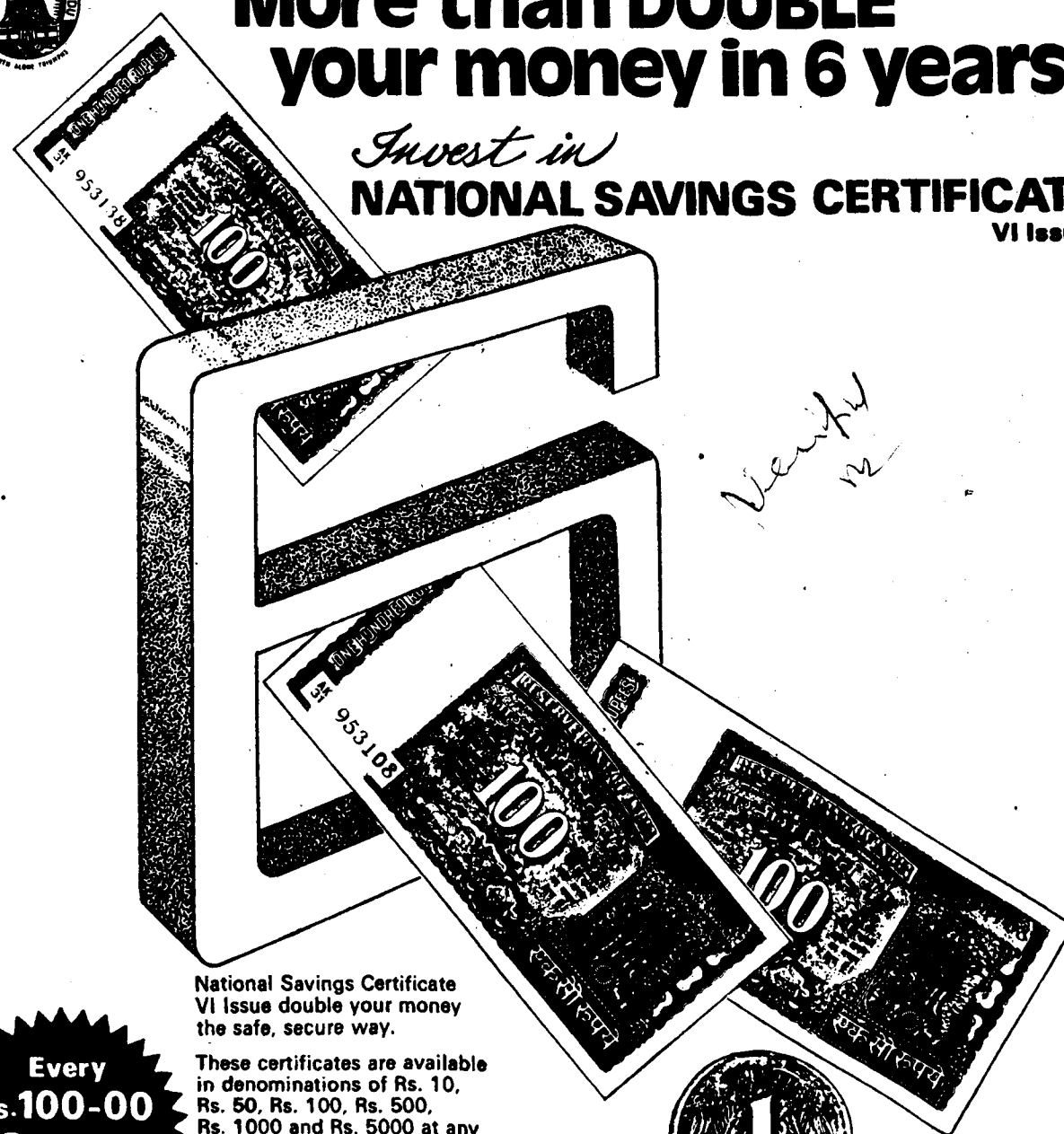
He was accompanied by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Thiru N.T.Rama Rao, the Tamil Nadu Finance Minister, Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian and the Union Energy Minister Thiru P.Shiv Shankar.





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