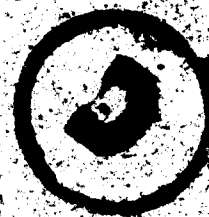


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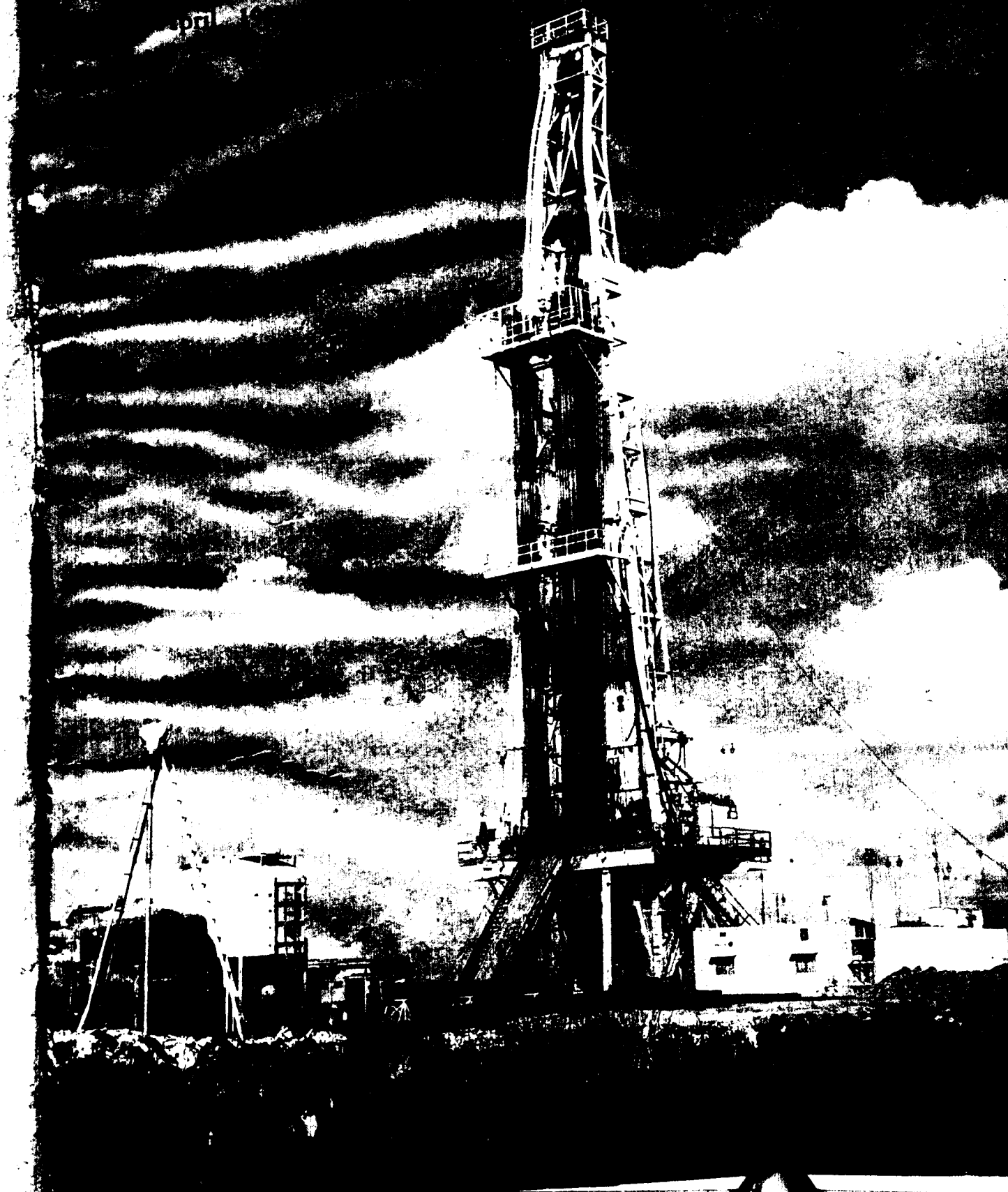
Tamil Arasu

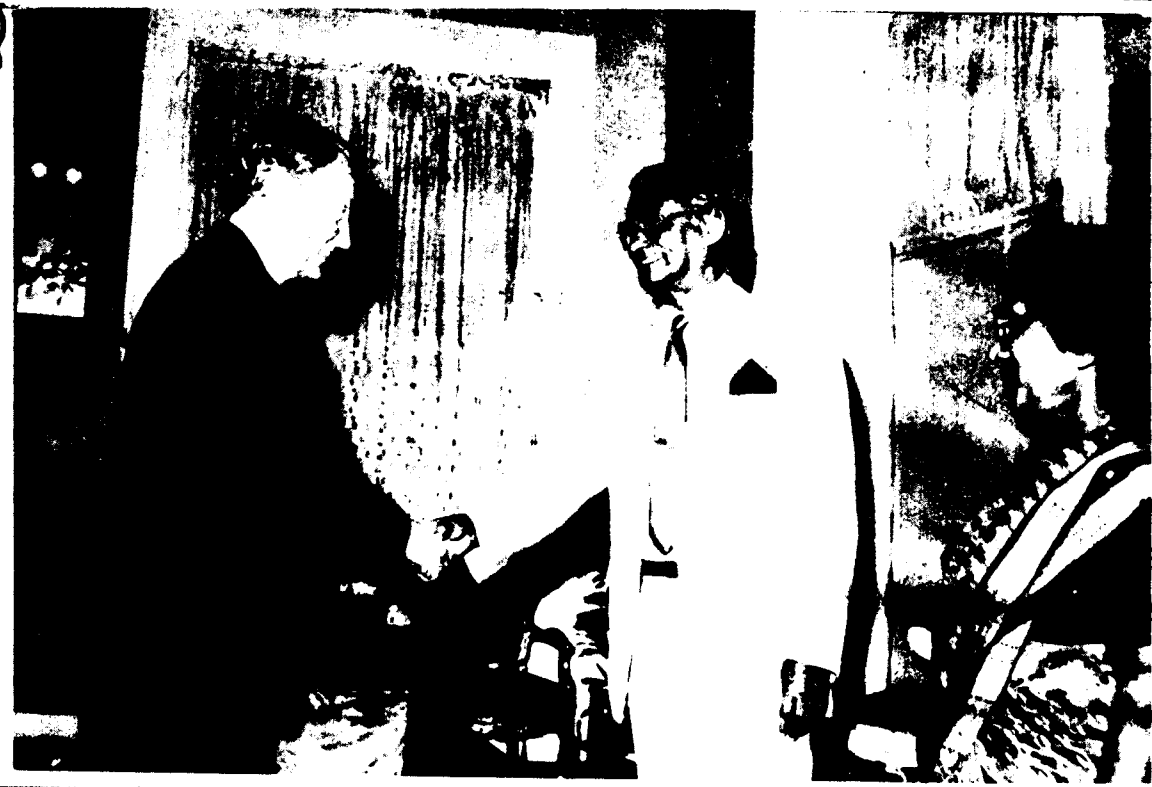
April, 1988.



Tamil Arasu

April 1968





Swedish Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Orjan Berner called on His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. P. C. Alexander at Raj Bhavan on 4th March, 1988.

Dr. S. S. Sidhu, Adviser to the Governor distributed tools to the weaker sections of people at Madurai on 29th February, 1988.



BUDGET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU FOR 1988—89.

1988-89

Sir,

I rise to present the Revised Estimates for 1987-88 and the Budget Estimates for 1988-89 of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

At the very outset, may I pay my tribute to the late Bharat Ratna Shri M.G. Ramachandran—M.G.R.—who adorned the office of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for more than 10 years. From a very humble background he rose to become the Chief Minister of the state by dint of his gift of leadership, his compassion for the poor, the underprivileged and the handicapped and his commitment to his ideals. He believed strongly in the integrity and unity of the nation and worked ceaselessly towards achieving a modern, secular and united India.

As a mark of our shared commitment to the uplift of the poor—a cause dear to the heart of the departed leader—we have decided that all the social welfare schemes, including the noon meal scheme, introduced by M.G.R. would be implemented efficiently by the present State Government.

After the introduction of the President's Rule Government have been taking energetic steps to tone up the administration so that machinery of the State can act more effectively in the implementation of projects and schemes and be far more responsive to the people's needs. Adequate powers have been delegated to the administration and the supervisory procedures have been strengthened. An earnest effort is being made to fulfil the Annual Plan for 1987-88. In particular, the Public Distribution System is being streamlined to ensure that consumers get essential supplies in time and in quantities which they are entitled to. The results of the efforts taken for toning up the State administration will be evident in the months to come.



The drought has been severe and has left behind a serious burden on the farming community. The State Government have shown, in the last few weeks, their readiness to respond promptly to the genuine grievances of farmers who have borne the brunt of the drought. Government have postponed by six months the payment of electricity dues by farmers and ordered reconnection of power to agricultural pumpsets even where only part payment has been made. There will be no distraint of property for collecting revenue and cooperative loans.

**Budget Presented by the Hon'ble
Union Minister for Finance Thiru
N.D. TIWARI in the Lok Sabha
on 17th March, 1988.**

We are continuing the existing welfare measures and development schemes. In addition, we have recently taken certain vital decisions and have identified some thrust areas. In some of these areas, new schemes are being introduced and implementation of current schemes improved. In particular, at the instance of our Prime Minister, more emphasis is being given to the welfare schemes directly benefitting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Under the Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes, about Rs. 150 crores will flow during the year 1988-89 towards their welfare schemes. Apart from this, an integrated package to benefit S. Scheduled Castes for drinking water supply schemes and link roads for their habitations, as well as a new-design Fire Proof Housing Scheme called "Kamaraj New Harijan Housing Scheme", is being introduced at a total cost of Rs. 27 crores.

Tamil Arasu
Thiruvalluvar Year 2019
April, 1988. Re. 1.



Rural women have been suffering various hardships over the years. We shall pay special attention to improving their welfare. 19,000 destitute women and widows will be sanctioned old age pension and sarees—thus clearing the long pending waiting list. An additional sum of Rs. 3 crores will be set apart to provide employment opportunities for about 25,000 women. For the young village women, we propose to start centres where young unmarried girls as well as recently married girls would be taught the basics of health, hygiene and nutrition, apart from upgrading their skills in the local crafts. They will be trained to engage themselves in productive occupations and, in particular, unmarried girls will be encouraged to postpone marriage and recently married girls postpone child-birth. As an incentive, the State would be contributing a sum of money which will be handed over in one lumpsum to each trainee at the end of a 2 year period. Further, a sum of Rupees one crore is being set apart for special schemes for the handicapped.

Government recognise the role of youth and propose to set apart adequate resources for the welfare of the youth of the State. We propose to introduce the 'Jawaharlal Nehru Science Talent Book Scheme' for college students from the academic year commencing in June 1988. Under this scheme, science text books will be supplied free to about 3,000 students admitted to science degree courses in 1988-89. Further, we propose to organise a number of rural camps for college boys and girls. In these camps, the students will interact with the villagers, learn about their problems and aspirations and educate the villagers on subjects like health, hygiene, local administration, national integration etc. The students, would also be required to contribute some physical labour for creation of rural assets. The students would be entitled to have some academic credit for their work in such camps.

We are aware of the various problems being faced by large, medium and small industries in the State. These problems will be considered on a priority basis and solu-

tions found as soon as possible. Special attention will be given for the rehabilitation and strengthening of small scale and medium industries. In particular, the problem of the sick units in the small scale sector will receive prompt attention of the Government and every effort will be made to arrange integrated assistance to such units. Steps will also be taken to create the right climate for promoting new investments, accelerating the pace of industrial growth and expansion of employment opportunities in the State.

Tamil Nadu is well known for its handloom industry. A number of welfare schemes for handloom weavers are already being implemented. We have also recently allotted 7 million additional units of power from the State Grid to Spinning Mills. Together with other measures, the allotment of additional power has had the immediate effect of reducing the price of yarn supplied to the handloom weavers. Viscose yarn will also be supplied at reduced prices. During the next year we propose to reactivate the Handloom Weavers' Housing Scheme and put up 2000 new houses for the weavers.

In order to encourage the local capital goods, ancillary and electronic industries, we propose to rationalise the sales tax rates applicable to them.

The Government would like to give high priority for the development of Tamil language and culture. We propose to speed up the preparation of a revised edition of the Tamil Encyclopaedia. The Oduvars in temples who have been singing religious hymns find it difficult to continue their tradition due to penury. In order to help them, we propose to sanction a monthly pension of Rs. 250 to one hundred Oduvars above the age of 60.

We propose to strengthen and expand the existing scheme of assistance to Tamil authors for publication of their works so that at least 50 new books—novels, drama and anthologies of short stories or poems—are published every year.



We also propose to introduce a new scheme for promotion of financial assistance to writers to bring out translations of Tamil literary works in other languages so as to realise the dream of poet Bharathi who said and I quote "தேமதுரத் தமிழரசை உலகமெலாம் பரவும் வகை செய்தல் வேண்டும்" (We shall spread the sweet sound of Tamil language throughout the world).

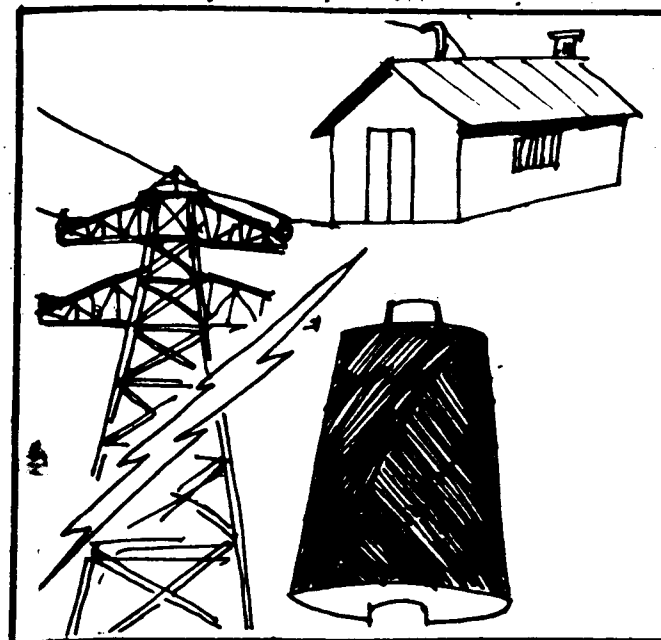
We also propose to render assistance for the completion of the work on Kamban Manimandapam and for the installation of the statue of Mother Tamil at Karaikudi.

With a view to improving the lot of the pensioners drawing minimum pension, we propose to increase this minimum pension so that all pensioners are assured of minimum sum of Rs. 350 per month inclusive of all allowances.

Apart from the above new initiatives, the Budget provides for increased outlays under Water Supply, Education and Health. Drinking water supply will be a major thrust area directed to ensure atleast minimum levels of water supply to the public in rural areas, municipalities and Madras city. We propose to introduce Computer Science courses in Industrial Training Institutes and Science Colleges and advanced courses in Computer Science in three Engineering Colleges. 110 new primary health centres will be opened during the coming year. Further, a number of programmes for hospital buildings and improvement of hospital facilities are also envisaged in the Budget.

REVISED ESTIMATES 1987-88

Now let me turn to the details of the estimates. The Revised Estimates show total revenue receipts of Rs. 2945 crores and the expenditure on revenue account of Rs. 3250 crores thus resulting in a revenue deficit of Rs. 305 crores. Taking into account the capital receipts at Rs. 882 crores and capital expenditure at Rs. 894 crores and after incorporating the net public account



transactions, the current year is expected to show an overall deficit of Rs. 216 crores. This will be covered to the extent of Rs. 13 crores by drawing down cash balance and the balance of Rs. 203 crores is carried forward.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 1988-89

During the year 1988-89, the revenue receipts are estimated at Rs. 3188 crores and revenue expenditure at Rs. 3405 crores resulting in a revenue deficit of Rs. 217 crores. On the Capital account, the receipts are estimated at Rs. 710 crores and expenditure at Rs. 700 crores. Taking into account the anticipated closing deficit of the current year and the transactions under Public Account, the overall deficit for 1988-89 is estimated at Rs. 124 crores and the cumulative deficit at the end of 1988-89 is expected to be Rs. 327 crores. However, we expect the deficit to come down to some extent through better collection and buoyancy of taxes and reduction of non-developmental expenditure.

PLAN OUTLAY

The State Plan outlay for 1988-89 has been fixed at the ambitious level of Rs. 1457 crores, a step up of 16.5 per cent over the current year's Plan of Rs. 1250 crores. The Annual Plan provides for an outlay of Rs. 502 crores for the Power sector, Rs. 136 crores for Agriculture and allied services, Rs. 247 crores for Water Supply, Housing and Urban Development, Rs. 118 crores for Social Welfare and Nutrition, Rs. 84 crores for Transport and Communications and Rs. 69 crores for Industry and Minerals.

VOTE ON ACCOUNT

The Annual Financial Statement for the year 1988-89 has been laid before the House and the connected demands for grants are also being circulated to the Hon'ble Members along with other Budget papers. I am, however, at this stage, seeking only a 'Vote on Account' for the first six months of the financial year 1988-89.

Benefits of the TAMIL NADU BUDGET

A Budget provision of Rs. 1,457 crores has been made for the Annual Plan 1988-89 as approved by Union Planning Commission.

Energy sector will have its outlay increased from Rs. 408 crores to Rs. 502 crores.

For Roads and Bridges, the Plan Outlay has been enhanced from Rs. 45 crores in 1987-88 to Rs. 56 crores in 1988-89.

The Budget allocation for some important sectors have also been enhanced as compared to the current year as may be seen below :

- (i) Agriculture — From Rs. 141 crores to Rs. 151 crores
- (ii) Water Supply — From Rs. 148 crores to Rs. 160 crores
- (iii) Social Welfare — From Rs. 92 crores to Rs. 97 crores
- (iv) Education — From Rs. 597 crores to Rs. 690 crores
(Major increase is due to increase in Government assistance to aided educational institutions, local bodies and universities for their educational activities)
- (v) Medical & Public Health — From Rs. 228 crores to Rs. 258 crores
(Major increases are due to opening of new primary health centres, higher provisions for ESI schemes, leprosy control programme and for the requirements of hospitals, dispensaries and medical institutions)
- (vi) Industry — From Rs. 54 crores to Rs. 65 crores

A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been made in the Budget for free supply of foot-wear to school going children and poor working mothers in rural areas.

For free supply of uniforms to students, a provision of Rs. 15.5 crores has been made in the Budget.

For supply of text-books free of cost to students, a provision of Rs. 7.6 crores has been made.

A total provision of Rs. 177 crores has been made for the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme.

The Madras City Water Supply will get a provision of Rs. 56 crores, including a provision of Rs. 30 crores for Krishna Water Supply.

The Budget provides for opening of 110 new primary health centres.

The major highlight of the Budget 1988-89 is the special thrust given to the welfare of scheduled castes in the State. A sum of Rs. 150 crores would flow into the Special Component Plan for the welfare of scheduled castes in the State. Over and above such normal provisions, Rs. 27 crores have been additionally provided for link roads, water supply schemes and fire proof housing schemes for scheduled caste habitations in the State.

The closing deficit for the current year 1987-88 and next year 1988-89 are estimated to be Rs. 203.62 crores and Rs. 327.36 crores respectively.



ANNA UNIVERSITY

EIGHTH CONVOCATION

ADDRESS

by

THIRU K.R. NARAYANAN

Minister of State
Science & Technology, Atomic Energy,
Space, Electronics & Ocean Development
New Delhi

*Mr. Chancellor, Mr. Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Vice-Chancellor,
Graduates of the Year, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am very grateful to the Anna University for the honour it has bestowed upon me by inviting me to participate in its Eighth Convocation. May I, first of all, congratulate and offer my good wishes to the students who are receiving their degrees today and stepping into a new and challenging stage of their life and career. This University, bearing the name of a great social revolutionary and a visionary of modernization, is one of the new temples of learning of new India symbolising the spirit of change that is sweeping India without, however, sweeping us off our feet. Thiru Annadurai was a relentless fighter against social evils and injustices, superstitions and obscurantist attitudes and practices that had kept Indian society in a state of frozen immobility. He was one of those who directed the dry light of reason to our social system and encouraged scientific approach in regard to national development as well as in life generally. Today when we are turning more and more to science and technology for the development of our nation and the transformation of our society, this University named after him has a significant role to play.

Science, Jawaharlal Nehru once said, has destroyed many a god, but has itself assumed the pose of a god. It is gradually unravelling the mystery of things, the nature of the world in which we live, the nature of the atom and the gene on the one hand and, on the other, the interacting forces, or as the poet and the philosopher would put it "the laws that leap the sky", regulating the universe. Shakespeare talked of "the art" "which does mend nature—change it rather," adding, "but the art itself is nature". One can say the same of science. It is mending and changing nature, creating a second nature

of new materials, products and processes in fundamental and spectacular ways. But the science itself is nature, for in the final analysis, nothing is made out of nothing; things are only mended, changed, transformed in so many myriad ways and in whatever fantastic forms. This is particularly so in the new world of science where the distinction between physics, chemistry and biology—indeed even the distinction between mind and matter—has been almost abolished. My Professor of Logic and Scientific Method, Prof. Karl Popper, used to define mind and matter in the following way: "Mind—No matter; Matter—Never mind".

In India the scientific pursuit originated in philosophical questionings and metaphysical speculations. This is the background for the assertion in the Scientific Policy Resolution of 1958 that "It is an inherent obligation of a great country like India with its traditions of scholarship and original thinking and its great cultural heritage to participate fully in the march of science, which is probably mankind's greatest enterprise today". The Resolution also declared the aim of the Government's scientific policy as "to secure for the people of the country all the benefits that can accrue from the acquisition and application of the scientific method". At the same time it had emphasized, with wisdom and foresight, that "technology can only grow out of the study of science and its applications". Under the leadership of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi India is today giving encouragement to both basic sciences and technology for the people.

It is necessary to have this twin approach both for fundamental and practical reasons. The gap between pure science and its applications in technology has been narrowing very rapidly, and also the highest technologies, the so-called frontier technologies are today having direct



applications in tackling the common problems of the common people. One may recall that Michael Faraday on his discovery of the phenomenon of electromagnetic induction was demonstrating the induction of electric current before a group of distinguished British citizens when a Member of Parliament asked him: "What was the use of this phenomenon?" Faraday replied: "Some day you will be able to tax the applications of electromagnetic induction". Since those days the gap between a scientific discovery and its utilisation has reduced drastically not only in raising revenue for the Government but in providing enormous profits for private enterprise. Besides, the interplay between science and technology has become more intimate, science giving rise to technology and technology generating science.

