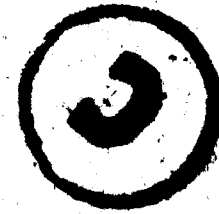


Tamil Arasu

January to June - 1992.





Famil Arasu

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Wishes
A Happy New Year
and
A Happy Pongal

TAMIL ARASU

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Citation Presented by the University of Madras

at the time of the Conferment of the

Degree

of

DOCTOR OF LITERATURE
(D.Litt-Honoris Causa)

to

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi
Dr. J. JAYALALITHA



Mr. Chancellor,

I have great pleasure in introducing to you Selvi Jayalalitha Jayaram, one of the most beloved leaders of Tamil Nadu, who has been popularly accepted as 'Puratchi Thalaivi' - the revolutionary leader - and the first ever lady to achieve the distinction of becoming the elected Chief Minister of the State. In Selvi Jayalalitha Jayaram one can see the confluence of artistic finesse, political acumen and administrative efficiency.

Born on February 24, 1948 in a culturally resplendent family in Mysore, Selvi Jayalalitha grew up as a sensitive child, imbibing an innate intelligence and inquisitiveness from the paternal lineage, and resipiscence and concinnity from the maternal ancestry. At three, the child went to Bishop Cotton Girls High School, Bangalore, and from 1958 onwards the young girl continued her studies at Presentation Convent, Church Park, Madras. Later, Selvi Jayalalitha stood first in the school in the Matriculation Examinations of 1964, simultaneously winning a scholarship of Government of India, which was likely to facilitate her career aspirations of studying literature and law in the years to come.

However when her mother Smt. Veda (Sandhya) Jayaram requested the juvenescent daughter to come to the rescue of the family by accepting the numerous offers to join the film world, Selvi Jayalalitha returned the scholarship and submitted herself to the cause of the family, shouldering the burden of supporting a large family with numerous dependents at the tender age of 16.

That her exposure to and articulation of traditional art forms have shaped Selvi Jayalalitha into a fine artiste of Modern Cinema and a winsome personality, has been both undeniable and felicitous. Beginning with her first assignment of "Chinnatha Gombe", a Kannada film produced and directed by B.R. Pantulu in 1964, and progressing through her first Tamil release 'Vennira Adai', a remarkable film directed by C.V. Sridhar in the same Year, Selvi Jayalalitha achieved name and fame by co-starring with M.G.R., in the Tamil film 'Ayirathil Oruvan', which was also produced and directed by B.R. Pantulu. Since then Selvi Jayalalitha never looked back, and had displayed a versatile flair for acting in more than 135 films produced in the languages of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada,



Hindi and English. In most of her films, Selvi Jayalalitha donned roles which symbolised social harmony, moral rectitude, greatness of women and the philosophy that 'good essentially triumphs over evil'.

Shaken to the root by the passing away of her mother in 1971, Selvi Jayalalitha gradually withdrew into herself and cloistered herself by choosing to retire from films at the peak of her glory, in 1974. In the decade that followed, her voracious reading of Vivekananda and Gandhiji; her forays into the literary world by penning an autobiographical serial entitled 'Manam Thirandhu Pesukiren', four novels (Uravin Kaithigal, Nenjil Oru Kanal etc.), and several short stories; her series of informative articles for several periodicals; her keen interest in collecting a vast number of books on varied subjects for a personal library; her increasing absorption in intellectual life — all these bore testimony to her growing maturity, revealed her creative mind and her metamorphosis into a graceful personality. It was around this time, that her perceptions of noumenal structurations of reality and her broadening of vision about metaphysical proclivities, became both strong and unequivocal. Her philosophical convictions are expressed in her novels and stories too, which exhibit the sensibility of a sensitive soul to the predicament of mankind. It is in order to transform those concepts and concerns into reality that she has given shape to several schemes of practical importance.

A firm supporter of the upliftment of women, she has given top priority to women's welfare, as is evidenced by the fact that she offered more tickets to women candidates to contest on behalf

of her AIADMK party in the 1991 General Elections and provided them with more opportunities to participate in the administration of the Government. Preference for women in all Industrial and Developmental activities and 30% reservation for women in Industries and in other employment opportunities are other positive steps proposed by her for women's welfare. Also, in order to ensure economic security and domestic harmony among the weaker sections of society, especially rural women, the first file to which she affixed her signature as Chief Minister was relating to an order prohibiting the sale of country liquor, in spite of a heavy loss of revenue to the Government's exchequer. Quite alive to the fact that any disruption in normal life affects women more than men, she has geared up the police machinery to maintain law and order to the maximum degree.

In addition to this, the welfare measures she has introduced, including the establishment of a special cell for women in the office of the Labour Commissioner to look after the problems of women and child labour, besides promoting education, training, welfare and advancement of social and economic status of women, are eloquent testimonies of her earnest efforts in the cause of Women's Welfare. Under her able leadership, the Tamil Nadu Government, in this year of Safe Motherhood, is keen on reduction in maternal and infant mortality, safe delivery and birth spacing, enforcement of proper age for marriage and education of women.

Under the guidance of her mentor, the late Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, Selvi Jayalalitha decided to become 'a diligent and

devoted social worker and party worker' of the AIADMK. Her admission into the party on June 4, 1982 was followed by her introduction to the masses at a mammoth rally and Party Conference at Cuddalore, a few days later. Her astuteness, grit and shrewdness resulted in her rapid ascendance in the party hierarchy, inviting both adoration and acclaim from the rank and file and intense jealousy from senior leaders of the party. Despite several odds, Selvi Jayalalitha discharged her responsibilities with vigour and fortitude as Pro-



paganda Secretary of the Party (1983, 1986), as Chief Electoral Campaigner (1984) and as a Member of the Rajya Sabha (1984-1989). After the departure of her Mentor's soul on December 24, 1987, she mustered courage to rededicate herself to the cause of the people yet again. Her stoic patience in the days of the split in the AIADMK party in 1988; her adept handling of the party during the elections of January 1989; her historic and unprecedented achievement of reuniting the party in March 1989; her memorable role as the first

woman opposition leader of the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1989; her unshaken, unwavering demeanour in the aftermath of the political assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, all became sure stepping stones to her historic and unparalleled victory in the Assembly Elections of June 1991, in which the people of Tamil Nadu gave her a massive mandate which is unprecedented in its magnitude.

Following unswervingly in the footsteps of her Mentor, Selvi Jayalalitha believes that progress is possible only through social reforms and that, sincere service to the poor is the gateway to the kingdom of God. Ever since she took over the office of the Chief Minister, she has been endeavouring earnestly to wipe out poverty and to lighten the burden of the less fortunate.

Her concern for the poor and downtrodden has resulted in the acquisition of lands for distribution of pattas in a large measure for construction of houses for Adi Dravidars.

Her anxiety to ensure that education must reach the masses is reflected in the recent decisions of the Government to constitute a State Advisory Committee on Education and a State Council for Higher Education.

The extension of the Total Literacy Campaign to seven more Districts for making 70 lakh more people literate by 1995; launching of a Special Integrated Non-Formal Education Programme by which 15 lakh unemployed educated Youth will be engaged to teach 15 lakh school drop-outs thus bringing them back into the educational system, and supply of free books and other aids to them are novel schemes to tackle simultaneously the twin problems of illiteracy and unemployment in Tamil Nadu.

Her Government is also seized of the need to provide compulsory education till the fifth standard to all children in five years' time in a phased manner. A New Scheme for Higher Education for Backward Class Students is on the anvil. In order to encourage students in their studies, she has introduced several scholarship schemes and concessions and instituted prizes. Her desire to open a University to preserve and propagate the Agama Vedas is a clear indication of her keen sense of values, and her desire to preserve our ancient cultural herigate.

Hailing from a family which traditionally valued Indian Art and Culture, Selvi Jayalalitha was trained in classical dance and Carnatic music from the early age of four onwards. In 1960 at the age of twelve, her Bharata-Natya Arangetram took place

at Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Mylapore. She is an accomplished Bharata-Natyam artiste, also proficient in Kuchipudi, Kathak, Mohini Attam and Manipuri, having given hundreds of performances all over India, and abroad, and has sung several songs in her own voice in her films.

Her contribution to the film world is well known, and the long felt need of the film industry for a full fledged Film City is on the way to being fulfilled by her soon, at Taramani.

Because of her staunch belief that our ancient temples are repositories of priceless Indian art, architecture and cultural treasures, she has directed her best efforts to the preservation of these age old monuments of man's spiritual manifestation, and has started a fund for the renovation and maintenance of ancient temples in Tamil Nadu.

Selvi Jayalalitha's ardent desire for the modernization of the Tamil Nadu Police Force has been both beneficial and noteworthy. Her firm determination to accelerate the pace of industrial growth in Tamil Nadu rapidly has resulted in a decision to set up a Permanent Trade Fair Complex with a Convention Hall at Taramani in collaboration with the Trade Fair Authority of India; a software Park at Coimbatore with assistance from the Government of India, a Graphite Factory at Sivagangai, and a Granite Polishing Unit at Dharmapuri by TAMIL. She is equally determined to make Tamil Nadu self sufficient in power generation, and has recently succeeded in concluding a promoter's agreement between TIDCO and Bharat Macnally Ltd. for a thermal power project costing Rs.5,000 crore which will generate 1,500 MW of power, by tapping the lignite deposits in Jayamkondam.

She has given equal priority to agricultural development in the State, by announcing attractive incentives, and prizes for farmers who record the highest yield. She has reserved seats in the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for the children of these prize winning farmers as an added incentive. Similarly, attractive prizes have been instituted for agricultural scientists who produce good varieties of seeds which prove to be popular among farmers and last for a long time. To encourage the growing of trees, it has been declared that anyone planting trees on poramboke land has a right to enjoy the benefits of such efforts.

Selvi Jayalalitha is a multilingual personality with proficiency in English, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi and a fair knowledge as well of Malayalam. She is a symbol of national unity and integration. Her deep love for Tamil is evident from her decision that the study of Tamil will be made com-

pulsory in all schools in the State. Each and every student studying in any of the schools in Tamil Nadu will henceforth have to learn Tamil atleast as a language.

Selvi Jayalalitha is a many faceted personality too. She was an able swimmer in her youth and was also proficient in sports and horse riding. Though her crowded schedule and the never ending administrative demands, leave her with no time for hobbies, she has an abiding interest in music, chess, agriculture, and her first love of course continues to be, reading.

True to her popular title 'PURATCHI THALAIVI' Selvi Jayalalitha, has a strong foundation, a firm foothold and a measured pace in marching forward towards the Twenty First Century. To meet the challenges of the New Century and to see that Tamil Nadu occupies a place of pride in the new era, she has taken painstaking care to prepare her plans for Tamil Nadu's future prosperity with diligence, devotion and dedication.

By reason of her intellectual eminence and attainments,

for her firm determination, creative energy, freshness of style, clarity of thought and political sagacity;

for her sublime and affluent sensibilities in blending the traditional and modern artistic forms;

for her increasingly ontological explorations to free the human psyche from bondage;

for her steadfast determination to harness the constructive potentials of power, policies and social welfare; and

for her vigorous exposition of the linguistic and federal consciousness of the Tamil Nation.

Selvi Jayalalitha has been unanimously recommended by the Syndicate and Senate of the University of Madras as a fit and proper person to receive the Degree of Doctor of Literature (*D.Litt. Honoris Causa*), to which, Sir, I pray that she may be admitted.

Citation read-out by
Dr. S. Sathikh, Vice-Chancellor
of Madras University at the
134th Annual Convocation held
at the University Centenary
Auditorium, on 19th December,
1991.

134th ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

"Your Excellency Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh, The Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of the University, Hon'ble Thiru Eraama Veerappan, Minister for Education, the Government of Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor of the University, Dr. S.Sathikh, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Members of the Syndicate, Senate and Academic Council, Hon'ble Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Faculty, Dear Graduates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it a great privilege to be invited to address the 134th Annual Convocation of the University of Madras. I shall ever remember and cherish the honour that you have done me today.

My gratitude to you is all the deeper because the University of Madras has been the primary centre of learning in this country, and has occupied the pride of place among the educational institutions of our Nation. For more than a century the Madras University has played a memorable role in the field

CONVOCATION ADDRESS BY

**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Puratchi Thalaivi
Dr. J. JAYALALITHA**

of higher education, and has been the home of learning for outstanding personalities who have shone in diverse fields, both at the national and international levels. It is impossible for me to list the number or the names of great men and women who have studied or taught in this University, and made memorable contributions to society and the world at large, in the political, economic, scientific or the social arena.

The University of Madras has been the mother of several Universities, and many of the illustrious men and women of this great Alma Mater have brightened the expanding firmament of human knowledge and wisdom. The history of this University is replete with names of mighty minds who have stimulated the intellect and aided in the



growth and development of many other seats of learning all over the world.

May I on this auspicious occasion remember with gratitude the outstanding services of these intellectuals, who by their pursuit of excellence as their life's mission and by their wisdom and insight, vision and imagination, have brought glory to this University? This very thought should fill the hearts of every one of you assembled here with a sense of pride, that this University has been your training ground, and the centre for your learning and growth. I am aware of my own limitation in addressing this gathering, but I decided to accept the invitation since that would give me an opportunity to offer my felicitations for the great services rendered by this University, and to greet the eminent and illustrious personalities belonging to this University, who have made their mark in various walks of life. I am, therefore, happy to be in your midst. At the same time, I must confess to a feeling of sorrow, sorrow that is personal, because my beloved Mother who cared for me is not here today to rejoice in the honour being bestowed upon her daughter.

Let me offer my congratulations and greetings to you, on the distinctions that you have earned. This is a momentous day in your lives. This is a day when the period of preparation ends and the period of participation begins for all of you, for graduation is not the end of learning; it is rather the beginning or preparation for an active participation in the social progress and economic development of our Nation. You must remember that you are the privileged few in our society, who have had the good fortune to have a higher education in a University. Not even 10% of the boys and girls of the age group of 17 to 21 can boast of such an opportunity in this country. Therefore your responsibility for the development of our Nation is great indeed. You must make the best use of the knowledge and skills that you have gained here, for the purpose of meeting successfully the many challenges faced by our country. I wish you all success in your endeavours.

A University is not a mere store house of knowledge, nor is it just a training ground for the acquisition of mere skills. Education, per se, is liberating and more so is higher education. Higher education is intended to liberate your mind and heart, to help develop a vision, to enhance one's own quality of life and to help others-less privileged-in society to come up in life. In essence, higher education must help the students to develop a concern for the welfare of other people. The Great Saint Thiruvalluvar rightly asks:

அறிவினான் ஆருவ துண்டோ பிறிதின்றோய்
தந்தோய்போல் போற்றாக் கடை.

"What becomes of knowledge, or of what use is knowledge, if it does not make one feel the sufferings of others as his own?"

Through the ages our country has recognised the power of learning and had given it the primacy of place in the scheme of social and cultural values. Education was meant primarily for self-improvement. Acquisition of knowledge had self-enlightenment as its goal. The process of learning was continuous throughout one's life, and was a means to enhance the qualities of the individual, so as to enable him to play a useful role in society by adopting proper social values, the underlying basis of which was a profound sense of spirituality. In a true sense, education in the ancient Indian society was meant for the purpose of integrating the individual with society. Education was intended to promote the proper understanding of interpersonal relationships, proper moral conduct and proper social values. The Intellectual, the Scholar, the Teacher, the Guru and the Student all played their respective parts in establishing and preserv-

ing values in society, so that peace, harmony and good relationship among the people could be promoted. The goal of education in our ancient society, was truly spiritual.

Arnold Toynbee, the great historian, emphasises this goal of education as being relevant even in the present day. It is worth recalling his words. He says: "I hold that the goal of education ought to be religious, not mercenary. Education ought to be a search for an understanding of the meaning and the purpose of life, and for discovering the right way to live. The right spiritual way is, I believe, fundamentally identical for all human beings. The right practical way too, was the same for all mankind, in the age before the division of labour was made necessary, by the change to complexity from the original simplicity of mankind's social organisation and technology".

The beginning of the industrial revolution heralded the age of the scientific temper, and this in turn laid the foundation for a technological civilisation, particularly in the West. All these produced momentous changes in man's attitude towards education. Education became the means of living. Acquisition of knowledge was considered to be a source of livelihood. Possession of educational and technical qualifications was only a method by which any person could improve his standard of life, or conditions of living. Technology meant division of labour, and this in turn demanded possession of specialised skills. Science and specialisation went hand in hand. It was no longer a question of how wide a person's understanding was, how deep his knowledge, or how sincere his intentions to acquire learning. The paramount necessity was to acquire skills of a specialised nature, which would help a person to fit into the industrial milieu of modern society. The test of success in the pursuit of material welfare, was the degree of specialisation which each person acquired and mastered.

After our country achieved Independence in 1947 and adopted the way of the Western world in the development of science and material culture, our educational system and learning institutions began to adapt themselves to the requirement of the changing culture, and this naturally put the country firmly on the path of specialised higher learning.

However, today, the field of education in our country, bristles with enormous complexities. There is a compelling need to provide universal primary education to all the children of our country, as quickly as possible. The vast masses of our population who have not had the benefit of formal education in schools, have to be given the

rudiments of knowledge so that they can be brought into the mainstream of life. Our educational system has to deal with a frighteningly enormous number of young people, who have to be given socially and economically productive occupations, consistent with the growth of technology. The compulsions of industrial progress, the impact of the global economy, and the adoption of high levels of technology, call for an increasing number of vocationally trained and highly skilled young persons, with or without University degrees, who can fit into and fill up various employment positions. Underlying all these is the strong and urgent need to upgrade the professional knowledge and expertise of the teachers, so that they are not lost in the race for advanced knowledge. On top of all these is the vast population, growing at an alarming rate, which is clamouring for all these facilities to be made available to it within the shortest possible time. Never before in the past has this country faced a crisis in the field of education of the magnitude that we see today. It is a crisis of confidence in education. Our faith in the ability of education, to stand up to the social and economic requirements of the population, is getting slowly eroded, at least in the minds of the new generation, which is expected to derive all the benefits from the very system of education that we are providing. Adoption of wrong policies, or wrong approaches, or provision of inadequate infrastructure, or laying down wrong norms, or setting ourselves unrealistic goals can accentuate this crisis. The important aspects of this crisis could be listed as follows:

1. Eradication of mass illiteracy.
2. Universalisation of primary education;
3. Structuring the educational curriculum for socio-political awakening;
4. Promotion of a feeling of oneness, a sense of national integration, and abolition of the differences brought about by communalism, casteism and other evil forces;
5. Emphasis on science and technology;
6. Expansion of educational opportunities;
7. Development of the right attitudes and values, bringing about a humane and compassionate approach towards various problems;
8. Provision of the right quality of social education;
9. Expansion of job oriented education, based on the acceptance and promotion of science and technology, right from the schools.

These characteristics may seem to be daunting and may appear to defy solution. But there is no need to feel pessimistic or gloomy. In our Con-

stitution, in our Planning for Education we have a correct appreciation of the role of education, and we have made great strides forward. But, what is of concern, is the inadequacy of our effort and input when compared to the magnitude of the problem that we have on hand.

The Kothari Commission said: "The destiny of India is now being shaped in our classrooms". We are the masters of our destiny and the architects of our own values. We should therefore pool our collective intellectual, physical and material resources, to give proper and sound education the highest priority, and to formulate policies of education, which will take note of the complexities of our Nation, and provide for the welfare of our people.

In the age of technological civilisation, education in the conventional method, needs to be supplemented by vocational training for special branches of knowledge and skill. School education alone is not sufficient, for the full development of potential and qualification of individual abilities. Each person has different talents. Each one has his or her own merits and qualities, and the key to meaningful use of talents lies in tapping the potential, awakening these traits, and applying them in daily life and practical situations. Performance in school or college ought not to be the sole criterion by which a person's abilities are to be judged. Not all bright students turn out to be productive and useful citizens in later life, and many persons who were not considered outstanding students, and who were not conspicuous by their talents in class, became eminent, highly respected and outstanding members of society in their later lives. Therefore, the Degrees, or the qualifications that students obtain on leaving school or college, must be regarded not as a lifelong assessment, but as merely a professional judgement.

Hence, there is a need for continual education, not merely of the teacher but also of the student as well. Continual education has become a matter of necessity, all the more because our knowledge is increasing, and scientific advancement is taking place all the time. Human abilities are diverse, and these diverse abilities are socially always valuable. Each individual's unique abilities must be discovered and fostered. This can be done by giving students opportunities for using practical experience, and the kind of education in which theory and practice are combined, so as to supplement, complement, and stimulate each other.

While we must launch our search for excellence, we must also obtain a certain basic level of satisfac-

tion in providing minimum facilities to everyone. Jean-Paul Sartre raised the question, which has now become famous; "What can literature do for the starved?" We may as well raise another question: "What can education do for the starved?" Posed in this dramatic manner, the question looks incapable of solution. We have first to feed the stomach, before the brain can be put to use; but both the tasks are equally important. I recognise that the educational policies so far implemented in our country, have to some extent helped to solve this problem of the vicious circle. I do admit that enormous strides have been made in shaping and tailoring education, to meet the specific needs of our people. We have introduced a massive programme of universal primary education, adult education, vocational education, specialised education at higher levels and the rest, so as to meet the social and economic needs of our people. We have also tried our best to provide appropriate infrastructure such as buildings, laboratories, research institutions, training institutions, and the like. For example, our own State has made great strides in the field of education. We have achieved a good degree of success in literacy profile. The 1991 census reveals that 63.72% of the population above 7 years of age in Tamil Nadu are literate. Among the large number of States of our country, Tamil Nadu stands next only to Kerala. Our primary education programme has achieved major successes, thanks to the Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Noon Meal Programme. We have also achieved great progress in University education. Our young people have performed outstandingly in diverse fields of scientific and technological education. Your own University's contribution in this regard has been significant.

We are proud of these achievements. At the same time, we cannot help entertaining a feeling, that our educational system is contributing to the alienation of man from society. With excessive specialisation, emphasis upon short-term and temporary goals, our educational system may make students forget or ignore the essential values of living. A poor society such as ours, that takes all the trouble and pays for the education of the student, is morally right if it expects something out of the student, and out of the educational system, for the promotion of general welfare. Arnold Toynbee put it rightly when he said: "Every entrant into any profession, ought to pledge himself to use his special knowledge and skill, for serving his fellow human beings and not for exploiting them. He should give his obligation of service a priority over his incidental need to make a living for himself and for his family. Maximum service, not maximum profit, is the objective to which he should

dedicate himself". Arnold Toynbee rightly stresses the need to keep away from the crushing influences of individualism, which can be the bane of excessive specialisation in the field of education. The need to give rather than to take, is a very important factor in a society such as ours, where millions of people have to be provided for, in all ways. The entire community must benefit from the kind of education that we impart to the students. Education must be for the benefit of society and not vice-versa. This means that our educational system must be capable of inculcating these basic values in the mind of the student. Petty considerations, narrow-mindedness, inculcation of communal or caste feelings, or other forms of hatred through education, must be eschewed altogether. This requirement is a matter of vital concern to all of us, especially in the current context, when fissiparous tendencies are acquiring false prestige. The first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said: "In India, the first essential is the maintenance of unity of the country, not merely the political unity, but the unity of mind and heart, which discards the urges to separate and disunite, and which breaks down the barriers which are raised in the name of religion, or in between State and State, or in any other form. It is of the first importance that we should not lose ourselves in passion and violence. National integration and coherence is a matter of vital importance today". These prophetic words remain true to this day.

On this memorable occasion when you wear the Academic garb symbolising your graduation, I request you to keep in mind, that education is a continuing or unceasing phenomenon, and that education means self-improvement. There is need for competitiveness, but that should be of a constructive kind. There is need for individual progress, but that should be in the best and larger interest of society. There is need to yoke Science and Technology to economic progress, but that should be not at the expense of anybody, but with due consideration of the need for social justice. Sound education should help a person develop a personal identity, a social identity and also a national identity. That is the only way by which we can seek to achieve greatness for our country. Progress consists in setting clear goals for ourselves. But as Mahatma Gandhi always taught us, the means are equally important. A little understanding of this will make us better human beings, and more useful members of society.

I congratulate all the young people here, who have earned their Degrees and won laurels. I extend my best wishes to everyone of you for a very bright future in the service of our countrymen, and our fellow human beings."



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Honourable Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and members of the National Development Council,

At the outset I wish to extend my greetings to all of you, as we are gathered here to discuss some important issues relating to national development. We have to cast aside the mood of despondency reflected in the macro economic situation, and get on with the urgent task of nation building in the Eighth Plan.

The unfortunate events of the recent past, the Gulf War and the consequent economic crisis have cast serious doubts on the relevance of planning in ensuring growth with stability. Inflation has to be contained. State Governments, which are so much closer to the people in their everyday life, have had to bear the brunt of the adverse criticism. While structural adjustments are undertaken, we

should safeguard the poor against their adverse effects. In planning for the future, we should pledge our total and unflinching commitment to contain inflation.

It is heartening to note the specific shift in the scope and focus of planning. The highly centralised system we have adopted in the past, has to give place to a pro-

SPEECH OF Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. JAYALALITHA

cess which unleashes the growth impulses in the Indian economy. While endorsing the broad objectives outlined in the approach paper, I wish to highlight some directions which we need to take.

Planning should not become an instrument of holding back growth in States which have to adopt different strategies. Tamil

Nadu, which is not well endowed with natural resources, would have to adopt a much more aggressive, outward leaning growth strategy. When we are formulating the Eighth Plan, we should allow States to be innovative in charting out their growth strategies.

Agriculture, and in association, a vibrant non farm sector in rural areas will continue to provide the bulk of new employment. Tamil Nadu has virtually exhausted its surface water potential for irrigation, and has very limited balance ground water potential. I have been consistently pleading for a River Waters Grid, transferring surplus waters which go to the sea to the semi arid regions of the country. I do hope a beginning will be made in the Eighth Plan on the Peninsular River Waters Grid. This is by no means an insurmountable task and can be realised if the Centre takes the lead.

Tamil Nadu has not seen a single substantial Central investment

worth the name for more than two decades. A survey of the pipeline of Central Public Sector Projects for the Eighth Plan shows that Tamil Nadu's share is one of the smallest. I do hope the Centre will come forward to sanction more Central Public Sector Projects for Tamil Nadu at least now. An early start should be made on the Southern Gas Grid to bring gas to Tamil Nadu.

The new direction of allowing the private sector to participate in core sectors is welcome. We cannot afford basic infrastructural development to be stifled by an unimpressive public sector performance. In Tamil Nadu we have proposed an integrated lignite mining and thermal generation project at Jayamkondacholapuram. This massive project in the joint sector involving a total investment of more than Rs.5,000 Crores will generate 1,500 MW of electricity and will enable Tamil Nadu to meet its energy requirements substantially. I earnestly hope this project will be cleared quickly so that we can get started on it.

The emphasis now has to be on how to integrate the Indian economy with the global economy. A specific strategy to create a trade corridor between Tamil Nadu and Singapore is overdue. This will be facilitated by locating a free port in Tamil Nadu. We shall take all steps to make this a success.

I am quite concerned with the poor investment on roads, both on new construction and maintenance. The Central Road Fund was specifically augmented for this purpose. The funds have not however been made available to the States as yet, inspite of a resolution of Parliament. This is a Fund for the specific purpose of road development, and it is essential that these additional funds are given to the States for

essential road development. We are also actively pursuing the concept of toll collections to finance accelerated road improvement programmes.

Planning will have no meaning if it does not focus on employment and poverty alleviation. While welcoming the thrust on integrating poverty alleviation programmes, I would like to stress the need for giving States greater flexibility in planning and implementing these programmes.

Tamil Nadu has always placed the highest emphasis on human resource development. It has a splendid record in population limitation programmes. We have organised an effective safety net, consisting of health and nutrition services, primary education, water supply and social security programmes, to protect the weak and the poor. We shall strengthen these efforts in the Eighth Plan. Our success in population limitation should not be held against us, and I would like to seek a specific reassurance that all Central assistance flows are linked to the 1971 population throughout the Eighth Plan period.

While we have an indication of the total public sector outlay in the Eighth Plan, we do not as yet know the relative shares of the Central and State Plans. I would like to highlight the need to ensure adequate resource flows to the States, to ensure that the relative size of State Plans does not drop below the Seventh Plan level. The share of States in market borrowings should be stepped upto 40% and should reach 50% by the end of the Eighth Plan.

The recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission which have been adopted by

the Centre, have to be reviewed as the projections of State deficits were made on certain assumptions on prices which have gone awry in the last two years. Tamil Nadu is facing a massive non plan deficit although the Ninth Finance Commission projected a non plan surplus. While the focus has been on the country's economic crisis and the Centre's fiscal deficit, adequate attention has not been paid to the dismal financial situation faced by the States. The mounting debt service liability of States' is a cause for considerable concern. In this situation it is essential that as a measure of relief to all States, the shareable pool of Union Excise duties is stepped upto 50 percent, making available the extra 5 percent to all States. Unless this is done most States will find it difficult to even get started on the Eighth Plan. The Plan revenue grants awarded by the Ninth Finance Commission should also be reviewed with reference to the actual emerging situation.

I would also like to draw attention to the immediate need to strengthen the resource base of States. We are all agreed that the Consignment tax should be levied. The few details on exemptions and rates can be sorted out quickly. I consider that this Council should resolve to levy the Consignment tax, and the Centre should introduce a bill to provide for this levy during the next session of Parliament. Small Savings, another important resource available to States is showing a negative trend this year. This has to be corrected without any delay.

Let me turn to the question of transfer of certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States. The proposed transfer

of schemes does not amount to much, but I welcome the spirit behind the direction now taken. There is an assurance that during the Eighth Plan more schemes will be transferred to the States. The transfer of schemes should also be accompanied by a transfer of the full assistance for these schemes. The proliferation of new Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be controlled, and only schemes of genuine national importance and of an inter-State character should be allowed to continue. Even in these schemes the States should be allowed considerable flexibility in utilising the resources.



We have on the agenda the important issue of the distribution of Central assistance and market borrowings to States. The modified Gadgil formula before the revisions in October 1990, had on the whole worked well and did not require major changes. I endorse the suggestion to restore the weight to the population factor from 55% to 60%. I have no doubt that this will continue to be based on the 1971 population throughout the Eighth Plan period.

I also endorse the intention to restore to the per capita income based component, the total weight of 20%. In view of the fact that some States will be left out on a per capita income based on the national average, I commend for your consideration the question of whether the 20% component can be distributed on the basis of the distance from the maximum income. Tamil Nadu has a special problem. In the Seventh Plan, Tamil Nadu was found to have a per capita income on the border or just marginally above the national average. In view of the harshness involved in cutting off Tamil Nadu from the 20 percent component distributed

and these are still to be resolved. We have reason to believe that Tamil Nadu's per capita income is overstated in absolute terms and on a comparable basis. The comparable per capita income estimates should also be based on the 1971 population, as a just reward for States which have done well in limiting their population. If this is done, Tamil Nadu's per capita income will be well below the national average.

Even in the past, this Council has disregarded income estimates which are not truly reflective of the situation. I would like to suggest that the

to States with a per capita income below the national average, a special dispensation was made which included market borrowings. Now as per the Central Statistical Organisation's (CSO) data for 82-85 Tamil Nadu's per capita income is clearly below the national average. The CSO's data for 84-87 or 85-88 show Tamil Nadu's per capita income slightly above the average. We have raised certain issues relating to CSO's income estimates for the later period

income estimates for 82-85 should be adopted as was done by the Ninth Finance Commission. If for any reason this is not acceptable, Tamil Nadu should continue to be given a special dispensation both in Central assistance flows and in market borrowings, as in the Seventh Plan.

Ten percent is proposed to be distributed on the basis of tax effort, fiscal management and certain performance indicators. While Tamil Nadu has

a very good record in the three performance indicators, namely: population limitation, universalisation of primary education, and performance in externally aided projects, its future performance will necessarily be relatively smaller with the high levels already achieved. If such performance indicators are to be adopted, it is necessary to look at a long term trend. The fiscal management indicator reflects on the position in the Seventh Plan period, which is equally well captured by the tax effort criterion. Let us restore the modified Gadgil formula, adopting 10% for the tax effort criterion.

Ten percent for special problems is to be retained and is to be distributed largely on a discretionary basis. Tamil Nadu did not get a proper allocation in 1991-92, recording one of the lowest increases in plan assistance. Tamil Nadu is not in a position to achieve even a minimum plan. Its per capita plan outlay is well below the national average. The threat posed by foreign militants in the State has been contained, but this has imposed severe limitations on what we can do to raise resources. Tamil Nadu has to be given special protection in the ten percent component to be extended on a discretionary basis. May I request a specific assurance on this issue?

I note that in distributing market borrowings, 30 percent is to be given to States with a per capita income below the national average. I have already highlighted the harshness involved in deciding the distribution to States having a per capita income below the national average. Given the increased cost of these borrowings, the pool meant for

backward States can be kept at 20 percent. Tamil Nadu should be made eligible for a special allocation of market borrowings in this 20 percent pool, or alternatively the entire pool can be distributed on a distance from the maximum basis. May I request a specific safeguard for Tamil Nadu in this allocation?

The agenda notes indicate that 100 percent assistance is being given in respect of all externally aided projects. This has not yet come into force. We continue to receive only 70 percent in respect of projects in the infrastructure sector. The Centre must pass on 100 percent assistance in respect of all externally aided projects, and this should include all ongoing projects. Externally aided projects allow the scope to States to innovate, and chart out new growth strategies. No attempt should be made on grounds of equity to inhibit States from planning and implementing these projects.

Our special problems with a sea border have only now

found some recognition. In continuing area development programmes in the Eighth Plan, special provisions have to be made for Tamil Nadu to tackle its coastal area/sea border problems.

I have spelt out very briefly our main concern as we stand at the threshold of the Eighth Plan. It is important, as is evident from the situation in Punjab and Kashmir, that no feeling of alienation which will disrupt the fabric of our national integration should be allowed to creep in. Tamil Nadu, in the national mainstream, while partaking of the hardship and sacrifices, will justifiably strive to seek its due share in national growth and development.

Thank you.

Address delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at the National Development Council, New Delhi, on 23rd December 1991.

I Wrapper

His Excellency the Governor, Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh, conferring the degree of Doctor of Literature on the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 19th December 1991.

II Wrapper

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha is being honoured with a shawl by Tmt. M.S. Subbu Lakshmi at the inaugural function of the 65th Conference of the Music Academy on 18th December 1991.



CHIEF MINISTER'S APPEAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR ADEQUATE COMPENSATION TO THE TAMIL VICTIMS AFFECTED IN THE RECENT KARNATAKA RIOTS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha called on the Prime Minister of India on 23rd December, 1991 and was with him for more than 45 minutes. She had discussions on a variety of subjects pertaining to Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India describing the pathetic condition of thousands of Tamil people affected by the recent riots in Karnataka State. The memorandum highlighted the nature of the injuries and damages caused to the unfortunate Tamil people of Karnataka besides giving details of

various political and chauvinist groups of Karnataka State that perpetrated the violence. The Chief Minister handed over photographs of the injured Tamil people and the damages caused to the properties of Tamils in Karnataka. The two bulk volumes of information collected by the Collectors of various districts in Tamil Nadu containing names and addresses of the affected Tamil people, details of the injuries caused to them and damages to their properties were also presented to the Prime Minister of India. In the course of the discussions the Chief Minister pointed out that it was quite possible for the people

of Tamil Nadu to engineer a similar situation in Tamil Nadu against the Kannadigas living in Tamil Nadu, but the people of Tamil Nadu had displayed admirable restraint in dealing with the Kannadigas living in Tamil Nadu. In addition, the State Government took adequate care to protect the people of Karnataka origin living in Tamil Nadu and their properties. In particular, whereas the members of the Fans Associations of Kannada Film actor, Raj Kumar were indulging in violence against the Tamil people living in Karnataka, the State Government of Tamil Nadu provided complete protection to Raj

Kumar's residence and property in Madras. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister pointed out to the Prime Minister that this difference in the attitude of the people and the Governments of the Two States was there for the whole of the country to see and to appreciate. The Chief Minister urged the Prime Minister to instruct the Government of Karnataka to provide adequate security and protection for the lives and the properties of Tamils living in Karnataka and to create a proper atmosphere so that they could live there without any fear or anxiety. She also brought to the notice of the Prime Minister that the number of Kannadigas living in Tamil Nadu was equal or perhaps larger than the number of Tamils living in Karnataka and this factor should be kept in mind by both the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka, with a view to providing adequate protection to the people of Tamil origin in Karnataka. The Chief Minister said that the restraint shown by the people of Tamil

Nadu was worthy of emulation by the whole country. The Chief Minister strongly urged the Government of India to provide adequate compensation to the Tamil victims, and she also requested the Central Government to see to it that the Government of Karnataka also paid adequate compensation to these victims. The Prime Minister assured the Chief Minister that the Central Government would do its best to provide adequate compensation to the affected people on its own besides instructing the Government of Karnataka to do likewise.

As regards the Cauvery dispute, the Prime Minister gave a firm reassurance to the Chief Minister that he would see to it that the interests of Tamil Nadu are not adversely affected in any way and would be fully protected.

In the course of the discussions, the Chief Minister pointed out that there has been no Central Investment in Tamil Nadu for the past two decades and requested for adequate central investment in

Tamil Nadu during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Chief Minister in particular mentioned the proposal of M/s. Petrofil Co-operative Limited, a Government of India Public Sector Undertaking to set up a polyester textile unit at a cost of Rs.440 crore and requested that this unit should be established in Tamil Nadu and said that the Government of Tamil Nadu would provide all the necessary facilities besides several concessions.

The Chief Minister also pressed for formulation and implementation of an Integrated Natural Gas Development Plan to develop Cauvery offshore gas in the Cauvery basin to that the gas production could be stepped up to the tune of 1 million cubic metres a day and this gas could be utilised for setting up a Mega fertiliser plant with a production capacity of 1,000 tonnes of urea a day at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore. The Prime Minister assured the Chief Minister that her requests would be considered favourably.

CHIEF MINISTER SPEAKS TO THE PRIME MINISTER

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, spoke to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 26th December, 1991 and apprised him of the situation arising out of the continuing tension in Karnataka, particularly in places like Chamara-janagar, Kollegal, T.Narasapur and Gundlupet. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister informed him that in addition to the twenty five thousand and two hundred and thirty seven Tamil people who have already moved into Tamil Nadu, about twelve thousand Tamil people are reported to be kept in camps in the above mentioned four places, presumably to protect them against further attacks by the Kannadigas. The Chief minister informed the

Prime Minister that these persons have lost all their belongings and have suffered very heavy damages amounting to crores of rupees. As these people are anxious to move to Tamil Nadu immediately, the Chief Minister urged the Prime Minister to despatch adequate Paramilitary Forces to Karnataka for providing escort to the Tamil people intending to come to Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister also informed the Prime Minister about the set back in the situation in Karnataka, particularly in the Districts bordering Tamil Nadu. This has caused concern to the people of Tamil Nadu but there has not been any untoward incident in Tamil Nadu State. Only about four hundred Kannadigas went to Karnataka a few days earlier and most of them have come back. The Prime Minister assured the Chief Minister that he would immediately send two Senior Officers from the Government of India to make an on-the-spot assessment in Karnataka and that he would ask the Chief Minister of Karnataka to do the needful, and the sufficient para military forces would be provided.



The All-Party Meeting on the Cauvery waters issue was convened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 30th December 1991, and it was decided at the meeting to observe a 12 hour bandh on January 2nd to condemn the atrocities perpetrated on the Tamils in Karnataka and the failure of Karnataka

ALL-PARTY MEETING

and Central Governments to provide adequate protection to the Karnataka Tamils.

The bandh is also to impress upon the Union and the Karnataka Govern-

ments to take immediate steps to provide the necessary security to the Tamils in that State.

Expressing deep concern over the attack on the Tamils who had lived for generations and worked for the betterment of Karnataka, the all party meeting condemned the failure of the

Aid Centres for Tamil Victims from Karnataka

Soon after learning about the inflow of Tamil People from Karnataka, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, on 26th December, 1991 directed the setting up of Reception Centres to receive those unfortunate persons, and to provide them food, shelter and medical attention. The concerned District Collectors were directed to set up such Centres as an emergency measure, and there was no time to go into the nuances of names and how such Centres should be called. However, from

News Reports, it is seen that there have been some comments on the naming of the Centres. Irrespective of the names, the Camps are intended to provide all the facilities to the Tamil people and clear instructions have been given to the District Collectors to take care of them in every way and the Collectors are fully engaged in the task. They have been instructed to name these Camps as "Karnataka Tamils Aid Camp" in English and 'கர்நாடக மாநில தமிழர் உதவி முகாம்' in Tamil.



Government there to provide adequate protection to them.

The meeting endorsed and commended the steps taken by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to maintain the law and order in the State in the face of the violent incidents in Karnataka. The meeting noted that the Chief Minister had made repeated requests to the Prime Minister in person, over telephone and through telex messages and letters to prevent attacks on the

Tamils in the neighbouring State. She had urged the Centre to despatch the Army or other Central forces to the riot-hit areas in Karnataka.

Pointing out the unprecedented situation created by the crossing over from Karnataka of over 70,000 persons to Tamil Nadu and the heavy financial commitment on the State Government in providing food and shelter to victims, the meeting demanded that the entire expenditure incurred be borne by the

Central Government.

The meeting called upon the Karnataka Government to pay adequate compensation to the Tamils who were victims of violence in that State. It suggested that the Centre could set up a Commission with a Supreme Court Judge presiding to fix the quantum of compensation. Also, the Centre should advise the Karnataka Government to create a conducive situation for the Tamils to return to that State.

RECEPTION CENTRE FOR TAMIL VICTIMS FROM KARNATAKA

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, reviewed the situation arising out of the large scale influx of the Tamil people affected by the disturbances in Karnataka into various districts of Tamil Nadu.

In view of the continuing influx of large numbers of Tamil people from Karnataka, the

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has directed that Reception Centres should be set up by the Collectors of Nilgris, Coimbatore, Periyar, Dharmapuri, Salem and North Arcot-Ambedkar Districts to receive the Tamil victims, arrange for their immediate medical attention, and to provide them food and shelter, till they are able to move to their native places or back to Karnataka. The Collectors have been directed to provide all facilities for them. They have also been told to select suitable places at the border points to set up these Reception Centres.

The Conference of District Collectors And Police Officers



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalitha inaugurated the Joint Conference of the District Collectors and the Police Officers on the 16th December, 1991 at Madras. The Joint Conference was attended by all the Cabinet Ministers, Senior Officers of the State Government. At the Joint Conference the following subjects were discussed indepth.

1. Review of Law and Order situation.
2. Action to contain the Militants and the left extremists.
3. Steps to prevent religious and communal clashes.
4. Students and maintenance of law and order.
5. Control of sale of explosives.
6. Effective enforcement of Prohibition Act.
7. Review of functioning of Srilankan refugee camps.

All the District Collectors, Superintendents of

Police of the Districts took part in the discussion and presented a picture with respect to each of their district and offered a number of suggestions.

In the afternoon, an exclusive Conference of the District Superintendents of Police and State Police Officers was held. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu presided over the Conference. Cabinet Ministers, Senior State Officers, Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary were present.

Director-General of Police Thiru S. Sripal, Thiru V. Vaikunth, Director-General of Police, State Police Recruitment Board, Thiru K.K. Rajasekaran Nair, Director-General of Police, Police Housing Corporation, Inspector General of Police, Law and Order Thiru W.I. Dewaram, Inspector-General of Police, Crimes, Thiru E. Hariharan, Inspector-General of Police (Int.) Thiru S. Ganapathy and Inspector-General of Police, Prohibition & Enforcement Thiru A.X. Alexander, the Superintendent of Police Thiru N. Appadurai (Coimbatore) and Thiru

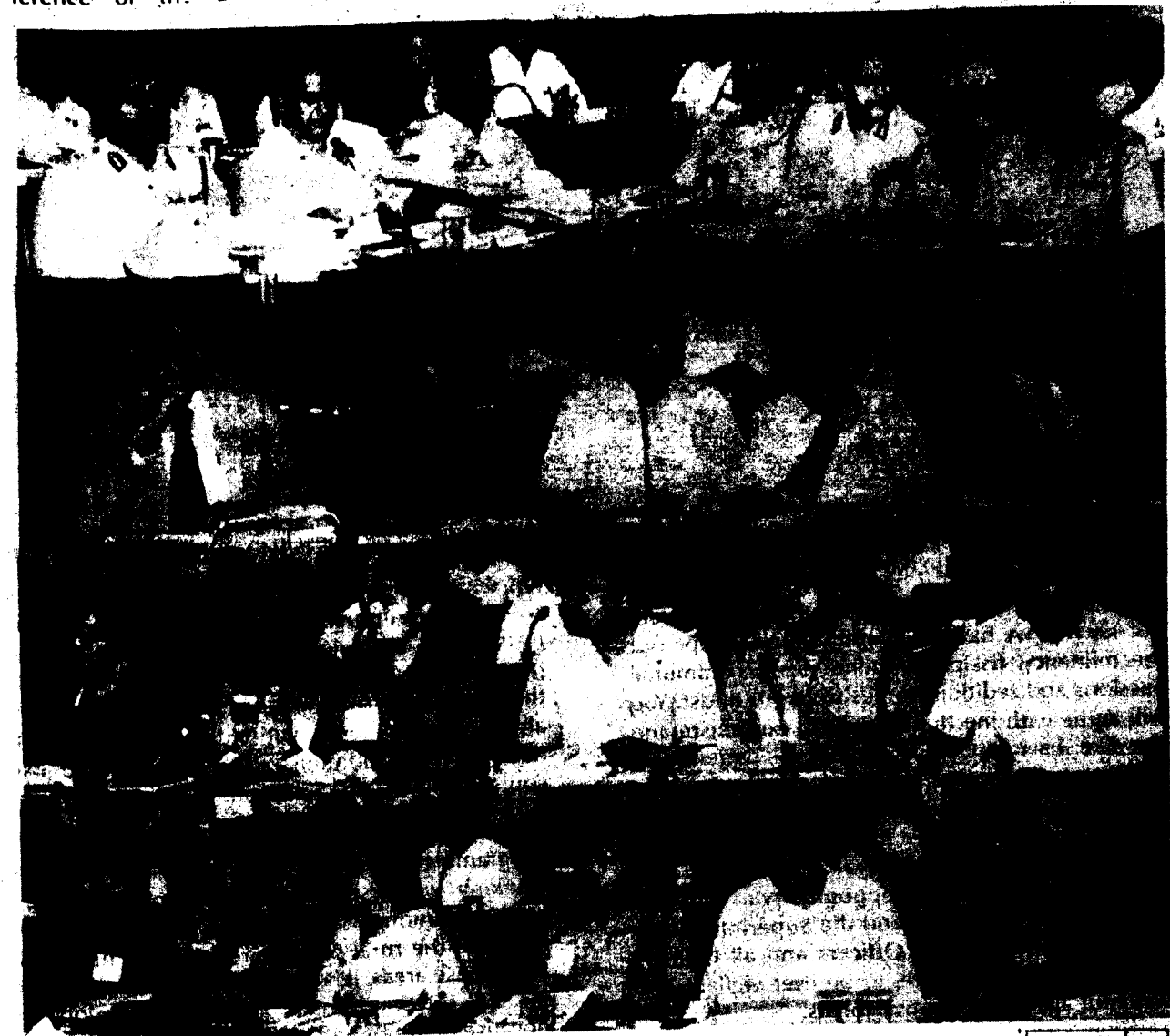
R.N. Sawani, Superintendent of Police, North Arcot Ambedkar District took part in the discussions. Subjects covered included the review of crime, including white-collar crimes, control of narcotics and drug related offences, rationalisation of jurisdiction of Inspectors of Police, strengthening of Tamil Nadu Police Force, Police Housing Corporation and other Welfare measures and review of security system, review of idol theft incidents, control of traffic in Madras and other urban centres, removal of cattle menace on urban roads, re-introduction of spot fine system by the traffic police and review of Prohibition enforcement.

CHIEF MINISTER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS:

"I have great pleasure in meeting you today on the occasion of the inauguration of the Conference of the District Collectors and the

Superintendents of Police. Though I met the District Collectors in a more informal manner a few weeks ago, this Conference is the first of its kind after the new Government took over. I am happy to meet all the Collectors again as well as the Superintendents of Police. This Conference has given me yet another opportunity of meeting all the Secretaries and the Heads of Departments, after the last meeting I had with them soon after the new Ministry was formed.

As you know, the new Government which assumed office in June, 1991, had to face the major task of restoring the people's faith in the ability of the Government to maintain law and order. I need not mention how the people's confidence was shattered by the ghastly bomb blast which killed the former Prime Minister of India, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi. Extremism and militancy had been given a free run in our State, and the atmosphere of peace, secularism and good-will for which our State was so well known in the past had been bad-



ly disturbed. These were the circumstances which compelled the new Government to take upon itself the task of restoring law and order in Tamil Nadu as a matter of the highest priority. The Government proceeded with this job with firm resolve and full conviction and introduced immediately a number of measures to revamp the law and order administration and infuse confidence in the police personnel while boosting their morale. I am glad to say that with your administrative abilities, sincerity and zeal, the Government has been able to achieve remarkable success in the last few months in improving the tone and tenor of the administrative machinery. I must take this opportunity to thank all the Officers and men and women of the Police force, and all the officers and staff of the State administration who have shown exemplary

No attempt to contain the underlying unrest and overt public violence is bound to succeed without the administration fully devoting itself to the welfare of the people, and conceiving and implementing the developmental programmes with the greatest care. In the context of to-day's poverty situation, rising prices and growing unemployment, if the State fails to fulfil its share of responsibility in ameliorating the difficult conditions of the masses, sooner than later, there is bound to be mass unrest which will become difficult to control. It is the vital responsibility of the district administration to see that this does not happen. The District Collector in a sense are the eyes and ears of the Government. Your ability to understand your local situation, your insight in developing proper remedial measures, your vision for organis-

ple by utilising the local resources as far as possible. For example, the role of education is extremely important if the State is to fulfil the aspirations of the people for higher intellectual and material advancement, and if the goals of equality and social justice are to be achieved. However, formal education alone cannot be adequate to fulfil this task. Even though Tamil Nadu has done well in educational programmes, you will agree that the time has come to convert education from being a mere institutional process to a voluntary social culture. This calls for the mobilisation, enlistment, involvement and support of all sections of society. I am glad to learn that in the seven districts where the Arivoli Iyakkam (அறிவொளி இயக்கம்) has been introduced, the concerned District Collectors are leading the movement with zeal and a

tant responsibility. I will be shortly inaugurating a massive programme of conducting 10,000 free health check-up camps throughout Tamil Nadu during 1991-92. Here again, Collectors have to play a very important role for mobilising the support of the medical professionals, voluntary agencies and the rural people who are mainly intended to benefit from this programme. I call upon the District Collectors and the Officers of the various wings of the health department to evince keen interest in making this campaign also a success.

As elsewhere in the country, Tamil Nadu is also lagging behind in the provision of shelter to the poor. Here again, the District Collectors are responsible for the successful implementation of the housing programmes. Sometime back I had occasion to notice faulty designs, improper execu-



devotion to duty in making our task easier.

But, we cannot afford to be complacent. We cannot say that we have been able to totally wipe out the militancy, fissiparous tendencies, communal passions and seditious forces from our midst. You will agree with me that terrorism, extremism and the like have no place in a multi-dimensional democracy like ours. The district administration has to be fully alert to the first signs of fissiparous tendencies and extremist forces, and take all steps to eradicate them before they rear their ugly heads with full force. I take this opportunity to fervently appeal to the Collectors and the Superintendents of Police, all the Police Officers and all Officers who are assembled here, to be ever vigilant and watchful against disruptive forces.

ing developmental work in a manner that meets with the requirements of the local people in your jurisdiction, are going to be crucial in solving the problems of poverty and unemployment. I know that the District Collectors in Tamil Nadu have always come out with flying colours in developmental administration and I would like you to keep up this tradition.

Education, health, housing, poverty-alleviation programmes, provision of basic amenities such as drinking water supply, roads, school buildings, etc., are among the important areas where the needs of the rural people are yet to be fully met. In all these areas, it is necessary that we try to look for an unconventional approach, develop innovative methods and satisfy the needs of the peo-

ple by utilising the local resources as far as possible. For example, the role of education is extremely important if the State is to fulfil the aspirations of the people for higher intellectual and material advancement, and if the goals of equality and social justice are to be achieved. However, formal education alone cannot be adequate to fulfil this task. Even though Tamil Nadu has done well in educational programmes, you will agree that the time has come to convert education from being a mere institutional process to a voluntary social culture. This calls for the mobilisation, enlistment, involvement and support of all sections of society. I am glad to learn that in the seven districts where the Arivoli Iyakkam (அறிவொளி இயக்கம்) has been introduced, the concerned District Collectors are leading the movement with zeal and a

commitment to total literacy. I wish them and hundreds of the volunteers participating in this programme a grand success, and I wish to assure you that our Government will do all that is possible to light the lamp of learning in every house in the State.

The Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Noon Meal Programme is a lofty legacy that has been handed down to us and is meant to enable every child in this State to participate in the process of learning. This Government's commitment to this scheme needs no new emphasis. The Collector should continue to ensure proper functioning of the Noon Meal Programme Centres.

Having taken care to feed the young mouths, ensuring their health becomes our next most impor-

tion and irregular utilisation of funds, compelling me to order stoppage of work. I would like to urge the District Collectors to ensure that no such misdeed is allowed to continue. I am anxious that the houses constructed under the Rural Housing Schemes should be designed, adopting cost effective designs, simple technology and locally available materials, so that the cost of construction is considerably reduced. The scheme of "KATTIDA MAYYAM" (கட்டிட மையம்) announced by HUDCO should be made good use of as a technology transfer programme, for transferring low cost building technology options from the "lab to the line" and for the skill upgradation of rural masons, carpenters and other artisans.

I find from the notes for this Conference that

our State has been lagging behind other States in the performance under the 20-Point Programme. The deficiency must be corrected and a full thrust must be given to the successful implementation of this programme. I urge the Collectors to take all efforts to achieve the targets so as to put the State back in the top position at the All India level.

The rising prices of essential commodities are causing great concern to us. The pressure on the Public Distribution System is mounting. I have had occasion to come across serious malpractices in the functioning of the Public Distribution System. The State Government is incurring very heavy expenditure by way of subsidy for the running of the Public Distribution System. I find detailed notes have been given on the revamping of the Public Distribution System, and I would like to know your response to the suggestions made in the notes. I would like to know the view points of the District Collectors in running an efficient Public Distribution System so that the benefit goes to the really poor people.

We are doing our best to restore the position of Tamil Nadu in the industrial map of our Nation. While a few large projects calling for enormous investments may help to stimulate the economy and provide the much needed multiplier effect, I am convinced that the problem of unemployment in the rural areas, particularly among the uneducated women, can only be solved locally by creating a proper and congenial atmosphere for the growth of cottage and small industries, in the development of subsidiary occupations like poultry, dairying, etc., and in the promotion of infrastructural activities which can provide jobs for the unemployed people. Here again the District Collectors have a very important role to play, especially, in creating a suitable climate by tapping institutional assistance to the maximum extent possible, and in providing the necessary stimulation for the growth of industries. I would like the Collectors to apply their mind to these aspects and offer positive suggestions. I have promised that the Government would create large employment opportunities for rural women, and I urge the Collectors to concentrate on this scheme and help to achieve the targets.

I find from the notes given here that many more subjects of relevance to the maintenance of law and order, and developmental programmes are coming up for discussion. I trust that the District Collectors have come fully prepared to offer their view points on the various subjects. Let me assure you that we shall take full note of your suggestions. Your recommendations will help us to formulate the necessary policies for the fulfilment of

the basic objectives for which our party has been voted to power, with a massive majority.

I hope that the deliberations of this Conference will prove to be constructive and purposeful."

The Chief Minister held discussions with the District Collectors on the second day of Collectors' Conference at Secretariat, Madras on 17th December, 1991.

At the beginning of the Conference the Chief Minister distributed District Awards and Personal Awards for achievement of target and best performance under Small Savings for the year 1990-91 to the District Collectors. Special Award for highest collection among Districts was given to Thiru M. Kalaivanan, I.A.S., Collector of Coimbatore. The District Awards were given to Thiru P.A. Ramaiah, I.A.S., Collector, Salem District, Thiru R. Vijayakumar, I.A.S., Collector, Trichy District, Thiru K. Gnanadesikan, I.A.S., Collector, Kamarajar District, Thiru C.S. Raja Mohan, I.A.S., Collector, Tiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar District, Thiru Prithiviraj Langthasa, I.A.S., Collector, Dindigul-Anna District and Thiru Rajiv Nayan Choubey, I.A.S., Collector, Kanyakumari District.

The personal Awards were given to Thiru M. Kalaivanan, I.A.S., Collector, Coimbatore District, Thiru A.M. Raman, I.A.S., Former Collector of Coimbatore, Thiru Surjit K. Choudhry, I.A.S., Former Collector of Salem, Thiru R. Vijayakumar, I.A.S., Collector, Trichy District, Thiru K. Dheenadhyalan, I.A.S., Former Collector of Trichy, Thiru T.S. Sridhar, I.A.S., Former Collector of Kamarajar District, Thiru P. Kolappan, I.A.S., Former Collector of Tiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar District, Thiru Rajiv Nayan Choubey, I.A.S., Collector, Kanyakumari District and Thiru M. Gopalakrishnan, I.A.S., Former Collector of Kanyakumari.

At the Conference the following subjects were discussed indepth:

1. Adi-Dravidar Welfare - Special Programme for untouchability prone areas.
2. Review of Public Distribution System.
 - a) Revamping of Public Distribution System
 - b) Reconstituting Vigilance Committees for P.D.S.
 - c) Review of working of Fair Price Shops
 - d) Review of Civil Supplies Enforcement Wing.
3. Review of Total Literacy Campaign in Tamil Nadu
4. a) Economy in Government Expenditure
 - b) Small Savings Collection.

5. a) Conduct of Health Camps
 - b) Review of functioning of Primary Health Centres, Taluk and District Hospitals.
 - c) Family Welfare, Immunisation, Blood Surveillance and Eye Camps.
6. Review of Rural Housing Programmes
7. Review of Drinking Water Programmes
8. a) Toning up of District Administration
 - b) Land Records and their updating
 - c) Redressal of Public grievances
9. Issues in Rural Development Programmes
 - a) Maintenance of combined water supply schemes by local bodies
 - b) Compensation for the loss of local cess and cess surcharge on account of natural calamities.
 - c) Transfer of Black-topped - bus plying roads from local bodies to Highways and Rural Works Department for maintenance.
 - d) Enhancement of local roads grant for maintenance of Panchayat Union roads
 - e) Strengthening of the technical organisation at the field level and at the apex level.
10. Review of 20-Point Programme and Anti-Poverty Programme.
11. Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme:
 - a) Encouragement of voluntary effort for repair renovation and construction of buildings
 - b) Declaration of holiday on Sunday/Festival days
 - c) Inspector of Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme Centres to ensure their proper functioning.

The Ministers, Chief Secretary, Secretaries to Government, various Heads of Departments, District Collectors and Senior State Officials were present.

CHIEF MINISTER'S VALEDICTORY ADDRESS:

"We are about to conclude the two day Conference of the District Collectors and the Superintendents of Police. We started yesterday with a Joint Conference of the District Collectors and the Superintendents of Police; then went on to discuss the subjects relating exclusively to the Police department; and in the course of today we

have covered a variety of subjects relating to district administration.

To me, personally, this conference has been a most useful experience, because it gave me an opportunity to meet you and to hear your views on matters which are of great importance to the State. I said yesterday that the District Collectors and the Superintendents of Police have a crucial role to play in the sound administration of the State. I am happy to record that during the discussions, I was able to see that you have the correct perception, the necessary enthusiasm and proper motivation for fulfilling the tasks entrusted to you. You also had an opportunity to know something of the policy angle of the State, with respect to many of the subjects that were discussed. I have no doubt that you will fulfil your responsibilities with zeal and devotion, with professional competence, and above all, with genuine concern for the poor and the down-trodden, at heart.

You have to help us to maintain perfect law and order in the district, and I would be happy to see you coming out with flying colours in this regard. That means a host of things including exercise of personal initiative and assumption of personal responsibility. I have no doubt that you are well equipped in all these aspects.

You have to be ever vigilant and keep a watchful eye on the growth of militant groups, communal trouble mongers, and fissiparous activities, and curb them before they become a powerful force and disturb the peaceful atmosphere of our society.

In the area of development, I see that the Collectors have taken keen personal interest and are pushing through programmes which appeal to them. While I appreciate the degree of innovativeness and motivation and personal initiative, I would like to emphasise, that a minimum programme for the poor such as the 20-point programme has to be given utmost importance and the targets fulfilled. I would like you to design the local programmes for employment of the rural people, particularly the rural women, making use of the resources already earmarked and allocated to you for various development schemes, and ensure fulfilment of our Government's policy in this regard.

You must take all measures to maintain the price levels in your respective districts. You must push through the procurement programmes with vigour. You must speak to the local grain merchants, wholesalers, restaurant and hotel owners and persuade them to bring down the prices in your districts. I would like to judge your capability

in this regard on the basis of your performance.

You must take deterrent action against smugglers and hoarders, particularly of food grains, under the law. While so doing, please ensure that they do not escape on the basis of flimsy and technical grounds of flaws in your orders or judgements. You must mobilise all local resources to increase production in your district, particularly of important food articles. I would like the District Collectors to take a special interest in vegetable cultivation, horticulture and afforestation or tree planting.

Proper image building of the administration is very important. Kindly see that you develop good public relations which will put you in a position of advantage, when it comes to handling critical or sensitive situation. Please put through imaginative and original programmes for improving the nitty-

gritty of district administration, particularly, at the Collectorate, and in the divisional and taluk offices.

The various requirements of the poor people who come to these offices have to be met expeditiously, with the utmost speed and with sympathy. New systems can be developed by the Collectors, which will facilitate speed in administration. I would be happy to see evidence of your originality in this regard in the next few months.

I now take leave of you at this juncture, with an assurance that I will be meeting you again soon, either in groups like this, or individually, so as to keep myself informed of further developments.

I extend my very best wishes to every one of you.

Dr. M.G.R.

"M.G.R. was a charismatic leader whose life pulsed with the common people. M.G.R. thought and felt with the masses and for the masses."

—Thiru R. Venkataraman
President of India.



"Mr. M.G.R. was a great leader of the people with great sensitivity, compassion, strong adherence to principles of secularism, socialism, communalism, democracy and non-alignment. He was the great patriot who had also the quality of fathoming the true interests of the people even in a very complex situation. Mr. M.G.R. was deeply loved by all sections of the people irrespective of community, creed, religion or income levels all over the country. M.G.R. was a nation builder who had the vision of one who is destined to make giants out of men."

—Thiru Sankar Dayal Sharma,
Vice-President of India.

"MGR's life exemplified the ethical and moral values which had kept the country united through the centuries. A patriot imbued with profound pride in the country's heritage, for whom the unity of the country was sacrosanct and preserving her integrity a sacred duty. MGR soared above all narrow divisions and petty loyalties."

His name was synonymous with the struggle for justice-justice for the poor, especially the women. When he became the Chief Minister he diverted the energies and resources of the State towards those who needed it most. He was adored in life as well as on the screen as he was dedicated to the cause of the downtrodden."

—Thiru Rajiv Gandhi
Former Prime Minister of India.



Inauguration of the 65th Conference of the Music Academy

The 65th Conference of the Music Academy was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 18th December, 1991.

The Chief Minister in her inaugural address:-

"Vidwan Thiru. Nedunuri Krishnamoorthy, the President elect of the 65th Annual Conference, Sangita Kalanidhi Tmt. M.S. Subbulakshmi, Thiru. T. Sadasivam, Thiru. T.T. Vasu, President of the Music Academy, Eminent Musicians and Rasikhas, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to you for the honour that you have conferred upon me by inviting me to inaugurate the 65th Conference of the Music Academy today, before this august gathering of legendary personalities of the world of classical music and connoisseurs of music. The eyes and ears of the country, nay, of the whole world of

music rasikhas are focused upon the city of Madras during this sacred month of 'Margazhi', referred to so beautifully in the songs of Saint Andal and Saint Manikavasagar, and hallowed in the best religious traditions of our land as a month to be devoted to the contemplation and celebration of the Presence of Divinity in all forms of life, through the instruments of "Music and Dance" which are none other than the expressions of the Infinite.

During the last 64 years or so, the Music Academy has unfailingly conducted this celebration, spreading the message of Music, unearthing and propagating its richest treasures and maintaining, at the same time, the essential features of traditional purity and piety which have distinguished Indian Classical Music from the Music of the rest of the World.

On this occasion, I rise to offer my humble tributes to all the musical savants, connoisseurs and innumerable rasikhas who have in their own way contributed to the

maintenance of the highest standards of musical excellence, and have done their best to draw the attention of the whole world to the basic and irrefutable fact that Indian Music and Dance forms represent the highest hall-mark of the Indian Culture and Civilisation, and are rooted in the understanding of the Power and Glory of Divinity and its Manifestation in countless forms.

In its essence, Indian Music in all its ramifications including the Hindustani and Carnatic Styles of Music, and the rich Tamil Musical lore, is mystical par excellence. Its origin is in the emanation of NADA that is none other than the innermost attribute of the absolute, Brahman or Narayana or Shiva, or whatever you may wish to call it. The properties of Indian Music are spiritual and encompass religion, philosophy, logic, science, common sense and sensory impression. It spans the entire gamut of organic sensation, sense perception, perception, conception, reasoning, imagination



and spiritual realisation. Indian Music therefore is a refined and cultured system of the most comprehensive kind. Indian Music thus encompasses all the aspects by which the Ultimate can be realised. A popular and anonymous text says: "There is nothing to surpass the singing (Gana) which is 10 million times superior to muttering of Manthra (Japa) which in turn is 10 million times superior to meditation (Dhyana) which again is 10 million times superior to ritualistic worship (Pooja)".

Indian Music is thus Idealistic. It is both an ideal, and an instrument towards reaching that ideal. It is both theory and experience. It is Shastra and Sadhana. It is not merely a structure of tone, with varied permutations and combinations. It is spiritual in nature, in its breath of vision. It may be performed with the help of tones and tunes, but it breathes the supra-mental atmosphere and raises even the ordinary person who comes under its spell, to the realm of the supra-mental. No doubt, Sahithya - the word, and Swara -

the tune combine to produce musical excellence, but in its ultimate experience, Indian Music is symbolisation of man's inner spiritual life which is the expression of Divine Reality. The Raga for example is not merely a structure. It is a living dynamic expression. It is the manifestation of the highest state of mind, and it expresses the aesthetic feelings of love and devotion, fear and anger, hatred and egoism, and all these feelings are used to express man's inmost urge towards the realisation of the Divine Reality.

The greatest contribution of Indian Music is the conceptualisation of Raga. This grand effort, the outcome of the human mind in direct contact with aesthetic beauty is expressed in structured sound. The concept of Raga constitutes the vital force in the design and execution of the classical form of Indian Music. I cannot but express a feeling of awe and wonder at the grandeur of the concept of Raga, which is the result of a thought process, and the combination of tone transformed into concrete forms

and expressed with emotion and melody. I can only presume that Ragas were the creation of a Divine inspiration of the innermost being of the great Indian spiritual leaders wherever they lived, whether in the North or South, East or the West.

Over the millennia, the musical ideology went through an evolutionary development. The best musical traditions incorporated the characteristics of ethno-cultural influences prevailing in various parts of the country, and that led to the current forms of Indian Music. However, it should not be forgotten that Indian Music derives its inspiration from certain original ideologies and substances. Looked at in this way, through the understanding of this oneness, Indian Music can play and is playing a decisive role in underscoring the cultural and spiritual unity of our great country. In fact, it is a tribute to Indian Music that it has absorbed and assimilated diverse cultural patterns and made them its own. I would urge that this aspect of Indian Music, its role as the unifying

force in the cultural lives of our people must be properly understood and highlighted, and not so much its ethno-cultural distinctions.

It is time for me to say a few words on Carnatic Music. Believe me when I say that to me, Carnatic Music has represented the highest form of "Nadopasana". In its structural perfection, tonal purity, in its ability to bring out the emotional and evocative expressions through the form of music, Carnatic music is unparalleled. The contribution of the Trinity of Carnatic music, of Swathithirunal and other great savants of South Indian Music, is so well known that it needs no special mention here. These savants have left behind a rich treasure of compositions, and these compositions provide the grammar and meaning for the word "Bhakthi", and as such these compositions have an eternal place in our lives.

