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Tamil Arasu

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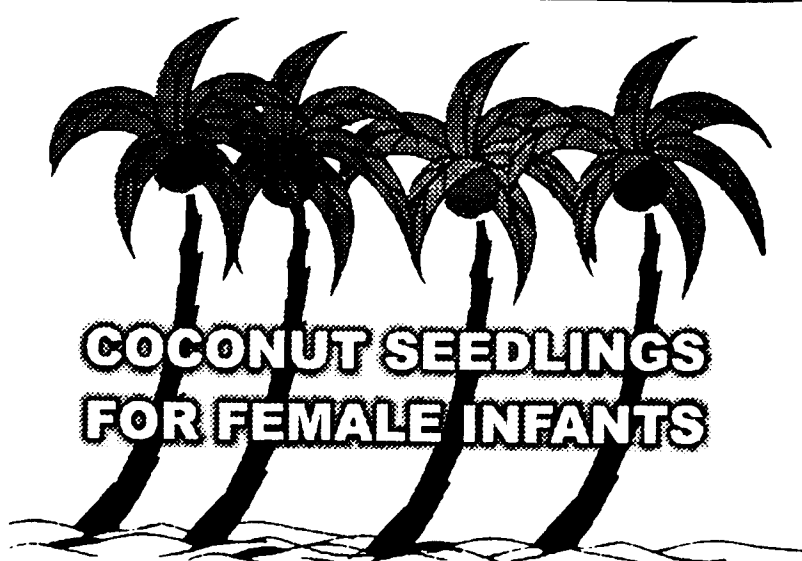
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The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J. Jayalalithaa has announced two Special Schemes on the occasion of World Coconut Day celebrated on 2.9.2004. One scheme is to benefit the Girl children born in rural areas and the other scheme to benefit Coconut farmers.

Coconut Seedlings for Female Infants

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J. Jayalalithaa is committed to empowerment of Women in the State. One of the most effective ways of empowering women is by assuring their education and an assured income. It is therefore proposed to give 2 Coconut seedlings to each girl child born in rural areas under this scheme, free of cost. The beneficiary under the scheme shall be entitled to receive the seedlings within one year of her birth. By the time a child is 5 years old and is of an age to go to school, the coconut trees will start yielding nuts at the rate of 100 per year/tree. Thereby it will be ensured that the child has an income of Rs.1000/- per annum and

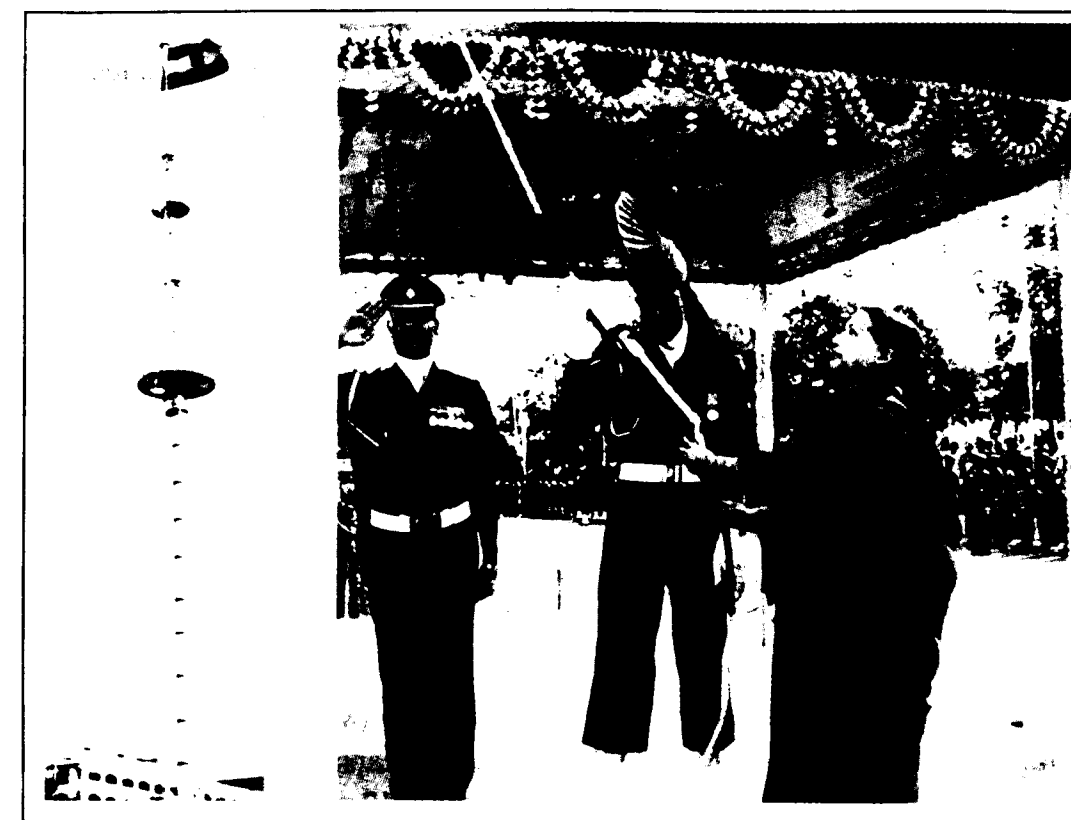
the income will be available to her for her higher education. This will also ensure increase of the area under Coconut cultivation.