In India we are pursuing today with intensified and coordinated efforts the pursuit of both basic sciences and applied sciences and technologies. The vast infrastructure and manpower that we have built up over the last forty years enable us to make important breakthrough in theoretical sciences and in applications, not only in the modern sector of industry but in agriculture, in rural development and in education, health and other social services. I have a sensation that Indian science and technology has today reached the stage of criticality when with larger R&D funding, more autonomy and freedom, greater incentives to young scientists, and more disciplined coordinated efforts, it can produce results that are significant in scientific terms and palpable and visible to the people in a practical sense. It is in this perspective that we have embarked upon basic projects like research and development in super-conductivity, parallel processing and super-computers, medium range weather forecasting and

far-reaching programmes in biotechnology, while continuing our very successful adventure in nuclear, space, and ocean sciences and technologies. It is also in this perspective that we have undertaken a series of Technology Missions involving some of the high technologies impinging upon the basic needs of the people like drinking water, literacy, communications, immunisation and edible oils, and capable of transforming the conditions and the quality of life of millions of our people in the rural areas.

Education, in my opinion, is the key to the success of these immense undertakings in science and technology and in national development. I am referring not only to higher education but to general and elementary education. We have today in India, even with our low rate of literacy, about 250 to 300 million people who are literate which is the size of the populations of the super-powers, and perhaps 80 to 100 million who may be said to belong to the so-called modern sector of the economy, which is the population size of the bigger developed countries of the world. Such magnitudes of educated people can no doubt make an impact not only on our own vast country but on the world. But how much greater would have been this impact if this vanguard in our society had a literate nation behind it! Moreover, would it be possible for the educated and the elite sector in India, however large it may be, to continue to flourish indefinitely if the majority of nearly 450 million people are deprived of the blessings of literacy. It is possible to argue, indeed it is correct to do so, that literacy, and for that matter, even education is not culture or wisdom or knowledge, but it must be recognized that without it there cannot be any progress, certainly any scientific technological pro-

is so large in absolute terms, the growing prosperity of that sector may give it the sensation of extraordinary growth and expansion for the nation as a whole which would be a dangerous sort of illusion. If the modern sector is not to become a vulnerable bastion beleaguered by the majority of the ignorant and the deprived in the country it is necessary for it to involve itself in the advancement of the people and integrate its destiny with that of the educationally and economically deprived. One cannot talk meaningfully of advances in science and technology, of bringing its fruits to the people, of creating the awareness of science and spreading the temper of science among the people unless we can educate the people at least to the level of literacy. This is the rationale of the emphasis on elementary education and adult education in the New Policy on Education formulated by the Government of India. In this context it is important for us to recall that the Education Code of Japan introduced as early as 1872 had adopted the policy that, "There shall in future be no community with an illiterate family, nor a family with an illiterate person", and that in the post-war period Japan had taken a decision that educational planning would form the main aspect of economic planning. There could be no better model for us to follow in this field.

I may add here that what is important is not just education but the kind of education that we are going to impart to our people. It has been recognized that our educational system has not been planned purposively from the point of view of social and economic objectives. The system of education has acted as a cause of alienation between the educated and the masses resulting in the current phenomenon of internal and external brain-drain. In spite of Mahatma Gandhi we have neglected the need for linking studies in schools and colleges with social reality, physical labour, and craft and industrial training as an integral part of general education. What we have been doing is to educate a person in a manner that would alienate him from his social and economic environment, and then at the end try unsuccessfully to reorient his outlook or to provide inducements to him to work in rural areas or in areas of social priority.

In regard to science education, before the students come to centres of excellence like the Anna University it is essential that they should be introduced to computer and other technological devices very gradually but on a wide scale from the school stage onwards. CLASS and the audio-visual programmes being implemented under the New Policy on Education are intended to achieve this objective. In an undeveloped rural society like that of ours infinite patience and subtle capabilities are required on the part of the teacher for the dissemination of basic scientific knowledge and familiarity with technological devices among rural boys and girls. Even in North America some surveys conducted show that in elementary schools the majority of microcomputers stand idle, and in secondary schools only 15 per cent of teachers use computer with any regularity in spite of the computer revolution that is taking place in education. I have no doubt that in future the computer will play an important role in educa-

tion in India and it is necessary that we begin this process right now introducing students to this new aid to learning and training teachers in the use of it. As regards the popularisation of science among the people apart from the work being done at the governmental and voluntary organisations' levels we could usefully think of introducing a system of scientific extension work as part of the implementation of programmes of rural development which all have one or other aspect of science and technology involved in them. Colleges, Universities and laboratories can play a useful role in such extension work in their own geographical surroundings. Such work is essential for generating in the rural population a minimum of capacity to benefit from these programmes. Without such widespread popularisation, science and technology might become yet another factor in the gap between the well-to-do and the educated, and the poor and the illiterate in our society.

As I said earlier India has made great strides in the advancement of science and technology, thanks to the vision and foresight of our political leadership, the high calibre and organising capability of our top scientists, and the availability of a large pool of promising young scientists in the country. We have achieved world standards in the quality of research in our best universities, institutes and laboratories. But we have yet to raise the general standard of our research and to realize the fullness of our potentialities, especially in integrating closely the activities of the university, the laboratory, the industry and the Government. In particular, the university must be made to emerge as the central focus of scientific research by the proper education and training of youth, laying more emphasis on fundamentals without neglecting current and future applications, evolving a problem-solving approach keeping in mind the inter-disciplinary nature of science and the merging of the boundaries of scientific technological pursuits including the boundaries of social sciences, and utilizing facilities of new educational technologies such as audio-visual aids, computers etc.

I may emphasize here that, in the ultimate analysis, it is not enough that we make marvellous scientific discoveries and inventions and understand about their applications for the benefit of mankind. Einstein once said: "Concern for man himself and his fate must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavours, concern for the great unsolved problems of the organization of labour and the distribution of goods—in order that the creations of our minds shall be a blessing and not a curse to mankind". With this concern for man in mind, Einstein once wished, "May the new theorems of mathematics never find applications". As you go home with the bright prizes of your degrees in hand, you must reflect on this, not only on the question of applications but perhaps on the priorities of research, including the expenditure of vast amounts on projects which logically and inevitably, will end up as a curse for mankind. You must also reflect upon whether the scientist as a responsible citizen of the world should not insist upon working on projects and programmes which cry out for funds and priority attention and which will be a blessing for mankind.

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS AMONG ADVISERS

1. Dr. S.S. Sidhu Adviser (S)

Indian Administrative Service and other All India Services;
High Court Judges and District Judges;
Public;
Police;
Courts;
Prisons;
Passports;
Elections;
Accommodation Control;
Cinematograph Act;
Motor Vehicles Act;
Prohibition including grant of liquor permits and Excise;
District Revenue Officers;
Revenue;
Deputy Collectors;
General Administration;
Law;
Prevention of Corruption;
Legislature;
Information and Publicity and Film Technology;
Molasses;
Newsprint Control
Tourism; and
Tourism Development Corporation;
Transport, Nationalised Transport and Transport Corporations;
Ports and Highways.

2. Thiru G.V. Ramakrishna, IAS, Adviser(R)

Agriculture;
Agricultural Engineering Wing and Agro Engineering;
Agricultural Refinance;
Agro Service Co-operative Societies;
Animal Husbandry;
Cinchona;
Commercial Taxes;
Co-operation;
Dairy Development;
Electronics, Science & Technology;
Finance;
Fisheries;
Forests;
Food and Price Control;

Institutional Finance;
Large Scale Industries;
Milk;
Mines and Minerals;
Municipal Administration;
Planning;
Textiles;
Town Planning;
Water Supply (Both Metro and TWAD)

3. Thiru A. Padmanaban, IAS, Adviser(P)

Adi Dravidar Welfare;
Backward Classes;
Beggars Home;
Electricity;
Bhoodhan and Gramdhan;
Bonded Labour and Hill Tribes;
Census;
Correctional Administration;
Debt Relief including legislation of Money Lending and Chits;
Education; Archaeology;
Employment and Training;
Environment Pollution Control;
Ex-Servicemen;
Government Press and Stationery and Printing;
Handlooms;

Health;
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments;
Housing and Slum Clearance Boards;
Indian Overseas;
Iron and Steel Control;
Irrigation including Minor Irrigation;

Khadi;
Labour;
Legislation on Weights and Measures;
Nutritious Meals;
Official Language;
Orphanages;
Panchayats and Panchayat Unions;
Public Works Department and Establishment matters relating to Public Works Department;
Refugees and Evacuees;
Registration of Companies;
Registration Stamp Act;
Rural Development and Rural Indebtedness
Rural industries including Village, Cottage and Small Industries;
Social Welfare and Women and Children Welfare;
Statistics;
Tamil Development-Culture Wakf;
Youth Service corps.

ANIMAL LOUDMOUTH LOUDER THAN JET

SAN JUAN (CEE-NFS): A Puerto Rico tree frog called coquis can make sounds louder than a jet plane.

A tiny scrap of flesh and bone not more than 5 cm long and weighing only three-tenths of an ounce, the frog is capable of notching up a croak of 108 decibel loudness-louder than a low-flying jet or a subway train.

Says Peter M. Narins of the University of California who has studied the animal for 15 years, 'a whole forest full of croaking coquis is deafening.'

The puny croaker's clarion call is a two note whistle which shouts out its name ko-KEE. Besides being amazingly loud, the call is surprisingly complex. Only the males make the sound and it conveys different meanings to males and females. The 'ko' part warns competing males to keep away while the higher pitched 'kee' is an invitation to females to come near.

The shy brown frog is by far the most abundant native animal of Puerto Rico, in addition to being the loudest. It is found nowhere else, except for small introduced populations in the United States.

Speech of

His Excellency Dr. P.C. ALEXANDER,

Governor of TamilNadu

at the National Development Council
on 19th March 1988.



Honourable Prime Minister and Members of the National Development Council,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity given to me to present the views of Government of Tamil Nadu on this occasion. Before I do so I would like to recall and place on record the services of the late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. M. G. Ramachandran for the people of the country as a whole and the people of Tamil Nadu in particular. During his stewardship of the Government of Tamil Nadu for a decade, Dr. M. G. Ramachandran provided the much needed stability to the administration, ensured harmonious relationship between the Centre and the State and initiated several measures for the welfare and development of the poorer sections of the population.

Brief Appraisal of Seventh Plan Performance

2. The total Seventh Plan outlay for the State had been fixed at Rs. 5750 crores as against the total plan expenditure of Rs. 3645 crores in the Sixth Plan. I am happy to state that the expenditure in the first two years has been more than the outlay provided and the same trend is likely to be continued in the third year also. In the three years of the Plan period the total expenditure is likely to be Rs. 3420.87 crores which accounts for nearly 60 per cent of the initial plan outlay. At this rate, we expect the total Seventh Plan expenditure to be of the order of Rs. 6792 crores which will be more than twice the outlay of Rs. 3150 crores for the Sixth Plan.

3. In the Seventh Plan, special emphasis has been laid on provision of social and community services and power development. These two sectors account for more than 70 per cent of the total outlay. These priorities have been kept in the first two years of the Plan. But the outlays of individual programmes under various sectors have undergone modifications depending upon the performance in the individual sectors and periodic additional demands and needs that arose during implementation.

4. The performance of the State economy during the first two years of the Seventh Plan was in overall terms consistently good. The State income registered a positive growth of 6.3 per cent in 1985-86 inspite of the severe set back in agriculture. In the industrial sector, the production performance has been quite impressive. In the first two years of the Plan the targetted growth of the Seventh Plan had been achieved although circumstances were not uniformly favourable. Even though nothing definite can be stated about the remaining years of the Seventh Plan at this stage, based on the trends of the first two years it can be said that the expected growth for the rest of the plan period is achievable.

Agriculture

5. Let me now briefly indicate sectorwise our performance. As already mentioned the State had to pass through severe adverse seasonal conditions in the initial years of the Seventh Plan. We had less rain-fall than the normal, for four successive seasons starting from North-East monsoon of 1985. In 1986, both the South-West and North-East

monsoons were below normal. In 1987, the South-West monsoon was below normal. The North-East monsoon of 1987 was mostly normal except in a few areas where it was below normal. In this context, I would like to gratefully acknowledge the assistance given by the Government of India towards drought relief. As a result of the drought, the total acreage under paddy, the principal crop in the State fell down sharply. As against a normal extent of 24 to 25 lakhs hectares under paddy, the acreage in the first three years of the Plan has been 22.64 lakhs, 19.18 lakhs and 19.77 lakhs hectares respectively. Consequently agricultural production fell below the target level. Against a target of 63 to 64 lakh tons of rice production in the first two years of the Plan the actual achievement was only 53.7 and 53.3 lakh tons. However one saving grace in the otherwise gloomy picture was that the reduction in area did not result in a corresponding fall in the yield of crops. This was because the per acre yield of crops has been noticeably going up over the years. For instance, the per acre yield of rice which was 2,138 kg. per hectare in 1984-85 went up to 2,372 kg. in 1985-86 and 2,780 kg. in 1986-87. Despite this encouraging trend in production, it is doubtful whether the target fixed for the terminal year of the Seventh Plan, viz., 75 lakh tons of rice production can be achieved. I fully agree with the concern expressed by the Union Planning Commission in their mid-term appraisal regarding the fall in agricultural production and their views that the objective in the remaining years must be to achieve the 5 per cent rate of growth in the agricultural sector and to meet the unfolding unemployment problem in the rural economy.

I am also glad that the Union Planning Commission and the Government of India, taking note of the actual performance achieved in the two years have since revised the target of the terminal year for Tamil Nadu as 59.15 lakh tons of rice. I can assure you that this target will be achieved and if the monsoon is favourable we will also surpass the target substantially.

Irrigation

6. One of the essential ingredients for stable agricultural production is assured irrigation. Due emphasis was laid on this sector in the Plan and a provision of Rs. 330 crores was made for irrigation and flood control in the Seventh Plan as against Rs. 204 crores in the Sixth Plan. It was targetted to create a potential of 10,980 hectares through special minor irrigation programmes and desilting-cum-reclamation schemes. During the first two years of the plan a potential of 4,525 hectares has been created and we will be able to achieve the target in the remaining three years. Regarding the achievement in tapping ground water resources for irrigation through private tube wells, filter point tube wells, deepening of existing wells, etc., our progress in the first two years has been quite encouraging and we will be able to achieve the target of 67,500 wells in this sector. On major irrigation the Seventh Plan envisages creation of additional irrigation potential of 47,520 hectares. We are confident of achieving this target. However there is normally a gap between the potential created and the actual realisation. In order to narrow down this gap emphasis will be made on operation and maintenance aspects and modernisation of the irrigation sources.

Allied Sectors

7. Under the sectors allied to Agriculture namely Forest, Fisheries and Dairy, the achievement in the first two years has been quite encouraging and we should be able to realise the target fixed for these sectors.

Power

8. Turning to infrastructure development, I am happy to mention that our emphasis on power sector in the Plan has borne fruit. As Members are aware Tamil Nadu is a power deficient State and there is urgent need to increase the installed capacity of power generation. In the Seventh Plan, an addition of 1,416 M.W. of installed capacity was envisaged. Out of this 260 M.W. was targetted to be commissioned in the first two years. Against this our achievement has been 345 M.W. I am also happy to inform that the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has exceeded the target in the field of pump sets energisation and rural electrification also. We however, now find that the initial outlays of Rs. 2000 crores envisaged in the State Plan may not be adequate. The cost of the on-going schemes has escalated considerably over what was anticipated when the Seventh Plan was drawn up and consequently the provision made in the Plan for these schemes are expected to be more than what was provided for.

Industry

9. Till a few years ago, Tamil Nadu was among the more industrialised states in this country.

However of late, the State has lost the momentum for industrial growth and is trailing behind a number of other States. Lack of power has, in the contributed to the relative stagnation in industrial and resultant sickness in many units. The Government is taking active measures to create the right climate for the revival of industrial development in this State, by devising a package of measures for removing constraints and encouraging industries in which the State has a comparative advantage. It is however essential that the Central Government also recognises the need to step up Central investments in industries in Tamil Nadu. The State which had 8 per cent share of Central Public Sector investments in 1969-70, has only 5 per cent of Central investments in industries at present.

Transport including Roads

10. Under the Transport Sector also our achievement has been quite good. I would like to make particular mention of the performance of the State Transport Undertakings which has been commended by the Union Planning Commission in their recent study of the State Transport Undertakings in all the States. With about 11,500 buses in the State Sector and 5,000 buses in the Private Sector, Tamil Nadu has a very high bus intensity in the country both in terms of population and area served. Regarding provision of rural roads also we will be able to reach the target of connecting all habitations with more than 1,500 population (1981 Census) by an all-weather road before the end of the Seventh Plan period.

improved and we will be addressing ourselves to this issue with greater urgency in the remaining years of the Plan.

Housing

14. The two major areas of activities under the Housing sector are the provision of house-sites for the rural poor and assistance to them for construction of houses. As against the Plan target of 9.44 lakhs sites the achievement in the first two years is 3.57 lakhs. With sustained efforts, we will be able to reach the target in this sector also.

Public Health

15. The Public Health system has been working fairly well in the State, as can be seen from the fact that the infant mortality rate declined from 113 per thousand live births in 1971 to 78 per thousand live births in 1984. Our achievement in the provision of sub-centres has been good, while the progress in the provision of primary health centres has been tardy. We will take necessary steps to achieve the target fixed under this head in the Plan.

Nutrition Programme

16. I would like to make special mention about the Nutrition Programme in the State, with its focus on the physical and mental growth of children. The programme also takes care of nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating mothers. A special mention has to be made in this context of the nutritious meal programme for the school children introduced by the late Chief Minister Dr. M. G. Ramachandran which is

Education

11. Turning to Social Services Sector, I am happy to state that our performance in Education, Water-supply, Nutrition, Housing, Health and Family Welfare sectors has been encouraging. In Education the target fixed by Government of India for the Seventh Plan, viz., 100 per cent enrolment in the age-group of 6—11 and 75 per cent in the age-group of 11—14 has been achieved already. Creation of infrastructure facilities has also been going on smoothly. One area of weakness is in providing science laboratories in schools. In the remaining years, we hope to set right this imbalance.

Vocational Education

12. To promote vocational education a special scheme called "The Chief Minister's Scheme of Life Oriented Education" has been conceived. The scheme envisages the vocationalisation of school education at all stages and strategies are being worked out for a thorough revision of school curriculum and syllabi in accordance with the philosophy. The Centre for Life Oriented Education has been started in the Gandhi Gram Rural Institute for preparing the Curriculum courses and syllabi and for monitoring.

Water-supply and Sanitation

13. Under Water-supply and Sanitation our target was to cover 10,900 habitations in rural areas. We have achieved the proportionate target in the first two years and hope to complete the remaining villages in the coming years of the Plan. However, our performance in water-supply to urban areas has to be

perhaps the largest State sponsored feeding programme in the world. Nearly nine million children are covered in about 66,000 centres. This programme has significantly reduced the drop out rate at the primary level by 22 per cent. We propose to enlarge the scope of this programme by giving it a new focus on health of the children.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes

17. We have performed well in the special programmes conceived for amelioration of the weaker sections of the society, like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employees Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). In the first two years of the Plan under IRDP we have helped 4.7 lakh families. During the current year we will be helping another 2.6 lakh families. We have also achieved the target of mandays of employment in both the years under NREP and RLEGP.

I agree with the assessment of the Union Planning Commission that greater attention under IRDP will have to be paid on selection of viable schemes, meeting the credit and raw materials requirements and marketing needs of the beneficiaries. So also the observations of the Union Planning Commission on National Rural Employment Programme and the need for provision of maintenance of assets created under it are quite valid. Regarding the proposal to merge the NREP and RLEGP, it has been since announced by Government of India that a thorough review would be undertaken of the various employment and area programmes to examine the possibility of having a comprehensive programme. We welcome this

announcement and await the results of the review. Our performance under the Twenty Point Programme has also been generally good excepting one item—Tree plantation. The adverse seasonal conditions are partly responsible for the poor performance. However, we will take necessary steps to rectify this situation.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

18. One area where I would like to draw particular attention is the welfare of SC/STs. The population of SC in Tamil Nadu as per 1981 census is 88.81 lakhs and that of ST is 5.20 lakhs together consisting 19.42 per cent of the total population. In order to raise the social, educational and economic standards of these people, special schemes had been formulated. These schemes are intended to supplement the social and economic programmes in the general sectors. The basic approach in regard to planning for welfare of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe has been that the allocation in this sector are only an additional part of the total efforts to be made for promoting their social and economic well-being. The major programmes are aimed at improving educational levels. Educational development is sought to be achieved by giving facilities to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes by way of scholarships and stipends, books, clothing, mid-day meals and other incentives at higher levels, by way of hostel accommodation. A total Plan outlay of Rs. 105 crores has been made in the Seventh Plan and in the first three years itself an expenditure of Rs. 53.75 crores has been incurred.

Adoption of this criterion will go a long way in ensuring that these habitations are not left out of the main stream of development.

Destitute women and physically handicapped people constitute another substantial section of the society needing special assistance from the State. A provision of Rs. 30 crores has been made in the Seventh Plan for this Sector. The expenditure in the 3 years of the plan has been of the order of Rs. 20.69 crores. Finding the allotment so far made to be inadequate we have now planned to provide in the annual plan 1988-89, another Rs. 4 crores for the welfare of physically handicapped and poor women, with special emphasis on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Under the physically handicapped we would like to concentrate on deaf and dumb children particularly in the pre-school stage. To promote employment opportunities for the women it is proposed to evolve new schemes for the self-employment for atleast 25,000 beneficiaries in the coming year.

I would also like to indicate some of the other initiatives we have proposed to undertake :

(i) We are proposing to introduce a new scheme for the training of rural young women for a period of two years during which they will be imparted skills in useful occupations besides a basic education in health, family welfare and nutrition. At the end of the training period the scheme contemplates payment of a lumpsum grant to those who postpone their marriage or postpone the child birth as the case may be during this period.