A galaxy of great Musicians with cultivated tastes, innate musical abilities and disciplined traditions have carried on the torch of Carnatic music sampradhaya on the road of Bhakthi and Sangita, preserving and enriching it

wherever necessary. When I look at the renowned musicians seated in front of me, those who have contributed their best and dedicated their lives to the cause of Carnatic music, I feel like expressing my profound sense of gratitude to all of them, for the happiness and peace that they have helped to bring into our lives. I pray to God that every one of them should live for a long time and light the torch of music in the hearts of the younger generation so that they, in turn, can shine and carry on the glorious tradition of their masters.

When we speak of Carnatic music, we should not forget to mention the contribution of the people of Tamil Nadu from ancient times to the realm of music. The famous work Pura Nanuru, shows that Tamil people had acquired remarkable skill in music from an early period of time. According to Pattinappalai, the people of Kaviripoom Pattinam often assembled in the central square, the common place of the city, in order to enjoy music and dance recitals.

Bards of the Sangam age moved all over Tamil Nadu singing in

praise of the Kings. The Tamil word "Isai" is itself significant. It denotes that which moves or melts people's hearts. In the Sangam age itself, seven notes or swaras in the musical notation had been defined. The numerous subdivisions of these notations had also been worked out - a remarkable testimony to the intensive development of music by the early Tamil people. Silappathikaram is a treasure house of information on the rich music and dance traditions of that time. Quite a large variety of musical instruments were also used right from the Sangam age. Many musicians of high repute were patronised by the Kings and Rulers.

The pinnacle of development of Tamil music was achieved during the time of the Nayanmars and Alvars, and the great hymns of these servants of God evoke some of the deepest emotions of Bhakthi in the hearts of the people who are blessed enough to hear them. The Thevaram hymns can be said to constitute the first regular musical compositions set in definite Raga and Thala. The Raga concept is evident for the first time in Thevaram hymns, a



great advancement in the realm of music. It is interesting to note that almost all the original Panns (Ragas) exist even now. The hymns of the Nayanmars and Alvars had a profound impact on the lives of the Tamil people. The great G.U. Pope was so moved by the sight of hundreds of people proceeding to the temple in the Trichy Fort every day, singing hymns of Thiruvasagam, that it led him to study Thiruvasagam, and eventually to translate it into English. There are inscriptions of the grant of land and money to Othuvans and others, for rendering Thevaram hymns in the temples daily. These hymns were sung to music originally by large numbers of people according to given Ragas, but over a period of time, such renderings were confined to a class of people known as Othuvans, whom you may find in the temples even today. The hymns sung in moving Tamil filled the hearts of the people with devotion, so much so that Bhakthi became synonymous with music. God loves music. The Supreme Being is of the form of Music. Therefore the best method of pleasing Him is by singing hymns in praise of Him. Not only does the Almighty like music, but He also uses music to please his own devotees. There is a beautiful song in the Thevaram of Thirunavukkarasar, in which it is stated that Lord Shiva rendered "Samavedha" and danced to appease Parvathi, when she became angry at his keeping the maiden Ganga on his head.

குடினார் தங்கையானைச்
குடிய துழனி கேட்டு, அங்கு
ஊழனார் நங்கையானும்;
ஊடலை ஒழிக்க வேண்டி
பாழனார் சாமவேதம்;
பாடிய பாணியாலே
ஆழனார் கெடிலவேலி
அதிகை வீரட்டனாரே!

—அப்பர் தேவாரம்.

The Music Academy had been rendering yeoman service to the

cause of music. Its Patrons, Presidents and the Secretaries during the last half a century or more, have played a memorable role in helping to preserve, maintain and nourish the best traditions of Indian Music. In the Saga of the growth of the Music Academy as a world class institution, the names of many selfless workers have to be inscribed in letters of gold. Let me join you in paying my sincere, heartfelt tributes to all of them.

We are now passing through difficult times. The old order is changing, yielding place to new. The rich and ancient cultural values are crumbling all over the world. The responsibility is upon all of us to preserve the best cultural traditions so that posterity will not accuse us of negligence. The musical savants who are assembled here have an even greater role to play in this regard. The best of our traditions have to be preserved and passed on to the younger generation. It is in your hands to enthuse the younger generation with zeal and vision, to motivate them to understand and to appreciate, so that they can carry on the mantle of this hoary tradition on their shoulders, and

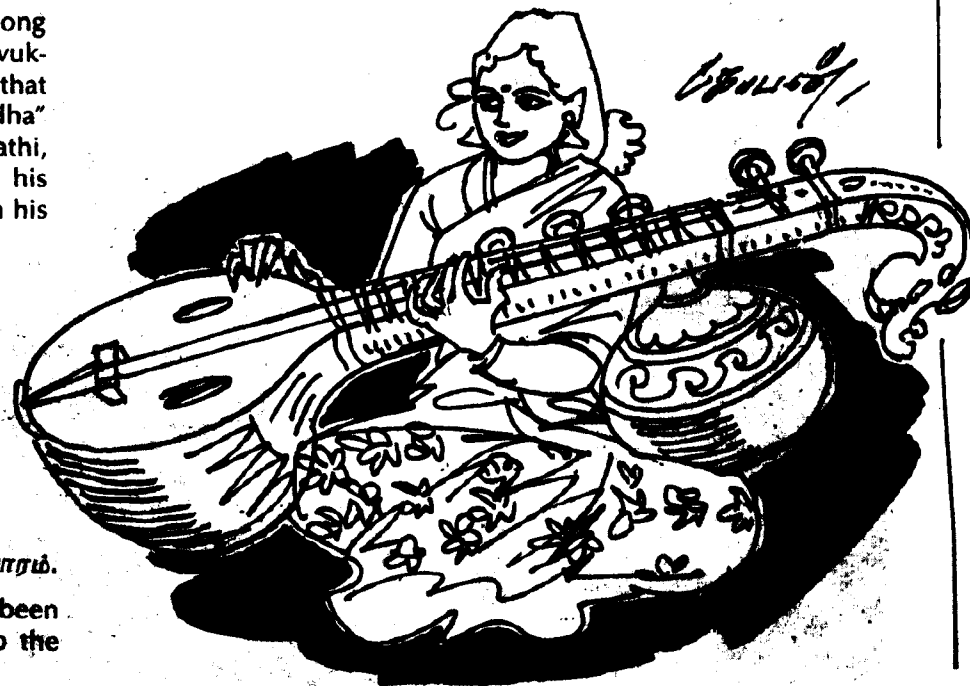
enrich it by their own "Manodharma" and innovativeness. I have no doubt that you will do this. I am sure our country will continue to derive its inspiration from the musical geniuses who are assembled here.

I offer my felicitations to the President Thiru T.T.Vasu, and the Office bearers of this great institution, and the experts of Carnatic music, in whose hands the destiny of this great form of music has been entrusted. I express the fond prayer that your services will continue to be available for many more years to come.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating this 65th Conference of the Music Academy."

The Chief Minister announced a personal donation of Rs.1 lakh to fund the Academy's proposal to make its Teachers' College of Music, a residential institution.

The Chief Minister also presented the Dr. M.G.R. Award of the Academy to Selvi. Lakshmi Gopalaswamy of Bangalore, who was adjudged the best dancer in the 10-day 'Spirit of Youth Music and Dance Festival' held in October '91.



ALL INDIA POLICE DUTY MEET



She witnessed the ceremonial parade and took the salute during the march past of the various teams from different States.

Thiru S.C. Mehta, special Director of the Intelligence Bureau and Secretary, Central Co-ordination Committee of the Meet welcomed the guests. He thanked the Chief Minister for instituting a new silver trophy for best State shooting team and paid his gratitude to the senior police officials.

Thiru S. Sripal, IPS, the Director General of Police presented a memento to the Chief Minister on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Police Force. Then the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha presented the Prime Minister's Police Medal to police personnel from different States for their bravery in saving lives, and gave away the trophies to the teams that came out winning in various competitions. After distributing the trophies she delivered the following speech:

"I am deeply grateful to the Chairman of the Central Co-ordination Committee of the XXXV All India Police Duty Meet, and the Director-General of Police, Tamil Nadu, for the opportunity they have given me to preside over the Valedictory function and to distribute the prizes on the occasion of the XXXV All India Police Duty Meet.

I wish to convey my greetings and best wishes to the Members of the Police Force numbering more than 1000, who have come from various States to participate in the competitions held during this meet, and to many more

The closing ceremony of the 35th All-India Police Duty Meet 1991, was held at Rajarathinam Stadium in Madras on 10th December, 1991. The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha distributed the Prime Minister's Police Medal for

Life Saving to 11 persons and prizes to winners in various competitions.

On arrival of the Hon'ble Chief Minister the Director General of Police Thiru S.Sripal, IPS introduced the higher officials to her.



Police Officers and others who have helped in the successful conduct of this meet, which is being held at Madras for the third time since its inception, the last one having taken place during 1974.

During the last few days members of the Police Force from all over the country have vied with each other in order to prove their skills and excellence in the efficient discharge of their duties. I learn that members of the Public have had occasion to witness the displays of skills and talents of a very high order by the Policemen, in the use of aids for investigation, wireless communication, forensic science, shooting, first-aid and the like, which constitute the essential accessories in the proper functioning of the police force.

I congratulate all the prize winners and would like to advise others who have not been so fortunate to practise their skills even more assiduously so that they may prove their excellence during the next competitions. Winning prizes

in competition is no doubt important, but even more vital is the desire to participate in such competitions, to strive to improve one's skills in the process, and to put such skills to the best use possible in the interest of society and in the service of the nation.

"To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield" is the famous line of Tennyson in the poem "Ulysses", which is worth remembering. Some of the greatest feats in this world, feats of physical and mental endurance, have been performed by people who never dreamt of such feats at any earlier stage in their lives, and they have achieved this only through their persistence, their singleminded dedication and their sheer will power. I have no doubt that frequent organisation of such duty meets, particularly for the policemen, helps to sharpen their skills, to upgrade their knowledge, and to raise their levels of excellence.

Vast changes have come about

in the duties and responsibilities of the police force during the last few decades. The policeman of today has to face many arduous tasks unknown to his predecessors in the past. Social, political and economical changes, closer interaction among many people in various countries owing to improvement in communication and transport, the rising expectations of the people, and the growing culture of modernisation, have made the task of the policemen, particularly with regard to prevention and control of crime, extremely difficult and complicated. The policeman of today simply cannot make do with the skills of his fore-fathers. His skills, technique, knowledge and aids for investigation have to match the requirements of the changing times. Out-dated methods and equipment simply will not do. It is in this context that upgrading skills becomes vastly important.

It is the responsibility of the Governments, both at the State

and the Centre, to provide the Police force with modern equipment, and the latest and most sophisticated aids for investigation, which will fulfil the requirement of containing crime. It is also the responsibility of the police force to use equipment and aids to investigation as quickly and efficiently as possible, so that human resources and material resources can be well combined in order to contain the evil forces which are out to wreak havoc in the country.

fields of Science and Technology, and the growing use of computers in the management of crime, and in gearing the communication system to a high degree of accuracy. The Tamil Nadu Police has been provided with excellent facilities in the Forensic Science Department of the State, which is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in Asia, and one of the best organised in the country. The State Government has rightly recognised the need to modernise and up-

re-establishing a feeling of confidence in the minds of the people of our State, in the capacity of the Tamil Nadu Police to maintain law and order firmly and with justice.

However, all of us still have a long way to go. Thanks to many undesirable influences, our problems in the maintenance of law and order, and in the prevention and control of crime may, perhaps, be extremely complicated in the coming years, unless we con-



The Government of Tamil Nadu has well understood this requirement and has stood in the forefront in equipping the Tamil Nadu Police force with modern aids to investigation, communication and transport facilities. The Tamil Nadu Police Force leads all other States in respect of police communication. The organisation of the Police Radio Branch in Tamil Nadu is one of the best of its kind. The Tamil Nadu Police has fully availed of the developments in the

State Police Force in terms of weapons, ammunition, mobility and training in the upgrading of skills, and has spared no effort in improving the resources of the Tamil Nadu Police in this regard.

On this happy occasion, I must record my sincere appreciation of the Tamil Nadu Police Force for its success in containing the Sri Lankan militants, in breaking their sinister hold over the State, and in

continuously upgrade the inherent skills and resources of the police force. This problem is going to be a common one for all the States in the country. We need a great deal of finance for this purpose. Many States are not in a position to meet the financial needs to modernise their respective police forces adequately.

It is therefore necessary for the Government of India to appreciate this situation, and provide financial assistance to needy States.

Governments with a view to modernising the police force, particularly in States which have very difficult problems to face due to the activities of militants and terrorists.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken this matter up with the Central Government. I hope that the Central Government will respond favourably to this request.

Once again, I thank you for inviting me to be your Chief guest this evening. I am happy to be with you today, with the thought that the police force which has faced so many challenges successfully in the past, will be able to march towards the future with confidence in its growing ability to be the custodian of the welfare of the people of this country.

I extend my best wishes to you, and express the hope that the Police Force of India will prove to be one of the best in the world, and a Force of which this country can be justifiably proud."

After delivering her speech, the Chief Minister triggered off the evening programme by firing a rifle.

The first programme was the demonstration of mass physical training (PT) and formation of pyramids by the State RPF men. There were models of the word WELCOME, Howrah Bridge, a chariot with Arjuna, Honey Comb and a Tower.

These were followed by demonstrations by the dog squad. To the delight of the Chief

Minister a dog presented her with a bouquet.

Later, again the State RPF men delighted the audience by exhibiting slogans 'Long Live CM', 'TNP', 'THANK YOU' and 'JAIHIND', with lighted torches.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, as her personal reward gave Rs. 10,000 to the Tamil Nadu Police team that won the trophy in revolver shooting, Rs.5,000 each to the teams of BSF and CRPF who had won laurels in kneeling position rifle shooting, and Rs.10,000 to the team of State Railway Protection Force.

The Meet ended with a colourful display of fire works.



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A Dance Festival That Will Sweep You Off Your Feet.

Mamallapuram. A seaside town 60 kms South of Madras famous for its ancient art and culture. Where tales of yester-years have been sculpted on stone. And history has been recorded on rock.

Come January, it'll be festival time in Tamilnadu. Pongal, the harvest festival, will be celebrated with pomp and splendour.

Mamallapuram will host a festival of dances – Bharata Natyam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Odissi and Folk. As our country's leading artistes converge here, remember to be around.



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Phone: 846843, 846825 Telex: 41-7758 Grams: TAMILTOUR

MAMALLAPURAM

Dance Festival

15th Jan. – 16th Feb. 1992





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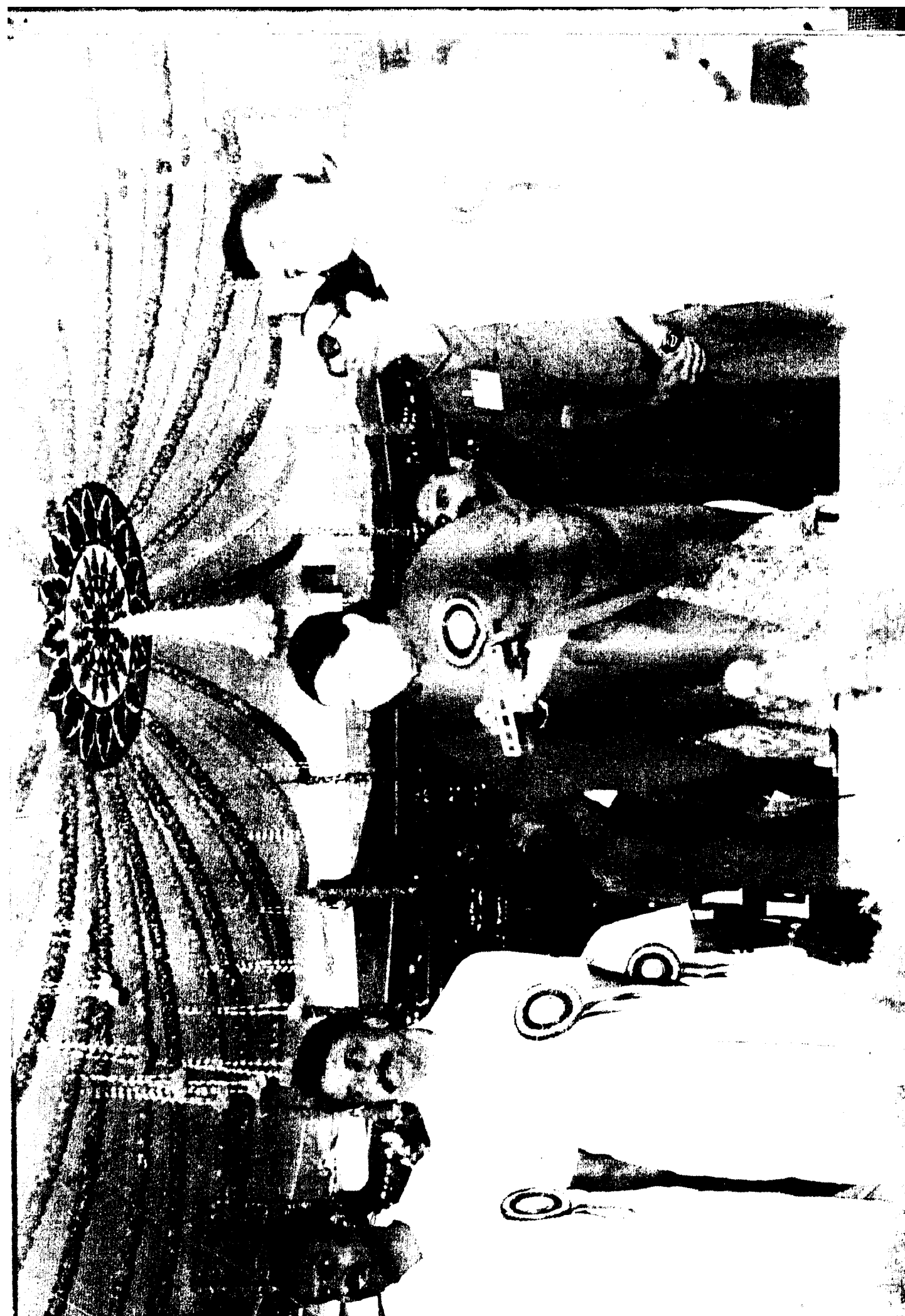
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REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

India's 43rd Republic Day was celebrated on 26th January, 1992 with zest and zeal throughout the State. The Republic Day celebration at Madras was colourful, with His Excellency, Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh, the Governor of Tamil Nadu hoisting the National Flag and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha presenting Anna Medals for gallantry.

On the arrival of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha near the saluting base erected in front of Gandhi's statue at Kamaraj Salai, Marina, she was received by Thiru

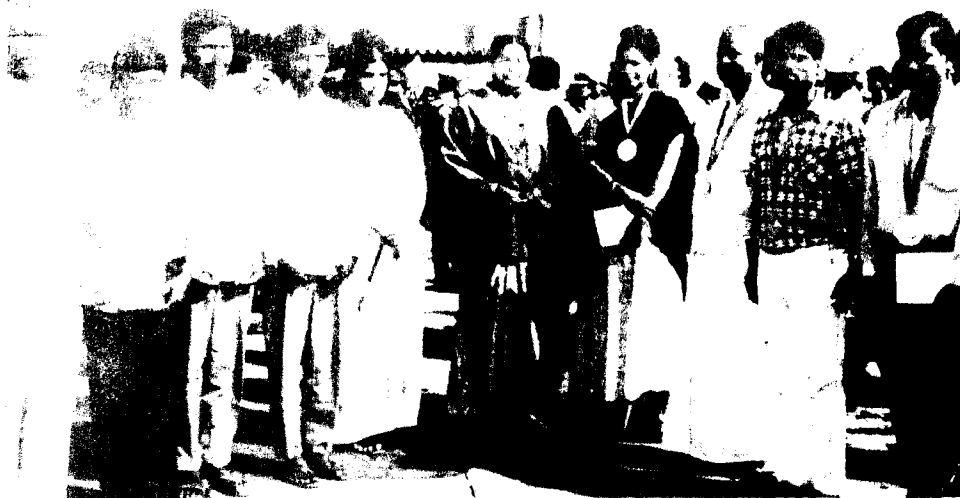
T.V. Venkataraman, I.A.S., the Chief Secretary. The Chief Minister received His Excellency the Governor on his arrival and introduced the Defence, Civil and Police Officers to him.

After the formal introduction of the Officials, the Governor, His Excellency Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh hoisted the National Flag to the playing of the National Anthem. The Governor then took the salute as the Ceremonial March Past was performed. The parade was Commanded by Wing Commander S.P. Singh. The three services of the Defence displayed Fighter Planes, Anti Air Craft Gun

and Surface to Air Missile. The Army, Navy and Air Force contingents were followed by troupes of Railway Protection Force, Ex-Service men, Madras City Police, State Police, Fire Service, National Cadet Corps, Home Guards, Scouts and Red Cross Volunteers.

After the Ceremonial March Past was over, the Chief Minister presented the Anna Awards for gallantry to 9 persons for their acts of bravery in saving lives. The award carries a purse of Rs.1,000 in cash and Gold Medal worth Rs.1,000. The following are the recipients of Anna Awards. Thiruvannamalai, Thandampattu Thiru M. Venkatesan,





Tirunelveli Sripuram Selvi K. Mythili, Velankanni Thiru A. Rajendran, Thiru I. Rethinam, Thiru A. Kulan-daivelu, Thiru P. Samikannu, Pothuvakudi Thiru K. Balanandam, Coimbatore Division Selection Grade Ranger (late) Thiru G.K. Muthusamy (Posthumous Award) and Padmanabhapuram Thiru Kumaresan.

was followed by Tamil Nadu Folk dances by professional artistes from different Districts. There were demonstrations of Silambattam, Karagam, Kavadi, Mayil, Dummy Horse, Kumba dance, Tribal Dance, Oyil Kummi and Kokalikattai Attam.

The floats of various Departments of the Government, followed the Tamil Nadu Folk Dances.

In the evening, His Excellency the Governor Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh hosted a reception at Raj Bhavan. Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha was the guest of honour. After tea the Governor presented shields and prizes to the winners. The reception ended with a cultural programme.

The following are the prize winners:

The float presented by Horticulture Department depicting the details of the Development of Dryland Horticulture by increasing the area under various perennial fruit crops, bagged the first prize. The second prize went to the Department of Social Welfare which explained in its tableau the various schemes implemented by its Department for the benefit of children, women and weaker sections. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board got the third prize



The presentation of Anna Awards was followed by the Carnival of school children. Andhra Dance, Gujarat Raz, Peasant Folk Dance, Saucer Dance, Pot Dance, Rajasthani Raz, Karagam, Group Dance, Manipuri, Flower Dance and Bangra Dance were presented by school children of the Madras City. The Carnival concluded with a Karate demonstration by students of A.V.M. Metriculation Higher Secondary School and J.G.V.V. Junior College under the guidance of Sensei S. Mani.

The Carnival of school children

The first of the array of the floats was that of the Information and Public Relations Department highlighting the joy and self-confidence of the farmers, women and the weaker section, who experience a new wave of clean, creative, able and efficient administration which ensures people's participation in every area of socio-economic life in the State. This was followed by the floats belonging to various Departments depicting various schemes and achievements of the State Government.

for their float which explained the proposed programme of monitoring automobile emissions in the State through the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

In the children's Carnival programme, Jawahar Bala Bhavan which performed Andhra Dance was placed first, Lady Wellington Girls Higher Secondary School which performed Karagam was placed second and the Children Garden Girls Higher Secondary School which performed Peasant Folk Dance was adjudged third.



KALAIMAMANI AWARDS

Kalaimamani awards were presented to 39 Artistes of varied distinctions at a grand function organised by the Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Manram at Kalaivanar Arangam, Madras on 26th January, 1992. Thiru Kunnakudi R. Vaidyanathan, President, Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Manram welcomed the gathering. His Excellency the Governor, Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh was honoured with a shawl by Thiru R.S. Manohar the Secretary, and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha was presented a shawl by Thiru Kunnakudi R. Vaidyanathan, the President of the Manram.

Then Thiru R.S. Manohar, the Secretary read a report on Manram's activities and its efforts to honour artistes of various distinction. He requested the Government to enhance the assistance given to the aged and economically deprived artistes

from Rs.250 to Rs.400. He also made a plea for the construction of a modern auditorium within the present complex of the Manram and setting up of a school for drama in the State. The Chief Minister unveiled the portraits of 14 eminent artistes. Among them was the portrait of the former Chief Minister Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR who became the 200th artiste to be honoured thus.

The list of Kalaimamani award winners was read out. The Governor honoured the recipients of 'Kalaimamani' title with shawls and medals while the Chief Minister presented them the citations. The Chief Minister also honoured three past recipients of the award, Thiru C.S. Jayaraman, Thiru Natarajan and Thiru Trichy Swaminathan with a purse of Rs.5,000 each. She also presented trophies to "Nadagapriya" which had been adjudged as the best drama troupe and to Mylapore Fine Arts Club, Madras which was nominated the best art institution.

The Governor Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh presided over the function. In his address, he spoke of the significant role played by the Manram. "Culture transcends man - made barriers through the spontaneous manifestations of people's shared beliefs, traditions, perceptions and life styles. It promotes harmony and togetherness

and has a powerful influence for emotional integration", he said.

The Chief Minister in her speech described all arts as an expression of internal beauty. If Tamil and the three fine arts were to grow, Tamil artistes should be encouraged and honoured and this is what the Government was doing now with great enthusiasm, she said.

She recalled with pride the Kalaimamani title conferred on her in 1972. She said it was a great honour, to present the very same award as a Chief Minister (to the other artistes). She remembered with gratitude her mother, her mentor Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR and the people of Tamil Nadu for her growth and her present position.

She said so far the 'Kalaimamani' title had been conferred on 752 artistes. And this year with an idea of honouring new branches of art, 8 more have been included and in all 39 people from various fields of art are being presented award.

To the cheer of the crowd, she announced that the assistance given to the aged and economically deprived artistes is being increased from Rs.250 to Rs.400 from that day onwards. The Government would also consider the plea for construction of an auditorium, she said responding to the request made by Thiru R.S. Manohar, Secretary of the Manram.

After her speech the Chief Minister presented shawls to Thiru Mandolin U. Srinivas and his younger brother.

Thiru R.S. Manohar, Secretary, Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Manram proposed a vote of thanks.

The Governor and the Chief Minister stayed on to hear a programme by Thiru Mandolin U. Srinivas conducted at the end of the function.





PONGAL — DANCE FESTIVAL

The Pongal — Dance Festival was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi

Dr. J. Jayalalitha at Mamallapuram on 15th January 1992.

The Chief Minister arrived at the stage erected near the shore temple sharply at 6 p.m. and before alighting the stage, inspected the model of the new plan for Mamallapuram. Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly presided over the function. Tmt. C.K. Gariyali, I.A.S., Secretary, Information and Tourism welcomed the gathering. Tmt. C.K. Gariyali, I.A.S., and Tmt. Shila Priya, I.A.S., the District Collector of Chengalpattu-MGR District presented shawls to the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister lighted a Kuthuvilakku and declared open various new developmental schemes for Mamallapuram. She also declared open the Tourist Office. The new developmental schemes include a Rs 20 lakh project for the development of East-Raja Street and a temporary parking lot, construction of a new bus-stand outside the monument zone at a cost of Rs.88 lakh, development of parking lot near Shore Temple at a cost of Rs.7.07 lakh, development of parking lot near Five Rathas at a cost of Rs.5.60 lakh and a Rs.2.87 lakh project for the development of rest area/parking area near Arjuna's Penance.

After declaring open the new schemes the Chief Minister in her speech expressed happiness in inaugurating the festival



which had been jointly organised by the Central and the State Governments. She recalled her association with Bharathanatyam and described such art forms as not only symbols of the country's heritage but also of National Integration. It was only fitting that the dance festival was being organised at Mamallapuram which was once a great port and stood as a symbol of artistic and cultural tradition. She expressed hope that the new developmental schemes would provide all facilities and promote tourism.

After delivering her speech, the Chief Minister presented Shawls to Dr. Padma Subramaniam, Thiru Namakiripettai Krishnan and the leader of the Karagattam troupe.

Thiru S. Machendranathan, I.A.S., the Director of Tourism proposed a vote of thanks.

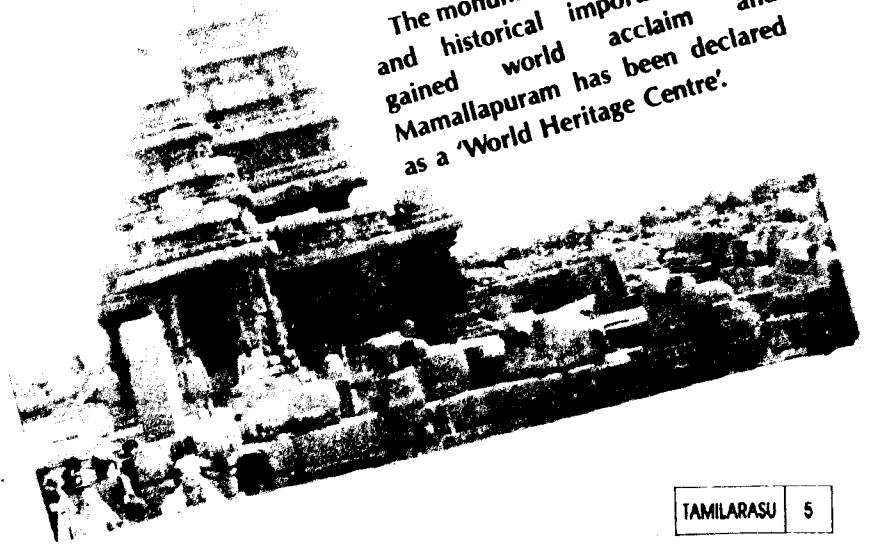
The Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha stayed on to watch the Bharathanatyam Programme by Dr. Padma Subramaniam and Kavadi attam by a police troupe from Avadi. The function was attended by Ministers, a large number of foreign tourists and a large gathering.

The entire town of Mamallapuram wore a festive look with lighted arches and flower decked welcome boards.

MAMALLAPURAM

The name Mamallapuram is derived from Mah-Mallapuram, means the city of Mahmallan 'The Great Warrior', a title of Narasimhavarman I. It gained prominence under the Pallava rulers (Third Century AD to Eighth Century AD). Narasimhavarman, son of Mahendravarman, enlarged the settlement, increased the maritime activities through this port and renamed it Mamallapuram.

The monuments of archaeological and historical importance have gained world acclaim and Mamallapuram has been declared as a 'World Heritage Centre'.





ALL INDIA TOURIST AND INDUSTRIAL FAIR

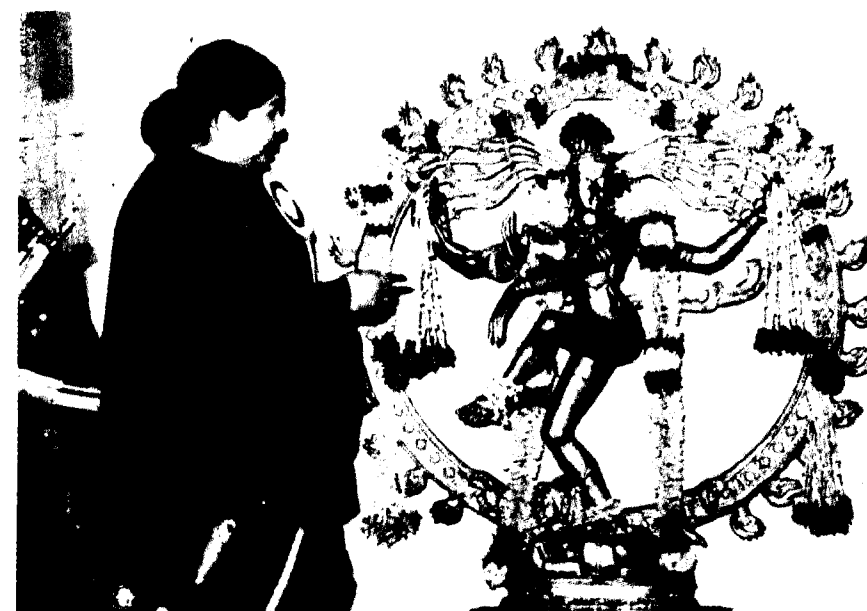
The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha inaugurated the 18th All India Tourist and Industrial Fair on the Island Ground on 6th January 1992 and said the trade fair, with its All-India character, was an event which promoted national integration.

Tamil Nadu led in championing the cause of India's unity and integrity through patriotism, cultural heritage, and traditions. The Country was a mosaic of different States welded into a whole through unity, the Chief Minister said.

The fair provided a glimpse of

the progress made by Tamil Nadu in several fields, including industrial, social and economic.

To mark the visit India year, the State Government was bringing out a special book on the tourist spots in Tamil Nadu. A month-long dance festival at Mamallapuram coinciding with Pongal, a Natyaanjali at Chidambaram, a kite festival on the Marina hosted jointly by the TTDC and Madras Lions Club in January, and a windsurfing regatta with the help of Riki Tiki Tavi Club at Muttukadu in February, were other programmes, she said.



Besides these, cookery expos featuring Kashmir and Kerala cuisines, and trekking camps were introduced by the Tourism Department and the TTDC.

New hotels were nearing completion at Tiruttani, Thirukazhukunram, Melmaruvathur, Cuddalore, Mettupalayam, Gudalur, Coonoor, Tiruchendur, Rameswaram and Hosur. Also new hotels would be constructed at Ranipet, Ulundurpet, Salem, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur and Kodaikkanal. For tourists coming to Madras, a full-fledged hotel would be opened in the buildings of the old Law College hostel at Broadway.

A new tourism policy with some changes in the packages offered to other industries, would be announced soon.

The State would also declare selected towns as 'Heritage towns' under the scheme announced by the Centre, for their preservation and development.

Tracing the growth of the TTDC from five hotels and two luxury buses to its present strength of over 34 hotels, youth hostels, 22 luxury buses and five cars, the Chief Minister said it was an indicator of the good performance of the Corporation and its employees. TTDC tariff of Rs.20 to Rs.600 had changed the times when only the rich could afford hotel accommodation.

The Chief Minister said this year, 2.87 lakh Tourists including 13,062 foreigners had stayed in TTDC hotels till November and 52,210 tourists had travelled by the luxury buses.

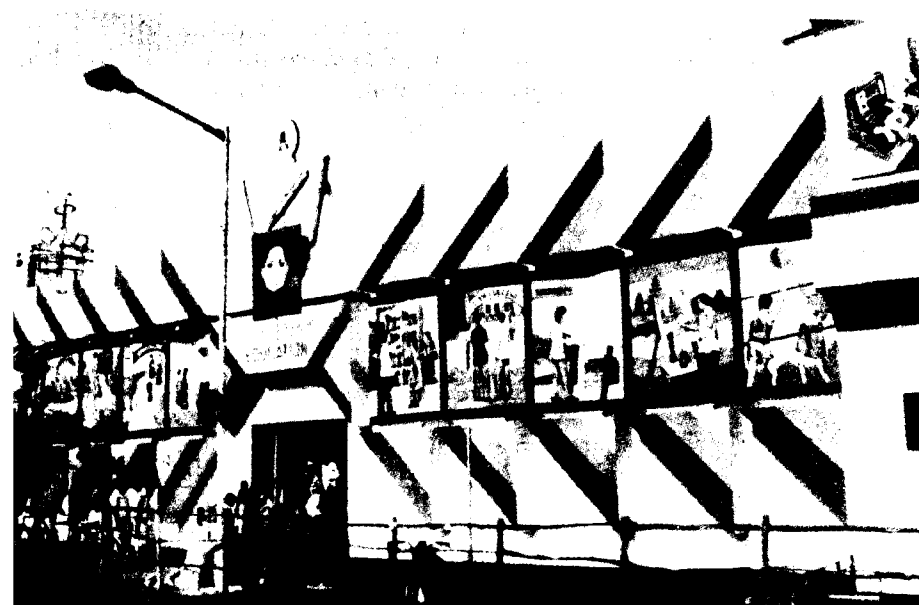
If a public sector corporation was capable of sustained growth and profits, it would not be subject to the criticism, other such ventures faced. The TTDC's record was commendable.

The Chief Minister said keeping tourist centres clean and protecting the State's heritage was a duty, and this endeavour required the co-operation of the people.

Hon'ble Speaker, Legislative Assembly Thiru. Sedappatti R. Muthiah presided over the function.

Tmt. C.K. Gariyali, I.A.S., Secretary, Information and Tourism Department welcomed the gathering and said this year 37 pavilions of various Government Departments and Undertakings and two Pavilions from other States had been put up. In all there would be 205 stalls.

Thiru P. Selvam, Managing Director, TTDC proposed a vote of thanks.



The Thiruvalluvar Day was celebrated on the 16th January, 1992 at Kalaivanar Arangam, Madras.

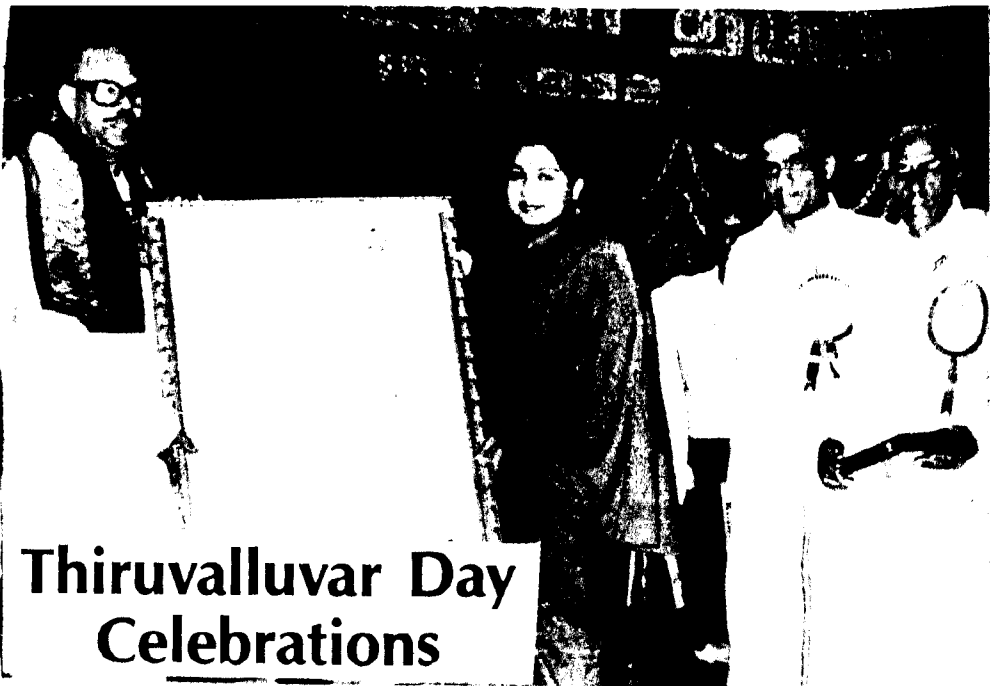
At a grand function organised by the Tamil Development and Culture Department, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha presented the Thiruvalluvar award of this year to Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian, Minister for Finance, for his guide book on Thirukkural, 'Thirukkural Thelivurai'. The award consists of Rs.20,000 in cash and a citation. She also presented awards to authors of 42 best books, their publishers, financial assistance to aged Tamil authors and prizes to three best-draftmen in the Government Service.

The function began with Dr. Siva-chidambaram's prayer song from Thirukkural. Thiru Avvai Natarajan, Secretary of Tamil Development and Culture welcomed the gathering.

Thiru RM. Veerappan, Minister for Education presented shawls to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha and Minister for Finance Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, Legislative Assembly, presided over the function. He paid rich tributes to the Chief Minister for being in the forefront in developing Tamil language and the Tamil Culture.

Noted Thirukkural Scholar, Thiru Thirukkural V. Munusami said the Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha's Govern-



Thiruvalluvar Day Celebrations

ment was following the ideals enshrined in Thirukkural including prohibition. He said temples were the real centres for building morality and character and the Chief Minister did well in taking steps for the renovation of ruined temples.

Thiru RM. Veerappan, the Minister for Education appealed to the Centre to help translate the Thirukkural into all the national languages and publish them for the benefit of the whole nation.

Then, the Chief Minister presented the Thiruvalluvar award to Minister for Finance Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian and distributed Awards and Certificates to the authors and publishers of 42 books. After presenting financial assistance to aged Tamil authors, she delivered her speech.

In her speech she said she was treating Thiruvalluvar's maxims on

prohibition as a sacred commendment and waging a struggle to remove liquor in Tamil Nadu. She said it was the duty of the people to give her all encouragement and co-operation in the battle against the evils of drinking. The Government was faithfully following the preachings of Thiruvalluvar. She quoted the words of Albert Schweitzer, 'There hardly exists in the literature of the world a collection of Maxims in which, we find so much lofty wisdom.' Also she quoted Bharathiar and Periyar praising Thirukkural. She expressed happiness in presenting the Thiruvalluvar Award to Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian, who had written a guide book on Thirukkural which is accepted and appreciated by all.

Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian, the Minister for Finance thanked the Chief Minister for conferring the award on him. He said he would have the prize money deposited in a bank and the interest there on would be made available every year for awarding prizes to prize winning school students in Oratorical Contests on Thirukkural.

The Director of Tamil Development and Culture Thiru D. Periandavan proposed a vote of thanks. ●



Puratchi Thalaivi Health Welfare Scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at Kalaivanar Arangam, on 18th January, 1992, the scheme seeking to deliver medicare at the doorsteps of an estimated 30 million people in Tamil Nadu.

The project with a camp approach and an emphasis on preventive aspects of health delivery took off with the Chief Minister administering polio drops to an infant.

Five hundred health camps will be held every Friday for about 25 weeks in various blocks and municipal health centres. At least 12,000 such camps will be got up where besides the routine health check up for detection and treatment of various diseases, efforts will be made to bring an awareness among the people on hygiene and prevention of illnesses.

Nearly 1,000 persons were examined at the camp situated close to the launching venue of the scheme, hailed as a progressive measure and a model for other States to adopt. There was also an exhibition on various health facilities including dental care, AIDS and paediatric medicine.

The Chief Minister said that the project marked yet another fulfilment of her party's assurance given out in the election manifesto to carry medicare to the people in the nook and corner of the State. She struck an optimistic note that the scheme would register a success similar to the noon-meal project launched by Dr. MGR and improve greatly the health of the people, particularly the rural masses.

Although in health care delivery, Tamil Nadu was in the forefront, she said there was still room for improvement and basic health facilities required to be strengthened particularly for the eradication of diseases including



PURATCHI THALAIVI HEALTH WELFARE SCHEME LAUNCHED

leprosy and tuberculosis. Being this in mind, she said, the new scheme had been designed and doctors including specialists would be given the facilities to examine the patients in the camps and render the necessary treatment.

In the first phase the scheme would run for six months. 'This will lay the foundation for providing total health care for all the people subsequently', she said.

The Chief Minister also unveiled 28 plaques marking the inauguration of buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.150 crore and also for new building projects at an estimated Rs.583 crore.

Thiru. S. Muthusamy, the Minister for Health said that manufacturers of drugs, distributors and retailers had come forward to donate drugs worth several lakhs of rupees for the new Health Welfare Scheme.

He said special efforts were being made to revamp the health and medical administration. Almost all vacancies in the post of Doctors had been filled. And more than 1,000 persons had been given promotion. The medical and the paramedical personnel could express their gratitude by giving their best and making the health scheme a success, he said.

Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian, Minister for Finance presided over the function. Thiru. K.A. Sengottaiyan, Minister for Transport, Thiru. S. Kannappan, Minister for Public Works Department and Thiru. Alagu Thirunavukkarasu, Minister for Local Administration also spoke on the occasion.

Thiru. K. Inbasagan, I.A.S., Health Secretary welcomed the gathering. Tmt. Susan Mathew, I.A.S. Special Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department proposed a vote of thanks.



SCHEMES WILL GO ON DESPITE HURDLES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha launched new Projects and Welfare Schemes costing Rs.204.70 lakh at Kangeyam on 22nd January, 1992 and said that despite the many difficulties and unexpected problems faced by the Government in implementing development and welfare plans, it was determined to carry on its work.

She lashed out at those who were criticising the Government on the Centre slashing down the State's Annual Plan outlay for the year 1992-93 by about Rs.120 crores over the previous year's budget. 'The proposed cut in the Plan outlay is not a reflection on our Government's performance. However, we are taking all possible efforts to get a higher Central allocation for the State Plan', she said. The Tamil Nadu Government has lodged its protest to the Centre against the budget cut, she said and made it clear that her Government's Welfare Programmes could not be stalled by such impediments.

The Chief Minister said the Government was planning several innovative schemes for the development of Tamil Nadu. The Government was functioning with the sole objective of alleviating the sufferings of the poor and while doing so it had been pushed to the necessity of facing many difficulties and unexpected problems, she said.

The Chief Minister said she had already drawn the attention of the people to the problems that affected the economically weaker sections. She had been driven to the necessity of answering the queries of the poor about the rise in prices of rice which had been effected by the Centre without consulting the State Government. Consequent to the increase in prices of rice, the prices of other essential commodities had also risen. 'Will it be sufficient if the common man is given an explanation on the causes for this increase in the prices of rice and other commodities?' the Chief Minister asked.

In spite of financial constraints, it was with a view to accomplishing the dream of her mentor, the late Dr. M.G.R. to bring Krishna water to Madras, the Chief Minister said, she held discussions with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in Hyderabad recently. This long-cherished dream would be made a reality soon, she said. All the water problems of Tamil Nadu would not however be solved by bringing the Krishna water to Madras for drinking purposes.

The Government, as people here must be aware, had already lodged its strong protest against efforts made by some persons to prevent the supply of Cauvery Water to Tamil Nadu. The Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal, the Supreme Court and the Cen-

tral Government were fully aware of the justness of the stand taken by the Tamil Nadu Government on this issue. But the Karnataka Government did not appear to have realised it. On the other hand, repression and violence had been let loose on the Tamilian settlers who had contributed a lot to Karnataka's development. As a result of the violence, more than one lakh Tamilians have been affected. The Karnataka Government should take action against those who instigated such violence and take immediate steps to preserve the unity of the country. The self-seeking chauvinist groups in Karnataka must be contained and the affected Tamilians rehabilitated. The tolerance and patience shown by Tamil Nadu should not be construed as weakness, she declared.

Her Government would soon fulfil all expectations of the people and there was no going back on the promises. She said that she had now fulfilled the

chayats. In the second stage, water will be provided to Vellakoil, Mulannur and Kannivadi at a cost of Rs.13 crore.

The headworks for the project will be located near Kodumudi on the Cauvery bed. At present, Kangeyam's main source of water supply is Amaravathi river and this area experiences acute drinking water shortage during summer.

The announcement of this scheme, despite severe financial constraints of the State Government, was received with cheers as the people of Kangeyam are now hopeful that they could also make a plea to the Chief Minister for securing water in the PAP canals avated some years ago without any water flowing in them.

In addition, the Chief Minister said, she had also inaugurated the work on the schemes for the setting up of small industries providing a subsidy of



promises made to the voters in Kangeyam Constituency to solve their long pending protected drinking water supply problem.

It was a red letter day for the people of water starved Kangeyam as their long pending demand for provision of drinking water supply from Cauvery became a reality when the Chief Minister, announced the first phase of the project costing Rs.20 crore and said 'I came here only for fulfilling the promise made during my election campaign in this Constituency, when the people promised to vote for me if only I could assure them to solve their acute drinking water problem'.

The first phase of the comprehensive water supply project ultimately costing Rs.70 crore will provide drinking water to Muthur, Kangeyam and Kundadam and to 964 habitations in 86 village pan-

Rs.16.30 crore and the Noyyal Anaicut scheme on an outlay of Rs.13 crore. For repairing the Perundurai-Kangeyam State highway Rs.24 lakh had been allocated apart from another Rs.24 lakh, for the repair of the culvert near the Chennimalai.

The Chief Minister, who was given a rousing reception at Kangeyam, said during her campaign she appealed to the people to consider her as a member of their family and they responded overwhelmingly by electing her with a thumping majority. But she had to relinquish this seat in favour of Bargur in Dharmapuri district from where also she was elected with a big margin, mainly because that District, which was bifurcated in 1965 had no representation in the State Cabinet since its inception.

She could never forget the people of Kangeyam,

who elected her first to become the Chief Minister of the State and also the people of Bodi who for the first time elected her to the Assembly in the 1989 elections. She promised that she would give equal importance to all the three Constituencies in developing them.

Thiru RM. Veerappan, Minister for Education welcomed the gathering. Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, presided. Thiru R. Kannan, Collector, Erode proposed a vote of thanks.

The Chief Minister in Bargur

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. Jayalalitha was given a tremendous reception, when she arrived at Bargur from Kangeyam on 23rd January, 1992. The entire District wore a festive look with arches erected in many places and crowds cheered all the way from Erode.

Speaking at functions at Pochampally, Mathur and Bargur where she distributed sarees and dhoties to 81,300 landless agricultural labourers, the Chief Minister said she had visited the constituency, from where she had been elected to the Assembly, soon after assuming office and launched welfare schemes.

She said for long Bargur had remained uncared for by both the Government and the officials.

Because it was backward, drought-prone, poverty-stricken and the most undeveloped constituency she had selected it and contested from there. Hence schemes were being implemented one after another, giving Bargur infrastructure and openings on par with other constituencies, she said.

She also announced that orders have been issued for setting up a co-operative spinning mill at a cost of Rs.22 crore and an industrial training institute at a cost of Rs.75 lakh in Bargur in Dharmapuri District.

Priority had been accorded to drinking water, road development projects and transport facilities. All steps had been initiated to extend the benefits under various government welfare schemes to the landless poor, the labourers, artisans, the weakest sections, the aged and the women.

She said she had announced the free saree and dhoti scheme for Pongal despite the severe financial constraints faced by the Government.

She said opening of her office at Bargur did not mean she would not visit the constituency again. Even as she had now come on her second visit, despite persisting problems, she would be visiting the constituency again.

She said steps had been taken to launch many industrial units in Bargur and she would visit again to lay the stones for these units.

She reiterated that she would work tirelessly to fulfil election promises.

Chief Minister's Office at Bargur

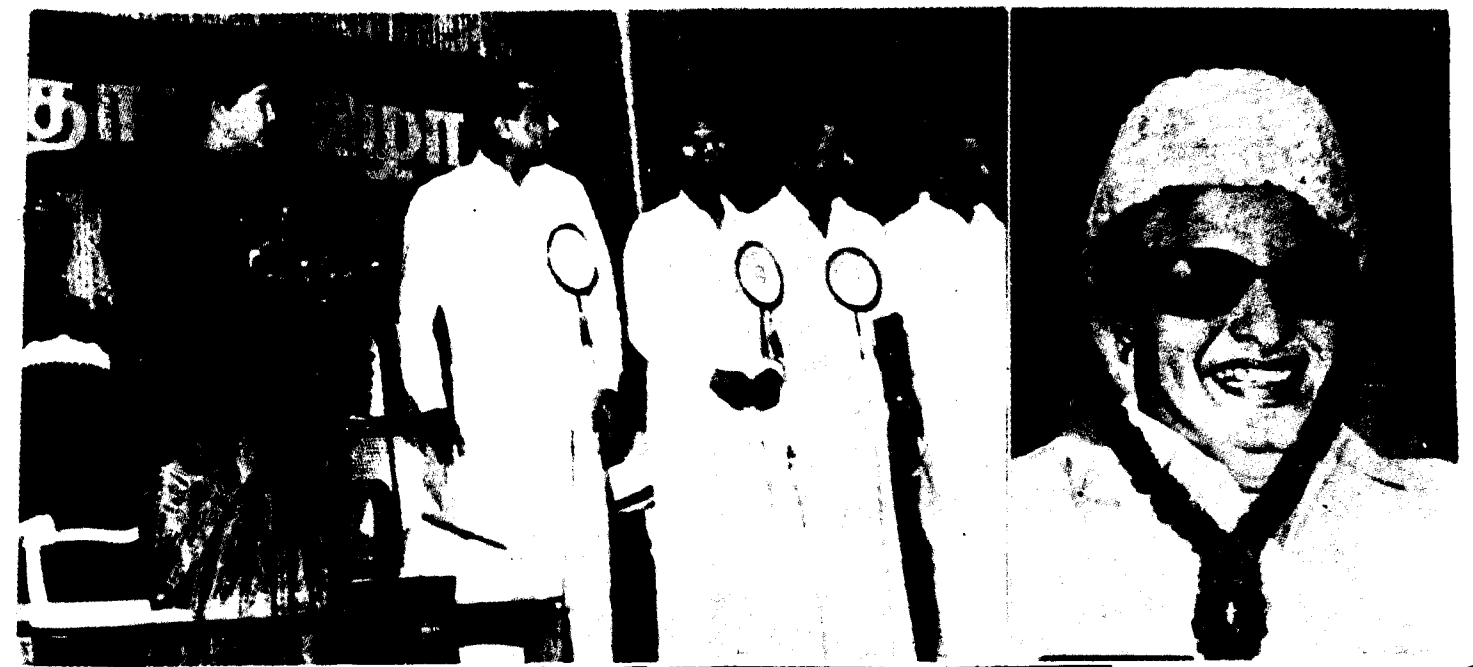
The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha opened an office at Bargur from where she was elected to the Assembly.

Announcing the opening of the office which would be under her direct control she said it would not only bring the problems and grievances of the people to her attention immediately but also help initiate early official action.

The office, housed at No.163, Jagadevi Road, would function on all days between 9 am to 5 pm.

She said she had nominated three partymen, who had been given motorcycles, to cover the various villages in the Constituency. Hundred branch secretaries of the party, who had been given cycles, would tour the villages and receive petitions from them. The petitions would be sorted out and forwarded to her. The petitions received by her would be despatched to the officers concerned for disposal without delay.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, presiding, said no Chief Minister had opened such an office to reach out to the people.



Dr. M.G.R.'s 75th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The 75th Birth Anniversary of the former Chief Minister Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. was celebrated at the University Centenary Auditorium, Madras on 17th January 1992. The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha unveiled the Portrait of Dr. MGR and distributed gifts to the handicapped, and implements under 20 Point Programme to Adi Dravidars. She also gave away prizes to School and College students who won in Essay and Oratorical Competitions conducted to mark the occasion.

Tmt. C.K. Gariyali, I.A.S., Secretary, Information and Tourism Department welcomed the gathering and presented a shawl to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Thiru. Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker of the Assembly presided over the function. Ministers Thiru. E. Mathusudhanan, Thiru. K.A. Sengottaiyan, Thiru. S. Muthusamy, Thiru. RM. Veerappan, Thiru. S.D. Somasundaram, Thiru. S. Kannappan, Thiru. Azhagu Thirunavukkarasu, Thiru. K. Viswanathan, Thiru. T.M. Selvaganapathy, Tmt. R. Indirakumari, Thiru. M. Anandan and Thiru. D. Jayakumar spoke on the occasion.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha while paying glowing tributes to Dr. MGR said he made the lives of lakhs of poor happy and infused confidence that they won't remain neglected as before. She said he made himself a name in whatever the field he entered. He made

history by achieving power in five years time after beginning a party in 1972 to work for the ideals of Perarignar Anna.

It was because MGR had suffered the pangs of hunger at a very young age that he introduced the nutritious meal programme in 1982 to ensure that poor children had atleast one square meal a day.

The people who handed over the reins of power to her, reposed in her Government the same confidence they had in MGR. She exhorted the people to refrain from violence. She said violence was alien to the culture of Tamil Nadu. 'Even if your political opponents and the neighbouring State indulge in it, we will fight against it calmly' she said.

After delivering her speech the Chief Minister distributed the prizes to the winners in competitions and gifts to beneficiaries of welfare schemes.

Thiru. K. Ganesan, I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations Department proposed a vote of thanks.

A programme by Violin artist Thiru. Kunnakkudi Vaidyanathan was held at the end of the function.

The function was attended by Ministers, Members of the Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary, School Children and a large gathering.

Before arriving at the venue the Chief Minister garlanded the statue of Dr. M.G.R. at Anna Salai.



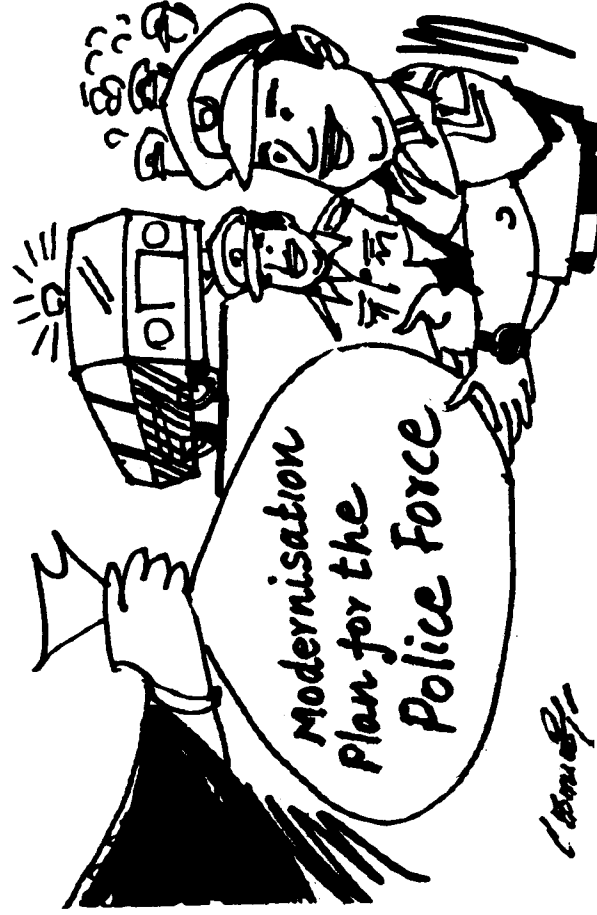
Highest priority to the protection of the poor, the weak and the under-privileged

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Bhishma Narain Singh

Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I have great pleasure in addressing you at the first session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for the year that has just begun. I extend my warm greetings to all of you. I do hope that during the year 1992, Tamil Nadu will

witness a steady economic growth, reduction in poverty level and rise in the standard of living, particularly of the poor and the downtrodden people, the premier tasks to accomplish which, the new Government headed by Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J. Jayalalitha will continue to work in the most earnest manner possible.



2. The Hon'ble Members are aware of the situation that prevailed in Tamil Nadu on the law and order front, the extent of infiltration in the fabric of our life by foreign militants and extremists prior to the assumption of office by Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J. Jayalalitha, and the heroic steps taken by her to restore law and order and to ensure peace and tranquillity in the State. The Government proceeded with this task as a matter of utmost urgency in a thorough and methodical manner, infusing a new sense of confidence in the police machinery and enthusing it to fulfil its responsibility with complete devotion to duty. The people of Tamil Nadu whole heartedly welcomed these efforts and gave their full support to the various steps taken by the Government. As a result, within a few weeks after the assumption of office, the new Government was able to

successfully control and curb the nefarious activities of the foreign militants and extremists in the State. While undertaking this task, it was found that the police force needed to be revamped and modernised completely so as to make it an effective instrument against the machinations of the terrorists and the extremists and to function as the powerful guardian of law and order in the State. A modernisation plan for the police force costing Rs.80.45 crores was launched and in the first phase, a sum of Rs.10 crores has been sanctioned for this purpose. The various reforms introduced in the police force during the last few months have given it a new vision, a new direction, and a new purpose. It is a matter of tremendous satisfaction to all of us that the police force has fully risen to the occasion and has fulfilled its responsibility most creditably as a result of which we have been able to re-establish the rule of law in the State.

3. The Hon'ble Members are aware that this Government has steadfastly been standing its ground on the Cauvery Water dispute. The steps taken by the Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J. Jayalalitha to secure fully the rights of Tamil Nadu are too well known to need any repetition here. This Government pressed the Government of India to gazette the interim order of the Cauvery River Waters Tribunal. The Government of India referred a few issues to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gave its finding totally in favour of Tamil Nadu State. The Government of India finally gazetted the interim order of the Cauvery River Waters Tribunal, thanks to the untiring and persistent efforts taken by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of

Tamil Nadu. The voice of the Tamil people in this regard has at last been heard in the highest forums of our land. The just nature of our people has been understood and appreciated. At the same time, this Government considers that it is not enough to gazette the interim order of the Tribunal. The Central Government will have to take immediate steps to ensure the proper implementation of this order. It is earnestly hoped that the Central Government will initiate the necessary follow up action in the same spirit in which it gazetted the interim order.

4. While the matter stood thus, largescale disturbances were witnessed in Karnataka State following the bandh organised on the 13th December, 1991, and unprecedented violence was unleashed against the innocent Tamil people living there peacefully for generations. Thousands of Tamil people were affected by this violence; there was widespread destruction of properties belonging to the Tamil people and more than one lakh and five thousand Tamil people living in Karnataka State moved into Tamil Nadu for protection and safety. A grim tragedy overtook Tamil people living in the State of Karnataka and the senseless orgy of violence filled them with fear and anxiety about their safety. The Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J. Jayalalitha called upon the Prime Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Karnataka to put an end to this violence, to restore peace in that State and to create conditions favourable for the Tamil people to return to that State. The Tamil Nadu Cabinet met on the 30th December, 1991, and passed resolutions in this regard. An all-party meeting was convened by the Chief Minister on the 30th

December, 1991, and it called upon the Prime Minister to initiate necessary action to put an end to the violence perpetrated on the Tamil people and to take immediate steps for compensating the victims adequately. While violence rocked Karnataka, at the initiative and direction of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Dr.J. Jayalalitha, the law and order machinery of Tamil Nadu functioned effectively and the Government maintained peace and ensured communal amity. Thanks to her statemanship and right perspective, the people of Tamil Nadu, irrespective of community or language, maintained peace and displayed commendable restraint which has won the admiration of the entire country.

5. The Government took all possible steps to provide immediate relief and shelter to more than one lakh Tamil people who moved into Tamil Nadu from Karnataka. Relief camps were set up and food, clothing and other basic requisites were supplied to the Tamil people who were in the camps and in other places where they were staying. This has caused considerable expenditure to the Government, but in the context of an unexpected and unprecedented situation, the Government has borne the entire expenditure inspite of the critical financial position of the State and has appealed to the Government of India to provide financial assistance in meeting this expenditure. It is hoped that the Central Government will respond to this request favourably. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been pressing both the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka to take suitable steps urgently to receive claims for compensation and to compensate the victims adequately. The Government considers that this will

be the only way by which the confidence of the Tamil people can be restored and a favourable condition can be created for their return to Karnataka. However, it is a matter of deep regret that no firm steps have yet been taken either by the Government of India or by the Government of Karnataka to compensate the Tamil people for the colossal losses suffered by them during the mindless violence in Karnataka.

6. Responsible people all over the country will have no hesitation in condemning the senseless violence inflicted upon the innocent Tamil people in Karnataka and the disruption of the relationship between the communities and the people speaking different languages. A Federal Constitution such as ours is based upon the salutary principle that the State Governments and the Central Government complement each other in fulfilling their constitutional obligations. The Central Government should not remain a passive spectator but should help to iron out differences between the State Governments while properly understanding their respective stands and effectively administering fair decisions. The Central Government has a responsibility to ensure that justice is done in its dealings with the States and must make a distinction between the affected persons and the persons who inflict injuries. I take this opportunity to reiterate our request to the Central Government that it is its bounden duty to ensure that adequate compensation is paid to all the victimised Tamil people of Karnataka State.

7. Members are aware of the various doubts raised regarding the success of the prohibition policy



announced by the Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha immediately after assuming office. The Chief Minister has personally launched the drive to ensure the rooting out of the social evil of addiction to liquor. The policy has been implemented so successfully that there has been a dramatic drop in the flow of illicit liquor. The prohibition enforcement wing has been reconstituted to ensure that illicit liquor does not rear its ugly head. The co-operation of all officials has been secured in successfully tracing and eliminating the distribution of illicit liquor. Side by side, all steps have been taken to propagate the evils of drinking through the media, to curb with an iron hand the spread of the narcotic menace and to wean the young people, particularly the students away from drug abuse. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government on achieving a remarkable break-through in successfully implementing the prohibition policy.

8. The acute economic crisis confronting the nation has affected almost every citizen. While the Central Government is taking all possible steps to reverse the situation and to put the country back on the rails of growth and progress, it has to be ensured that the poor and the under-privileged are not adversely affected by the austerity measures that are undertaken by the Central and State Governments. This prerequisite for the national economic reforms was highlighted by the Chief Minister Dr.J. Jayalalitha at the meeting of the National Development Council held in Delhi in December, 1991. The Chief Minister has repeatedly stressed that the prices of articles used by the common man should be spared from steep increases. The Chief Minister has also strongly urged the Centre to consult all State Governments before effecting any increase in administered prices. Nevertheless, the Central Government has recently effected steep increases in the prices of rice, petrol, diesel, cooking gas and coal without consulting the State Governments. Such unilateral action on the part of the Central Government has created an excruciatingly difficult situation for the State Government. The Government has to decide either to absorb these price increases or to cut down drastically on expenditure, which is bound to affect the plan implementation as well as the economic growth of the State.

9. For example, the Government of India announced steep increases in the issue price of rice from the Central pool of the public distribution system. Hon'ble Members are aware that the State Government has been distributing rice from the public distribution system on a

outlays to bring about better standards of living for the poor. This is not an easy task. Some sacrifices have to be made. My Government has chosen to take a balanced view of the whole situation. It has accorded the highest priority to the protection of the poor, the weak and the under-privileged. This has meant continuing a high level of food subsidy, social security measures and subsidies for providing essential items to the poor. It is with this commitment to protect the poor, that the Chief Minister has recently launched a scheme of providing free dhoties and sarees to 1.20 crore poor persons at a cost of Rs.41.56 crores. The Government stands committed to the provision of essentials such as food, clothing and shelter to the poor and will draw up and implement appropriate schemes in this regard. In the process, the Government is experiencing considerable difficulty in providing adequate financial resources for the State Plans. However, there is satisfaction in that the bare needs of the poor people are sought to be met by the progressive welfare programmes of the Government.

11. The National Development Council in its recent meeting in December 1991, has approved a further modification to the Gadgil formula. The modifications now made, while not entirely to Tamil Nadu's satisfaction, are an improvement on the modifications approved in October 1990. What is more important is that the pool of Central assistance made available to the States is stepped up sizeably. Unfortunately there seems to be no perceptible increase in the flow of Central assistance to the States. Tamil Nadu has also a specific difficulty. Under the revised Gadgil formula it does not qualify for assistance under the 20%

heavily subsidised basis at the rate of Rs.2.00 per kg. for the common variety and Rs.2.50 for the fine and superfine varieties of rice. Consequent to the revision of issue price announced by the Government of India, the total subsidy burden on the State Government has gone up further to a very high level of Rs.503 crores in a year, a level very difficult to sustain in the current severely stringent financial situation. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu expressed grave reservations about this revision of prices and pointed out that the sufferers would be the poor people who would have to bear this price increase. However, with a view to ensuring that the common man was not affected unduly, the Government has retained the price of common rice at Rs.2/- per kg. Making available common rice at this low price involves a very heavy subsidy, but the Government has decided to do this with a view to sharing the burden of the poor people, which has been the hall-mark of the policies followed by our illustrious leader Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. The Government has also taken various other measures to control prices. The traders' levy has been kept in abeyance with an assurance from the traders that they will bring down the prices of open market rice. Market intervention by the co-operatives and the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation will be resorted to in order to bring essential commodities to the people through the public distribution system.

10. On the one hand the State Government has to ensure that the poor are insulated, at least to some extent, from the inflationary trends of the economy; on the other hand, it has to take all positive steps to sustain the plan

component meant for States with a per capita income below the national average. Tamil Nadu's per capita income has been below the national average in the period 1982 to 1985. It is shown above the national average in a subsequent period. There are also difficulties in correctly computing the per capita income. Since these difficulties in computations cannot easily be resolved, the Chief Minister has suggested that a special allocation of Central assistance from the 7.5 percent component reserved for special problems under the revised Gadgil formula and a special allocation of market borrowing should be made for Tamil Nadu as was made available in the Seventh Plan period. The Chief Minister has indicated firmly that without this special allocation, Tamil Nadu with its already difficult financial situation further exacerbated by absorbing administered price increases passed on by the Centre cannot look forward to a satisfactory Eighth Plan. Tamil Nadu's case for additional Central assistance and additional market borrowings stands on a special footing and needs to be recognised. The problems in Tamil Nadu's border areas along the coast require special assistance treating it as a sea border area at par with the land border area States.