Control of Eriophyid Mite in Coconut

In Tamil Nadu, the menace of Eriophyid Mite in Coconut has been noticed. It is an airborne pest affecting coconut trees causing considerable yield reduction and thus adversely affecting the Coconut Growers' income.

In order to control this obnoxious pest, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University has recommended application of 1% Azadirachtin, a Neem based botanical. To help the small farmers with land holdings up to 5 acres, it is programmed to distribute 10 ml. of 1% Azadirachtin/ per tree, for a maximum of 350 trees (5 acres) / **free of cost** at a total cost of Rs.9.50 crores. Under this programme, 1.35 crore eriophyid affected trees in the State can be treated. Further, the Government of India has been requested to sanction Rs.8.32 crores to cover the remaining 1.01 crore affected trees. ❖

INDEPENDENCE DAY Celebrations



Colourful cultural events, mass feeding programmes, distribution of awards for meritorious achievements and aid to the poor marked the celebrations of the nation's 58th Independence Day on 15.8.2004.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J. Jayalalithaa unfurled the National Flag and honoured achievers.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J. Jayalalithaa arrived at the venue close to Fort St. George ramparts at 8.20 a.m. and she was received by the Chief Secretary, Tmt. Lakshmi Pranesh, I.A.S., The

representatives of the Armed Forces, the Director General of Police, the Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) and the Commissioner of Police, Chennai were introduced to her.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister took salute at the guard of honour presented by different contingents of Police and inspected from an open jeep the line of contingents on the Rajaji Salai.



of 10 grams and a Merit Certificate; the 'Best Doctor' award went to Thiru. Mayil Vahanan Natarajar carrying 22 carat Gold Medal of 10 gms and a Merit Certificate; the 'Best Private Employer' award to M/s.Hindustan Coca-cola Beverages (P) Limited, Thiruvallur District which carried 22 carat Gold Medal of 10 gms and a Merit Certificate; the 'Best

The Hon'ble Chief Minister unfurled the National Flag from a specially erected podium on the Rajaji Salai at 8.30 a.m. with the police band playing the National Anthem.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the Kalpana Chawla Award for bravery and gallantry to Amala Mary of Thengunkudi in Kanniyakumari District, who prevented a major train disaster near her village on the Nagercoil-Tiruvananthapuram section. The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over a cheque for Rs.5 lakhs to her.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed awards to individuals and institutions who have done meritorious services to the disabled. Thiru K. Chellamuthu, District Disabled Rehabilitation Officer, Dindigul District received the 'Best Disabled Rehabilitation Officer' award carrying 22 carat Gold Medal

Institution ('Disabled Welfare') award to Cheran Region Christian Society to Disabled Children, Coimbatore carrying 22 carat Gold Medal of 10 gms, a Merit certificate and cash award of Rs.50,000; the 'Best Social Worker' (Disabled Welfare) award to Thiru S. Sankara Raman, Secretary, Amar Seva Sangam, Tirunelveli District; the 'Best Institution' (women's welfare) award to Asha Nivas, Chennai, which carried 22 carat Gold Medal of 10 gms, a Merit Certificate and cash



award of Rs.50,000; and the 'Best Social Worker' (Women's Welfare) award to Thiru/ S/ Stephen Vidhyaakar, Udhavum Karangal, Coimbatore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented awards to three of the fifteen village panchayats chosen as the best performing bodies under the State Government's "Clean Village Programme". The recipients of the cash awards of Rs.5 lakhs each were, M. Kala, President of Kooduvancheri Panchayat in Kancheepuram

District, Vijaya Mathivanan, President, Araichi Panchayat in Tiruchi District and Thiru K.P. Pannerselvam, President, Keerapalayam Panchayat in Cuddalore District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed sweet packets to physically-challenged children. Simultaneously, sweet packets were distributed to a total of 1000 disabled children at their respective institutions.