New initiatives taken after President Rule

19. Finding that the pace of progress made so far in the matter of SC/ST welfare to be slow, it has now been proposed to give an added thrust in this sector. An additional provision of Rs. 27 crores has been made in the Annual Plan for 1988-89 mainly to undertake schemes and programmes for the welfare of these weaker sections. Under a special programme called "Kamarajar New Harijan Housing Scheme", it is proposed to construct fire proof houses, at a cost of Rs. 10,000 per house, for 8,000 SC families. A sum of Rs. 8 crores has been proposed for this. Another sum of Rs. 9 crores has been proposed for providing village link roads to ensure that Adi-Dravidar habitations have proper road facilities. We are also keen that all Adi-Dravidar habitations should have their own drinking water source and towards this end it is proposed to create such facility in the remaining years of the Plan and a provision of Rs. 10 crores will be made for this purpose during 1988-89.

In so far as programmes for the welfare of SC/STs are concerned, I would like to suggest for the consideration of this August Assembly, adoption of the norm that provision of any basic infrastructure facility to a village like link roads, electricity, water-supply, etc., should be deemed to have been completed only if the SC/ST habitations within a village has also been provided the facility. This suggestion has been made to prevent provision of a particular facility to a village totally by-passing of the separate habitations of the SC/STs when new facilities are provided.

(ii) We have also proposed to hold rural camps for the college students for better interaction between the rural community and the educated youth. These camps will enable the educated youth to understand the problems of the villagers first hand and also utilise their energies to create communal assets wherever necessary.

(iii) In order to promote science education among the youth, it is proposed to introduce a scheme of supply of free scientific text-books to meritorious college students under a scheme called "Jawaharlal Nehru Science Talent Text-Book Scheme".

(iv) Tamil Nadu is the only State where the entire Public Distribution System is run solely by the Co-operatives. Recently we have taken a number of steps to improve the working of the system to ensure that all the cardholders are assured supply in time of their entitled quantities of essential commodities. It is also proposed to revamp the co-operative structure in the State by enforcing the provisions of the new Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act 30 of 1983 to hold election and usher an era of democratisation and professionalisation of the Co-operatives.

(v) A massive cleaning campaign has also been undertaken in Madras City with a specified target for intensive conservancy measures in the divisions of the Corporation. During the campaign it has also been proposed to evict all unauthorised encroachments on the roads and streets.

Problems of Madras City

20. Madras City is one of the major metropolitan cities in the country, and at present has a population

of about four millions. As a result of continued neglect and lack of attention this City, which has one of the finest beaches in the world and many other natural advantages, is now languishing for want of basic civic amenities. The important areas to which we are now giving utmost priority are :

Water-supply

(1) The City has no nearby perennial river course and has a historical dependence on 3 or 4 lakes which get filled during the North-East monsoon. The vulnerability of the City water-supply has been severely exposed owing to the successive failure of the North-East monsoon during the last 3 years. This fact along with the reduced storage capacity of the lakes and the growing population of the city has brought down per capita level of water availability levels to 7 gallons per capita per day which is rarely seen in large cities anywhere in the world. A major effort has been made to cope with the situation by tapping underground water, but the limits to the exploitation of this source have also been reached. A few years ago the Krishna Water Project, also called Telugu-Ganga Project, was conceived as a long-term solution for the water needs of the City. Although the Government of Andhra Pradesh made a good beginning and work was going apace, difficulties were created in the last two years owing to water disputes raised by the other riparian states along the Krishna river. The Tamil Nadu Government has paid Rs. 47 crores for the execution of this Project by Andhra Pradesh and a provision of Rs. 30 crores has been made in the budget for 1988-89. If the 4 million people of the City of Madras are not to continue to

Central Projects

21. Before I conclude I would like to draw the attention of the Council to the need for speedy completion of some of the major Central projects now being undertaken in the State and also clearance of new projects. Foremost of these is the Mass Rapid Transit System in Madras City. We would request larger budgetary allocations to this important project so that it could be completed as per original schedule. We are happy to note that the broad-gauge line between Karur and Dindigul will be completed during 1988-89. However this project will be of greater use if the broad-gauge line is extended to Madurai City. We would thus request a larger allotment to ensure the extension of broad-gauge line to Madurai City before the end of the Seventh Plan.

As for new projects, I would request speedy clearance for the second atomic power station in Tamil Nadu at the site recommended by the Nuclear Power Corporation in Kudangulam in Tirunelveli—Kattabomman District. We have reserved the land for the project and have assured all assistance to the Government of India for locating the plant at this site. An early decision in this matter would go a long way towards improving power generation in the State.

Another project of urgent need is the establishment of a thermal power station at Cuddalore based on sea borne coal and development of Cuddalore port for this purpose. To improve the power situation in the State we have urged the Government of India to expedite the third

be at the mercy of the North-East monsoon for their drinking water, it is of the utmost urgency that the Krishna Water Project is cleared by the Central Government and its completion expedited by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. It is my earnest appeal that the Central Government should act fast in the matter.

(2) Nearly 25 per cent of the population of Madras lives in slums. This has been not only a matter of hardship to lakhs of people but also a cause of environmental degradation in the city. We are now giving the utmost importance to the improvement of slums and for the provision of housing and other amenities for slum dwellers. The Seventh Plan provides for only Rs. 25 crores for these schemes. Special financial assistance from domestic and external sources is also essential for this purpose.

(3) In Madras City there are 3 water ways flowing through thickly populated areas. These are the Adyar and Cooum rivers and the Buckingham canal. While in the normal course these waterways and their banks should be used as parks and areas for recreation, in actual fact they have become major environmental hazards with encroachment by slum dwellers living in unhygienic conditions and polluting the water ways. A major project is under preparation for the cleaning of the water ways and for their renovation with assistance from the British Overseas Development Agency. I request the Government of India to process the proposal expeditiously initially for the preparation of the Project Report and thereafter for implementation of the Project with assistance from the British Government.

mine cut at Neyveli and also for a larger share of power from the second mine cut based power houses at Neyveli.

Two other important projects pending Central clearance are the Zirconium and Titanium Metal Project in the Chidambaram District and the Optical Electronics Sights Project in the Nilgiris District. The former is pending finalisation with the Department of Atomic Energy and the latter is pending with the Department of Defence Production.

Another important item to which I would like to draw attention is the constitution of a Tribunal for adjudication of Cauvery Water Dispute. Early reference of the dispute to Tribunal and passing of the award by the Tribunal will considerably improve agricultural prospects in the Cauvery delta. The modernisation work in the Cauvery delta with World Bank assistance could not be taken up as the World Bank insists an assurance to the effect that adequate water will be available for the project area to be modernised before the project is taken up for appraisal. An early reference to the Tribunal and a quick decision by it will greatly help the State to undertake this project.

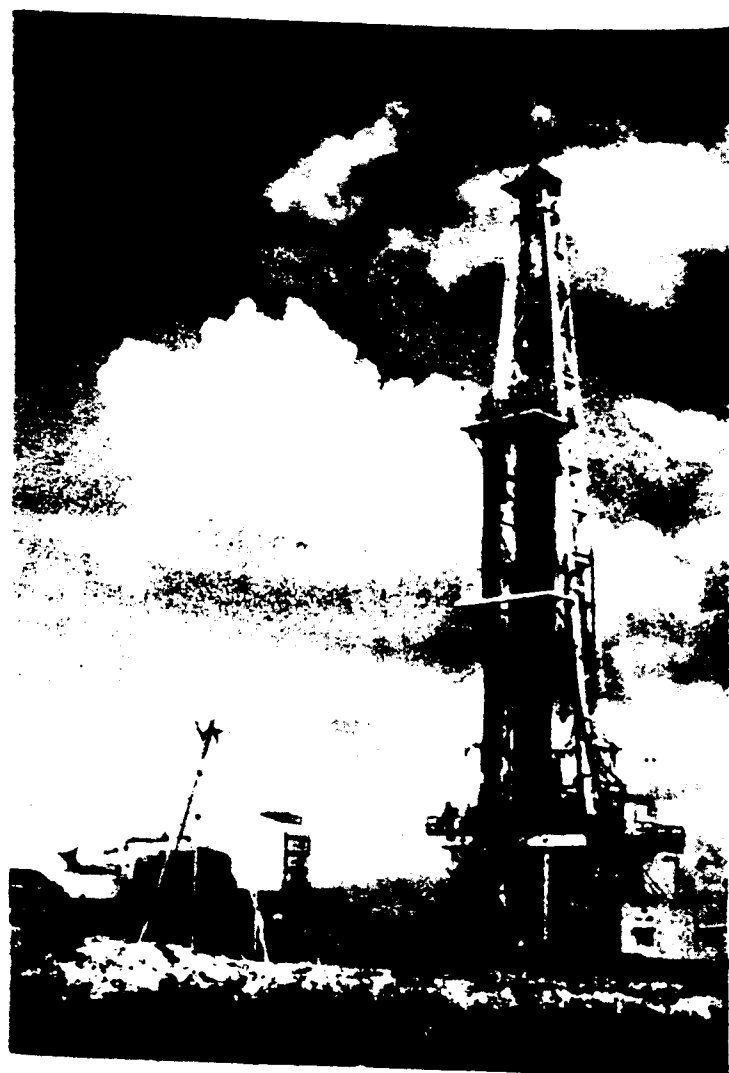
“ True nobility consists in doing the right voluntarily and deliberately.”

“ The golden rule of conduct is mutual toleration.”

—GANDHIJI

Oil Wells at Narimanam in the Cauvery Basin

Cover Story



Introduction.

The Cauvery Basin occupies an area of about 25000 sq.kms. in the onland, covering the State of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry with an offshore component of 23000 sq.kms. upto 200 M isobath.

The Basin is transgressed by North west-Southwest trending ridges, dividing it into many sub-basins.

Extensive Geoscientific Surveys were carried out since 1959 onwards. This include the Geological, Gravity-magnetic and Seismic surveys. The exploratory drilling started in 1964 at Karaikkal-1.

Presence of hydrocarbons in the first well, though not significant from commercial view point, has given the desired exploration lead. Subsequently, quite a few wells were drilled to assess the geological and

stratigraphic aspects of the Basin for picking up further leads in various sub-basins. The integration of all these efforts, has led to increase activity during the VI and VII Plan Periods. The strike rate also has, positively, improved and efforts are on to delineate some of these areas.

Exploratory drilling was extended to offshore in 1979 and ONGC's first well in Porto-Novo prospect off Pondicherry proved to be gas bearing in 1980. This was followed by an oil strike in PH-9-1 in Palk Bay, in 1981.

Production Profile:

The prospects which have been put on production and the likely areas for delineation are as follows:

1. Narimanam Prospects:

This prospect is located in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu. Three

wells were drilled so far and the fourth one is under drilling, currently. All the three proved to be hydrocarbon bearing and this is the first strike to be put on production to bring the Southern Region on the oil map of India as a producing area.

The Narimanam-1 well was put on production on 15.2.86 with a well head installation and Narimanam-3 was connected on 22.8.87. The small installation known as EPS is in existence and additional storage facility is added to it, for the present.

A few more delineation wells apart from exploratory wells over the satellite prospects are planned to hasten up the evaluation of this prospect.

2. Kovilkalappal Prospect:

This prospect is also situated in Thanjavur District south of Nari-

manam. Two wells out of four, drilled so far, proved to be hydrocarbons bearing. The prospect appears to be having more gas than oil, as per present indications.

Kovilkalappal-1 produced oil and gas but could not be put on production as the amount of dissolved gas was quite high. Kovilkalappal-4 was put on production with an EPS similar to the one at Narimanam-1 in May '87.

The complexity of the pay development has not enabled, yet, the full potential of this prospect and a few more delineation wells are planned for evaluation. The gas production from this well and Kovilkalappal-1 which was not put on EPS so far will be substantial enough for effective utilisation and the efforts are on to identify consumers. (The gas production is estimated to be around 50000 cu.m/day). Once this is finalised, Kovilkalappal-1 may also be connected to supply gas, as it is hoped that evaluation

may reach a stage wherein commitments can be made.

3. Bhuvanagiri Prospect:

This prospect is located at a distance of 10 kms. WNW of Chidambaram in Noth Arcot district in Ariyalur-Pondicherry Depression. Bhuvanagiri-2, the first well to be drilled on this prospect has produced oil and gas and was put on production with an EPS in December 1987.

Thus it can be seen that three Early Production Systems (EPS) are in operation in Cauvery at present, producing on an average 75-80 tonnes/day of oil.

Expenditure till date and in future:

ONGC has spent Rs. 260/- crore in Cauvery Basin, both onland and offshore and plans to spend about Rs. 200/- crores in the coming two years of VII Five Year Plan. This is apart from about Rs. 200/- crores to be spent by IIEP between 1986-

1993, under Indo-Soviet agreement.

Conclusion:

Thus it can be seen that ONGC is planning to establish a production potential of 0.2 MMT of oil and oil equivalent/annum by the end of 1989-90.

The gas for planning purpose can be considered to be around four lakhs cum.m./day.

In the coming two to three years, all this established potential may be available around Narimanam, Kovilkalappal and Nannilam areas in Thanjavur District; Bhuvanagiri and the nearby prospects in South Arcot District.

The VIII Five Year Plan is in formative stage during which the ONGC efforts are to be further augmented for establishing a production level of about 0.8 MMT of oil and oil equivalent by terminal year.

REVIVAL OF SICK SMALL SCALE UNITS

The Government of Tamil Nadu have taken up as a crash programme the revival and rehabilitation of sick small scale industrial units in the State in the next couple of months. Thiru A. Padmanaban, I.A.S., Adviser (P) held a meeting of the Officers of the State Industries Department, Representatives of Commercial Banks, Reserve Bank, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) and State Financial Institutions like Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporations (TIIC) and Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO). Adviser impressed on the banks and the State financial institutions to participate whole-heartedly for the success of the programme for identifying immediately the package of rehabilitation measures and more

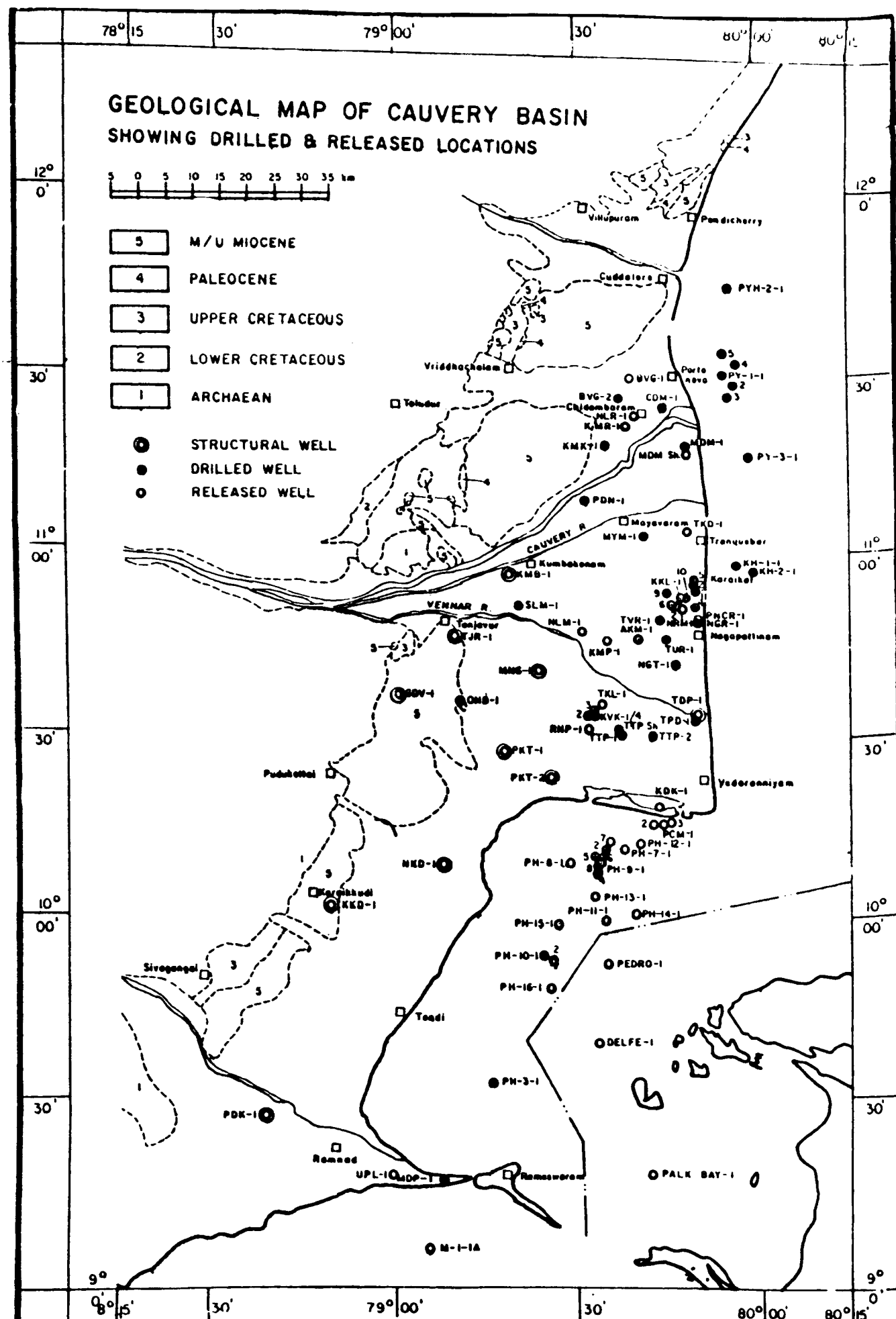
importantly implementing the agreed package without any reservation of delay. The representatives of Banks assured the Adviser of their full co-operation and also apprised him of the task already begun as part of the programme. It was agreed that all the banks would furnish district-wise details of units already identified for revival in an eight-week time frame-work for undertaking the task of rehabilitation of these units. From the State Government's side Adviser assured speedy sanction of margin money for such revival and consideration in the matter of arrears of dues to the State Government. Adviser hoped that with the co-operation of all concerned it would be possible to take up rehabilitation of atleast 1000 units in the first phase of the programme.

A similar exercise would be under-

taken at the initiative of State Industries Promotion Corporation (SIPCOT) in respect of medium and large-scale undertakings.

KAMBAN EXPRESS

The new Express of the Southern Railway has been named after the great Tamil Poet Kambar and it was flagged off from Karaikkudi station, Madurai Division by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Thiru P. Chidambaram on October 2, 1987. The train's name was suggested by the Hon'ble Minister himself since its route from Karaikkudi to Madras links Kambar's birth place, Thiruvallur and the place where the poet was buried, Nattarasankottai.



The Family Welfare and Maternal and Child Health Services in Tamil Nadu

Family Welfare Programme is being successfully implemented in Tamil Nadu in a well-planned manner on a purely voluntary basis, with the active participation of the people, voluntary and service organisations, Government employees and public and private sector enterprises. There is no coercion or compulsion at any level. Tamil Nadu stands in front in achieving the target and has been a recipient of National award among the "B" group states for the past 3 consecutive years in 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87. In addition, this state has been awarded 1.92 lakhs and 2.5 lakhs for best achievement during campaign period.

The Director of Family Welfare is the head of the State Family Welfare Bureau, who is overall charge of all activities of the Family Welfare Department and all officers and staff come under her control. At the District level, there is a District Family Welfare Bureau in each district, headed by the District Family

Welfare, Maternity and Child Health Officer in the cadre of civil surgeon.

There are 383 Rural Family Welfare Centres and 268 Urban Family Welfare Centres. Apart from these, there are 7558 Sub Centres each covering about 5000 population.

There are 13 voluntary organisations (urban centre attached) functioning both in urban and rural areas of the State and rendering Family Welfare services to the public.

According to 1981 census, the population of Tamil Nadu was 4.84 crores with a growth rate of 17.5% over the 1971 population. Tamil Nadu recorded the lowest growth rate (17.5%) of population compared to other states in India. The birth and death rates for Tamil Nadu for 1985 were 24.8 and 9.5 respectively. The infant Mortality Rate was 80 per 1000 live births.

The National health policy aims

at achieving the net reproduction rate of unity by the year 2000 AD. In Tamil Nadu, the objective is to achieve the same goal by the year 1991-92. For this objective the birth and death rates have to be brought down to 21 and 9 respectively.

The couple protection rate is 46.3 (as on March 1987). By March 1988, it is expected that couple protection rate will exceed 50%. The rest 10% have to be covered in the next 4 years (1988-89 to 1991-92) covering 2.5% every year to reach 60% by 1991-92. The strategy is more on non-terminal methods.

Tamil Nadu has been a top-ranking state in implementing the Family Welfare Programme (1980-81-1987-88). The spectacular success is mainly due to the full support of the people, political parties, various religious groups, voluntary, and service organisations, Government servants, employers and employees of private sectors. Though sterilisation is the

most preferred methods of contraception, there has been an increasing trend in the acceptance of temporary methods particularly I.U.D.

To arrest the population growth immediately and to improve the standard of living of the masses, the Family Welfare Programme has to be integrated with other Government schemes, such as Rural Employment Programme, lands for cultivation, allotment of house sites and lands, bank loans etc.

Popular Committees have been formed in 17 districts by involving official and non-official members. Green card scheme has been introduced in Tamil Nadu.

The green cards are being issued to all those acceptors who had undergone sterilisation operations with two living children. 6 lakhs of green cards were printed and distributed to all districts. As per Government of India guidelines, photos of both wife and husband are pasted on the green cards before issue. Only green card holders were given priority treatment in the hospitals.

There are three Health and Family Welfare Training Centres functioning at Egmore in Madras, Salem and Mandhigram. The principals and faculties of these training centres are imparting in service training to medical and para medical staff working in the rural and urban centres. Training is given to Doctors and para medical staff in the Teaching and non-teaching hospitals.

Besides this, so far 33,215 dais have been trained since inception of the dais training programme.

Special schemes:

At present 97 post-partum centres are functioning in this state. There are 9 in teaching hospitals, 18 in district head quarters hospitals, 4 in voluntary organisations, 4 in local bodies and 62 at sub-district level. 12 centres are approved for doing medical termination of pregnancy. AP smear test facilities are available at R. M. Hospital, Thanjavur and Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Tirunelveli.

Renovation and remodelling of labour room into tubectomy opera-

tion theatre have been sanctioned in 124 panchayats upto 1985-86. Government of India have conveyed their approval of this scheme for 20 PHCs in the current year 1987-88.