12. Taking a comprehensive view of the growth prospects of the State, the Government has proposed an outlay of Rs.9500 crores in the Eighth Plan for the period 1992-97. Recent discussions between the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission have covered only the Annual Plan for 1992-93. The resources gap for fulfilling a reasonably sized Annual Plan during 1992-93 is considerable. The State Government will

have to put in a substantial resource mobilisation effort. While we have already initiated measures in this regard, we have also requested the Central Government to take note of our special difficulties and to provide increased financial assistance. The size of the Annual Plan for 1992-93 will have to be fixed, keeping all these in view. We are reviewing the matter further with the Planning Commission. We are confident that the Annual Plan outlay for 1992-93 as finally settled will reflect a step up over the current year's outlay despite the severe resource constraints. A final decision on the size of the Eighth Five Year Plan will be taken after further discussion with the Union Planning Commission.

13. In the current year the South West monsoon and the North East monsoon have been satisfactory in the State as a whole. In some districts, particularly in the northern districts, the rainfall has been above normal. The floods following the cyclone in November 1991 caused widespread damages to crops and property. The Government has acted speedily in sanctioning a sum of Rs.30 crores for various flood relief works. With this, the total amount available in the Calamity Relief Fund has been exhausted. The Government has formulated a major reconstruction project to undertake restoration works in the flood affected districts. We shall urge the Centre to take this up with the World Bank for early clearance.

14. Although the recent floods inundated large areas, early action was taken to provide assistance to farmers with a view to saving the crop or raising the crop again. Adequate quantities of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides were made available to enable a good crop to be raised. It is a

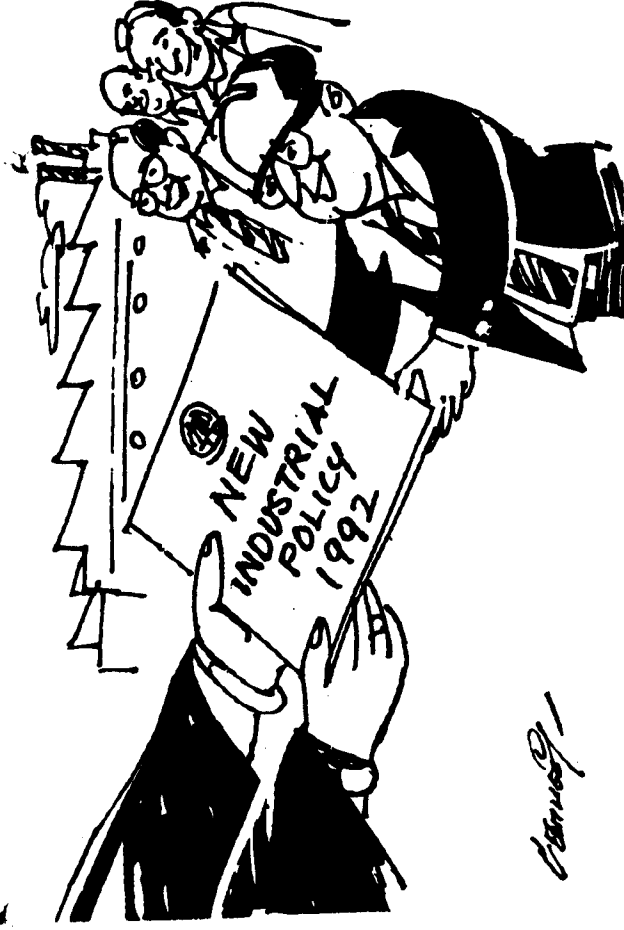
scheme will be drawn up and implemented for providing incentives to farmers to grow trees on lands which cannot sustain regular annual crops.

17. The Indian economy is in transition. In the context of the balance of payments situation and the national economic compulsions, the Government of India has announced a new national industrial policy. Taking advantage of the new spirit of liberalisation, the State Government will have to take proper steps to stimulate industrial growth in the State. Incentives and facilities have to be provided so as to give the much needed impetus for the growth of new industries so that Tamil Nadu can march ahead of other States during the Nineties. It is also necessary to provide constructive employment for the growing educated unemployed manpower. Keeping these in view, the Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha has recently announced the New Industrial Policy of the Government. For the first time, a comprehensive policy statement incorporating all aspects relating to industrial development has been made available to all entrepreneurs. The policy framework, incentives and facilities have all been made clear so that industry can utilise them to best advantage. The new industrial policy compares very well with similar policies of other State Governments. It is hoped that it will attract entrepreneurs from all over the country and from abroad to set up industries in Tamil Nadu. Side by side, the administrative machinery will be properly re-oriented so as to make it provide prompt and constructive responses to the genuine needs of the entrepreneurs. It is also hoped that this new congenial climate will set the

matter of pride that the rice production in the current year will be the highest ever, reaching 65.25 lakh Metric tonnes. The total food grain production is expected to reach the record level of 90.45 lakh Metric tonnes. The production of sugar cane and pulses will also reach peak levels in the current year. Cotton will also reach a record level production of 6 lakh bales. The enthusiasm of the farmers to capitalise on a good season, matched by the timely provision of various inputs and advice and guidance from the concerned departments of the Government have contributed to this success and it is hoped that this will help to moderate the inflationary trends.

15. Along side agriculture, the Government wishes to accord high priority for the development of fisheries, both marine and inland. The development of brackish water prawn farming has considerable scope in Tamil Nadu. Certain steps planned in the past for the purpose have failed to yield the desired results. A new policy will be outlined to bring about substantial progress in brackish water prawn farming. It is programmed to bring at least 1000 hectares under this scheme during the coming year.

16. The Government will continue to implement the afforestation programmes with vigour during the coming year. At the same time, special efforts will be made to upgrade the degraded and denuded forest areas. A plan for manual sowing in denuded and degraded forest areas covering about 2000 hectares will be taken up. Large proportions of land reserves in the private sector are also not put to proper use. In order that such land may be used for raising fuel wood, fodder and tree based products, a



pace for rapid industrialisation of the State.

18. Central investment in Tamil Nadu has declined from 10% in 1969 to 5.21% in 1989-90. A recent study by the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy(CMIE) reveals that Tamil Nadu's share in total Central public sector investments on new projects in the pipeline for the Eighth Plan will be one of the lowest. The Government has taken up with the Centre the matter of early clearance for various Central projects in the State. Unfortunately, there has not been much progress in the clearance of these projects. The Centre should include the Neyveli Third Mine Cut and the Southern Gas grid to bring gas to Tamil Nadu in the Eighth Plan. Long pending projects like the Ennore Satellite Port, National Aromatics Project at Manali, four laning of National Highways in the State, formation of the East Coast National Highway etc.

has not seen a single major new Central project for more than two decades and this grievance has to be redressed.

19. The Centre has not yet given approval for the formation of three major new industrial growth centres for which proposals have been sent. It is also not quite clear as to when the clearances will be made available. The Government has decided to go ahead with the establishment of these three industrial growth centres. These will be located at Panangudi in Nagapattinam Quaid-e-Milleth district, Perundurai in Periyar district, and Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli Kattabomman district. The new Infrastructure Development Corporation (TACID) will initiate the activities for forming these three new growth centres. The objective is to make these growth centres functional within a record time. The Government has also taken steps to ensure that incentives and subsidies promised to industries are made available without any delay. Concerted action has been taken to clear the backlog of subsidy claims for new industries. I have no doubt that this will be appreciated by all entrepreneurs, particularly when institutional credit has become so expensive.

20. With the good rains in the catchment areas of the hydel reservoirs and the special steps taken to bring coal to the thermal plants, it has been possible to keep Tamil Nadu free from power cut. We have built up reserve stocks of coal to prepare for any contingency in the summer months. The Government has recognised the crucial role of the power sector in facilitating industrial development in the have to be included in the Centre's Eighth Plan. Tamil Nadu

22. My Government will continue to take all necessary steps to ensure the provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas. According to the latest survey of the provision of water supply, there were 2483 rural habitations as on 1.4.91 without even a single source of water supply. It is a matter of great satisfaction that through a concerted drive, 2422 of these habitations have been covered so far in the current year and the balance will also be covered before the end of March 1992. This will mean that by the end of the current year there will not be a single habitation without at least a single source of water supply. All the 1956 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe habitations without a water supply source have been provided with water supply in the current year. Members will be glad to know that the Chief Minister, Dr.J.Jayalalitha recently visited Hyderabad and held discussions with the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister to ensure that Krishna water comes to Madras City. The two Chief Ministers have agreed on a specific time table setting June 1995 as the target date for bringing Krishna water to Madras City. There are no major impediments to the implementation of this most important project. This Government on its part, will ensure that good progress is maintained to expedite the project as per the revised target date.

23. A welfare State has to provide the necessary social infrastructure so that people, particularly the poor and the under-privileged can improve their physical, mental and intellectual resources and avail themselves of the opportunities for developing into useful citizens of the nation. From this point of view, investment in social

State. It has ensured that the Plan outlay on power does not suffer despite resource constraints. Good progress has been made on all ongoing projects. Members will be glad to know that a massive new project involving lignite mining and captive power generation at Jayamkonda Cholapuram at a cost of Rs.7000 crores to generate 1500 MW has been finalised. This project is now awaiting clearance of the Centre. Early clearance will enable a solution to the problem of fulfilling Tamil Nadu's power requirements for the next decade.

21. The Government is giving special attention to the maintenance, repairing and the upgrading of the road system, a prime requisite for economic growth. Members will be glad to know about the significant steps taken to put through a Rs.30 crore road development project in Nagapattinam Quaid-e-Milleth district with the co-operation of the public sector Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd., (ILFS). Toll collections will be made on the district boundary at suitable points to finance this project. Another important step will be that in the coming financial year, provision will be made as per norms for the maintenance of roads for the first time. This will go a long way in improving the condition of our Highways and district roads. Along with road development, high priority will be accorded to augmenting bus transport services to reach even remote rural areas. The Government has launched a programme to ensure that every village with more than 1000 population is provided with a bus connection before the end of December, 1992.



services is a key factor in promoting human resources development. The Government has successfully launched a total literacy campaign in seven districts viz., Pasumpon, Muthuramalinga Thevar, Kamarajar, Pudukottai, Kanyakumari, Madurai, North Arcot-Ambedkar and Tirunelveli-Kattabomman. This campaign will cover 18.35 lakh adult learners at a cost of Rs.11.95 crores in these seven districts. The campaign will be extended to other districts in further phases and the full campaign will be completed in 1993-94. Qualitative improvement of primary education has to be given the highest importance. I am glad to announce that in the coming year, all single teacher schools in the State will be given an additional teacher. I am also happy to inform you that in the coming year, all High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools will be provided with separate toilets for girls and boys. Members are aware of

the lack of adequate school buildings. While the Government is committed to providing such buildings for primary and middle schools, we should make efforts to obtain voluntary participation in establishing building facilities for High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools. The Government will encourage voluntary participation in the construction of school buildings.

24. One of the major shortcomings of the health system is that it does not reach out to the people effectively. Although we have invested heavily on creating facilities at sub-centres, primary health centres, taluk and district hospitals, proper health services are still beyond the reach of the rural people. A multi-pronged drive to correct the situation has recently been launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Under the new Puratchi Thalaivi Maruthuva Nala Thittam, 10,000 free health camps will be organised over a period of 6 months. The important feature is that the best of health services will be made available free of charge even in remote rural areas. Adequate back up facilities in terms of medical personnel and sufficient supplies of drugs and medicines supplemented by voluntary efforts are being extended to these health camps. It is probably for the first time that such a large sustained reach-out programme is being conducted anywhere in the country. Full integration of health and nutrition services to provide the best of maternal and child health care is also being implemented. I am glad to say that there has been spontaneous and enthusiastic participation in this programme by voluntary agencies, drug manufacturers, merchants and private doctors.

introduced. It is therefore proposed to introduce a patta pass book scheme on a State-wide basis. This will enable the farmer to know his holdings correctly and precisely. It will also simplify the process of obtaining credit for farm development.

28. The Government is committed to holding elections to all co-operatives before the end of May 1992 as directed by the Supreme Court. This has to be preceded by proper elimination of bogus members, so that those genuinely involved in co-operatives will get the opportunity to elect their leaders. After introducing the necessary legislation, the Government will take steps to hold elections to all the co-operatives.

29. The Government assumed office at a very difficult time when the State was in the grip of a severe financial crisis. Members may recall that the deficit confronting the State in performing the Annual Plan outlay of Rs.1600 crores for 1991-92 was as high as Rs.1220 crores. Since then several measures have been implemented to improve the resources position of the State. Although the steep increase in administered prices by the Centre has caused further financial difficulties to the State, it has been possible due to an all round effort, to raise the necessary resources to perform the current year's annual plan without any shortfall. The Government is confident of ensuring that the plan outlay of Rs.1600 crores for 1991-92 will be fulfilled. This will no doubt cause considerable financial strain and we are still expecting assistance from the Centre. The Chief Minister has had further discussions with the Prime Minister and the Union Finance Minister on the

25. Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R.Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme continues to be implemented with vigour. The benefits it has conferred upon lakhs of children are well known and have received encomiums from people all over the country and abroad. Efforts have recently been made to attract participation by industries, voluntary institutions and philanthropists in this scheme, by contributing to the construction of buildings for the noon meal centres and for maintaining them. I am also happy to record that the response has been extremely good.

26. A new programme, the Integrated Women's Development Programme (IWDP) has been launched to provide self-employment to one lakh women in rural areas. This programme which is being implemented in three districts has now been extended to cover Madurai and Ramanathapuram Districts. It is proposed to cover the entire State under this scheme. The preparatory work for bringing the remaining districts under this programme is in progress. The main feature of this programme is the social mobilisation towards enthusing rural women to improve their quality of life and economic status.

27. Basic administration has to be brought closer to the people and delays eliminated. Our system of land records has remained antiquated. A comprehensive effort to modernise this system has to be initiated. Several experiments are under progress such as the issue of patta pass books and computerisation of land records. We have to assimilate the experience gained so far and ensure that a broad based new scheme of land record management is

financial assistance required by the State in the context of the special difficulties faced by the State. It is our hope that the Central Government will appreciate our needs and come forward to help us adequately before the end of the financial year 1991-92.

30. I have sought to focus your attention on some of the policies which broadly indicate the direction which my Government will take in the future for the development of the State. The national economic situation, the continuing inflationary trends, the compulsions we had to face to deal with the militants and the extremists in our State, and the trials and tribulations of the Tamil people living in Karnataka have created a very difficult situation for us. The Government is doing its very best to maintain law and order, preserve communal amity and peace, and can claim to have succeeded notably on all fronts.

31. On the economic front, the Government is placed in a position of having to make hard choices in the interest of the development of the State. We are conscious of the fact that whatever economic or financial decisions that we take should not add to the existing burden upon the poor and the downtrodden people. The Government will continue to reiterate that the Central Government should make economic adjustments, but not at the expense of the poor people. In the matter of Cauvery Waters, the Government will continue to urge the Central Government to take steps to implement the interim Order of the Cauvery River Waters Tribunal, and to intervene effectively to protect the interest of the Tamil people in the State of Karnataka. My

Government will spare no efforts to secure the all round development of the State in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.

32. I am sure that Hon'ble Members of this august Assembly will appreciate the steps taken by the Government on many fronts. I hope that the deliberations in this House will enable the Government to properly plan and

implement its policies and programmes, to secure a decent life for the poor and under privileged people of Tamil Nadu, and to provide for an accelerated pace of development. I have no doubt your discussions will be constructive and meaningful.

NANRI, VANAKKAM.

(Address delivered by His Excellency
the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Bhishma Narain Singh
to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly
on the 29th January 1992.)

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha unveiled a Portrait of Dr. M.G.R. in the Chamber of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 31st January 1992.



The New Industrial Policy 1992

The Government of Tamil Nadu enunciates this New Industrial Policy in the National context of an economy in transition. The balance of payments situation and the deep National economic crisis have led to the need for a complete reassessment of strategies for development in the Nineties.

2. A new National Industrial Policy and a New Trade Policy have been announced. It is necessary to take advantage of the new spirit introduced and to create a congenial atmosphere for simulating the rapid growth of the State's economy. A new Industrial Policy for Tamil Nadu is the logical outcome of these newly emerging economic factors.

3. Indian industry grew by an annual average of 8.5% in the Seventh Plan period. In Tamil Nadu the growth was 5.7%. The share of the secondary sector in State Domestic Product in Tamil Nadu in the Eighties has remained static at 33%. Per capita income has remained at the National average. Unemployment has risen and the number of educated unemployed on the live rolls of the Employment Exchanges has increased from 5.58 lakhs in 1980 to 18.01 lakhs in 1991.

4. Central Investment in Tamil Nadu has declined from 10% in 1969 to 5.21% in 1989-90. The lack of new mother industries has been a cause of serious concern.

5. The full utilisation of surface irrigation potential and the rapid exploitation of ground water resources have imposed constraints on accelerated development of agricultural production.

6. Against this background, Tamil Nadu has to provide for rapid industrial development. The Government of Tamil Nadu stands committed to ensuring that Tamil Nadu forges ahead among the industrialised States in India.

7. Tamil Nadu can claim the following distinct advantages which can help to stimulate industrial growth:

- ★ a highly trained labour force with a good record of industrial relations.

- ★ a huge pool of managerial talent.

- ★ a strong and well diversified manufacturing base.

- ★ a good functioning infrastructure including a well developed road transportation network.

- ★ an extensive rail network.

- ★ efficient ports at Madras and Tuticorin.

- ★ well developed social infrastructure.

- ★ vast deposits of lignite which can act as the prime catalyst for new growth.

- ★ a comfortable energy situation and a forecast of continued availability of reliable power supply.

- ★ peaceful living conditions in a harmonious society.

- ★ a substantial export base.

8. The following are some of the shortcomings:

- ★ lack of new large mother industries.

- ★ inadequate investment on new infrastructure.



- ★ inhibited growth plans of large industrial houses of the State.

- ★ inadequate escort of new capital inflows into the State.

- ★ inadequate utilisation of the package of incentives & concessions.

- ★ slow speed of clearances and procedural bottlenecks.

- ★ lack of work ethic.

- ★ absence of a stable medium term tax policy.

9. Given this background, Tamil Nadu has to adopt a progressive and constructive strategy to stimulate industrial growth. While none of the shortcomings is of a serious nature, it is the synergy resulting from perfection in each area that has to be achieved. Obviously, the road to a high growth profile is not easy. All the shortcomings have to be tackled effectively and all the advantages have to be harnessed simultaneously to

enable the creation of a positive environment.

10. A major sector of traditional industry in the State comprises tiny units which provide livelihood for more than 25 lakh persons. Improvements in productivity in these industries have to be achieved with the introduction of new technology. At the same time, new markets have to be found. This sub sector will continue to provide the bulk of employment and this potential has to be suitably tapped by an appropriate policy.

11. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has had a free and frank dialogue with industrialists and entrepreneurs on Tamil Nadu's industrial growth prospects. Following the suggestions made by industrialists, a number of announcements were made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. Detailed discussions with industrialists on all aspects have been held with a view to ensuring a broad consensus. Associations of industries and captains of industry have contributed to the formulation of this new industrial policy by their perceptions and ideas. This statement of industrial policy is the result of these wide ranging discussions. The State Government will endeavour to implement this policy in letter and spirit. The State Government solicits the cooperation of every one concerned, and hopes that the proper implementation of the new industrial policy will help to provide the much needed multiplier effect for the growth of the economy of the State and contribute to rising standards of living.

II. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

1. Speedy development of necessary infrastructure around the existing industrial areas in the State, as well as the areas to be newly industrialised, will receive highest priority.

2. The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Industrial Infrastructure Development (TACID) will be constituted to provide infrastructural facilities. This will be an exclusive agency, concentrating solely on provision of infrastructure for industrial areas. The new Corporation will immediately take up the establishment of three new growth centres. TACID will also have a window for soft infrastructure such as hospitals, schools etc. in areas to be newly industrialised.

3. Gaps in infrastructure in existing industrial areas and areas to be newly industrialised will be identified and suitable action will be taken to provide the needed facilities.

4. Off-site infrastructure facilities consisting of various facilities such as roads, water supply, telecom facilities, etc., will be created through newly worked out infrastructure development plans. These will be established on user service charge basis and will also make use of toll collection to recover costs. A pilot project in Nagapattinam Quaid-e-Milleth District has been launched to provide for road development. This will be expanded to cover other industrial areas.

5. Funds for Industrial Area Infrastructure Development will also be made available from the Municipal Urban Development Fund (MUDF) and the Town and Country Planning Development Fund.

III. POWER

1. Tamil Nadu is power cut free today. The Government will take all steps to ensure that industry gets the necessary power all the time.

2. In the Public Sector, major power generating projects in Tuticorin and North Madras will be accelerated to ensure that 1050 MW new capacity is created in the Eighth Plan.

3. A policy of promoting private sector participation in the power sector will be launched.

4. A policy of extended captive power generation and sale by the private sector will be encouraged. The Electricity Board will help in transmission of this power on payment of power service charges. The private sector will determine the rate per unit.

5. A Joint Sector integrated mining and thermal generation project based on lignite reserves at Jayamkondancholapuram is planned. This will be a massive project with a capacity on 1500 MW.

6. The Private Sector will be invited to participate in coal based thermal units at Cuddalore and Tuticorin and a gas-based power station at Pillaiperumanallur in Nagapattinam Quaid-e-Milleth District.

7. The feasibility of joint sector/private sector thermal units based on imported coal will also be pursued.

8. Micro Hydel Units will be set up with private participation. Six such projects have been identified by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

9. The Private Sector will be encouraged to set up large wind energy farms.

10. A massive programme with an outlay of Rs.1200 crores in the Eighth Plan to improve the transmission and distribution (T&D) facilities will be launched. The focus of this comprehensive programme will be to improve the quality of power particularly in newly industrialised areas. A phased programme to ensure better supply to units connected to rural feeders will be launched.

11. Steps will be taken to improve the overall quality of power supply in order to prevent production losses by industrial units.

12. Special efforts will be taken to

ensure that under normal circumstances the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board provides new power connections within a period of 90 days.

13. A new scheme of energy audit will be launched. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board will have a special fund to enable Energy Audit to be taken up.

14. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is one of the most efficient Boards in the Country. It will be the endeavour of the Government to keep costs under control. A rational tariff policy will be evolved.

15. New Industries in Tamil Nadu are eligible for tariff concessions as below:

Year I	40%
Year II	30%
Year III	20%

Any expansion unit will also be eligible hereafter for these concessional tariffs.

16. 100% Export Units will be exempted from power cuts.

IV. WATER

1. Schemes will be undertaken to recycle water on a large scale and secondary treated sewage water will be made available in urban conglomerations for industrial use.

2. The prospects for the setting up of desalination plants along the coast will be examined and steps taken for setting up such plants. These plants will be based on both conventional and non-conventional sources of energy.

V. CENTRAL INVESTMENT

1. The State Government is actively pursuing the early clearance of a number of Central Sector Projects for the State. These projects include:

- (i) Aromatics Project
- (ii) Southern Gas Grid

- (iii) Expansion of Madras Refineries Limited
- (iv) Satellite Port at Ennore
- (v) III Mine Cut at Neyveli
- (vi) Off-shore Oil and Gas Exploration

2. The State Government will also take earnest steps to get new Central Sector project for the State in the Defence and Telecommunication Services.

VI. INVESTMENT PROMOTION

1. Taking note of the competitive environment nationally and internationally, an outward looking investment promotion effort will be launched to maximise capital inflows into the State and facilitate consequent rapid industrialisation.

2. An industrial escort service will be organised through a specially created agency viz., the Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau (IGEPB).

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This agency will be entrusted with the specific responsibility of looking for prospective entrepreneurs and providing them with full escort services from start to finish.

3. A Mega Industries Guidance Agency (MIGA) will be constituted in Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO). This cell will provide escort services to large industries. SIPCOT will have a medium industries guidance cell and SIDCO for small industries. Similarly, ELCOT will have a special cell for Electronic Industries.

4. A Foreign Investment Promotion Coordination Cell (FIPCO) will be established at Delhi to liaise with the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

5. An Export Promotion Cell has been established. It will be strengthened. An Apex Level Advisory Board on exports will be set up with representatives from the State Government, the Central Government, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Trade Associations, Export Promotion Councils etc.

6. All efforts will be made to attract Non-Resident Indian (NRI) to make investments in Tamil Nadu. A special Cell to contact and help NRIs will be set up.

7. A standing Advisory Committee (SAC) of industrial development will be constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister. This Committee will meet once in a quarter.

8. A Policy Planning Group (PPG) consisting of all the relevant departments will be constituted. The Chief Minister will preside over this group which will meet as frequently as necessary to determine policy directions relating to industrialisation.

9. There will be regular interaction between the Government and Industry in order to receive macro level suggestions for industrial

growth in the State.

10. In recognition of the achievements attained by various industries in the State, the Government will give awards to industrialists for quality production, export promotion, import substitution, development of new product design, etc.

11. Government equity participation in projects will be on the following basis:

Joint Sector Projects:- 26% participation in equity primarily for first time entrepreneurs.

Associate/Assisted Sector Projects:- 11% participation in equity.

Escort Sector Projects:- 1% participation in equity primarily to provide escort services.

VII. INCENTIVES

1. Investment Subsidy will be 20% on fixed assets subject to a maximum of Rs.20 lakhs for all new industries in 31 Most Backward Taluks.

2. Investment Subsidy will be at the rate of 15% on fixed assets subject to a ceiling of Rs.15 lakhs in 76 backward taluks of the State and in all Industrial Estates and Complexes developed by the Government Agencies.

3. A higher rate of Investment Subsidy will be extended to certain thrust industries located anywhere in the State.

★ Electronics - 20% of fixed assets subject to a maximum of Rs.35 lakhs.

★ Leather - 20% of fixed assets subject to a maximum of Rs.20 lakhs.

4. A Special Investment Subsidy of 10% on Fixed Assets subject to a maximum of Rs.15 lakhs will be extended to industries in the following categories:

★ Automobile ancillaries;

★ Drugs and Pharmaceuticals;

★ Solar Energy and other non-conventional energy devices;

★ Export Oriented Gold Jewellery making and Diamond processing;

★ Pollution Control Equipment;

★ Jute Industry in specified areas;

★ Sports goods and accessories;

★ Food processing industry;

★ Cost effective building materials;

5. New Industrial Units which employ more than 30% women in their workforce will be eligible for an additional subsidy of 5% upto a ceiling of Rs.5 lakhs.

6. In order to encourage units to have reliable power supply, subsidy for installation of new generators for captive use to the extent of 15% of cost upto a ceiling of Rs.15 lakhs is also extended.

7. To enable large units to plan social infrastructure as part of their projects, a Special Subsidy of Rs.25 lakhs for units with an investment of Rs.50 crores and above and below Rs.100 crores, and a subsidy of Rs.50 lakhs for units with an investment of Rs.100 crores and above has already been announced. In order to give a further boost to mega investments, a subsidy of Rupees One crore will be given for investments of Rs.200 crores and above.

8. A concerted effort to streamline the procedures for extension of incentives will be undertaken. The incentives will be released promptly with the minimum of procedural formality. Adequate budgetary support to facilitate prompt disbursement of subsidies will be provided.

VIII. TAX CONCESSIONS

1. A graded scheme of Sales Tax deferral will be implemented.

2. The present scheme provides for 9 years deferral in Backward and Most Backward Taluks and 5

years deferral in other areas.

3. A special scheme of sales tax deferral/waiver will be extended for large units established anywhere in the State. This will consist of:

★ Units with an investment of Rs.50 crores and above and below Rs.100 crores:- Waiver of sales tax for 5 years or deferral of tax for 10 years upto full value of investment.

★ Units with an investment of Rs.100 crores and above and below Rs.300 crores:- Waiver of sales tax upto 6 years or deferral of tax for 12 years upto full value of investment.

★ Units with an investment of Rs.300 crores and above:- Waiver of sales tax upto 7 years or deferral of tax upto 14 years upto full value of investment.

4. Full exemption of stamp duty will be given on land purchased for industrial units in all industrial estates developed by Government agencies.

5. Full exemption from electricity consumption tax will be given for 3 years for all the new units.

6. Captive generating units will be fully exempted from electricity duty.

7. A Sales Tax Reforms Committee will be constituted to evolve a rational long term sales tax policy.

8. Continuous dialogue with industry will be held to enable a sound taxation policy. An index to gauge need for reliefs will be developed.

IX. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

1. The State Government believes in the work ethic and shall endeavour to ensure that there are no work stoppages in old or new units.

2. The problem of multiplicity of Labour Unions will not be allowed to confuse and complicate fair

negotiated settlements.

3. Violence, intimidatory practices and unwarranted interference will be put down firmly. The Government will take firm steps to ensure industrial harmony.

4. The Government will make sincere and serious efforts to enable the closed units to reopen and the sick ones to be rehabilitated.

5. Given the compulsions of increasing domestic and international competition, restructuring and modernisation have to be undertaken. In the competitive global environment, labour should cooperate in acquiring new skills. The State Government will not interfere in the efforts of the management to redeploy labour in new fields.

6. Given the compulsions of restructuring and modernisation, efforts will be initiated to constitute a Labour Rehabilitation Fund. This will be utilised for the benefit of labour when restructuring of existing sick units is necessitated.

7. Every measure to promote the welfare of labour will be taken. Long term agreements relating to bonus, wages and productivity will be actively encouraged. In forging such long term agreement, every effort will be made to link wages with productivity.

X. PUBLIC SECTOR POLICY

1. There are 58 Public Sector Undertakings of the State Government with a total paid up capital of Rs.470.71 crores as on 31.3.1991. The total capital employed in these undertakings is Rs.1989.50 crores. Of these, 24 Undertakings incurred net losses of Rs.77.22 crores in 1990-91. The State Government will take appropriate remedial measures.

2. In the Industrial Sector, the State Government will not enter into unrelated fields or spheres of

activities. It will actively encourage the Private Sector to grow rapidly in all spheres of manufacturing consistent with the Industrial Policy of the Government of India.

3. In respect of existing Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) a case by case analysis has been undertaken. It will be the effort of the Government to restructure these Undertakings so that they stop making losses.

4. Disinvestment in existing Public Sector Undertakings will be taken up by the Government in the event that successful restructuring is not possible.

5. Improvement on management of Public Sector Undertakings will be given the highest attention. A pool of officers will be utilised to ensure continuity of management in these Public Sector Undertakings. It shall be the endeavour to retain these officers for a tenure of at least 3 years to provide for the implementation of comprehensive improvement plans.

XI. SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

1. The Government firmly believes that rapid industrialisation is possible only through a successful policy relating to Small Scale Industries.

2. The State Capital subsidy for Small Scale Industries will hereafter be released on a stage-by-stage basis without waiting for full completion, even as the work on the new unit is in progress. This will help bring down the capital cost for the entrepreneur.

3. A monitoring system will be instituted to ensure that State Public Sector Undertakings/Statutory Boards pay for supplies made by Small Scale Industries promptly and in any case not later than 30 days from the date of receipt of materials.

4. Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC) will constitute a Venture Capital Fund to

promote new technologies.

5. A Technology Development Fund (TDF) will be constituted to enable Small Scale Industries to acquire new knowhow and modernise their Units.

6. The problem of sickness in Small Scale Industries is serious and has to be tackled. A Special Empowered Committee with full powers headed by the Secretary for Industries will be given powers to take quick decision on rehabilitation plans for Small Scale Industries.

XII. THRUST AREAS

1. The following have been identified as Thrust Sectors for further industrial growth:

- i. Leather
- ii. Textiles and Hosiery
- iii. Electronics and Software
- iv. Auto Components
- v. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals
- vi. Petro chemicals including downstream projects in Manali and Thanjavur
- vii. Industrial Alcohol based Organic Chemicals

viii. Agro based industries and food processing industries

ix. Salt and Marine based industries

x. Gems and Jewellery

xi. Engineering goods

xii. Sea Food

xiii. Export Oriented Units

2. The Government will encourage the setting up of new industries in the above thrust areas. The prospects in each of these Sectors will be critically analysed and necessary steps taken to promote growth.

XIII. CONCLUSION

1. The new Industrial Policy as spelt out in this note, seeks to provide a congenial atmosphere conducive to the speedy growth of large and medium industries in Tamil Nadu, and for stimulating the development of Small Industries and Units in the tiny and Cottage Sectors. It is expected to provide opportunities for gainful employment for the increasing technically qualified labour force in the State. It will provide the proper stimulus for the establishment of large scale industries in thrust

and other areas by tapping capital both from outside the State and from outside the country. Eventually, it is expected to help in achieving an industrial growth rate that will exceed the national overall annual growth rate. Besides giving such direct benefits as increase in production, employment and export, this policy will help in improving the revenues of the State Government, so that the State Government in turn can plough back resources for furthering the economic development of the State.

2. By setting in motion the wheels of investment, industry and productivity, the new Industrial Policy can be expected to generate higher incomes for the people in this State. It will help to improve quality-consciousness so that productivity and wage linkage will improve in the long run.

3. It is hoped that the new Industrial Policy of the Government of Tamil Nadu will be widely welcomed.

Concessions to Tourism Projects

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, had announced on 6.1.1992 that a package of concessions will be given to Tourism Projects so as to create adequate infrastructure which is essential for the promotion of tourism in Tamil Nadu. The Government have therefore, examined the report of the committee constituted to give suggestions on the issue of declaring tourism as industry and have ordered that the following concessions may be given to tourism projects in the State.

★ A 10% capital subsidy on new tourism projects which have an investment upto Rs.1 crore. Maximum subsidy payable for a particular project is Rs.10 lakh.

★ Sales tax deferral for 5 years on

restaurant sales in new hotel projects.

★ 50% concessions on luxury tax on new hotel projects for a period of 5 years.

★ Electricity tariff concessions as available to new industrial units will be extended to tourism projects.

★ A generator subsidy for all new tourism projects upto 15% of the purchase value of generators, exclusive of investment subsidy, with a separate ceiling of Rs.5 lakh per project.

★ Loans will be given for tourism projects at 14% interest or at rates fixed by Government from time to time by THIC and SIPCOT.

A tourism project will include the

following projects.

a) Star hotels with a classification rating upto 3 star category. 4 star and 5 star hotels will not be eligible for the subsidy.

b) Restaurants approved by the Government of India.

c) Amusement Parks

d) Golf courses

e) Investment in A/C coaches by tour operators.

These concessions shall not be available for projects located in the Corporation Limits of Madras, Coimbatore and Madurai.

The detailed guidelines on the working of the scheme will be drawn up by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

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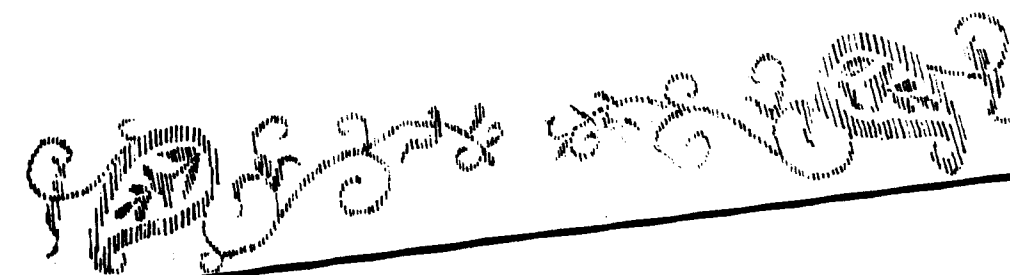
TAMIL ARASU

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Thiruvalluvar Year 2023

Maasi - Panguni

MARCH - 1992



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★ No Compromise on the Issue of Cauvery Waters.

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— Hon'ble Chief Minister,
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★ Kanniyakumari, A Paradise for Tourists.

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★ A peculiar Hero - Stone

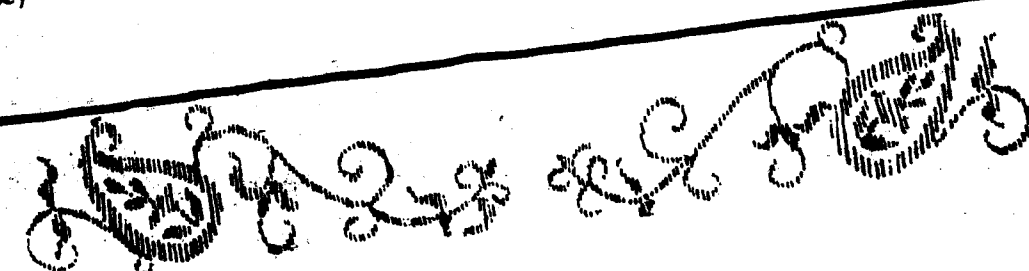
★ Retrospect and Prospect of Madras University.

★ A New Technique for identifying the dead

★ Spicy Stories.

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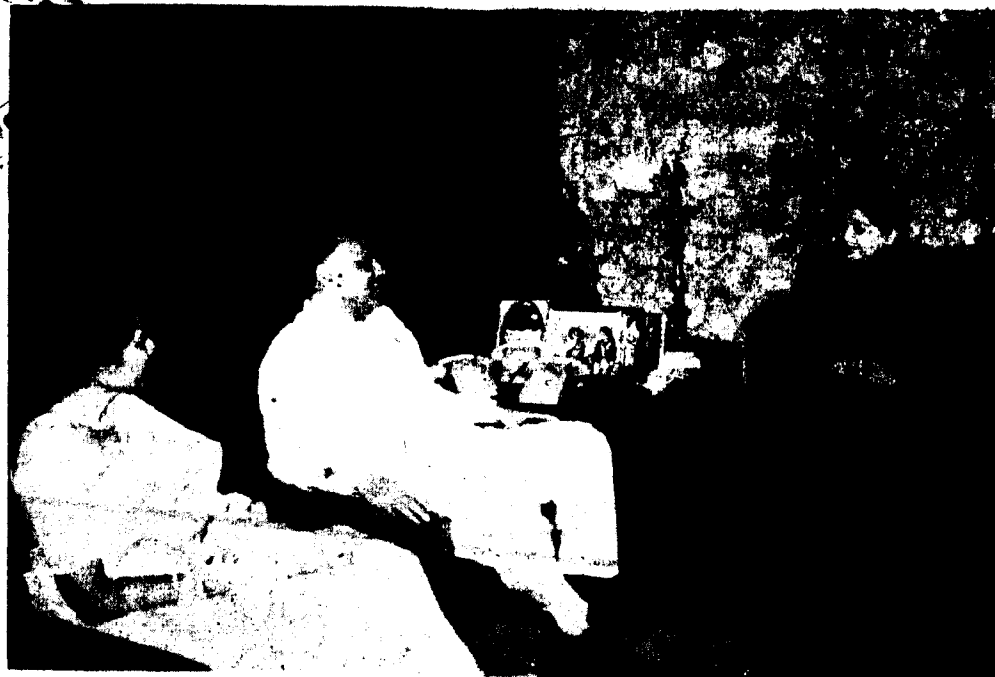
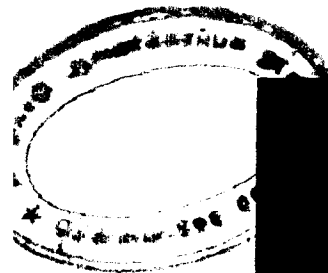
— M.N. Pushpa,
Assistant Curator, Govt. Museum, Madras.





His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Bhishma Narain Singh greets the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on her birthday on 24th February, 1992.

The Hon'ble Union Minister for Defence, Thiru Sharad Pawar, along with his wife, called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at her residence to greet her on her birthday on 24th February, 1992.



NO COMPROMISE ON THE ISSUE OF CAUVERY WATERS

Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha

We are all aware of the circumstances under which we are meeting here today. I appreciate the initiative and the sincerity of purpose which the respected Prime Minister has displayed in convening this meeting.

As far as the State of Tamil Nadu is concerned, we have stated our case clearly. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has given an interim award and the award has been gazetted by the Government of India. We are still waiting for the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka to take steps to implement that interim order. The matter will assume urgency soon when the agricultural season begins in the Cauvery delta from the first week of June. I seek the good offices of the Prime Minister and a spirit of understanding from the Chief Minister of Karnataka, to help honour the commitment stipulated in the interim order, and help lakhs of farmers in the Cauvery delta.

The widespread disturbances in the State of Karnataka following the publication of the interim order in

the official gazette of the Government of India, affecting the lives and property of lakhs of Tamil people living in that State, have also affected the good relations between these two States. I agree we must do everything possible to restore friendship and amity between the people of Tamil Nadu and the people of Karnataka. We have asked for just and adequate compensation to the affected Tamil people, and have also pleaded for the appointment of a sitting judge of the Supreme Court, to determine the quantum of compensation and to award it to the victims. I take this opportunity to appeal to the Prime Minister, and to the Chief Minister of Karnataka, to show due appreciation and statesmanship, so that the confidence of the Tamil people in the credibility of the administrative machinery, is restored. On our part, we shall certainly do everything necessary to create conditions conducive to the return of the Tamil people to Karnataka. I have already asked the officers of the Tamil Nadu Government to extend all cooperation to the officers of the Karnataka Government in this

regard. As a first step, transport services between the two States have been restored a few days ago.

I accepted the Prime Minister's invitation to attend this meeting out of regard for him, for his wisdom and spirit of understanding and sympathy. You must appreciate the fact that I have certain compulsions in this regard. The leaders of all the political parties in Tamil Nadu whom I met two days ago, were of the unanimous opinion that there should be no compromise on the issue of the implementation of the order of the Tribunal. They are correct in taking that stand because, for the first time, in the history of this dispute, the highest competent forum of the land, and the Government of India have recognised the just cause of Tamil Nadu. Rightly, therefore, we ask that this interim order should be implemented. We are equally clear that the proceedings before the Tribunal should continue and be completed, and that we will abide by the decision of the Tribunal when it gives its final award. But, just now, any deviation from the interim order, in the manner of actual implementation is bound to meet with stiff resistance from the people of Tamil Nadu, besides raising doubts about the credibility and the effective functioning of the Tribunal and its proceedings.

The River Cauvery has been the life-line of the people of Tamil Nadu for centuries. The fortunes of our people and their economic prosperity have been interlinked with the life-giving waters of the River Cauvery. After a long time we have a binding order of the Tribunal, even though as an interim measure. We seek your good offices to see that it is implemented.

Thank you.

(Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister during the discussion on Cauvery Water Issue at New Delhi on 17.2.92)



FRESH LOOK NEEDED FOR JUSTICE TO THE POOR

The Madras High Court Annexe Building at a cost of Rs.4.54 lakh was inaugurated by Thiru M.H. Kania, Chief Justice of India on 8th February, 1992, under the presidentship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha.

The Chief Minister lighted a lamp to mark the inauguration of the Madras High Court Annexe Building and presided over the function. The Chief Minister in her presidential address:

"I deem it a privilege to be associated with the inauguration of the Annexe Building of the Madras High Court. I thank the Acting Chief Justice for conferring upon me the honour of presiding over this memorable function. My happiness is all the greater for the reason that it was in the year 1986, that the administrative sanction for the construction of this Building was accorded by the Tamil Nadu Government, when Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R., my mentor, was the Chief Minister of this State, and today, I have the great pleasure of witnessing its inauguration. Dr. M.G.R. made an indelible impression upon the

fabric of public life in many ways. The sound administration of justice was one of his major concerns, and during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he spared no effort in promoting the proper understanding of the role of the Judiciary in our democratic system.

Today, as I stand before this illustrious gathering of eminent Judges, past and present, famous Jurists and legal luminaries, I wish to reiterate our firm resolve to secure for the Judiciary, the rightful place that has been accorded to it in the Constitution of India, and to help to concretise Dr. M.G.R.'s keen perception, that by improving the administration of justice, we will be enhancing the quality of life itself.

The majestic edifice of the Madras High Court, built in the Hindu-Saracenic style of architecture, has been a landmark of the City of Madras for nearly a century. Over the years, the demand for additional accommodation had grown, and that prompted the State Government to sanction the construction of the Annexe Building. I do hope that with the completion of the new Building, the requirement of accom-

modation has been met at least to some extent.

And I wish to assure you that the Government will be happy to extend any further assistance that may be needed, with a view to providing amenities and facilities for the conduct of the Courts, for the benefit of the Hon'ble Judges, Lawyers and the public.

The old Madras High Court Buildings have a magnificence of their own. Equally magnificent are the traditions of this great seat of Justice, which have been built up during the last 130 years. Legal erudition and accumen of the highest order, great intellectual ability, and very high standards of legal practice, and deep concern for the genuine sufferers; fairness and impartiality, independence and freedom from bias have been the chief characteristics of these great traditions, founded and so fondly nurtured by the Judges and the Lawyers of the Madras High Court during the last many years.

Now that we are the proud heirs and successors to these great traditions, let us strive hard to uphold these traditions, and the values that form the foundation of these traditions.

The Madras High Court has had several eminent Judges and names such as Thiru T. Muthuswamy Iyer, Thiru C. Sankaran Nair, Thiru C. Madhavan Nair, Thiru K. Sundaram Chettiar, Thiru Vepa. Ramesan and many other famous names occupy a distinct place in the legal legend of this High Court.

Similarly, the Bar of the Madras High Court could claim to have had Advocates of the greatest legal calibre, with integrity of character and a high reputation for fairness and reasonableness. Giants like Thiru Bhashyam Iyengar, Thiru Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, Thiru V.L. Ethiraj and many more Lawyers of equal fame, have added luster to the legal profession, and enlivened the proceedings in the High Court.

The contributions of the Bench and the Bar to the glorious traditions of the Madras High Court have been immense, and they continue to light up the path of justice for successive generations to follow. We must appreciate the fact that

such a glorious past, casts a heavy responsibility upon the present and future community of Judges, and Members of the legal profession. As the Hon'ble Thiru B.P. Sinha, the former Chief Justice of India, remarked on the occasion of the centenary of the Madras High Court,

"It is a truism to say that the greater your past, much greater the need for heroic efforts not only to keep unsullied your past reputation as great lawyers and Judges, but also to improve upon it, if you can." The need to maintain the highest standards in the profession of law, in the administration of justice, and in upholding the values enshrined in our Constitution, is more pressing today than ever before.

We have a Constitution that is founded upon democratic and secular principles. It guarantees certain fundamental rights to every citizen. But these rights are subject to reasonable restrictions in the public interest. At the same time, the Constitution embodies certain principles which guide the path which our Nation should take, in order to fulfil the essential features of the Constitution. The framers of the Constitution also had a profound understanding of the economic realities facing the Country, and the concept of social justice that should be realised, in order to provide for the economic and social uplift of the masses. We are wedded to the goal of a welfare State. Policies of the executive and the legislature have to be oriented in order to ensure social and economic justice for all. In a country where vast masses of people live in abject poverty, meeting their basic requirements such as food, clothing, shelter, and gainful employment has become a most challenging task for the State and the Central Governments.

The Constitutional mandate recognises this requirements very well, and it enjoins upon the Governments to deliver proper justice to the weak and the underprivileged members of our society. Harold Laski said: "I have no right to a cake, when my neighbour does not have a loaf of bread." Economic and social justice postulates the creation of appropriate conditions of life in which poverty, exploitation, ig-

norance, and violence to secure one's goals will have no place.

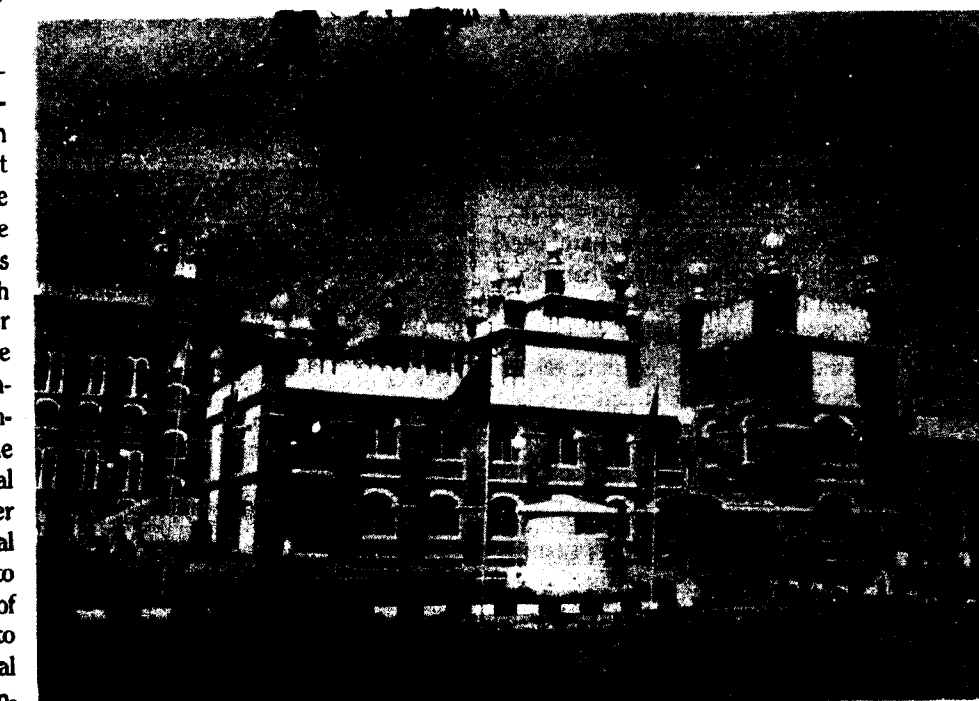
This is a formidable task, and this is a responsibility not only of the executive nor that of the legislature, a proper appreciation of the developing situation is as much a necessity for the Judiciary, so that the Judiciary can play its role in helping to achieve our National goals as enshrined in the Constitution.

An eminent Jurist said: "We are passing through an age of social questioning. No institution can take for granted the reverence of the community.

The community demands from every institution the justification of its ex-

than a set of rules and regulations. It is something more, and higher than the contents of any statutory book, or volumes of judicial decisions. Its foundation is the concept of justice, 'dharma'; or 'aram'. The content of justice may vary from time to time, and at different stages of social and economic development.

But, its categorical imperative is always the same. The essence of 'dharma' has found its expression in the principles of social and economic justice, and these in turn have found a place in our Constitution. The Courts and the entire Judicial system in India, have a great role to play in defining these prin-



istene, the proof of its utility. The legal institutions, the Courts and the profession have now to earn reverence through the test of truth." It, therefore, becomes essential that we do a bit of heart-searching, and indulge in a bit of introspection. If in the process, we discover certain drawbacks and infirmities, enlightened self-interest demands that we should set the same right.

What is this truth? In my humble opinion, in order to define truth, we have to go into the very essence of it, as understood by our people over a few thousand years. Law is something more

principles of social and economic justice, in delivering such justice to the needy, in upholding these basic principles, and in helping the executive and legislative institutions, to fulfil their constitutional obligations towards the poor and the underprivileged, by means of their 'dharmic' decisions.

I have abundant admiration for the Judiciary of our country, for the eminent persons who function with great dedication. But I cannot help feeling that the structure, the edifice of the Judicial system as built up over the years, is today groaning under the weight of its own procedures and rigidities, that

hamper the prompt and effective delivery of justice to the needy. "Justice delayed is Justice denied". Successive Law Commissions, National Conference and Seminars have highlighted the deficiencies in the actual working of the system, the delays caused to the litigants, and the denial of justice on mere technicalities. But, I am afraid, we are yet to grasp the seriousness of the situation completely, and to proceed with remedial measures urgently.

Piecemeal efforts at producing short-term remedies only compound the complexities. It is my considered view that there is a pressing case to take a fresh look at the judicial system in all its ramifications, and take quick steps to effect major changes, in keeping with the genius and culture of our people. When I refer to these major changes, I am not merely thinking in terms of substituting one system by another. There is, certainly, a case for involving people more directly in the dispensation of justice, on matters in which they have been traditionally playing a role. What I have in mind is the qualitative changes that have to be brought about in the administration of justice, so that we can still preserve the basic structure as laid down in the Constitution. An apt quotation from Daniel Defoe comes to my mind- "Though I don't like the crew, I shall not sink the ship on the contrary, in times of danger and crisis, I shall try to save it at the cost of my life".

I am aware that I am actually making this statement in the august presence of the Chief Justice of India, and other leaders and luminaries of the Judiciary and the Bar. I do not wish to sound alarmist. I am only underscoring the need to conceive and put through effective judicial reforms, on a large scale, as quickly as possible, so that the system that is now groaning under its own weight may be lifted up and given its proper place, and so that people get accustomed to using it only to the extent necessary in the best interests of society.

All of us have to do some soul-searching. We have all the required talents in our country, to formulate and implement the required judicial reforms. We need faith and conviction in our

essential ability to transform our system, retaining at the same time, its fount and essence.

Robert Browning said: "Ah, But our reach is greater than our grasp!". Judicial Reforms aimed at creating the appropriate atmosphere, for the proper fulfilment of the Constitutional obligation enjoined upon the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary are the need of the hour. That is a goal, certainly within our grasp. We need all the will and the determination to reach that goal within the shortest possible time.

On this occasion I give my solemn and categorical assurance that all the demands will be considered sympathetically. I shall try to fulfil all these demands as soon as possible.

I am grateful to you, once again, for

giving me this wonderful opportunity of addressing you.

Thank you."

Hon'ble Minister for Law, Thiru K.A. Krishnasamy said, it was fitting that the annexe for which sanction was accorded during the tenure of Dr. M.G.R., should have been inaugurated during the present Chief Minister's tenure.

Thiru A.S. Anand, Justice, Supreme Court, Thiru K. Subramaniam, Advocate General, Thiru R. Gandhi, President, Advocates Association also spoke on the occasion.

Thiru S. Nainar Sundaram, Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, welcomed the gathering.

Thiru V. Ratnam, Judge, Madras High Court, proposed a vote of thanks.



His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Bhishma Narain Singh inaugurated the Fourth Decenium Celebrations of the Murthuzaviya Educational and Cultural Foundation of South India and the All India Competitions in Oriental Studies and received the first copy of the souvenir from Thiru. Mahlil Haj Baharans, Asst. High Commissioner for Malaysia on 29th February 1992.



Terrorism, Militancy have to be controlled in the manner they deserve

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha

Respected Prime Minister,
Union Ministers,
Leaders of Political Parties and
Friends,

We are meeting here today at a critical juncture in the history of our Country. We are thankful to the Prime Minister of India for taking the initiative for convening this meeting of the leaders of all political parties, to discuss the vital but sensitive issue of Kashmir.

The issue is vital to the unity and integrity of our Country. It is a sensitive issue because it poses a

challenge to the principles of secularism and religious tolerance which constitute the bedrock of our Constitution. The Kashmir issue has also tested our patience almost from the time our Country became independent.

It is a tribute to the genius of our people that they have so far adopted the right attitude to this issue. But as each day passes, there is a growing feeling of uncertainty and growing realisation that the Country must soon reach finality on the Kashmir issue.

The reason is not far to seek. Terrorism and militancy have reared

their ugly heads in Kashmir.

No Nation can remain an idle spectator if a part thereof comes under terrorist and militant sway, with active support by forces from across the border in terms of training, weaponry, financial assistance and international publicity. The situation has been complicated by the fact that religious fervour has been injected into the terrorist activities, and false propaganda based on religious freedom is creating confusion in the minds of the people of different communities living in other parts of our country. However, it is a

matter of great solace that the people of our country have not been taken in by the false propaganda, and the basic fabric of communal harmony and secular freedom has remained intact not only in Jammu and Kashmir but in other States as well.

Jammu and Kashmir are an integral part of India. No nation can dispute this. The important point is to make clear to the world that the Indian Nation is not built upon the primacy of religion, and that it is built upon secular freedom and religious tolerance. This nation has witnessed far too much bloodshed and turmoil in the past on account of communal and religious differences and it cannot afford to shed any more blood on this score.

The recognition and the acceptance that Jammu and Kashmir are as much an integral part of India as Tamil Nadu or Kerala, by the people of all religions and communities in this country are vital to our security, integrity and prosperity. Terrorism and militancy in Kashmir have to be fought on this ground alone. It is my firm belief that the people of Jammu & Kashmir recognise this.

But, it is equally clear that these people are at the mercy of the militants and the terrorists who have indulged in unprecedented violence, paralysing the economy, and have poisoned the social fabric of the State by injecting the poison of religious fanaticism. Therefore, there can be no two opinions that the militants and the terrorists must be firmly dealt with.

As the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu I have had a bitter taste of the activities of the militants from another country, who had similarly infiltrated deeply into our society at all levels, confusing the people on the basis of language chauvinism, and enticing greedy politicians into their fold. The leaders who are present here are fully aware of the extraordinary steps we had to take to contain the militant elements in Tamil Nadu.

Once militancy makes deep inroads in any region, one can be sure that it would bring with it international support, because there are enough countries wishing to see India in trouble, and also wishing to see its dismemberment and disintegration.

Respected Leaders, unity is the need of the hour. Our party pledges its full support to the steps that may be taken by the Government of India to contain militancy and terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir.

We also pledge our support to the steps that may be decided on at this meeting, to contain the infiltration of forces from the other side of the border. The great sacrifices made by our national leaders who gave their lives for the freedom of this country would be in vain if the need for unity is lost sight of. At the same time, we must take equal care to ensure that religious and communal differences are recognised and that different view points are respected, while their harmonious blending is attempted.

The people of this country whether they be Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Jains, Buddhists or Parsis, are citizens of this country. Kashmir, with a predominant Muslim population, is as much a part of this country as any other State with a predominant Hindu population. If one part of Kashmir is not in India, it has to be brought into India.

I also urge that special efforts must be undertaken to ensure that the Muslims of Kashmir feel the same way as the Hindus of another State, and above all, feel themselves to be the citizens of this great country. While on the one hand terrorism and militancy have to be controlled in the manner that they deserve, on the other hand, before it is too late, steps must be initiated for a better understanding of the minds of the people for more effective promotion of goodwill, and closer interaction of the people.

Once again, on behalf of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I wish to say that we will support any decision of this august body that respects the unity and integrity of India, any programme of action that effectively controls terrorism and militancy in any form, and any programme that promotes better understanding among the people of Kashmir, as citizens of this country, namely India.

We will also support any concerted action that will restore that faith and confidence of the people of Kashmir in the statemanship of our leaders, and in the genuine concern of all of us for their welfare, peace and prosperity in this hour of trial.

Thank you.

(Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the meeting of Leaders of Political Parties on Jammu and Kashmir issue at New Delhi on 10th February 1992.)



The town of Kumbakonam is associated with the name Kumbhakonam meaning the turning point of the Kumbha on account of the celestial event of the conjunction of a stellar phenomenon and terrestrial because the river Cauvery, takes pointed turning at the outskirts of the town.

The 2000 year-old Kumbakonam town is situated on the banks of the River Cauvery in the heart of the fertile Chola land. Surrounded by a vast land of green paddy fields, coconut and plantain groves, the town is a centre of religious, artistic, cultural and intellectual activity. It is virtually a town of temples dedicated to Siva,

Vishnu, Devi and other Gods. Some of the well known temples are the Kasi Viswanatha temple, the Nageswara temple, the Kumbheswarar temple and the Ramaswami temple.

Mahamakham occurs once in twelve years in the town of Kumbakonam. It attracts several lakhs of pilgrims from all over the country. This great event is celebrated in the Nakshatra Makha, occurring in the month of Kumbha. When Makha star falls on a pournima day (full moon) and Guru is in Simha rasi, the auspicious day is celebrated with great worship in temples while the deities are taken to the sacred tirthas (either river or tank) and the devotees take a holy dip.

This festival takes place in the great tank-called the Mahamakham tank in Kumbakonam town. The images of Parvathi and Parameswar are brought in a great procession from twelve ancient temples to this tank, and the confluence takes place. When the deities are bathed, lakhs of people simultaneously take the holy dip. At the same time the images of Vishnu with his consorts from seven big temples are taken to the banks of River Cauvery for bathing.

According to legends, nine rivers Cauvery, Narmadha, Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswathi, Godavari, Tungabhadra, Krishna and Sarayu manifest together in the tank of Kumbakonam on this auspicious day and those who bathe in the

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tank will derive the sanctity of bathing in all these rivers and it is believed that a bath in tank on Mahamakham day will cleanse one's sins.

- Mahamakham festival 1992.

On 18th February, 1992, at the auspicious hour 11.58 a.m. lakhs of

devotees had a holy dip in the Mahamakham tank, Kumbakonam. At 11.58 a.m. the idols of Astradevar (Siva) of 12 Siva temples including the Kasi Viswanatha temple, the Kumbeswarar temple and the Nageswaraswami temple were given "theerthavari" by priests. Earlier, the Utsava idols

were taken round the Mahamakham tank and kept in mandapams.

Sri Sankarachariyars and the Heads of the Kasi Mutt, Tiruppanandal, Dharmapuram Adheenam and Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam also took bath at the auspicious hour. Women outnumbered men and from the early hours of this morning the entire tank was besieged by devotees.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, performed poojas in the tank and had holy water from all 20 springs poured over her head.

The Chief Minister presented silk shawls and Sambhavanas to the priests. She distributed sarees to 100 women. A souvenir, containing article on the cultural, spiritual, architectural and literary history of the Thanjavur region which was brought out on the occasion, was released by the Chief Minister. She also participated in the first day postal cover cancellation function arranged by the Postal Department.



THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TEMPLE ADMINISTRATION BOARD

The first meeting of the recently constituted temple administration board, held at the Secretariat, on 2nd March, 1992, approved repair and renovation of 107 temples and construction of commercial complexes and marriage halls at a cost of Rs.3.19 crore.

Significant among the projects sanctioned at the three-hour meeting presided over by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, was the Rs.1 crore scheme to repair and restore the Kapaleeswarar temple tank in Mylapore. The tank measuring 630 ft. in length and 475 ft. in width had remained dry for a number of years. The plan now was to desilt and fill the tank having a depth of 18.5 ft. and clean the water adopting the recycling method. For the first phase of the works to be completed before January in time for the next float festival, the board has sanctioned Rs.35 lakh.

The board constituted a 12 member committee to make a new car for Avinasilingeswarar temple in Coimbatore and to renovate another car of the temple in disrepair.

In all the board considered and approved 129 proposals, including measures to provide burglar alarm

and iron gates to protect idols and jewellery in various temples.

Earlier, welcoming the members, including mutt heads, religious leaders and scholars, the Chief Minister said that as on date the temple renovation and maintenance fund had an accumulation of Rs.346 crore.

Since this Government came to power, 11 temples had been renovated for which the Government had sanctioned Rs.12.5 lakh and Rs.5.77 lakh from the Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund. This was besides Rs.48 lakh granted for renovation and repair to temple in and around Kumbakonam and for the Mahamakham Festival.

For better and effective functioning of the temple administration, the Government had ordered the setting up of offices at Vellore and Sivaganga which would be under the charge of Deputy Commissioners. Steps were being taken to secure Rs.122.70 lakh as aid from the World Bank for improving the polytechnics run by Palani Dandayuthapani swami Temple.

The Chief Minister recounted the various measures initiated by the Government for the welfare of temple staff. The exgratia for the families of those who died in ser-

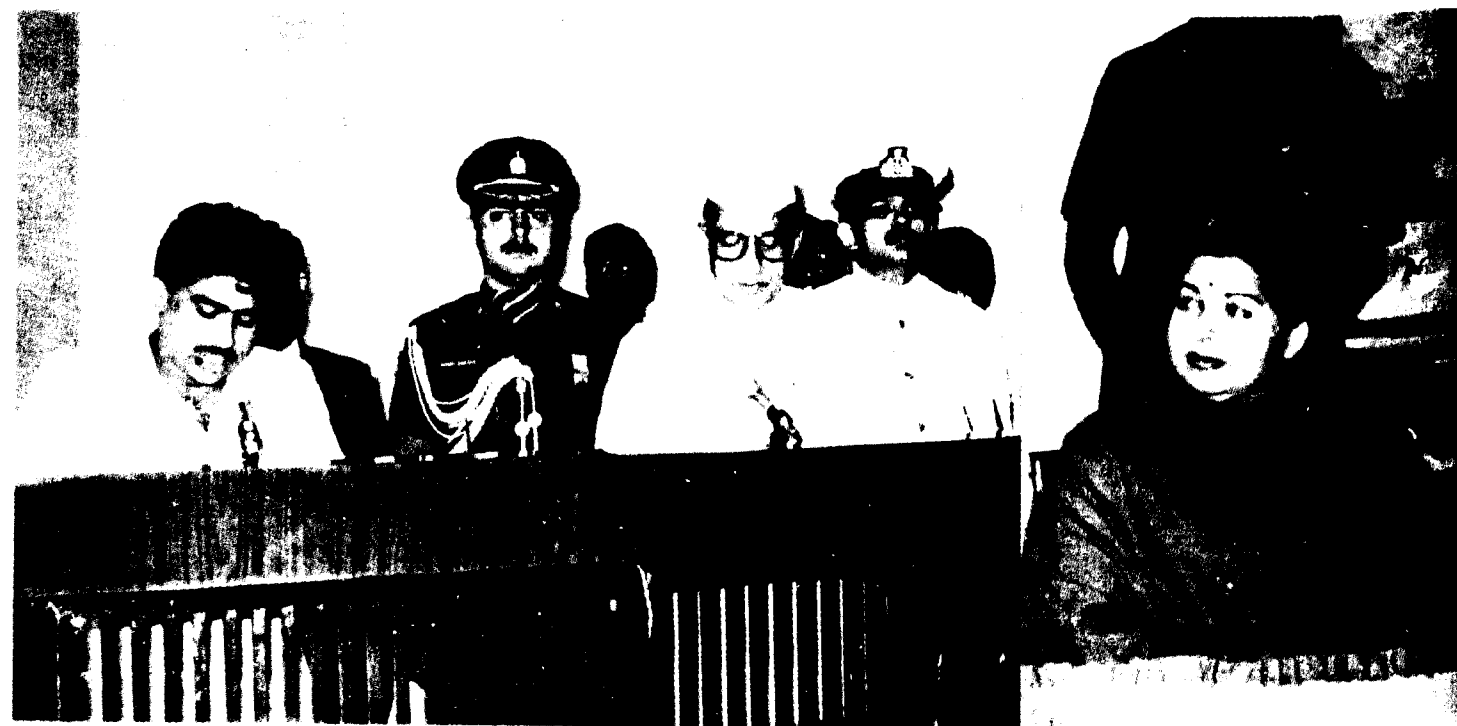
vice had been doubled to Rs.20,000/-. The pension for archakas had been revised to Rs.300/- from Rs.250/-. The Government had also introduced a new pension scheme for other archakas, about 100 persons retiring every year would get a pension of Rs.300/- per month.

The employees in the temple were given an exgratia ranging from Rs.300-350 on the occasion of Pongal.

The Chief Minister said all efforts were being made for the constitution of Veda Agama Sastra College.

Listing the measures taken to protect the assets belonging to temples, she said the Government had decided not to give temple properties on long lease. Action was being initiated to take back such properties on long lease or to fix and collect fair rent from the tenants.

She noted that since the Government came to power there was greater awareness among the people for protecting and renovating the temples which reflect the ancient culture. She hoped the board would live up to the expectations of the people and take concrete measures to maintain the temples properly.



His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Bhisma Narain Singh administered the oath of office and Secrecy to Thiru S. Nagoor Meeran as Minister for Rural Industries at Raj Bhawan on 15th February, 1992. Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha was present on the occasion.

NEWS IN PICTURES

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Bhisma Narain Singh administered the oath of Office and Secrecy to Thiru S. Reghupathi as Minister for Labour Welfare at Raj Bhawan on 27th February, 1992. Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha was present on the occasion.



GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE ON

MAHAMAKHAM STAMPEDE

The auspicious Mahamakham Day at Kumbakonam fell on the 18th February, 1992. This event is celebrated once in twelve years. Anticipating that the crowds visiting Kumbakonam for the Mahamakham festival during the current year would be much larger than during the previous occasions, the Government of Tamil Nadu had made elaborate arrangements, the largest of its kind ever organised not only in terms of improvements, physical and structural arrangements, relief arrangements, feeding and security arrangements, but also with respect to the mobilisation of an enormous number of police Personnel, to control and regulate the crowds so that the people could

participate in the festival in an orderly manner.

The Police force mobilised for the 1968 Mahamakham was about 4,000 including all officers and men. For the festival in 1980, a total number of 6,350 Officers and men were deployed to handle the arrangements. For the current year Mahamakham festival the Government of Tamil Nadu deployed a total of 12,070 officers and men from the Police force for bandobust duties.

Right from the beginning, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalitha, took a keen personal interest in the formulation of plans for the proper and effective conduct of the various

festivities, and for the provision of various amenities to the visiting public, as well as for the proper safety of the lakhs of pilgrims who would be visiting Kumbakonam during the festival. The Chief Minister took a series of meetings of the Officers of the State Government dealing with the various aspects of work relating to the Mahamakham festival, and reviewed the arrangements from time to time. Funds of a very large order were also sanctioned by the Government to the Kumbakonam Municipality, to the Public Works Department, to the Public Health Department and the Police Department for incurring the needed expenditure to organise the various arrangements on a most liberal scale. A sum of Rs.85.50 lakh was sanctioned to the Kumbakonam Municipality for provision of various civic amenities. The Municipality has actually incurred an expenditure of a sum of Rs.91.81 lakh. This should be compared with a sum of Rs.85 lakh



sanctioned to the Kumbakonam Municipality during the 1980 Mahamakham festival. Similarly the Highways Department incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 1.32 crore for the improvements to the roads in and around Kumbakonam town and for widening the single lanes to double lanes over a length of 51.40 kilometers. The Public Works Department carried out the work of widening the roads leading to the temples and desilting of the Mahamakham tank.