★ ★ ★

Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J JAYALALITHAA launches 'Namadhu Gramam' Scheme for development of villages

Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa launched a novel scheme - 'Namadhu Gramam' with an outlay of Rs.200 crores, for the overall development of villages in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister announced this scheme in her Independence day message on 15.8.2004. This scheme would focus on enrolment of all eligible children in schools and ensuring their retention, preventing dropouts, controlling the infant mortality rate, elimination of female foeticide, alleviation of poverty, rural sanitation and public health and hygiene. The Government would implement projects to provide link roads, inner cement roads, streetlights and protected drinking water to encourage well performing village panchayats with the active participation of the villagers.

This 'Namadhu Gramam' scheme would be implemented in all village panchayats during the current year at an estimated cost of Rs.200 crores.

Collectors

and

Superintendents of Police

should work hard

for outstanding results

and strive to

attain a new pinnacle

of achievements



Hon'ble Ministers of the
Government of Tamil Nadu,

Chief Secretary,

Director General of Police,

Development Commissioner,

Secretaries to Government,

Heads of Departments,

Senior Police Officers,

Commissioners of Police,

District Collectors and

Superintendents

of Police.

I am glad to inaugurate this Annual Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police. I had planned to hold this Conference earlier, but it had to be rescheduled in view of the intervening Parliamentary

elections. This Annual Conference is not to be treated as a ritual event, but as an unique opportunity to introspect and innovate so that we can collectively serve the people better.

□ After my Government assumed office in May, 2001, I immediately held the First Conference of Collectors and Police Officers in August, 2001, in which we evolved the strategy for the rapid development of Tamil Nadu, taking stock of the ground realities and the aspirations of the people. Faced with a drought situation, I held a Special Conference of Collectors in July, 2002 to undertake drought relief operations on a war footing and provide relief and succour to the people. In the next Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police held in December, 2002, I placed the focus on the perfect maintenance of law and order, development initiatives and good governance.

□ We can legitimately be proud of the fact that we have overcome the extraordinary obstacles in our path and created the right conditions for establishing Tamil Nadu as the Numero Uno State in the Country. The challenges posed by the successive failure of monsoons and the resultant drought conditions have been handled with utmost care and sensitivity to the needs of the people. The fiscal paralysis bequeathed to this Government by the predecessor Government has been successfully vanquished. These are major accomplishments of this

Government and without the firm and positive action that I have taken, the State would certainly have slumped to the 'also ran' category. I was clear that I would never let this happen and today I have the satisfaction that Tamil Nadu is on the march to take its appointed place as the leader among the States.

□ Our progress is indeed many splendoured. Tamil Nadu is the Number One State in implementing the Rain Water Harvesting Programme, Rural Development Programmes, and Education Programmes. Tamil Nadu is the pioneer in implementing the Free Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme which is now emulated by all other States. Tamil Nadu stands Number One in implementing the Total Sanitation Programme. As per the e-Readiness Report, 2003, Tamil Nadu is ranked among the best performing States. The Tele-justice system connecting Courts and Prisons, covering the entire State, using Video Conferencing is another All India First. I launched the first All Women Police Station in the country in 1992. Today, Tamil Nadu has 188 All Women Police Stations functioning most effectively. 7 more All Women Police Stations will be launched shortly. Tamil Nadu is the first State to create a Company of All Women Commandos and an All Women Police Battalion. Tamil Nadu has made significant strides in Human Development reaching the third rank among all States in the Human Development Index. A record 10,946



Kilometres of roads under the Highways Department have been re-laid and upgraded in the last one year, completely setting right the neglect of the past. It would take a long while to even list out completely our accomplishments in this period of three years. What is most satisfying is that we have marched ahead despite all the hurdles that we have had to confront.

- We cannot rest on our laurels. This is an unique opportunity to review and give shape to new approaches to do even better. No progress can be achieved if we do not guarantee the perfect maintenance of law and order. I have always been totally

uncompromising in ensuring that Tamil Nadu is a haven of peace and tranquillity. There is no question that the maintenance of law and order in Tamil Nadu is perfect. This has not happened by chance. It has been achieved by meticulous planning and the fact that all elements trying to disrupt the peace have been kept at bay. There has virtually been no major incident disturbing communal harmony. Activities of fundamentalists and banned organizations have been completely curbed. There has been a substantial reduction of deaths in Police custody and due to Police firing during the year 2003. The crime rate has gone down in the past year. The morale of the Police Force has

never been better. I personally conducted five Grievance Days and heard as many as 8,395 Police personnel. This example has been followed by Senior Officers of the Police Department who have been conducting similar Grievance Days on a regular basis, taking prompt action on the grievances of the Police personnel. Despite this perfect record, there is a concerted campaign to highlight a few incidents in the media and portray a picture of slackness in maintenance of law and order. The truth will always triumph. We must however be careful to anticipate and tackle the nefarious designs of vested interests who have set themselves some other agenda. The perfect maintenance of law and order is the bedrock on which the magnificent edifice of Tamil Nadu's development can be built, to stand as a resplendent beacon engendering awe and wonderment. In the words of the immortal Thiruvalluvar,