Out Reach system in urban slum areas:

To improve the out-reach service in the Family Welfare Maternity

Type A (Below 5000)	Type B (5000- 10000)	Type C (10,000 -25000)	Type D (25000 -50,000)	Total	City Family Welfare Bureau in Madras
1	5	19	75	100	2

Mass Education and Media Activities

The Mass Education and Media activities and inter-personal extension education play a very vital and essential role in creating awareness, motivating eligible couples to adopt small family norms. Mass Education and extension Education scheme is headed by State Mass Media Officer, in the rank of Additional Director of Family Welfare (Mass Education). The Mass education and Media activities are implemented hand in hand with service programmes for achieving the targets. The slogan "One Family one heir" has made commendable impact in the rural Tamil Nadu. Film shows, Exhibitions, Hoardings, Rural and Urban audience programmes and press advertisements are systematically launched as a media Programme.

This department is fully co-operating with Television Centre and All India Radio. Apart from this, under outdoor publicity, methods like, stickers, wall paintings, Metal boards, posters and folders etc. are used for propagation of Family Welfare messages. One minute video quickies for telecasting on the Television and for commercial screening throughout Tamil Nadu on subjects like child marriage, women's education, Polio-vaccine, Triple Antigen, Mother's milk, spacing methods Economic explosion, maternal and child health care were produced and being screened through Television and Commercial theatres.

and Child Health and Primary Health care services in the urban slum and congested areas, out-reach scheme has been introduced.

At present, Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned the following types and number of urban health posts and city Family Welfare Bureau.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES.

High priority is given for providing qualitative Maternity and Child care, especially to the poor and needy who live in urban slums, tenements, villages and hamlets and thus reduce morbidity and mortality among the mothers and children who constitute 70% of the total population. With this objective in view, 8058 Health sub-centres and 698 PHCs have been established in rural areas.

There are 128 Maternity Homes and 373 Maternity Centres in urban

Towns. These institutions provide the ante-natal, natal and Post-natal care and infant and child care.

The pregnant mothers are registered as early as in the 12th week of pregnancy and given periodic check-ups at their residence as well as in the Maternity and Child Health clinics by the Maternity Assistants

and Multi purpose Health workers (female) and Health Supervisors (female). Those mothers (high risk) requiring special attention are referred to higher medical institutions.

The ante-natal services include T.T. immunisation, Nutritional anaemia, prophylaxis with iron and Folic Acid Tablets in the last 100 days of pregnancy as per the I.C.M.R. recommendations, weight monitor-

ing and health and nutritional education activities.

The native Midwives (Dais), (TBAS) are trained in providing quality care and hygienic delivery assistance to the mothers.

It is hoped that the State may achieve the targets in the field of Family Welfare and Maternal and Child Health activities during the current financial year 1987-88.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN MADRAS

A meeting to mark March 8, the Day of International Women's Solidarity, was held at the Soviet Cultural Centre on 9 March, 1988.

Tmt. Ackama Alexander, wife of Dr P.C. Alexander, Governor of Tamil Nadu graced the occasion with her presence. Tmt. Amangeldieva Puvatbibi, Minister for Publishing, Printing and the Book Trade of Turkmenian Soviet Socialist Republic greeted the Indian women.

The Turkmenian Minister said, "Though I have come from far away Turkmenia to our sister State Tamil Nadu, I find a lot of common

things between our States. Our people love India and this culture very much. Indian films are very popular in Turkmenia. Indian music is a must for any important programme. Our cultures bind our hearts. Soviet people and Indian people are working together for peace in this world".

Tmt. Y.G. Parthasarathy, Senior Principal and Secretary, Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, recalled her visit to the Soviet Union 20 years ago and said, "Wherever I went, I could see the spontaneous love of Soviet people towards India. I found the Soviet

educational system very advanced and introduced some of them in my school". She expressed the hope that Women's Day would be celebrated widely in India, and menfolk would take up the household work at least for one day.

Tmt. Cherepov, wife of Thiru V.G. Cherepov, Soviet Consul in Madras also addressed the meeting.

Tmt. Vyjayanthimala Bali, M.P. distributed aids to the physically handicapped and loans to the depressed women and weaker sections, on the occasion.

The cultural programmes presented by Soviet children were enjoyed by all. An exhibition of drawings by children on the life of Soviet women was organised.

"Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment."

"It is given to woman to teach the art of peace to the warring world, thirsting for that nectar."

—GANDHIJI.



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DIPR/1516/MS/67/AR168

UNION BUDGET for the UPLIFT of ALL SECTIONS

Assistance to marginal farmers in drought-prone areas:

The programme of rural electrification has enabled countrywide utilisation of ground water for irrigation with the help of electric pump sets. However, some of the poorer farmers have often been unable to afford the one time cost of pump set installation. A special programme to be called Jaldhara will be launched to assist marginal farmers in drought-prone areas. This scheme will provide them the benefits of pump sets for irrigation on nominal rental/lease charges. It is proposed that during 1988-89 the benefits of this scheme will be provided to about fifty thousand farming families.

A massive programme for extending single point light connections to rural families:

To improve the quality of life of rural families below the poverty line, including Harijan and Adivasi families a massive programme to be called Kutirjyoti for extending single point light connections to households of their families is proposed. The programme will meet the one-time cost of internal wiring and service connection charges. In 1988-89, five lakh households are proposed to be covered by this programme. The cost of both the Jaldhara and Kutirjyoti will be met through a combination of grants and loans to the State Electricity Boards by the Rural Electrification Corporation.

National Housing Bank to give a special thrust to Rural Housing:

High priority for the housing sector and the decision to set up a national housing bank with initial capital of Rs. 100 crores has been announced. Necessary legislation has been passed last year and the bank will become operational shortly. In order to give a special thrust to rural housing, the Reserve Bank of India, along with some financial institutions, will make a special additional contribution of Rs. 100 crores to the national housing bank. This entire additional amount will be used for promotion of rural housing in several ways, including setting up of specialised rural housing savings and loan institutions, if necessary.

In this context, it is also proposed to extend the role of the land development banks to cover the field of housing finance for farmers. These banks exist in most districts, have strong apex bodies and deal directly with the rural population. They can also mobilise resources for housing finance. The State Government will be requested to carry out necessary legislative measures to permit land development banks to undertake housing finance.

A new programme of housing for small and marginal farmers with monthly income upto Rs. 700 is being launched by Housing and Urban Development Corporation. Under this programme, HUDCO will provide assistance, upto specified amounts, at low rate of 7 percent interest repayable in 22 years for building or improving a house. Assistance will also be given for improvement of old homes, for example, change of roof from thatch to tile.

A new scheme, called the "Village abadi environmental improvement scheme" will be launched by HUDCO this year. Projects involving expenditure upto Rs. 2,000 per family in villages with population not exceeding 5,000 for improving rural abadi infrastructure like drainage, sanitation etc. will be supported. The equity base of HUDCO will be suitably strengthened to help finance these programmes.

Fire Insurance Protection to poor families in Rural areas:

Landless labourers, artisans and other very poor families in rural areas face acute financial distress when their huts and belongings are destroyed by fire. It is proposed to launch a new scheme to provide fire insurance protection to them. The Government of India will bear the entire premium cost. The scheme will be implemented by the General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiaries.

Social Security Fund for weaker and vulnerable sections:

The Life Insurance Corporation of India, which has done so much to spread insurance culture throughout the length and breadth of our country, will be setting up a separate "social security fund" with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores. Certain changes are being made in the income tax payable by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to make this possible. The fund will be used for financing Life Insurance schemes for weaker and vulnerable sections of the population at subsidised rates. The creation of such a fund will provide a solid foundation for extending insurance cover to the toiling sections of our society, for example, landless labourers, handloom workers, rickshaw pullers, drivers etc. who work on daily wages or whose employment is casual. In respect of these group insurance schemes, 50 per cent of the premium will be adjusted from the newly created social security fund, the balance 50% of the premium being payable by the beneficiaries concerned.

Group Insurance Schemes for the benefit of artisans, tailors, barbers, masons, Carpenters:

Group Insurance schemes will also be introduced for groups with regular incomes like primary school teachers, cooperative milk producers and workers in shops and commercial establishments. Schemes will also be formulated for the benefit of artisans, tailors, barbers, masons, carpenters and other similar groups.

While the Integrated Rural Development Programme extends benefits to the families of the poor, these families face hardship in the event of sudden death of the head of the family. To give greater security to the family, a group insurance scheme of the LIC is proposed to be introduced to cover around 3 to 4 million families under IRDP assistance every year with effect from April 1988. The insurance cover will be Rs. 3,000 with double benefit in case of accidental death.

INTEREST CUT ON FARM LOANS

In a major concession to the farming community, Union Finance Minister Thiru N.D. Tiwari announced lowering of interest rates on crop loans.

The rate of interest on crop loans up to Rs. 7,500 is being reduced by one and a half percent to two and a half per cent.

The interest rate will now be 10 per cent for loans upto Rs. 7,500 against the prevailing levels of 11.5 per cent and 12.5 per cent.

For loans above Rs. 7,500 and upto Rs. 15,000 the interest is being reduced to 11.5 percent from present rates ranging from 12.5 per cent to 14 per cent.

Direct finance to agriculture by public sector banks will be raised to 17 per cent of the advances by them.

Availability of credit to agriculture will increase by Rs. 3000 crore in 1988-89.

The Finance Minister said, the reduction of interest rates would benefit crores of agricultural borrowers from co-operative sector, regional rural banks and commercial banks, and provide the much needed relief to the farming community affected by the drought and flood.

Besides, government is asking the fertiliser companies, both in public and private sectors to give a discount of 7.5 per cent over the notified prices for the coming kharif and rabi sowings.

This would reduce the price of a bag of urea by around eight rupees and eighty paise.

Union Finance Minister Thiru N.D. Tiwari announced a number of additional concessions aimed at further growth of the electronics industry. Customs duty on moulds, tools and dyes required by the electronics industry is proposed to be reduced further from 60 per cent to 30 per cent advalorem.

Machinery and instruments required for the manufacture of rural automatic exchanges based on indigenous technology will attract a lower rate of duty of 30 per cent.

EXCISE RELIEF ON CONSUMER ARTICLES

Excise duty in respect of electric bulbs exceeding 60 watts is reduced from Rs. 14.50 per bulb to Rs. 1.00 per bulb. So far, electric bulbs upto 60 watts have been exempted from Excise Duty.

Toys, like toy scooters, toy pedal cars, dolls, toy musical instruments, scale models, recreational models, etc. and inexpensive pencil sharpeners will be completely exempted from Excise Duty.

Domestic electric appliances such as frying pans, electric kettles, water-boilers, toasters and automatic irons will be fully exempted from Excise Duty.

Excise Duty on wall clocks and quartz clocks and parts thereof will be reduced from 15 per cent to 5 per cent advalorem.

Excise Duty on tableware items like jugs, cups, plates, bowls etc, manufactured by automatic process will be reduced from 40 per cent to 25 per cent advalorem and those manufactured by the semi-automatic or mouth-blown processes to 20 per cent advalorem.

The formulation and bulk drugs which are specified in category I of the Drug (Prices Control) Order will be totally exempted from Excise Duties. Intermediates for these drugs will also be fully exempted from Excise Duty.

The existing Excise Duty exemptions in respect of specified cardiac drugs and anti-TB, anti-Malaris, anti-Leprosy and anti-Diabetic drugs will continue. Two anti-Cancer drugs and an important life-saving drug are proposed to be added to the list of exempted drugs.

There will be nominal Excise levy of five per cent on bulk drugs except those covered by category I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order. The import duty on 235 specified drug intermediates will be reduced from 115 per cent to 90 per cent advalorem.

SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Government proposes to set up a National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation to play catalytic role in schemes for employment generation and pilot programmes to be taken up by State level corporations and other agencies.

The new corporation will work with nationalised banks in improving the flow of financial assistance.

An amount of Rs. 50 crore is provided for the budget for the Corporation.

The special Central assistance for tribal sub-plan for 1988-89 is Rs. 185 crore. For Scheduled Castes, special component plans are being formulated to provide economic strength and occupational mobility. Rs. 180 crore has been provided as special Central additive to special component plans for 1988-89.

TAX RELIEF FOR SALARIED CLASS

The Union Budget 1988-89 proposes to provide relief to income tax payers in salaried income groups, by raising the standard deduction to thirty-three and one-third per cent of the salary subject to an enhanced ceiling of Rs. 12,000.

This means that a person having a salary of up to Rs. 27,000 per annum will have to pay no income tax at all.

BENEFITS FOR HANDLOOMS AND TEXTILES SHOWERED BY UNION BUDGET

1) The subsidy on Janatha Cloth produced in the Handloom Sector has been enhanced.

<i>Present subsidy</i>	<i>Enhanced subsidy</i>
Rs.2/-per Sq.metre	Rs.2.75 per Sq. metre.

2) Excise duty on cotton yarn upto 35 counts reduced by 10% of the existing rates. Regarding the yarn above 35 counts the excise duty reduced by 3 paise per count per kg. The above concession means reduction upto a maximum of 28.5% depending on the count of yarn.

NOTE: Hank yarn is already exempted from excise duty and hence the above concession is applicable to cone yarn.

3) Reduction in Excise Duty on Polyester Filament Yarn used by Handloom Industry. The reduction is upto 50%.

4) Duty on Polyester Filament Yarn reduced from Rs. 83.75 to 53.75 per kg. (May be in respect of Powerlooms and Mills.)

5) Excise duty on Nylon Filament Yarn reduced from Rs. 70 to 40 per kg.

6) Excise duty on Acrylic fibre reduced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 8 per kg. Customs duty on these items are also reduced.

7) Import duty on Acetate Filament Yarn reduced from 60% to 45%.

8) Excise duty on Viscose and staple fibre cleared for blend with cotton has been reduced from Rs.7 to 5 per kg.

9) Concessional duty rates reduced to Rs. 10 per kg. for Polyester Filament yarn to NTC for manufacturing fabrics under duty credits scheme.

NOTE: This scheme is known as SULABHA

10) Duty on Manmade fibre yarn proposed to be reduced. This will

help powerloom sector to a greater extent.

11) Duty on Polyester Staple fibre reduced from Rs. 25/- to Rs.15/- per kg.

12) Handloom Woollen fabrics processed by approved independent processors are exempted from Excise Duty.

13) Raw Wool imported by certain specified handloom agencies have been exempted from Customs Duty.

14) Excise Duty on certain Textile Machineries required for Modernisation of mills reduced from 15% to 5%.

15) Customs Duty on certain specified machineries for Garments, hosiery and Woollen industries has been reduced to 35%.

YARN PRICES: ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

(1) Southern India Mills Association has agreed to supply 5,000 bales of plain reel cotton yarn by the member mills to the Director of Handlooms and Textiles every month for a period of two months in the first instance at a price of Rs. 12/- per bundle of 4.54 Kgs. less than the ruling market price. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has been requested to make additional power supply to the mills at the rate of 17.5 units per bundle of 4.54 Kgs. supplied under this scheme.

(2) South India Viscose Ltd. has agreed to supply a quantity of 25 tonnes of viscose filament yarn per month to Cooptex for distribution to the actual users at 10% below the price fixed for dealers. As a result of this, the total price reduction for the quantity of 25 tonnes per month supplied by the South India Viscose Ltd. through Cooptex, would be about 16% to 18%, depending upon denier of the yarn.

(3) The Government have released Rs. 10 crores as rebate dues (Rs. 4.39 crores to Cooptex and Rs. 5.61 crores to primaries).

(4) The Government have sanctioned Rs. 14 crores to cooptex for payment to Cooperative Societies for the supply of sarees and dhoties/lunghies made by them for distribution to landless agricultural labourers. The amount will be paid shortly.

(5) The Government of India have been requested already to delegate certain powers to the Director of Handlooms and Textiles to control the stock, movement etc., of yarn and cotton under the Essential Commodities Act. This is to prevent hoarding of yarn and cotton by the traders.

PRICE OF ART SILK YARN (per Kg. including Taxes) after 10% reduction of prices by South India Viscose and after the reduction in excise duty on supplies to Cooperatives.

Denier	Quality	Price in Feb. 88	Net Price	Total reduction
75	I	110.29	91.26	19.03
	II	109.89	90.72	18.97
100	I	85.55	71.67	14.18
	II	84.75	70.68	14.07
120	I	71.10	59.49	11.61
	II	70.00	58.50	11.50
150	I	62.16	51.94	10.22
	II	61.66	51.50	10.16
300	I	50.18	41.16	9.02
	II	49.68	40.72	8.96
450	I	40.78	34.20	6.58
	II	40.53	33.98	6.55

The total reduction is 16% to 18%.

(6) The Government of India have also been requested to ban export of yarn and supplement by the import of yarn.

As a result of various steps taken by the Government, the prices of art silk have come down as seen in the Annexure I, and the prices of cotton have also come down as seen in the Annexure II.

The official machinery is being geared up to prevent hoarding of yarn and cotton by agent and dealers.

AVERAGE OPEN MARKET PRICE OF YARN (KOVAI MARKET)

(Price per bundle)		
Count	10.2.88	9.3.88
20s	157	142.00
40s	235	189.00
60s K	312	258.00
80s K	334	317.50
2/17 NF	178	157.00

The prices will be still lower by Rs. 12.00 per bundle (Rs. 13.20 per bundle in respect of 2/17s) when SIMA supplies yarn under the arrangement with Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.



THIRU G.V. RAMAKRISHNA, I.A.S.,
Adviser to Governor of Tamil Nadu

Born on: 27.3.1930

Qualification: M.Sc. (Mysore)

M.P.A. (Harvard)

Married; two children.

Played tennis, golf, cricket and billiards.

Hobbies are music, gardening and reading.

Thiru Ramakrishna joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1952 and is currently Adviser to the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Brief particulars of his career and experience are as follows:

- 1957-59 Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Ministry of Iron and Steel.
—Steel plants, steel imports and steel allocation.
- 1960-61 Collector and District Magistrate, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.
- 1961-66 Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh Mining Corporation
Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation.
—Industrial promotion, technical collaboration, financing and management of industries.
- 1966-68 Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
—UNDP, bilateral technical assistance.

1968-71 Director, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

—IMF matters, World Bank projects in agriculture, power, telecommunications, family planning, industries, irrigation, etc.

1971-72 Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

World Bank and IMF matters. Foreign exchange budgeting and allocation to Ministries and major projects, defence, foreign exchange coordination of all external assistance, consortium matters, Debt relief, and External Assistance accounts.

1972-76 Minister for Economic Affairs, Embassy of India, Washington, D.C.

—Economic matters relating to World Bank and IMF. Bilateral economic relations with the U.S. Assistance to Indian delegations to the U.N. on economic matters, such as oil price increase, and General economic development matters.

1976-77 Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh, Department of Housing, Municipal Administration and Urban Development.

Matters relating to housing, Municipal Administration and Urban Development.

1977-81 Additional Secretary to Government of India, Department of Industrial Development.

—Industrial Policy, Industrial and capital goods licensing, Foreign collaboration, sick industries, public sector undertakings in rubber, paper, cement, electrical and miscellaneous industries.

1981-83 Adviser, Planning Commission.

—Rural Development, Land Reforms, Rural Energy, State Plans of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab.

1983-84 Secretary to Government of India, Department of Coal; Member Secretary, Advisory Board on Energy; Chief Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh.

1984-85 Member-Secretary, Committee on Financial Year. Secretary, Commission on Centre-State Relations.

1985-88 Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

March 88 Adviser to the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

He had been associated for several years and at various levels, with all aspects of economic development and in particular with industrial development in India. This includes experience of—

- bilateral and multilateral economic and technical assistance.
- industrial policy at the national level.
- industrial development at the State level.
- promotion of joint ventures including negotiations for foreign collaboration and investment agreements.
- survey of industrial possibilities in backward regions.
- development of small scale industries and the design of incentives and assistance for their development.

In November 1977 he was appointed by the Government of India to head a Committee of Industrial Licensing

and foreign collaboration policies and procedures. The recommendations of this Committee have been largely accepted and implemented.

Has experience of bilateral and multilateral economic and technical assistance for a wide range of activities in India.

Has attended, as member of the Indian delegation, several important International meetings, such as the Commonwealth Senior Officials meetings, Finance Ministers' meetings, World Bank and IMF Governors meetings, UNDP Governing Council, the UNIDO General Conference and ESCAP meetings.

Has served on several Committees and on the Board of Directors of Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India—a leading industrial Financing institution of India.

TANCOF WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR SECURING THE BEST AWARD OF NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL

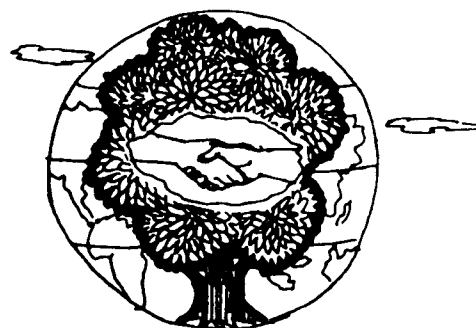
Tamil Nadu Cooperative Oilseeds Growers' Federation Limited has won the prestigious National Productivity Award for the year 1986-87 and also secured the Best Productivity Performance Award in the category of State Cooperative Oilseeds Growers' Federations at the National level. This is a rare distinction conferred on TANCOF as a recognition

of its committed principles of increasing productivity in the fields of the Oilseeds Growing farmers besides TANCOF's factories producing edible oils and also in helping to achieve objective of the Prime Minister's Technology Mission of edible oilseeds of becoming self-sufficient in Edible Oils by 1990.

The National Productivity Council is a National level organisation which confers the awards on Industries and Public Sector Units who contribute in increasing the productivity

in their respective fields. The Productivity awards for Agricultural sector are sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, in line with the suggestion of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi. In view of its predominant role of importance in the Indian economy. The awards are given for 11 groups consisting of State Agro Industries Corporation, Bio-Fertiliser, Dairy Development, Dry Land Agriculture, Horticulture Development, State Oilseeds Federations, Fisheries Marketing Federations and Poultry Development.

**Ours is a Very Small world
And the only world we have**



keep your world clean & green



The Maximum quantity of water drawn per day is increased to 630 lakhs litres from 340 lakhs litres per day. This can be increased to 1014 lakhs litres per day depending upon the requirements. 10 years back, there were only 18832 House service connections and 526 public Fountains in the Municipality. Now there are 42957 house service connections and 784 Public Fountains in the city limits. Apart from this, there are 6861 well water connections in the city.

ROAD WORKS

The maintenance of roads (Total Length 450.108 km) and formation of new roads have been executed during the past 10 years from 1977-78 to 1986-87. Moreover 58 main roads at a cost of Rs. 2,23,21,000 have been formed.