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department made all the arrangements in connection with the religious rites associated with the Mahamakham festival. A sum of Rs. 10 lakh was sanctioned for renovation of the various temples in March 1991. A total sum of Rs. 46.28 lakh was sanctioned under various heads for the renovation and improvement of the temples, including from the Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund, the largest amount incurred so far during the Mahamakham festivals. Elaborate arrangements had been made by the Transport Corporations for catering to the transport requirements of the pilgrims coming from various parts of the State. From 16th February, 1992, to 18th February, 1992, a total number of 4,605 State Transport Corporation buses were operated. These buses performed more than 15,000 trips and carried about 13.9 lakh passengers. In addition, the railway system ran 62 special trains from the 16th February, 1992, to the 18th February, 1992, carrying an enormous number of passengers. From her own funds the Chief Minister distributed over 10 lakh food packets to the pilgrims on the day of the Mahamakham festival. Several Ministers of the State Cabinet had been deputed by the Chief Minister to personally supervise the arrangements.

From the above, it may be seen that the State Government had made elaborate arrangements for ensuring the smooth conduct of the Mahamakham festival at Kumbakonam on the 18th February, 1992. The various arrangements including the bandobust, regulating the flow of pilgrims, maintenance of law and order, prevention of crime had all been planned and conceived by the State Police Department months ahead of the actual Mahamakham date, and the various arrangements were discussed from time to time by the Police Officers and the District Collector, both at Kumbakonam as well as at Thanjavur, with representatives of the people. The planning of the arrangements had been made in such a way so as to ensure regular, orderly and smooth flow of pilgrims from various directions into the main Mahamakham tank and for their movement out of the tank in an equally orderly fashion. The entire Police force had been given all the details of the arrangements well in advance, and their duties were rehearsed several times in order to ensure that the supervisory officers as well as the men were thoroughly aware of their responsibilities. The entire arrangement was under the charge of the Inspector-General of Police (Law and Order) Thiru W.I. Dawaram, who had prior experience of conducting the Mahamakham festival in 1980, and he was assisted by one Inspector-General of Police, 5 Deputy Inspectors-General of Police, 20 Superintendents of Police, 60 Deputy-Superintendents of Police, 200 Inspectors of Police, 500 Sub Inspectors of Police besides men. The Director-General of Police Thiru S. Sripal was personally present in order to supervise the various arrangements and to ensure their proper conduct. The Police arrangements made for the current year Mahamakham festival were on an unprecedented scale. The

Department had made most elaborate arrangements and incorporated them in the Police bandobust scheme, and every member of the Police force was made familiar with details of the scheme, so that there was no confusion amongst the officers or the men. It is, therefore, entirely wrong and mischievous to say, as reported in newspapers that there was lack of co-ordination among the officers and the men.

The pilgrims who visited Kumbakonam during the current Mahamakham festival were unprecedented in number, totalling about 50 lakhs, as compared to the 18 lakhs who participated in 1980, but the Police and the other authorities of the State Government had anticipated such crowds and had made elaborate arrangements to handle such crowds. It must be appreciated that Kumbakonam is a small town and the place where the Mahamakham tank is located is in a very congested place, and the roads surrounding the tank are narrow and the whole area is enclosed by two rivers, namely the River Cauvery on the northern side and Arasalar on the southern side. The Mahamakham tank could hold a maximum of 40 thousand pilgrims at one time and the police had provided removable barricades at various places in order to regulate the traffic in such a manner that the pilgrims were allowed to enter the tank in batches. In fact, this is what was happening during most of the time. It is, therefore, wrong and motivated to say as reported in some of the newspapers, that the arrangements were topsy-turvy and the policemen themselves were taken by surprise by the onrush of pilgrims.

The arrangements contemplated the entry of the pilgrims from the northern side and from the southern side and for the exit of the pilgrims from the western side as

well as from the eastern side. The same arrangements for entry and exit were in force during the 1968 and 1980 Mahamakham festivals. This arrangement was going on smoothly until the unfortunate situation developed when the grill over the compound wall abutting the Bunker Dharmashala and the pillars collapsed on the northern tank road, owing to the enormous pressure of people who had assembled on both sides of the compound wall. The Bunker Dharmashala had been used by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad for running a clinic as well as for distributing food packets. These food packets were also being thrown out to the pilgrims who were waiting outside the compound wall. This was the starting point for gathering of a large number of people outside the wall. The wall grill and the pillars collapsed against the pressure of the human concourse. This created panic among all those who had assembled there resulting in a stampede. The stampede was mainly responsible for the deaths which took place. It is not correct to say that deaths took place due to drowning in the tank. There was not a single death due to drowning in the tank. The allegation made in some of the newspapers that the stampede itself occurred as a result of a lathi charge made by the police is totally baseless and untrue. There was no lathi charge by the Police at any time or at any place during the festivities. All the victims of this accident were found within a radius of 60 inches from the collapsed compound wall grill. The Police had made proper arrangements to locate the ambulance vans close to the place of accident, and it was therefore possible to remove many of the injured persons in time to the hospital and to save precious lives. Otherwise, the number of victims could have been larger.

Newspapers have maliciously

reported that the tragedy took place because the pilgrims were eager to have a glimpse of the Chief Minister and the Police were using lathi-charge to drive them back and that the pilgrims were running in various directions, and also that exit to them was barred by the location of the Chief Minister's convoy of vehicles. All these reports are totally untrue. A very small enclosure had been arranged for the use of the Chief Minister on the southern quarter of the western bank of the tank. The enclosure was hardly 20' x 10'. It is therefore totally untrue to say as reported in some newspapers, that one-fourth of the tank space was reserved for the Chief Minister. The rest of the western bank was free for the movement of the pilgrims and the pilgrims were utilising this exit even while the Chief Minister was present. The Chief Minister's convoy was parked in a small portion of the western bank road towards the southern side near the edge of the tank. This in no way hampered the free movement of the pilgrims, and thousands of pilgrims were making their exit from the available area on the western side. In fact, there was absolutely no confusion or stampede in that area. The tragedy took place on the north eastern side which was quite at a distance from the place where the Chief Minister had performed her worship. The Chief Minister arrived at the spot earmarked for her at 11.30 a.m. and left the place at 12.15 p.m., whereas the incident on the north eastern side following the collapse of the Dharmashala wall grill and pillars took place around 1.00 p.m. It is unfair and cruel to put the responsibility on the Chief Minister's presence or the presence of the Chief Minister's convoy, for the incident which took place at quite a distance and quite some time after she had left the place. It is particularly unfortunate that the office bearers of

the Vishwa Hindu Parishad who should have known better, should have attributed the happenings to the presence of the Chief Minister. One could understand that political parties were motivated to create trouble at the lightest opportunity, utilising every such opportunity to make such allegations, but the Vishwa Hindu Parishad had known fully well the keen interest taken by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to organise the festivities connected with the Mahamakham at Kumbakonam in the current year on a grand scale; the moral support extended by her and the physical resources and the financial assistance provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu on an unprecedented scale during the current year. One can only infer that unfortunately even the Vishwa Hindu Parishad was motivated to make such unfounded allegations for reasons best known to them. In all likelihood they did not want the State Government and the Chief Minister to take credit for the smooth and proper conduct of the festival and wanted to steal the limelight themselves. As regards the religious festivities themselves, neither the Chief Minister nor the State Government interfered in any manner, as may be seen from the smooth conduct of the various religious observances. Perhaps, this was not to the liking of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The Government made arrangements on such a large scale, not only considering it a duty to provide for the large assemblage of people, but also to ensure that the devotees and the pilgrims had a full opportunity to express their sense of religious freedom by participating in this holy function.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad is not the only custodian of Hinduism in our Country. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad could perhaps feel that it could malign the Government by making scurrilous allega-

tions with a view to detracting from the merits of what has been done. But Tamil Nadu State is the first State which set up a Temple Administration Board. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is the first Chief Minister to have set up a Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund. Keen interest had been evinced by the Chief Minister and the Government of Tamil Nadu to renovate glorious temples of yore and to make them living symbols of Hinduism. In the circumstances there was nothing wrong in the Chief Minister's taking part in the festivities associated with the Mahamakham festival which occurs only once in 12 years. It is sad to see how politically motivated parties were jealous of the grand reception which the Chief Minister enjoyed.

The very fact that lakhs of people continued to take their holy dip in the tank even during the Chief Minister's presence and after the Chief Minister had left amply testifies to the efficacy of the elaborate arrangements made. The tragedy was confined to a very small area in the north eastern corner of the tank and lakhs of people subsequently continued to move into the tank and move out of it in an uninterrupted manner, until well past midnight.

Nevertheless, the unfortunate tragedy has taken place. The Chief Minister has conveyed her heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved families. The Chief Minister first announced an immediate relief of Rs.25,000 from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the relatives of the deceased. Having considered the matter further, the Chief Minister announces an additional sum of Rs.25,000 to the relatives of the deceased per family from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund i.e. a total of Rs.50,000 from the Government. The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam will also contribute a sum of Rs.30,000



for each family of the deceased making it a total of Rs.80,000 per family of the deceased. Rs.20,000 will also be given from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Thus each family of the deceased will receive Rupees one lakh.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu will also take steps to provide any further relief and assistance that may be required to the members of the families of the deceased, such as education, and job opportunities.

It is strange to see the newspapers questioning the visit of the Chief Minister to attend the Mahamakham festival. Not merely as an individual citizen of the country, but as the Chief Minister of a State, and also as the Minister in charge of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, the Chief Minister has every right to attend the function and participate in the festivities, and the fact that no other Chief Minister attended this function in the past is no reason why the Chief Minister should not attend the Mahamakham festival now. The Chief Minister took all possible steps to ensure the smooth conduct of the function and it was fit and proper that she attended the function. If there was a great sense of participation among the crowds during the visit of the Chief Minister to Kumbakonam, that only reflected the approval of the people for all the arrangements made. It is, therefore, cruel and malicious on the part of one of the newspapers to have remarked that it was not Mahamakham but Jayamakham. It is difficult to understand how a responsible newspaper could use such a flippant expression.

Comparisons are odious, but when such unprecedented crowds assemble, there have been similar incidents in the past. More than 316 pilgrims died during the Kumbh Mela on the 3rd February, 1954 at Prayag. More than 50 people died during the Kumbh Mela at Haridwar on the 4th April, 1986. The then Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawarhalal Nehru attended the Kumbh Mela at Prayag in 1954. He had the following to say:

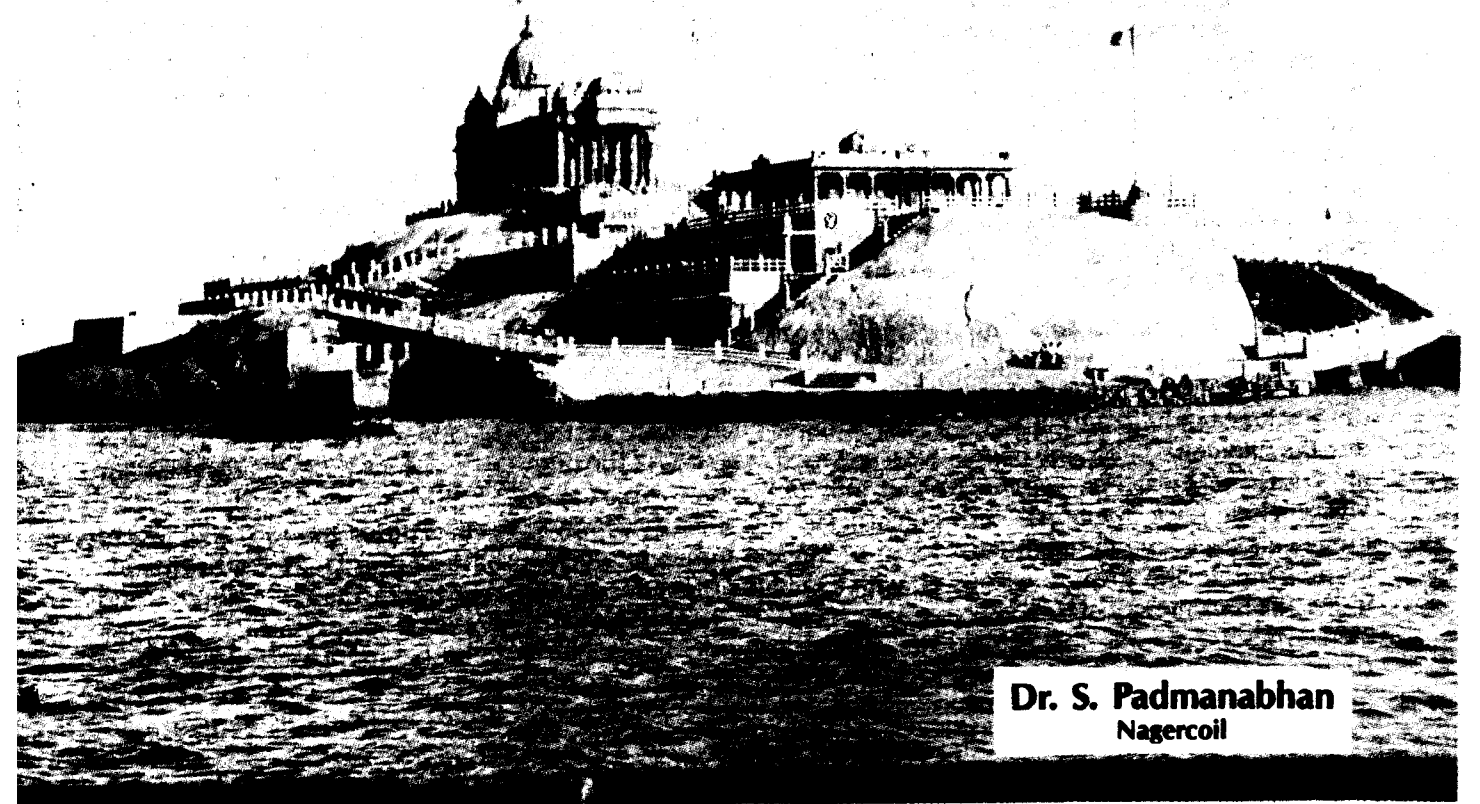
"One should view the whole thing in a proper perspective, perspective of the number of the people who visited the Mela area, the space available and the arrangements made. The difficulty was the paucity of space".

About 316 people are estimated to have died during the Kumbh Mela in 1954. But opposition parties and newspapers did not put the blame on Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's presence at the festival, nor did they say that the Prime Minister should not have attended the Mela.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the Government of Tamil Nadu express their heart felt grief over the tragedy that has overtaken the families of the dead.

The Additional Collector of Thanjavur District has been asked to conduct an enquiry into the circumstances leading to the tragedy. Based upon the report, the Government of Tamil Nadu will take appropriate action. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister assure the people that all steps will be taken, to provide succour and relief to the surviving members of the families of the deceased as well as to the injured persons.

KANNIYAKUMARI, A PARADISE FOR TOURISTS



Dr. S. Padmanabhan
Nagercoil

Kanniyakumari the southern most District of India and the smallest District in Tamil Nadu is having places of legendary, historical and artistic importance. The Western Ghats ending into green hills, perennial rivers, lotus filled tanks, dense forests with wild elephants, extensive paddy fields, rich palm groves, wavy coconut gardens and a carved coastal line of nearly 70 k.m. length are the unique natural features of the Land's End promontory of India. Travelling in such a small, old and beautiful district is not only a feast to the eyes but to the mind also.

Nanjilnad, the nucleus of Kanniyakumari District is described as a fertile piece of land in Purananuru, one of the Sangham

Works in Tamil literature. There are several special features of the District. The first and foremost one is that it is in the name of Devi Parasakthi who is doing eternal penance as a Virgin Goddess Kanniyakumari at the confluence of the three oceans and radiating sanctity all around. The District has a unique advantage of the rainfall during both south-west and north-east monsoons. The sand of the coastal area in the District is rich in minerals like Ilmenite, Monosite and even Thorium. In Tamil Nadu Rubber and Clove are cultivated only in Kanniyakumari District. The quality of the Rubber produced in Kanniyakumari is one of the best in the world and the yield per acre is also very high compared to other

parts. A large variety of rare medicinal plants like Rauwolfia Serpentina also found here. Even one of the hills on the highway between Nagercoil and Kanniyakumari is known as Marunthuvalmalai (Medicinal Hill). Another important feature of the District is that there are several rare temples which cannot be seen elsewhere. Kanniyakumari, the geographical pinpoint of India otherwise known as Cape Comorin is not only the meeting place of land and sea but also marks the confluence of the three oceans, the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. It is the only place in India where one can see the Sun rise in the morning and Sunset in the evening from the same spot. Like Lord Siva

The shrines of Adi Sankara with his disciples of Swamy Vivekananda in meditative mood and Gandhi Smarak Mandir in Oriyan Style on the golden sands of Kaniyakumari and the reputed Vivekananda Rock Memorial on the sea-girt rock are but the fitting monuments to the great sons of India. The rock memorial is "a visible symbol of the invisible strength, invisible faith and burning devotion that Swami

The Church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title "Our Lady of Ransom" which was constructed in Gothic style with a tower of 153 feet in height crowned with a golden cross adorns the eastern coast of Kanniyakumari. The granite round shaped fort known as Vattakkottai on the seashore which was utilised for

defence to save the country from the naval invaders in ancient days and the temple of Guhanatheeswara which was erected by Raja Raja Chola ten years earlier than the Great temple at Thanjavur are the reputed historical monuments in Kannyakumari. There are remnants of a 35 Km long fort stretching from the Western Ghats at Kadukkara to the southern sea at Kannyakumari.

**TEMPLE OF TRINITY
AT SUCHINDRUM**

The only shrine dedicated to TRINITY is Sthanumalaya's at Suchindrum 14 kms from Kannyakumari. The name Sthanumalayan denotes the combination of the Trimurthis. Sthanu is a synonym for Siva, Mal for Vishnu and Ayan for Brahma. It is believed that the top, middle and base of the Linga in the temple represent Siva, Vishnu and Brahma respectively. Tradition goes that Indra was purified at the place and hence the name Suchindrum. Suchi means Purity.



Vattakkottai Beach

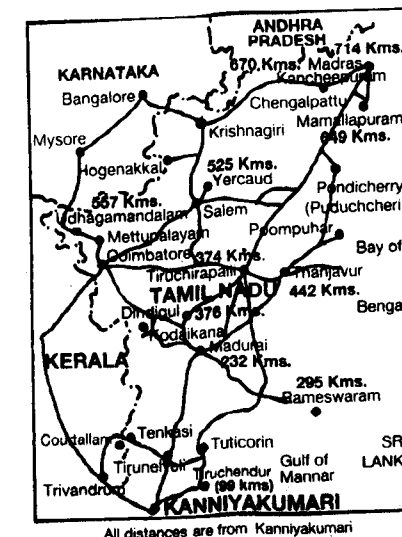


Padmanabhapuram Palace

The temple here is noted for its exquisite workmanship in stone. It is a treasure house of sculptures. The musical pillars are very impressive and some of the Sculpture in the temple like Vigneshwari, the female form of Vinayaka and the scene of Geethopathesa by Parthasarathi in the form of Trinity are rarely to be found elsewhere. Carved exquisitely out of a single block of granite, the imposing figure of Anjaneya, 18 feet high, is a product of marvellous sculptural skill. The gigantic image of Nandhi locally known as "Makkalai" made of chank powder is considered one of the biggest in India.

NAGERCOIL

Nagercoil, the name of which is derived from the five headed serpent shrine of Nagaraja, is situated in the heart of Kanniyakumari District. Besides the presiding deity Nagaraja, the image of Siva and Ananthakrishna have been enshrined in the Arthamandapa and the pillars of the mandapa bear carved figures of Jain Thirthakaras,



Parsavanath and Mahavira. The beautiful main gateway of the temple known as Mahamerumalaiga reminds us of the Buddhist monastery. Thus the temple stands as an embodiment of the four creeds Saivism, Vaishnavism, Jainism and finally Buddhism. The outstanding feature of the temple is that the Sanctum sanctorum is surrounded by walls of mud and has over it a simple roof thatched with coconut leaves and bamboo sticks. The exact place where the

image of the five-headed serpent is enshrined is perpetually marshy. The sand scooped out of this place is distributed to the devotees as prasadam. Even though there are plenty of cobras inside the temple no fatal case of snake bite has ever occurred anywhere around the area (Refer Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics published in America Volume XI page 418).

The Adikesavaperumal temple at Thiruvattar which is noted for its exquisite workmanship in stone and wood, the Thiruvaalimaarbbhar temple at Thiruppathisaram the birth place of Nammalwar are the two centres in the District among the 108 shrines sacred to the Vaishnavites in India. The temple at Keralapuram where the image of Vinayaka changes its colour half- hourly, the rock-cut-cave temple at Thirunandikkarai of Archaeological importance, the temple of Thirupparappu with the sparkling waterfalls, the shrine of Bagavathy at Karungal where the image of Lord Siva holding deer and axe in his hand has been en-

shrined in the sanctum, the shrine of Tipparamalai containing a rare image of Sri Krishna of 14 feet in height and the rare shrines of Avvaiyar, the divine poetess of Tamil Nadu are some of the less-known temples in the District.

Like Kanniyakumari where the three oceans meet, the District of Kanniyakumari also accommodates the different faiths in its bosom. There is epigraphic evidence to show that there was a reputed Jain Centre at Thiruchcharanathumalai

Thiruvithankodu is believed to be erected by the Apostle St. Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ. Edalakudy, Thiruvithankodu and Thuckalay are the sacred places to Muslims in the District. The architectural greatness of Islam is evidenced by a number of beautiful mosques in the District particularly at Thiruvithankodu. At Thuckalay there is a famous Durgha dedicated to the Muslim saint Peer Mohammed who was also a Tamil

is surrounded by a square fortification of stone about 4 kms perimeter. The beautiful Mantrasala (Council Chamber) which displays exquisite wood carvings, Thaikottaram, the oldest of all edifices, Aayuthasala, the store house of weapons utilised for war, the three storeyed edifice called "Upparikka Malika" containing the famous Chamber of morals hailed as "the Ajanta of Kanniyakumari" and a wooden cot made of 64 medicinal plants, the hall of historical oil paintings



Nagaraja Temple, Nagercoil

(Chithral) where a number of disciples were trained by the nuns to preach Jain dharma among the people in different parts of the country during 9th Century A.D. The Cathedral of St. Xavier at Kottar is one of the most impressive historic monuments of India containing a small chapel of Our Lady where St. Francis Xavier used to celebrate Holy Mass. It is generally known as second Goa where the body of the saint is still preserved. The Home Church at Nagercoil locally known as "Kallukoil" which was built in Greek style is one of the largest protestant churches in India. The Orthodox Syriam Church of St. Mary at

poet. Devotees irrespective of their religion visit the place with high veneration.

PADMANABHAPURAM PALACE

The old palace at Padmanabhapuram 15 kms from Nagercoil on the highway to Trivandrum is a rare archaeological museum containing fine architectural works, sculptures, moral paintings and weapons of War. The ancient town



known as "Chitrallya", the Navarathri mandapa with a shrine of Saraswathi and an ancient clock tower are the noteworthy features of the palace. The story of Ramayana which has been depicted dramatically around the inner prakara in 45 wooden panels in the Ramaswamy temple inside the fort is one of the best specimens of wood art in the whole of India.

The District of Kanniyakumari with its religious, historical and artistic importance and its green fields and hills will always remain evergreen in the memory of even the most casual visitor.



TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES - ITS ORIGIN, GROWTH AND ACTIVITIES

Archives administration is a science adopted and practised all over the world today. Records are tools of administration. They are the memory of an organisation, a family or an individual. Records embody past experiences, give evidences of progress and protect legal rights. They are, therefore, the evidences by which Government is accountable to the people. Hence, making arrangements for the preservation of the records is an inescapable duty of a Government.

Origin and Growth

Record keeping consciousness among Indian Administrators dates back to the period of the Mauryas (3rd Century B.C.). Arthashastra speaks of Record rooms, Vijayanagar sources refer to officers-in-charge of Records and Chola inscriptions mention 'Avanakalari' means 'Record Office'.

Paper work is not the monopoly of modern day administration only. Even the Moghul period was

termed as "Kagaz-Ki-Raj" i.e. a rule with lot of paper work. Prolific creation and phenomenal growth of records at a high speed have created a big problem all over the world.

In India, Tamil Nadu occupies an unique place in the Archives administration. It is perhaps the first among the States to realise, the official and historical value of Archives.

In 1801, the whole of Madras Presidency had come into the hands of East India Company and the second half of the 18th Century witnessed manifold increase in Government Records. The spurt of accumulation of records compelled the Government to devise proper measures for their custody and preservation.

The nucleus of the Tamil Nadu Archives, which has carved itself out a niche among the Archival institutions of India, was formed in the year 1805 when Lord William Bentick, the then Governor of Madras Presidency, ordered for

the Centralisation of Secretariat records of Fort St. George which hitherto were scattered in the various Departments and appointed a Record Keeper and supporting staff to arrange and look after them properly and to issue them promptly on requisition to various Departments for reference.

Thus it took 103 years for the development into a full-fledged cell as a separate establishment of Madras Record Office at Egmore which came into being in 1909.

The nomenclature of this institution also attuned itself to the political changes and named as Madras State Archives in 1968 and further rechristened as Tamil Nadu Archives in 1969 consequent on the re-naming of Madras State into Tamil Nadu, finally Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research in 1973.

The Tamil Nadu Archives, with its District Centres in Madurai, Cuddalore, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Salem, is a separate Department and the Head of the Department has been designated as the Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research.

Locations and Buildings

Tamil Nadu Archives, located in the heart of the City of Madras at Egmore and houses in the massive Gothic-red building, which reminds one of the vestiges of British administration in the State, plays an indispensable role in the day to day administration of the Government of Tamil Nadu as the custodian of public records.

The Archives building is fairly big with parallel wings running at right angles to the main trunk. Nine blocks are utilised for stacks and the rest for administrative purpose. The building was planned with open spaces around for future expansion. It was carefully designed, constructed and well furnished in order to protect it

from fire, burglary, incendiarism, dust and insects.

Activities and objectives

The records are preserved in Archives for use either by the creating agencies or by research scholars. There is vast accumulation of Government records every year. These records may be often required for references and for administrative purposes. Hence they are to be well arranged, listed, indexed and preserved properly.

The major activities of the Archives are to centralise all permanent records, to arrange them properly, to preserve them on scientific lines; to throw them open for historical research, to publish regularly such of those as are of historical and administrative interest and to make them all promptly and readily available for official references in carrying on the day to day administration of the State.

Centralisation for Records

Tamil Nadu Archives houses the records of various Departments of the Secretariat, erstwhile Board of Revenue, few Heads of Departments, pre-mutiny period records of Collectorates and District Courts and the records of defunct department. Tamil Nadu Archives feel proud to have in its possession the records dating back to 1670 A.D. The Secretariat records barring these of last three years and the records of the erstwhile Board of Revenue barring these of last 10 years are centralised in this Archives with a set of indexes to them. These records are arranged in six stacks of this Archives. The Pre-mutiny period records of all Departments are housed in one stack, besides the records in Dutch, Danish, Persian, Modi and Marathi are also housed in this Archives. There are in all about 48,85,739 files; 74,7431 Volumes and 2,163 bundles. The strong almirah documents such as documents of the Land Mortgage Banks, Co-operative Societies, Bonds and

agreements are preserved under lock and key. The Electoral rolls from 1962 onwards are also preserved here.

Besides supply of records and information to the creating agencies, this Archives also supply information to private individuals on the birth, death, marriage, nationality or services of their ancestors on payment of search and copying fees. Certified copies of Gazettee notification are supplied to the public on request by collecting requisite fees.

Conservation of Records

The preservation practices in Tamil Nadu Archives are noteworthy since it has been one of the leading exponents of scientific records preservation.

(i) Preservation Division

It consists of skilled menders, who are now designated as Preservation Clerks and Binders. The work of mending of records was started in 1921 with 6 skilled menders. This marks the beginning of the new era in the preservation aspect of record administration. At present this division consists of 38 Preserva-

tion Clerks and 10 Binders. The records which are very brittle are being repaired with "Chiffon" a silk gauze and handmade paper. The repaired sheets are properly stitched and bound in the Binding Wing of this Division.

(ii) Lamination

The fragile and brittle papers are being machine laminated with Cellulose acetate foil and Tissue Paper. Laminated documents are supposed to last a century and can be relaminated and provide with fresh acetate foils and tissue paper, giving it a fresh lease of life.

(iii) Deacidification of Records

Before the records are taken up for mending and Lamination, they are deacidified so as to remove the acidity in the paper.

(iv) Vacuum Fumigation Chamber A mass of records are regularly fumigated in Vacuum Fumigation Chamber by using Etoxidelgas. This is the most effective process in exterminating insects, mildew etc. It secures 100 percent kill without any damage to the papers. The records are also fumigated in small wooden cabinets with para-di-chlore benzene. Napthalene

bricks are also kept on record shelves.

(v) Microfilm Unit

A Microfilm Unit has been installed in this Archives in 1982. A programme of microfilming of records has been drawn and the records are being microfilmed. Microfilmings of records ensures authenticity of copying the original document. Further to have second line of defence in case the original is lost and also to avoid frequent handling of old records by the researchers by way of giving them microfilm copies of records for their study the records are microfilmed.

Reprographical Assistance

For providing reprographical assistance to scholars a Minolta Plain Paper Copies is provided in the Preservation Division. On requisition from the scholars copies of records are xeroxed and supplied to them on payment of the prescribed fee.

For reprinting old documents, and the Select documents prepare for publication, an Electronic Stencil Cutting machine with electrical operated duplicator has also been installed in this Archives.

Research Facilities:

The records preserved in this Archives is of immense value as a source of first hand information regarding the past. The year 1930 became a land mark in respect of historical research in this State. From this year onwards research scholars from universities began to step into this Archives for research purpose. The number of scholars who made use of this Archives in 1930 is only three and the number is gradually increased year after year and around 320 scholars are granted permission to consult records in this Archives every year. The research scholars who consult this Archives not only belonged to the Universities in Tamil Nadu, but also from other



States of India and Foreign Countries.

Records of more than 30 years old alone are open for research. There is a set of rules governing access to the records in Tamil Nadu Archives. Reference media exist in the form of Press lists, calendars, catalogues and indexes, besides guidesto District records. The Research Hall of this Archives is well furnished and it is kept open from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on all working days and from 9.45 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. on holidays. It remains closed only for 15 days in a year the dates of such holidays will be notified in advance. The scholars who desire to consult records in the Archives have to pay a caution deposit in the Postal Savings Bank on their names, which is refundable to them on production of

account of their research work in this Archives.

Publications:

This Archives was engaged in preparing calendars of the Revenue Records (1763-1800). Selections from records (1800-1857). The records from 1670-1760 numbering more than 310 have been printed in extenso. Besides, these, some old Dutch and Danish records. Ananda Ranga Pillai's Diary were also printed and published. Printing in extenso has been given up and at present 'Select Documents' on different, topics of interest to researchers and administrators, are being published.

Avana Amudham

In addition, the quarterly Archival Journal called 'Avana

Amudham" is also being published since October 1986. Though a latest venture, it has very good response from its readers. This journal as its name implies, brings to the readers the 'nectar' churned out of Archival matters. It carries articles and essays of research value.

Training Wing

Training in 'Record Management' is imparted to those who are in charge of Record Room in Government Offices since 1981. The period of training is 30 working days of which 15 days are set apart for theory and 15 days for practicals in mending and binding of records. This training is also given to the persons deputed by private concerns and public sector undertakings after collecting a course fee of Rs.500 per individual. After successful completion of training, certificates are issued to the trainees. So far 1,709 persons were given training in 'Record Management'.

Interim Repository

It is in practice that only non-current records, i.e., records of more than 30 years old, are preserved in Archives. But, in Tamil Nadu Archives even the current and semi-current records are preserved ever since its organisation. In order to preserve the semi-current records, an Interim Repository has been functioning since June 1987. The semi-current records which were kept in different stacks of this Archives were separated and preserved in the Interim Repository, which is now functioning in one of the Stacks of Archives, although it has to be organised in a separate building. The main functions of this repository, which is under the control of the Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research, are to supply records to the several departments of the Secretariat on requisition, centralise the records transferred from Secretariat, accessioning of

records, appraisal of records before they are transferred to Archives and retrieval of records from the Secretariat.

Archival Library

Archival Library is a centre for research. It is an institution within an institution. The Tamil Nadu Archives Library which was organised in 1923 with 15,000 books is, now, in possession of 2.5 lakh books of which 70 per cent of the books have been catalogued and the rest are being catalogued. This library is not a Lending Library, but only a consulting library. The Scholars, administrators and the members of this Archives make use of this library for research and official work. Copies of publications are acquired by means of transfer by the Departments and institutions, purchase gifts exchange basis. Books registered under the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867 are also preserved here.

Membership of other Archival bodies

Tamil Nadu Archives is an institutional member of the Association of Indian Archives, the British Records Association and International Council on Archives Paris. The State Government is represented on the Indian Historical Records Commission by the Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research and in the National Committee of Archivists by the Deputy Commissioner of Archives.

District Record Centres

With a view to centralise and preserve the records of historical and administrative value which are scattered in various Government Offices, in the Districts District Record Centres are organised in Madurai, Coimbatore, South Arcot, Trichy and Salem. Records of more than 30 years old are centralised in these District Centres. District Records

Centres in other Districts of the State will be organised, under plan schemes, in future.

Gazetteers

The Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research also supervises the Gaeteeer writing by an Editorial Wing comprising of an Editor and Assistant Editors. For writing of District and State Gazetteer, the Archival records are mostly referred to. The Gazetteers are guide book to administrators, reference books to scholars, text books for pupils and books of general reading for common people; as they portray the entire life in the district they dealt with. After Independence, the methodology for writing of Gazetteers has been modified, so as to give more importance to social changes particularly developmental activities as the pre-Independence Gazetteers are more a guide to administrators than a Gazetteers. For the Districts of Thanjavur, Madurai, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram (prior to trifurcation) and Pudukottai (post-Independence) Gazetteers have been brought out and the Gazetteers for the District of Dharmapuri, Kanniyakumari and the Nilgiris are in Press. The remaining Districts will also have post-Independence Gazetteers soon.

Tamil Nadu Council of Historical Research

The aim of this Council is to encourage those who possess the competence and ability to write connected account of the various aspects of life in the South by offering 4 Fellowships every year. The Minister for Education is the Chairman of the Council, Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research is the Member-Secretary, Secretary to Government, Education Department is an official Member besides three Non-Official members who are nominated from among the reputed

A PECULIAR HERO-STONE

A peculiar Hero-stone has been discovered by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology near a lake of Vadaseri, a hamlet of Inam Kulathur which is lying 18 K.M. south of Trichy on the Trichy, Madurai Trunk Road.

This stone is in rectangular shape having the bas-relief of a hero holding a bow in his left hand and a sword in his right hand. It is locally known as Villukaran Kallu, literally meaning the stone of bowman. On the right side of the hero an inscription is found written in ancient Tamil script datable to 9-10th century A.D. The epigraphy reads as follows:

"Sri Korrapudi Nirai pinbodi
Patta idam"

It seems that Srikorrapudi, the hero who ran behind the flock of cows had

died at this place.

The State Department of Archaeology has so far discovered nearly five hundred hero stones in the Districts of Thiruvannamalai, Sambuvarayar, Dharmapuri and South Arcot. A very few hero-stones were discovered in Trichy District. Of the hero stones of Trichy District this one is of great significance because it seems to be of a hero of a feudatory namely Irukkuvalir who ruled Konadu during 9th-10th century A.D. having their capital at Kodumbalur which is not far off from Vadaseri. If this hero-stone is proved to be of a soldier of Irukkuvel King, this would be the first of this kind. Hence it assumes more importance.

Another notable factor of this hero-stone is that this stone is erected where actually the hero had lost his life

presumably while rescuing the flock of cows that were taken by the enemies.

Another type of inscribed stones numbering three were also located at Inamkulathur itself by this department. These stones appear as pillars bearing the carving of a couchant bull bordered by floral scrolling and an epigraphy written in Tamil script assignable to 11th-12th centuries A.D. These inscriptions seem to mention that they were erected in order to cure some chronic diseases of some individuals.

All the above inscriptions were discovered by Thiru K.Sridharan, Registering Officer and Thiru Jayaraman, Junior Epigraphist of this office at the instance of Thiru M.A. Ponnusamy of Inamkulathur and Thiru M.Kuppusamy of Vadaseri.

historians and scholars. So far 19 Fellowships have been awarded by the Council. Though Tamil Nadu Archives facilitates historical research, it does not admit research students leading to the M.Phil, Ph.D. Degree. Proposals are on the anvil to upgrade this institution into an academic research for this purpose.

Regional Committee for survey of Historical Records

The main aim of this Committee is to bring to light the valuable manuscript and records in private custody, preserve list or catalogue and publish them and make them available for historical research. The Committee also furnish the particulars, about the availability of such records in private custody in Tamil Nadu, to the National Archives of India, New Delhi for incorporation in the National

Register of Private Records which is being periodically published by them. In order to unearth the importance of these private records, four Regional Committees have been constituted for the centre State of Tamil Nadu (viz., for Madras, Tiruchi, Madurai and Salem regions). The Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research is the Chairman for all these 4 Committees.

Central Financial Assistance Scheme

The Government of India provides financial assistance for compilation of 'Guides to the Records holding' on sharing basis to the extent of Rs.2.5 lakh per year. The contribution of the State Government for this project is 25 per cent of the total cost of the scheme. This Archives utilises the assistance and the work of the

preparation of Guide to the records holding of this Archives has been taken up.

To modernise the record preservation in this Archives, it is being considered to introduce advance electronic equipment in this Archives.

Although the primary function of this Archives is to preserve the valuable records in its custody, it renders valuable service to the administrators and society. Its importance is hardly recognised by the public and it may be due to the fact that it does not have direct link with the general public in the day to day administration. For any programme to succeed and function efficiently people's participation is essential. It is high time that the common public realise this and avail the opportunities.

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RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT OF MADRAS UNIVERSITY

University rest on its illustrious role as a centre of higher learning and research for more than 134 years. The University has strived with pioneering zeal and courageous wisdom to foster and strengthen the cause of advanced study in the academic world. It is one of the oldest Universities in the world and has sent from its portals year after year persons who have risen to eminence in all walks of life and have occupied and still occupy high offices all over the world.

Judged by its achievement in terms of the honours its students have won world over, it can be said that the University of Madras enjoys an enviable reputation among the Universities of the world.

UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS OF STUDY AND RESEARCH

There are at present 68 Departments of study and research spread over four campuses, viz., Chepauk, Marina, Guindy and Taramani, apart from three departments in the P.G. Extension Centre at Salem, one Department in the P.G. Extension Centre at Vellore (now functioning at Madras) and an Institute of Correspondence Education with eight departments. This apart there are 120 affiliated colleges and approved institutions.

There are 5 endowment Departments for Christianity, Islamic Studies, Jainology, Saiva Siddhanta and Vaishnavism. At the time of Post-Centenary Silver Jubilee Convocation in 1983, the then Chief Minister Dr. MGR announced the establishment of the Anna Centre for Public Affairs in the University with Rs. 21 lakh endowment from the party. Now the University envisages to convert this Centre into a

full fledged University Department and to expand and intensify its activities at a cost of Rupees one crore i.e. with Rs.50 lakh for building and infrastructure and another Rs.50 lakh of endowment for recurring expenditure. Currently, Anna Centre for Public Affairs together with the Department of Politics and Public Administration is arranging for a prestigious International Round Table on the theme of Democracy and Social Tensions in the Third World during January 27-31, 1992 in spite of limited resources and facilities.

It is to the credit of our University that three Centres of Advanced Study viz., Philosophy, Botany, Mathematics which were established by the U.G.C. have completed more than 25 years of useful role not only as centres of academic excellence but also winning international recognition.

In the University of Madras, the facilities for research leading to Ph.D., D.Sc., D.Litt., etc. are available with the Departments for full-time and part-time study. Scholars from educational, industrial, administrative, defence and other organisations are also encouraged to register for research degrees.

Each Department in the University has its own fields of specialisation and has tuned its activities accordingly. The faculty members both individually and collectively contribute in their chosen fields and serve societal needs directly or indirectly.

The Departments of Humanities and Social Sciences emphasise on the current problems and developments of their fields both in

It is a strange coincidence that the three foremost Universities of the country came to be established in the same year 1857, the Annus tristies of India. The University of Madras has crossed the stage of a "Mother University for other Universities" to enter into that of a "grand" mother University.

Although the jurisdiction of this University has been reduced to a great extent, still it is one of the largest Universities in the country in terms of the number of university departments, academic programmes, affiliated colleges and enrolment of students. This University further has been continuously diversifying and expanding its teaching and research activities and programmes, and improving the educational standards so as to make higher education keep pace with the explosion of knowledge in the modern world and at the same time to make it relevant to the needs of the developing society of this country. A number of new colleges, especially catering to the need of rural and women's education have been affiliated in recent years and several innovative interdisciplinary courses are being introduced in these colleges.

The name and fame of this

the nation and abroad. There are opportunities to study over 7 Indian and over 5 foreign languages.

The Centre for Advanced Study in Mathematics, named after the great mathematician Ramanujam, researches in the areas of Algebra, Numerical Analysis, Geometry, Computer Science and Probability Theories. The use of statistics for various researches in all other disciplines, application of computers for research purposes and day-to-day needs, formulation of physical theories for industrial application, study of nuclear physics, super conductivity of metals, nature of crystals, structure of DNA and RNA, origin of life, industrially based chemical studies, study of herbal compounds, photo chemistry, study of catalysts usable for petro-chemicals, industries, polymer studies, studies on different energies, the nature of earth, enhancement of the rate of reproduction of fauna in view of increasing wealth of nutritious sea foods - these are some of the thrust areas of the Science Departments. The Centre for Advanced Study in Botany focuses its attention on plant disease, use of the plants in the eradication of pollution from industrial wastes, use of oceanic flora in food and cloth industries and development of edible mushroom.

The eight departments in Taramani Campus concentrate on basic medical sciences. Genetical, bio-technological, endocrinological, bio-chemical, pathological, pharmacological and physiological researches are being conducted here. The study of genetically transmitted disease, repercussions of marriage between genetically related persons, diabetes, symptoms for different diseases, the reaction of inhaling polluted air, application of local herbs for the cure of jaundice, suitable remedies for various diseases and feasibility of transplanting tissues and cells from

the brain of the child in the womb to the affected adult brain, are some of the areas concentrated by these departments of Basic Medical Services.

AFFILIATED COLLEGES AND APPROVED INSTITUTIONS

The University of Madras has 113 Affiliated Colleges and 7 approved Colleges

Colleges	Men's Colleges	Women's Colleges	Co-Educational Colleges	Total
Arts & Science	28	24	31	83
Education	1	5	4	10
Law			2	2
Physical Education		1	1	2
Engineering			16	16
O.T.				
(Approved Colleges)	6		1	7
Total	35	30	55	120

In the year 1990-91, in the affiliated colleges to the University of Madras, there has been a total enrolment of 1,15,870 of whom 70,860 are men and 45,010 are women, which is 61% and 39% respectively.

The enrolment of students for Master's Courses in the University Departments alone is nearly 800 with more than 50% women students.

In M.Phil. Programme of the University Departments, there are 372 students (334 full-time and 38 part-time) with 54% women students.

In Ph.D Programme of the University Departments and Colleges the enrolment during the last two years is 860 of whom 553 are Men and 307 are Women. There are about 2000 candidates who have registered earlier and continuing their researches till date.

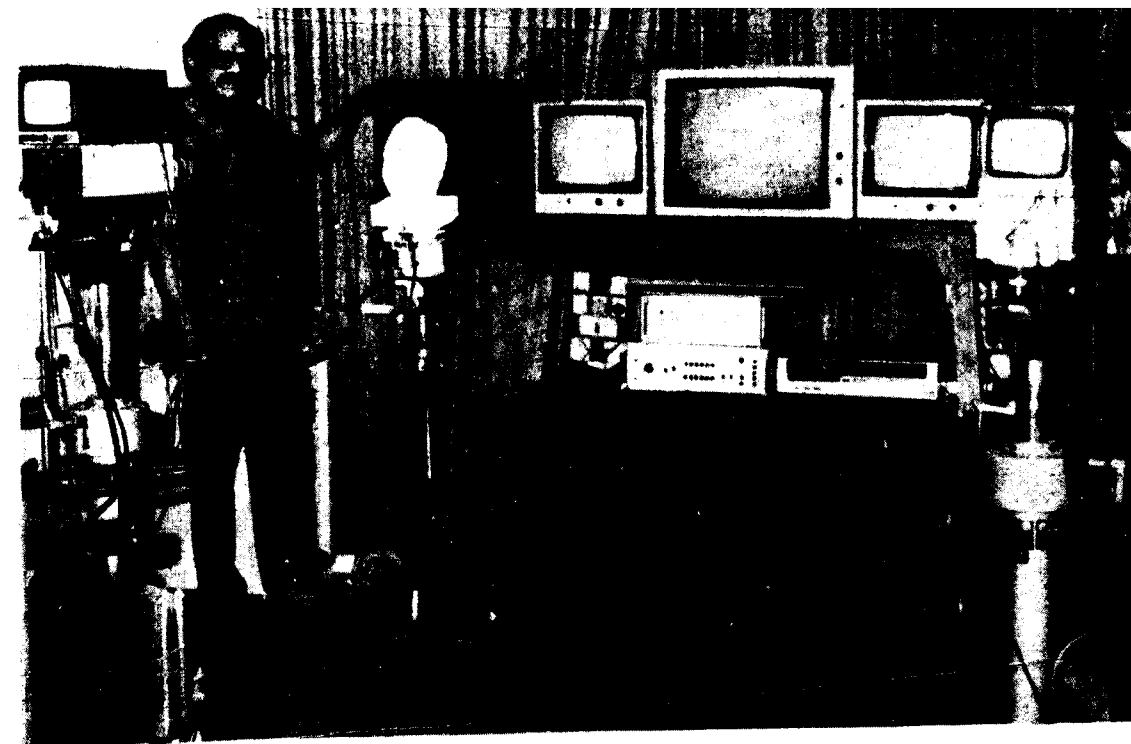
INSTITUTE OF CORRESPONDENCE EDUCATION

The Institute established in 1981 is now offering 21 undergraduate courses, (11 under Regular Stream

and 9 under Open University System), 10 post-graduate courses and 7 Certificate/Diploma Courses. There has been a steady increase in the enrolment of students year after year. There were about 64,000 men and 47,000 women candidates on the roll during the year 1990-91.

The University Library system spread over all the campuses of the University continues to be one of the largest in the country with above Five Lakh volumes. 248 theses accepted by the University for the award of research degrees have been added to the Library during the year, bringing the total number to 10,178. Periodicals numbering 1145 were received during the year. About 4694 volumes were added of which 420 were by donations. The U.G.C. allocated a sum of Rs.16 lakh for the modernisation of Madras University Library during VII Plan period and Rs.35 lakh for additional building.

Under the programme of modernization of the Library, the Department of Computer Science has been helping the Library to set up an on-line information search and world wide computer communication facility. A leased line circuit has been established between the Chepauk campus of the University and the Gateway packet switched service of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Similarly another hot line has been established between the Chepauk and Guindy Campuses of the University. Through this facility on line access is available to a number of international information source of value to several disciplines of the University. The facility is ready for commissioning. The Department of Computer Science has put up an exhibit at the recent Ind-Expo 91, an exposition entitled, "Information Technology" where this facility was demonstrated. The University has also been expecting to be included in the "INFLIBNET" Programme of the U.G.C.



A New Technique for Identifying the Dead

Prof. Dr. P. Chandra Sekharan, Director, Forensic Sciences Department has developed a new technique for identifying the dead. The new technique was developed due to the necessity that arose because of the strange circumstances that emerged after the assassination of Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

Identification of the dead body is not only the basic necessity but the most vital exercise in criminal investigation. All methods of identification are based on the comparison of ante-mortem records with post-mortem remains. If the facial features of the dead are intact, it is possible to identify the dead body by visual recognition by next of kith and kin or friends. The visual recognition is also a scientific process in which the ante-mortem recording of the physiognomy of the individual from the memory of the kith and kin is compared with the visual

facial features of the dead body. In this case the brain like a computer compares the previously recorded image in memory with the image of the dead person. Even in visual recognition, for some people, there will be a little problem if they are asked to identify the dead body of a person whom they have never met but seen only his photograph.

In some cases, as it happened in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, the person concerned may carry several names and there may not be kith and kin available to identify the dead body by visual recognition. What all may be available will only be the photographs taken at some point of time. The photographs may be a specific front view shot or a casual photograph along with a group of people. People who are acquainted only with the photograph of a person, comes across with the dead body of the same individual, then recognition becomes difficult.

In such circumstances the new technique developed by Dr. Chandra Sekharan will be quite useful. The technique involves preparation of the head model from the dead body and comparison of the same in the video comparator along with the photograph. It is possible to position the head model in the same posture as the individual has posed in the photograph and then compare the images in TV. screen, using two video cameras, a video vision mixer and a synchroniser. Dr. Chandra Sekharan uses for this purpose the Electronic Skull Identification Device fabricated by him in the early eighties. This is the only such unit in India and India was one among the three countries to use skull face video superimposition technique in 1980's.

The model of the head, Dr. Chandra Sekharan said, is much more useful than the skull, if facial features are found intact in the dead body. Making the model



of the head is not very costly. Applying alginate moulage material such as Zelgan or Finndent on the head, a mould of the head of the dead body is made, in two halves and then the model of the head in stone plaster is cast using this mould.

The model thus obtained will be a replica of the head and will have exactly the same size and shape of the head of the dead body. The head model is then mounted on the special stand fabricated by Chandra Sekharan. The stand can be tilted forward or backward and rotated left or right so that the head is positioned in the same posture as the face is seen in the photograph. Two servo motors attached to the special stand enable these two functions. The facial features and the anthropometric data of the photograph and the head model are compared by this technique to establish identity or otherwise. The human error can be eliminated to a great extent by this technique.

Prof. Chandra Sekharan said he is happy to dedicate this new

technique developed by him to the Government of Tamil Nadu to which he served for the past 33 years especially at the time when the cream of the police forces not

only from all States and Union Territories in India but all the central police agencies are assembled in Madras in connection with the 35th All India Police Duty Meet.

WRAPPERS

I - Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha.
(In connection with her 44th Birth Day)

II - Wrapper

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during the discussion on Cauvery Water Issue at New Delhi on 17.2.1992.

IV - Wrapper

In connection with the Mahamakham Festival at Kumbakonam Hon'ble Chief Minister releasing a Souvenir, postal cover and distributing food packets to 10 lakh people (18.2.1992).

SPICY STORIES

M.N. PUSHPA

Assistant Curator

Govt. Museum, Egmore,
Madras.

Spices are the vegetable products which have little or no nutritive value but are used by people to render ordinary food stuffs more palatable. They play a dominant role not only in culinary art but also in confectionary, in the preparation of beverages, liquors, cosmetics and in perfumes. The famed explorers of old who were searching for Gold paid almost equal attention to spices. It was the pursuit of these as much as anything that led men to the first rounding of the 'Cape of Good Hope' and the colonisation of East Indies.

The fame of the Indian Spices is older than recorded history. Centuries before Greek and Rome had their ships carrying to Mesopotamia, Arabia and Egypt, Indian Spices and Textiles. The lure of these had attracted many sea farers to the shores of India. Long before the christian era, the Greek merchants thronged the markets of South India buying Spices among other precious things. In the year 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered the "New World", by crossing the Western Ocean. 'Albuquerque' the great warrior in his attempt to bring all the Spice producing lands and trading ports under the dominance of Portugal conquered the ancient Spice port of Malacca by fighting against the Moslem World.

Ferdinand Magellan sailed through the straits with his two ships 'Victoria' and 'Trinidad'. The ship Victoria reached the harbour of Seville heavily laden with Cloves and it was the first ship to circumnavigate the world. The year 1497 marked another change in the Trade World. Because it was

then that Vascoda Gama was searching for a new route to the Spice lands of Asia. In a two year, 24,000 mile trip his ships were taken around the continent of Africa to India and back to Lisbon. Two out of the four surviving ships brought back a cargo of Spices and other products worth 60 times the cost of the said voyage.

The Spices of the East were valuable in Da Gama's time, because they could be used to stretch Europe's inadequate supply of food. During these middle ages a "pound of ginger was worth a Sheep" "a pound of mace worth three sheep or half a cow" and Pepper "the King of Spices" and the "Black Gold of India" worth a man's life. For three Centuries afterwards the nations of Western Europe, Portugal, Spain, France, Holland and Great Britain fought blood Sea-wars over the Spice producing colonies.

In ancient times man who was wandering through the woods had times of sickness when he intuitively sensed that those herbs which are so pleasant to the nostrils must have a healing effect used it as a medicine. He used it to appease the fearful demons and virtuous Gods. Thus came the uses and customs which have endured through the ages Spices for food, for healing and to placate the Gods.

Periander tyrant of Corianth (665-585) B.C. forcibly sent 300 sons of noble Corcyrean families to Ayathes and the Samians learning what was in store for the boys, hurried them into the temple of 'Diana'. Since the Corinthian Guards could not enter the temple, they stopped food supplies from reaching the boys. To prevent

the boys being forced to surrender through hunger a festival was originated by the Samans which called in part for choir of youth and Virgins to stand about the temple holding cakes of Sesame in their hands which the unfortunate boys might snatch.

'King Khofu' called 'Cheops' built the largest pyramid at Gizeh, 451 feet high and an inscription on the pyramid records the quantity of radishes, onions, and garlic consumed by the labourers who constructed it. The Spices were highly priced in those days but understandable when considering the hazardous voyages from the East and the number of hands through which these Spices passed.

In ancient times the Spices were presented to State Dignitaries on special occasions and in festive seasons, offered as political bribes; given as bonus to the Dock workers. The appropriateness of Spices to sacred uses, as burning of incense has long been recognised. Spices were used for the funeral pyres of Egyptian Kings. "Nero" had burnt at the obsequies of his wife a quantity of Cinamon and Cassia exceeding the whole importation in Rome for one year and the above mentioned Spices were valued in Biblical times also.

Spices are indispensable to the Native of India. In their production, India has always been pre-eminent, her ports having been resorted to the nations of the West, from pre-historic times, in search of these commodities.

Thus we could say the 'History of Spices' is one of adventure, exploration, conquest and fierce rivalry".

**OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL (A&E)
TAMIL NADU MADRAS-18**

**ALL TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT PROVIDENT FUND
SUBSCRIBERS**

It is notified for information of all subscribers that the work of despatch of GPF Account slips for the year 1990-91 has commenced in this office. Our aim is to place these Account Slips in your hands before the end of Feb.'92. They are being sent to the Heads of offices where you worked in Feb.'91.

Utmost care has been taken to ensure accuracy of Accounts. However for reasons beyond our control should you notice any discrepancies in your accounts, you are advised to write to the following officer of this office immediately, with full particulars of recovery, through your Head of Office.

All your letters may be subscribed "PROVIDENT FUND COMPLAINT" with relevant particulars i.e. GPF Account No with Suffix office/District/ Pincode, to enable us to have you case looked into promptly and advise you of the position expeditiously.

Assuring you of our best attention at all times.

Sri. N. RAMACHANDRAN,
Accounts Officer,
F.M.I. Section
Office of the Accountant General (A&E)
361, Anna Salai, Teynampet,
Madras-600 018.



NOTE: HAVE YOU FILED YOUR GPF NOMINATION?

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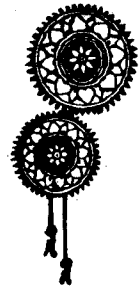


TAMIL ARASU

A Monthly Journal of Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiruvalluvar Year 2023

Panguni - Chithirai



APRIL - 1992

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ★ Job for one lakh women scheme launched.
- ★ Announcements made in the Legislative Assembly by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
- ★ Tamil Nadu Budget 1992-93 — Presented by
Hon'ble Minister for Finance
Dr. V.R. Nedunchezhiyan.
- ★ History of Gingee
- ★ Promoting Tourism in Gingee



CHIEF MINISTER RECEIVES PETITIONS

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha receives the petitions from the Public every Monday from 9th March 1992 onwards. Poor people, widows, deserted women, handicapped and elderly persons presented their petitions and explained their grievances to the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister listens patiently and sympathetically, and directs the officials to take speedy action on the petitions.





JOB FOR ONE LAKH WOMEN SCHEME LAUNCHED

A massive scheme to provide employment for one lakh women in Tamil Nadu was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at Kalaivanar Arangam on 3rd March 1992. The Chief Minister distributed cheques, tailoring machines, mixies and other assets to beneficiaries. In the first phase, the scheme will benefit 10,980 women. Ultimately 5,000 women in each District will be helped with financial assistance to improve their status through self-employment.

The Chief Minister struck an optimistic note that the scheme would prove to be a turning point in the history of women's development in the State.

The Chief Minister regretted that despite legal protection and overcoming various hurdles, the lot of women in society had not improved much. She pointed out that compared to male population, the number of women was less even today. The female infant mortality rate was 82, for higher than male infant mortality. And women constituted the majority of persons dying below the age of 35. She said according to the 1981 Census, 75 per cent, of women was illiterate. And the drop-out of girl students at the elementary school level accounted for 55.5 per cent and at the middle school level 77 per cent.



The Chief Minister said that 89.5 per cent of working women were in the unorganised sector. And of them, 82.3 per cent were engaged in agriculture and related activities. The number of women who had registered with the employment exchanges had gone up to 51 lakh.

"It is in such a distress situation that I have been entrusted with the responsibility of running the administration. And we are giving high priority for alleviating the distress of women. Even the party's election manifesto reflected the concern for women".

Detailing the steps initiated since her assuming office eight months ago, the Chief Minister said that the scheme to provide healthcare and nutrition for pregnant mothers would be extended to four Districts including Dhar-

mapuri next year.

Hon'ble Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah presided over the function and said though the number of women in educational institutions was almost equal to men, the employment opportunities weighed highly in favour of men. Unless this was corrected, the status of women would not improve.

Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Tmt. R. Indira Kumari said that the assistance to beneficiaries in the first phase would involve Rs.8 crore.

Thiru. R. Kirubakaran, Secretary, Social Welfare Department welcomed the gathering and Thiru. Dheenadayalan, Director of Social Welfare proposed a vote of thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER

Police and Fire Services

★ The Police Recruitment Board would start functioning in the next few months and select suitable persons for nearly 4,000 vacancies in the Police Department.

★ The subsidy on the supply of essential commodities to police personnel would be restructured with effect from April 1. The families of 68,000 police personnel would benefit from the concession which would cost the Government an annual additional expenditure of Rs.15 crore.

★ 11 Police outposts including at Thiruvallangadu, Mallikarai, Kotapatti and Vasudevanallur, would be made into fullfledged police stations during the year.

★ Security alarms will be installed in all jails in the State to prevent the escape of prisoners.

★ The permission of the Centre has been sought to provide training to the prison personnel in the State by the Border Security Force.

Information and Tourism

★ A Children's Film Festival would be held in Madras in June. Feature films produced in Tamil for children would be exempted from entertainment tax.

★ The work on the remodelling of MGR Memorial on the Marina would be completed before December 24, his birth anniversary.

★ The concept of Rajiv Gandhi Memorial in Sriperumpudur has been finalised and the work would start soon.

★ The Memorial for Periyar raised at Vaikom in Kerala is ready for opening.

★ The work on the carving of 133 ft. high Thiruvalluvar Statue to be installed at a cost of Rs.36 crore on the rock adjacent to Vivekananda Memorial in Kanniyakumari is in progress.

★ Foundation would be laid on April 16 for establishing the film city proposed by the Government at Adyar.

★ The exhibitions organised by the Government last year at Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem and Kumbakonam brought in a revenue of Rs.88.43 lakh.

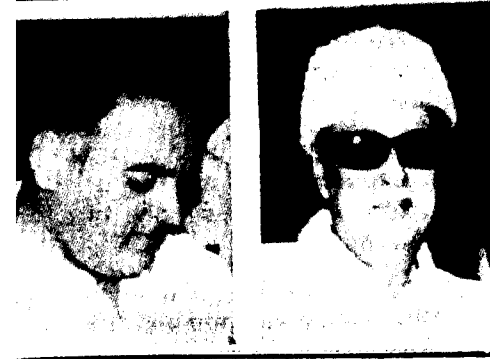
★ The pension for indigent journalists will be raised from Rs.400 to Rs.500 a month, effective from April 1.

★ An information centre of the Tamil Nadu Government will be opened in Delhi during the year.

★ A feature film being produced at a cost of Rs.85 lakh to highlight the evils of drinking will be released for screening in cinemas on October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Day and a drama produced at a cost of Rs.2 lakh will be staged from May 1.

★ Valluvar Kottam will be air-conditioned at a cost of Rs.50 lakh.

★ All ancient towns in Tamil Nadu will be recognised as 'Heritage Towns'. Mahabalipuram, Kancheepuram, Chidambaram, Kanniyakumari, Rameswaram, Tranquebar, Thanjavur, Kum-



★ A hostel would be built in Madras at a cost of Rs.10 lakh for the convenience of policemen from the districts visiting the city on duty.

★ With a view to improving the promotional opportunity for policemen, the quota for promotees from Constables to Sub-Inspectors would be increased from the present 30 per cent to 40 per cent.

bakonam, Srirangam, Tiruthani and Palani are among the Towns identified in the first phase as 'Heritage Towns', special area development authorities will be established in these towns.

★ The Nilgiris, Kodaikanal, the Shervaroyans and Courtallam will be preserved as 'Natural Heritage Area'.

★ House rent allowance and city compensatory allowance will be given to employees in hotels run by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation effective from April 1.

★ Cash incentives will be given for the best maintained hotels, restaurants and motels run by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation.

★ A hotel would be set up at the Old Law College Student's Hostel in Broadway at a cost of Rs.2 crore.

★ A hotel would be set up at Moyal Theevu, a tiny Island in the Gulf of Mannar.

Tamil Development - Culture

★ 500 More persons would be brought under the scheme of giving financial assistance to Tamil Scholars and Champions of the Language.

★ The Government have decided to extend fellowships for research in archaeology, excavations, explorations and other related works. The fellowship would be for three years and the selected persons would be given Rs.30,000 a year. And if the person is a Government employee, he would be given leave with full salary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY OTHER MINISTERS

Revenue

★ The Government has appointed one Deputy Collector in each of the 22 Districts specially

for receiving and disposing of petitions from the public.

★ 50 lakh pattas of Natham porambores would be issued in three years.

★ The income ceiling to get the grant of Rs.3,000 given to families which had lost their breadwinners has been increased from Rs.5,000 to Rs.6,400.

★ Tax have been exempted for computer software and it has been reduced for imitation jewellery from 5 per cent to 2 per cent.

★ 5 Per cent tax would be levied on all tapioca products.

★ Handicraft products manufactured by organisations approved by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and the Khadi and Village Industries Board, Tamil Nadu who offer employment to women and economically weaker persons are totally exempted from tax.

★ Tax is exempted for products sold by Social Welfare training organisations with an annual income not exceeding Rs.5 lakh, particularly institutions for physically handicapped and those set up for the mentally retarded.

★ The proposed Tribunal would deal with tax cases that were hitherto dealt with under the Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act. A Bill has been drafted and it would be introduced in the Assembly as soon as the Government of India give its concurrence.

★ Integrated checkpoints with weigh bridge facility would be set up for the Civil Supplies Department, Transport Department and the Commercial Taxes Department.

Health

★ The Government is contemplating to charge a nominal entrance fee in Government hospitals as a measure to restrict crowd, and as part of a Plan to maintain cleanliness in hospitals.

★ The Government has simplified the procedure for persons to get assistance under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for undergoing heart surgery or kidney transplant.

★ Assistance would be given if the patients attached along with their request for grant a certificate from the Government hospital stating that the patient needed the surgery. Doctors would be instructed to be available for an hour everyday just to examine the patients needing heart surgery or kidney transplant and to issue the certificates.

★ The Government has decided to introduce a prize scheme for those who volunteer to accept sterilisation.

★ People undergoing sterilisation in a month would be given coupons and the draw would be held the next month. As most of those going in for Family Planning measures are women, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has suggested that jewellery could be given as prizes.

★ A detailed system has been drawn up to ensure continuous availability of drugs in the hospitals.

★ A separate cell has been set up with computer facility to monitor the availability and supply of drugs in the hospitals.

★ The dates for calling of tenders will be clearly mentioned and the years requirement of drugs should be supplied in four instalments within the specified dates. The companies will be given seven days grace time to fulfil their commitment, and if they still delay the supply they will be black listed and will not be considered for placing orders in future years.

Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes

★ A provision of Rs.1343 lakh had been made for the job oriented training, the number of

beneficiaries would be doubled.

★ Thirteen girls' hostels would be opened at a cost of Rs.23.68 lakh and six girls hostels would be built at a cost of Rs.57.84 lakh.

★ Five middle schools would be upgraded as high schools.

★ Mini libraries would be set up in all the hostels of Backward Class and Most Backward Class students at a cost of Rs. 15 lakh.

★ An English and Tamil daily would be supplied to 400 hostels at a cost of Rs.5.60 lakh.

★ One hundred electrically operated kulala wheels will be supplied to potters at a cost of Rs.5 lakh.

★ A new complex for the special training institute at Madras would be constructed at a cost of Rs.35 lakh.

★ Students appearing for entrance examinations for admission to professional institutions would be given training through private institutions.

★ The Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Economic Development Corporation is undertaking a survey to identify the sections of people who had not benefitted so far under any of the welfare schemes initiated by the Government.

Forest

★ A 5 crore project for introducing forest cover on 10,000 hectares of private lands would be implemented by an independent agency securing financial assistance from the Swedish International Development Agency and refinancing facility from NABARD. The Agency would provide the required technical training for afforestation in private holdings and supply the required quantity of seeds of forest species and other inputs.

★ With a view to creating employment for one lakh Man-days for

rural women, an afforestation scheme for covering 4,000 ha. of degraded forest is to be taken up at a cost of Rs.20 lakh. Aerial spraying of seeds would be extended to 50,000 acres during 1992-93.

★ The entire forest area in the State would be linked through a wireless network in the next year. 45th Wireless units would be installed in forest area in Tiruchi, Madurai, Tirunelveli-Kattabomman, Dindigul-Anna, South Arcot, Ramanathapuram and Chidambaram Districts at a cost of Rs.52 lakh.

★ Rs.20 lakh have been allocated for purchasing vehicles. Fire arms would be purchased at a cost of Rs.9 lakh, which would be supplied to the forest officials.

★ A risk allowance of Rs.20 a month would be given to forest officers upto the level of Forest Rangers.

★ 71 posts of Assistant Conservator of Forests would be regularised.

★ A project titled 'Integrated Project for Restoration and Development for Forest Cover in the Degraded Forests in Tamil Nadu' at a cost of Rs.120 crore had been formulated and sent to the Government of India to get financial assistance from any donor sources. The project would cover afforestation over an area of 57,500 ha. and aerial seeding over an area of 50,000 ha. besides several other development activities. Rural Womenfolk would be involved on a major scale in the project.

★ Planting of trees along the course of the Palar, Ponniyar, Cauvery, Kothayar and the Gadilam is to be taken up at a cost of Rs.75 lakh.

★ The Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation has proposed to construct two more tea factories at a cost of Rs.5 crore.

★ A reward of Rs.10,000 would be given to those giving information on forest offences.

Housing and Urban Development

★ A Total of 1.10 lakh houses will be made available by various Government Agencies during 1992-93 and the investment in Shelter Programmes by the Agencies will be Rs.341.19 crore.

★ The Housing Board will commence work on 5,779 houses in 15 towns at a cost of Rs.41.32 crore. A sum of Rs.48 crore has been set apart for the house sites scheme.

★ 5,262 Rental houses will be constructed for Government Servants in 56 towns at a cost of Rs.62.08 crore.

★ Rs.25 crore have been allocated for sanctioning housing loans to Government servants. Arrangements have also been made to provide them loans through other financial institutions, to the tune of Rs.50 crore.

★ The Slum Clearance Board will construct 5,000 tenements with an outlay of Rs.25 crore in Madras.

★ A Joint Sector organisation will be established to take up work on the second phase of the MRTS from Luz to Taramani. The Government have allotted Rupees one crore as seed capital for the organisation. It has been estimated that the total outlay for completion of the scheme would be Rs.190 crore. The Government will approach financial institutions and the Joint Sector partners for funding.

★ The first phase of the project from Beach to Luz is being implemented by Railways.

★ The State Government have requested the Centre to take up the Second Phase of the Project also with full financial assistance.

★ After taking into consideration the increasing congestion on the roads, the State Government proposed to set up the Madras Rapid Organisation.

★ Aerial photo mapping of 30 towns at a cost of Rs.1.20 crore

have been taken up with the help of the National Remote Sensing Agency.

Town and Country Planning

★ Staff of the Directorate of Town and Country Planning would be trained in aerial mapping at a cost of Rs.5.60 crore at the Centre for Remote sensing of the Anna University.

★ Six towns will be covered during the year under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns at a total cost of Rs.6.69 crore.

★ Under the town improvement Plan, the assistance has been increased to Rs.5 crore from Rs.2.70 crore and a sum of Rs.33 crore would be spent on this, during the year.

★ Madras Metropolitan Development Authority (MMDA) has undertaken a special drive to clear the backlog of building planning applications. It gave approval to 887 applications out of a total of 1962 between December 1991 and February 1992.

★ A study on Madras Metro flood relief/storm water drainage is being taken up by the MMDA with the help of foreign experts and it would be completed within 13 months. It would suggest remedial measures to drain the swampy areas and protect it from seasonal floods and make it fit for better urbanised land use.

★ The Government will take steps to create a new township on a 3000-acre site at Pallikaranai on the outskirts of Madras.

★ Madras is one of the three cities in India to be included in the Citinet Regional Network for Economic and Social Development in South East Asia.

★ In Madras, a re-development Plan for Periamet area, which accounted for 40 per cent of the share of the Country's exports of leather, would be taken up with

the participation of the residents and consortium of private developers and financial institutions.

★ A comprehensive development Plan would be prepared at a cost of Rs.405 crore for the Adyar creek area development.

★ MMDA will take up certain integrated Urban Development Schemes providing developed space for the residential, commercial and industrial activities in and around Madhavaram. A total of 494 acres would be covered in phases during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

★ A guided Urban Development Scheme would be taken up with an outlay of Rs.13.5 crore to make available housesites to the economically weaker sections at reasonable prices.

Prisons

★ Reforms and improvements to prisons are being effected at a cost of Rs.359 crore. In the second phase training for personal and other improvements will be taken up at a cost of Rs.5.05 crore.

★ The Government have enhanced the daily wages of prisoners employed in different jobs inside the jails.

★ Wages for skilled workers have been increased from Rs.2 to Rs.6, for semi skilled from Rs.1 to Rs.4 and for unskilled from 50 paise to Rs.2. Nearly 10,000 inmates will benefit by this.

★ The Government have earmarked Rs.30 lakh for improving the basic amenities in prisons and also Rs. 2.36 crore for strengthening the security system in jails where terrorists have been lodged.

★ The Centre has conveyed its approval for releasing the balance amount of Rs.235.59 lakh towards its share in the modernisation of prison administration.

★ Orders have been issued for constituting the District Jail Advisory Board and for appointment of jail visitors.

★ The Government would launch a special programme for building houses for the prison staff and officers, and for repairing the existing houses through the Police Housing Corporation.

★ The Government have also increased its allocation to the Prison Department from Rs.8,000 to Rupees one lakh for sanctioning financial assistance to discharged Prisoners for their rehabilitation.

Public Works

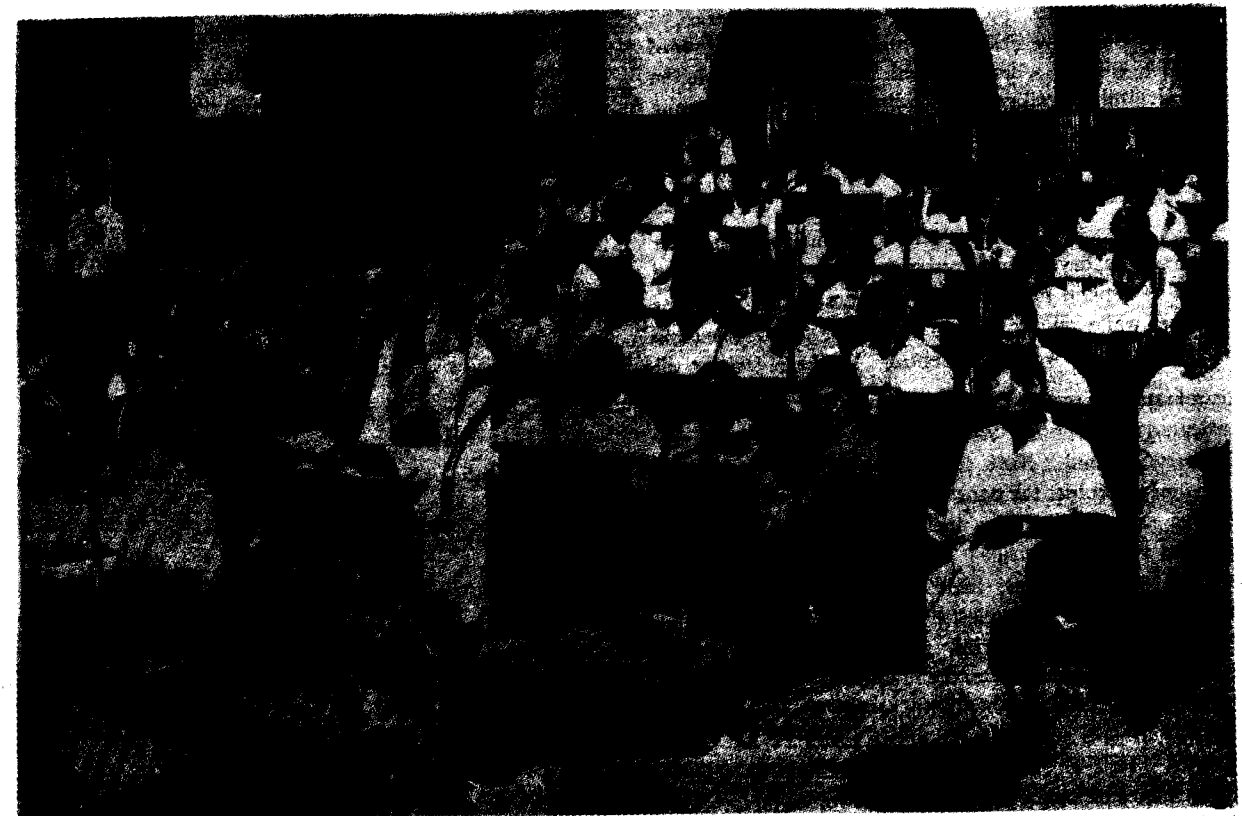
★ A Rs.235 crore Project for modernisation of Cauvery delta system will be implemented under the National Water Management Project which aims at increasing productivity and farm income.

★ Another scheme involving an outlay of Rs.550 crore for rehabilitation of the Cauvery delta system have been forwarded to the Centre for seeking external financial assistance.

★ A time table have been framed for the Krishna Water Project for completing the Tamil Nadu portion of work during 1993-94 so that the entire project will become functional during 1995. It has been proposed to complete the entire Kandaleru-Poondi Canal, link canal upto 10.5 km. formation of feeder Canal and raising levels of all reservoirs by 1993.

★ A ground water survey has revealed that of the total of 385 blocks, 43 in categorised as dark where the percentage of utilisation is 85 and above, and 76 blocks as grey where the percentage of utilisation is between 65 and 85. The Government has taken up the project for prevention of sea erosion in the North Madras Coastal belt at a cost of Rs.3.28 crore and a similar project will be taken up in the Kanniyakumari coastal belt.

★ Order has been passed for formation of two tanks at a cost of Rs.70 crore near Madras for storing surplus water from the Kottaliyar river during the monsoon.



TAMIL NADU BUDGET 1992 - 93

Presented by
Hon'ble Minister for Finance
Dr. V.R. NEDUNCHEZHIAN

Speech of Hon'ble Thiru V.R.Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu, presenting the Budget for 1992-93 to the Legislative Assembly on 6th March, 1992.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

தலைவர் அவர்களே திருவள்ளூர்
நீதிமன்ற மன்றம்

Eternal vigilance, perceptive knowledge and bold action are the three qualities which no Government can afford to forsake. These are the golden words of Sage Thiruvalluvar.

On behalf of the Government headed by Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, who has all the aforesaid virtues, I rise to place before the House, the Revised Estimates for 1991-92 and the Budget Estimates 1992-93. Heeding the advice of the Tamil sage Thiruvalluvar, we have striven to overcome the greatest adversity to bring peace and prosperity to Tamil Nadu.

2. The twin challenges before the Government were to restore peace and tranquillity in the State and take it again on the road to prosperity. There can be no growth and

economic prosperity without peace and tranquillity. Members are aware of the firm and resolute steps taken by Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha to restore law and order and ensure peace and tranquillity so that the people can live without any fear. The perfect maintenance of law and order, a prerequisite for planned development has enabled the Government to take up the challenge of ensuring rapid economic development.

3. Members are aware of the critical economic situation confronting the country. The Centre has embarked on the process of integrating the Indian economy with the global economy. In this process some changes are no doubt necessary. The crisis in the balance of payments situation and the mounting debt service burden had led to a virtual economic breakdown in the country. Hon'ble Members should note that the management of the balance of payments situation and external debt have now got increasingly linked with the management of the domestic economy. Management of all these macro economic variables vests with the Centre. In the meeting of the National Development Council held in December 1991, the Hon'ble Chief Minister appealed to the Centre to give the highest priority to the

control of inflation with particular reference to the needs of the poor and the underprivileged. We are glad that in the latest Central budget, care has been taken to refrain from taking steps which will affect the poor. While we endorse the need for economic reform, we urge the Centre to take effective steps to control inflation.

4. State Governments, which are so much closer to the people, have been placed in the unenviable position of having to explain to the people the reasons for the price increase, while all the instruments of macro economic management are with the Centre. We have taken all possible steps to ensure that the quality of life of the people, particularly the poor and the underprivileged are protected. Tamil Nadu has the most comprehensive safety net to protect the poor. This safety net covers food, clothing and shelter. It also includes special protection for the most vulnerable, namely infants and mothers, children and old aged destitutes. In 1991 we have supplied 17.31 lakh tonnes of rice, the highest ever level, through the public distribution system. Rice prices in the public distribution system, even after the revision necessitated by the revision of rice prices by the Centre remain the lowest in the country. Thanks to the special efforts taken by the Chief Minister, the Government has successfully distributed 18,000 tonnes of palmolein at a price lower than that fixed by the Centre. The traders' levy has been kept in abeyance with a view to bringing down the price of rice in the open market. Rice prices have dropped in February 1992. Procurement of paddy in the current year has been excellent and we are confident of reaching a peak level of 14 lakh tonnes of paddy. Members will be reassured to know that there will be adequate and effective distribution of rice in the public distribution system. Dehoarding and anti-smuggling operations have been intensified. This Government has done its utmost to bring down prices despite the overall inflationary pressures in the economy.

5. While there has been concern over the Centre's fiscal situation, the position of the States has not merited the attention needed. In our federal polity, there is a basic imbalance between the resource base available and the duties and responsibilities of the States. Unfortunately, the Ninth Finance Commission's recommendations have not helped in narrowing this imbalance. In the changed economic context, the role of the States has become even more important. This has to be accompanied by a thorough reappraisal of Centre - State financial relations.

6. Consistent with the philosophy of a strong Union and prosperous autonomous States, the Constitution would need changes, to ensure that all the powers to protect and safeguard the sovereignty of the nation are with the Centre, while all the powers for the welfare of the people are entrusted to the States.

7. The Centre has requested the States to play a key role in facilitating industrial development and the export effort. Unfortunately no part of the Corporation Tax is shared with the States. We urge the Centre to share with



the States a reasonable proportion of this tax. The Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister requesting introduction of a legislation for the levy of consignment tax. We would once again urge the Centre to introduce a bill to provide for this levy in the current session of Parliament.

8. At a time when we are seeking to strengthen the resource base of the State, the latest announcements by the Union Finance Minister in the Central budget regarding small savings pose a severe set back to the States to mobilise resources. The States have come to rely on small savings as a major resource for their plans and developmental programmes. Withdrawal of provisions intended to augment small savings will result in a sharp decline in the collection of small savings. Further, even in the remaining provision for savings, small savings have been opened to competition from other instruments which have much better returns. We would urge the Centre to immediately correct the situation and make small savings attractive enough so that the State's resource base is protected.

EIGHTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

9. Members of the House are aware of the delay in the finalisation of the Eighth Five Year Plan which was originally scheduled to start from 1st April 1990. The

National Development Council met in December 1991 and finalised the approach to the Eighth Plan rescheduled to start from 1st April 1992. Recent discussions between the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission covered the Annual Plan for 1992-93. The Eighth Plan has not yet been discussed. Our preoccupation with the immediate economic crisis should not result in the neglect of long term goals of higher growth, reduction in unemployment and eradication of poverty. It is hoped the Union Planning Commission will take an early view on the formulation of the Eighth Plan.

FINANCIAL POSITION

10. Members of the House are aware of the unprecedented financial crisis which confronted this Government when it assumed office. Faced with a massive deficit of Rs.1220 crores in financing the Plan outlay of Rs.1600 crores, the Government had to make a choice between development or stagnation. We could of course have chosen the easy course of reducing the plan outlay for the current year. This would however have meant severe cut backs on development outlays. We have instead chosen the more difficult option of raising additional resources and eliminating losses in public sector undertakings to ensure that the Annual Plan outlay of Rs. 1600 crores for 1991-92 is performed without any shortfall.

11. Members of the House will no doubt appreciate the significant achievement of the Government in tackling the extremely serious fiscal crisis. Many experts predicted a fiscal break down and a large shortfall in the plan outlay. I am glad to announce that we have, thanks to the able direction of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and by her resolute action averted a fiscal break down and at the same time ensured that the Annual Plan outlay for 1991-92 is performed without any shortfall. It must be noted that we have not received any special assistance from the Centre although this Government had to assume office confronted by a virtually impossible fiscal situation.

12. We have tackled many of the fiscal issues confronting the Government. Some more remain. These require bold action. We have undertaken the corrective process tempered by a deep concern for the poor and the underprivileged.

ANNUAL PLAN

13. We have chosen to place the highest emphasis on planned development even though the overall economic situation in the country has made the task extremely difficult. Hon'ble Members of the House are aware of the resolute action taken to fulfill the approved Annual Plan outlay of Rs.1600 crores in 1991-92. We are confident that this plan outlay will be fully achieved. Honourable Members are aware of the difficulties faced by the State in securing a higher plan outlay for the year 1992-93. The Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.J.Jayalalitha steadfastly refused to accept the suggestion of the Union Planning Commission that Tamil Nadu, in the context of its difficult financial situation, should go in for a lower plan outlay in

the coming year. It was solely due to the Chief Minister's relentless efforts that ultimately Tamil Nadu's just cause for a higher plan outlay in 1992-93 was accepted. Members of the House are already aware of the tremendous efforts taken to secure and obtain a plan outlay of Rs.1751 crores for the year 1992-93.

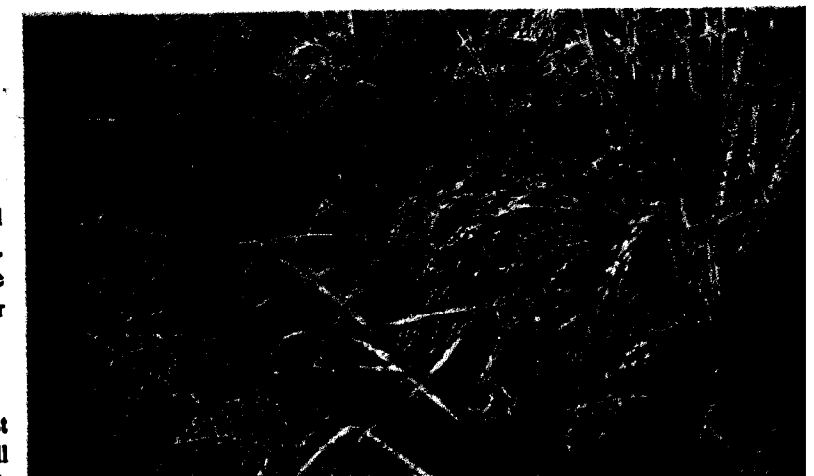
POLICE

14. We have to guard against any malevolent force trying to tear asunder the strong fabric of our society. The police force has been rejuvenated and enthused to safeguard law and order in the State. We shall continue the process of modernisation of the police force and the process of reform intended to ensure that the force remains forever the zealous guardian of law and order in the State.

15. The budget includes a total provision of Rs.276.31 crores for the police force. We have approached the Centre for assistance for a detailed plan to modernise the police force at a cost of Rs.80.45 crores. The Centre has so far sanctioned Rs.10 crores. This first phase is under implementation. We hope that additional amounts will be forthcoming from the Centre to completely implement the modernisation plan.

16. We are also in the process of establishing the Uniformed Services Recruitment Board which will ensure proper recruitment of personnel for the uniformed services.

17. We have revived the Police Housing Corporation. It has taken up the construction of 1000 quarters for the police force. An additional 1000 quarters will be taken up in the coming year.



AGRICULTURE

18. Members are aware that both rice production and overall food grain production in the current year will reach the highest ever levels. This extraordinary achievement has been made possible due to the efforts of the farmers of Tamil Nadu with the full support of the Government. The plan outlay on agriculture and allied activities has been stepped up to Rs. 215.75 crores in the coming year from Rs 187.53 crores in the current year.

19. The new programme to bring under cultivation permanent fallow and waste lands has been taken up in right earnest. In the current year up to January, 1992 we have covered 6,500 acres. We intend to extend the programme in the coming year to cover 12,500 acres with an outlay of Rs 75 lakhs.

20. With support from the World Bank we are implementing the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project (TNADP) at a total cost of Rs.309.29 crores. This comprehensive project will cover agriculture and all allied activities. It will enable production of quality seeds, proper organisation of extension activities and the absorption of new technologies.

21. We have launched a Comprehensive Watershed Development Programme with assistance from DANIDA in Nellai Kattabomman and V.O.Chidambaranar districts. A similar programme will be started in the coming year in Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar and Kamarajar districts at a total cost of Rs 10.50 crores with assistance from DANIDA.

22. Members are aware of the new thrust being given to the economic use of water in irrigation. We shall popularise drip and sprinkler irrigation. This will be made available for all crops with particular emphasis on oil seeds and horticulture. In the coming year a total outlay of Rs 1.87 crores will be provided as subsidy to farmers to take up such irrigation systems.

23. The National Watershed Development Programme for rainfed areas (NWDPA) has been taken up during the current year to cover 84 blocks in 14 districts. 2.2 lakh acres will be covered under this 4 year programme with appropriate cropping systems. The total project cost is Rs 35.61 crores.

24. A training programme for women in agriculture (TANWA -II) with assistance from DANIDA will be launched shortly in 6 districts namely, North Arcot - Ambedkar, Salem, Dharmapuri, Periyar, Trichy and Kanyakumari. This 8 year project will train 9000 women each year in improved agriculture. The total cost of this project will be Rs 18 crores.

25. Members are aware of the shortage of edible oil in the country. We are required to import palmolein to keep the price down. It is essential that we increase the domestic availability of edible oil. We intend to undertake a project to raise oil palm in the State at a total cost of Rs 24.89 crores. This project will be implemented with assistance from the Centre and Commercial Banks.

26. A long range vision of food production in Tamil Nadu particularly in the context of the shortage of water resources requires that we utilize the latest technology. Bio-technology is an exciting new field holding immense promise. We have decided to launch a District Bio-Technology utilisation programme (BUD) whereby various new initiatives in bio-fertilizers

and bio-pesticides will be harnessed to ensure sustainable growth in agriculture.

27. We visualise horticulture development in Tamil Nadu as a major growth area. We have decided to launch 100% export oriented horticulture estates. These estates will have all concessions applicable to industries.

IRRIGATION

28. Members of the House are aware of the situation in the Cauvery dispute. In the recent talks convened by the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalitha reiterated in unambiguous terms the stand of the Government of Tamil Nadu that the interim order of the Tribunal as confirmed by the Supreme Court should be implemented. We will continue to reiterate this stand.

29. Tamil Nadu has virtually utilised its surface water resources. We have formulated a composite medium and minor irrigation project with an outlay of Rs.310 crores to be implemented with external aid. Pending clearance we have decided to take up the initial work on all these schemes.

30. We shall take up a new reservoir project across Vaipar river near Irrukkangudi in Sattur Taluk of Kamarajar District at a cost of Rs.28.70 crores. This project will provide irrigation facilities to 9156 acres and will stabilise irrigation in 627 acres. We shall also take up detailed investigation of the 18th Canal in Uthamapalayam Taluk in Madurai District.

31. 75 projects under the Special Minor Irrigation Programme (SMIP) are under execution. We shall take up 19 new projects in the coming year with a total outlay of Rs.3.55 crores.

32. Phase-II of the Tank Modernisation Project with assistance from the European Economic Community (EEC) is being implemented in the districts of North Arcot - Ambedkar, South Arcot, Chengalpattu - MGR, Pudukkottai, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Kamarajar, Ramanathapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Dindugal-Anna Thiruvannamalai Sambuvayaray, Thirunelveli Kattabomman and Chidambaranar. 150 large tanks with total ayacut of 50,000 acres will be covered under this project. 80 small tanks with an ayacut of 5,000 acres will also be taken up under this project. Rs.19 crores has been provided for this project in 1992-93.

33. An outlay of Rs.17 crores has been provided for the National Water Management Project. Work on Sethiathope and Marudhanadhi sub projects has commenced in the current year. The Tholudur regulator system sub project at an estimated cost of Rs.5.13 crores will be taken up. Investigation of the sub projects to cover Tirukoilur anaicut system, Ellis Choultry anaicut system, Krishnagiri reservoir and Nedungal anaicut system is under progress.



FORESTS

34. It has been estimated that annually we are losing about 62,500 acres of forest area. We have already lost 15.625 lakh acres. We have decided to take up new programmes to set right the situation. We have taken up afforestation in about 1,62,500 acres this year. In the coming year 1,70,000 acres of land will be covered under various afforestation programmes at a total cost of Rs.47.65 crores. This will be the largest area ever tackled under afforestation programmes.

35. The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) assisted social forestry project phase II is under progress at a total cost of Rs.85.4 crores. The outlay in the coming year for this project will be Rs.22.85 crores. We have also posed to SIDA, Phase III of this project with an outlay of Rs.170 crores. Under this new project, it is proposed to cover about 2.5 lakh acres with forest cover. We have already started work on establishing the State Forest Research Institute at Vandalur. A sum of Rs.10 lakhs has been provided in the coming year for this purpose. We shall include the development of this Institute in Phase III of the Social Forestry Project.

36. The Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation has commenced work on a major new project with an outlay of Rs.60 crores to cover 7500 acres with tea. In the coming year the target is to ensure planting of tea in 1500 acres.

37. Members of the House will be glad to know that we have been able to secure assistance to implement a massive project to cover 75,000 acres with improved varieties of pulp wood. This project will be implemented at a total cost of Rs.84.73 crores in a period of 6 years. In the coming year it is proposed to plant 12,500 acres.

38. We have taken resolute action to control sandal wood smuggling. We have allotted Rs.75 lakhs to purchase modern arms and ammunition, communication facilities and vehicles. We have also stepped up the provision for payment of rewards. An exclusive Court to handle forest offences, in particular sandal wood smuggling will be established at Tirupattur shortly.

39. It is not enough that the Government alone undertakes afforestation programmes. The people have to be fully involved in these programmes. Besides, we have also to encourage farmers to take up tree planting in a big way, particularly in degraded lands. A total amount of Rs.1.92 crores is provided in 1992-93 for such tree planting and private land afforestation programmes.

40. Members of the House will be happy to know that we have decided to launch a Sustainable District Forestry Programme (SDFP). The emphasis in this programme is to ensure that each district becomes self-sufficient in its requirement of wood. This programme will first be launched in Chengalpattu - MGR, Madurai and North Arcot - Ambedkar districts.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

41. We have decided to give the highest priority to the provision of better veterinary health services and facilities to upgrade livestock. A programme to provide frozen semen services in the balance 1127 veterinary dispensaries and subcentres at a cost of Rs.1 crore has been launched. This programme will be completed by 30th June, 1992. The frozen semen production facilities at Hosur and Eachenkottai are being expanded at a cost of Rs.2.68 crores. We have also reorganised the frozen semen supply system, forming frozen semen banks at district headquarters. With support from the World Bank, an outlay of Rs. 2.3 crores has been provided in 1992-93 for improvements to veterinary services and livestock upgradation programmes.

42. Usually about 10 new veterinary dispensaries are established every year. We have decided to establish 400 veterinary dispensaries at a total cost of Rs.1.25 crores in 1992-93. All the 400 new dispensaries will be established in the coming year. Members of the House will welcome this massive effort at providing animal health care services. The immunisation programme will be strengthened with the provision of refrigerated mobile vans. The facilities for production of vaccines and medicines at Ranipet will be strengthened at a total cost of Rs.1.12 crores.

43. Operation Flood - III, a project designed to improve the production and distribution of milk and milk products is being implemented in 8 districts to benefit 18 lakh farmers at a total cost of Rs. 62.2 crores. A new dairy with a capacity of 4 lakh litres at Sholinganallur is under construction. The revision of milk prices has enabled the payment of better prices to farmers. The price for buffalo milk has been increased from Rs.65 to Rs.90 per kg. of fat. We shall also ensure proper prices during the lean season. The Government has provided Rs.10 crores as support to the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producer's Federation to clear the arrears due to the farmers who have supplied milk to cooperatives.

44. The sheep development project with assistance from the European Economic Community is under implementation in the districts of Salem,

Dharmapuri, South Arcot, Chengalpattu-M.G.R and North Arcot-Ambedkar and Thiruvannamalai-Sambuvaravayar districts at a total cost of Rs.13.67 crores. The DANIDA assisted project in Pudukottai district to upgrade livestock is being implemented at a total cost of Rs.4.4 crores.

FISHERIES

45. We have planned to bring 2500 acres under brackish water prawn farming in the coming year. A prawn farming industrial estate will be established by the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation in Chidambaranar District. This will cover 222 acres at a total cost of Rs.7.2 crores. We shall follow a flexible policy of encouraging large houses to establish large prawn farming projects while at the same time encouraging small farmers to be linked to such projects. We shall also take up as a pilot scheme the establishment of fresh water prawn hatcheries.

46. We have finalised a new Integrated Marine Fisheries project at a cost of Rs.15.88 crores. The newly formed Tamil Nadu Fisheries Cooperative Federation will implement this project. Under this project 6050 fishermen residing in 34 coastal villages will be provided with fishing crafts and gear, outboard and inboard engines, etc.

47. We have taken special steps to enhance the production and supply of fish seed. Tamil Nadu's annual requirement is 17 crores of fish seeds and the shortfall is 11 crores of seeds. We have encouraged farmers to take up fish seed farming and we expect the supply to match the demand in the coming year.

48. We have taken steps to improve the quality of life of fishermen. 2100 free houses for fishermen are under construction at a cost of Rs.3.46 crores. 2000 more houses will be built in the coming year. The family insurance scheme has been modified enhancing the amount from Rs.15,000 to Rs.21,000 for the family of a fisherman who dies at sea. The off season relief amount has been enhanced from Rs.60/- per month to Rs.270/- per month.

EDUCATION

49. The Budget provides for a total amount of Rs.1518 crores for general and technical education. This includes a plan outlay of Rs.70.81 crores.

50. In the context of the overall financial situation, it is necessary that the available resources are utilised for school education particularly at the primary level. We have formulated a project at a cost of Rs.62.47 crores, to be implemented with assistance from the Centre to improve the quality of primary education. This project to be implemented in a period of 3 years will ensure that every primary school has a minimum of three teachers. Adequate buildings and teaching aids will also be provided under this project.



51. A long term comprehensive school education project costing Rs.1200 crores to be implemented in a period of 7 years has also been finalised. We have approached the World Bank for assistance for this project.

52. As an immediate measure a second teacher will be provided to all the 459 single teacher schools. New schools will be opened in 200 habitations with a population of more than 500 which do not have a primary school within 1 Km. In all 1400 posts of secondary grade teachers will be created to handle the additional enrolment.

53. 20 High Schools and 10 Higher Secondary Schools will be established in the coming year. We have already mobilised assistance from HUDCO and taken up construction of 64 High School Buildings at a total cost of Rs.3 crores. 64 more High School Buildings at an additional cost of Rs.3 crores will be taken up. The vocational system in Higher Secondary Schools will be improved providing additional facilities in 1375 schools in a phased manner. We have provided Rs.50 lakhs to equip 50 Higher Secondary Schools with science laboratories and equipment.

54. We are finding it extremely difficult to provide resources for higher education. It is therefore important that the cost of higher educational services is recovered at least to some extent. Some modifications of the charges for higher education will be necessary to at least partially cover the increased costs. Despite the constraints in resources, we have launched a programme to improve polytechnics with assistance from the World Bank at a cost of Rs.76 crores. Improvements in 55 polytechnics will be taken up under this project.

55. The total literacy programme has been taken up in 7 districts in the current year. It will be extended to the districts of Ramanathapuram, Dindigul - Anna, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam Quaid-E-Milleth, Madras, Coimbatore, Periyar, South Arcot, Salem and Dharmapuri in the coming year. The outlay on this programme in the coming year will be Rs.15 crores. This programme will cover 25 lakh additional persons in 1992-93.

56. In the last Budget I had announced that a new programme, the State Non-formal Education

Programme(SNEP), would be launched to tackle the problem of drop outs. We had approached the Centre for assistance for this programme. The Centre has not been able to fund this programme. We have decided to go ahead with the programme. The programme will be dovetailed with the total literacy campaign. It will therefore have to be implemented in phases. The existing scheme of unemployment relief given to the educated unemployed youth will be modified and educated unemployed youth will be given work in this new programme. We expect to engage 1.5 lakh educated unemployed youth in this programme. In addition these youth will also be involved in a campaign against the drink evil.

57. We have decided to give a big thrust to the library movement. At present there are 2465 public libraries. We shall launch a five year programme under which every village having a population of more than 5000 will have a public library. 625 such villages will thus be provided with libraries. Each public library will be well stocked with dictionaries and important books such as the works of Thiruvalluvar, Subramania Bharati, etc. This programme will cost Rs.85 lakhs. We shall also encourage the establishment of part-time libraries wherever there is response. We propose to establish 300 part-time libraries in the coming year. In order to finance this programme of improvement to public libraries it is proposed to increase the library cess from 5 paise to 10 paise per rupee of property tax. The total literacy programme and the public library movement will spread awareness among our people.

TAMIL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE

58. We have formed a new Directorate of Culture and Traditional Arts. All existing agencies will be brought under the aegis of this Directorate.

59. The project to locate archaeological evidence of the sea farers tradition of the ancient Tamils will be continued in association with the National Institute of Oceanography.

60. A chair in the memory of poet Bharathidasan will be instituted in the Tamil University, Thanjavur, for undertaking research into his contributions to Tamil literature and culture.

61. The use of Tamil will be encouraged at all levels. We shall, in association with interested non-Governmental organisations, bring out English to Tamil



and Tamil to English dictionaries to enable officials to freely use Tamil. The latest usages will be made available in these publications.

62. The project to translate Kamba Ramayanam from Tamil to English will be completed shortly.

63. The Government will extend assistance to Tamil scholars who come forward to translate outstanding works of Tamil literature.

NUTRITION

64. The outlay for the Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. Nutritious Noon Meal Programme will be Rs.256.32 crores as against Rs.235.94 crores in the current year. We have expanded and strengthened this programme.

65. Supplementary nutrition will now be provided to children in the age group from 6 months to 24 months. Pregnant and lactating mothers who are under risk will also be covered under this programme. The expanded project will cover 7 lakh children and 2 lakh pregnant and lactating women. These expanded services are now available in 15 districts. In the coming year, they will be extended to Dharmapuri and South Arcot districts. Rs. 40 crores has been provided in the budget for the provision of additional services in the nutrition programme.

66. There are 2.45 lakh part-time employees engaged under this programme. They have been requesting the Government repeatedly for improvements in their emoluments. These employees who are engaged on part-time basis are at present on fixed honorarium. They are also not entitled to dearness allowance. Considering the rise in prices we have decided to give them an adhoc increase in honorarium with effect from 1st April, 1992. This will be Rs.20/- per month in respect of part-time employees being paid more than Rs.150/- per month and Rs.10/- per month in respect of those getting less than Rs.150/- per month. This will cost the Government an additional amount of Rs.4 crores per annum.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

67. We have tried to give meaning to the concept of 'Health for All' by initiating the Puratchi Thalaivi Maruthuva Nala Thittam. Under this programme so far 2347 camps have been conducted. 14.54 lakh people have been covered so far. Totally 10000 camps will be conducted. This is the largest sustained health reach out programme organised anywhere in the country.

68. The total outlay on Health and Medical Services has been stepped up to Rs.463.66 crores from a level of Rs.409.09 crores in the current year. The provision for drugs and medicines has been stepped up to Rs.46 crores in the coming year.

69. Starting from the sub-centre at the village level to the large medical college hospitals, it is necessary to manage the health system efficiently. We shall place

the highest emphasis on proper control and management. At the village level both nutrition and health services will be fully integrated. The total number of Primary Health Centres has reached 1505. In the current year we have enhanced the provision for drugs at the Primary Health Centre level from Rs.30,000 to Rs.40,000 per year. This will be further enhanced from Rs.40,000 to Rs.50,000. The additional cost will be Rs.1.5 crores. 159 Primary Health Centre buildings have been taken up for construction so far at a cost of Rs.9.41 crores. 21 Primary Health Centre buildings will be taken up in the coming year at a cost of Rs.1.57 crores.

70. Under the already announced programme of upgrading taluk hospitals to have a minimum of 32 beds, we have taken up in the current year establishment of 222 additional beds in 14 hospitals at a cost of Rs.1.25 crores. Under this programme establishment of 175 beds in 14 taluk hospitals will be taken up at a cost of Rs.1.56 crores in the coming year.

71. Members of the House are aware of the phased programme for increasing the bed strength in all headquarters hospitals to a minimum of 200 beds. In the coming year construction of 24 bed wards will be taken up in the district headquarters hospitals at Sivagangai and Dharmapuri. All district headquarters hospitals will be provided with ultra sound scanners in the coming year. The programme for provision of ambulance services to taluk and district hospitals will be continued and 14 vehicles will be provided in the coming year.

72. The World Bank supported India Population Project V will be extended to cover 8 more towns at a cost of Rs.10 crores. We have sought for assistance from DANIDA to take up a major health project to cover Dharmapuri, Thanjavur and Nagapattinam-Quaid-e-Millet districts with an outlay of Rs.59.2 crores.

73. The World Bank is likely to support on an all India basis a major Blindness Control Project. We have formulated plans for implementation of this project in Tamil Nadu at a total cost of Rs.44.23 crores.

74. A new complex at a cost of Rs.1.1 crores to accommodate the campus of Dr.M.G.R. Medical University will be constructed in the coming year. Work on the Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical college at Salem will be expedited. The Budget provides for provision of various facilities in this college. We shall also open Nurses training schools in 3 district headquarters hospitals.

75. A major project costing Rs.80 crores to upgrade the facilities at Sri Ramachandra Medical college has been posed for Japanese assistance. This project is now pending with the Centre. We would like to request the Centre to obtain support from the OECF (Japan) for this project.

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

76. A recent detailed survey indicated that 2483

rural habitations had absolutely no protected source of water supply as on 1st April 1991. Members of the House will be glad to know that all these 2483 habitations have been provided with water supply at a total cost of Rs.13.36 crores. As on 1st April 1990, 1956 scheduled caste and scheduled tribe habitations did not have a single source of water supply. Of these 1418 were left uncovered as on 1st April 1991. All these habitations have been provided with a water source this year.

77. The next step in the rural water supply programme is to improve the availability of water in habitations where there is acute shortage in summer. We have prepared a detailed new project at a total cost of Rs.474 crores to provide uninterrupted water supply to 9000 such habitations. We have sought assistance from the World Bank for this project. We shall also utilise assistance available under an ongoing World Bank supported project to implement a major rural water supply programme in Salem, South Arcot, Dharmapuri and Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar districts. This sub project at a total cost of Rs.47.68 crores will enable a distinct improvement to rural water supply in these 4 districts.

78. We have also given the highest attention to the provision of safe water supply in urban areas. Out of 99 Municipalities, 95 have been provided with a basic water supply scheme. Works are in progress in the balance 4 municipalities viz Sirkali, Ponmalai, Kolachel and Padmanabhapuram. Out of 7 municipal townships basic water supply has been provided in 5 townships. Kathivakkam and Madhavaram will be covered along with the Madras city water supply project. Water supply improvement projects for 5 municipalities will be completed in the current year at a total estimated cost of Rs.4.97 crores. Improvement projects in respect of 20 municipalities at a total estimated cost of Rs.104 crores are under progress and will be expedited in the coming year.

79. There are totally 366 urban town panchayats. By the end of the current year 260 town panchayats will be provided with water supply schemes. In the coming year work will be expedited in 61 urban town panchayats. There are totally 266 rural town panchayats. Of these 86 will be covered by the end of the current year. Work will be expedited in respect of 72 rural town panchayats in the coming year.

80. We shall also take up work on a new Rs.20 crore project to provide drinking water to Kangeyam, Muthur, 6 other rural town panchayats, Dharapuram Municipality and 83 wayside village panchayats. We shall take up the detailed investigation of the Rs.250 crores Hogenakal Water Supply Project to permanently solve the drinking water supply problem in Dharmapuri district.

81. We receive assistance from various agencies like World Bank, Life Insurance Corporation of India and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for

the execution of water supply projects. The assistance is received in the form of loans. A serious problem has now developed as the Government has to repay these loans whether or not the local bodies in their turn pay the loan instalments to the Government. A situation has been reached where the funding of these water supply projects will come to a standstill if immediate corrective action is not taken. The total overdues from the local bodies to the Government exceeds Rs.60 crores.

82. We have decided to correct the situation on the following lines. The loan and interest dues of local bodies having real financial difficulties will be suitably rescheduled affording considerable relief to them. At the same time the water charges will be streamlined on a systematic basis. The charges for drinking water supply will be fixed at Rs.2 per thousand litres. The charges for industrial use will be double this rate and that for commercial use will be thrice. These will be adopted as minimum rates so that the maintenance of these water supply systems does not break down.

83. Members of the House are aware of the discussions held by the Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J. Jayalalitha with the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister at Hyderabad to bring Krishna water to Madras city. The two Chief Ministers have agreed on a specific timetable setting June, 1995 as the target date for bringing Krishna water to Madras city. The Budget includes a total provision of Rs.75 crores for this project, consisting of Rs.50 crores towards our share of works in Andhra Pradesh and the balance of Rs.25 crores for canal works within Tamil Nadu. Apart from the project to bring water to the outskirts of Madras city we have also planned a major project to distribute the additional water within the city and its environs and remove the sewage. This will require complete modification of the existing water supply and sewerage systems. We have drawn up the Madras City Transmission and Distribution System Project (MTDS) at a total cost of about Rs.1100 crores. This project has been posed to the World Bank and further processing has been kept pending for a decision on the targeted completion date for the Krishna Water Project. With the satisfactory conclusion of talks between the two Chief Ministers and the firm date now set for completion of the Krishna Water Project, we shall approach the World Bank for early clearance of the Madras City Transmission and Distribution System Project (MTDS).

ENVIRONMENT

84. Globally there is considerable new awareness about our environment. We have to chart out development strategies which are environment friendly. Sustainable development will be our objective.

85. The work of establishing a common effluent treatment plant at Vaniambadi has been completed. Work on establishing common effluent treatment plants by TALCO at Ambur, Ranipet, Pernampet, Dindigul and Trichy is in progress. In addition, common

effluent treatment plants are to be established at Pammal, Pallavaram, Erode, Ayyampet, Muthialpettai, Tirupur, B.P. Agraharam, Periasemur, Veerappanchatram, Surampatti, Kasipalayam, Bhavani and Karur. The total cost of establishing all these common effluent treatment plants will be about Rs.50.5 crores.

86. In my last Budget speech I had referred to the problem of pollution of the major waterways in Madras city viz., Adyar, Cooum, Buckingham Canal and major drainage canals. Metro Water has just completed a Rs.6.5 crores sewerage rectification plan. This has eliminated a major source of pollution. We have approached the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the United Kingdom for support to organise the dredging operations.

87. We have formulated a detailed project for prevention of pollution of the Cauvery river. This project is estimated to cost Rs.332 crores. We have taken this up for assistance by the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF) of Japan. Meanwhile it is understood that the Centre may also support this programme. We urge the Centre to provide assistance for the Cauvery action plan at the earliest.

88. Tamil Nadu has been included in the new World Bank supported Industrial Pollution Control project. The bulk of the assistance under this project will be through financial institutions to industries to set up or upgrade pollution control systems. I would like to suggest that this assistance should cover the phased elimination of such harmful chemicals like chlorofluoro carbons (CFCs).

89. Under this project the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board will also be strengthened. Manali is becoming a major centre for chemical industries. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board will establish an emergency response centre at Manali.

INDUSTRIES

90. The Chief Minister has recently announced the New Industrial Policy. This comprehensive blue print for rapid industrial growth in Tamil Nadu has been very well received.

91. Central investment in Tamil Nadu has registered a steep decline from 10% in 1969 to 5.21% in 1989. The delay in finalisation of the Eighth Plan has made the outlook for the future uncertain. We have taken up the

clearance of several major projects with the Centre. We would urge the Centre to accord immediate clearance for the Southern Gas grid to bring gas to Tamil Nadu from Bombay High. The clearance of the National Aromatics Project (NAPCO) has been delayed. This major project which has the potential to create a large number of downstream units needs to be cleared at once.

92. The newly formed Tamil Nadu Corporation for Industrial Infrastructure Development (TACID) will establish four large industrial growth centres at Panangudi in Nagapattinam-Quaid-E-Millet district, Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli-Kattabomman district, Perundurai in Periyar district and Bargur in Dharmapuri district. We have approached the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for support to implement these projects. We have provided Rs.5 crores as equity support to TACID to commence work on these growth centres.

93. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) has initiated work on 9 new projects with a total investment of Rs.755 crores to provide employment to 2800 persons. These projects will be expedited.

94. The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) will disburse Rs.42 crores as loans in 1991-92 and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC) will reach a loan disbursement level of Rs.145 crores in 1991-92. These are the highest levels reached so far. In 1992-93, the disbursements will be stepped up even further, to Rs.50 crores by SIPCOT and Rs.180 crores by TIIC.

95. The Chief Minister has had detailed discussions on 4th March, 1992 with Small Scale Industrialists. The Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO) will implement a functional industrial estates project with a total outlay of Rs.70 crores with assistance from OECF Japan. Under this project functional estates will be established in the following thrust areas

- * industrial electronics
- * leather goods
- * hosiery and textile products
- * engineering goods
- * automobile accessories
- * petrochemicals
- * food processing

96. We have ensured that subsidies and incentives promised are actually made available in time. Adequate provisions have been made in the Budget to provide for prompt disbursement.

LABOUR WELFARE

97. The march of new technology and the

associated economic compulsions make it necessary for us to take a considered view on the restructuring of production units and its effects on labour. There is a national debate on the exit policy. We believe that a pragmatic view has to be taken on the subject. We have taken up with the Centre, the sanction of Rs.50 crores as a corpus for the State Labour Rehabilitation Fund. This fund will be utilised for restructuring of both public sector and private sector units. We have to ensure that under no circumstances, the interests of labour are affected.

98. In spite of the difficulties in restarting sick units, we have taken special efforts in the interest of labour to solve problems confronting several units in the State. Thanks to the efforts of the Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, the Standard Motor Company which was closed for the last three years has commenced production. This is indeed a significant achievement of the Government in the interest of labour. The Government has also provided Rs.3 crores to enable the reopening of the factory and the rehabilitation of displaced labour in this unit. The K.C.P. Limited which was under lock out for almost a year has reopened and has commenced functioning since October, 1991. The Government is taking all possible steps to facilitate early resolution of the dispute in the B & C Mills and ensure the early reopening of the Mills.

99. The Chief Minister intervened effectively to solve the bonus dispute in textile mills involving the interest of 45,000 workers. During the current year cash relief has been extended at a rate of Rs.400 per worker to 21,137 workers in six industrial units and nine textile mills which remained closed.

100. The welfare fund for match workers covers 54924 number of labour. At present the Government contributes Rs.2 per worker per annum and the employer's contribution is also Rs.2 per worker. This fund is utilised to provide education, recreation, medical aid and amenities to employees in match factories. The contribution both by the Government and the employer will hereafter be raised to Rs.10 per annum. The fund will also be extended to include 18,558 number of workers in the fire works industry.

101. In the new economic situation, it is essential to place the highest emphasis to the training and re-training of labour. We shall pursue with the assistance of industry the organisation of suitable training facilities for re-training labour. We shall also utilise for this purpose the technical



and skill development project to upgrade our Industrial Training Institutes (ITI).

POWER

102. With the good storage in the hydel reservoirs and the firm action taken to obtain adequate supplies of coal we have kept Tamil Nadu free from power cut. We shall be adding 220 MW of additional capacity in the current year.

103. We have not allowed financial constraints to affect the progress of work in establishing three 210 MW plants with a total capacity of 630 MW at North Madras. This massive project with a total outlay of Rs.845 crores is being implemented with assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). We shall also be approaching the ADB for assistance for establishing an additional unit of 500 MW capacity at a total cost of Rs.944 crores at North Madras.

104. Members of the House are aware of the earnest steps taken by the Government to establish in the joint sector a massive Integrated Lignite Mining and Power Generation Project at Jayamkondacholapuram. This massive project to generate 1500 MW with a total outlay of Rs.7000 crores will be implemented in phases. The Budget provides for an initial equity support of Rs.2.5 crores to Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) to take up this project.

105. We are greatly concerned about the slow pace of work on various Central power projects in Tamil Nadu. Work on the expansion of the first mine cut and the establishment of an additional capacity of 420 MW at Neyveli has to be expedited. The Third Mine Cut and associated power generation project should be included in the Eighth plan. The Centre has to resolve the uncertainty regarding the Koodankulam Atomic Power Plant. We shall urge the Centre to take up the power plant using indigenous technical know how or by securing other external assistance. Since all preparatory work has already been completed at the project site an early decision on this major project is necessary.

106. The Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) will implement the Integrated Rural Energy Development programme in 2 new blocks in the coming year. We shall take up a project to establish a capacity of 100 MW based on wind energy. We are examining innovative ways of financing this project so that wind energy becomes a firm source in our grid.

107. There has been difficulty in obtaining institutional finance for the extension of electricity supply to agricultural pumpsets. We have therefore introduced a new scheme under which farmers can opt to get the electricity connection on payment of cost. In the coming year 20,000 pumpsets will be provided electricity connection as per the waiting list and another 20,000 pumpsets will be provided electricity connection under the

new scheme. Free electricity connections will also be provided to 40,000 huts in the coming year.

108. We are confronted with the difficult issue of the finances of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. Although the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board performs efficiently its finances are badly affected by two factors. Firstly the cost of coal in Tamil Nadu is much higher than most other States because of the long distance from the coal mines. Secondly the scheme of free supply of electricity to all farmers involves an actual annual loss of Rs.560 crores. This loss is partly compensated by the Government. The Budget provides for compensation of Rs.350 crores. In addition the Government has to waive annually the interest due from the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to the extent of about Rs.100 crores. The Government is finding it extremely difficult to extend this amount to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. In this situation we are confronted with further increases in costs. The coal price has been revised recently. Freight costs have also gone up. All financial institutions have been insisting on the need to levy a charge on electricity as it is an input. We will have to discuss this issue and reach a consensus on how to rectify the situation.



HANDLOOMS

109. As announced in my last budget speech, we have launched two new programmes. A programme to introduce powerlooms in a phased manner to replace totally uneconomic handlooms has been launched. This programme will be continued and we shall introduce 5000 powerlooms in the coming year.

110. A programme to modernise handlooms is also under implementation. In the coming year 5000 handlooms will be modernised.

111. A new cooperative spinning mill at Bargur at a cost of Rs.22 crores will be established with support from the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). Provision has been made for the necessary equity support for this project in the budget.

112. A market complex for the sale of silk cloth will be established at Kancheepuram. A similar complex for cotton cloth will be constructed at Erode. The Budget

includes a provision of Rs. 42 crores for payment of rebate on the sale of handloom cloth.

113. This government will strive for the welfare of the weavers. The insurance amount has been enhanced from Rs.10,000 to Rs.15,000. A pension scheme to provide Rs.250/- per month to the family of deceased weavers has been introduced. 2000 house-cum-worksheds will be built in the coming year for weavers.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

114. We have launched the Special Self Sufficiency Programme in the current year. Under this programme Rs.1 crore is to be given to each Panchayat Union for various works. The total cost of the programme in all is Rs.386 crores. In the first phase, we have released Rs.193 crores in the current year. The balance amount of Rs.193 crores has been provided in the budget.

The works taken up in the current year are given below:-

Name of the Scheme	Number of works	Cost (Rs. in crores)
* Drinking water supply	5999	53.36
* Improvement to roads	3874 Km	83.34
* Provision of street lights	69781	19.88
* Primary school buildings	1068	14.79
* Construction of Nutritious Meal Centre	1409	9.98
* Renovation of minor irrigation system	2677	11.82
* Supply of T.V.sets	978	1.45

Our objective under the Special Self Sufficiency programme is to provide basic facilities to all villages. This is a massive programme and the number of works taken up under this programme is very large. In order to ensure that the quality of works is maintained, we have decided that the programme should be completed by March 1993.

115. We have taken special steps to provide adequate funds to local bodies. The maintenance grant for local roads has been stepped up from Rs.9 crores to Rs.12 crores. The budget provides for an enhanced amount of

Rs.5.65 crores for the maintenance of hand pumps and power pumps. A special provision of Rs.3 crores has been made in the coming year for the replacement of street lights in financially weak panchayats. Members of the House will appreciate the special measures taken by the Government to provide and maintain basic rural services.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

116. Tamil Nadu is among the fastest urbanising States. 34% of the population live in urban areas. We shall formulate a comprehensive strategy for urban development in the State.

117. Resources have to be raised from various institutions for urban development. We have concentrated on the institutional arrangements to ensure availability of resources for the development programmes of urban areas.

118. The Municipal Urban Development Fund (MUDF) which is supported by the World Bank under the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project has become the main financing agency for urban development in the State. Various projects of municipalities are taken up under this Fund. In the current year 34 projects at a total cost of Rs.36.90 crores have been sanctioned. In the coming year, the Fund will approve projects for a total cost of Rs.50 crores. Municipalities can access the Fund for their projects. At the same time they should undertake the commitment to improve their resources position to repay the loans.

119. The State Town and Country Planning Fund has now been reorganised with a corpus of Rs.33 crores. This fund will largely support the programmes of Town Panchayats and financially weak Municipalities. 16 Projects worth Rs.2.70 crores have been sanctioned from this Fund in the current year. In the coming year, projects worth Rs.5 crores will be approved.

120. The utilisation under the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project financed by the World Bank which is one of the largest projects of its kind has not been satisfactory in the past. We have reassessed the entire position. At present the level of utilisation is only about Rs.65 crores per year. We have decided to step up the utilisation to Rs.127 crores in the coming year. Several new road improvement projects will be taken up.

121. The Centre also extends support for the integrated development of medium and small towns. Under this programme, with an outlay of Rs.1.2 crores for each town we shall take up development works in Krishnagiri, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Perambalur, Edapadi and Tiruttani in the coming year.

122. We have to utilise modern technology to analyse and plan improvement programmes for each town. It is proposed to take up at a cost of Rs.30 lakhs traffic and transportation studies for 30 small and medium towns. Modern techniques of aerial photography will be utilised to prepare large scale base maps and photo mosaics in the towns

of Karur, Tiruvannamalai, Kumbakonam and Theni Alli Nagaram.

123. There are various programmes for the urban poor. It is necessary to implement these programmes effectively. We have therefore decided to establish a Special Cell for the urban poor in the Commissionerate of Municipalities.

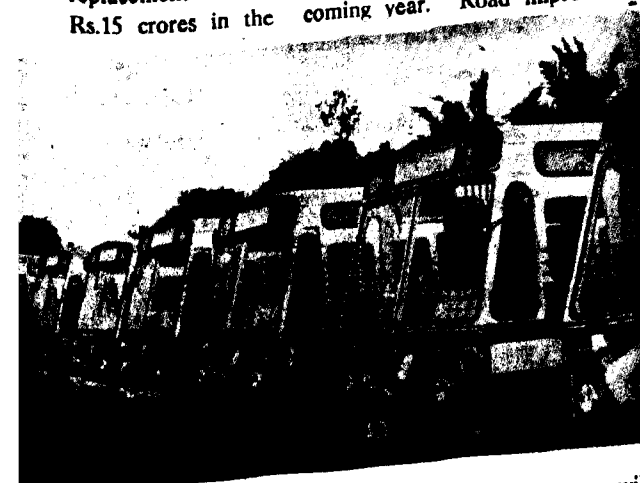
MADRAS CITY DEVELOPMENT

124. The "Madras - Vision 2000" plan which I had announced in my last budget speech has taken shape and has drawn world wide interest. The Madras Metropolitan Development Authority (MMDA) has also recently drawn up a scenario for Madras by 2011. All constraints and opportunities have been identified. In this perspective the Madras - Vision 2000 will be an operational plan. In the first phase the outlay on this plan will be Rs. 1250 crores.

125. The work on the Madras transmission and distribution system (MTDS) as also the environmental improvement programme will commence as soon as we obtain world Bank clearance. This is linked to the Krishna Water scheme.

126. Improvements to the electricity distribution system are under progress. Rs.15 crores has been incurred in the current year and the outlay in the coming year will be Rs.53 crores.

127. Major improvements to the transportation systems are planned. The partly elevated exclusive bus way on Anna Salai is estimated to cost Rs.100 crores. The feasibility report is under preparation. We shall entrust this work as soon as the detailed project is ready. The Pallavan Transport Corporation (PTC) will undertake bus replacement and augmentation programme at a cost of Rs.15 crores in the coming year. Road improvement



programmes in Madras city with an outlay of Rs.20 crores will be taken up in the coming year.

128. Sub projects to improve storm water drains, street lighting and solid waste management and other civic services have been approved and works costing Rs.20 crores will be taken up in the coming year.

129. In order to relieve congestion in the city peripheral town development has been taken up. A major new "sites and services" programme will be executed by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board at Ambattur near Madras at a cost of Rs.40 crores. Slum improvement programmes are also progressing well.

ROADS

130. This Government has accorded the highest importance for the maintenance and improvement of roads. The total outlay on roads in 1992-93 has been stepped up to Rs.314.51 crores from a level of Rs.200.35 crores in 1990-91. The outlay on roads in the coming year will exceed the total receipts from Motor Vehicles tax.

131. Members of the House will also be glad to know that for the first time we shall be providing funds for the maintenance of roads in 1992-93 in excess of the norms prescribed by the Ninth Finance Commission. We have allocated Rs.125 crores for the maintenance of roads which is almost double the expenditure of Rs.65.83 crores in 1990-91.

132. The "Special Repairs Programme" launched in the current year with an outlay of Rs.20 crores will be continued in the coming year with an enhanced outlay of Rs.30 crores. A new programme of special repairs to roads near industrial areas with an outlay of Rs.5 crores will be taken up in the coming year.

133. The rural market roads sub project under the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project with a total outlay of Rs.45.28 crores to improve 800 Kms. of roads has been launched in the 5 districts of Chingleput-M.G.R., North Arcot-Ambekar, South Arcot, Thanjavur and Tiruchirapalli. The outlay on this project in the coming year will be Rs 3.12 crores.

134. We have finalised the project for improvement of roads in Nagapattinam-Quaid-e-Millet district at a total cost of Rs 30 crores to be implemented in association with the public sector Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd., (ILFS). Toll collections will be made on the district boundary at specified points to finance this project.

135. The work on the East Coast road from Madras to Cuddalore at a cost of Rs 75 crores is under progress. The outlay for the coming year has been stepped up to Rs 11.2 crores from the level of Rs 8.5 crores in the current year.

136. We have formulated a new Road Development Project at a total cost of Rs.328.44 crores. This project involves the strengthening and improvement of 3919 Kms. of roads. It will considerably improve the traffic flow patterns in the State. It will also simultaneously improve the market access for rural areas. We hope to secure external aid for this project.

137. We are concerned about the slow pace in taking up the four laning of National Highways. The four

laning of the National Highway between Madras and Madurai has been taken up only in segments. The balance length of 374 Kms. should be taken up giving it the highest priority. Similarly, the four laning of the National Highway between Madras and Bangalore via Vellore and Krishnagiri for a total length of 316 Kms. will also have to be taken up immediately. The Centre should not hesitate in taking up the four laning of these major National Highways. If need be, suitable toll collections can also be considered. A new National Highway connecting Madras and Kanyakumari along the coast for a total length of 737 Kms. which is the only missing link in the country's coastal National Highway should be taken up at the earliest. We shall continue to urge the Centre to make available the enhanced collections to the Central Road Fund (CRF) for road development in the State.

HOUSING

138. This Government has set the objective of a house for every family. In the current year, we expect to complete 1 lakh houses through various agencies like the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Housing Co-operatives, Panchayat Unions and other departments. In the coming year 1,10,000 houses will be built through these agencies.

139. We have taken several measures to encourage building of houses in the private sector. We have started a new programme of 'Grid development' whereby it is possible for the private sector to take up housing rapidly. We shall also seek to accelerate the flow of institutional finance for housing starts.

140. A new programme to assist owners to upgrade houses has been launched. In the coming year in urban areas 27,000 houses will be upgraded. In rural areas 30,000 houses will be taken up.

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT

141. The Honourable Chief Minister has just launched an Integrated Women's Development Programme (IWDP) to provide self-employment to 1 lakh women. We have mobilised support from external agencies and also from other programmes to undertake this massive development programme. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has assisted the implementation of this programme in 3 districts of Dharmapuri, Salem and South Arcot. We have extended this programme in the current year to Madurai and Ramanathapuram Districts. We hope that IFAD will provide assistance for these two districts.

142. We intend to take up this programme in all the remaining districts. As I have mentioned in my last budget speech we shall implement this programme after careful preparatory work. Our intention is to provide lasting self-employment through self help groups.

143. The Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha has recently announced a new scheme to promote the adoption of the small family norm and to benefit the girl child. This scheme will cover

families with one or two girl children and no son, where a parent undergoes sterilization. A sum of Rs.2,000 on account of each family will be invested in a Fund. Amounts will be given to the family at periodical intervals for the girl child to complete primary, middle, high, higher secondary and college education. When the girl attains the age of 20 years, a lumpsum amount of Rs.10,000 will be provided to enable her to establish her family or to pursue higher education. About 20,000 families will be assisted under this scheme every year. A provision of Rs.4 crores has been made in the Budget.

WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

144. The Government has launched a new ten point programme for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and



Scheduled Tribes. The Programme has registered good progress -

Item	Achievement in 1991-92
• Economic Improvement	
Schemes	65,000 families
• 10,000 Wells programme	3,000 wells
• Entrepreneur Development	
Scheme (EDS)	1,000
• Placement of unemployed ITI	
qualified technicians	1,000
• Free House-site Pattas	1.24 lakhs
• Free Houses for Adi-Dravidars	35,000
• Provision of Drinking Water	1,418 habitations
• Provision of Link Roads	500
• Provision of Street lights to	
habitations	357
• Provision of one light per hut	30,000

145. The ten point programme will be continued in the coming year with similar targets. This will be an

effective way of ensuring the realisation of benefits to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

146. In the coming year we shall open 30 new hostels at a cost of Rs.43.81 lakhs for Scheduled Caste students. All the hostels for Scheduled Castes will be equipped with a set of library books. This scheme at a cost of Rs. 12.33 lakhs will be implemented immediately.

147. Non Governmental Organisations have come forward to take up schemes to benefit Scheduled Caste farmers who have been assigned lands declared surplus under the Land Ceiling Act. We have enabled such farmers to obtain loan and grant assistance to take up land improvement works.

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES

148. The main thrust in the programme for the welfare of Backward Classes is on extending adequate educational opportunities. A detailed survey of facilities in all the 746 Backward Classes hostels has been undertaken. A programme of improvements to these hostels will be taken up shortly. Mini libraries will be created in all the 746 hostels at a total cost of Rs. 15 lakhs so that the students will develop the reading habit and will have access to quality books. In the coming year 13 new hostels for girls at a cost of Rs.23 lakhs will be opened.

149. The Special Training Institute to coach students for IAS/IPS and other Central services requires improvements in its functioning. We have decided to completely upgrade this Institute and organise it in a new campus. It is proposed to take up this project in the coming year at a cost of Rs.35 lakhs. We have decided to introduce a new scheme to sponsor brilliant students who have done well in the preliminary examination to Special Coaching Centres in the private sector so that they can be properly trained for the final rounds. The full cost will be met by the Government.

150. A provision of Rs.100 lakhs has been made for the acquisition of house-sites for distribution to houseless poor persons belonging to certain communities. We shall provide free house-sites to all communities in the Most Backward Classes category. A target of providing 5000 house-sites under this programme will be set.

151. A new programme of economic improvement for the benefit of backward classes will be launched from the coming year. This programme will be taken up by the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Economic Development Corporation. Under the Backward Classes Income Improvement Programme (BIIP) 5000 persons will be assisted to improve their economic status.

SAFETY NET FOR THE POOR

152. I have so far spelt out the plans and programmes of the Government. I have also spelt out the special welfare measures for various sections of society. In an economy in transition, going through a difficult phase, the poor and the under privileged are most vulnerable to the stabilisation process. We have placed the highest

priority on safeguarding the position of the poor and the under privileged. We have organised a comprehensive safety net which will ensure that no person in Tamil Nadu suffers from want and deprivation. We shall strengthen and augment this comprehensive safety net to provide full protection to the poor and the under privileged.

153. In accordance with the announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister we have decided to raise the monthly pension from Rs.50/- to Rs.75/- for all old age pensioners, widows, destitute women and physically handicapped pensioners. The outlay on pensions will be stepped up from Rs.32.50 crores to Rs.52.29 crores. In addition, we have also issued orders to make available pension to 27592 number of persons in the waiting list.

154. A total cash support of Rs.200/- is given to pregnant women to compensate for the loss of their wages. This cash support will hereafter be stepped up to Rs.300/-. It will cover 2 lakh women. The extra cost will be Rs. 2 crores.

155. A new scheme of expanded medical care for the poor will be started. Under this scheme if any one in a poor family has to undergo life saving surgery, the Government will provide Rs.15,000/- as assistance in the event the surgery has to be done in an approved private hospital.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

156. In accordance with our policy of bringing the administration closer to the people we have bifurcated Thanjavur district, forming a new district Nagapattinam Quaid-e-Milleth district. We have now proposed to bifurcate South Arcot District. The district with Cuddalore as its headquarters will retain the original name of South Arcot. The new district with Villupuram as its headquarters will be named Villupuram-Vallalar District.

157. Work will be initiated on the Patta Pass Book Scheme shortly. This will be a major step forward in enabling a farmer to know his holdings correctly and precisely. It will also be a measure of reform in ensuring the free flow of credit in rural areas.

158. We have decided to take up immediately a programme to simplify village accounts on a priority basis. The existing system is antiquated and involves a lot of routine work. This simplification will enable the village administration to pay greater attention to the needs of the people.

159. A core group of Secretaries has been constituted to draw up an action plan to overhaul office procedures and systems to make the administration more responsive. This group is also examining improvements to the grievances day procedures. The Committee has undertaken field visits and will finalise its report shortly. We shall introduce reforms based on the report of the Committee.

160. We shall examine the simplification of personnel rules and procedures to facilitate the free movement of personnel from one department to another. Very often surplus staff in one department cannot be utilised in another department because of these procedures. We shall try to simplify the system enabling free lateral movement.

161. In Tamil Nadu we have decided to give special emphasis to decentralised planning at the district level. As the Government's functions have grown over the years and as the size of the Budget has gone up considerably, we have to examine improvements to the system. Earlier it was considered that the unit of planning could be at the block level. We have reviewed this and have decided that it is better that a district plan is drawn up. The District Development Council will be entrusted with the responsibility of preparing the district plan. It will be assisted by technical experts. Micro level plans at the block level and at the Panchayat level will be integrated with the district plan.

EMPLOYMENT

162. The unsatisfactory growth in the country's economy in the current year following the severe economic crisis has raised apprehensions about the employment situation. The march of technology and integration of the Indian economy with the global economy have also raised doubts about the effects on employment. It is a difficult situation. In the process of adjustment there could be some difficulties which we have to surmount. It is also necessary that an alternative employment strategy is drawn up.

163. The Union Finance Minister has mentioned the formation of a consortium to promote the growth of Agri - Business. Tamil Nadu should be included in this programme. The strategy should be to promote a large number of enterprises in Agri - Business so that employment in rural areas is maximised. We shall launch this programme, taking the help of experts.

164. In the current year we have initiated several new programmes to provide widespread employment. The Rural Industries Sub Plan (RISP) has been launched to generate self employment for one lakh persons. The Chief Minister has recently launched the Integrated Women's Development (IWDP) Programme to provide self employment opportunities for one lakh women. The special programme for employment to Scheduled Castes will cover 65,000 persons. These programmes will be continued in the coming year to provide employment. It is part of our strategy to tackle the economic stabilisation process.

165. In rural areas, particularly to benefit the landless agricultural labour, several programmes of rural works are being implemented. The Jawahar Velay Vaippu Thittam (JVVT) is a major programme. We are also implementing the Special Self Sufficiency Scheme. We are concerned that the allocation for the Jawahar Velay Vaippu Thittam has been reduced in 1992-93. The Union Finance Minister has promised that supplementary funds will be made

available from the National Renewal Fund. I hope the Centre will safeguard against any reduction in the outlay on these rural development programmes as these provide minimum income to a vast majority of rural poor.

166. As part of our strategy to counter the adverse effects of price increase, the Chief Minister has already announced that a new Programme for Assured Employment (PAE) will be launched. This programme which is to be modelled on the lines of the employment guarantee scheme in Maharashtra will in the first phase be implemented in Dharmapuri, Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar and Pudukottai districts. The District Collector will be required to prepare a detailed plan incorporating all the works to be taken up in the district under different plan programmes. These works will be so scheduled with reference to the agricultural season that employment is made available throughout the year. Under this programme assured employment will be given to at least one member of each family of rural landless agricultural labour. They will be required to register in the nearest Panchayat Union. After registration and commencement of the scheme regular work will be provided with a daily wage of Rs.14. In case it is not possible to provide work in the specific location within a period of 7 days after commencement of the scheme, a minimum dole of Rs.2 per day will be allowed. We have made an initial special provision of Rs.10 crores for this programme in the coming year. We shall also urge the Centre to support this programme from the National Renewal Fund. I have no doubt that this support will be forthcoming.

BENEFITS TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

167. We have entrusted to an Official Committee the task of going into all the representations on anomalies following the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. The Chief Minister has also had detailed discussions with the representatives of the various associations of employees. The report of the Committee has just been submitted. The Government will take early decisions on the recommendations of the Committee.

168. There are totally 2.72 lakh part-time employees including 2.15 lakh part-time employees engaged in the Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.Nutritious Noon Meal Programme. As I have already mentioned these part-time employees are not entitled to dearness allowance increases. I have already announced an adhoc increase of honorarium in the case of part-time employees engaged in the Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Noon Meal Programme. The Government will extend an adhoc increase of honorarium of Rs.20/- p.m. to all other part-time employees drawing honorarium of more than Rs.150/- p.m. and Rs.10/- p.m. to such employees drawing less than Rs.150/- p.m. The additional cost will be Rs. 1.35 crores per annum. This will also apply to such part-time employees of local bodies. This will benefit 57,000 such part-time workers. The increased honorarium will take effect from 1-4-92.

169. We have decided to introduce some changes in the General Provident Fund Scheme applicable to Government employees. The minimum contribution applicable at different salary levels was last fixed in 1976. With the changes in pay scales and emoluments these have to be modified. Considering the increase in emoluments the minimum monthly savings to be credited to Provident Fund has to be revised. This is also in consonance with the latest amendments to the Income Tax Act. Employees groups have welcomed the suggestion. We shall also make it easier for temporary withdrawals to be made without any hardship.