BUILDING WORKS

As there was no facility for buses plying in various routes to have a central terminal and as the passengers were finding it extremely difficult to reach their destinations, a town bus stand has been constructed at the Junction of Dr. Nanjappa Road. Three Shopping Complexes have been constructed in the important roads

Achievements of Coimbatore Corporation

The Coimbatore Municipality was upgraded into that of Corporation with effect from 1.5.81. Year after year the basic amenities such as providing protected water supply, forming of roads, construction of drains and providing street lights are increased. The population of the city has also been increased to 7,04,514 as per 1981 census. The expenditure for basic amenities are met from the income from house tax, profession tax, Licence fees, water charge lease items and subsidy granted by the Government from time to time. The approximate income is Rs. 12,30,41,190 and the expenditure Rs. 12,65,54,454.

WATER SUPPLY

The Industrial City of Coimbatore has been enjoying protected water supply since 1928, under the caption of Siruvani Water Supply Scheme. The original cost of the scheme was estimated to Rs. 16.16 crores and it has been revised to Rs. 21.65 crore subsequently. The Scheme is executed with the loan assistance of L.I.C. and the Government through the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board as a deposit work. Under this scheme the protected drinking water has been supplied for the whole Corporation area.

namely at Dr. Nanjappa Road, Avinashi Road and at Oppanakara street.

Due to the increase of children population 26 works pertaining to the construction of additional class rooms in the schools have been executed for the need of the additional students. Two daily markets have been constructed at Satyamangalam road and Mettupalayam road. In addition to the existing public latrines, 11 pay and use, 6 Deluxe Toilets have been newly constructed in the important roads of the city. Under this the total income to this

Corporation is Rs. 9,95,800 - Sheds have been provided for the shelter of the animals in the ZOO of V.O.C. Park. One Rostrum has been constructed at V.O.C. Park for conducting Public Meetings. To avoid the traffic congestion a Car Park has been provided adjacent to Hotel Guru in Big Bazaar Street. An expenditure of Rs. 1,85,61,000/- has been incurred for carrying out the above works.

UNDER GROUND DRAINAGE

The Corporation has undertaken a comprehensive drainage scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.77 crores. The work has been executed by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board on behalf of the Corporation with the loan assistances of L.I.C. and Government. There are three stages of works. All works in the first Zone has been completed and are in use. Works in the II and III Zones are under progress.

TREE PLANTING

14,500 saplings were planted along the road margin, in Park, School campus and other Corporation institutions. A sum of Rs. 9.00 lakhs has been incurred for this.

FLOOD RELIEF WORKS

Due to the Floods during 1979-80 the damaged roads has been renewed at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs.

ACCELERATED SLUM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME:

24 Slum areas have been provided with the basic amenities such as road, drains and water supply at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs. Number of people benefitted in this scheme is 35,000.

EDUCATION

The Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation is maintaining 9 Higher Secondary Schools, 12 High Schools, 15 Middle Schools, 64 primary and 1 Deaf & Dumb Special School, totalling to 101 Schools. Computer course have been introduced in two Higher Secondary Schools. The Tamil Nadu Government have



sanctioned Rs. 51 lakhs towards Secondary Education advance teaching grant.

Under the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme, 95 school feeding centres are being maintained by the Corporation and 35,957 Children are benefitted under this scheme.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The 213 additional rubbish carts were purchased and put into use along with the existing number of rubbish carts. 150 bulls, 500 night soil drums and 5 lorries were purchased and put into use after 1976-77. Moreover four more power tillers were purchased during 1981-82 to remove the rubbish from lanes. 9566 Tubectomy operations and 3113 Vasectomy sterilisation were done in family welfare centres functioning in this Corporation.

TOWN PLANNING

Master Plan - As required under Town and Country Planning Act 1971 Master Plans to an extent of 1,333sq. km. has been prepared.

129 Detailed Development plans have been notified within Coimbatore Corporation area. Action is being taken to acquire the land early.

LAND ACQUISITION

A sum of Rs. 19.36 lakhs has been remitted towards the cost of acquisition of lands for the construction of school, additional school building and formation of roads etc. Action is being taken to acquire the land early.

LAYOUTS

120 Layouts were approved and Development charges of Rs. 87.77 lakh were collected so far.

REVOLVING FUND SCHEME:

As permitted by the Government, 8 layouts have been taken up to provide amenities under Revolving Fund Scheme. A loan of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government for improvements to Town Bus Stand.

Formation of Scheme road AA and A1-A1 in detailed Development plans 9 and 10, Formation and Development of Park at Syrian Church road.

ELECTRICAL UNDERTAKING

Street lights are maintained in better manner to provide adequate light during night time. During the year 1986-87, 11,53,38,320 units of energy were purchased from Tamil Nadu Electricity Board for distribution. 19 numbers of New Sub-Stations were erected so far.

Exotic Designs for the New Year

A new range added in Chiffon, Polyester, Silk and Cotton sarees for you. Visit Co-optex showroom.



Tamil Arasu

May 1988 Re. I



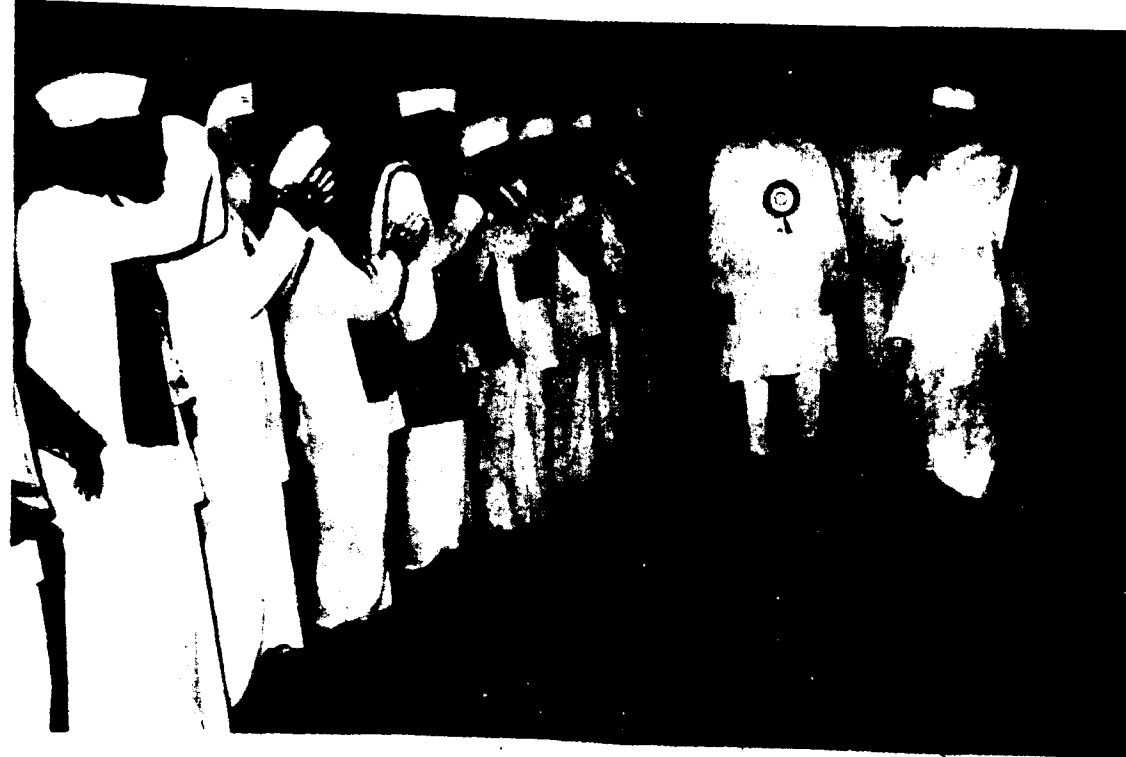
Vedaranyam

BAY OF BENGAL

Re-enactment of the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha



His Excellency the Vice President,
Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and
His Excellency the Governor
Dr. P.C. Alexander with some
of the participants of the
Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha
of 1930 (13.4.88, TIRUCHY)



The participants of the Re-enactment being greeted by His Excellency
the Vice President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. (13.4.88, TIRUCHY)

Tamil Arasu

Presents This month



The Re-enactment of the Vedaranyam Salt Yatra

In the early hours of the Tamil New Year day on the April 13th 1988 began the Re-enactment of one of the forceful events in India's modern history - The historic salt yatra of 1930 led by Rajaji. The programme organised as part of the Nation's 40th anniversary celebrations of Independence is a successful attempt to bring in a revival of the spirit of the pre-Independence years, to forge India towards greater unity.

The Cover story

The Dandi Yatra

Gandhiji's Dandi Yatra was the turning point in India's Struggle for Independence and the inspiration for the Vedaranyam Salt Yatra. The Re-enactment of the Dandi Yatra was completed recently.

An in-depth report

Thiruvalluvar Year 2019

May 1988 Re. I

171751 "Gandhiji's Salt Satyagraha was for the poor, the deprived and the handi-capped of our country"

—Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi

The message of truth and non-violence is as relevant today as it was during the freedom movement.

Those who participated in the recent padayatra and those crores of Indians who watched them participate and remembered Gandhiji's great padyatra will remember also the values of truth and non-violence for which Gandhiji lived and for which Gandhiji died.

The other great practical lesson which Gandhiji taught us through the salt satyagraha was to focus our attention on the poorest of the poor. He said the only form of worship he knew was the worship of *daridra-narayana*.

It is that kind of profound understanding of the poor that we need as much in India today as when Gandhiji set out on his padayatra nearly 60 years ago. It is the poor and the deprived, the disadvantaged and the handicapped who must remain the focus of our concern, the object of our work.

Freedom can be won only by taking up the cause of the poorest as the highest national cause. Today we must remember that we can make our country great only by making the poorest in our land great. There is no honour that this country can win, no power that this country can hold, no glory that this country can attain unless it honours its poorest citizens, unless it builds the power of its citizen, unless it makes the glory of its poorest citizen the proof of the glory of India.

Let all those who marched to Dandi and all those crores of Indians who watched their progress over

the next 25 days remember that the cause for which Gandhiji marched is the cause for which we are still working namely the cause of all the poor, all the deprived, all the disadvantaged and all the handi-capped of our country.

We can build our nation only on the basis of unity. Our unity does not mean dissolving our different cultures into a single solution.

The greatness of the unity of India is that each of us retains his particular cultural identity while belonging to the larger entity called India. This has been our genius for 5000 years.

We have had the genius to nourish and respect all our different languages, cultures and religions while going beyond those particular difference to a sense of the larger unity of India.

So Gandhiji's padayatra to Dandi was not only to ask the British to leave or to give the world a lesson in principled non-violence or even to serve the cause of the poorest. It was also a living demonstration to the people of India that, notwithstanding the glorious diversity of our country, all the castes and religions, regions and languages of India were merged together in fighting for freedom.

Let those who have marched to Dandi and those of us who watched this pilgrim progress remember once again that it was through unity that we ended slavery. It is only through unity that we will be able to build our nation, eradicate poverty, ensure justice and give India back her place in the vanguard of human civilisation.

Today, every aspect of Gandhiji's constructive work remains as relevant to nation building as it was to the fight for freedom.

Today as then, we have to be self-reliant.

Today, as then, we must recognise the dignity of labour.

Today, as then, we have to work for the uplift of the weaker sections of our society.

Today, as then, we have to work towards the emancipation of women.

Gandhiji also defined a true satyagrahi. There is no satyagraha involved in breaking the law and running away. There is no satyagraha involved in throwing stones, damaging public property or setting buses on fire. There is certainly no satyagraha involved in inciting communal passions, resorting to violence or encouraging terrorism. All these methods are the ways of cowards. A coward can never make a true satyagrahi.



We have won our freedom but we are still building the new India. As we build the new India perhaps the single biggest drag on us is our indiscipline.

It is our privilege as Indians to be the inheritors of one of the greatest traditions of human civilisation. It is our privilege as Indians to belong to the only country to have demonstrated the strength of non-violence over violence. It is our privilege as Indians to be the direct descendants of Gandhiji and his noble companions in the war of Independence. In all humility, let us prove worthy of them.

Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (1930) The Glorious Re-enactment

"It is national unity and humanism that can best, and most fully energise our progress. Come what may, we are one as we have been for thousands of years, and one we shall remain. On that depends the true materialisation of the dreams of our freedom fighters whose courage, philosophy and sacrifice we commemorate today", His Excellency, the Vice President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma said while inaugurating the Re-enactment at Tiruchi on 13th April 1988



Describing Mahatma Gandhi and Rajaji as worthy sons of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, His Excellency the Vice-President, said "Dandi and Vedaranyam are sanctified by their touch. They symbolise for us the cherished destination of our pilgrims. The salt of our freedom was gathered there."

He was inaugurating the re-enactment of the Tiruchirapalli - Vedaranyam salt satyagraha march from the same spot from where Rajaji led it in 1930. Dr. Sharma declared, "Today is the auspicious beginning of New Year—Pudu

Varusham. It is celebrated as Baisakhi in Punjab. Today is also the anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. It is a day of deep and mystic importance to India."

Today we renew our solidarity, our sense of personal responsibility and our devotion to motherland", he said.

"It is national unity and humanism that can best, and most fully, energise our progress. Come what may, we are one as we have been for thousands of years, and one we shall remain. On that depends the true materialisation of the dreams of our

freedom fighters whose courage, philosophy and sacrifice we commemorate today", he said while inaugurating the re-enactment at 5 a.m. the same time when Rajaji launched the march in 1930.

After leading the 100 marchers for about 200 metres, the Vice-President and the Tamil Nadu Governor, Dr. P.C. Alexander,

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addressed a public meeting at the military ground.

Dr. Sharma said, "a chosen few of our fellow country men are setting forth today, on foot to traverse the path that 58 years ago advanced our nation towards freedom. It is a path that has been

lighted by the radiance of the human spirit and the glory of sacrifice in the cause of nation. Every step of the march from Tiruchi to Vedaranyam represented a mission of historic importance asserting the will of the people for freedom, humanism and true progress."

"This path represents the humanist way of life to which we Indians are committed from ancient times from the North to the West Coast, from the South to the East Coast. It is an approach in keeping with the brilliant ideals eternally relevant to India as well as to the rest of humankind. Our ethos of



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powerful nationalist thought, secularism, and democratic socialism emanates from these ideals. Our struggle for freedom was fired by these ideals".

Dr. Sharma pointed out that it was the youth who heeded the call of the Mahatma and contributed a vital force to the movement for national liberation.

Emphasising that the revolution that was brought about by the labours of our freedom fighters must not cease with the attainment of our independence, Dr. Sharma observed that ours was a continuing revolu-

tion aspiring for the transformation of the country in consonance with the secular, socialist, democratic, and nationalist ideals for the upliftment of our people from the misery of poverty and the gloom of despair.

His Excellency, the Governor Dr. Alexander welcomed the gathering. He concluded his two minutes speech in Tamil quoting Bharathiar, "Vazhia Senthamizh.... Vande Matharam".

The Vice-President then honoured four of the 15 survivors who were associates of Rajaji in the 1930 march. Those honoured

were Messrs. A.N. Sivaraman, R.S.Ramakrishnan, A.Subramaniam and N.A.V. Pathy.

The function commenced with the singing of Bhajans and Bharathiyar songs. The Vice-President joined in the singing of "Raghupathi Raghava."

The Vice-President's English speech was translated into Tamil by Dr. V.C. Kulandaiswamy, Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, Madras Mr. A. Padmanabhan, I.A.S. Adviser to the Governor, proposed a vote of thanks.



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Epic March of Vedaranyam

“Vedaranyam seems to have been chosen, because it was the place where Vallabh Bhai Patel had in 1920 presided over the Tamil Nadu Congress Conference; it was also favourably situated near the Agastyampalli salt factory and the well-known salt swamp producing natural salt in abundance and it was the home of Vedaratnam Pillai, an active congress worker. Further it was a place of pilgrimage.”

The salt marches of Vedaranyam which had witnessed only the dance of the flamingoes and the desolate cries of the seagulls were to witness a different kind of activity in 1930—the salt march, the forerunner to many a non-violent battle for independence and civil-disobedience movements which were by themselves against the tyranny of the British rule in India.

In 1930, Gandhiji made an offer to the then Viceroy of India whereby he assured that he would not press on with civil disobedience, if the British Government would accept his Eleven Points. The latter included: reduction in land revenue, abolition of salt tax, release of political prisoners and levy of duty on foreign cloth. The British Government considered the Eleven Points to be too unrealistic and paid scant attention to Gandhiji's demand.

In January 1930, Gandhiji told Tagore that he was furiously thinking 'night and day' regarding action to be taken and said he would make a call for the celebrations of 'Independence Day', on January, 26th. On that day in the towns and villages of India, hundreds of thousands of people took a pledge that to submit to British rule was a crime against man and God. The people under-

took to join a campaign of civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes if the Congress Party launched such a move. The enthusiasm of the people rose to a such high pitch on Independence Day when Gandhiji came to believe that time was ripe for a mass movement. He immediately suggested the inauguration of the movement with the breach of the Salt laws.

To this move, the first impulse of the British Government was to ridicule 'the kindergarden stage of political revolution' and to laugh away the idea that the King-Emperor could be unseated by boiling sea-water in a kettle. The Government did not take the breach of the salt tax seriously and even Gandhiji's close adherents doubted whether the salt satyagraha would succeed.

But Gandhi knew his terrain. The British Government had imposed a tax on salt and this was particularly burdensome to the peasants. Salt was the one commodity that the poor man used more often than the rich. His daily requirements were more; for he worked in the fields under the scorching sun. For the average farmer, the annual tax was equivalent to three days' income. In a grain of salt Gandhi had found the perfect symbol of freedom. To oppose the salt laws would be to assert, a simple, elementary human right.

Before launching the satyagraha, Gandhi wrote to the Viceroy in which he noted as follows: "if my letter makes no appeal to you

heart, on the eleventh day of this month, I shall proceed, with such co-workers of this ashram as I can take to disregard the provisions of the salt laws". The Viceroy's reply was brief: it expressed its regret at Mr. Gandhi's contemplating a course of action which was closely bound to involve the violation of the law and danger to public peace. "On bended knee, I asked for bread, said Gandhiji, "I received a stone instead."

At 6.30 A.M. on March 12, 1930, Gandhiji began the 241 mile epic march to Dandi. The Seventy nine Satyagrahis included scholars, newspaper editors, harijans and weavers. The people of Ahmedabad had turned out in their thousands to cheer them. He announced that he would not return to Sabarmati Ashram until the salt tax was repealed.

"Watch", Gandhiji had said. "I will give a signal to the nation." Uneasily the world watched. On the night of April 5th, the marchers reached the Dandi beach. "God willing, I expect to commence actual civil disobedience at 6.30 in the morning with my companions", said Gandhiji. At sunrise, having spent most of the night in prayer, he walked into the sea, then returning to shore, picked up some salt left from evaporated sea water.

From Dandi, where he had made the first symbolic breach of the salt laws, Gandhi sent a message

that "at present Indian self-respect is symbolised, as it were, in a handful of salt in the satyagrahi's hand" "Let the fist be broken but let there be no surrender of salt." Gandhiji wrote, "I want world sympathy in this battle of right against might." On May 5th, Gandhiji was arrested. Just before his arrest Gandhi had planned to raid the salt depots at Dharsana. The salt depots were raided on 21st May by other leaders. They were arrested and the rank and file beaten up. Webb Miller, an American correspondent reported: "In no case did I see a volunteer—all told there were two thousand five hundred of them—even raise an arm to deflect the blows, obviously it was their purpose to force the police to beat them. In eighteen years of reporting, in twenty two countries, I have never witnessed such harrowing scenes as at Dharsana. Sometimes the scenes were so painful that I had to turn away momentarily. One surprising feature was the discipline of volunteers. It seemed they were thoroughly imbued with Gandhi's non-violence creed."

When Gandhi gave the clarion call to the Dandi March, in the south, the nefarious salt law was breached at Vedaranyam. The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee in a resolution passed at Vellore said that under the leadership of C. Rajagopalachari, the historic march would start from the house of Dr. T.S.S. Rajan on 13-4-1930, Tamil New Year's Day and reach Vedaranyam.

Vedaranyam seems to have been chosen, because it was the place where Vallabh Bhai Patel had in 1920 presided over the Tamil Nadu Congress Conference; it was favourably situated near the Agastyampalli salt factory and the well known salt swamp producing natural salt in abundance, and it was the home of Vedaratnam Pillai, an active Congress worker. Further it was a place of pilgrimage and the march to it would invest the whole campaign with a religious significance.

In March 1930, Rajaji issued an appeal for funds and volunteers and toured throughout Thanjavur addressing meetings at various places to prepare the ground for his march. Volunteers hurried to his side from several districts in the State and Rajaji then sent an advance guard to go along the route of the march to arrange for accommodation and supplies at suitable halts and also to rouse the sympathies of the people. In this as in all other work connected with the campaign he found able lieutenants in Dr. T.S.S. Rajan, Secretary to the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, Thirumathi Lakshminpathi, the organizer of the

Thiruvaiyar to Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Mannargudi, Tiruthurai-poondi, and from then on to Vedaranyam.

The following account by G. Narayana Iyengar describes the epic story.

"The satyagrahis reached the Thanjavur border, the then Collector of the district Mr. Thorne issued an



Madras League of youth, Thiru Panthulu Ayyar, a former member of the Legislative Council and a man of position and repute of Kumbakonam and in some other Congress workers. The march was planned to begin from Tiruchirappalli, the headquarters of the Congress, and to pass through the Grand Anaicut and

"To Mahatma's move towards the inauguration of a movement to breach the Salt Laws, the first impulse of the Government was to ridicule 'the kindergarden stage of political revolution' and to laugh away the idea that the King-Emperor could be unseated by boiling sea-water in a kettle."

order that it was an offence to harbour any satyagrahi. But the veteran patriot, the late Panthulu Iyer of Kumbakonam, defied this order and entertained the satyagrahis in his own house. Not only this, but contrary to Rajaji's instructions he gave them a regular feast including payasam. When the group had their food, there was some delay in serving payasam after rasam. One satyagrahi sang a song of Ramalingaswamy in which the Almighty is described as sugar candy, honey and so on.

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THE MARCH THAT LED TO FREEDOM

Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (1930)

Under Rajaji's Leadership



With the kind courtesy of:

Rajmohan Gandhi's book,
The warrior from the South.

The Beginning

Hundreds had assembled at the unusual hour to witness a going out to war. When the marchers took their first deliberate steps there was a complete hush. Tears trickled down the faces of some onlookers. After a few seconds the notes of a song could be heard. 'Kathiyinri Rathaminri', the marchers were singing. 'Sans sword sans blood.' The verse had been composed for the occasion by poet Thiru Ramalingam Pillai.