170. There is considerable demand for house building advance provided to Government employees. We have stepped up the provision for house building advance to Rs.25 crores from the current level of Rs.18.89 crores. We have also now made it possible for Government employees to avail loans from recognised financial institutions. These institutions had insisted that the repayment of the loan should be through salary deduction. The Government has approved this procedure making it possible for Government employees to avail housing loan from the recognised financial institutions.

171. We have made a provision of Rs.25 lakhs for making advances to certain categories of Government employees to purchase and own computers. This will enable them to bring in better skills to their jobs.

172. Under the Leave Travel Concession scheme available to Government employees, Government covers only the travel cost. Government employees find it difficult to get decent accommodation while on such tours. A package tour will hereafter be made available by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation to the Government employees. This package tour will include transportation and accommodation.

CREDIT PLAN

173. In my last Budget speech I had indicated the importance of the free flow of credit to the priority sector. A credit plan for Rs.2154.84 crores covering Agriculture and Allied Activities, Industry and Services has been launched in the current year. This was to ensure that there is uninterrupted flow of credit under various schemes to benefit the poor.

174. We are greatly concerned by the recommendations of the Committee on the financial system which has suggested that only 10% of the aggregate credit need go to the priority sector as re-defined. This is as against the present level of 40%. This situation has come about because of the indiscriminate write off of loans in the past. The banking system has to be encouraged to provide funds to the priority sectors. We would request the Centre to evolve a national consensus on this issue. Most State Governments are providing funds to assist the poor to be able to access credit for their economic improvement programmes. Any abrupt change will lead to considerable disquiet.

175. I also want to highlight the difficult situation imposed on this Government by the write off of

loans in the past. A total amount of Rs.289 crores of cooperative loans was written off. Against this only Rs.218.29 crores has been received from the Government of India. The balance is still due. We are required to repay 50% of the amount received in 3 annual instalments. The first instalment was paid in March 1991. The second instalment of Rs.49.06 crores is due in March 1992. The Chief Minister has requested the Union Finance Minister to postpone the repayment of this instalment. In view of the extremely difficult financial situation faced by the State we hope an early decision will be taken on this request.

176. Repeated write off of loans on an unplanned basis has resulted in a threat to the entire credit system. We should therefore move towards a proper arrangement which will provide the means to secure farmers against repeated crop losses. The Government of India is yet to take a decision on the constitution of the National Credit Relief Fund (NACREF) which will provide a durable arrangement to extend relief to farmers. On our part we are willing to participate in the scheme. At least in good years, such as the current year, when we have had abundant rainfall and good harvests, farmers should come forward to repay their loans and there by prevent any break down of the credit system.

177. The existing Crop Insurance Scheme implemented by the General Insurance Corporations would need to be modified to provide quick and proper relief to the affected farmers. Procedures for assessing crop damage would have to be corrected. We will request the Centre to improve the functioning of the Crop Insurance Scheme to ensure benefit to the farmers.

178. We have launched the Rural Industries Sub Plan (RISP) to provide gainful self employment to one lakh persons. Good progress has been achieved under this Sub Plan. We shall continue this programme in the coming year. We shall rely on the potential linked plans prepared by NABARD for each district to identify the specific activities that can be taken up under the Sub Plan. We propose to provide self employment to one lakh more persons in the coming year.

BUDGET ESTIMATES

179. This Government assumed office when the financial position was extremely difficult. We were confronted by a total deficit of Rs.1220 crores in financing the plan outlay of Rs.1600 crores, a truly daunting task. Increases in administered prices of rice, petrol, diesel and coal by the Centre have made our task doubly difficult. The Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J.Jayalalitha has made it clear that the plan outlay for Tamil Nadu for 91-92 would not be cut. Bold action was needed to set right the situation and take Tamil Nadu back on the path of development.

180. The Budget Estimates for 91-92 indicated total revenue receipts at Rs.5347.34 crores and revenue expenditure at Rs.6249.83 crores, resulting in a revenue deficit of Rs.902.49 crores. Taking into account the net effect of transactions in other accounts and the opening deficit of Rs.207.94 crores, the overall deficit was expected to be

Rs.785.35 crores. I had announced measures to bring down this deficit to Rs.575.35 crores. We had also expressed the hope that in view of the unprecedented situation the Centre would extend a generous package of financial assistance.

181. We have not so far received any special assistance from the Centre to tide over this extremely difficult situation. We have been compelled to act quickly and effectively to set right the position. The Revised Estimates for 91-92 indicate total revenue receipts of Rs.5879.52 crores and revenue expenditure of Rs.6529.57 crores leaving a revenue account deficit of Rs.650.05 crores. Together with the opening deficit and the net effect of transactions in other accounts the closing deficit at the end of 91-92 is now estimated at Rs.401.47 crores.

182. According to the Budget Estimates for 92-93 revenue receipts are estimated at Rs.6446.54 crores and revenue expenditure at Rs.7255.27 crores resulting in a revenue deficit of Rs.808.73 crores. Taking into account the net effect of transaction in other accounts, the overall deficit on account of transactions in 92-93 is estimated to be Rs.217.62 crores. Along with the closing deficit of Rs.401.47 crores according to the Revised Estimates 91-92, the overall total deficit at the end of 92-93 will be Rs.619.09 crores.

183. While we have succeeded in containing the net deficit of all transactions in 92-93, the difficulties we have faced in the current year will continue to pose problems in the coming year. The total deficit of Rs.619.09 crores does not also include an uncovered deficit of about Rs.80 crores in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

184. We have carefully examined the overall position. We need special assistance from the Centre to tide over the extremely difficult situation we are faced with in the current year. The Chief Minister has met the Prime Minister and the Union Finance Minister requesting for a package of financial assistance to tide over this situation. She has once again reiterated this request in a letter to the Union Finance Minister. We are still hopeful that the Centre would provide some assistance before the close of the current financial year.

185. Since 1987-88 Tamil Nadu has had recurring revenue deficits which is also rising rapidly. The situation has been managed by raising loans. This has resulted in a growing interest burden. There are difficulties in raising revenues as States have very few avenues open to them. We have to restrict expenditure and eliminate losses. It is in this background that we have to take measures to reduce the deficit before us.

186. Members of the House are aware of the mounting burden on various subsidies. The Chief Minister has repeatedly emphasised that this Government will not take measures which affect the poor and the underprivileged. At the same time given the extremely difficult financial situation and the mounting debt burden we will have to recover future increases in costs.

187. Members of the House may be aware of the provision of Rs.346 crores for food subsidy in the current year. We have budgeted for Rs.503 crores to be paid as food subsidy in 1992-93. This includes Rs.343 crores for the next year's commitment and Rs.160 crores being the arrears of the current year which could not be paid. In this situation we have to think of a system by which the highly subsidised rice in the public distribution system is made available only to the poor, based on some income criteria.

188. Economy in Government expenditure has to be effected. We intend to initiate measures to save Rs.55 crores in the coming year. A wide ranging set of measures will be introduced. The economy measures will cover the use of motor vehicles and the control of travel expenses. We shall continue the process of Zero base line budgeting to locate and eliminate all unproductive expenditure. With these measures to effect economy in expenditure we shall bring down the deficit to Rs. 564.09 crores.

189. Even as we continue to take up with the Centre early clearance for a package of financial assistance we have to take other measures to at least partially bridge the deficit.

190. It has always been our endeavour to give relief to the poor. Only those who have the capacity to pay will be required to contribute to the State's development. Our taxation policies and resource mobilisation measures will also be geared to promote rapid growth of the economy.

TAXES

191. It is usual for the Finance Minister to look to sales taxes to find the resources to bridge the deficit. I have decided to extend certain reliefs. It is our endeavour to bring down prices and at the same time encourage production.

192. Housewives are eagerly expecting help from the Government to combat the price increase. We have decided to extend reliefs on various household products.

- * Groceries(excluding those in Schedule I and II) will be taxed at 5 per cent instead of 8 per cent.
- * Ghee and other milk products sold without a brand name registered under the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 are presently taxed at 8 per cent. The tax rate will be reduced to 5 per cent.
- * Fenugreek and cloves are used in our daily food. We have decided to cut the tax on these from 8 per cent to 5 per cent.
- * Tapioca chips will hereafter be taxed at 5 per cent instead of 8 per cent.
- * Vermicelli is popularly used in all our

households. We have decided to bring down the tax from 8 per cent to 5 per cent.

193. Kumkum powder has already been exempted from sales tax. Other kumkums and kajal are presently taxed at 8 per cent. We have decided to totally exempt all forms of kumkum and kajal from tax. I have no doubt that women will widely welcome this measure.

Imitation jewellery has now become very popular among women. We have decided to reduce the tax on imitation jewellery from 8 per cent to 5 per cent. I am sure this will also be welcomed by women.

194. At present 8 per cent is charged on laminated jute bags. Most other packing materials carry a tax rate of 5 per cent. Keeping this in mind, it is proposed to reduce the rate of tax on laminated jute bags to 5 per cent.

195. The tax on motor cars is 5 per cent. However the tax on taxi cabs is 15 per cent. We have decided to reduce the tax on taxi cabs to 5 per cent. The entry tax on tractors will be reduced from 12 per cent to 7 per cent. The sales tax on rear loaders, dumpers and scrapers will be reduced from 9 per cent to 5 per cent.

196. In the last budget we have rationalised the levy of tax on raw hides and skins and that on dressed hides and skins. Raw hides and skins are often purchased from other States and brought into Tamil Nadu. As an encouragement to the leather industry, we have decided to allow a concessional rate of one per cent on dressed hides and skins.

197. These changes will involve a loss of revenue of approximately Rs 4 crores per annum.

198. Sales tax at 25 per cent is charged at every stage except at the last stage in the sales transactions of Indian Made Foreign Spirit. The tax rate will be enhanced to thirty per cent.

199. Under Section 3(3) of the Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act 1959, concessional rate of 3 per cent is available for raw material against declaration in Form XVII. Molasses normally bears a tax of 25 per cent. The concessional rate is likely to be misused by those who attempt to manufacture illicit liquor. It is therefore proposed to withdraw the exemption available to molasses under Section 3(3) of the Act. It will bear the normal rate of 25 per cent.

200. It is also proposed to clarify clearly the position relating to wheat and wheat products. Wheat alone has been exempted and will continue to be exempted. Wheat products like wheat flour, sooji, maida, atta, etc., will continue to be subject to tax at 4 per cent.

201. At present, sales tax at 5 per cent is levied on the sale of food and drinks by hotels, restaurants, etc., whose annual turnover exceeds Rs.18.25 lakhs. This exemption limit is very high. Both in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh the exemption limit is Rs.2 lakhs per annum. It is

therefore proposed to reduce the exemption limit from Rs.18.25 lakhs to Rs.3 lakhs per annum.

202. In cases where the levy of sales tax has been questioned in courts, and where the tax has actually been collected, it is but proper that the tax is remitted to the Government. We propose to introduce a new section to provide for the deposit of the tax so realised with the Government.

203. The TNGST Act will be amended to provide for powers to the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes to call for and examine any order passed by any authority lower in rank to the Commissioner. This is necessary to prevent misuse of power by subordinate officers.

204. A Sales Tax Reforms Committee has just been constituted. The terms of reference of this committee are wide ranging including a complete reexamination of the structure and levy of sales taxes. Additional sales tax is a levy on taxable turnover which cannot be passed on to the consumers. There has been a persistent demand to allow this tax to be passed on to the consumers. We shall also refer this issue to the Sales Taxes Reforms Committee.

205. In the last budget we had completely exempted motor cycles of capacity of 50 cc and below from motor vehicle tax. The Centre has modified the excise duty based on a classification of capacity of motor cycles. Taking note of this change, we propose to further rationalise the slabs in the State based on capacity as below:

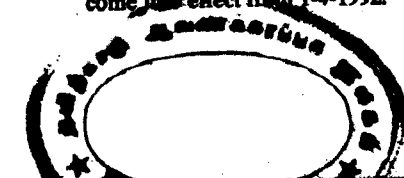
Motor cycles with capacity (in cc)	Present tax per annum	Proposed tax per annum
	Rs.	Rs.
above 50 upto 75	150	125
above 75 upto 170	150	180
above 170 upto 300	200	210
above 300	300	210

The life time tax on motor cycles, both new as well as old, will also be accordingly revised.

206. It is proposed to make a small further modification in the tax on motor vehicles. The annual tax payable by owners of motor vehicles with weight less than 700 Kg is Rs.300. This will hereafter be revised to Rs.400. Correspondingly the tax for this category of motor vehicles owned by companies will be revised to Rs.800 from Rs.600 and that for imported vehicles will be revised from Rs.900 to Rs.1200.

207. A surcharge on motor vehicle tax in respect of stage carriages is levied at flat rates on motorbuses and express buses. We have decided to levy the surcharge at a uniform rate of 25 per cent on the basic tax in respect of all categories except metropolitan buses.

These changes in the motor vehicles tax will come into effect from 1-4-1992.



208. We propose to revise the rate of Stamp duty on some categories of documents. The rate of Stamp duty is 3 per cent on certain leases, mortgage without possession, partition, release deeds, settlement within the members of the family, etc. This rate will be increased to 4 per cent. In respect of certain other documents, the Stamp duty is on a fixed rate basis. We shall revise these rates suitably. In respect of certain other transactions like acknowledgement of debt, promissory note, bill of exchange, transfer of shares, receipt, bill of lading, etc., the power of revision is with the Government of India. We will urge the Centre to make suitable revision to these rates to provide some additional resources to the States.

209. The finances of local bodies need immediate attention. The situation has become so bad that even ordinary maintenance of street lights, water supply and conservancy cannot be carried out. A thorough reform of their financial position is needed. The local cess at 45 paise per rupee of land revenue has remained at this level since 1958. The local cess surcharge has remained at the level of Rs.2.50 per rupee of land revenue since 1972. It is no surprise that the local bodies have become financially weak. We have to take urgent action to set right this position.

210. The local cess at 45 paise per rupee of land revenue will be raised to Re.1. The sharing pattern of local cess will also be modified enabling 75 per cent of the local cess to be paid to village and town panchayats as against about 55 per cent at present. This will provide adequate funds for the village and town panchayats to take up essential maintenance of services to the people.

211. The local cess surcharge will be enhanced from Rs.2.50 per rupee of land revenue to a minimum rate of Rs.5 and a maximum rate of Rs.10. The Panchayat Union will be free to decide the exact rate between these limits.

212. These changes will come into effect from 1-7-1992.

213. We shall also bring in necessary legislation in the current session to provide for the levy of tax on professions, trades and callings as announced in the last budget. Exemption will be granted for all salaried persons including Government employees drawing emoluments below Rs.1500 per month. The rate of tax for lower income groups will be kept appropriately low. The tax payable by salaried persons will be as below:-

Sl.No	Emoluments per month	Rate of tax per half year	
		Min. Rs.	Max. Rs.
1.	Rs 1,500 or more but less than Rs 2,000	30	48
2.	Rs 2,000 or more but less than Rs 2,500	48	72
3.	Rs 2,500 or more but less than Rs 3,000	72	120
4.	Rs 3,000 or more but less than Rs 5,000	120	240
5.	Rs 5,000 or more but less than Rs 7,500	300	450
6.	Rs 7,500 or more but less than Rs 10,000	450	600

7. Rs 10,000 or more but less than Rs 15,000	600	900
8. Rs 15,000 and above	900	990

For others, appropriate minimum and maximum rates will be spelt out in the legislation. The entire proceeds of the tax will be available to the local bodies. The tax on the revised basis will come into effect from 1st April, 1992.

214. In Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore Corporations levy of property tax has stagnated. Different systems of taxation have been introduced in different cities in the country. We have to examine these different patterns and evolve a proper system to be implemented in the State. It is proposed to undertake such a study to facilitate early decisions on a proper system of levy of property tax.

CONCLUSION

215. I had pointed out earlier that the closing deficit for the year 1992-93 would be Rs.619.09 crores which would be reduced to Rs.564.09 crores based on the package of measures to ensure economy in expenditure. The proposals that I have just outlined may result in a net additional yield of Rs.70 crores. The resultant final deficit at the end of 1992-93 would be Rs.494.09 crores. We also hope to obtain some extra resources as the State's share of additional measures undertaken by the Centre recently. While this reflects an improvement, we will still have to consolidate the fiscal situation in the coming year. We will also have to tackle the problem of recurring high revenue deficits.

216. The recurring revenue deficit over the last few years and the carry over deficit together continue to pose problems. We hope the Centre will consider our request for a package of assistance to tide over the carry over deficit. We shall then be in a position to further set right the financial position of the Government.

217. I would also like to reiterate our request to the Centre to consider our plea for special assistance for the Plan. We have repeatedly stressed the problem caused by taking Tamil Nadu's per capita income to be above the national average. There are genuine difficulties in interpreting the data. We would like the Union Planning Commission to reconsider this issue and either allow Tamil Nadu a share in the pool of 20 per cent for States having per capita income below the national average or give Tamil Nadu a special allocation in the 7.5 per cent component meant for special problems. I wish to point out that in a similar situation in the Seventh Plan period such a special allocation was given to Tamil Nadu.

218. The Union Planning Commission has allotted Rs.15 crores to Tamil Nadu in 1991-92 towards sea border area development. No indication has been given regarding the allocation for 1992-93. We would like to reiterate that in our coastal border areas we have to take up special works considering the strategic importance. The problems in handling foreign militants and extremists in these coastal border areas need to be recognised. We hope the Union Planning Commission will make a special allocation for this purpose in 1992-93.

219. I would also like to briefly touch upon the inequity involved in the Ninth Finance Commission's recommendations relating to plan revenue grants. I consider that Tamil Nadu's high recurring revenue deficit could have been lower if only a reasonable view had been taken by the Ninth Finance Commission. In allowing just Rs.43 crores as plan revenue grant for Tamil Nadu for the five year period 1990-95 a great injustice has been done.

If the entitlement of plan revenue grant is computed afresh taking the actual situation in 1992-93 we would be getting a much larger share. This problem needs to be reviewed by the Union Planning Commission without taking the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission as settled. The operation of the plan revenue grant scheme in our view is far from satisfactory.

220. We are hopeful that our pleas for additional financial assistance will merit serious consideration at least now when the Centre's position has improved. Our immediate request is that a package of financial assistance is extended in the current year so that the deficit at the end of the current year can be bridged. We are hopeful that such a package of financial assistance will be forthcoming.

221. I have now come to the end of my speech. The people of Tamil Nadu gave a massive mandate to the AIADMK headed by our leader the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalalitha, fully confident that she and our party alone could handle the severe challenges before Tamil Nadu and take it again on the road to prosperity. We have successfully tackled the severe challenges before the Government. Law and order has been restored. The threat of foreign militants and extremists attempting to disrupt the peace and tranquillity in our State has considerably receded. We have also successfully come through the dark tunnel of an unprecedented financial crisis. There were many who doubted the capacity of the Government to weather this storm. We have taken bold and resolute action to tackle the fiscal crisis and we can now confidently concentrate on the development process. We shall pledge ourselves to the task of bringing prosperity to Tamil Nadu. This Government under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha belongs to the people. The poor and the under privileged have always stood by us in the hope that their lives will be brightened. Our leader the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha has at all times steadfastly put forth the cause of the poor and the under privileged at all forums. This Government under her able direction has ensured that whatever be the adverse situation the poor and the under privileged are always protected. This budget represents a further step toward consolidation and growth. Having conquered the severest adverse situation we shall now march ahead under the able and dynamic leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha.

222. I am sure Members would have noticed a difference this time in their copy of the budget speech.

Members would find that there is also a change in the presentation of the budget documents. I am glad to inform the House that for the first time we have fully computerised the preparation and printing of the budget.

223. I have great pleasure in conveying my heartfelt thanks to the Finance Secretary Thiru N.Narayanan and the officers and staff of the Finance Department as well as other departments who have given me all help and cooperation in preparing these Budget proposals in a perfect manner.

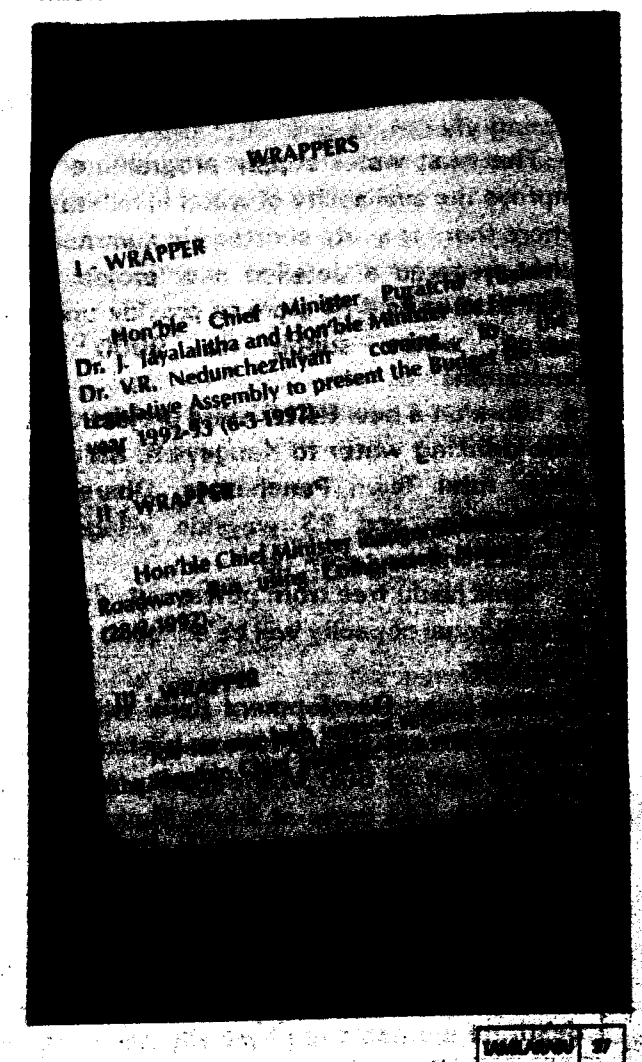
224. I earnestly request the House to kindly approve the Annual Financial Statement for the year 1992-93.

VANAKKAM.

V.R.NEDUNCHEZHIAN

Minister for Finance

Madras,
6th March 1992.
Maasi 23,
Thiruvalluvar Era 2023.



BUDGET 1992-93 HIGHLIGHTS

★ A training programme for women in agriculture (TANWA - II) with assistance from DANIDA will be launched shortly in 6 Districts namely, North Arcot-Ambekar, Salem, Dharmapuri, Periyar, Trichy and Kanyakumari.

★ 20 High Schools and 10 Higher Secondary Schools will be established in the coming year. 64 more High School Buildings at an additional cost of Rs.3 crore will be taken up. Rs.50 lakh have been provided to equip 50 Higher Secondary Schools with science laboratories and equipments.

★ In accordance with the concept of 'Health for All' the Puratchi Thalaivi Maruthuva Nala Thittam is being initiated. Under this programme so far 2,347 camps have been conducted. 14.54 lakh people have been covered so far. Totally 10,000 camps will be conducted.

★ A new complex at a cost of Rs.1.1 crore to accommodate the campus of Dr. M.G.R. Medical University will be constructed in the coming year.

★ The rural water supply programme to improve the availability of water in habitations where there is acute shortage in summer, we have prepared a detailed new project at a total cost of Rs.474 crore to provide uninterrupted water supply to 9000 such habitations.

★ Work on a new Rs.20 crore project to provide drinking water to Kangeyam, Muthur, 6 other rural Town Panchayats, Dharapuram Municipality and 83 wayside village Panchayats will be taken up.

★ Tamil Nadu free from power cut. 220 MW of additional capacity will be added in the current year.

★ The Asian Development Bank will be approached for assistance for establishing an additional unit of 500 MW capacity at a total cost of Rs.944 crore at North Madras.

★ The total outlay on roads in 1992-93 has been stepped upto Rs.314.51 crore from a level of Rs.200.35 crore in 1990-91.

★ The monthly pension raised from Rs.50 to Rs.75 for all old age pensioners, widows, destitute women and physically handicapped

pensioners. The outlay on pensions will be stepped up from Rs.32.50 crore to Rs.52.29 crore. In addition, orders have been issued to make available pension to 27,592 number of persons in the waiting list.

★ A total cash support of Rs.200 is given to pregnant women to compensate for the loss of their wages. This cash support will hereafter be stepped upto Rs.300. It will cover 2 lakh women. The extra cost will be Rs.2 crore.

★ A new scheme of expanded medical care for the poor will be started. Under this scheme if any one in a poor family has to undergo life saving surgery, the Government will provide Rs.15,000 as assistance in the event the surgery has to be done in an approved private hospital.

★ South Arcot District will be bifurcated. The District with Cuddalore as its headquarters will retain the original name of South Arcot. The new District with Villupuram as its headquarters will be named Villupuram-Vallalar District.

★ A new Programme for Assured Employment (PAE) will be launched. This programme which is to be modelled on the line of the employment guarantee scheme in Maharashtra will in the first phase be implemented in Dharmapuri, Ramanathapuram, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar and Pudukkottai Districts.

★ Vermicelli is popularly used in all our households. We have decided to bring down the tax from 8 per cent to 5 per cent.

★ Groceries (excluding those in Schedule I and II) will be taxed at 5 per cent instead of 8 per cent.

★ Ghee and other milk products sold without a brand name registered under the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 are presently taxed at 8 per cent. The tax rate will be reduced to 5 per cent.

★ Fenugreek and cloves are used in our daily food. We have decided to cut the tax on these from 8 per cent to 5 per cent.

★ Tapioca chips will hereafter be taxed at 5 per cent instead of 8 per cent.

★ We have decided to totally exempt all forms of kumkum and kajal from tax.



HISTORY OF GINGEE

Gingee is a small and unassuming town situated in South Arcot District, 160 kilometers south of Madras. It is located picturesquely amidst rising granite hills. Gingee is called Senji in Tamil and derives its name from the Goddess called Senji Amman. Gingee was fortified by about 1200 A.D. by Ananda Kone, Chief of the local shepherd community. He was succeeded by Krishna Kone who is said to have fortified the northern hill by about 1240 A.D. which later came to be known as Krishnagiri.

The history of Gingee between the period from the disappearance of Kone dynasty to the establishment of the overlordship of Vijayanagar is very patchy. With the rise of Vijayanagar Empire and its absorption of the greater part of South India, Gingee like many other parts of Thanjavur and Madurai came to be included in their empire. Saluva Narasimha held Gingee as a Chief of Vijayanagar, sending annual tribute.

During the period of Nayaka rulers many structures, fortification walls and temples were built.

In 1677 A.D. the great Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji captured Gingee and the place remained under the Maratha power till

the end of the 17th century A.D. During this period the fortification and defences were considerably strengthened.

In 1691 A.D. the Moghul Emperor Aurangzeb captured Gingee. He appointed one Swarup Singh as the Chief of Gingee under the control of Nawab of Arcot.

After Swarup Singh, his son Taj Singh popularly known as Desingh Raja came to rule and tried to assert himself and refused to pay huge arrears of tribute to the Nawab of Arcot. This led to a war between both in which Raja Desingh was defeated and killed.

Gingee became a part of Nawab of Arcot's territory in 1714. Although defeated the young and courageous Rajput Chief Desingh Raja became a legend and his heroic deeds came to be sung in the form of popular ballads.

In 1750 A.D. Gingee was captured by the French General M. Bussy and was under their control till the fall of Pondicherry to British in January 1761. On 6th April 1761 Gingee was surrendered to captain Stephen Smith of the British.

Gingee appears for the last time in history in 1780 A.D. in the context of Hyder Ali's invasion.

of Karnataka. After that, it shared the fate of the rest of Carnatic region and lost its political importance.

Interesting features of the Gingee Fort

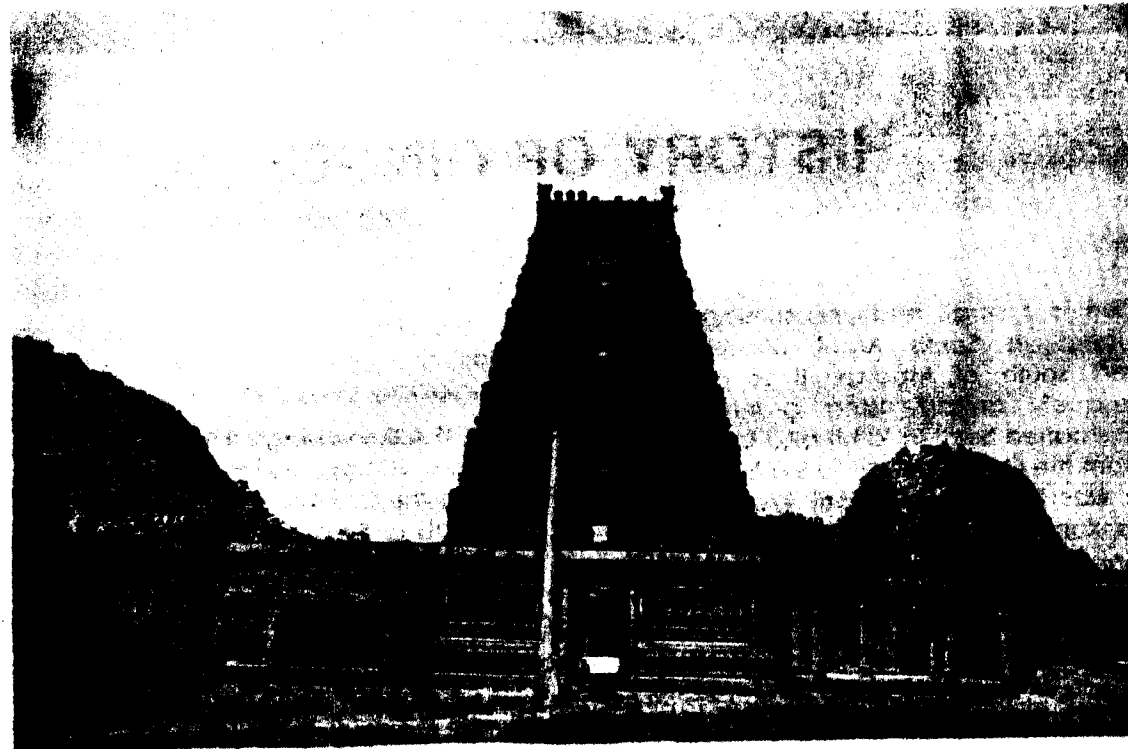
There are several interesting features of the Gingee Fort. One such feature is, the massive fortifications of Gingee Fort are inter-connected enclosing all three hills of Rajagiri, Krishnagiri and Chandrayan Durg and runs to a length of 5 kilometers.

The most attractive and spectacular ruins of all in the fort, is the KALYANA MAHAL, built in the

barrel vaulted roof made of brick which is considered to be the GYMNASIUM.

VENKATARAMANA TEMPLE is the largest temple in Gingee of the later Vijayanagar period, built by Muthialu Nayaka. The inner Gopura is adorned with a number of beautiful stucco figures. The bigger outer Gopura has ornate features having moulded plinth and sculptured panels on its walls facing the entrance passage. Panels representing Gajalakshmi the Goddess, Scenes from Ramayana, Dasavathara and Vishnu are found inside.

During the French occupation, beautifully carved monolithic pillars of this temple were taken to Pondicherry and plated to support a



Indo-Islamic style consisting of a square court surrounded by rooms for the ladies' of the Governor's house-hold. In the middle of this court is a square tower of eight storeys built of stone and plastered smoothly and is about 27 metres high with pyramidal roof. The rooms of various storeys are inter-connected by a system of earthenware pipes running into the walls similar to other Vijayanagar Nayaka buildings elsewhere.

There is a large GRANARY built in stone with a spacious entrance passage. The walls are nearly two meters thick. Adjoining this granary, there is another structure built of stone having

canopy of the statue of Duplex on the sea front.

Situated in a village called Singavaram, about 5 kilometers from Gingee is the TEMPLE OF LORD RANGANATHA on top of a hillock. The deity of Lord Ranganatha is the largest in India and is in a lying posture with his face turned skywards. There is a story behind this posture which says that when Desingh came to Lord Ranganatha to secure his permission to wage war on Nawab of Arcot, Lord Ranganatha did not approve of the day of starting of war. Raja Desingh did not want to go back. In disapproval, Lord Ranganatha, who always faces

the worshipper in all the temples, turned his face upwards.

The two hills inside the fort area are Rajagiri and Krishnagiri. There are many interesting structures on top of both the hills.

On top of Rajagiri hill there are two granaries, a magazine building, water-tower, audience hall, a huge canon and the famous Ranganatha Temple. On top of the Krishnagiri hill there are two stone-built granaries, a pillard hill, two temples and an edifice built of brick and mortar known as the audience chamber. One noteworthy feature of these hills is that they are completely formed by huge-sized granite boulders with very little earth underneath them.

Presently the whole area of the Gingee Fort is under the control of Archeaeological Survey of India for preservation. Gingee Fort, stands now proclaiming the heroic deeds of Desingh Raja and the past.

PROMOTING TOURISM IN GINGEE

The Government have decided for bringing prominence to Gingee to promote Tourism in that area.

A meeting of the officials of the Tourism

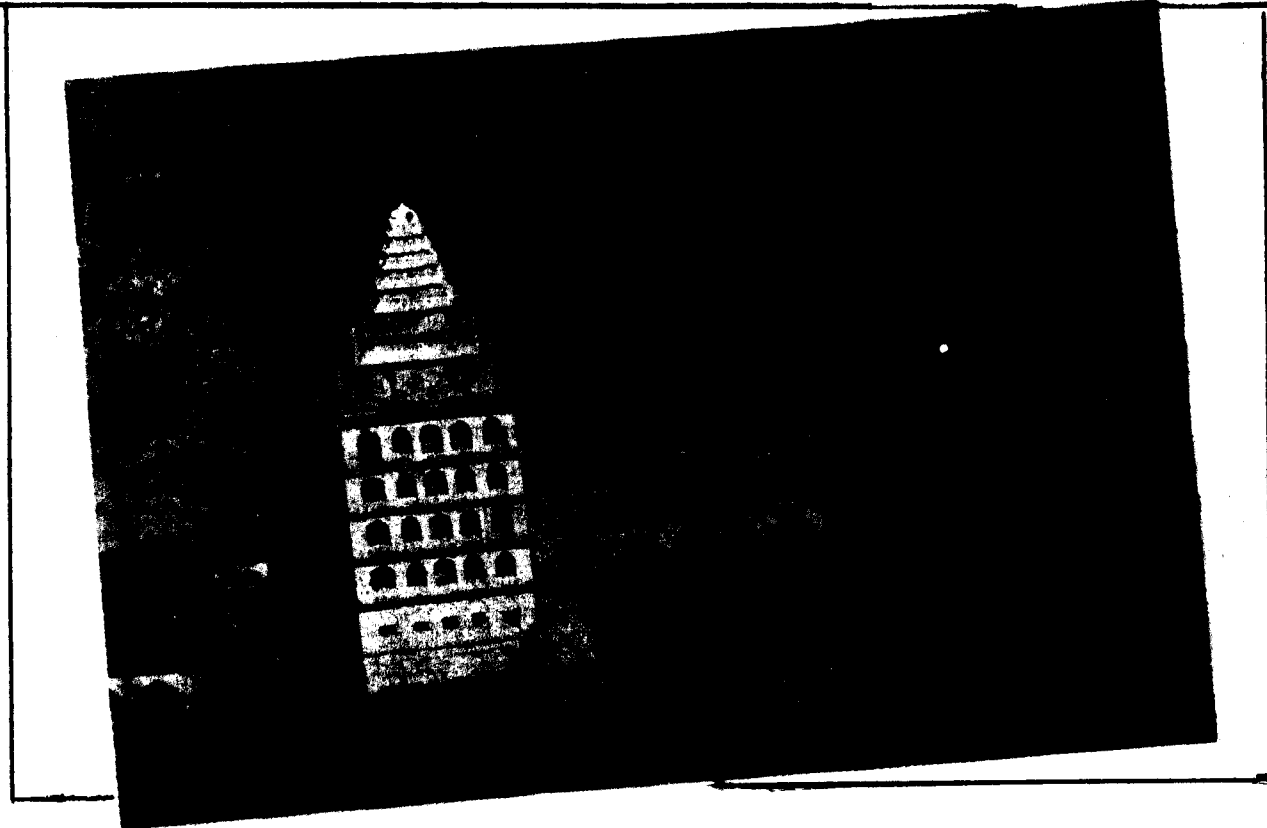
Department, District Administration and prominent citizens was held in Gingee on 19th March 1992. A number of steps to promote Tourism were discussed in the meeting. An on the spot survey was made to assess the possibility of promoting Gingee as a tourist spot. A number of suggestions placed by the representatives of the public were considered and it has been proposed to initiate the following steps.

1. A new tour covering Tiruvannamalai, Sathanur Dam, Gingee, Tiruvakkarai and Pondicherry can be introduced as a two day programme on Saturdays and Sundays from the ensuing summer season. Both TTDC and ITDC will be requested to implement the scheme.

2. TTDC would be requested to include Gingee Fort in their 8 Day Tamil Nadu Tour and 5 Day South India Tour from April itself.

3. A detailed brochure about the historical Fort and surroundings will be published by the Department. As Gingee Fort is the biggest Fort in South India an attractive poster, and a set of picture post cards will be brought out for sale.





4. Big hoardings on the National Highway about Gingee and Tiruvannamalai will be put up. Aluminium laminated indication boards would also be installed.

5. As the construction is not permitted inside the fort area the Archaeological Survey of India will be asked to auction the right of selling food packets as they are doing it now for selling cool drinks. They will also be asked to provide toilet facilities.

6. Archaeological Survey of India would soon set up a museum when the required fund has been sanctioned.

7. A booklet in Tamil about Gingee Fort and its surroundings will be published.

8. Chettikkulam, one of the two tanks on the eastern side of Fort is having water throughout the year. It is being considered to provide pedal boats and one rowing boat.

9. Forming a cable car between the Rajagiri and Krishnagiri hills, or a winch car is a ma-

jor proposal invoking large quantum of money and a higher level of permission from the Government of India. Steps would be taken to get permission from the Central Government and entrust to some reputed concerns to prepare the feasibility report.

10. Important portions of the Rajagiri Fort will be illuminated by seeking Government funds.

11. Three days cultural festival can be arranged during the month of October when the Raja Desingh Memorial day falls.

12. The Collector of South Arcot District will be requested to accomodate the requirement of Gingee area in the special schemes like Town and Country Planning Funds or IRDP.

13. Doordarshan will be addressed to include Gingee also in their special programme of 'Fort of India' in the National Network. ●

Exotic Designs for the New Year

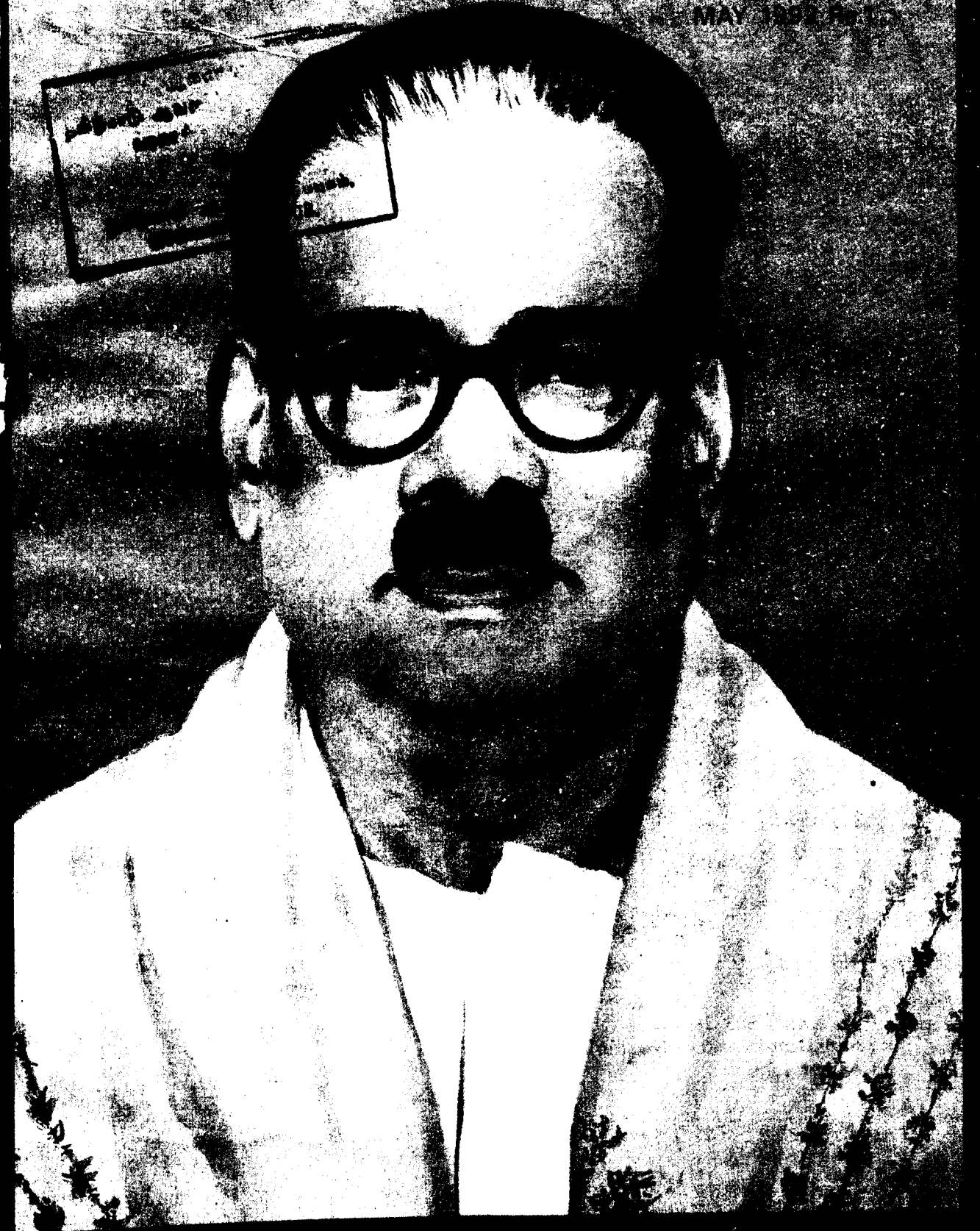
A new range added in Chiffon, Polyester, Silk and Cotton sarees for you. Visit Co-optex showroom.





Tamil Arasu

MAY 1962



FOR FORMAL WEAR



- ★ Pure Khadi Silk Sarees
- ★ Khadi Cotton and Polyester Varieties
- ★ Readymades



Tamilnadu Khadi & Village Industries Board, Kuralagam, Madras-600 108.

PLEASE VISIT

Khadi Kraft

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- ★ The Chief Minister launched new projects at a cost of Rs.693 crore at Tuticorin.
- ★ B & C Mills reopened.
- ★ The statue of W.P.A. Soundarapandianar unveiled.
- ★ The avowed policy of Tamil Nadu to uplift Backward Classes

— Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha

- ★ Announcements made in the Legislative Assembly.

- ★ Global Link.

— Dr. N. Gunasekaran,
Asst. Professor,
Anna University, Madras.



TAMIL ARASU

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Chithirai - Vaikasi

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A FILM ON PROHIBITION

The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to produce a film on prohibition and the production of the film "Neengal Nalla Irukkanum" was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 29th April 1992 at a function held at Prasad Studio, Saligramam, Madras.

After the welcome address the Chief Minister inaugurated the production by lighting a Kuthuvilakku.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, in her speech said the film was designed to arouse the consciousness of the people against the evil of drinking. It was with an aim of bringing a change of heart in addicts, to give up the evil of drinking that the Government had come forward to produce this film. The film was being produced by the Department of Information and Tourism for the Department of Prohibition.

She said the Government had decided to entrust the job of production to Thiru G.V., Thiru Visu would be directing the film and the music would be scored by Thiru Ilayaraja.

She reiterated that the picture would be a commercial one and not the usual documentary film. She said, she had made it clear that the artistes and technicians engaged for the film should be paid according to their present market rate. Only if the artistes did their work with involvement the

picture would have quality and be a success and that is why she had decided to pay their present market rates.

The film would be produced at a cost of Rs.85 lakh.

Similarly, the Government had also produced a drama and the work had been entrusted to the popular stage artiste Thiru R.S. Manohar, the Chief Minister said. The drama 'Velichcham' produced at a cost of Rs.2 lakh (on prohibition) would be staged on 1.5.92 in the Music Academy, she said.

The film was being dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi and would be released on 2.10.92, the Chief Minister added.

Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, I.A.S., Chief Secretary assured the Chief Minister that the officialdom would co-operate in the task of enforcing prohibition.

Thiru G.Venkateswaran (G.V.), Chairman and Managing Director of the G.V. Films Ltd. welcomed the gathering and Thiru K.Malaisamy, I.A.S., Home Secretary proposed a vote of thanks.

Thiru Visu, the Director of the film spoke on the occasion.

The function was attended by Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Legislative Assembly, Government officials, film dignitaries and a large gathering.



FIRST ALL WOMEN POLICE STATION

In the Country's first All Women Police Station was declared open at Thousand Lights Police Station Complex, Madras by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 13th April 1992.

To be managed by an Inspector, three Sub-Inspectors, six Head Constables and 24 Constables, the all women police station will deal with all kinds of crimes against women and dowry related cases.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the police station and said similar all women police stations would be opened if necessary in all District headquarters and important towns after monitoring the functioning of the new experiment. Women Police would also have new uniforms soon.

The Chief Minister said the new station would have the entire city jurisdiction and had



been authorised to receive complaints from aggrieved women from any part of the city. Complaints would be registered and appropriate action taken on them.

Women suffered varied trials and tribulations in silence and sometimes found themselves being pushed to the verge of committing suicide. Such hapless women had even hesitated to express their mental agony, more so in police stations mostly managed by men and finally reconciled themselves to their fate. The all women police station, designed to surmount the problem. She hoped, would go a long way in coming to the rescue of such women who could think of no help whatsoever from any quarter.

She felt women had the capability to win over the hearts of juvenile delinquents and first time criminals and prevent the commission of crimes again. She hoped that



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha garlanded the statue of Sir Pitti Thiyagarayar, on 27th April 1992, in connection with his 141-st birth anniversary.

those entrusted with the responsibility of managing the new police station would make the experiment a success.

The Chief Minister ordered on compassionate grounds on the occasion the appointment of three widows as constables whose husbands died in harness while serving the department.

Thiru S. Sripal, Director General of Police, welcoming

the gathering, said the Chief Minister was always ready to grant to the Police Department anything unasked, and said this in her 10 month rule served as a great source of encouragement to the personnel. The Police personnel, he assured the Chief Minister, would give a good account of themselves.

FOUNDATION FOR POLICE QUARTERS

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J. Jayalalitha

laid the foundation stone for Police Quarters at Pullianthope, Madras on 13th April, 1992. This Police Quarters would have 112 tenements to be built at a cost of Rs.1.12 crore. This was part of the 1000 tenements proposed to be built at Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Thanjavur and Manimuthar. The Government had allocated Rs.3 crore this year for the scheme.

The Chief Minister regretted that a majority of Police personnel who toiled day and night to protect the lives and properties of people did not have basic facility like housing. It had been decided to provide quarters in stages to police personnel at all levels and this was the objective behind the revival of the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation disbanded by the previous Government.

Thiru K.K. Rajasekharan Nair, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation also spoke on the occasion.



A HISTORIC STEP TO RESTORE THE SANCTITY OF A SACRED SHRINE

The Kapaleeswarar Temple in Madras city is one of the sacred shrines in Tamil Nadu. The big tank on its west side is surrounded by broad streets on four sides; the view of the tank and the temple is picturesque. Normally, a devotee bathes in the tank and prepares himself to enter the temple.

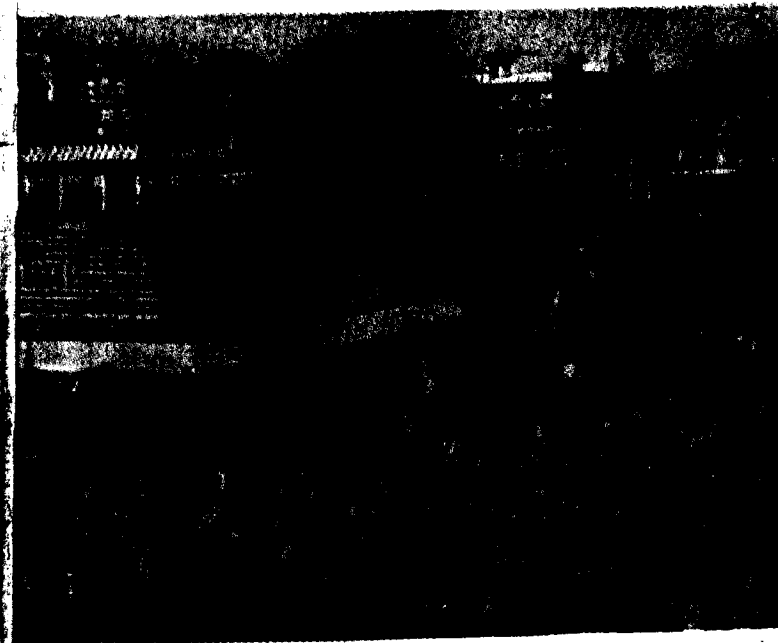
In recent years, due to a variety of reasons, the historic tank has turned dry. The Tamil Nadu Temple Administration Board, under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha will begin a phased programme for renovation of the tank leading

to resumption of water to reasonable level for the benefit of thousands of devotees who throng to the temple. This will enable revival of the Annual Float Festival.

In this connection the Chief Minister inaugurated the Rupees One crore renovation work on the Tank of the Kapaleeswarar Temple in Mylapore on 13th April 1992. At a brief and colourful function adjoining the tank, the Chief Minister lighted a Kuthuvilakku to mark the commencement of work.

Dr. R.S. Sridhar, M.P. and Thiru T.M. Ranga Rajan, M.L.A. welcomed the Chief Minister. Thiru C. Thangaraju, Commissioner and Secretary, The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department explained that a two feet clay bed and a layer of silty sands would be laid in the tank on which water would be filled. For the first phase of the scheme Rs.35 lakh had been sanctioned. It was proposed to set up a recycling unit beside the tank to ensure that the stored water was kept clean.

He noted that after 1987, the Annual Float Festival Theppam, celebrated in the Tamil month of 'Thai' could not be observed because the temple tank had remained bone dry. The Government was keen on ensuring that the festival was celebrated from 1993.





TAMIL NADU EIGHTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha held detailed discussions on Tamil Nadu's Eighth Five Year Plan (92-97) with the Deputy Chairman, Union Planning Commission, Thiru Pranab Kumar Mukherjee at the Secretariat on 18th April, 1992. The Chief Minister was assisted by Dr.V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, Finance Minister, Chief Secretary Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, Secretary Planning and Development, the Secretary Finance Thiru N. Narayanan and the Member Secretary State Planning Commission. Dr. C. Rangarajan, Member Union Planning Commission and officers of the Union Planning Commission and Union Finance Ministry participated in the meeting.

The detailed discussions, which lasted about an hour, were wide ranging, covering all aspects of Tamil Nadu's Eighth Plan. The Chief Minister highlighted the special problems faced by Tamil Nadu and the need for a larger Plan outlay to accelerate planned development of the State. The Chief Minister stressed that the highest priority would be given to growth in agriculture and allied activities. The emphasis would be on technological

progress and better water management to ensure sustainable growth through higher productivity.

The focus in the State's Eighth Plan would be on rapid industrial growth. Towards this end a special thrust would be given to the provision of basic infrastructure, particularly power. Apart from the ongoing power projects, the Chief Minister emphasised the intention of the State to implement in the Eighth Plan the 1500MW integrated lignite mining and captive power generation project at Jayamkondacholapuram. This project was essential to meet the anticipated gap between demand and supply towards the end of the Eighth Plan. She also stressed the need for adequate Central investments in new power projects, particularly Neyveli I Mine Expansion and the Third Mine cut and the Koodangulam nuclear power plant.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the highest importance would be given in the State's Eighth Plan to human resources development with particular reference to education, health and a comprehensive safety net for the poor. She suggested that in the Eighth Plan adequate attention be given

to macro economic variables so that inflation is contained and the poor are protected. She referred to the Krishna Water Supply Project and sought Central support for the associated Madras Distribution Project.

The Deputy Chairman pointed out the fiscal situation in which the Eighth Plan was being formulated. He appreciated the special thrusts being accorded to agriculture, industry and human resources development in Tamil Nadu's Eighth Plan. Welcoming the measures already taken to restore fiscal health in Tamil Nadu, he complimented Tamil Nadu under the leadership of the Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalalitha for the success achieved in restoring fiscal health to the State and successfully completing the Annual Plan 1991-92. He emphasised that the process should continue so

that a meaningful Eighth Plan could be implemented.

The Chief Minister stressed that while the State was making a tremendous effort, a satisfactory Eighth Plan outlay would be possible only with adequate Central assistance and share in market borrowings. She stressed the need for additional Central assistance in the context of Tamil Nadu's special problems.

Taking note of the Eighth Plan outlay proposed at the official level and the special request made by the Chief Minister, it was decided to determine Tamil Nadu's Eighth Plan outlay at Rs.10,200 crores. This outlay represents a 77 percent step up over the approved outlay of Rs.5,750 crores in the Seventh Plan.



Let us create a new world
Where the war-lords shall be
wholly uprooted
— Bharathidasan

When the poor begging-bowls
Become warriors to beat the rich
There shall be no beggars and
barons
All will become equal. O! man
realize this.
— Bharathidasan

When the woman dies
the widower seeks another woman
like that we shall ask
the widow to get a husband for her
— Bharathidasan

While keeping the door for love
open
We shall shut the door for
conception
What harm is there
Otherwise what for is a child?
to die or to languish?
— Bharathidasan



FESTIVAL OF ARTS AT MUSEUM

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, inaugurated the exhibition on "Bronzes of South India" and laid the foundation stone of Dakshin Chitra-Pallavapuram Project at Government Museum, Madras on 14th April, 1992. She also inaugurated the Muthamizh Art Festival and released Commemorative postal cover.

The Chief Minister said three icon protection centres would be built at Madurai, Tirunelveli and Tiruchirapalli to afford greater security to antique icons of Tamil Nadu. The new centres would supplement the one functioning now at Tiruvarur to safeguard bronze icons.

The Chief Minister pointed out that it had been decided to form a temple protection force to guard against theft of antiques, icon smugglers thrived on the ignorance of some people who sold antiques merely for the metal value.

The selling of the cultural heritage could not be prevented merely through protection measures, but by building an awareness of the traditions among the people at large, including the present

generation. The exhibition of South Indian bronzes was an effort in this direction.

The Chief Minister said steps had been taken to return the Pathur Nataraja idol, recovered from its foreign buyers after many years, to its original temple.

Scholars had expressed amazement at the sophistication and beauty of the icons of South India, after comparing them with the Sumerian iron icons and the Egyptian gold pieces.

India's sculptures had a unique piece in art because they did not appear as mere show pieces, but kindled religious feelings in the minds of the people. The ancient craftsmen lent wonderful form to the Puranic descriptions of the deities. The experts of Tamil Nadu produced works in media ranging from wood, stone, marble and ivory to gold and alloys, displaying mastery of metallurgy.

The Chief Minister said a village replica designed to display the glory of the Pallava era and its artistic capabilities would come up on the Mahabalipuram road near Muttukadu. Five acres of land and Rs.15 lakhs had been sanctioned by the



Tamil Nadu Government for the project, which formed part of the Central plan to focus on South Indian Cultures.

She inaugurated the Department of Art and Culture, bringing under one umbrella all activities related to art and culture. She also released a special cover and postal cancellation brought out

to mark the South Indian Bronzes Expo. and presented it to the Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare Thiru M. Anandan.

She announced that the newly air-conditioned Museum Theatre would feature two art performances per week. A set of books, including one on "Select Bronzes in the Madras Museum" by the Director, Thiru M. Raman, were released by her on the occasion.

A Cultural Festival (Muthamizh Kalai Vizha) featuring Music and Dance would be held from April, 15 to 26 at the Museum Theatre, Egmore.

Tmt. C.K. Gariyali, I.A.S., Secretary, Information and Tourism Department, Tmt. Deborah Thiagarajan, Co-ordinator, Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage and Thiru M.S. Raghavan, Chief Post Master General also spoke on the occasion.

Dr. Avvai Natarajan, Secretary, Tamil Development and Culture Department, welcomed the gathering. Thiru M. Raman, Director, Government Museum, proposed a vote of thanks.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha garlanded the statue of Paavendar Bharathidasan, at Marina on his 102nd birth anniversary (29.4.1992).





The Chief Minister launched new projects at a cost of Rs.693 crore at Tuticorin

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha declared open the new air-port built at a cost of Rs.35 crore at Vagalkulam near Tuticorin in Chidambaranar District at a colourful function on 30th April 1992. She also launched several new projects at an estimated cost of Rs.693 crore.

The Inauguration of the new projects include:

- ★ Tuticorin Airport constructed at a cost of Rs.350 crore.



- ★ Tuticorin Thermal Power Plant - 4th and 5th Units at a cost of Rs.630 crore.
- ★ Tuticorin Bus Stand at a cost of Rs.1.20 crore.
- ★ Thamiraparani - Perur Canal Scheme at a cost of Rs.1.30 crore.
- ★ SIPCOT Complex Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.1.33 crore.

- ★ Tuticorin Overhead Tank constructed at a cost of Rs.22 lakh.

- ★ Tuticorin Thermal Power Station Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.84 lakh.

- ★ Panchayat Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.40.25 lakh.

- ★ Sankaran Koil Transport Corporation Workshop at a cost of Rs.30 lakh.

- ★ Group Housing Scheme for Adi Dravidars at a cost of Rs.304 crore.

- ★ Free House sites to Fishermen at a cost of Rs.14.50 lakh.

- ★ Civil Supplies Corporation Building constructed at a cost of Rs.35 lakh.

- ★ Agricultural Development Programmes at a cost of Rs.80 lakh.



The Chief Minister also laid foundation stones for:

- ★ Prawn Culture Farm at a cost of Rs.7.20 crore.

- ★ Seevalperi Combined Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.15.29 crore.

- ★ Sayarpuram Combined Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.5.55 crore.

- ★ Titanium Project Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.70 lakh.

- ★ Panchayat Development Programmes at a cost of Rs.7.47 crore.

- ★ Transportation Corporation Workshops at a cost of Rs.1.16 crore.

- ★ The number of new Bus routes to be inaugurated - 25.

- ★ The number of beneficiaries under various Welfare Schemes - 5800.

The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Thiru M.O.H. Farook, presided over the function.

The Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru Sedapatti R.Muthiah, Thiru K.A Sengottayan, Minister for Transport, Thiru S. Kannappan, Minister for Public Works and Thiru Alagu Thirunavukarasu, Minister for Local Administration spoke on the occasion.

Air Marshal C.K.S. Raju, PVSM, AVSM, Chairman, National Air Port Authority welcomed the gathering. Thiru K.M. Subramanian, I.A.S., District Collector, Chidambaranar District proposed a vote of thanks.





B & C MILLS REOPENED

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha participated in a function to mark the reopening of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills (B & C Mill) on 13th April 1992 and appealed to the managements and employees of all industries to avoid recourse to strikes, closures and outs.

The Chief Minister said she was opposed to such extreme steps and argued that difference between the management and workers could be sorted out only through a meaningful dialogue.

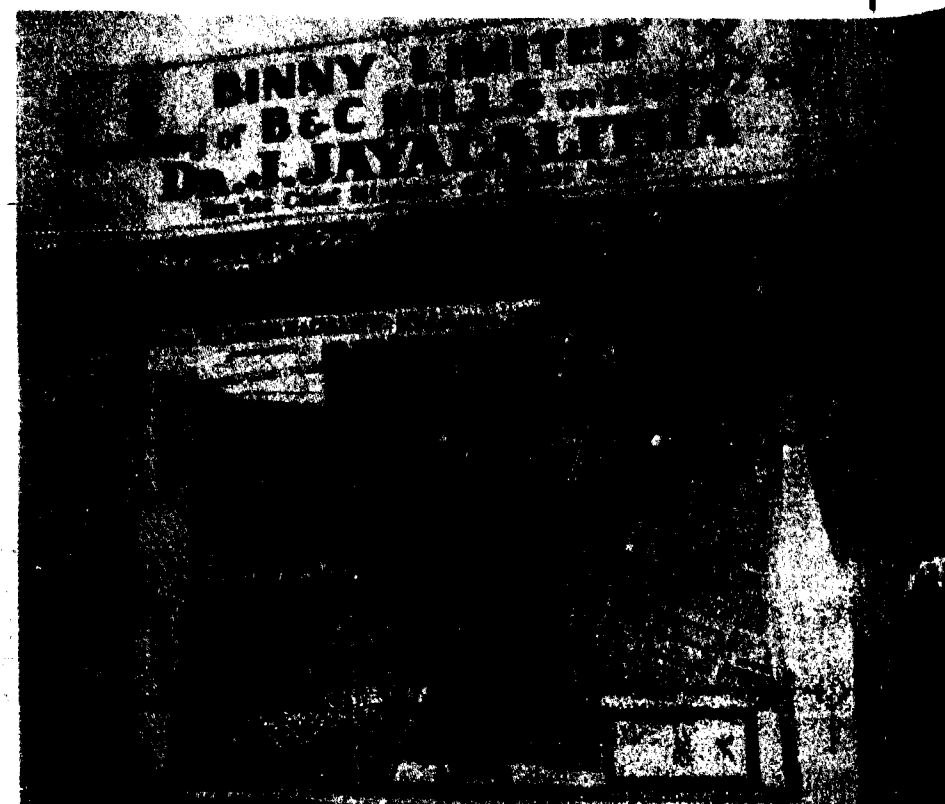
The Chief Minister urged the workers to think of their families before plunging into a strike or going to the point of closure, because it would put their wives and children on the streets. Even as you fight your rights you must remember your responsibilities to the family, she told them.

The Chief Minister noted that those who claim to fight for the rights of labour and proclaimed so from public platforms to earn the applause of the

workers, were the ones who worked behind the scene to see that the B and C Mills did not reopen earlier. 'I know this personally and I can say this with authority to you'.

The Chief Minister announced to the jubilation of the mill workers, the waiver of the Rs.9 lakhs loan given in the form of commodities by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation to the B and C Mills Co-operative

Society during the past one year. The State Government would bear the burden. This arrangement was made to ensure that the families of the workers could draw their rations when the mill was closed. The Madras Labour Union had petitioned the Chief Minister to collect the loan or credit in nine monthly instalments to avoid immediate financial strain to the employees.



The Chief Minister said last years' interest payable by the employees to the B and C Mills Cooperative Society would be deferred and collected in monthly instalments. She said it would not be proper to waive the interest as it was crucial to the continued credit facilities to employees.

She also announced, on behalf of the mill's management that beginning from this year, every employee completing 25 years of service would be presented a wrist watch. A few employees were handed over the watches at the function. Further the management would pay the school fees for the Children of the workers and also provide free uniforms to them.

salary as ex-gratia payment at the time of reopening of the mill, she said the company would also disburse another month's salary as bonus for last year.

Referring to reservations expressed in some quarters over the State Government's intervention in the B and C Mills dispute, as it was in the private sector, the Chief Minister said her main concern was the plight of the 8000 families which were affected by its closure. 'Today, I am happy not because my Government or I have solved the problem and reopened the mill, but because these families can lead a normal life with a regular income', she said.

The Minister for Education, Thiru C. Aranganayagam, ex-

plained the steps taken by the Government to reopen the

who called a tripartite meeting in February this year, wanted both the management and the labour to ensure that the mill was reopened for the Tamil New Year. He hoped that there would be mutual cooperation to ensure that the prestigious B and C Mills became not only viable, but also profitable.

Thiru E. Madhusoodhanan, the Handlooms Minister, told the workers that he was himself a victim of strike and lost his job in the Best and Crompton Company during the 1969 strike. You are fortunate in that the Chief Minister has ensured that the employees do not lose anything while reopening the mill.

In connection with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birthday celebrations, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha garlanded the statue of Dr. Ambedkar at Madras on 14th April 1992.





The Statue of

W.P.A. Soundarapandianar

Unveiled

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, unveiled a seven-foot bronze statue of W.P.A. Soundarapandianar, the Leader of the Self-Respect Movement near Panagal Park, Madras on 14th April 1992 and said the Panagal Park - Venkatanarayana Road Junction at T.Nagar will henceforth be called Soundarapandian Square. The Chief Minister also announced the Pandy Bazaar hereafter called Soundarapandian Bazaar.

The Chief Minister said Soundarapandian had carved a niche in the history of Tamil Nadu by his relentless struggle against casteism and untouchability and for uplifting the backward classes and securing equal rights for women.

The Chief Minister said Soundarapandian was one of the pillars of the Dravidian Movement and had championed the cause of Tamil language, the Tamils and Tamil Nadu.

Thiru C.Aranganayagam, Minister for Education, Thiru K.A.P. Viswanatham, a close associate of Soundarapandian and Thiru P.Sivanthi Aditan also spoke on the occasion.

THE AVOWED POLICY OF TAMIL NADU TO UPLIFT BACKWARD CLASSES

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha

Prime Minister, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, Lt. Governors, Ministers of States, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to thank the Prime Minister for giving us an opportunity to offer our views on the implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.

The policy of reservation of seats in Educational Institutions and reservation of posts in Public Services has had a long history in Tamil Nadu dating back to 1921, when the First Government Order was issued on reservation of posts in public services. In the year 1947, a category of "Backward Class Hindus" was introduced for recruitment on rotation system with a separate allocation for them.

A significant development took place soon after the coming into force of the Constitution of India in 1950. Article 15(1) of the Constitution of India specifically bars the State from discriminating against any citizen of India on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. Article 16(1) prescribes that there shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State. Article 16(2) further prescribes that no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of any employment or office under the State. Article 16(4) provides that nothing in Article 16 shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any Backward Classes of Citizens which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State. Article 29(2) bars the denial of admission to any citizen into any Educational Institutions maintained by the State or receiving aid out of the State funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them.

While this was the position soon after the coming into force of the Constitution, reservations in regard to entry into the Educational Institutions came under challenge in the Supreme Court in the Champakam Dorairajan Vs. State of Madras case. Two candidates who could not get admission in Medical and Engineering Colleges challenged the First Government order of the then Madras

Government as being violative of the Fundamental Rights in Article 29(2). Matters relating to reservation in Public services were also taken up to the Supreme Court in the Venkataramana Vs. State of Madras case. In both cases, the Supreme Court struck down the order of the then Madras Government (The Government Order of 1921) as unconstitutional.

There were also state-wide agitations. The State Government took up the matter with the Central Government. Events finally led to the amendment of Article 15 of the Constitution. The amended Article 15(4) provides that nothing in Article 15 and 29(2) shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any Socially and Educationally Backward Class of citizen or for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. It specifically lays down that the protective discrimination contemplated therein is for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.

It would be appropriate if I refer here to the discussions in the Parliament on the amendment of the Article 15 of the Constitution and the reply by the then Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, mentioned in the Mandal Commission report itself. While participating in the discussions, K.T.Shah, Member of Parliament, strongly felt that the word "Economically" must be added while making special provision for the advancement of the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes. Panditji observed:-

"But if I added 'economically'. I would at the same time not make it kind of a cumulative thing but would say that a person who is lacking in any of these things should be helped. 'Socially' is a much wider word including many things and certainly including 'economically'."

Pandit Nehru further expressed the view that all inequalities associated with the social structure have to be done away with and the social structure meant the caste divisions or the religious divisions (and not so much economic divisions). Hence, the word 'Economically' has not been specifically included as a determining factor for socially and educationally Backward Classes under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of our Constitution.

The Tamil Nadu Second Backward Classes Commission headed by J.A. Ambashankar, which examined the relevance of economic criteria in the determination of Backwardness, did not subscribe to the relevance of economic criteria as a sole test for determination of Backward Classes or applying the same to individuals and denying them the benefits of reservation. According to this

Commission, poverty, i.e. economic criterion can be applied as a relevant factor in addition to the caste status to the limited extent of determining social backwardness of a caste as a whole and also for excluding individuals from the benefits of financial concessions (scholarships) only. The Commission has also observed: "Social backwardness contributes to educational backwardness; educational backwardness perpetuates social backwardness; and both of them often result in the extremes of poverty owing to the weight of custom and tradition. A caste should be both socially and educationally backward for eligibility for inclusion in the list of Backward Classes under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution, as Social and Educational backwardness are inseparable and intertwined".

In Tamil Nadu, reservations for posts in Public Services were made as early as in 1921. Since then, several modifications have been effected to the quotas prescribed to each of these categories and the modifications have been to the advantage of other Backward Classes, who constitute 67% of the population of our State. To-day in Tamil Nadu, reservations for posts in Public Services and admission in educational institutions as well are made without any application of 'Economic criteria', at 18% for Scheduled Castes; 1% for Scheduled Tribes. 50% for Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes and 31% for Open Competition. However, benefits of monetary concessions/scholarships are given to Backward Class students for their study in educational institutions, whose parental income is below Rs.12,000 per annum. However, this is an additional benefit. The main principle of Social and Educational Backwardness is not affected.

In view of these factors and having regard to the long history of the Reservation Policy followed in Tamil Nadu without any 'economic criteria' woven into it, I am unable to subscribe to the proposal of introducing economic criteria in reservation of Civil posts and services for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes, while implementing the Mandal Commission's recommendations. I have already conveyed our reaction to the Government of India on this issue. I am now reiterating the same in this august forum.

The firm view of the Government of Tamil Nadu is that, it is but fair and proper that socially and educationally backward classes, as a whole, should be given at least 50% reservation for employment opportunities in Central Government services and its undertakings and for admission in educational institutions run by the Central

Government. It is our view that it is only by doing this, that the Nation will help to uplift these unfortunate people. In consonance with this avowed policy in Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed unanimously a resolution moved by me on 30.9.1991, urging the Government of India to adopt a policy of 50% reservation for the Backward Classes instead of 27%, and to apply this reservation not only for employment opportunities in all Central Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings, but also for admission in all Educational Institutions run by the Central Government. I have forwarded this resolution to the Prime Minister of India for consideration of the Central Government and for appropriate action.

In the circumstances, we are not in a position to subscribe to the introduction of the Economic Criteria while implementing the Mandal Commission recommendations. It is our considered view that the application of income limit on reservation will exclude those people whose income is above the 'cut off' limit and literally it means that they will come under the open competition quota. If caste is not the only sole or dominant criterion, income limit also cannot be the decisive and determining factor for social backwardness. The application of economic criteria and thereby the exclusion of certain people from the benefits of reservation will not bring about the desired effect for the advancement and improvement of the backward classes who have suffered deprivation from time immemorial. Hence, we consider that it will not be fair to make a distinction among the backward classes on the basis of the economic criteria. I have conveyed these views to the Prime Minister stating that we are not falling in line with the Government of India's decision in introducing the economic criteria for reservations in Civil posts and services under the Central Government.

The Government of India has also introduced reservation of 10% of the vacancies in Civil posts and services for the 'economically backward sections of the people who are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservations'. The principle may be good but its implementation will bristle with a lot of difficulties. Even as one goes through the suggestions of the various State Governments in this regard, one can see that it will be, in practice, very difficult to arrive at a consensus in this regard. It is not merely a question of fixing a certain limit and excluding people above this limit from getting the concessions. In a vast country such as ours, where income is only one of the factors, adoption of a suitable economic criteria

would call for the incorporation of so many ingredients of economic backwardness, that it will almost make the scheme worthless in practice. Besides, I doubt whether any such criteria will be free from arbitrariness, confusion and manoeuvrability in practice.

These are our views. I am grateful to the Prime Minister for giving us an opportunity to mention our views. I would like to end by stating that the Constitutional protection has got to be guaranteed to the socially and educationally backward classes, in its spirit and essence, and our plea is that any policy of reservation modified by any criteria, other than social or educational backwardness, will deprive the vast section of these people from sharing any certain benefits which they may rightfully expect under the Constitution.

Thank you.

(The Chief Minister's speech read out by Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes. Thiru Rm.Veerappan at the Chief Ministers' conference held at New Delhi on 10th April 1992).

WRAPPERS:

.. Paavendar Bharathidasan

.. Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha inaugurated the Exhibition on 'Bronzes of South India' at Government Museum, Madras on 14th April 1992.

ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

INDUSTRY

★ The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Industrial Infrastructure Development (TACID) set up by the State Government will grant loans to entrepreneurs for providing infrastructure facilities within industrial estates set up in the private or co-operative sectors.

★ TACID will also extend financial assistance for acquiring land for promotion of Industrial Complexes and growth centres.

★ TACID will give suitable incentives and assistance to entrepreneurs within growth centres and industrial complexes to construct and maintain common facilities on a co-operative basis. This will include provision of effluent treatment plants, schools and colleges, recreation facilities and commercial complexes.

★ The Government will give all encouragement to the promotion of industries especially in the private, associate and joint sectors.

★ The sectors in which the State already have a strong base including leather, electronics, textiles, chemicals and petrochemicals, salt and marine based industries, pharmaceuticals, and agro-based industries, will be given special attention to ensure optimum utilisation of the potentialities in the State.

★ The Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC) will advance Rs.250 crore as loans to tiny, small and medium industries which are expected to generate 48,000 jobs.

★ Trade in granite mined from both 'patta' and 'poromboke' lands will be canalised through Tamil Nadu Minerals Ltd.

★ Leases for mining high-value stones such as paradiso and kashmir white from 'patta' lands will be granted only to State sector and joint sector undertakings. The new policy is aimed at better utilisation of granite resources available in the State.

★ The Government has decided to add to the list of 'backward taluks' the following areas with effect from this year, entitling them to special concessions in terms of the industrial policy. Avinashi (Coimbatore District), Srivilliputhur (Kamarajar District) Rasipuram (Salem District), Pudukkottai (Pudukkottai District), Sathankulam (Chidambaranar District) and Palayamkottai (Tirunelveli-Kottabomman District).

★ Sales Tax deferral for three years granted to units under revival through packages approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) will be increased in deserving cases to five years.

★ The Government will establish an Institute of Management in Madras with the support of the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd.

★ With a view to attracting foreign investment, steps will be taken to establish an 'export city' on the east coast provided with all basic facilities.

★ A campaign to encourage investment by non-resident Indians and foreigners in Tamil



Nadu, through visits of officials and industrialists to foreign countries will be undertaken.

★ The Centre is being persuaded to locate in Madras the proposed 'India- Singapore Industrial Corridor'.

★ The Small Industries Development Corporation will provide basic facilities to enable entrepreneurs to establish a Knitwear industrial estate in Vedathakulam and Vallagundu in Madurai District, a multi industrial estate in Vadamugam-Kangeyampalayam in Periyar District and auto components industrial estate in Namakkal in Salem District.

★ The Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation will start a scheme of lease financing from this year.

★ The Government has decided to disinvest the holding of TIDCO in nine joint sector undertakings.

★ Steps will be taken in phases to disinvest in public sector undertakings.

★ The State Government has requested the Centre to grant permission to Madras Refineries to invest in the proposed petrochemicals complex of NAPCO. Efforts are on to hand over 1656 acres of land required for the project. The Centre is also being persuaded to implement the Southern Gas Grid, Neyveli Lignite expansion and the Ennore satellite port projects.

★ The TIDCO has proposed Rs.450 crore unit for manufacture of titanium - dioxide from ilmenite sands in Chidambaranar District with technology from the U.K.

★ TIDCO has also proposed a Rs.400 crore tyres and tubes unit based on rubber available in Kanniyakumari District.

★ A Rs.24 lakh rubberised coir mats unit would be set up at Verkilambi in Kanniyakumari District with financial assistance from the National Co-operative Development Corporation.

★ The Government has decided to increase the cess for the Child Welfare Labour Fund, levied on safety matches units, from Rs.2 per year per worker employed to Rs.10. The State Government will increase its contribution to the same extent.

★ The Centre has been requested to grant total exemption from Central Excise to small and tiny sector units in the matches industry since the present structure of differential duties for the fully mechanised, and small and tiny units affected the latter categories which provided livelihood to thousands of families.

★ The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation has proposed to put up in the joint sector a Rs.75 crore plant to make aluminium rolled products in Thanjavur District.

★ A market survey has been undertaken for Rs.15 crore - 10,000 tonne capacity fruit processing plant at Bargur in Dharmapuri District.

★ Costic soda unit at Vedaranyam by the joint sector Tamil Nadu Petro Products.

★ Proposal to modernise the Tamil Nadu Steels at a cost of Rs.23 crore.

★ New sugar mills will be established in Tirunelveli-Kattabomman, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam - Quaid-e-Milleth, South Arcot and Chengalpattu-MGR Districts in the next five years.

★ ELCOT to promote integrated circuits and telecommunication and television equipments units at a cost of Rs.300 crore.

★ The ELCOT will establish a liaison office as an 'Overseas Window' at San Francisco (U.S.).

HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

★ A separate police force to protect temples and idols will be created. This temple protection force will be 4,000 - strong consisting 1000 grade-II Constables and 3000 ex-servicemen. Its main task will be to prevent thefts of idols and ornaments from temples. While on duty the personnel will be given arms. They will be attached to the jurisdictional police stations. The creation of this force will involve an annual expenditure of Rs.5.28 crore. The Government will bear the 90 per cent of the cost. The remaining 10 per cent will be met by temples. The working of the force will be reviewed every month by the Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of the HR and CE Department in the Districts and once in three months by a high-level committee consisting of the Secretary for Commercial Taxes and

Religious Endowments, the Director General of Police and the Commissioner, HR and CE Department.

★ The Government is considering to set up a special corpus fund of Rs.25,000 to perform pooja atleast once a day in temples in dire need of funds. The people in the respective area will be asked to render the necessary assistance in raising the funds. In the funds could not be generated in full out of public donation the Government will give a matching grant. In the first phase it has been proposed to create the corpus fund for 400 temples and for this purpose an allocation of Rs.50 lakh will be made from the Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund. Four hundred temples will benefit this year under the scheme.

★ An additional annual grant of Rs.10 lakh will be made to the Kanniyakumari Devaswom Board which is maintaining 490 temples in the District. For this purpose, Rupees one crore from the Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance Fund will be put on fixed deposit in the Tamil Nadu Transport Development Corporation. The interest accrual will go to meet the additional grant of Rs.10 lakh.

★ A pension scheme to benefit 500 archakas will be introduced from this year. Under this, archakas who are 60 and have served for 20 years will be paid a pension of Rs.300 a month.

★ The income ceiling of temples will be raised from Rs.25,000 to Rs.40,000 to benefit from the scheme to defray the payment of arrears of salary to employees. The salary arrears are paid from the interest accrual of the corpus fund of Rupees one crore created from the surplus funds of Palani Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple. The increase in the income ceiling of temples will mean the payment of arrears to employees receiving a salary of less than Rs.400.

★ The Government has proposed to instal burglar alarms to temples besides providing iron grill doors.

★ The process of selecting for locating the Veda-Agama-Sastra College is on. A 40 acre plot in a tranquil surrounding will be chosen for this purpose. Efforts will be made for starting the college from this academic year. The Govern-

ment is also considering upgrading the college into a University, setting up various research departments.

★ 'Puja' will be performed three days a week for the icons preserved at the Icon Preservation Centre in Tiruvarur against the practice of performing puja once a week now.

★ Rupees one crore commercial complex will be built on Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Madras on the property belonging to the Sidhi Buddhi Vinayakar Temple, Royapettah. The first phase of the work is nearing completion. A total of 103 construction works will be taken up shortly on temple properties at a cost of Rs.3.82 crore.

★ To improve the administration of the HR & CE Department, two more divisions will be created taking the number of divisions to 19.

EDUCATION

★ The Government has decided to appoint only women as Principals in Government Women Polytechnics in future.

★ The Government has evolved a long - term comprehensive school education project with a financial input of rupees 1,200 crore to be implemented over a period of seven years. The World Bank is to be approached for financial assistance for the project.

★ Around 1,400 posts of Secondary Grade Teachers (Juniors) are to be created during 1992-93. Of them 1000 would be posted in primary and middle schools for achieving additional enrolment of 85,000 pupils in the age group 6 - 11 and 1.25 lakh pupils in the age group 11-14.

★ Another 200 will be posted in 200 primary schools to be started in habitations having more than 500 population but without educational institutions.

★ 200 posts will be created to cope with additional enrolment in the age group 6-11 and 11-14 in high/higher secondary schools.

★ The target for additional enrolment in the age group 14-16 for 1992-93 is 50,000 pupils. For this 18 posts of B.Ed. Assistants (Junior) will be sanctioned.

★ The Government has proposed to open 21 Government High Schools and 10 Higher Secondary Schools during 1992-93.

★ Upgradation of private high schools into higher secondary schools is to be encouraged with any Government aid.

★ For 10 new Government High Schools, 50 Post-Graduate Assistant (Junior) posts will be sanctioned.

★ A sum of Rs.75 lakhs will be provided as seed money towards States' share for raising about Rs.22.5 crore loan from HUDCO for construction of 64 school buildings.

★ 51 Higher Secondary Schools will be provided with science equipment at a cost of Rs.50 lakh.

★ A sports hostel, exclusively for girls with an initial intake of 30 students will be opened in Dharmapuri.

★ Rupees one lakh will be allotted to create a Chair in the name of Poet Bharathidasan in Thanjavur Tamil University.

★ The microfilm unit in the Tamil Nadu Archives will be expanded. Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centres will be provided with innovative and interactive exhibits.

★ The Rural Development Department will construct 1,068 Primary School buildings at a cost of Rs.14.79 crore.

★ It is proposed to convert 459 single teacher schools into double teacher schools and 6,545 double teacher schools into three teacher schools.

★ Proposals has been sent to the Centre for supplying science kits to the remaining 2,002 middle schools at a cost of Rs.40.04 lakh.

★ Under the free textbook distribution scheme, the Tamil Nadu Text Book Society will distribute 362 lakh copies worth Rs.18.51 crore to benefit 62 lakh primary and middle school students.

★ Rs.4 crore has been allocated, under the scheme for the benefit of girl children, to cover 2000 families during 1992-93. The scheme benefits one or two girl children whose parents undergo sterilisation. A sum of Rs.2000 will be invested in accounts of each family in a fund. Amounts will be given to the family at periodical intervals for the girl child to complete Primary, Middle and High School and Higher Secondary and Collegiate education.

When the child attains 20 years of age, a lump-sum amount of Rs.10,000 will be provided to establish a family or pursue higher education.

★ The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has agreed to fund a programme for training teachers working in polytechnics in Tamil Nadu, under the quality improvement programme.

★ The State Government has accepted the Union Government's 'Navodaya' scheme and decided to extend assistance for the location of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in all the Districts. Hindi shall not be the medium of instructions in these schools in Tamil Nadu. These residential schools for rural boys and girls will provide boarding, lodging, books and stationery free of cost to the selected students.

★ The Government has decided to set up 'Puratchi Thalaivi Model Residential School' in each District in a phased programme. This 'School of excellence' will provide the best type of Secondary and Higher Secondary education in mother tongue for talented rural children, similar to residential schools in Andhra Pradesh.

★ Tamil will be made either an alternative medium of instruction or a compulsory language in nursery schools from the coming academic year.

★ The Government has decided to concede the demand for opening English Medium sections in Government High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools. The Government has also decided to concede the popular demand for opening English medium sections by aided schools.

★ The State Education Department will be renamed as Education, Science and Technology Department.

★ The Government has taken a decision not to grant aid for new private Educational Institutions to be opened and recognised hereafter.

★ A common examination at the district level will be conducted at the end of eleventh standard from the next academic year.

★ The four diploma - level institutions in the State, namely the Institute of Textile Technology, Institute of Leather Technology, Institute of Printing Technology and the In-

stitute of Chemical Technology will be upgraded to provide graduate courses in these branches.

- ★ Facilities for post-graduate technical education like M.E., M.S., Ph.D., will be provided to prevent brain drain.

- ★ A State Advisory Committee for education will be set up to advise the Government on the measures to improve educational standards and on other policy matters.

- ★ A State literacy mission authority will be constituted for effectively implementing the total literacy campaign in the State.

- ★ The five regional centres of English language at Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Madurai, Salem and Tirunelveli will be strengthened to provide in-servicetraining to English teachers.

- ★ Suitable lessons will be included in the syllabus and curriculam in different standards for inculcating national pride and patriotism. One period a week will be devoted for this.

- ★ A self-financing engineering collegewill be started utilising the Teachers Welfare Fund on the same pattern as the one run by the State Transport Corporations and 50 per cent of the seats will be reserved for children of school teachers who contribute to the scheme.

- ★ The Thanthai Periyar Government Institute of Technology at Vellore will be shifted to Bargur in Dharmapuri District and located between Bargur and Krishnagiri abutting the Madras - Bangalore national highway.

- ★ A research and Development on solar energy will be set up under the auspices of Anna University with an initial grant of Rs.10 lakh from the State Government.

- ★ An award of Rs.10 lakh will be given to any outstanding scientist who would design and develop a cost-effective technology to convert sea water into potable water using solar energy.

The recruitment of Secondary Grade Teachers is to be revised. A screening test for all the applicants registered with the employment exchanges will be conducted at district level and those who pass the test with a minimum of 50 per cent marks will be interviewed by a committee for final selection.

- ★ The system of automatic promotion of

students from standard one to three will be discontinued and eighth standard will be merged with High Schools in future.

- ★ Inducted teachers will be considered for promotion as Head Masters of Higher Secondary Schools along with post-graduate assistants and Head Masters of High Schools in the ratio 2:5:2.

- ★ Training will be given to primary and middle school teachers in new syllabus.

- ★ One batch of 587 qualified double part-time Vocational Instructors will get regular scale of pay of School Assistants.

- ★ The remaining 450 unqualified double part-time instructors will be given training and absorbed.

- ★ College teachers numbering 242 who have Ph.D. and M.Phil. qualifications will be exempted from screening test but they have to go through the Teachers Recruitment Board and get absorbed in existing vacancies. The remaining teachers will have to write the screening test and also appear before the Recruitment Board.

- ★ Qualified part-time craft teachers will be appointed in secondary grade vacancies in elementary/middle schools.

- ★ Teaching grants will be sanctioned with effect from June, 1991 to 332 minority and non-minority schools recognised before 1987-88.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

- ★ The Government has cleared Rs.6.72 crore for sinking deep bore wells, open wells, deepening of existing wells, installation of pumpsets and distribution of water in tankers.

- ★ Comprehensive drinking water supply projects will be executed in 14 towns during 1992-93 at a cost of Rs.132.72 crore securing financial assistance from the World Bank.

- ★ TWAD Board is presently implementing several World Bank aided major and minor projects, including in Coimbatore, Madurai and Salem at a total cost of Rs.321.86 crore.

- ★ Augmented water supply schemes have been completed in 34 towns.

- ★ During 1992-93 as many as 3,653 Adi Dravidar habitationsexperiencing water short-

tage would be provided with drinking water.

- ★ A special self-sufficiency project with a financial outlay of Rs.150 crore will be implemented in 647 Town Panchayats in the State.

- ★ The three-year scheme will provide the basic amenities like bus stands, trade complexes, Community halls and also houses for Adi-Dravidars.

- ★ For implementing various development projects in the three Corporations, 101 Municipalities and 7 Townships, a 5-year project will be implemented at a total cost of Rs.250 crore.

- ★ A new municipal corporation by name Tirunelveli Corporation will be formed during this year merging Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai and Melapalayam Municipalities.

- ★ Legislation will be introduced for upgrading Tiruchirappalli and Salem as Corporations shortly.

- ★ A State-level Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister will evolve long-term strategies and perspective plans for municipalities and corporations and also monitor their implementation.

- ★ People's Committees are to be formed in all municipalities to supervise the implementation of various works.

- ★ The first phase of the 'Madras Vision 2000' will be executed during 1992-93 at a cost of Rs.240 crore for improving roads, providing culverts, street lights, multi-storey vehicle parking buildings and removal of cattle.

- ★ The Madras Corporation will take over the scheme for development of Marina beach from the PWD and take up a comprehensive project.

- ★ A multi-storey Mofussil bus stand complex at the site of the existing bus stand and also a new overbridge across Vaigai River in the place of existing causeway will be erected in Madurai.

- ★ Roads in Coimbatore Corporation will be improved at a cost of Rs.4 crore.

- ★ Special shelters for platform dwellers will be constructed at Coimbatore at a cost of Rs.20.5 lakh.

- ★ Village Development Officers are to be ap-

pointed at the rate of one officer for three or four Panchayats for monitoring the revenue collections and also protecting the Poramboke lands.

- ★ The Government has decided to bifurcate Uthiramerur, Kadaladi and Ottapidaram Panchayat Unions and trifurcate Thanjavur and Orathanad Unions.

- ★ The Government is considering upgradation of 29 Town Panchayats into Municipalities. Avadi, Usilampatti, Kulithalai and Koothanallur will be upgraded as Municipalities during the current year.

- ★ Commissioners of Municipalities have been instructed to conduct weekly grievances day in different parts of the town under their control and also organise special cleaning campaigns periodically.

- ★ The Government is also considering the scope for introducing biological vector control for mosquito control in all towns.

- ★ An allocation of Rs.46 crore have been made for Integrated Rural Development Programme for the current year.

- ★ The Scheme for Development of Women and Children in rural areas will be extended to Chengalpattu-MGR and Dindigul-Anna Districts during the current year.

- ★ 10,000 houses will be constructed for the benefit of Municipal employees in five years securing loan from HUDCO.

- ★ Housing loan for Madras Corporation employees will be increased from Rs.65 lakh to Rs.1.3 crore during this year.

- ★ Housing advances will be paid for teachers of Corporation schools.

- ★ A scheme have been introduced for awarding medals and prizes for best schools and also Collectors, and officers working in Municipalities and Corporations.

- ★ For enabling Tamils living in foreign countries to donate for any development activity in their native villages, the State Government has formed the Tamil Nadu Rural Development Authority (TANRUDA)

- ★ Model townships to be christened as 'Puratchi Thalavi Jayalalitha Nagar' will be developed in all the 21 Districts during current year.

★ Work on developing a township at Bargur in Dharmapuri District is in progress. The township costing Rs.3 crore will have all amenities including shopping complex and schools and also places of worship for Hindus, Muslims and Christians.

★ 'Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalitha' marriage halls will be erected in all Municipal towns in a phased programme.

★ In towns where there are no playground facilities 'Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalitha Stadium' will be constructed.

★ A medical and engineering colleges will be started by getting contributions from nearly three lakh employees working in local bodies and the Metro Water Board. The institutions to be named after the Chief Minister will have reservations made for children of employees in local bodies and a special reservation will be made for children of scavenging staff.

★ A Directorate of Institutes of Local Administration will be created for bringing under a single administration all Training institutes functioning in the Local Administration Department. This Directorate will also run the proposed Medical and Engineering Colleges.

★ Nine erstwhile panchayats which were brought under Madras Corporation will be provided sewage schemes at a cost of Rs.40 crore. A total of 730 private roads in the city will also get drainage facilities at a cost of Rs.5.5 crore during this year.

HANDLOOMS

★ The Government is planning to set up a Co-operative Bank exclusively for handloom weavers in the co-operative sector. The Government will get in touch with the Reserve Bank for setting up the bank at the State and regional level.

★ To boost exports of handloom products, the Government will appoint as agents either Tamils or Indian nationals living abroad.

★ A prize scheme will be introduced for workers and officers giving suggestions for improving the quality and standard of co-operative spinning mills. The first prize under the scheme will be Rs.5,000 in cash, the second Rs.3,000 and the third Rs.2,000.

★ The Government will adopt villages which have a predominantly weaver population and which are without adequate basic facilities and develop them as 'handloom villages' at a total cost of Rs.25 lakh. Under this, Valagam in Chingalpattu-MGR District will be developed during the current year.

★ "Quality Control Committees" comprising workers and officers will be formed to improve the production standard of co-operative spinning mills. It will provide workers an opportunity to participate in the administration of mills.

★ An Advisory Committee of experts will be set up to ensure that all co-operative mills earned profit.

★ Only 750 of the 1,473 weavers' co-operatives are earning profits, while the remaining societies are incurring loss. To help weavers the Government has decided in the first phase to amalgamate 152 of the loss-making societies with those earning profit.

★ Co-optex will construct regional godowns at Vellore, Tiruchi, Thanjavur, Ernakulam, Calcutta and Hyderabad with assistance from the National Co-operative Development Corporation.

★ Modernisation proposals have been prepared and submitted to the IDBI for financial assistance under the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme.

★ The Government has sanctioned Rs.7 crore towards the rehabilitation and modernisation of co-operative spinning mills. A sum of Rs.42 crore has been set apart for the rebate subsidy scheme.

★ Two 'Powerloom service centres' will be set up at Rs.14.11 lakh each in Palladam Taluk in Coimbatore District and Sankarankovil in Tirunelveli District. These centres will provide training to 80 weavers every year, besides making available the latest designs in clothes. Four more centres are planned at Salem, Madurai, Orathanad in Thanjavur District and Gobichettipalayam in Periyar District.

★ Under the scheme to convert 37,500 handlooms into 75,000 powerlooms over a 10 year period, 500 beneficiaries have been provided with 1,000 powerlooms in Chengalpattu-MGR, Tiruchi and Kanniyakumari Districts.

CO-OPERATION

★ The Government has decided to set up 100 agro supermarkets to streamline the distribution of farm inputs. A hundred primary co-operative agricultural banks will be selected and upgraded as agro supermarkets with storage and other facilities, at a cost of Rs.18.5 lakh.

★ The instant credit card (green card) system will be extended to all the primary co-operative agricultural banks in the State. Under this system farmers who repay loans promptly can get credit without waiting for approval from district central banks.

★ Selling of alcoholic beverages through co-operative institutions will be stopped from May 31.

★ During the current year one lakh persons belonging to weaker sections will be given credit for starting small trades. Women will be given priority under the scheme to be named after the Chief Minister.

★ All Women Co-operative Banks and markets will be opened in all the Districts.

★ The Government has decided to Open District Co-operative Central Banks in Kamara-jar, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Ramanathapuram, Tiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar and Chidambaranar.

★ The Ramanathapuram District Co-operative Central Bank, now functioning at Madurai, will be shifted to Ramanathapuram.

★ Industrial Training Institutes are to be started at Bargur and Pudukkottai.

★ The Co-operative Spinning Mills in Dharmapuri District will be named after Subramania Siva.

FOOD

★ All the inter-state check-posts are now manned by armed policemen to prevent smuggling of foodgrains.

★ Under the revamping of the Public Distribution System launched by the Centre, preference is being given to the people living in drought-prone, desert and tribal pockets and certain designated hill areas.

★ Family Cards are being issued to all those who have not got them so far.

★ Additional fair price shops are being opened wherever needed.

★ The Government has initiated steps to create the infrastructure needed to support these operations.

★ The North Arcot experimental for effective supervision of the Public Distribution System will be extended to all other Districts.

★ A co-operative Sub-Registrar is made responsible for the supply of controlled commodities for a group of 2 shops and he will be held responsible for any irregularity.

★ Tea shops and mobile canteens will be supplied 30 litres of Kerosene a month at Rs.4.90 a litre.

★ Consumer Protection Councils will be given representations in the vigilance committees set up to supervise the working of fair price shops.

★ Training Camps and seminars will be conducted to create awareness about the consumer protection movement.

★ Action will be taken to get Agmark certificate for chilly powder, turmeric powder, groundnut oil, toor dhal and Bengal gram.

SOCIAL WELFARE

★ An advisory body will be set up by the Government to deal with all social problems confronting women including torture for extracting dowry.

★ The Government has decided to create a separate department for the benefit of the physically handicapped during the current year.

★ An additional allocation of Rs.35 lakh has been made for distributing aids to all physically handicapped persons, who are in the waiting list.

★ The fourth phase of the "polio operation programme" will be extended to 40 taluks involving an outlay of Rs.76.17 lakh.

★ The special scheme for prevention of polio and also for rehabilitation of the affected will be implemented in two selected blocks in all

the Districts. This year the scheme will become operational in all taluks in Dharmapuri District.

★ A national institute of rehabilitation of the physically handicapped will be located at Mut-tukadu, near Madras.

★ A policy decision has been taken to given an additional investment subsidy of 5 per cent to private industries which employ maximum number of physically handicapped.

★ The existing grant given to all blind persons who have enrolled themselves in employment exchanges has been enhanced by Rs.50.

★ An annual award will be given to a private firm which employs maximum number of physically handicapped.

★ Ramps will be constructed in Government buildings.

★ A new Braille printing machine will be installed at the blind school, Poonamallee.

★ An export unit for readymade garments will be started by the social welfare department to help women trained in tailoring.

★ Five Women Co-operatives with employment potential for 250 persons will be formed for supplying nutritious food.

★ Two tailoring co-operatives for the benefit of 350 women will be started at Bargur.

★ The "Mahalir Manrams" and guidance bureaux in the Districts will be merged to form a new institution under the control of District Collectors for the purpose of conducting awareness campaigns and training programmes.

★ Under the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project, 11,300 people will be involved in economic activities in the Districts of Salem, Dharmapuri and South Arcot at a cost of Rs.8.45 crore. The project has been extended to Madurai and Ramanathapuram Districts for assisting 10,000 women in each District involving an outlay of Rs.15.65 crore.

★ One more working women's hostel will be started in Madras this year.

★ The personal assistants (noon meal) who are now under the control of the Collectors will be brought under the Social Welfare Department.

★ All child welfare centres will be provided with electricity.

★ The quantity of oil supplied daily to noon meal centres will be enhanced from one to two grams per beneficiary.

LABOUR

★ Serious efforts will be made by the Government for eliminating child labour in match and fireworks industry in a phased manner over a period of five years.

★ Committees under the chairmanship of District Judges have been constituted in Kamarajar, Tirunelveli-Kattabomman, Chidambaranar and North Arcot-Ambedkar Districts to oversee the implementation of the directions of the Supreme Court relating to employment of child labour in match factories.

★ Five posts of Inspectors of Factories are to be created specially for strengthening the enforcement machinery relating to labour laws concerning child and women labour.

★ A burns wing will be located in the ESI hospital at Sivakasi at a cost of Rs.31.24 lakh.

★ Four mobile hospitals will be introduced for the benefit of match industry labourers working in areas around Sivakasi.

★ A centre for imparting training to workers employed in match and fireworks units in safe handling of chemicals will be started at Sivakasi at a cost of Rs.2.5 lakh.

★ Industrial Cooperatives are to be organised to ensure that the various benefits under labour enactments reached the beedi workers.

★ Door-to-door survey to identify genuine beedi workers has been taken up for the purpose of issuing pass books to them. The Inspectors of Factories have been directed to take steps to eliminate the practice of employing child labour in this hazardous occupation.

★ The Government has proposed to formulate a separate scheme exclusively for the welfare of construction workers under which they will be given cash relief for accidents and sickness and other benefits, including Provident Fund, gratuity and maternity benefits.

★ A policy decision has been taken by the Government for fixing a minimum wage of Rs.15 a day, whenever wages were fixed or revised under the Minimum Wages Act.

★ It has been proposed to constitute a labour rehabilitation fund with a corpus of Rs.50 crore for the benefit of workers who were retrenched due to restructurement of units, sickness or closure. The Government has contributed Rs.1 crore.

★ A women's cell under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner will be created for initiating measures for the welfare of women employed in various industrial establishments.

★ It has been proposed to constitute a tripartite Committee for resolving bonus and other labour problems.

★ An Engineering College for the benefit of children of both organised and unorganised labourers will be started in the State under the auspices of the State Labour Welfare Board.

★ Four labour welfare centres will be started at Hosur, Ambur, Maraimalai Nagar and Madurai.

★ New trades, including food craft, beauticulture, export garment tailoring, interior decoration and knitting machine operator will be introduced in the Government I.I.T's. These trades will benefit 1,102 candidates.

★ The employment exchange at Madurai, Vellore and Madras will be computerised this year.

FISHERIES

★ The Government will introduce prawn culture in the coastal Districts to prevent fishermen going in for deep sea fishing endangering their lives. This new project is estimated to cost about Rs.75 crore. 1000 fishermen will be settled on 200 acres of land along the coast. Each family will get half acre on lease and a loan and grant will also be given for starting prawn culture. This will ensure an annual income of Rs.20,000 to each family. If the response is encouraging, the scheme will be extended to nearly one lakh

fishermen families in Rameswaram and other areas in phases. This scheme will prevent the fishermen, from crossing the international boundary unwittingly and from being attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy.

★ The Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation has found a suitable site at Tharavaikulam in Chidambaranar District for establishing an aquaculture estate for prawn culture. Costing Rs.7.2 crore the project will be located on 89 acres of waterspread area. The Project will be similar to industrial estates set up by the SIPCOT. The Government equity will be 40 to 50 per cent of the project cost and the balance will be raised from financial institutions.

★ A training centre will be established at Karangadu for imparting training to fish farmers in prawn culture.

★ Aquaculture information centres will be started in coastal districts for helping fish farmers secure bank loans and imparting training to them in prawn culture and fisheries development.

★ The Government has also issued orders for leasing out land to private persons for taking up brackish water prawn culture. If there is no development within the first year of leasing the land will be restored.

★ A new scheme for integrated development of coastal fisheries for enhancing fish production is to be implemented in the Districts of Chengalpattu-MGR, Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram, Chidambaranar and Kanniyakumari costing Rs.10.71 crore, the project will cover 34 villages and benefit 6,050 fishermen.

★ Under the Fishermen Accident Insurance Scheme, the Government has enhanced payment of insurance from Rs.15,000 to 21,000 to families of deceased or totally disabled fishermen and from Rs.7,500 to 10,500 for partially disabled men.

★ Nodal points are to be located in Madras, Rameswaram and Kanniyakumari for rescuing missing boats.

★ VHF radio telephones will be installed for getting quick information to facilitate early launching of rescue missions.

★ A pilot project envisaging fish production at 6000 kg a hectare using sewage will be established at Koyambedu, Madras on five hectares.

★ Intermediary crafts for exploitation of pelagic resources in offshore waters will be introduced.

★ A brackishwater fish farmers development agency will be established in Chengalpattu-MGR District.

★ Rs.50 lakh will be provided for giving subsidy for purchasing mechanised boats.

★ A special grant will be provided to 20 girls of fishermen families for education.

RURAL INDUSTRIES

★ The Small Industries Development Corporation of Tamil Nadu will implement a functional industrial estates project with aid from the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund totalling Rs.63 crore. New estates in the thrust areas of industrialelectronics, leather goods, hosiery and textile products, automobile accessories, petrochemicals, food processing and engineering goods will be set up under the project and executed with assistance from the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation. Entrepreneurs coming forward to set up units will be provided with technical guidance and financial aid. The proposal has been forwarded to the Centre.

★ The Government has proposed to constitute a special committee under the chairmanship of the Industries Secretary to check sickness among small scale industries. The Committee will be given special powers to take quick decisions on their rehabilitation.

★ District Industries centres will be established in Tiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar and Nagapattinam-Quaid-e-Milleth Districts.

★ The SIDCO will help in setting up industrial estates in a number of places including Karur, Ramanathapuram, Paramakudi and Bargur.

★ A special scheme with assistance from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is under consideration for expansion of Khadi and Village Industry activities at Bargur.

★ A permanent trade fair complex will be established at Taramani, Madras in collaboration with the Trade Fair Authority of India at a cost of Rs.25 crore. The Tamil Nadu Government's share of Rs.3 crore will be adjusted against the cost of land to be provided as equity participation. A joint sector company will be set up for this purpose.

★ The increase productivity in the industrial cooperative tea factories in the Nilgiris the Government has drawn up a Rs.4.16 crore scheme with assistance from the National Cooperative Development Corporation.

★ A separate board will be set up to deal with palm products and look after the interest of palmyra climbers. A special device developed by a person at Gobichettipalayam to help palmyra climbers will be tested and if found successful it will be popularised.

★ During the year, 15 gem cutting cooperative societies will be operated in Tiruchi, Pudukkottai and Tirunelveli-Kattabomman Districts to benefit 450 artisans.

★ The National Sericulture Project, under implementation in 10 Districts, will be extended to Chengalpattu-MGR, South Arcot, Thanjavur, Kamarajar and Tirunelveli-Kattabomman with an additional expenditure of Rs.20 crore.

AGRICULTURE

★ Agriculture will be introduced in the high school curriculum. A high level committee with Vice-Chancellors of Universities and agricultural experts has been constituted to give recommendations on syllabus and also the level at which it should be introduced.

★ Students of standard VI will each be given a coconut sapling for planting in their places. When they reached standard X, Certificates will be issued on the basis of the growth of the tree. Priority will be given in farm training, farm education in employment in the Agriculture Department to those who secure the certificate.

★ A scheme will be introduced to facilitate landless agriculture graduates to start cooperative farming. The Government will provide fallow land and facilities for cultivation of vegetables, fruits and flowers.

★ A high-level expert committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Agriculture Scientist has been constituted to evolve schemes for providing jobs to rural men and women in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries to prevent their influx into urban areas. The Project will be implemented in phases till 2000.

★ A National Banana Research Centre for studying problems in cultivation and pest control will be located in Tiruchi under the aegis of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research.

★ A Krishi Vigyan Centre will be located at Bargur in Dharmapuri District for providing technical information on crop cultivation.

★ Remote sensing facility will be used for assessing ground water potential and crop rotation in Dharmapuri District from the next year.

★ Chemical fertilizers valued at about Rs.100 crore with a 30 per cent subsidy will be distributed to farmers during the current year through agriculture extension centres. This scheme will provide employment to 800 persons.

★ Assistance will be given to agriculture graduates for manufacture of micro-nutrients and the entire quantity will be procured by the Government for distribution to farmers at subsidised rates.

★ The cash prize for crop competition will be enhanced from Rs.50,000 to one lakh for the first prize and from Rs.25,000 to Rs.50,000 for the second prize.

★ 2000 power tillers will be distributed with a subsidy of Rs.10,000 each.

★ A department will be created to test the quality of fertilizers and pesticides.

★ A Deputy Directorate of Agriculture will be appointed in Collectorates.

★ Superintending engineers for Agriculture Engineering will be appointed in all Districts.

★ An artistic gateway and a glass house will be erected at the Botanical gardens at Udahgamandalam.

★ An integrated pest control centre will be opened at a cost of Rs.40 lakh for biological

control of pests and protection of environment.

★ Rs.1.05 crore will be provided to societies for purchase of cold storage equipments and also vehicles for procurement of vegetables and fruits on a cooperative basis.

★ Gardens will be formed in places of worship.

★ A new scented paddy variety, named "Jaya Jaya-92" will be introduced to farmers. This dwarf basmati, developed from a variety cultivated in the Dehra Dun Valley, has a 114-day duration and will yield nearly 3314 kg a hectare. The new seed variety has a 29.8 per cent higher output than the pusa variety and is suitable for Kuruvai and Samba cultivation.

★ The price of fine and super fine varieties of rice will be reduced from Rs.3.50 to Rs.3 a kg.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

★ A Rs.1.50 crore unit to make polythene sachets for packing milk will be set up at Ulundurpet in South Arcot District.

★ Integrated dairy development project will be extended to the Districts of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari during the year with assistance from the National Co-operative Development Corporation.

★ The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the University Grants Commission have given recognition to the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University. The University will get grants totalling Rs.2.7 crore for various plan works. Work on a building for the University will commence this year and will be completed at a cost of Rs.3 crore on a 133-acre plot in Madhavaram.

★ 8,100 poultry farm will be set up in 18 Districts through 90 Co-operative Societies.

★ 400 Veterinary Hospitals will be set up in various parts of the State during the year.

ADI DRAVIDAR WELFARE

★ A major scheme for prawn culture will be implemented to benefit 1000 Adi Dravidar.

families. About 1000 hectares of private land along the coast will be acquired for distribution at the rate of one hectare for each family. Provision of rearing ponds and other amenities and supply of prawn seedlings will be made by the Government.

★ Two functional industrial estates for manufacture of knitwear and related products are to be started exclusively for the benefit of Adi Dravidars in Coimbatore and Periyar Districts. Each estate will be located on 35 to 40 acres of land with 100 industrial sheds.

★ 3,000 families will be engaged in sericulture activity. The required land with ground water potential for mulberry cultivation will be acquired for distribution to the beneficiaries at the rate of one acre for each family.

★ The Government will implement a Rs.75 crore long-term project during the Eighth Plan period for providing all amenities in schools run by the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department, to make them on par with private schools.

★ To improve the standards of Adi Dravidar students, weekly tests and model examination will be conducted. Students who are found deficient will be given special coaching. Model question papers will be supplied free of cost to all students.

★ Libraries will be located in all Adi Dravidar hostels at a cost of Rs.12.33 lakh.

★ 30 new hostels are to be opened for accommodating 1,500 students.

★ Special in-service training will be arranged for teachers working in Adi Dravidar Schools.

★ In total 70,000 families will be given financial assistance under the 10 Point Programme for economic development during the current year.

★ Under the individual entrepreneurs scheme, financial assistance will be provided to 2000 persons for starting tiny industries.

★ As many as 37,000 houses will be constructed during the current year.

★ Training in computer programme, tailoring automobile mechanism, handloom weaving and carpentry will be imparted to 3,500 Adi Dravidars in rural areas to ensure subsidy in-

come for them.

★ It has been planned to give training to 5840 Adi Dravidar Candidates appearing for various competitive examinations for Central services and banking services.

★ The Government has decided to provide a block guarantee of Rs.10 crore for helping those who want to start industries with capital exceeding Rs.5 lakh securing financial assistance from the National Scheduled Caste Finance Development Corporation.

★ Under the special component plan for economic development, a target of Rs.293 crore has been fixed for the benefit of 2.5 lakh Adi Dravidar families.

★ A community hall to be named after Dr. Ambedkar will be constructed in Madras at a cost of Rupees one crore.

★ A central boarding school will be located on Pachchamalai in Tiruchi District for the benefit of 14,000 tribal students. If the scheme proves successful, it will be extended to other hill areas.

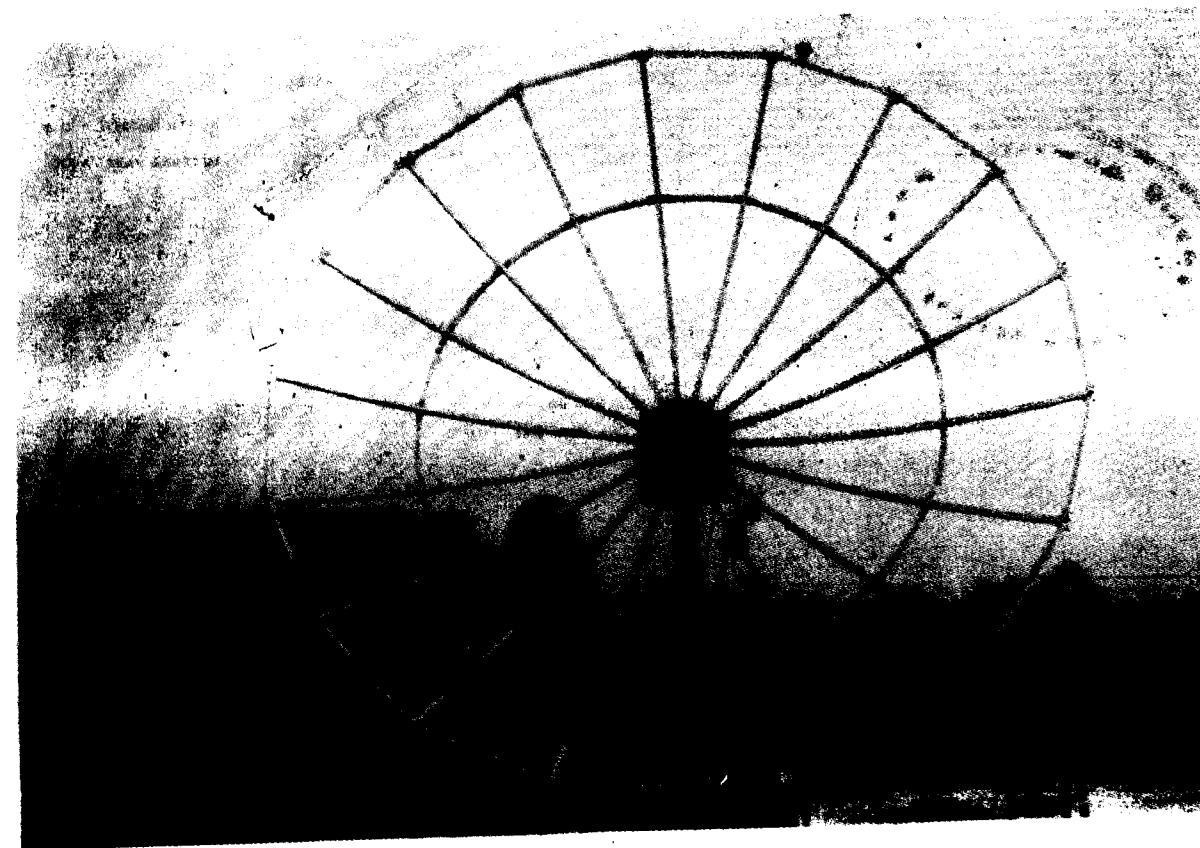
★ With a view to preserving the cultural heritages of tribals, a scheme for setting up a museum on tribals in the Tribal Research Centre at Udthagamandalam is in progress.

STATE LEGISLATURE

★ A new flat-type accommodation for MLAs with modern facilities will be constructed in Madras. A suitable site for constructing the complex will be chosen and if needed financial assistance will be sought from the HUDCO. The new complex will include facilities for a library, a reading room, a restaurant, committee rooms and indoor and outdoor playground facilities.

WOMEN'S WELFARE

★ The Government has decided to allot one per cent of the total number of houses available under the Government rental housing scheme to single women, divorcees and widows. A 5 per cent quota has been fixed for single women in respect of houses sold under hire purchase scheme or for out-right purchase.



Satellite, positioned in the Geostationary orbit, is practically a Microwave repeater station for Global broadcasting. A satellite in the Geostationary orbit which is concentric with equator and 36000 km away from the earth surface, is seen by an antenna on the ground all the time after initial installation and alignment, without any sustained tracking in future. The transmitting antenna with satellite radiates the signal covering a limited effective area on the ground called the foot print of the satellite. To collect as much radiated power as possible a reflector antenna (Dish antenna) of very large aperture (diameter) is used. The main functional blocks of the satellite receiver system are 1) Receiving antenna 2. LNA/LNB 3. Satellite receiver. The signal level reaching. Dish antenna is very small due to 1) small transmitted power from satellite due to limited power supply (only due to solar cells). 2) due to the average Transmitted antenna gain limited

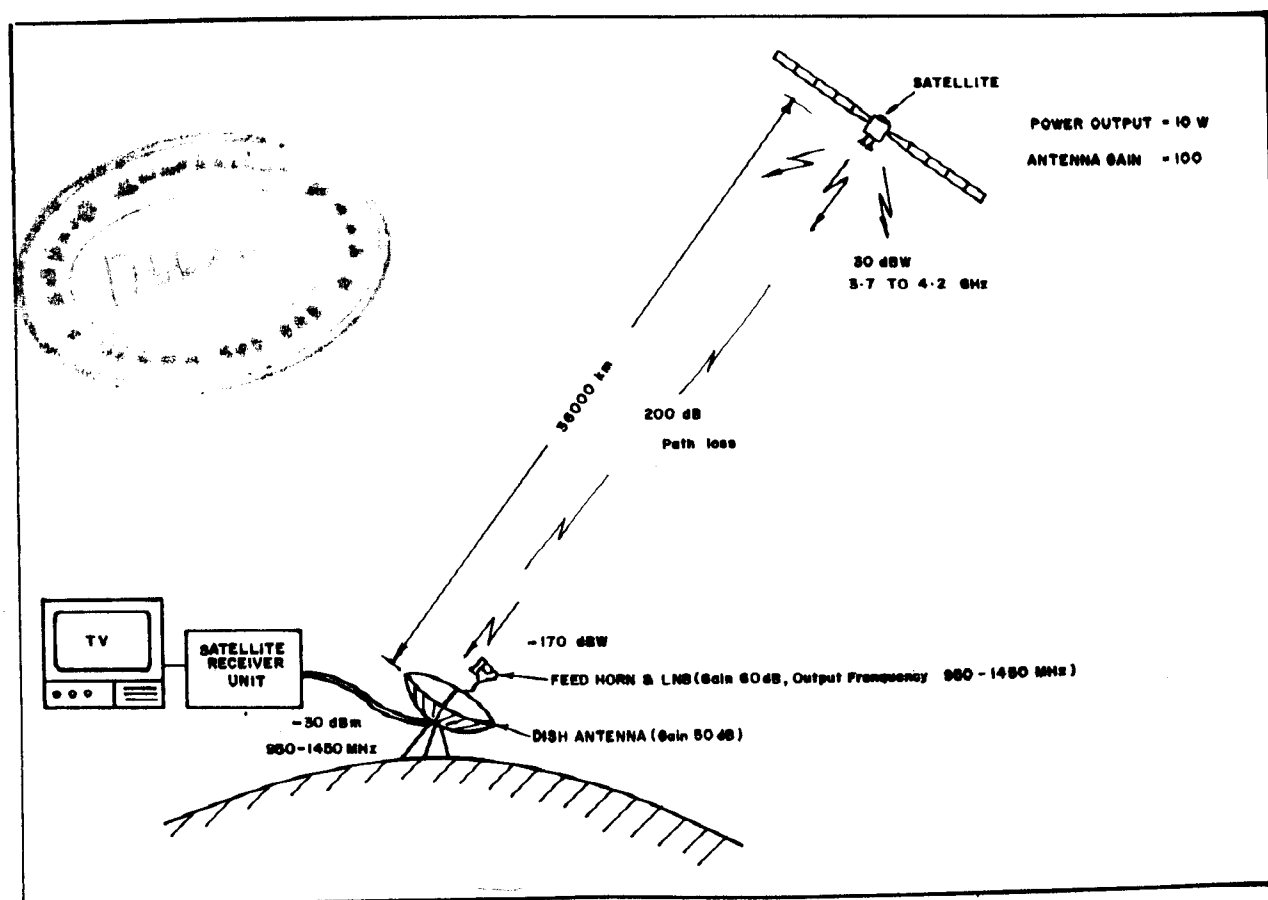
GLOBAL LINK

Dr. N. Gunasekaran
Asst. Professor
School of Electronics and
Communication Engineering,
College of Engineering
Anna University, Madras.

by the small size of antenna carried by the Satellite. 3) a distance of 36000 km between earth and satellite covered by the signal. 4) and loss of signal due to atmospheric conditions. The transmitting antenna with a gain of about 100 (20 dB) radiates signal power of about 10 watts (10 dB) in the range of 37 to 45 GHz. So the effective radiated power, called EIRP (equivalent isotropic radiated power) will be 30 dBW. (Antenna gain + radiated power). Under clear sky condition the path loss of about 200 dB occurs due to the spreading effect over a distance of 36000 km. Hence the signal level

reaching the dish antenna will be (30-200) = -140 dBW. The signal is very weak (10-14W) requiring noise free amplification.

The goal of the front end of the receiving system is to ensure very high signal amplification without much addition of noise and at the same time keeping further signal loss to a minimum. The dish antenna of large diameters with a feed horn at its focal point forms the front end of receiving system. The feed horn of about 65 millimeter diameter, called the primary antenna is used to detect the received signal. Since its aperture is very small, the gathered power is proportionately very small if the feed horn alone is used as receiving antenna without the reflector. In this case the receiver will not be able to recognize the signal. The large size of dish antenna helps to collect more power and its parabolic shape helps to focus the received power at its focal point where the feed horn is placed to the receive



the focused signal. The dish antenna is called the secondary Antenna and this offers a signal gain of about 50 dB. This gain is still insufficient and hence a Lownoise amplifier which offers a gain of 60 dB is included as an integral part of feed horn in the antenna structure itself. So the output signal from LNA will be $(-170+50+60) = -60$ dBW or -30dBm. The signal from LNA will be transmitted to receiver through coaxial cable. The coaxial cable which is very efficient transmission line at UHF range, but is very lossy line at microwave frequency. Hence it is better to downconvert the frequency of received signal (3.7 - 4.2 GHz) before it is back transmitted to Satellite receiver. For this purpose an LNB (Low noise block down converter) is used instead of LNA, to carryout both signal amplification as well as frequency down conversion to (900-1450 MHz). The satellite receiver can pickup the signal of

strength - 30 dBm from the LNB output. The receiver will further down convert the signal frequency, extract the composite video signal and separates the video and audio signals.

In the Satellite receiver system except LNB, the other blocks can be fabricated by an average technical person. The cost of this total system in the present market is more than Rs.60,000. A group of parttime BE students (G. Srinivasan, B. Manivannan, C. Subramaniam, S. Murugesan, J. Muthukrishnan, S. Paranjothi, J.M. Ansari, M. Udayabaskar, R. Ganesan, W.R. Chandrasekar, M.A. Kadarsulaiman, S. Chandraprakasam and S. Karthikeyan) of School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, Anna University, under my guidance has taken a project work to realize a cost effective satellite receiver system to receive signal from Asia Sat-I. The project is nearing completion and

cost of the project is about Rs.20,000.

The students are also planning to establish an optical link using glass fibres to transmit video signal to various departments of the University. The University campus will be supplied with the Satellite programme in another six months time.

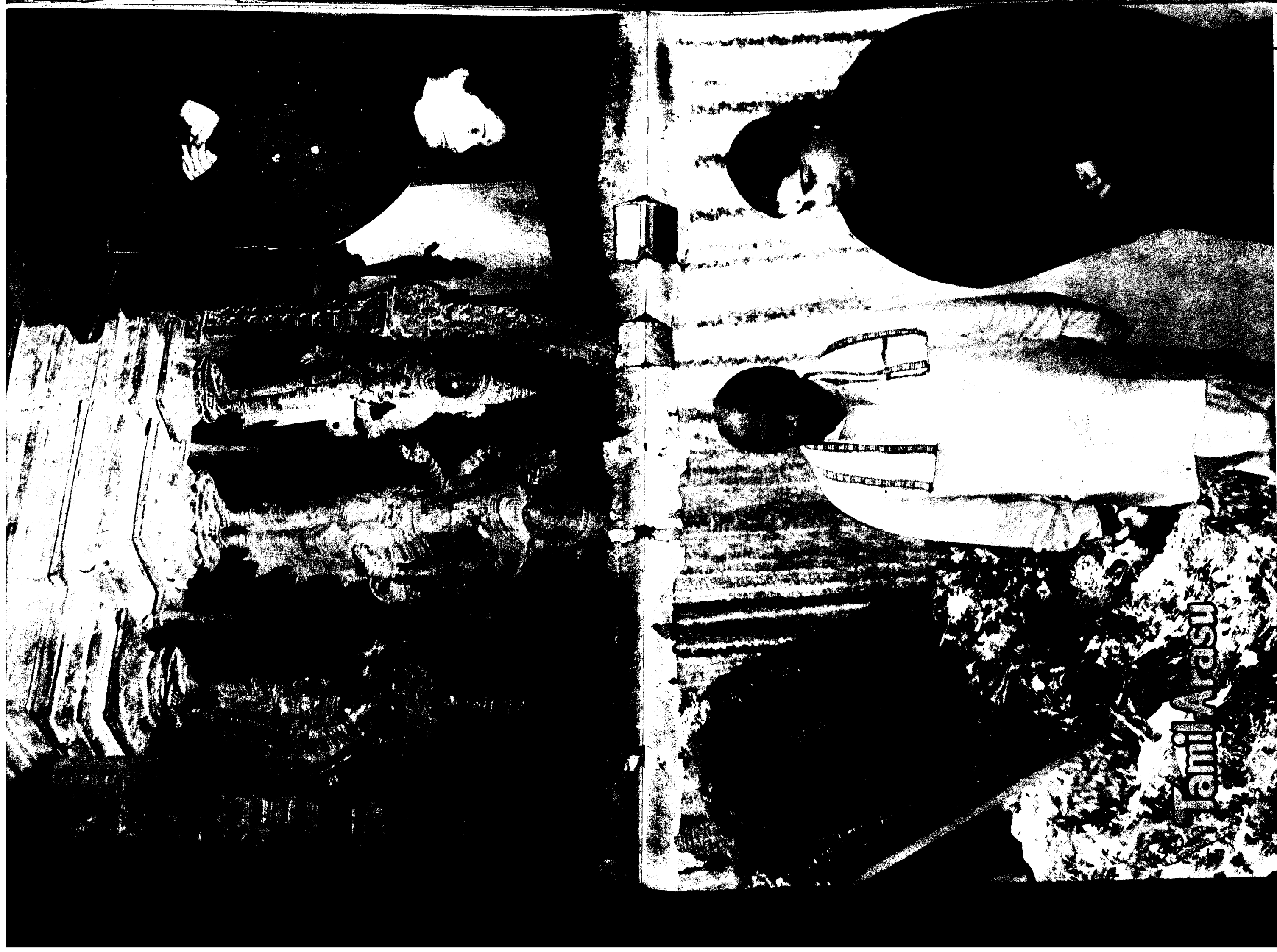
Three months back another batch of part time BE students, have successfully received the TV Programme from the Russian Satellite EGRON, using the designed helical antenna and receiver system and the project was costing Rs.500.

The cost of the Dish antenna receiver system can be further brought down on mass production and it can be made available easily to more people especially to people in rural areas. This will give them an opportunity to expose themselves to the worldwide programmes and promote their outlook.

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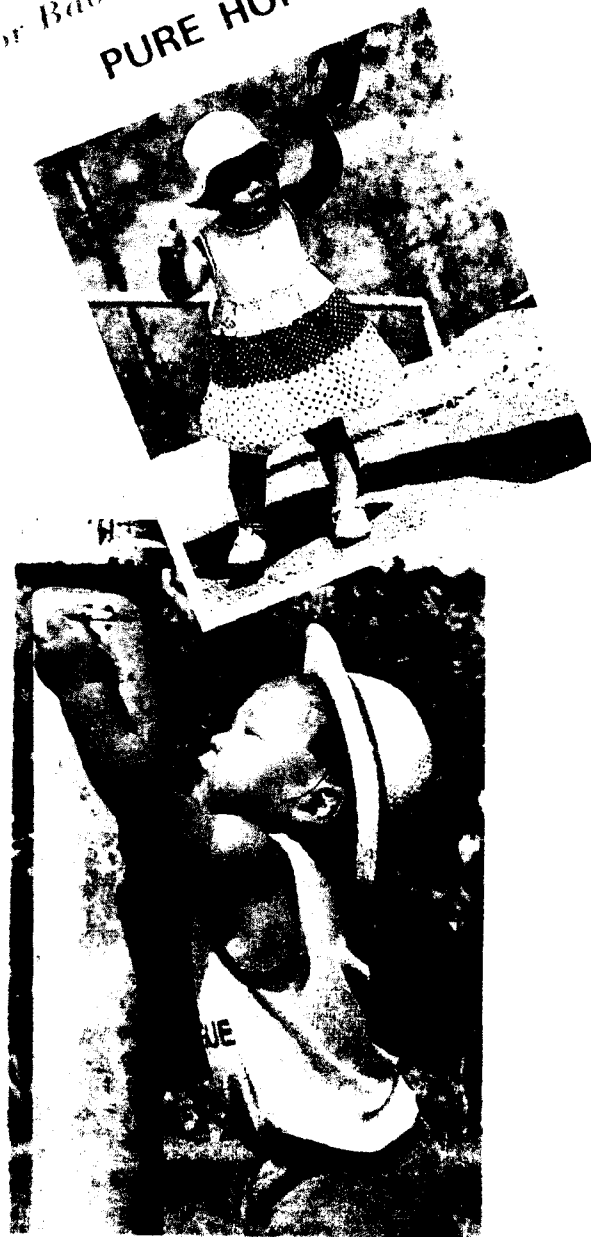


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TAMIL ARASU

A Monthly Journal of Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiruvalluvar Year 2023

Vaikasi - Aani

JUNE - 1992

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- ★ All India Handloom Weavers Conference
- ★ Firm and sure steps to build a vibrant modern society
— Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha,
- ★ BIS and infant care
- ★ Eradicate Malaria
- ★ Discovery of Buddha image in Rameswaram
- ★ Medicinal plants through ages
— M.N. Pushpa,
Asst. Curator,
Govt. Museum, Madras.
- ★ 10th Century inscription discovered



HOMAGE TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER LATE RAJIV GANDHI

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha paid floral tributes to the former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi on his first death anniversary on 21st May 1992, at the place of his assassination in Sriperumbudur.

The day was also observed as anti-terrorism day. After paying homage

with flowers, the Prime Minister administered the anti-terrorism pledge. The pledge read out by the Prime Minister in English was repeated by the Chief Minister, dignitaries and the huge gathering at a specially erected pandal. The Union Ministers, Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister of Kerala, Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly were also present on the occasion. This was followed by singing of devotional song by Tmt. M.S. Subbulakshmi.

Earlier His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh visited Sriperumbudur and paid floral tributes to late Rajiv Gandhi.



In connection with the death anniversary of the former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha paid homage to his portrait at Secretariat on 21st May 1992.

ANTI-TERRORISM PLEDGE

In connection with the first death anniversary of Late Rajiv Gandhi, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha administered the anti-terrorism pledge to the Government employees at the Secretariat on 21st May 1992. The Officers and the employees took a pledge to fight all forms of terrorism and violence.



ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW AT UDHAGAMANDALAM

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalavi Dr. J. Jayalalitha inaugurated the annual flower show at Udhagamandalam on 16th May 1992.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the flower show, and laid foundation stones for various welfare schemes. In her inaugural address she said the Government was taking steps to check deforestation by introducing a law. She expressed deep concern over the plight of the tribal communities. Several welfare schemes had been drawn up for Todas but more needed to be done. She said the loan amount now being given to the Toda Tribal Communities of the Nilgiris would be hiked

to Rs.1 lakh per family from Rs.25,000. This 7 crore scheme would enable each Toda family to cultivate tea on the 5 acres of land already provided by the Government.

She expressed happiness in inaugurating various welfare schemes for the District at a cost of Rs.32.29 crore. She said the Carnival-1992 introduced as part of this annual flower show at Udhagamandalam would attract the tourists.

She expressed her wish to make Cooty lake as beautiful as Dal lake in Kashmir. The Government had found a permanent solution to the drinking water problem in Cooty, she said. She requested the Centre to grant per-



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making it a law not to construct any building in future, the beauty of the hill station could be maintained, she added.

Thiru Madhav Rao Scindia, Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation in his special address said the Cooty flower show was wellknown throughout the country. Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah presided over the function.

Ministers Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Thiru K.A. Sengottayan, Thiru S. Kannappan, Thiru Alagu Thirunavukarasu, Thiru Ku.Pa. Krishnan and Chief Secretary, Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, IAS also spoke on the occasion.

The inaugural function was attended by Members of the Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Administrative and police officials and a large gathering.

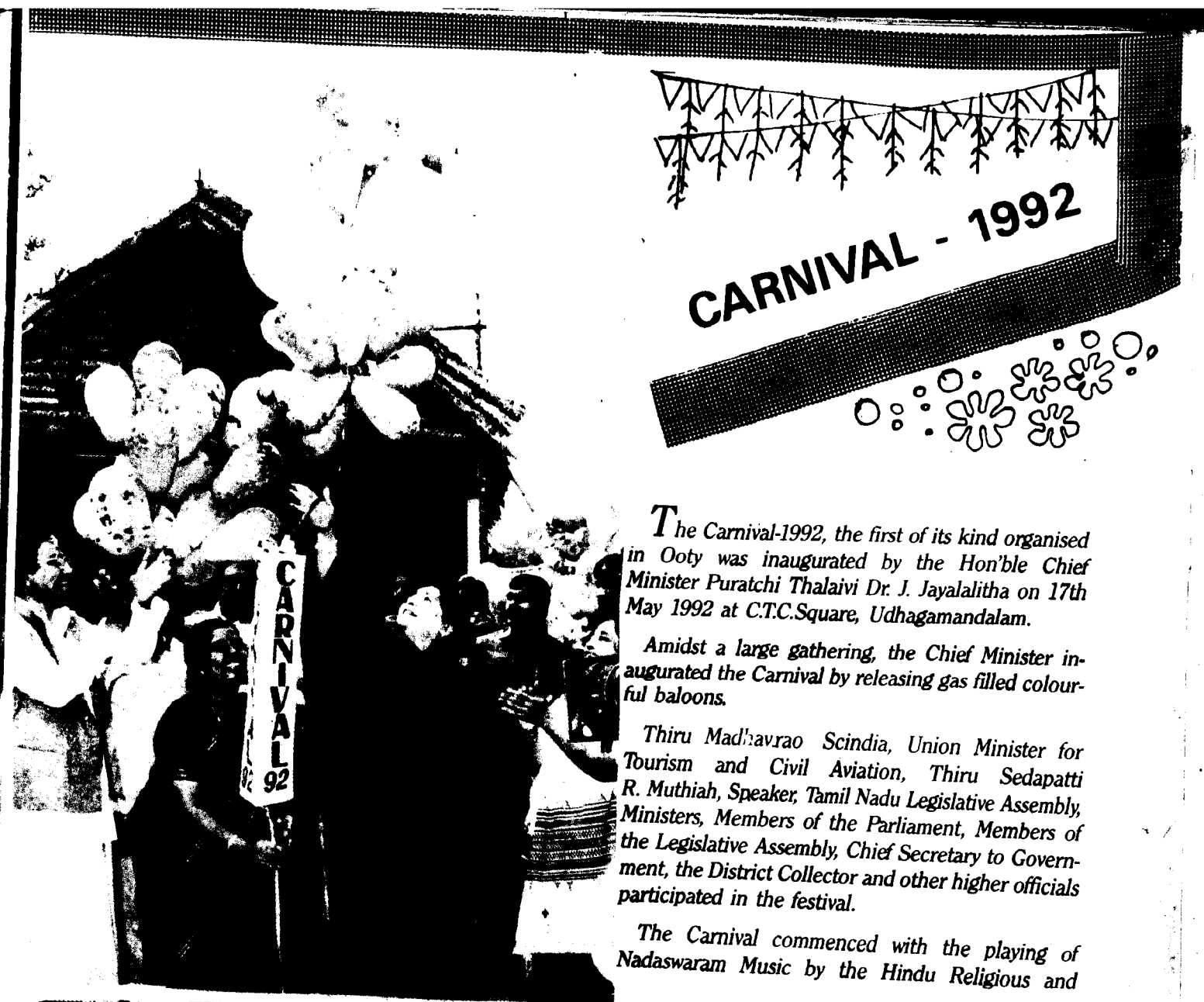
Thiru C.K. Gargali, IAS, Secretary, Information and Tourism Department welcomed the gathering and Selvi Leena Nair, IAS, Collector, Nilgiris District, proposed a vote of Thanks.

5 TAMILNADU

mission and fund to establish a Regional Catering Institute at Kethi village in Cooty. She said whenever a project is submitted to the Centre for approval and finance, we used to get the same replies like, it will be taken up shortly, it will be considered, we will look into it, etc., but now we have a Union Minister like Thiru Scindia who is asking us to submit more projects. She thanked him for his earnestness. If a 'Palace on Wheels' was introduced similar to that in Rajasthan it would boost tourism in Tamil Nadu, she added.

She said the problem of militants had affected the inflow of tourists to Jammu and Kashmir and more tourists were now coming to Cooty. She requested the Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Thiru Madhav Rao Scindia to sanction an air strip for Cooty. She suggested that a vayudoot or a Helicopter service could be introduced.

She requested the cooperation of the people to restore the hill station to its beauty. She said Cooty is getting defaced by construction of new buildings and factories. So, only by



The Carnival-1992, the first of its kind organised in Ooty was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 17th May 1992 at C.T.C. Square, Udhamandalam.

Amidst a large gathering, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Carnival by releasing gas filled colourful balloons.

Thiru Madhav Rao Scindia, Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Ministers, Members of the Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary to Government, the District Collector and other higher officials participated in the festival.