C.R. had not walked long when he was shown the morning's paper carrying Thorne's order against 'harbouring.' Without pausing or slowing down, C.R. dictated, to accompanying press reporters, a fresh answer. He knew, he said, his people and their tradition of hospitality better than a British officer did. The order, he predicted, would enlarge the public's welcome. With a twinkle he added, 'Thorns and thistles' cannot stem this tide of freedom.'

In the beginning it looked as if Thorne's strategy might work. At Koviladi, on the second day of the march, the party found the 'chhatram' pilgrims' innbarred and bolted against them. C.R. was invited to a private home and the rest slept on the bed of the Cauvery.

'Stretching out everywhere, the Cauvery serves us like a great friend and mother.' CR. wrote his children. 'She assists with our lodging and our washing. On her sands thousands attend our meetings.'

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women-tolk coming in great numbers.' 'When I see you 2 or 2½ years hence,' C.R. adjured Narasimhan and Lakshmi, 'you should receive me smiling.'

Koviladi was not a pointer. In the halts that followed the marchers were joyously hailed. They walked under welcome arches, on roads sprinkled with water and to the cheers of crowds that were getting bigger and bigger.

More important, they were fed and housed. Thorne's directives which he reinforced by personally visiting, ahead of the marchers, some of their halts—were defied or defeated. Those who openly gave hospitality knew the consequences—jail terms and fines—and received them. Others, too, found ways of helping. A nameless host, in one place, hung bundles of food on trees the marchers could not miss. Eventually C.R. had to appeal against pampering the satyagrahis.

Neither soldiers nor sanyasis, the marchers yet bore a resemblance to both. Walking five miles in the morning and five in the evening—past ricefields or groves of banana or coconut, with the Cauvery, journeying seaward, often by their side, they took with them a way of life.

At stops they fraternised with 'untouchables' in their hutments refrained from entering temples—because they were closed to the 'untouchables'—swept village streets and spoke up for Hindu-Muslim unity and against drink. And at two crowded meetings a day they preached the gospel of non-violent revolt.

Reporting to the Government of Madras the 'extraordinarily vigorous propaganda' along the route, Thorne claimed, 'with all respect', that he had been right in suggesting C.R.'s early arrest and added that 'harm to the prestige of Government has been done by the march.'

Though a toe infection obliged him to walk barefoot for two or three days, C.R. stood the journey well. In the thick of it he remembered to ask about 'the anti-drink work around the Ashram.' 'I am anxious only about that,' he wrote.

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In response to persistent campaigning by C.R., toddy shops had lately been closed in the Ashram area, which as a result no longer saw 'reeling villagers staggering on the road.'

At Tanjore town, Thorne's post of command, a brother and sister gave, in C.R.'s words, 'shelter and noble hospitality,' but C.R.'s heart sank when he found that nothing had been prepared for the evening meeting; no one, he was told, was ready to take responsibility. A lawyer finally offered C.R. a rickety old table; with the help of the lawyer's gardener, C.R. had it moved to the meeting site.

Not a soul was to be seen there—and C. R. was prepared for 'a miserable failure.' 'After all it is Thorne's headquarters,' C. R. thought, 'and we may yield to him at least in one battle.'

But when C.R. and his team marched down at the appointed hour they saw a surging mass of humanity. Before C.R. spoke—'with a heart moved to the depths'—the 20,000 present prayed in complete silence.

In Kumbakonam, Panthulu Iyer, ex-member of the Legislative Council, kept all the marchers for two nights in his house and fed them. He was jailed for six months. Next, in Semmangudi, C.R. learnt that a few government servants were in the welcoming crowd. This kind of courage meant, he told the throng, that freedom had already arrived. As expected, the officials lost their jobs.

While C.R. was addressing a meeting in Tiruthuraiipoondi, Ramachandra Naidu was arrested for having fed the satyagrahis. The multitude remained calm. Gandhian teaching had been imbibed.

A mighty crowd was waiting in Vedaranyam, when the satyagrahis reached on April 28, the sixteenth day of the march. After saying that he was taking the welcome address as read and the garlands as worn, a tired but smiling C.R. declared that he would break the salt law on the 30th and expect others to break it thereafter.

THE TEAM FOR VEDARANYAM

"The eventual regiment—the 'hundred gems,' as they came to be called—included a man from each Tamil district, seven youths resigning handsome Bombay jobs, an engineering college lecturer and a railway official, the last two also sacrificing their posts. To the free India of the future the group was to contribute an editor, an ambassador, a union minister, five Chief Ministers and more."

The Drama of Rajaji's Arrest

Almost immediately after they reached the swamp and, beginning with C.R. every body bent down and picked up some salt, the Superintendent of Police, Govindan Nair, was on the scene. He was supported by some officers and fifty constables. C.R. and others holding salt were told to surrender it. On their refusal Nair arrested C.R.

Resolved to prevent demonstrations of sympathy, Thorne had arranged for a quick, secluded trial in a salt shed near the sea, and a quiet despatch of the prisoner by





the 8.35 a.m. train from Agasthyampalli station. He had also instructed that all telegrams relating to the arrest be withheld till evening.

Nair fetched a bucket of water for C.R. to wash his salty hands and sandy feet before being tried. Ponnuswamy Pillai, the judge brought to the shed, had been in Salem during C.R.'s lawyer days. The prosecutor was inefficient; never at a loss in a court, C.R. helped him out.

The sentence was six months rigorous imprisonment plus a Rs. 200 fine or another three months. C.R. said he would prefer the additional term. Pillai had given out his verdict calmly, but when it came to signing the jail warrant he broke down and wept.

The proceedings had been speedy but not brisk enough for the prisoner to be placed on the 8.35 a.m. train. Thorne's officers had let their chief down. By the time the next train left, carrying C.R. to Tiruchy, word of his arrest had spread.

C.R. at Prison

C.R. spent three weeks, as convict number 5557, in Tiruchy Central Jail where at six each evening he was locked inside a small cell in which the only 'means of ingress for air' was 'a small ventilator about 2 ft. by 1 ft. barred and wirenetted.' He felt he had been 'deprived of a reasonable measure of fresh air and sleep'. From Tiruchy C.R. was moved for two weeks to the Madras Penitentiary and thence to Bellary Central Jail.



The summer is long, hot and exacting in Bellary, but C.R.'s four months there had positive aspects. He was in the company of intelligent young satyagrahis. They were eager to learn. C.R. was glad to teach.



This memorial pillar, erected by the Tiruchi Municipality 12 years ago, stands on the spot from where the historic march to Vedaranyam started under Rajaji's leadership on April 13, 1930.

The jailor 'knew how to deal with gentlemen as well as to keep within the rules': he gave C.R. full freedom to hold classes and prayer meetings.

C.R. covered a wide range of subjects, mostly chosen by the young men; the lives of great men, of trees and bees, stars and atoms; also Bolshevism, untouchability and the national debt. One of the 'students' took down the talks in shorthand; they were published in 1931 as "Chats Behind Bars."

Though awarded nine months in all, C.R. in fact served a sentence of five months and eleven days. After he had been consigned to prison the Government discovered that the penalty for not paying the Rs. 200 fine should have been six weeks, not three months; it would seem, moreover, that about ten weeks were remitted.

Released on October 10th, C.R. forthwith addressed a Bellary gathering and attacked the new ordinances. They merely made 'clear to the world the reality of Indian revolt.' The movement, he claimed, would feed on the 'fresh vitaminous dishes' which the Viceroy had 'cooked and made ready.'

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Vedaranyam Salt March - A Flash back

Thiru G. Ramachandran, the founder of Gandhigram Rural University, has been through the thick of the freedom movement. He has been associated with many veteran national leaders. Here, in this article, he narrates his experience in the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha.

The Vedaranyam Salt March took place 58 years ago, but I still remember it vividly. Tiruchirappalli buzzed with activity. Volunteers for the March poured in from all over Tamil Nadu.

In the early hours of the 13th April, we had gathered at Dr. T. S. S. Rajan's house at Tiruchi cantonment. There were over a hundred of us. The morning air resounded with the strains of the song "Raghupathy Raghava Rajaram, Pathutha Pavana Sitaram".

The March commenced under the saintly leadership of Rajaji. Step by step, step by step, we followed.

We had just left Tiruchi when Rajaji was informed of the orders of Thorne, the District Collector of Thanjavur: "Anyone supporting or helping the Marchers was liable for imprisonment and fine". A cynical smile spread on Rajaji's face. He said "I know my people...this proclamation is going to add to my embarrassment because it will redouble the enthusiasm of the people". He added, "Neither Thorne nor thistles are going to stop us."

Indeed, his words were prophetic.

Throughout the March, we received unprecedented support and hospitality from the people en route. We reached Vedaranyam on the 28th April. A large crowd had gathered to meet us - with garlands. It moved us. Rajaji said "Keep all the garlands. My neck is too weak to carry all the garlands you give me, but remember, to-day you rejoice but tomorrow you will have to face the crisis. The Police are all round. They are watching us. I will be arrested and taken away. But you have to stand up to the test afterwards. Keep non-violence, let none of you raise your finger against the Police as they arrest you or lathi-charge you or beat you down. Stand erect like Tamil people. You are very proud of being a Tamilian". He was the embodiment of Tamil Culture - a few words but they sank deep into the hearts of the listeners.

Early next morning, Rajaji defied the Salt Law at one of the swamps. He was arrested by Govinda Menon, the Superintendent of Police. It was ironic as Menon had known Rajaji personally and had highest reverence for him. It was observed as a day of silent prayer at Vedaranyam. Shop and business establishments remained closed. From the next day onwards, the Salt Laws confirmed to be defied.

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The hundred of us who had accompanied Rajaji set up a small camp at Vedaranyam—I remember the people in the camp very distinctly. There was Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai, a Salt merchant on whose invitation Rajaji had come to Vedaranyam. He was arrested. There was K. Santhanam who later became a Minister in the Central Government. He too was arrested. Then, of course, there was Mattapparai Venkatarama Iyer - the lion of a man, with big whiskers, a Brahmin but Kshatriya by character. The British did not spare him either. He auctioned the Satyagraha salt - Freedom Salt, as we called it—made into small packets worth 10 paise but we sold them at Rs. 10, Rs. 20/- and Rs. 30/-

Salt continued to be collected at Vedaranyam and the Police were losing their patience. Volunteers were mercilessly beaten up. But we refused to give up. As the arrests went on, the number of Volunteers dwindled to 50.



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"Keep all the garlands. My neck is too weak to carry all the garlands you give me but remember, today you rejoice but tomorrow you will have to face the crisis. The police are all around. They are watching us. I will be arrested and taken away. But you have to stand the test afterwards. Keep non-violence, let none of you raise your finger-one finger against the police, as they arrest you or lathicharge you or beat you down. Stand erect like Tamil people-you are very proud of being a Tamilian?"

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—Rajaji

I remember clearly the day when we were all arrested. We had collected a large quantity of salt and brought it to the camp. The Police got mind of this and a small unit led by an Inspector charged into the Camp. Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmipathy (who later became the Deputy Chairman of the Madras Legislature) covered the salt with her hands

and the rest of us sat around her in a circle holding hands. She was our valuable leader and comrade. The Police wanted to seize the salt as it was "Contraband". We told the Police "This is Freedom Salt. You will not take it away unless you do so over our dead body". Dr. T.S.S. Rajan and K.Vaidyanatha Iyer from Madurai were part of our group.

The trial was conducted by a local Magistrate. I was sentenced to a rigorous imprisonment and being the leader of the Camp, I was also fined Rs. 500- and to realise the fine, the utensils and other items in the Camp were confiscated.

But next only to the Dandi March, the Vedaranyam Salt March will remain in the movement of our Freedom as one of the conspicuous landmarks.

My message is very simple. In repeating the Satyagraha, you are repeating the Freedom Movement of India—a crucial juncture in our history. Please remember it was Rajaji who led the struggle at Vedaranyam. As you march forward, remember that fragile figure, that saintly man who made history in South India. You are the proud repetitioners of one of the crusade battles in our Freedom Movement. As you March on, keep all the rectitude which Rajaji had given to us in the March and as you go on in the March, speak to the people of what India is to-day, how it emerged into Freedom and what under the new circumstances, the people of India particularly in Tamil Nadu, what they have to do to make India strong, united and great

Gandhiji's Arrest

The police officials arrived at midnight, accompanied by thirty men with readied guns. In the darkness it was impossible for them to make out Gandhi anywhere, or guess where he might be hiding. At last someone pointed out a little white bundle in one of the open sheds. "That is Gandhiji". In the midst of the confusion, the leader of this national earthquake was sleeping like a baby, absolutely certain that the Lord would take care of him.

The British official awakened the sleeper and shone a flashlight

into his face. "We have come to arrest Mr. M.K. Gandhi."

"I am Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi," the little figure answered politely, "I am at your service."

"Please get your things ready. We will give you the time you need."

"I am ready now," said Gandhi indicating the small bundle on the floor. "This is all I need."

While the policemen watched he set about brushing his few teeth in his usual unhurried way. Then after a short prayer he turned to the official in charge and walked briskly to the car outside, chatting cheerfully to his escorts. He knew that it might be years before he returned, yet there was no trace of apprehension or resentment in his manner. The police were so impressed by the simple dignity of this little man that they seemed to be not his jailers but his prisoners. He was at his very best when being persecuted. He was at his strongest when under pressure. And he was free whether inside prison or out.



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Gandhiji's

words of wisdom



must be, always to his heart. The satyagrahi's object is to convert, not to coerce, the wrongdoer. He should avoid artificiality in all his doings. He acts naturally and from inward conviction."

"Satyagraha is gentle, it never wounds. It must not be the result of anger or malice. It is never fussy, never impatient, never vociferous. It is the direct opposite of compulsion. It was conceived as a complete substitute for violence."

If non-violence is the law of our being, the future is with woman.

As truth and ahimsa are not merely for the chosen few, so exactly, is self-control not merely for a few but for the whole of humanity.

Death is at any time blessed, it is twice blessed for a warrior who dies for his cause, that is, Truth.

Hatred ever kills, love never dies.

It is my conviction that nothing enduring can be built on violence.

True suffering does not know itself and never calculates. It brings its own joy, which surpasses all other joys.

Non-violence is the essence of discipline.

You need not be afraid that the method of non-violence is a slow longdrawnout process. It is the swiftest the world has seen for, it is the surest.

Satyagraha is a relentless search for truth and a determination to reach truth.

Non-violence is like radium in its action. It acts in a silent, subtle, unseen way and leavens the whole society.

Real suffering bravely borne melts even a heart of stone.

Anger and intolerance are the twin enemies of correct understanding.

"A satyagrahi bids goodbye to fear. He is therefore never afraid of trusting the opponent. Even if the opponent plays him false twenty times, the satyagrahi is ready to trust him the twenty-first time, for an implicit trust in human nature is the very essence of his creed."

"In satyagraha, it is never the numbers that count; it is always the quality, more so when the forces of violence are uppermost."

"Then it is often forgotten that it is never the intention of a satyagrahi to embarrass the wrongdoer. The appeal is never to his fear; it is,

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Non-violence is an active force of the highest order.

Anger is the enemy of ahimsa, and pride is a monster that swallows it up.

Satyagraha is the introduction of truth and gentleness in the national life.

God is the shield of the non-violent.

Strength of numbers is the delight of the timid. The valiant of spirit glory in fighting alone.

Bravery is not a quality of body, it is of the soul.

Gift of life is the greatest of all gifts, a man who gives it in reality, disarms all hostility.

If we develop the force of will, we shall find that we do not need the force of arms.

To me God is truth and love. God is ethics and morality. God is fearlessness. God is the source of light and life and yet he is above and beyond all these. God is conscience. He is even the atheism of the atheist for in his boundless love, God permits the atheist to live.

Whatever you do, be true to yourselves and to the world.

Error can claim no exemption even if it can be supported by all the scriptures of the world.

Untruth and violence are twin sisters.





The Historic Dandi March

The historic Dandi March led by Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, is a significant landmark in the history of India's struggle for freedom. Started to break the tyrannious salt tax by picking up salt on the sea-coast at Dandi in South Gujarat, it kindled a new spirit of sacrifice among the people and with it the mass civil dis-obedience movement spread like wild fire all over the country.

The Great March, which was like Lord Buddha's Mahabhinishkraman, commenced from the Ashram premises on the banks of the river Sabarmati at Ahmedabad at 6.30a.m on March 12, 1930 with seventy-

eight inmates. Mahatma Gandhi though frail but full of energy even at the age of sixty one with his staff in hand, led the satyagrahis who hailed from all the parts of the country—the Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra, U.P., Kutch, Sind, Kerala, Rajputana, Andhra, Karnataka, Bombay, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Bengal, Utkal and even from Nepal and Fiji. They represented a cross-section of the people as among them were two Muslims and one Christian besides Hindus including two Harijans.

Before commencing the march, Gandhiji had a long communication with the Viceroy on this unjust Salt Act and the civil disobedience to be resumed by him but a just reply was not forthcoming.

As the appointed day for the march was nearing, thousands of people began to throng the premises

and the surrounding open grounds of the Sabarmati Ashram. On the eve of the march, Gandhiji in his memorable speech at the evening prayers expressed his wish that there be no suspension or abandonment of the campaign he was commencing next morning.

"For me this is nothing less than a holy pilgrimage" said Gandhiji about the Dandi March. "Like the historic march of Ramachandra to Lanka the march of Gandhi will be memorable", said Motilal Nehru while P.C. Ray compared it with "the exodus of the Israelites under Moses."

Gandhiji declared not to return to the Ashram till the freedom was won.

A huge crowd followed Gandhiji and his batch of satyagrahis as they commenced their

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I want world sympathy in this battle of Right against Wrong.
Sandi M. Gandhi
5.4.30



The battle against the 'Black Regime' was at its climax when Gandhiji planned to commence the march to Dharasana Salt Works. But at the dead of night, at 00.45 hrs. on May 4, 1930 he was arrested at Karadi, three miles from Dandi. Within an hour he was driven away in a lorry to Yervada Central Prison, after the hymn Vaishnavajan with which he had commenced his march was recited.

march. The people everywhere were overcome with a new wave of enthusiasm. As if a spell was cast by this march, thousands of people gathered on the way to greet the satyagrahis. They decorated the 241-mile route of the march with arches, torans, flags and festoons.

broke the salt law by picking up a lump of salt.

The first salvo of the battle was thus fired and the entire nation rose as a man against what Gandhiji described as 'Goonda Raj'.

Gandhiji had nominated Abbas Tyabji and after him Tmt. Sarojini Naidu to lead the Satyagraha if he was arrested.

Miraben, a close associate of Gandhiji said about the arrest that, "At the dead of night, like thieves they came to steal him away for when they sought to lay hand on him, they feared the multitudes, because they took him for a prophet."

The march commenced everyday at 6.30 a.m. after the morning prayers. The Ashram routine was to be strictly observed by all the satyagrahis. Gandhiji used to get up very early at about four in the morning and retire after 9.00 p.m. He with his co-marchers covered ten or more miles everyday. He also addressed huge public meetings, gave interviews, held discussions, replied letters and wrote for his periodical all throughout his journey.

Motilal Nehru and Jawaharlal Nehru met Gandhiji at Jambusar and also marched a little distance with him. Motilal Nehru made a gift of their ancestral house, Anand Bhavan at Allahabad to the nation thereafter consulting him.

The long trek came to an end on April 5th, the twenty-fourth day of the journey. On April 6th, soon after the prayers Gandhiji took a bath in the sea and at 8.30 a.m. he

"The aftermath of the March"

On the morning of April 6, 1930, the salt tax law was defied at Dandi. As Gandhiji put it: "... it was now open to anyone who would take the risk of prosecution under the salt laws to manufacture salt."

The entire nation rose in response. Countless Indians courted arrest. Salt depots were raided. In a single raid at Dharsana, Gujarat, 289 volunteers were mercilessly beaten up.

The British were retaliating by unleashing a wave of terror. The jails filled up: with over 95,000 brave Indians. On April 14, Jawaharlal Nehru was arrested and sentenced to six months of imprisonment. "

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Dandi March Re-Enacted - Replaying History

The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi, on 12th March 1988, flagged off and led a Dandi yatra from the Harijan ashram at Ahmedabad to commemorate the historic Dandi March undertaken by Mahatma Gandhi during the freedom struggle. The march, renamed 'Ekta Yatra' started exactly at 6.20 a.m. with thousands of people taking part.

The Prime Minister starting off from the ashram walked about four km. with the 80 yatriis, especially trained for the 365-km march. The yatriis, like the original marchers of March 12, 1930, were dressed in khadi kurta, pyjama and Gandhi cap with a sling bag on the shoulder and a tricolour scarf tied around the neck. The Prime Minister and his wife were similarly dressed.

The start of the march was preceded by a ceremony during which six survivors of the original Dandi March were felicitated. Mementoes were presented to the six. Thiru. Bhanushanker Dave, Thiru. Ratanji Boricha, Thiru. Lalji Parmar, Thiru. Madhavlal Shah, Thiru. Satish Kalelkar and Thiru. Anand Hingorani. The Prime Minister also joined in the singing of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite bhajans by singer Sudha Malhotra.

Tmt. Madhuri Khare evoked nostalgic memories of the original Dandi March when she sang 'Hari Om.. Hari Om.. Shur Sangram Karo'. The bhajan was sung by her father, Narayan Shastri Khare, on March 12, 1930 before Mahatma Gandhi set out on his march to Dandi to break the salt law.

One of the six veterans handed over the national flag and a torch

to Thiru Gandhi, which he passed over to two of the trekkers. The large crowd which had started collecting in the ashram compound then stood up and jointly took a pledge to protect the unity and integrity of the nation and strive for the uplift of backward classes and of the nation as a whole.

About 90 MPs including ministers, several freedom fighters and many other people participated in the yatra up to a considerable distance. Ahead of the march advanced the 40-member pilot group called 'Arun Tukdi' comprising youngsters who will look after the requirements of the trekkers.

DANDI ENACTMENT COMPLETED.

From this tiny historic coastal village called Dandi in South Gujarat, His Excellency, the President, Thiru R. Venkataraman, on April 7th 1988 exhorted the countrymen to rededicate themselves to the path of service, sacrifice, love, compassion, truth and non-violence that Mahatma Gandhi had shown.

He was speaking from the same spot where Gandhiji had addressed the participants of the famous 'Dandi March' and other freedom-fighters 58 years ago.