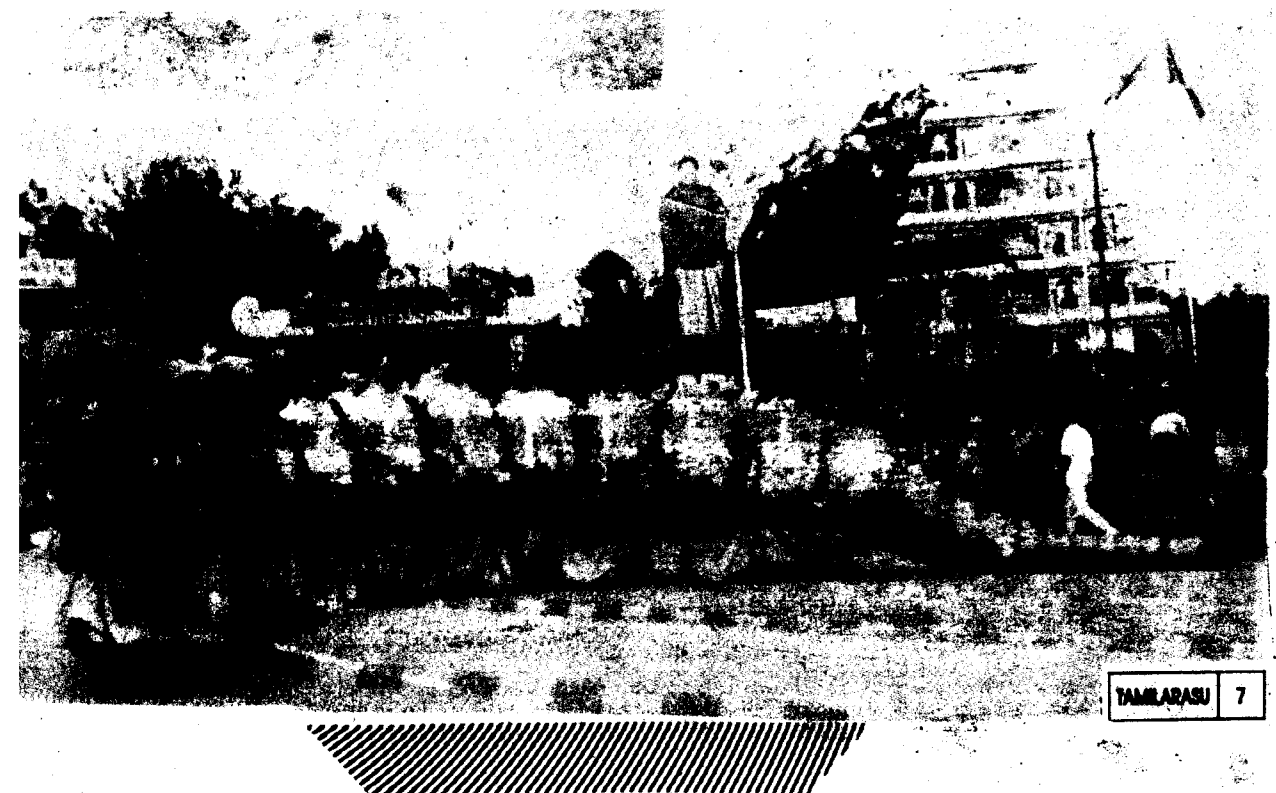
The Carnival commenced with the playing of Nadaswaram Music by the Hindu Religious and



Charitable Endowment Department, Ooty followed by a procession of nine caparisoned elephants of the Forest Department. Artists from various States demonstrated their skills in music and traditional and folk dances. The Chief Minister, to the delight of the public danced with the dancers of the tribal communities of Nilgiris effortlessly.

The dances were followed by the floats, band display by school children, a long dragon formed by dancers, dances from various Districts of the State and dances by school children.

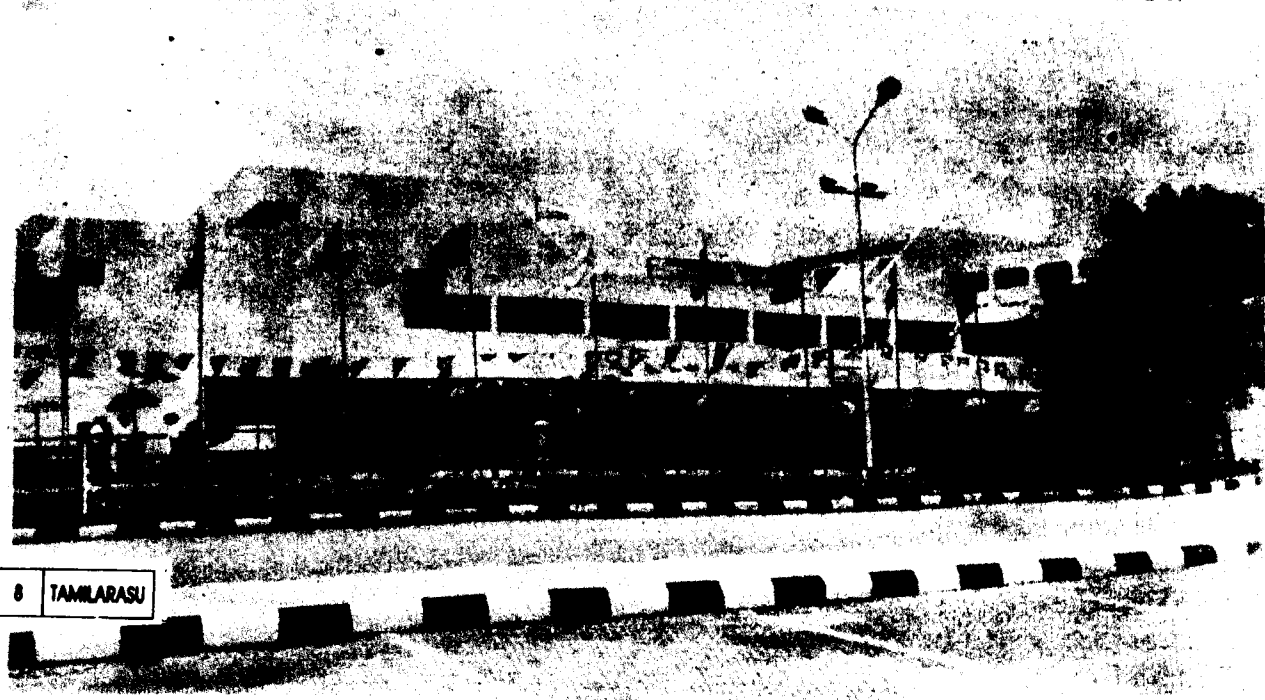
The Carnival concluded with the releasing of balloons.



NEW TERMINAL BUILDING AT COIMBATORE AIRPORT

The New Terminal building at Coimbatore Airport was declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. Jayalalitha at a colourful function held at Coimbatore Airport complex on 15th May 1992.

The Chief Minister unveiled plaques to inaugurate the new complex and launched welfare and development schemes for the State and delivered her key note address. She thanked Thiru Madhavrao Scindia, the Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation and Thiru M.O.H. Farook, the Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism for implementing several schemes in the South in Civil Aviation and Tourism. She urged the Centre to help upgrade the Coimbatore Airport to handle international flights. She said that several welfare schemes costing Rs.161 crore were be-



ing launched despite the severe financial crunch faced by the Government.

Thiru Madhavrao Scindia, the Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation presid-

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The Assistant Director,
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Government Estate, Madras-600 002.

ed over the function. In his presidential address he said the Centre would do its best to accord Tamil Nadu a place of prominence in the tourism map of India. He appealed to the Chief Minister to send new projects for promoting tourism in Tamil Nadu. He thanked the Chief Minister for giving the land free of cost and said a new airport would be constructed in Salem.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Ministers Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Thiru K.A. Sengottayan, Thiru S. Kannappan, Thiru Alagu Thirunavukkarasu, Thiru K.P. Krishnan and the Chief Secretary Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, I.A.S., spoke on the occasion.

Air Marshal, Thiru C.K.S. Raje, Chairman, National Airport Authority welcomed the gathering and Thiru M. Kalaivanan, I.A.S., Collector, Coimbatore District, proposed a vote of thanks.

Earlier the Chief Minister and the Union Ministers were given a grand reception at the Airport Complex. Nine elephants greeted the Chief Minister and hundreds of balloons were released on her arrival.



His Excellency the President of India, Thiru R. Venkataraman was accorded a warm reception at the old Meenambakkam Airport by His Excellency the Governor Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, when he arrived at Mardas on 30th May 1992.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao was accorded a warm reception by His Excellency the Governor Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha when he arrived at Madras on 21st May 1992, to pay homage to former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi.



FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR FILM CITY

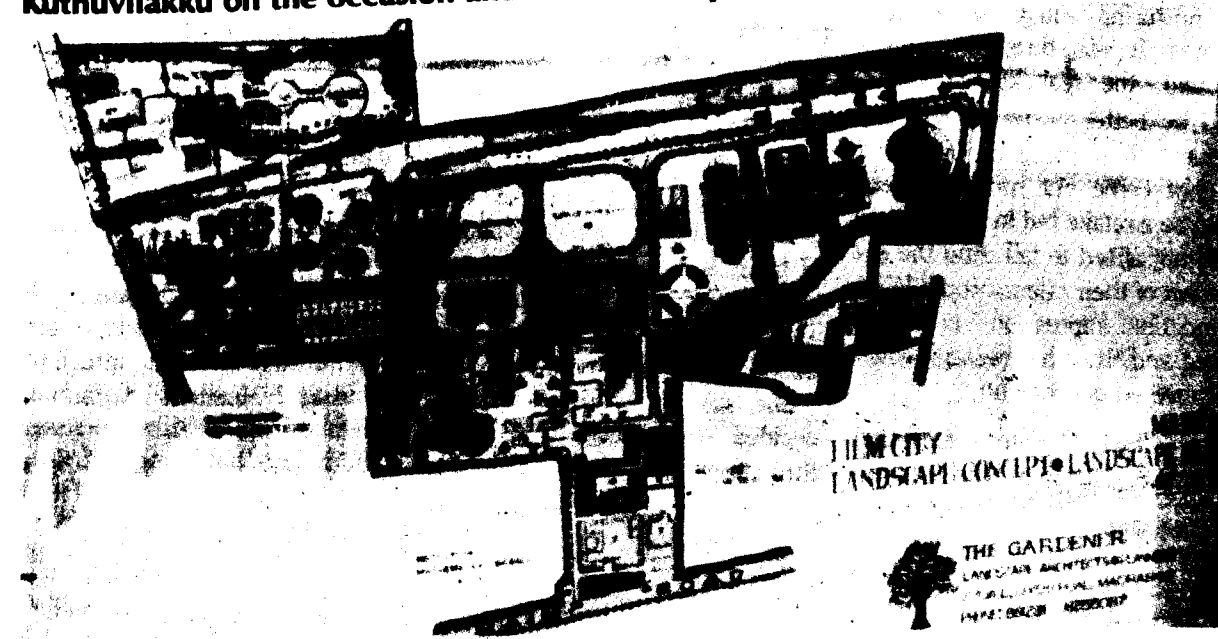
The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha laid the foundation stone for the 'Film City' to come up on 86 hectares in the Film Institute Complex in Taramani on 28th May 1992. A sum of Rs.70 lakh has been allotted for the completion of the first phase of the project. The Film City would have all the facilities required for film production. It would also be developed into a tourist spot.

The Chief Minister lighted a Kuthuvilakku on the occasion and saw a

model of Film City kept on the dais and the Engineers explained the details.

The students of the Film Institute offered garlands and bouquets to the Chief Minister and a memento was also presented to her by the employees of the Institute.

Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. C.K. Gariyali, I.A.S., Secretary, Information and Tourism Department, Thiru K. Ganesan, I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations also participated in the function.





VELICHAM

Velicham (Light), a Tamil play on prohibition, produced by the Government of Tamil Nadu, at a cost of Rs.2 lakh, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 1st May, 1992 at the Music Academy, Madras.

After inaugurating the play, the Chief Minister said that drama had proved to be a powerful medium in spreading messages to people and also nurturing village songs and folklores. It was through dramas, she said, the real life situations could be better portrayed and appreciated. If a sequence in a film had not come out properly there would be a retake but in plays artists could not afford to fail. And the expression of their talents would leave an indelible impression on the audience and thus the message could be conveyed conveniently.

The Chief Minister said that Thiru R.S. Manohar, who was en-

trusted the job of producing the drama had carved out a place for himself in staging quality plays. Praising Thiru R.S. Manohar, she said in producing the historic and legendary plays he would take the audience to that age. He had the ability of bringing the stone age to the present. His dramas would have everything - lessons, messages and fun, and that is why he was chosen for the task of producing prohibition propaganda play. She said she was greatly impressed with the efforts taken by him.

She reiterated that the Government would intensify the steps it had taken to wipe out the menace of illicit liquor. For the addicts, a change of heart is needed to give up the habit and for producing that psychological change in their minds this play had been produced.

She said, the Government had decided to stage this play throughout the State. This play

would be staged for free bearing the additional expenditure since the play would help in creating the right awareness among the people which would lead to the State's goal of total prohibition.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, presided over the function.

Thiru R.S. Manohar, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Manram, said that there is a possibility of staging Velicham in not less than 160 places.

Thiru Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan, President, Tamil Nadu Iyal, Isai, Nataka Manram welcomed the gathering. He suggested that audio and video cassettes containing songs and films on the messages of prohibition could be brought out.

Thiru. K. Malaisamy, Home Secretary proposed a vote of thanks. The function was attended by Ministers, Members of Parliament Members of Legislative Assembly and a large gathering.



38th HANDLOOM FESTIVAL 1992

The 38th Handloom Festival was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 2nd May 1992 at Egmore, Madras.

In her inaugural address she said the Handloom industry never depended on mechanisation and that was why it has weathered all competitions. Of 4.27 lakh Handlooms in the State around 3.27 lakh Handlooms had been brought under the Cooperative movement. It was commendable, she said, that Cooptex through its 457 sales showrooms was selling the entire production from the societies.

She enumerated various schemes announced by the Government, and said 37,500 Handlooms would be converted into 75,000 powerlooms over a period of 10 years; 50,000 handlooms would be moder-

nised at a cost of Rs.42.31 crore in five years; a pension of Rs.250 per month for a period of ten years to the family of the deceased weaver; the cash relief given to the family upon death of a weaver had been

enhanced from Rs.12,000 to Rs. 17,000.

To ameliorate the living condition of the weavers, 2,000 houses would be constructed with Handlooms halls at a cost



of Rs.25,000 each. She said the preliminary works for location of a cooperative spinning mill for women at Bargur had commenced. 'Vilakam', a village in Chengalpattu-MGR District had been selected by the Government for providing all the facilities. Tamil Nadu is the first state to implement this

project which would be implemented at a cost of Rs.25 lakh.

To cap it all, the distribution of dhoties and saris to nearly 1.2 crore landless farm labourers would provide continuous employment to the

weavers in the State, the Chief Minister said.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker presided over the function. Thiru E. Madhusudhanan, Minister for Handlooms spoke on the occasion. Thiru N.P. Gupta, Managing Director, Cooptex proposed a vote of thanks.



ALL INDIA HANDLOOM WEAVERS CONFERENCE

The All India Handloom Weavers Conference was held at the 'Kamarajar Thidal', Teynampet, Madras on May 9th and 10th 1992.

The inaugural session of the two days National Conference was presided over by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, who also dedicated the modernised handloom to the Nation.

She distributed the Relief fund to the Weavers and delivered the key note address.

The Chief Minister said that it would be Government's effort to further modernise the handlooms so that new designs could be evolved. For protecting the handlooms one could not stop the growth of powerlooms. That is why the Government introduced a

scheme for helping these handloom Weavers who wished to switch over to powerlooms. Under these schemes 37,500 handloom weavers would be supplied with 75,000 powerlooms over a period of 10 years and priority would be only to handloom weavers under this programme.

Of the 4.27 lakh handlooms in the State, around 3.27 lakh

handlooms were functioning under co-operatives. The Chief Minister appealed to all weavers to come under the co-operative sector so that it would become possible to extend all help to them. She promised to consider the demand for withdrawal of 2 percent sales tax on hank yarn after the financial position of the state had improved. She said that the demand made for supply of hank yarn at concessional rates to handlooms run by private businessmen could not be accepted, since those running handlooms on commercial basis would have to face the competition. At the same time the Government, would come forward to help weavers in this matter, even if they had not come under co-operative sector.

The Chief Minister said that while the co-operative spinning mills in Tamil Nadu strictly adhered to the norm of producing 50 percent of its capacity for the production of hank yarn and also distributed hank yarn to handloom weavers at fair prices, spinning mills in private sectors had obtained a stay in the court against this norm specified by the Textile Commissioner. She made a demand to the Centre that if the spinning mills under the National Textile Corporation allocated 50 percent of its capacity for production of hank yarn, the supply of hank yarn to handloom sectors could be improved considerably.

Earlier the Chief Minister presented cash relief to eight handloom weavers under the auspices of Saravana Bavanandam Trust.

Thiru Ashok Gehlot, Union Minister of State for Textiles inaugurated the Conference and explained the effort of the Centre to make easy the availability of hank yarn. He said a hank yarn bank would be set up in future.

Thiru. Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, Union Minister of State for Law and Justice unveiled the Portrait of Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi and other pioneers of the handloom industry and said there should exist a cordial relations between the Handloom Sector and readymade garment manufacturing unit.

Thiru. Vazhapadi K. Rama

murthy, M.P., released the handloom Souvenir and appealed to the Centre to do something for implementing the decision on reservation of 22 varieties to the handloom sector.

Thiru E. Madhusudhanan, Minister for Handlooms and Textiles said that a co-operative Bank for the benefit of weavers would be opened shortly. He said 500 handlooms had already been modernised.

Thiru P. Ramachandran, former Kerala Governor, Thiru Nalli Kuppusami, Thiru M.P. Radhakrishnan, and Thiru T.S. Subramanian spoke on the occasion.

TAMILNADU TO SET UP LABOUR REHABILITATION FUND

The Tamil Nadu Government is to set up a labour rehabilitation fund to help workers who might be rendered jobless following closure of sick industrial units. The fund would be started with an initial contribution of Rs.1 crore. The Centre had been asked to allocate Rs.50 crores towards the fund. Workers would be provided compensation for closure of these sick units which might not be able to provide compensation to workmen.



FIRM AND SURE STEPS TO BUILD A VIBRANT MODERN SOCIETY

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission, Union Ministers, Governor, Chief Ministers and Members of the National Development Council,

At the outset, I wish to extend my greetings to all of you, as we are assembled here to discuss and finalise the Eighth Five Year Plan.

It is indeed a happy augury for the future that we have been able to weather the severe economic crisis and chart out in the Eighth Plan a new course of purposive action towards growth and development. Let us all rededicate ourselves to the urgent task of national development. The launching of the Eighth Plan, although unfortunately delayed, marks a

significant landmark in the history of the planned development of free India. While broadly endorsing the size and content of the Eighth Plan as also the priorities, I welcome this opportunity to share some thoughts on the issues in the agenda before us.

We have just begun to see the light at the end of a dark tunnel of economic distress. As we pledge ourselves to ensure a better life for the millions of the poor in our country we have to take note of some harsh realities which confront us in this task. I do not wish to go into all the complexities of macro economic theory except to emphasise that for an economy like ours, with a massive population and millions of the poor, the strategy of development has necessarily to be

homespun, drawn from our own experience and has to pass the ultimate test as to whether it will improve the quality of life of the poor. While market-friendly approaches have now become the accepted wisdom, development economics has to find new moorings to meet the ultimate challenge of providing a better life for the teeming millions of the poor in a country like ours. This stupendous task of removal of poverty should be the main focus of the Eighth Plan and the Indian Experiment in this regard would have to be unique in the context of the special circumstances we are facing.

We cannot continue in isolation in a fast changing world. With signs of recession in many countries in the developed world, the task of integrating with the global economy is not going to be easy. Inflation has to be contained. Inflation, particularly the rise in food prices, has hurt the poor. We have to ensure that the poor are protected. On our part we have organised an effective public distribution system and kept the price of basic cereals like rice affordable by the poor.

State Governments, which are so much closer to the people in their everyday life, have had to bear the brunt of the fiscal burden of protecting the poor against the rise in food prices. While endorsing the need for fiscal discipline and the mobilisation of resources for investment, let us not forget that elimination of hunger and deprivation has to be the first and immediate objective of all economic development.

I would like to plead for extreme caution and restraint in any attempt to increase administered prices of food articles unilaterally, since it throws the finances of the States out of gear.

We have placed the highest emphasis on agricultural research and an effective extension service to reach new technology to farmers. At the same time we are greatly concerned about the total absence of any more surface water potential in Tamil Nadu and the fast dwindling ground water potential.

The Plan documents brought out by the Union Planning Commission indicate clearly

the serious situation in Tamil Nadu. I have been repeatedly pleading for a fresh look at bringing surplus waters and flood flows to a totally water starved State like Tamil Nadu. I am glad that the Deputy Chairman has assured me that progress will be made in the Eighth Plan in establishing inter-basin transfers, with particular reference to the Peninsular River Waters Grid.

I trust there will be adequate outlays for this project. I would also like to highlight our need for special support from the Centre to rehabilitate the existing irrigation system, particularly in the Cauvery delta.

Full employment by the turn of the century is a goal we have accepted as central to the Eighth Plan. An essential feature of the Eighth Plan is the voyage of rediscovery by the Indian of his basic confidence to the briskly step forward and get on with the task of nation building, free of the shackles of bureaucratic controls.

Indicative planning has to facilitate private sector initiative to blossom and flourish. We have set this out clearly in our State-specific new industrial policy statement. We stand fully committed to secure rapid industrialisation, with an aggressive outward leaning approach which facilitates private sector initiative. We would need the full backing of the Centre in this drive.

The Committee on the Financial System has clearly stressed the need for encouraging competition among development finance institutions which extend term loan assistance to new industries. This suggestion is welcome. With deregulation, the powers and responsibility of actuating industrial growth now fall almost entirely on these institutions. It is essential to plan for an enduring system in the new situation.

May I suggest that, in line with the recommendations, of the Committee on the Financial System, we establish 4 or 5 industrial development banks with a regional focus. It is also appropriate to have State Governments' representatives on the Boards of these Banks. This will ensure transparency in their operations. Madras, as a major Financial Services Centre, can be the headquarters of the

Southern Regional Industrial Bank.

In our mission to achieve full employment, we have to give pride of place to small industries and business, particularly in the rural nonfarm sector. The reforms in the financial sector should not lead to any adverse change in the credit flows to priority sectors. An analysis of the sectoral changes in the State Domestic Product clearly indicates the vital importance of this sector.

While there can be no two opinions on the need to restore health to the financial institutions, we should ensure adequate credit flows to the priority sectors which generate massive productive employment.

At the last meeting of this Council, I pointed out that Tamil Nadu had not seen a single substantial Central investment worth the name for more than two decades. I had also expressed my disappointment over Tamil Nadu's share in the pipeline of Central Public Sector projects for the Eighth Plan. I am glad that my plea has not gone unheeded. I wish to thank the Prime Minister for giving clearance for the Aromatics mega project to be established in the joint sector at Madras. With this happy beginning I hope the tide will turn and the Central Government will pay greater attention to our continuing request for an enhanced level of Central investment in Tamil Nadu in the Eighth Plan.

We have placed the highest emphasis on rapid development of the energy sector. I would in particular like to refer to the Third Lignite Minecut at Neyveli which has not found place in the Plan document. It is necessary that an early start is made on this project in the Eighth Plan. I do not also find any reference to the Southern Gas Grid to bring gas to Tamil Nadu. We would like to take up the exploitation of both PY-III and PY-I structures in the Cauvery off-shore area, together with a linked 300 Mega watts gas based power plant in the joint or associate sector.

I do hope this suggestion will be considered. Work on the Satellite Port at Ennore near Madras to bring coal to new thermal plants which are nearing completion has to be cleared immediately and work taken up at once on this high priority project.

I welcome the recently announced policy decision to invite the private sector to participate in Energy Planning and development in the Eighth Plan. But I wish to emphasise that speed in decision making is essential at all levels. In Tamil Nadu we have proposed to set up a massive 1500 megawatts integrated lignite mining and thermal generation project at Jayamkondacholapuram. This mega project with a total ultimate investment of Rs.7000 crores is to be established in the joint sector. We have gone ahead to establish a new company and have also undertaken the feasibility report. I do hope that the approval for this project will be accorded early.

We also plan to establish coal based thermal plants 500 megawatts capacity each at Tuticorin and Cuddalore in the private sector. We hope that the necessary import of coal to run these plants will be cleared. I would once again like to reiterate the need to reformulate our ideas on the Koodangulam Nuclear Power Plant in the aftermath of the disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

Ours is a large country and it is one huge market. Some concepts of holding together this market have undergone major changes to the detriment of States like Tamil Nadu. We are now clearly adversely placed when it comes to the pricing of key inputs like steel and coal. Our plea for freight equalisation has had no response.

We may at least be freed from the rigours of having to obtain these high cost supplies from distant States. I refer in particular to the difficulties we have to undergo in transporting coal.

I would suggest that a comprehensive package to facilitate the import of inputs like coal, should be developed. There is no reason why a State like Tamil Nadu should not be allowed to go to outside markets for basic inputs.

At the last meeting of this Council I had indicated our strategy of developing an outward leaning economy given the special problems faced by the State. I had in fact suggested two initiatives to make this happen. I refer to the Free Port and the Trade Corridor with Singapore.

I hope the announcement of one free port will not preclude the early establishment of a second free port in Tamil Nadu. I am very keen that these two ideas are given shape quickly so that we can ensure good progress in the Eighth Plan.

We have to ensure adequate outlays for basic infrastructure such as roads and water supply so that real improvement can be made. In particular I am concerned about the state of our roads.

We have made certain requests relating to the formation of the East Coast National Highway, four laning of certain national highways and the conversion of certain state highways to national highways. I would request early clearance for these projects. May I also request an early decision on the allocation to the States of the augmented Central Road Fund? In spite of a resolution of the Parliament, the increased accruals to this Fund have not been made available to the States.

We have just finalised a project based on toll collections to finance accelerated road development. We have given the highest priority to the proper maintenance of roads.

In the Eighth Plan we have given the maximum priority to the provision of the safe drinking water. While we have tackled the immediate problem of providing at least one drinking water source to every habitation, we are confronted with the massive task of ensuring protected water supply to a large number of habitations which have a total breakdown every summer.

We have formulated a Rs.528.50 crore project to be implemented with external assistance to tackle this problem. May I suggest early clearance of this project? The acute and chronic water shortage in Madras City is well known. I have had fruitful discussions with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and we have been able to reach a fresh agreement to ensure that Krishna water reaches Madras by June 1995.

Concurrently we have formulated a massive project with an outlay of Rs.1,180.20 crore to treat and distribute the Krishna Water. This

project is awaiting acceptance by the World Bank. I request the intervention of the Prime Minister to obtain urgent clearance for this project.

The problems faced by the four Metropolitan Cities are indeed daunting. It is essential to launch a determined effort in the Eighth Plan to tackle the worsening situation in the four Metros.

We have launched the Madras Vision 2000, an integrated plan for tackling some of the major problems facing Madras. The new investment required is staggering. It is impossible for the State to find the resources for this special effort. Madras also did not get any Ninth Finance Commission for the year 1989-90. May I suggest that a new programme be launched to provide assistance for the rehabilitation of services and improvement in the quality of life of the urban poor in the four Metros?

In Tamil Nadu we have placed the highest emphasis on the provision of a safety net for the poor. At the same time the focus in our plan is on human resources development. We have accorded the highest importance to outlays on education, nutrition, health care and programmes for weaker sections. We have sought external aid for a comprehensive school education project which will focus on the education of the girl child and education quality upgradation. I seek early approval for this project.

Our success in population limitation, instead of being rewarded, seems to result in a denial of scarce resources. A powerful new incentive is needed to get the necessary political commitment for this programme of vital national importance. May I suggest that in allocating resources to States with a per capita income below the national average, under the modified Gadgil formula, the computation of income may be done with reference to the 1971 population of States? This will be consistent with the practice being adopted for distribution of the 60 per cent component based on population. I would also like to caution against the reduction of resources from the Centre to States which have done well in population limitation. This

would be unfair.

Poverty alleviation programmes will receive high priority in the Eighth Plan of our State. Our focus in this regard has to be on steady growth, massive employment, a sound distribution policy, and a well designed package of direct poverty alleviation interventions. I must express my concern about the cut back in the outlays for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. As a direct intervention programme putting wages in the hands of the rural poor, we should protect the outlays for this programme in real terms. Let us not, even in the midst of a fiscal crisis, deny the daily meal to the poor. We should in fact pay special attention to the innovative management of distribution systems, health and nutrition services and direct poverty alleviation programmes. This calls for a close look at these programmes, with a view to introducing innovations and enlarging the support base.

With larger private sector participation in key and new areas, the Centre can indeed look forward to some reduced direct responsibility. The States with their major role in social services will be subject to even greater fiscal stress. I am of the view that there is a pronounced shift in the shouldering of responsibilities to the States. There is no accompanying shift in the sharing of resources. The transfer of resources from the Centre to the States should be improved upon. With the mounting repayment obligations including the interest burden, net transfers of States are indeed quite low. While I grant that the Eighth Plan has been formulated under difficult circumstances, I should think that we could have improved upon resource flows to the States. I must mention, that, as a matter of fact, there have been improved transfers during each plan period and I hope this will be possible in the Eighth Plan.

The distribution of Central assistance between States is governed by the Gadgil formula as revised by the National Development Council in December 1991. At that meeting I had highlighted the problems in correctly analysing the per capita income data. I have been assured that this will be gone into further. My suggestion that the 1971 population could be adopted in computing the per capita

income could perhaps resolve this issue. As the per capita income data is to be corrected on a year to year basis, this suggestion could easily be implemented. I do not have to go into the varied special problems faced by Tamil Nadu. I do hope this will be recognized in resource flows.

Our sea border problem has been recognized. We have received a little assistance last year. I would like to insist that an exclusive reservation of Central assistance be continued for States having special border problems.

State plans are now heavily dependent on resource flows based on external aid. There is a noticeable slowdown in the appraisal and clearance of State projects. I would like to suggest a better dialogue between the Centre and the States on the pipeline of new projects, and other issues. I am also concerned about the move to harden the terms of assistance given to the States based on external aid. I am of the view that a short term view based on trimming the Central Budget should not be taken on this issue.

States implement difficult projects primarily in the social services sector and it would not be fair to ask them to shoulder increased coats. Hundred percent of the external assistance received is still not being passed on to the States in some sectors. In the light of assurances already given hundred percent assistance should be passed on to States in respect of all projects without exception.

While we have to raise extra resources to finance the Plan, we are confronted with the serious erosion in the flows of Small Savings loans. The States thus begin the Eighth Plan with a major handicap. While some improvements in the incentives for savings have been announced recently, these do not go far enough. While these long term measures to simplify the income tax structure, base and yield are not without merits, the sudden and serious liquidity crisis imposed on the States cannot be ignored.

This is too major a transition and cannot be rushed through in one year. May I suggest restoration of a provision to provide tax benefits for investments in small savings? This

At the NDC meeting on 23.5.92, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalitha intervened during the discussion and made the following suggestions:

The Prime Minister may constitute a Committee of the NDC for making recommendations on the modalities of transfer of the augmented resources for Rural Development under Central budgetary support to the States, providing for complete flexibility to the States to implement programmes appropriate to their conditions. This transfer must be on 100% grant basis over and above the Central assistance to the plans of the States.

Consignment Tax: In my speech I have referred to the delay in giving effect to the levy of consignment tax. The States are surprised at the delay in actually implementing this levy. Shri Rajiv Gandhi took the initiative to discuss this subject and certain conclusions have already been reached. I do not think any State would like to stand in the way of its early implementation. It would seem that in our attempt to finalise all details relating to exemptions to certain commodities, and the role of the Centre and States in exercising certain powers, the entire issue is getting delayed. I am sure all the other Chief Ministers will join me in requesting that this levy be brought into force through an Enactment, at least in the next session of the Parliament. This levy has

become crucial to the financing of the State's Eighth Plan and an immediate decision is necessary.

The Centre should consider the constitution of a Special Contingency Fund to provide additional funds for damages caused by natural calamities. The Calamity Relief Fund which has now been allocated to the States is sadly inadequate. The States have each been allocated a Calamity Relief Fund of Rs.35 crore - 37 crore etc. However, the damages caused by natural calamities such as cyclones are often in the range of Rs.400 to Rs.500 crore. Under such circumstances, where do the States go to find the necessary funds for relief and restoration works? there are electricity connections that have to be restored; roads which have to be relaid; vital installations that have to be repaired. The Calamity Relief Fund allocated to the States is woefully inadequate.

I am not suggesting that the Centre should give the States an open ended commitment in this regard. Instead the Centre should constitute a Special Contingency Fund and whenever the States require additional Funds over and above their respective Calamity Relief Fund, the Centre can depute a team of officials to assess the damages and the States' requirements may be met from the Special Contingency Fund.

has to be an exclusive provision for small savings. Unless this is done, despite some improved flows through higher collections in income tax collections, the states will find it extremely difficult to fulfil the Eighth Plan.

The Tenth Finance Commission is to be constituted shortly. At the last meeting of this Council, I dwelt on the difficulties faced by States like Tamil Nadu, following the implementation of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission. The implicit reduction in the share of basic excise duties given to all States, without reference to their deficits, the severity of the normative assessment process which ignored substantial expenditure which had to be incurred and the imperfections in the operations of the scheme of plan revenue grants have brought

about difficult financial situations for States like Tamil Nadu for no fault of theirs.

We are faced with a substantial deficit in the balance from current revenues. The constitution of the Tenth Finance Commission is of utmost importance to the States in the context of the Eighth Plan, as its recommendations will be operative for two years of the Eighth Plan. While there have been some consultations at the official level with a study group, may I suggest that all States be involved in the process of drawing up the terms of reference of the Tenth Finance Commission.

In the context of the severe resources crisis faced by the States despite earnest efforts to mobilise additional resources, it is necessary that an early decision is taken to implement the consignment tax. This issue has been

discussed on several occasions. There is a broad consensus and very few details need to be sorted out. I am quite sure that with the cooperation of the Chief Ministers we can reach an immediate solution. I have stressed the need to bring forth a Bill in Parliament to provide for the levy of this tax.

I do hope we can reach a decision even in this meeting to bring this levy into force within a specific time frame.

The States are now required to provide major infrastructure for industrial development. Not all infrastructure costs can be recovered. Export oriented industries do not also yield any tax revenues to the States. I had suggested special central assistance to improve the infrastructure in towns with export oriented industries. States do not also get any share in the Corporation tax.

I feel that the time has come for some share in the Corporation tax to be made available by the Central Government in view of the specific responsibility of the States to provide for infrastructure facilities for industrial growth.

The changing Indian economy, buffeted and tossed about in the stormy seas of severe economic crisis in the past has struggled through, relying heavily on the forbearance, fortitude and tolerance of our people.

We cannot take our people for granted. We cannot assume that our people will continue to display these noble qualities in the face of

growing economic hardship. It behoves us to ensure a policy framework that will not call for sacrifices bordering on want and deprivation. As we launch the Eighth Plan let us rededicate ourselves to the task of providing a better life for millions of Indians.

Let us not allow any feeling of alienation to tear as under the magnificent tapestry of our polity. Let us cast aside the gloom of zero growth, the trails and tribulations posed by inflation and take firm and sure steps to build a vibrant modern society brimming with the confidence of ushering in a new age.

Prime Minister in his opening statement expressed his concern about political discrimination in development schemes in certain States. I wish to assure the Prime Minister that as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, there is absolutely no political discrimination with regard to development schemes. I wish to bring to the notice of this august body and the Prime Minister that we have implemented a special Self-Sufficiency Scheme in Tamil Nadu, whereby one crore rupees is provided to each Panchayat Union for development works. We have 386 Panchayat Unions in Tamil Nadu and I wish to point out that regardless of political affiliation one crore rupees has been provided to each and every Panchayat Union in the State.

(Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the National Development Council at New Delhi on 22nd May 1992.)

I Wrapper

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha paid floral tributes to the former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi on his first death anniversary on 21st May 1992 at Sriperumbudur, where he was assassinated.

IV Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha inaugurating the Carnival 1992 at Udhagamandalam on 17th May 1992 and dancing with the dancers of the tribal communities.

BIS AND INFANT CARE

The delicate new born baby needs utmost care for its proper growth. Ample nutrition, hygiene and safe and comfortable infant usables ensure its sound development. Quality assurance in products meant for infants, therefore, bears its defined importance. Realizing this, the Bureau of Indian Standards has formulated standards on products meant for infants. Some of these are also covered under the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Marks Scheme. The products on which standards have been formulated include infant foods and infant formula, baby toilet soap, baby incubators, baby weighing machines, skin powder for infants, baby drop-side hospital cots and safe toys for infants.

Guidance through Indian Standards treatment of premature born babies

Babies born premature need incubators for their safe keeping and treatment. An incubator is a closed chamber, designed and constructed to have built-in means of heating and humidifying the air and has provision for supply of ox-

ygen to the chamber. An Indian Standard Specification IS 3120 : 1978 'Baby incubators' has been formulated covering the performance, safety and general requirements for electrically heated incubators for prematurely born babies with a view to provide a comfortable, safe and convenient method of maintaining the babies at a temperature and humidity decided by medical authorities. The specification keeps in view the latest technological developments in manufactur-

ing electrically heated incubators and includes characteristics of performance tests for thermostats and insulation resistance which are critical requirements and must be properly monitored. Provision has been made in the standard for safety and satisfactory design of the apparatus while a good deal of latitude has been allowed to the incubator manufacturer to introduce innovations and refinements.

Safe placement of Infants

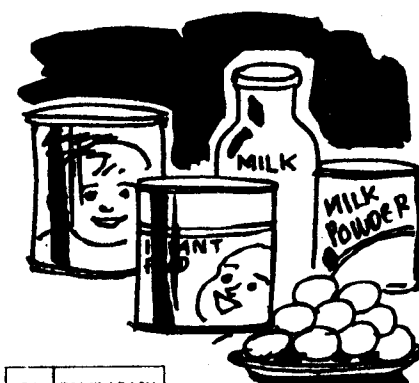
Dropside baby hospital cots are utilized in the hospitals for placing the infant safely and hence should be both sturdy and comfortable. An Indian Standard Specification IS 5337 : 1969 Cot, dropside, baby, hospital prescribes different characteristics for dropside baby cots. The characteristics include requirements for



dimensions, material, design, quality of matters and finish. The tests to be carried out include impact test, mattress test, adhesion test and performance test.

Feeding Requirement

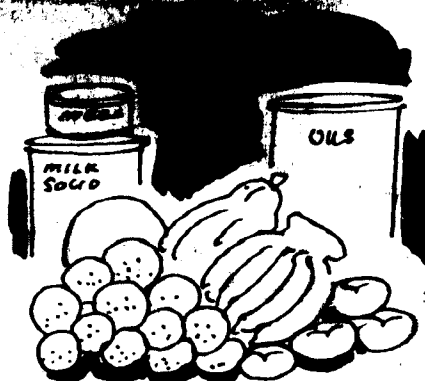
Mother's milk ideally fulfils the entire requirement for growth of infant. Additionally it provides unique bio-immune factors for protecting their health. Reliance on alternate sources of nutrition is however necessary when breast feeding is not possible. Infant foods and infant formulae are intended for partial or total replacement of breast milk. To safeguard their health, it is imperative that these alternative foods are properly formulated so that nutritional requirements for optimal growth of infants are adequately met and physiological stress on the developing organ/enzymic system of the infant is kept at minimum. Indian Standard Specifications IS 1547 : 1985 Infant food and IS 11156 : 1985 Infant formulae prescribe the requirements for characteristics specified and their methods of sampling and test. To provide nutrients ordinarily found in breast milk and ensure that the infant foods and infant formulae are suitable as the sole source of nutrients for infants, these standards



stipulate the levels of protein, milk fat and Vitamins, A and D. They also specify the minimum levels of B complex Vitamins, Vitamins C and K and minerals like copper, iodine, manganese and zinc which may be added to the infant formulae and foods. If manufactured in accordance with the requirements laid down in IS 1547 : 1985 and IS 11156 : 1985 the availability of wholesome milk food and milk formulae, respectively, for consumption by the needy infant is ensured. The infant food and infant formulae are available with the Standard Mark, the familiar ISI Mark.

Energy and Satiety Requirements

The sole source of nutrition for an infant initially is milk, either breast milk or powder milk marketed as infant milk or infant formulae. However, after a few months, the infant has to be given solid foods in addition to milk. Milk cereal based weaning foods are mainly intended to 'accustom' the infant's digestive tract to solid foods. Nutritionally, this category of foods serve as an important source of calories to meet the energy requirements due to increased physical activity. Beginning with the introduction of cereals from the age of four months, the intake is slowly increased so that by eight months of age and onwards nearly half of the total intake is from milk and remaining from cereals and a variety of other foods. With such a feeding regimen, milk almost completely meets the feeding requirement, while cereals and/or other foods meet the energy and satiety re-



quirements of the infant.

Milk cereal based weaning foods are obtained from a variety of cereals; vegetables; oils and proteins; milk solids; carbohydrates, such as sucrose; dextrose, dextrins, maltose and lactose; iron and calcium salts; phosphates and citrates; other approved nutritionally important minerals and vitamins. An Indian Standard Specifications IS 1656 : 1985 Milk Cereal Based Weaning Foods has been formulated which prescribes the requirements and methods of sampling and test for Milk cereal based weaning foods intended for feeding infants at the weaning stage.

An Indian Standard Specifications IS 6387 : 1971 Vegetable Protein Infant Food with Milk has been formulated to promote the use of vegetable proteins admixed with milk powder which can be used for substituting mother's milk. Vegetable protein infant food with milk are prepared by drying an emulsion of vegetable proteins, vegetable oil or fat and milk with added carbohydrates or by blending the components. The vegetable proteins may be derived from cereals, pulses or legumes singly or in a combination thereof.

Mandatory Certification

Through a Gazette notification amending the *Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules*, 1955, Government of India has brought infant milk food, infant formulae and milk cereal based weaning food under Compulsory Certification of Bureau of Indian Standard. Thereby no person shall manufacture, sell, store or exhibit for sale an infant milk food, infant formulae and milk cereal based weaning food except under Bureau of Indian Standard Certification Mark.

Feeding bottles are used almost universally for feeding infants. They need to be designed so as to permit easy cleaning and sterilization and to which rubber teats can be easily slipped on or secured with a metallic or plastic screw closure for providing a leakproof grip. An Indian Standard Specifications IS 5168 : 1969 Glass Feeding Bottles has been formulated which prescribes the requirements and methods of sampling and test for glass feeding bottles. The requirements to be tested include pattern, material and workmanship, capacity, dimensions, finish, scale and graduations, limit of alkalinity, and thermal shock resistance.

Rubber teat is a device on a feeding bottle for intake of milk by the infant. It is essential that the test should not contain harmful ingredients which may go into the solution and contaminate the milk or liquid baby food. Further, these often impart undesirable odour, taste or discolouration. These may cause irritation to the feeding baby on becoming



hard at times. Taking into consideration the human aspect involved, an Indian Standard Specifications IS 3565 : 1966 Rubber Teats for Feeding Bottles was formulated

This standard prescribes physical and chemical requirements for teats. Physical requirements include those for material of teats, workmanship and finish while chemical tests include acetone extract, free sulphur in acetone extract, change in physical properties, properties of water extract and pH of water extract retention test.

In the initial months of an infant's development, paediatricians utilize weighing machines to monitor growth. Controlled increase in a baby's weight indicates its proper growth. An Indian Standard Specification IS 2489 : 1963 Baby Weighing Machines has been formulated to cover chiefly the technical provisions relating to baby weighing machines. As per the standard, the baby weighing machine is a machine with a pan to place the baby to be weighed, the capacity of which has been laid down as 10, 15 or 20 kg. The weight corresponding to the interval between two graduation marks shall not exceed 50 g as prescribed in the standard,

thereby giving the machine a capability of detecting even a small change in the baby's weight.

A baby's skin is much thinner and less cornified than that of an adult. It is highly susceptible to irritation and bacterial attack. If superficial layers of the epidermis are damaged for any reason, various types of skin disorders may develop. Therefore, due care must be taken during the manufacture of products utilized for the general physical hygiene of infants in respect of toxicity and dermatological considerations.

Cleanliness

Baby toilet soap is an important item for keeping baby clean. An Indian Standard Specification IS 10523 : 1983 Baby Toilet Soap has been formulated to achieve dermatological safety of toilet soaps used for babies, the choice and selection of appropriate quality and quantity of different raw materials being very important. Although the characteristics for baby toilet soaps are basically similar to those meant for adults, the requirements for these characteristics are different. Unlike the normal toilet soap, the use of rosin has been prohibited in baby soap as it may lead to irritation of the skin on account of its unsaturated nature. On a similar consideration, the standard prescribes a higher limit for total fatty matter, lower limits for free caustic and carbonated alkali and additional limits for heavy metals, namely nickel, copper and iron.

Comfort

Baby skin powders are intended to make infant feel comfortable and to help prevent skin rashes that arise from or are aggravated by excess moisture and dust. An Indian Standard Specification IS 5339 : 1978 Skin Powder for Infants has been formulated prescribing the requirements for the characteristics specified and the methods of sampling and test. In composition skin powders for infants do not differ widely from these intended for adults. One obvious difference is that infant powders are usually lightly perfumed or not perfumed at all. This is to reduce the risk of sensitization and irritation. Another significant difference is that baby powders are free from boric acid. It must be noted that inadvertent inhalation of these powders is to be avoided. Skin powders for infants should not be a case of bacteriological and fungal contamination and hence the standard prescribes that it shall be the responsibility of manufacturer for dermatological safety of the formulation before releasing it for sale. As skin powders for infants are widely used now, caution is necessary not only in the selection of the ingredients but also in their packing.

Selection of Clothing

An Indian Standard Specification IS 10015 (Part 4) : 1982 Size Designation of Clothes : Part 4 Infants Outwear Garments has been formulated with the primary aim of establishing a size designation system that indicates in a simple, direct and meaningful manner the body

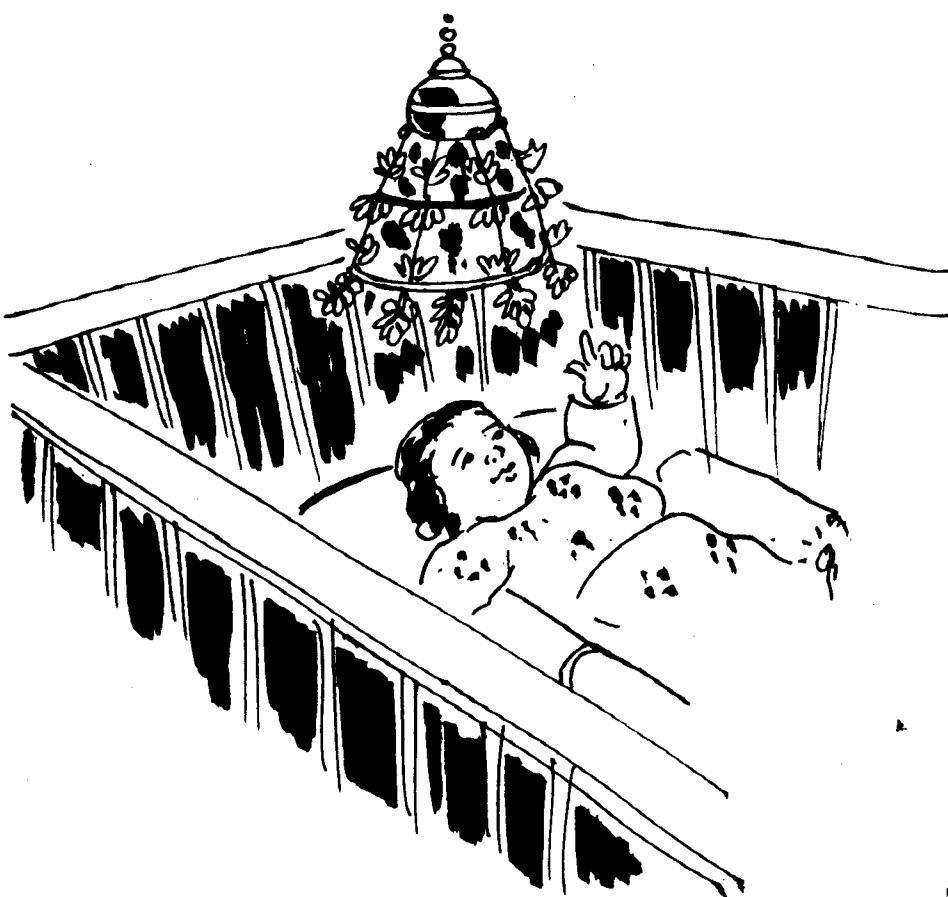
size of the infant that a garment is intended to fit. The system given in the specification facilitates the choice of garments that fit, provided that the shape of the infant's body as indicated by the appropriate dimensions has been accurately determined. The size designation system is based on body and not garment measurements.

Safety of Toys

Toys are not mere playthings but also instruments for the development of a baby's physical and mental faculties and talent. However, these may become a cause of potential hazard to the baby if they are not manufactured keeping its safety in view or handled or selected without due care. Toys

may have sharp edges and corners or may have been sprayed with toxic paint. Some of them may be so small that they can be easily swallowed by the baby. Under these circumstances a consumer may feel totally helpless about quality and safety aspect of toys. For the purpose of guidance in this regard, Bureau of Indian Standards has brought out a comprehensive Indian Standard Specification IS 9873 : 1981 safety Requirement of Toys (which covers in three parts, mechanical and physical properties of toys and their toxicological and flammability requirements) A guide IS 9849 : 1981 Selection of Toys of different age groups of children has also been published.

- Bureau of Indian Standards



ERADICATE MALARIA

The incidence of Malaria in Madras City is on the increase in recent years. The mosquitoes which cause Malaria mostly breed in fresh water such as the Open Wells and the Over Head Tanks. It is estimated that about 1,00,000 Wells and about 75,000 Over

Head Tanks in the City are without proper protection or cover and they became a source of breeding for these mosquitoes. If the Wells/Over Head Tanks are covered properly with an inspection cover, mosquito breeding can be controlled which will in turn contain the incidence of Malaria.

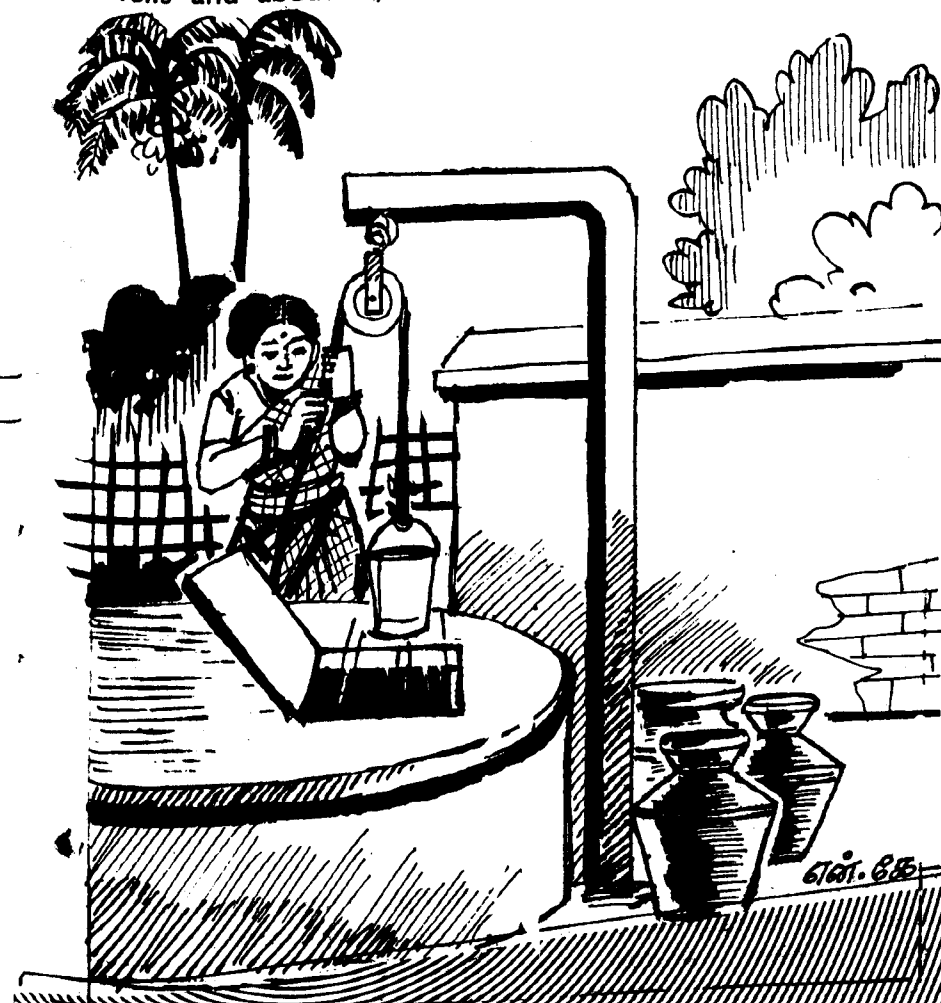
Hence all the residences are requested to keep their Wells and Over Head Tanks completely covered so as to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. The Corporation of Madras has approved the cost of cover slabs for Over Head Tanks/Open Wells for a standard size as follows:

1. For Wells of 4' dia cement slab of 2" thickness with cast iron frame Rs.430/-
2. For Over Head Tank 4' x 4' size - slabs of 2" thickness with cast iron lid Rs.415/-

There need not be any apprehension about contamination of Water because of covering of Wells/Over Head Tanks with slabs because direct sun light is not necessary to keep the water clean.

Maintaining a Mosquito breeding source inside the house without treatment or precautions against such breeding is an offence under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act.

We appeal to all the residents to Co-operate with Corporation of Madras and provide cover slabs for the Wells/Over Head Tanks properly to prevent breeding of mosquitoes and for eradicating Malaria.





The State Department of Archaeology has located an outstanding Buddha image made of white granite stone at Pungadittidal near the Ariyankundu village in Rameswaram Island. This place is situated about 10 Km. North West of Rameswaram town. This Pungadittidal seems to have been called as Pulliyadic-chalai or Pulliyadittidal during 12th Century A.D.

Rameswaram is very famous from the Puranic age as this is the place where Lord Rama is said to have worshipped Siva in his anthropomorphic form. The name of this place itself indicates this incident. The area including Rameswaram was known either Sethu Nadu or Marawar Nadu or Sethupathi Simai in recent past.

The Buddha image which has been found just on the shore is an exquisite piece and confirms the existence of the Buddhist vestiges in the part of

DISCOVERY OF BUDDHA IMAGE IN RAMESWARAM

Tamil Nadu. It is understood that Parakramababu, the King of Ceylon had renovated a Buddhist Vihara at this place by bringing the required material from Tiriconamalai while he came on expedition to Pandinadu. He was ruling during 12th Century A.D. Hence, it is clear that a Buddhist Vihara was in existence at this place from 12th Century onwards.

It is confirmed further by the occurrence of number of Caledon wares that are believed to have been brought by the merchants of East Asian countries. These shards are

assignable to 12th, 13th Centuries A.D. The availability of these shards suggests that this Buddhist Vihara and temple must have attracted the pilgrims even from the Far Eastern Countries.

Though the image is broken, the bust itself reveals the artistic beauty and the maturity of the craftsman. The Drapery and the Dhyana pose attest that this is an image of Buddha. It is assignable to circa 9th-10th Century A.D.

This place has also yielded an urn burial and some pieces of conical jars.

MEDICINAL PLANTS THROUGH AGES

M.N. Pushpa,
Asst. Curator,
Government Museum, Madras.

Plants we can say, serve as a 'Natural Pharmacy'. With the minerals and salts they have, they offer people resistance to disease, strength to tissues. Some improve the blood circulation and others cure rheumatism, fever, while others prevent the passage of harmful bacteria. In curing viral disease the lower form of plantlife such as Penicillin is used.

Many medicinal plants are known to have been used in China as far back as 4000-5000 B.C. Hippocrates called the 'Father of Medicine' (5th Century B.C.) recommended 300 to 400 medicinal plants. 'De Materia Medica' of 'Dioscorides' in the first Century A.D. listed more than 500 medicinal plants.

For many centuries native people in the Andes mountain of South America have chewed the leaves of a small native tree or shrub called coca, to alleviate pangs of fatigue and hunger. The extracted alkaloid was formerly used as a local anesthetic.

One of the most controversial Drug plant today is the Hemp plant, Cannabis Sativa which is a dioecious annual. The seeds yield marijuana and hashish. Of Asiatic origin hemp was cultivated and used in

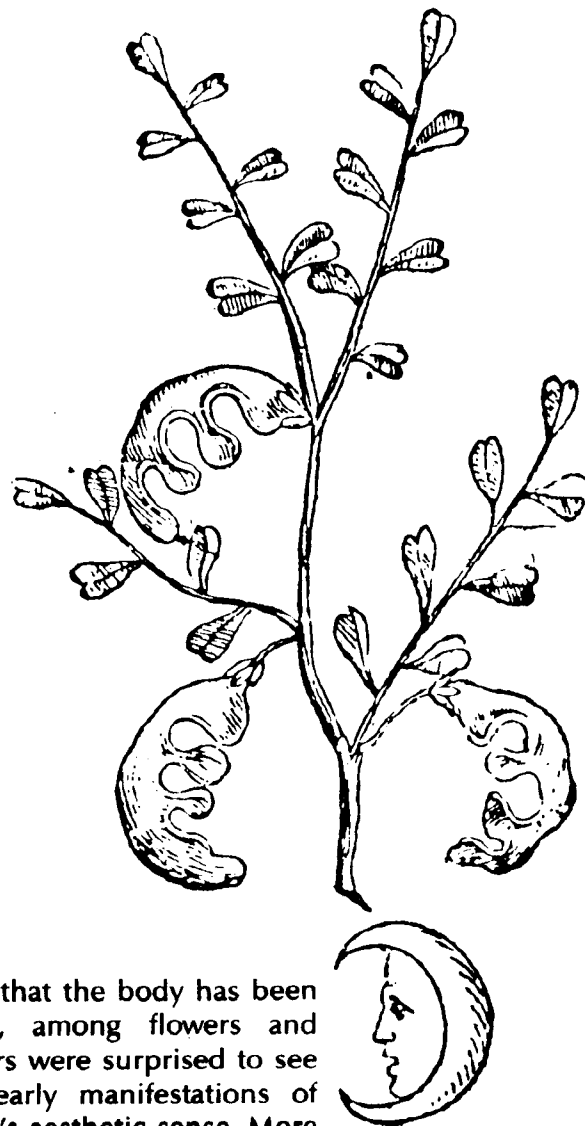
cells on the leaves and especially on bracts of female inflorescence. The resin itself constitutes hashish and is relatively potent.

In 1963, when archaeologists opened the grave of a Neanderthal man who had been buried in a cave near Shanidar, they

China possibly as far back as 3,000 B.C. The active hallucinogenic ingredient is synthesised in special gland



VINCA ROSEA



HORSE — SHOE PLANT RESEMBLING MOON

found that the body has been buried, among flowers and scholars were surprised to see such early manifestations of people's aesthetic sense. More than ten years later, analysis of the pollen of these flowers showed that almost all the plant species were of medicinal value. It is astonishing to note that primitive people who were moving about as nomads had a considerable knowledge of plant medicine. The plants found in the Shanidar grave were diuretics, emetics, astringents, stimulant and pain relievers.

Later with the development of religion, Gods credited with healing power had strong association with the vegetable kingdom. The Cult of

Aesculapius the Greek God of healing was symbolised by the image of a serpent, which is supposed to have the power of discovering healing plants.

As time passed by the symptoms of human disease became linked with the outward forms of plants in the 'Doctrine of Signatures'. The belief gained ground that in creating the plants, God had marked on each one a clue to its medicinal properties. Mandrake (*Mandragora officinarum*) was one such plants, whose human body like appearance led to the superstition that it was useful

in the treatment of human disease. Thus the Pomegranate whose juice resembled blood was good for blood disease, the Wood sorrel whose shape was like a heart would relieve heart trouble, and the Hepatica whose colour and form, similar to human liver cured all liver ailments.

As late as the 17th Century the English herbalist William Turner said 'God hath imprinted upon the plants, herbs and flowers, the very signature of their virtues'.

John Ray, one of the pioneers of modern scientific Botany said that wherever a disease was endemic, there could be found a cure for it among the native plants. No part of the body was without its corresponding herb. The long necks of the Canterbury bells was thus used to treat the throat disease. The maiden hair fern made the plant an ideal antidote to baldness. According to William Cole, Wall-nuts have the perfect signature of the head. The outer husk represent the pericranium. The inner woody shell has the signature of skull and the kernel has the figure of the brain. The Spathe and Spadix of the cuckoo-pint were said to represent a baby in its cradle. Hence this plant was kept beside their infants for protection.

This theory had its own defects because not only plants that resembled body parts supposed to work cures, but also those which looked like the causes of distress also claimed to cure. For example, poison taken from the snake is given as an antidote to snake-bite.

The doctrine of signature is, we can rather say is only a backwater in the history of Medicine, which left behind some curious testaments to find meaning and system in their environment.

'Death' according to Bacon is the cure of all diseases. *Rauwolfia Serpentina* has been given the status of panacea. Since it seems to be an antidote against all known poison.

In England plants that flower on St. John's Day i.e. on June 24th supposed to have unlimited healing, because of the powers derived from the saint himself. In Assyria the mandrake plant was used to cure baldness, to induce sleep and to get relieved from pain. This plant was supposed to be in demand well beyond the middle ages.

The desire to study plants was born from the study of their medicinal powers. Here the herbalists listed out all the characteristics of plants. The written record of Greeks and Romans which has been preserved in monasteries helped the tradition of herbalists. Hippocrates a Greek born in 460 B.C. has mentioned about hundreds of plants with their medicinal properties. Aristotle and his follower Theophrastus extended the knowledge of the variety, structure and uses of plants. Dioscorides, a physician of Cilicia who lived in the first century A.D. collected and expanded his predecessors findings. After the break up of the old Roman Empire, the pivot of civilization moved East. A succession of Arab physicians like

Razis and Avicenna fostered the works of the Greeks. In the West also the great Medical Schools of the Middle Ages owed their distinction to Arabs.

Medicines are classified on the basis of the morphology of the parts of plants which gives the medicine. Thus Drugs are obtained from various parts of plants. Mention here, is made of some plants along with the parts which yield the Drug.

1. **Root:** *Aconitum napellus* which gives Aconite, from its tuberous root cures rheumatism and relieves pain. *Rauwolfia serpentina* which is a native of India constitute the *rauwolfia* drug.

2. **Stem:** Ephedrine, alkaloid is extracted from this plant *Ephedra* of the Gnetaceae. It is used to cure nasal, bronchial congestion and asthma.

3. **Bark:** Quinine is obtained from the various species of *Chincona*, bark. It is used as an antimalarial Drug.

4. **Leaves:** Tender leaves of *Bambusa arundinaceae* (Bamboo) is used along with black pepper and common salt to check diarrhoea in Cattle. *Digitalis* is obtained from the dried leaves of foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*). Digitalin is a good stimulant of heart and also used as diuretics. Eucalyptus oil obtained from the leaves is used in the treatment of cold, Malaria, throat infection etc.

5. **Fruits:** Kadukkay fruit is finely powdered and used as dentrifice. Ergot is obtained from the fruiting body of *claviceps purpurea*, a fungus.

6. **Seeds:** Seeds of *Terminalia chebula* (Kadukkay) are used in

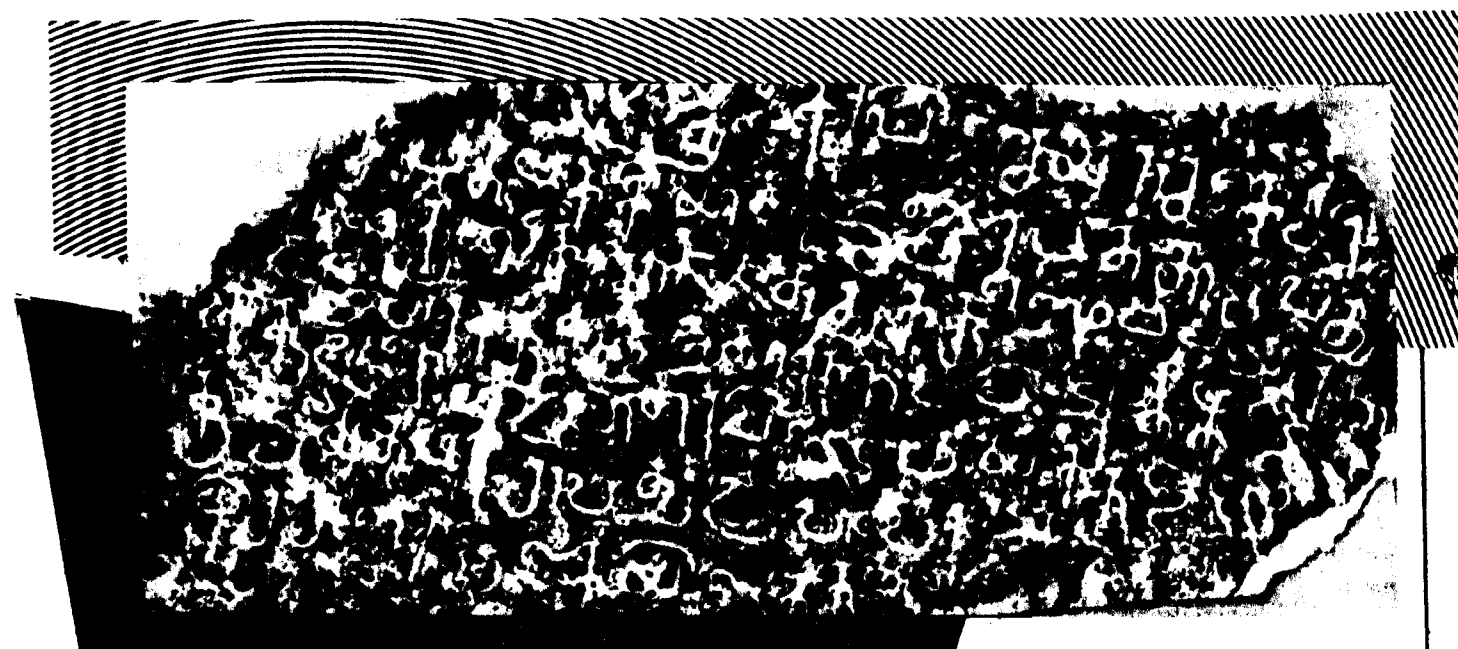


Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843) was the originator of homeopathy.

curing fever, cough, urinary disease, boils and pimples. Seeds of *Veronia anthelmintica* (Kattu seeragam) are considered to be a remedy for leucoderma and to remove worms from the intestine.

Mention has got to be made about *vinca rosea* from which vincristine a chemical compound is extracted and used as anti-cancer medicine. Its potential in Cancer-curing was discovered and has risen to paramount importance in combating various forms of malignant tumor.

Plants are still indispensable to the business of healing. And some of the greatest hopes for the future of medicine rest on the success with plants already coping with maladies resulting from modern lifestyles.



10th CENTURY INSCRIPTION DISCOVERED

The Department of Archaeology has discovered an interesting inscription of Aditya Chola datable to 9th century A.D. from Marakkonam in Arani Taluk of Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District. This inscription is significant on three points. The first point is that this is the third inscription of Aditya Chola available in Tondaimandalam, being the first inscription of his was reported from Thirukkazhukundram, and the second one from Thakkolam. The second point of interest is that it begins with 'Kovisaiya Rajakesari'. The third important point is the name of endowment i.e. "Uva-er" made to one Nambi Arumurai of Marakunrathur of Kuzhaipalur Nadu which was a sub-division of Palkundrakottam.

This inscription is engraved on a rock which is found in the land of Thiru Kannappa Mudaliar of this village Marakkonam. It is written in the 26th regnal year of Rajakesari i.e. in 897 A.D., in Tamil character. The name of this village Marakkonam seems to be the corrupted form of Marakunrathur which is found mentioned in this inscription.

The beginning of this inscription "Sri Ko Visaya Raja Kesari" suggests clearly the change over of the sovereignty from Pallava dynasty to Chola dynasty. "Ko Visaya" as the beginning word is usually found as a prefix only to Pallava kings. But in this inscription this prefix "Ko Visaya" has been added to 'Rajakesari' who was a Chola King. Hence in this respect this inscription assumes more importance.

Aditya Chola the son of Vijayalaya was the conqueror over the last Pallava ruler Aparajita. He is found mentioned as 'Rajakesari' and the son of Vijayalaya in Anbil plates of Sundara Chola. The stone inscriptions of Thirukkazhukundram and Thakkolam mention Rajakesari without any prefix.

This Rajakesari has also been identified as of Aditya I. Hence Marakkonam inscription is also to be taken of Aditya I. Aditya had epithets such as 'Thondainadu Pavia Cholan' and 'Kothanda Raman'. It is understood that he was a great conqueror and extended his territory upto Thondaimandalam and was on friendly terms with the Chera King Sthanuravi and the Western Kind Pranthvipathi II. He is also said to have built large temples to Siva on both banks of the river Kaveri. He ruled from 871 A.D. to 907 A.D.

This Marakkonam epigraph is the only inscription where a Chola King is referred to with the prefix of "Ko Visaiya". 'Uva-er', the term denoting endowment is not easily understandable. It may possibly be interpreted as a right granted to cultivate in a particular land.

On an information given by Thiru Venkatesan a school teacher of Kaveripakkam, Thiru. Natana Kasinathan, Director, had deputed Thiru. Ramamurthy, Epigraphist of this office to copy and decipher this inscription.

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