The President said, "let us again prove to ourselves and to the world that we shall be true to the salt of our forebears who suffered and sacrificed their all so that we may live in freedom and dignity."

The Dandi Salt Satyagraha, he said, imbued the countrymen, with a new confidence, which became an inspiration forever.

The President was addressing the participants of the 'Ekta yatra'—a re-enactment of the Dandi march—led by Gandhiji to defy that salt tax imposed by the British Regime—and a large gathering which came from far and near to the village.

The batch of 79 padyatris were welcomed by the President, amidst raising of national slogans, on their arrival, the 26th day of their 387 km long trek through 43 villages of Central and South Gujarat.

Organised by the State-level committee celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Independence and the birth centenary of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Ekta Yatra was held to demonstrate communal harmony, integrity and clarity of the nation.

The President said, nearly six decades after the "Dandi March"—the first salvo of the freedom battle—and four decades after the attainment of independence, the tenets of Mahatma Gandhi were relevant even today.

"Gandhi's Dandi march beckons us today to place duty above self and to see once again in the ordinary men and women of India the potential for extraordinary action".

Later, the President, who arrived at the site from Navasari, unveiled a commemoration plaque to mark the 40th anniversary of Independence.

Five pledges: Five pledges inscribed on the plaque are to defend unity and integrity of India, pursue communal harmony, inculcate a sense of discipline in thought and action, serve the weak and down-trodden unceasingly and build a strong, stable and prosperous India.

Prominent among those who attended the function were the Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, Thiru R.K. Trivedi, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru Amarsingh Chaudhary and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Thiru Shiv Charan Mathur.

The President clad in spotless white, took the 'Ekta yatra' and the national flag from the two youngest 'padyatris' and handed them over to youths from Tamil Nadu, where a similar march has been planned from April 13th to 28th. The marchers will trek from Tiruchi to Vedaranyam covering 36 villages and a distance of 260 km.

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FREEDOM STRUGGLE The March to Vedaranyam



M.C. Subramaniam

Former Editor "Indian Review"

He who is valiant of heart fleeth
not from the face of peril
And he who fleeth from peril is
craven and base
Behold, the battle is joined
Fierce, Fierce is the onslaught.

—Kabir.

Time cannot dull the echoes of the soft but firm tread of the peaceful column of seventy-eight satyagrahis who, under the generalship of Mahatma Gandhi, set out on the 12th of March 1930 from the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad towards Dandi, a sea-coast village some 240 miles away. When the Satyagrahis commenced their march, they looked like a band of pilgrims—simple, meek, solemn; as they marched on they seemed to carry with them an invisible Cross, the message of their march and the mode of their proposed fight reflecting the Christian ethics of conquest through non-violent suffering; and when they

marched to raid the salt depot at Dharasana in the face of raining bullets and savage lathi blows, they showed the same death-defying courage as that of Leonidas and his band of 300 Spartans who fought against the advancing hordes of Persians at the pass of Thermopylae. Every foot-fall of the Mahatma during his march to Dandi produced an earthquake in every layer of Indian consciousness.

The march to Dandi was the last and most explosive of events that built up a climate of nation-wide resistance against the British imperial power. The Indian National Congress meeting at Lahore in December 1929 declared the goal of India as Poorna Swaraj. At the call of the Congress and Gandhiji, the people all over India observed January 26, 1930 as the "Independence Day".

On March 2, Gandhiji sent a letter to Viceroy Lord Irwin—a digni-

fied and powerful indictment of the British rule in India—informing him of his decision to proceed to Dandi with a band of followers to break the Salt Laws, "the most iniquitous" of all laws. The Viceroy's polite but unhelpful reply helped only to aggravate the prevailing tension in the country.

Gandhiji, addressing a mammoth meeting on the sands of Sabarmati, said: "I have faith in the righteousness of our cause and the purity of our weapons. And where the means are clean, there is God undoubtedly present with his blessings, and where these three combine, there defeat is an impossibility".



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On March 12 at 6.30 A.M. Gandhiji commenced his march to Dandi with seventy-eight followers. But actually, entire India followed him and the world watched him in admiration. "Today the pilgrim marches onward on his long trek", Jawaharlal Nehru observed, "Staff in hand he goes along the dusty roads of Gujarat, clear-eyed and firm of step, with his faithful band trudging along behind him. Many a journey he had undertaken in the past, many a weary road traversed. But longer than any that have gone before is this last journey of his and many are the obstacles in his way. But the fire of a great resolve is in him and surpassing love of his miserable countrymen; and love of truth that scorches and love of freedom that inspires. None that passes him can escape the spell, and men of common clay feel the spark of life. It is a long journey, for the goal is independence of India and the ending of the exploitation of her millions". An epic was unfolding itself before the people. The speeches he delivered every day of his march, the discipline followed by the Satyagrahis, the reverence and love that people showed him all along the route, the details of the preparation made by the leaders all over the land to start the struggle the moment the Mahatma gave the signal—all these electrified the atmosphere in the country.

Gandhiji carefully watched every step of his, even as he watched every step of every satyagrahi to prevent even a slight deviation from the ashram regimen. He came down on the people and the Satyagrahis—the former for offering lavish hospitality and the latter for showing an inclination to accept it as severely



as he condemned the iniquitous extravagance of the British rulers.

The 241 mile march came to an end on April 5. The sixth of April marked the commencement of the National Week. On that day Gandhiji bathed in the sea and then at 8.30 A.M. picked up a lump of natural salt. "Now that the technical or ceremonial breach of the Salt Laws has been committed," he said, "it is now open to anyone who would take the risk of prosecution under the Salt Law to manufacture salt wherever he wishes and wherever it is convenient".

The nation responded with an open and widespread defiance of Salt Laws. The police unleashed savage violence on the Satyagrahis. They used brute force to snatch the salt from the hands of the breakers of the law. In a message to the people Gandhiji said: "At present India's self-respect, in fact, her all, is, symbolised as it were, in a handful of salt in the Satyagrahi's hand. Our path has already been chalked out for us. Let every village manufacture or fetch contraband salt; sisters should picket liquor shops, opium dens and foreign cloth dealers' shops".

The movement gained in strength in the cities, towns and villages. Disobedience of Salt Laws, picketing of foreign cloth and liquor shops and several other forms of active resistance to the ruling power became daily features. Government repression was severe, and brutal.

In the heart of Tamil Nadu, Rajaji set about organising the movement with his characteristic thoroughness. He planned a march from Tiruchi to Vedaranyam, one of the well-known salt-manufacturing centres. He selected a hundred volunteers after careful screening. Enthusiasm was not the only factor that deter-

66 For the average farmer, the annual salt tax was equivalent to three day's income. In a grain of salt Gandhi found the perfect symbol of freedom. To oppose the salt-law would be to assert a simple, elementary human right. 99

mined the selection. The health and habits of the volunteers mattered; also the toughness of their spirit. The hundred included teenagers like G. K. Sundaram, journalists like A.N. Sivaraman and non-co-operation veterans like K. Santhanam. He chartered out the route of the march, worked out the logistics, determined the composition of the advance party to select camp sites, contact the villagers and make whatever arrangements possible. He also drew up a schedule of the campaign at Vedaranyam and nominated Sri Vedaratnam Pillai as the Sardar of the campaign.

The challenge that faced Rajaji was unlike any that faced any general at any time in history. No one knew the character and dimensions of this war better than he. He was fully aware of the strength of the enemy and the means and methods by which he would try to defeat him. He also knew the strength of his own people. To keep his followers—he trusted them fully and they lived up to his trust—on the steep and narrow path of truth and non-violence. To infuse courage into the people and to prevent even a section of them turning reckless, to raise the emotional temperature of the masses and maintain it at a particular level where it would, without exhausting itself into shouting, prod them to offer disciplined help and co-operation, to foil the attempts of the Governments to provoke situations that would give them valid excuses for tarnishing the movement and arresting its participants and supporters—these required the calibre of the traditional army general, a seasoned politician and a man of great wisdom and high moral character. Rajaji showed that he was correctly chiselled for the role.

The authorities were alarmed by preparations that were being made for the Satyagraha. Mr. Thorne, the Collector of Tanjore passed an order that it was a penal offence to shelter, feed or offer any other help to the marching Satyagrahis. Rajaji's reaction was characteristic. He said he knew his people and of their tradition of hospitality. He was sure they would help them. Only,

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he was afraid that the Satyagrahis ran the risk of being overfed and over-cared for! He had only to see that they were not deflected from the pursuit of their goal by the overwhelming hospitality of the Tamil people.

When the Satyagrahis started on their march on the 13th of April, the last day of the National Week, a pall of terror descended on Tanjore. Policemen, spies and agents provocateur were all over the district filling the atmosphere with dark threats that those who helped the civil resisters in any manner would face imprisonment, confiscation of property and dismissal from Government service. The officials made a desperate bid to prevent the Satyagrahis from reaching their destination. The Satyagrahis were marching, carefully watching every one of their steps. They were resolved to reach their destination.

In this extraordinary game, each party tried to outwit the other. One was armed with all the resources of the state and was intent on suppressing by all possible means the movement that was challenging its authority; the other was unarmed but determined to resist the might of the ruling power by directly disobeying its unjust laws and promoting their disobedience by the people through peaceful, non-violent, concerted action.

As the Satyagrahis marched on, it became evident that the entire Cauvery basin bowed in respect to Rajaji. It looked as though the people had a spontaneous understanding of the needs of the situation and expressed their solidarity and support for the Satyagraha army in a hundred ways. Some of them helped the Satyagraha marchers without attracting the mischief of Mr. Thorne's orders. Some others openly defied the Government orders and willingly paid the penalty.

The first open defiance of Mr. Thorne's orders was made by Mr. Pantulu Iyer at Kumbakonam. Pantulu Iyer arranged a royal feast for the Satyagrahis and for this he was promptly put in prison. Pantulu Iyer's case stimulated the thinking of the people and produced novel ideas

of entertaining the civil resisters. Wayside trees, besides protecting the Satyagrahis from the scorching summer heat, bent low to offer them the food packets that had been tied to the branches. In some place where the Satyagrahis had camped on the Cauvery river bed they found indicators showing where huge containers carrying all the items of a good feast lay buried. The roads were watered in many places. There were welcome arches in some places and green leaf festoons everywhere. In places where roads were blocked by huge trees uprooted by the agents of the Government for the purpose of obstructing the Satyagrahis, the villagers laid temporary diversion roads overnight.

People lined the routes of the marching army. The palm groves and mango gardens echoed to the cries of "Jai". Everywhere the meetings addressed by Rajaji and others drew huge crowds. Many local leaders dared the Governments and presided over some of the meetings. Kodiyalam Rangaswamy Iyengar, an old-time nationalist and a highly respected gentleman, presided over one such meeting. Rajaji played cool most of the time in order to prevent the enthusiasm of the people from breaching the bounds of law and order and thus obliging the Government. At Tiruthurai-poondi, Rajaji managed an explosive situation with great tact. The police had made all arrangements to disturb the meeting to be addressed by Rajaji under the Chairmanship of Sri Ramachandra Naidu, a very influential and very popular mirasdar of the district, arrest Sri Naidu and provoke a riot situation. Rajaji was given advance information about police plans. Immediately the meeting began, Rajaji appealed to the people not to lose their poise when the agents provocateur disturbed the meeting and arrested Sri Naidu. He warned them against playing into the hands of the Government and promised to secure the release of Sri Naidu on bail if and when he was arrested. Things happened according to the police plan upto the point of disturbing the meeting and arresting Sri Naidu. People obeyed Rajaji implicitly and refused to be provoked. They



sat through the meeting even after Sri Naidu was arrested. As promised, Rajaji got him released on bail.

Rajaji was then 52 and not in the best of health. But he was always at the head of the moving column of volunteers showing no trace of weariness. It took three weeks for the Satyagrahis to reach Vedaranyam which accorded them a welcome given only to heroes. Until Rajaji reached Vedaranyam he gave the Government no chance to arrest him or any of his volunteers even on any technical offence. He preached sedition without attracting the provisions of the law of sedition.

On the appointed day Rajaji was at a spot in the sea shore which was in the periphery of the stretch heavily guarded by the police and at a time when the first bird warbled to announce the approaching dawn, the police noticed him only after he had bathed in the sea and solemnly flouted the salt law by picking up salt from the shore. Rajaji was arrested, tried summarily and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for six months.

Stories of how volunteers guarded the salt they had gathered in the face of police brutality are endless. One volunteer refused to give the salt he had picked up even when his fingers were beaten to pulp by the police lathi. When the attempts of the police failed to break up a ring of volunteers guarding pots of "illicit" salt and when the police started beating them mercilessly with the birch, Srimath Ruckmani Lakshminpathy kept running round the ring to stand behind the volunteers to receive on her own back the birch that was descending on them. The policemen are reported to have gone away tired and ashamed.



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What were the National leaders doing during the Salt Satyagraha?

Here, in this indepth article, you'll understand the role of national leaders such as Sardar Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Abul Kalam Azad, Sarojini Naidu, Jawaharlal Nehru and Pandit Vallabh Pant in the Salt Satyagraha of the 1930. A revelation of how Mahatma's team enthused wide support for the satyagraha against the Salt Law.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru The Motivator



The great question that hung in the air now was how? What form of civil disobedience should we take up that would be effective, suited to the circumstances and popular with the masses? And then the Mahatma gave the hint.

Salt suddenly became a mysterious word, a word of power. The salt tax was to be attacked, the salt

laws were to be broken. We were bewildered and could not quite fit in a national struggle with common salt. Another surprising development was Gandhiji's announcement of his 'Eleven Points'. What was the point of making a test of some political and social reforms—good in themselves, no doubt when we were taking in terms of independence? Did Gandhiji mean the same thing when he used this term as we did, or did we speak a different language? We had no time to argue, for events were on the move. They were moving politically before our eyes from day to day in India.

The sixth of April was the first day of the National week, which is celebrated annually in memory of the happenings in 1919, from Satyagraha Day to Jallianwallah Bagh. On that day Gandhiji began the break of the salt laws at Dandi beach, and three or four days later permissions were given to all Congress Organisations to do likewise and begin civil disobedience in their own areas.

It seemed as though a spring had been suddenly released, all over the country, in every town and village. Salt manufacture as the topic of the day, and many curious expedients were adopted to produce salt. We knew precious little about it,

but we read it on dailies and issued leaflets giving directions; we collected pots and pans.....and ultimately succeeded in producing some unwholesome stuff, which we waved about in triumph and later auctioned for fancy prices; It was really immaterial whether the stuff was good or bad; the main thing was to commit a breach of the obnoxious salt law, and we were successful in doing that even though the quality of our salt was poor. As we saw the abounding enthusiasm of the people and the way salt-making was spreading like a prairie fire, we felt a little abashed and ashamed for having questioned the efficacy of this method when it was first proposed by Gandhiji. And we marvelled at the amazing knack of the man to impress the multitudes and make it act in an organized way.

Nehru was arrested on April 14th.

Abul Kalam Azad The Fire Brand

During March 1930, the Congress launched its campaign for full freedom and Mahatma Gandhi started his Dandi March. He was arrested on May 5th, 1930, for breaking the salt law. The whole country was galvanized into action. Maulana

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Azad urged the Muslims to join the satyagraha and at his call thousands of Muslims for Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province courted arrest. The Congress instituted a system of Dictators for the movement. As soon as a dictator was arrested, he nominated another person as a dictator. Maulana Azad succeeded Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as the Dictator within 11 days, he too was arrested and Dr. Ansari took over as Dictator. Azad was sentenced to six months imprisonment for delivering an objectionable speech in Meerut. He was kept in the Meerut jail and the country observed a hartal on his arrest.

Sarojini Naidu The Live Wire



As Mahatma picked the salt up on March 12th 1930 Sarojini Naidu cried: "Hail Deliverer" and thousands waded into the water to fill their vessels. Gandhiji was arrested. Sarojini visited him and was asked to become the leader after Abbas Tyabji was arrested. She went to the Dharsana Salt works and led a huge army. At Dharsana she and her followers were stopped and as they sat on the road in the blazing sun all the more thirsty because the police bailed them with water carts but would not allow them to drink.

Mr. Webb Miller gives a graphic account of this momentous struggle in his book, 'I found no peace.' His admiration was unlimited. Sarojini

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Naidu, the famous Indian poetess is leading a non-violent demonstration against the big salt pans near Dharsana.

Madame Naidu called for prayers before the march started and the entire assemblage knelt. She exhorted them: 'Gandhi's body is in jail but his soul is with you. India's prestige is in your hands. You must not use any violence under any circumstances. You will be beaten but you must not resist. You must not even raise a hand to ward off blows.'

Her words were greeted with wild cheers.

Mr. Miller says: 'I went to see Madame Naidu who was directing the sub leaders in keeping the crowds from charging the police, while we were talking one of the British officials approached her, touched her on the arm and said: "Sarojini Naidu, you are under arrest." She laughingly shook off his hand and said: "I'll come but don't touch me." The crowd cheered frantically as she strode with the British Officer across the open to the barbed wire stockade where she was interned..... Later she was sentenced to prison. Motilal Gandhi was also arrested. "Quick, quick: pack up your tooth brushes and come away to the van" was Naidu's jesting remark.

Rajendra Prasad

There was a wave of enthusiasm and preparation for Satyagraha in Bihar as in other parts of the country. Salt Satyagraha was soon launched in different parts of Bihar, the districts of Champaran and Saran being the first in the field. Rajendra Prasad moved from place to place propagating the message of Satyagraha, for which he issued suitable instructions.

His views on how the policemen were to be treated were:—"I hear that in the areas where Satyagraha operations are going on, the members of the police are not getting foodstuffs or quarters for residence. I want to make it known to the

public that we have no enmity with the men in the Police service, although we are making all possible efforts to remove the government of which they consider themselves the servants. Therefore, if a policeman in uniform demands food or shelter authoritatively as a member of the government, he should be on no account be provided with it. But in case he claims it as a matter of courtesy and obtains permission from the Satyagraha camp officer on the local Sardar, he should be supplied with all the necessary articles so that he may not be put to any trouble."

Rajendra Prasad did not himself manufacture salt but he led the movement in Bihar by touring the districts, supervising the activity, addressing public meetings and giving encouragement to the satyagrahis. In all these areas people vied with one another in manufacturing salt. Rajendra Prasad auctioned the salt manufactured by the Satyagrahis wherever he went and utilised the amount to meet their expenses.

From April 16th to 21st, 1930, many worthy sons of Bihar carried on salt Satyagraha at Patna with heroic determination and courage in the face of ruthless violence. Selecting Nakhas Pond, situated about three kilometres east of Mangles Tank in Patna city, as the place for violating salt laws, the satyagrahis marched from Patna Congress office at 9 A.M. on April 16th Undeterred in the least by police atrocities, the processionists squatted on the ground at the junction of the main road leading to the Bihar college of Engineering.





Considering the unique position of Rajendra Prasad as the most revered leader of Bihar, the government had proceeded cautiously in arresting him. By the middle of June the government's view was that "proceedings may be taken against him and he may be arrested without reference to government if there is clear case against him...." Rajendra Prasad was on a three day tour programme in Champaran district. When he was proceeding to Gankha he was arrested on the way on July 5.

Sardar Patel



Sardar Patel was amazed at the Eleven Points list of Gandhi when Gandhi showed him the letter before sending it to the Viceroy. He bluntly told him that not one of the eleven points would be conceded. 'Do you know, Bapu,' he surmised, 'you are asking the Viceroy to commit harakiri and sign the death warrant of the 'British Raj?' 'And do you



seriously think he has the power, even if he wanted, to concede your demands?" The Mahatma smiled enigmatically and replied: "Well, let us see. At least the Government will not have the cause to say that I did not put my cards on the table. It is for them to play fair or foul. But why prejudice their intentions?"

Of course the Viceroy turned down the demands and the civil disobedience movement was launched. Vallabhbhai suggested that non-payment of land revenue should be made the main issue, but Gandhi thought that the country was not ready for it as it would entail too much hardship on the poverty-stricken peasant; instead he decided to make salt the fighting issue.

Patel knew that Gandhi's letter had no chance of receiving even a second look, and in anticipation of the impending struggle he began making preparations, as he was anxious to avoid repetition of the 1922 campaign which failed, among other reasons, for lack of proper preparation. In that year, as soon as Gandhi was arrested the movement collapsed and Lord Birkenhead, Secretary of State for India, could say that 'not a dog barked in the whole of India when the leader was arrested, and the British Caravan could move forward peacefully'. Patel wanted to prove this time that even if Gandhi and other leaders were arrested the movement would go on and the goals would overflow with satyagraha prisoners. His attitude to the coming struggle becomes clear in the following extract from a speech he delivered at Broach at the time. He said:

"What is there left now for Gandhiji to tell us, after having taught us so much over the years? The world will ask you what you have learnt and done. Gandhiji has done whatever is possible, and I am sure will continue to play his part. After him his colleagues will be arrested and then will come in time, the time for your test. I ask all of you to have faith in God, and to realize that he who is born is destined to die. No one can escape death. Then why not die the death of the

brave? Is it not better to look for the day when history will record that you stood firm when men were being killed? Let there be innumerable arrests and imprisonments, so that the world may find out for itself whether the dog is capable of barking or not!"

Vallabhbhai Patel did not accompany Gandhiji on this historic march; he left Ahmedabad a week earlier to prepare the way and make suitable arrangements for lodging and boarding the marchers. He would stop at way side villages to explain to the people the significance of the new movement and deliver his Master's message that the 'British rule had brought moral, material, and spiritual ruin of the country and must be destroyed at any cost! He spoke in his usual homely style with the right touch of peasant core. He would tell the simple peasants. 'As you know, Rama's army consisted of monkeys in the forest; but it defeated the mighty Ravana. What provided Rama and his monkey army their strength? It was the moral conviction that theirs was a righteous cause. I ask you if here could be any cause more sacred and righteous than the freedom of India, our common motherland?' And he would end his short speeches by saying 'I will say no more—the choice is yours to prove whether you are men.' The villagers responded warmly to his exquisite mixture of mythology and modern political ideas, and made great preparations to welcome Gandhiji.

CID men following Patel reported the tremendous effect, his speeches were having on people and the rapid spread of ideas of civil disobedience and freedom. The Government lost no time in acting on these reports and arrested Patel on March 7th at the village of Ras near Borsad.

Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant

The salt stir spread throughout the country Govindh Ballabh Pant addressed a huge meeting at Haldwani. He told his audience to adhere the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi. He criticized the government and

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offered himself for arrest. Jawaharlal Nehru was arrested on 13th April and Gandhiji on May 5th.

Pant addressed the processionists at the Ram Lila grounds. The entire responsibility of leading the movement in Kumaon lay on Pant. He established a 'satyagraha ashram' at Krishnapur in Nainital. Pant himself led a batch of five satyagrahis on May 2, 1930. A big crowd gave a rousing oration to Pant. He was arrested, the Volunteers were arrested but all of them were let out in the jungle of Lalkuan. They came to Nainital the same day. It became a daily routine and in spite of his bad health Pant continued to inspire and guide the movement. There was a complete bandh in Nainital on May 7, as soon as the news of Mahatma Gandhi's arrest reached there. Pant addressed a huge meeting and foreign cloth was set to fire. A bonfire of foreign cloth was an every-day treat in those days.

On May 25th, 1930 Pant decided to make salt. He was arrested the following day and was sentenced to six months vigorous imprisonment for defying the salt law. He was sent to Bareilly. Before his arrest Pant gave explicit instructions to the volunteers to keep the candle of non-violent resistance burning.

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'enlistment of volunteers should be carried on incessantly....salt should be manufactured at Nainital and other places. Volunteers should not yield salt made by them if attempt is made to snatch it.....they must remain non-violent under greatest provocation.

A batch of five volunteers with national flags will start at 6 A.M. from the satyagraha camp singing national songs such as 'Bande Mataram' and 'Nanda Uncha Rake Hamara' and raising non-violent shouts of 'Bande Mataram' Mahatma Gandhiji Ki Jai! and "Swatantra Bharat Ki Jai!"

Subhas Chandra Bose



On 23rd January 1930 Subhas Chandra Bose had been sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment for the procession he had led in Calcutta in August 1929 in protest against government repression of revolutionaries and political prisoners.

As Bose watched from prison, Gandhi, at last, commenced the movement Bose had long argued and pleaded for. It was a national movement launched by Gandhi and undoubtedly the most spectacular.

Yet, like almost everybody else, Bose was confused by the Mahatma's first moves. Gandhi first wrote to the Viceroy promising not to start his civil disobedience campaign if he

carried out certain social reforms such as total prohibition and the abolition of the tax on the making of salt. There was no mention of dominion status, let alone independence, in all this. How, Bose wondered, could social reform achieve that. But Gandhi had shrewdly seized on a subject that he knew could bridge the elitist preoccupation with independence and the poor masses' struggle to survive. For centuries Indians had boiled sea water to make salt. Now the alien British Government had taxed it and restricted manufacture to salt works. This for the poor was the real meaning of alien's rule. As Irwin contemptuously rejected Gandhi's letter, Gandhi set out on his historic march to Dandi. On 6th April 1930 Gandhi picked up salt from the beach near Dandi, and nationalist Indians were swept up into the civil disobedience movement.

"On bended knee, I asked for bread", said Gandhiji. 'I received a stone instead'. 99

"Let the fist be broken, but let there be no surrender of salt", Gandhiji wrote. "I want world sympathy in this battle of right against might. 99





Rs. 154 Crores for Poverty Alleviation in 1988

A massive poverty alleviation programme has been taken up by the State Government under which schemes costing Rs. 154 crores will be implemented during the current year. The schemes include construction of 52,000 houses, 1,200 Community centres, 235 school buildings and 2,900 other works, besides raising social forestry over an extent of 19,000 hectares.

This was announced by His Excellency the Governor, Dr. P.C. Alexander, at the end of a two-day conference of Collectors and Superintendents of Police on 9th April 1988 in Madras.

Provision of drinking water, streamlining of public distribution system, implementation of economic regeneration programmes and helping industries to overcome their sickness were among the high-priority areas which came up for an in-depth discussion at the conference.

His Excellency, the Governor said he had asked the Collectors to go ahead with the poverty allevia-

tion programme without waiting for release of funds from the Centre. The works would be started from now on in anticipation of Central funds so that there was no delay in the implementation of the programmes and their impact could be felt even by the middle of the year.

Four thousand additional borewells will be sunk before July end to augment water supply in rural areas. The Collectors had been fixed a target to sink 685 borewells by April 30th, another 915 by the end of May, 1,215 by June and 1,185 by July 31st.

The target dates had been fixed in consultation with the officers concerned and the programme would involve Rs. 10 crores. The Governor was confident that the target would be achieved by July as the programme was based on a realistic assessment.

With regard to the public distribution system, the Governor said it had been decided to open part-time fair price shops

wherever they were considered absolutely necessary. The Collectors, had been asked to send proposals on where such part-time fair price shops should be located.

Special steps would be taken to ensure additional supply of kerosene in villages. It had been decided to strengthen co-operative societies by making available to them adequate funds, as many of the societies were not able to get for some reason or other, the funds which were due to them. Yet another decision taken was to permit the noon meal centres to buy vegetables in the open market on a daily basis. The Governor said this did not mean that the noon meal centres had been banned from buying the vegetables from producers' co-operatives. They had been given the freedom to buy from the open market in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the programme.

The Governor said Rs. 2 crores would be granted to repair the kitchen sheds of the noon meal centres.

Who lives if India Dies? Who dies if India Lives?

And today the pilgrim marches onwards on his long trek. Staff in hand, he goes along the dusty roads of Gujarat, clear eyed and firm of step, with his faithful band trudging along behind him. Many a journey has he undertaken in the past, many a weary road traversed. But longer than any that have gone before is this last journey of his, and many are the obstacles in his way. But the

fire of the great resolve is in him, and surpassing love of his miserable countrymen. And love of truth that scorches, and love of freedom that inspires. And none that passes him can escape the spell, and men of common clay feel the spark of life. It is a long journey, for the goal is the independence of India and the ending of the exploitation of her millions.

—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
In *Young India*
(3rd April, 1930)



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K. Kamaraj



P.S. Kumaraswamy Raja



T. Prakasam

The five heroes
of the 1930
Salt March to
Vedaranyam
who later became
Chief Ministers



Rajaji



Omandur
Ramaswamy Reddiyar



Gandhiji's letter to Irwin

Dear Friend,

Before embarking on Civil Disobedience and taking the risk I have dreaded to take all these years, I would fain approach you and find a way out.

My personal faith is absolutely clear. I cannot intentionally hurt anything that lives, much less human beings, even though they may do the greatest wrong to me and mine. Whilst therefore, I hold the British rule to be a curse, I do not intend harm to a single Englishman or to any legitimate interest he may have in India.....

And why do I regard the British rule as a curse?

It has impoverished the dumb millions by a system of progressive exploitation and by a ruinous expensive military and civil administration which the country can never afford. It has reduced us politically to serfdom. It has sapped the foundations of our culture. And by the policy of cruel disarmament, it has degraded us spiritually.....

I fear.....there never has been any intention of granting..... Dominion Status to India in the immediate future.....

It seems as clear as daylight that responsible British statesmen do not contemplate any alteration in British policy that might adversely affect Britain's commerce with India.... If nothing is done to end the process of exploitation India must be bled with an ever increasing speed.....



Let me put before you some of the salient points.

The terrific pressure of land revenue, which furnishes a large part of the total, must undergo considerable modification in an Independent India.....the whole revenue system has to be so revised as to make the peasant's good its primary concern. But the British system seems to be designed to crush the very life out of him. Even the salt he must use to live is so taxed as to make the burden fall heaviest on him, if only because of the heartless impartiality of its incidence. The tax shows itself still more burdensome on the poor man when it is remembered that salt is the one thing he must eat more than the rich man.....The drink and drug revenue, too, is derived from the poor. It saps the foundations both of their health and morals.

The iniquities sampled above are maintained in order to carry on a foreign administration, demonstrably the most expensive in the world. Take your own salary. It is over 21,000 rupees (about £ 1750) per month, besides many other indirect additions.....

You are getting over 700 rupees a day against India's average income of less than two annas (two pence) per day. Thus you are getting much over five thousand times India's average income. The British Prime Minister is getting only ninety times Britain's average income. On bended knee, I ask you to ponder over this phenomenon. I have taken a personal illustration to drive home a painful truth. I have too great a regard for you as a man to wish to hurt your feelings. I know that you do not need the salary you get. Probably the whole of your salary goes for charity. But a system that provides for such an arrangement deserves to be summarily scrapped. What is true of the Viceregal salary is true generally of the whole adminis-

tration.....Nothing but organized non-violence can check the organized violence of the British government.....

This non-violence will be expressed through civil disobedience for the moment confined to the inmates of the Satyagraha (Sabarmati) Ashram, but ultimately designed to cover all those who choose to join the movement.....

My ambition is no less than to convert the British people through non-violence, and thus make them see the wrong they have done to India. I do not seek to harm your people. I want to serve them even as I want to serve my own.....

If the (Indian) people join me as I expect they will, the sufferings they will undergo, unless the British nation sooner retraces its steps will be enough to melt the stoniest hearts. The plan through Civil Disobedience will be to combat such evils as I have sampled out.....I respectfully invite you to pave the way for the immediate removal of those evils, and thus open a way for a real conference between equals..... But if you cannot see your way to deal with these evils and if my letter makes no appeal to your heart, on the eleventh day of this month I shall proceed with such co-workers of the Ashram as I can take, to disregard the provisions of the Salt Laws.....It is, I know, open to you to frustrate my design by arresting me. I hope that there will be tens of thousands ready, in a disciplined manner, to take up the work after me.....

If you care to discuss matters, with me, and if to that end you would like me to postpone publications of this letter, I shall gladly refrain on receipt of a telegram..... This letter is not in any way intended as a threat but is a simple and sacred duty peremptory on a civil resister. Therefore I am having it specially delivered by a young English friend who believes in the Indian cause.....

I remain,

Your sincere friend,
M.K. GANDHI.

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Saga of Salt : Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation's Role

Thiru D. Sridharan, T.A.S.

Chairman—Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation Ltd.,

On March 12, 1930 when Mahatma Gandhi picked up salt as part of Dandi March, the quantity was only a handful but the event proved to be one of the most significant in the saga of India's freedom struggle. Close on the heels of Dandi March on March 12, 1930 was enacted the Salt March in Tamil Nadu in Vedaranyam under the leadership of Rajaji. It is a matter of satisfaction and pride to us in the Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation that one of our Salt Works is named after a veteran freedom fighter—Sardar Vedarathnam Salt Project—is located at Thambikottai in Thanjavur District 50 km. from Vedaranyam.

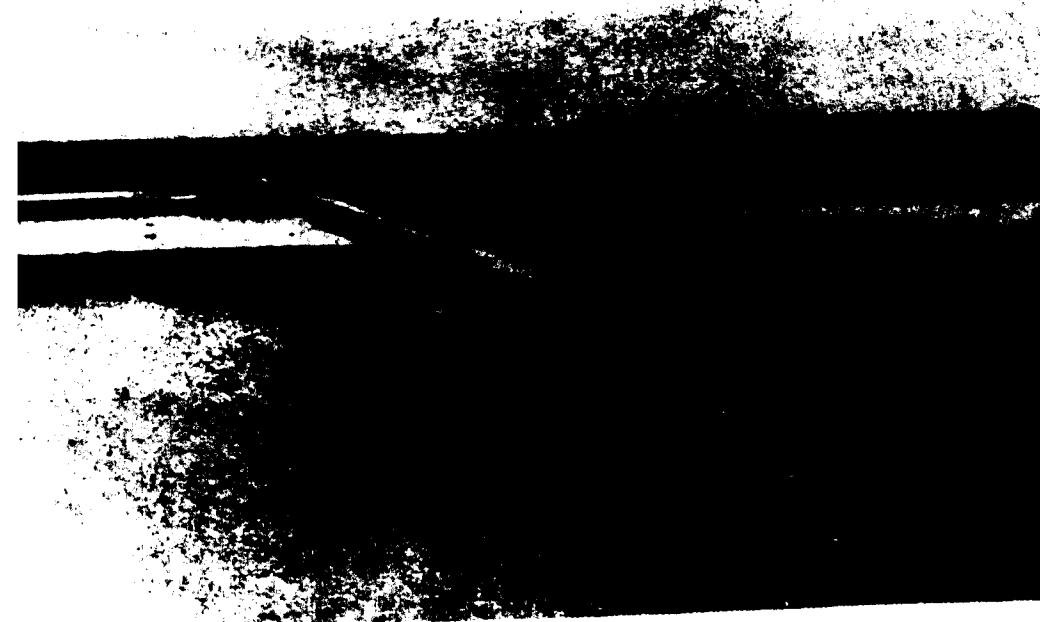
As part of the strategy to develop the backward areas in the State and to generate additional employment, the State Government formed the Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation (TNSC) in July 1974 to produce salt. The first project of TNSC was established in the most backward area of Ramanathapuram District in the remote and interior area of Valinokkam (Mariyur Valinokkam Salt Project) (MVSC)—45 km from Ramanathapuram town - totally bereft of industries, agricultural operations and trading activities. The second project was taken up at Thambikottai (Sardar Vedarathnam Salt Project (SVSP) in East Thanjavur District in June 1980.

“One of our Salt Works located at Thambikottai in Thanjavur District, 50 Kms off Vedaranyam, has been named after Sardar Vedarathnam, the main organizer of the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagrah.”



Production / Productivity : A decade of working of TNSC had seen considerable increase in output as a result of which production has increased from a level of 700 tonnes of over 60,000 tonnes i.e. by nearly 90 times. Even more important, productivity has increased from level of 11—20 tonnes/per hectre from the first two years 1977-78, to a level of 136/tonnes/hectre in 1986.

In its pure state as many as 62 major industries are served by common salt. The versatility of this mineral is evident from the fact that it is perhaps the only item which, according to the Salt Institute of the US, has more than 14,000 uses the world over. It is no wonder, then, that salt is reckoned as one of the five important raw materials, the others being oil, limestone, coal and sulphur. And, along with sulphuric acid and steel, the production and consumption of salt is taken as an



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important index of a nation's advancement and prosperity. It has been alluded to in our ancient texts, in the Bible etc.

Quality : Considerable emphasis has been placed by the Corporation in maximizing its production of high quality industrial grade salt, whose purity (Nacl) is in the range of 98.5%—99.5% much higher than the Common Salt. Quality emphasis had borne considerable fruit as the Corporation has received a bonus of Rs. 84,600 on a quantity of 2247 tonnes supplied to a major chemical producer in Andhra Pradesh, working out to about Rs. 37/ per ton. This bonus represents over 40% of the basic price.

By-Products : The Corporation has produced for the first time

in its 12 year history Gypsum of over 4,000 tonnes and supplied it to Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation. Gypsum is a valuable raw material to Cement Industry which suffers from a acute scarcity of Gypsum.

Employment Generation : The employment potential in the projects is estimated at 1,500 direct labour besides indirect employment to thrice that number, when the Projects are fully developed. Presently the projects provide regular employment to about 300 people and seasonal employment to an equal number.

New Projects : The Corporation is implementing two pioneering Projects both of which constitute first of their kind the Country over. The first is the manufacture of about 18,000 tonnes of 36% Be Bittern for supply to the strategic Magnesium Metal Project coming up in the vicinity of Valinokkam Salt Works. It may be added that currently the Bittern available with almost all the salt producers at a strength of 29%. Be is discarded as a waste and thus the Corporation's efforts would really mean converting waste into wealth and creating a valuable inter-

mediate product for the Magnesium Metal making. The second Project undertaken by the Corporation is the production of Iron Fortified Salt and is in an advanced stage of commissioning. This Project, described by UNICEF as "a novel approach", is implemented with the collaboration of the Government of India's Food and Nutrition Board and UNICEF. It would have an installed capacity of 15,000 tonnes and would be highly effective in combating the endemic anaemia particularly among the weaker sections of the Society as also women and children. With the supply of Iron Fortified Salt through the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme and the Social Welfare Department's schemes to the expectant mothers, extensive coverage of the population affected by anaemia is a distinct possibility and would come as an important tool in the hands of Public Health Managers. The Government has given priority to tackle the many functional repercussions of anaemia and has noted the observations of UNICEF that "the extent, severity and consequences of anaemia make it an important public health problem requiring urgent solution."

The Poverty Alleviation Programme for Tamilnadu will cost Rs. 154 crores and will include construction of 52,000 houses, 1,200 community centres, 235 school buildings and 2,900 other works besides raising social forestry over an area of 19,000 hectares, during the current year. His Excellency the Governor of TamilNadu announced this on 9th April 1988 while summing up the deliberations of the two-day conference of Collectors and Superintendents of Police at Madras.

"There is no honour that this country can win, no power that this country can hold, no glory that this country can attain unless it honours its poorest citizens, unless it builds the power of its citizen, unless it makes the glory of its poorest citizen the proof of the glory of India."

Rajiv Gandhi

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Check your knowledge

1. What did Gandhi say at Dandi before he broke the salt law?
2. Who carried Gandhi's letter to Lord Irwin 'on salt laws'?
3. How many volunteers accompanied Gandhiji initially at the beginning of the Salt Satyagraha?
4. What was Gandhiji's age when he undertook the Salt march?
5. Who cried 'Hail Deliverer' as Gandhi broke the Salt Law?
6. When and where was Gandhi arrested as the aftermath of salt satyagraha?
7. Who compared the Salt March to 'Napoleon's march to Paris on his return from Elba'?
8. Who was the famous correspondent of United Press who witnessed the Salt March?
9. Who composed the song 'Kathi-yinri Rathaminri' (Sars sword sans blood) that was sung by Rajaji and his marchers during the Vedaranyam salt march?
10. What was the sentence on Rajaji for breaking the salt law?

(Answers)

1. "Watch, I am about to give a signal to the nation."
2. Reginald Reynolds, a British Quaker.
3. 78.
4. 61 years.
5. Sarojini Naidu.
6. May 4th 1930; at Karadi, a village near Dandi.
7. Subhas Chandra Bose.
8. Webb Miller from USA
9. Nammakkal Kavingnar Ramalingam Pillai.
10. Six month rigorous imprisonment plus a Rs. 200 fine or another three months.

ROUTINE AT GANDHI'S DANDI MARCH

"They marched on, at the rate of twelve miles a day. The marchers stepped in village after village to explain where they were going and why, and the villagers showered flower petals on their path. The Ashram routine was maintained during the March. Prayers had to be said twice a day, everybody had to spin his quota of yarn and keep a diary. Gandhiji attended to his huge correspondence and played with the children."

REACTION TO GANDHI'S ARREST WAS WORLD WIDE

"In Panama and in Sumatra, Indian traders observed a day of mourning. In Germany, a movement was started to stop sending goods to India in protest. From America, a hundred and twenty telegrams were sent by influential clergymen asking British Prime Minister to release Gandhi. In Bombay two hundred thousand people marched through the streets."

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Kotturpuram Bridge Opened



Declaring open the Kotturpuram Bridge across the Adyar river on 2-4-88, His Excellency Dr. Alexander, the Governor, said he himself had an unpleasant experience of travelling on this road and had directed the Highways Department to expedite work on it within two months. He said encroachments on this road would be removed and the garbage cleared so as to make it good for traffic.

Pointing out that traffic on the city roads was threatening the lives of citizens, the Governor said that by April 15, there would be more orderly traffic. He had given neces-

sary instructions to the Adviser Dr. S. S. Sidhu in this regard.

Dr. Alexander said Madras had great assets like the Marina beach and it would be his endeavour to bring back the original beauty to this city. He sought the cooperation of the people in his efforts to make the city greener and beautiful.

The Governor said steps like "clean city drive" taken by him after assuming office were all elementary things which any good administration should do. The most important task ahead of him was to create the conditions necessary for rapid industrialisation and economic development of the State.

Dr. S. S. Sidhu, Adviser to the Governor, who presided over

the function said that the World Bank had agreed in principle to assist a Rs. 700 crore project for development of roads, bridges and transport system in the cities of Madras, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchi and Salem. He said the Highways Department should avoid delays in executing these projects.

Pointing out that the MRTS project needed to be expedited, Dr. Sidhu said the Governor had taken up with the Centre the need for larger allocation of funds for it. Referring to the delay in the construction of a subway near St. Thomas Mount railway station, he said it was the desire of the Government to push through that scheme quickly.

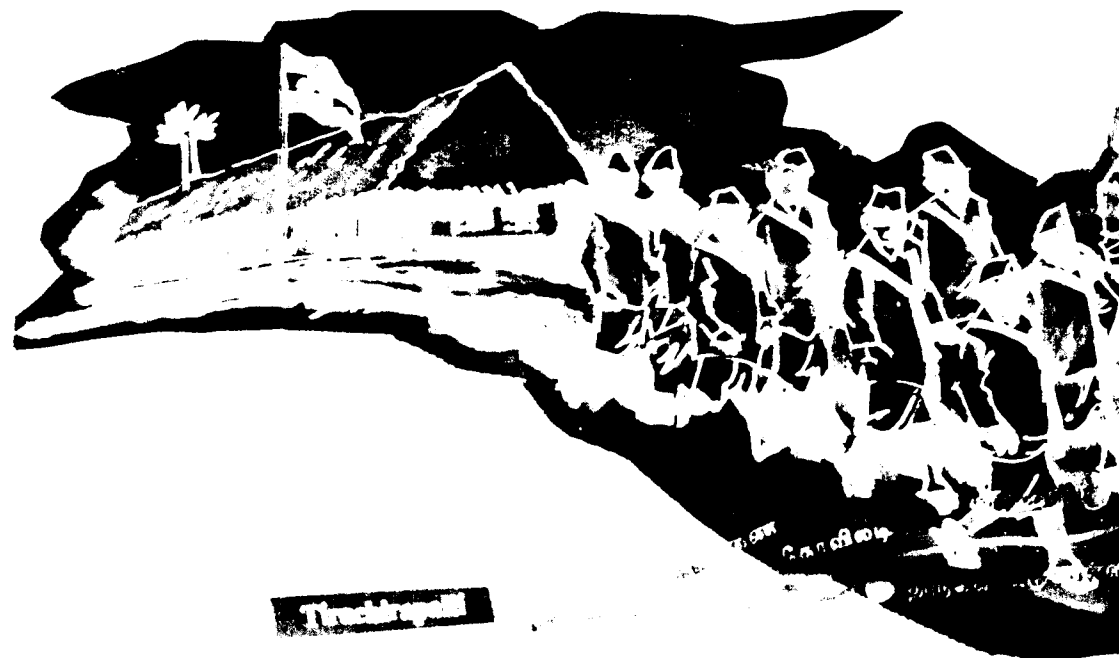
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**Vedaranyam
Salt Satyagraha
1930**