“கலங்காது கண்ட வினைக்கண் துளங்காது
தூக்கங் கடிந்து செயல்” – திருக்குறள்

மனம் கலங்காமல் ஆராய்ந்து, துணிந்து ஏற்ற
பணியைச் சோர்வு கொள்ளாமல் காலந்
தாழ்த்தாமல் செய்து முடிக்க வேண்டும்.

“Resolve upon a deed after deep
consideration; be at it, waver not; doze not;
be wakeful; and fulfil it briskly”.

- Thirukkural

- I would like to draw your attention to the recent ghastly tragedy at Kumbakonam

where 94 children met a gruesome death in a horrendous fire. This harrowing incident has brought to the fore some fundamental issues relating to safety measures against fire. My Government has constituted a Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice Thiru K. Sampath, to not only go into the causes of the Kumbakonam fire tragedy but also to recommend reforms and preventive measures that need to be taken. The Commission of Inquiry will be assisted by an Expert Panel. Meanwhile, I have ordered that all Collectors should ensure that thatched roofs are removed from all schools forthwith. I am glad that the Collectors have taken up this challenge and ensured that in all the 4503 schools, the thatched roofs have been removed. Steps should be taken immediately to ensure that in respect of Government, Municipal and Panchayat Union Schools, permanent school buildings with non-flammable roofs are constructed expeditiously. The Kumbakonam fire tragedy also emphasizes the importance of proper observance of rules and guidelines in according clearances and regular inspections thereafter, with prompt follow up action. Following a series of hoax bomb threat calls to Schools in Chennai City followed by such reprehensible incidents in Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore, I have ordered that all the Educational Institutions throughout the State which have telephones, all Hospitals, Government Offices and Government Buildings and all Police Stations be provided with Caller ID equipment

immediately. I have sanctioned an amount of Rs.35.86 lakhs for this purpose. ELCOT will undertake the procurement and supply of the equipment immediately. Collectors and Superintendents of Police will do well to ensure that there is no compromise on safety standards and the specified guidelines are indeed implemented in spirit rather than letter.

- Tamil Nadu has had to face two successive droughts in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. My Government has gone all out to support farmers and landless agricultural labourers and give them succour and sustenance in their hour of need. Had it not been for my intervention at every stage, the farmers of Tamil Nadu and the landless agricultural labourers could not have been protected from the debilitating effects of successive droughts. I must compliment the

Collectors for the extraordinary efforts taken at every step, in ensuring that drought relief operations were carried out successfully with widespread benefit to the poor and needy. The South West Monsoon is still in progress and we have to take stock of the situation. Some districts have received deficient rain and we have to review the ground situation together with the prognosis.

- Tamil Nadu has been brought back to the development path from the abyss of fiscal ruin and development inertia which had enveloped the State when my Government assumed office in May, 2001. The Annual Plan Outlay has been stepped up from Rs. 5200 crores in 2001-2002 to Rs. 8001 crores in 2004-2005. This has been made possible only by the resolute action we have taken to put the State back on the road to rapid development. The



larger Plan Outlay that I have envisioned for the State will secure the all round development of Tamil Nadu in all sectors with particular emphasis on Human Development. Thus, there is a clear focus in our Plan Outlay on Health, Nutrition, Education, and Social Welfare, with the objective of attaining the Millennium Development Goals far in advance of any other State.

- Plans and programmes with large outlays will have real meaning for the people only if tangible benefits reach the people. It is here that Collectors have a vital role to play. The full participation of the people in every development programme has to be ensured. People as major stakeholders should be encouraged to participate in Gram Sabhas and assisted to fashion their destiny. It is here that the entire gamut of good governance practices assumes paramount importance. Even at the last Conference I had placed great emphasis on good governance practices. It is now quite clear that mere allotment of funds or outlays is not enough. It is the way these funds are utilized to provide maximum benefit to the poor that imparts the development momentum that we seek.

- Collectors have to ensure that every petition reflecting a need is examined carefully and a positive view taken on how to help the beneficiary. It would be very easy to merely count the petitions and give a high disposal percentage. Collectors have to reflect on the fact that behind every petition there is a person in need of

help. It is on the empathy and the verve that the District Administration brings to this mission that the image of the Government itself rests. I attach great importance to the leadership role of the Collectors in bringing zest and enthusiasm to this sacred task of service to the poor.

- Today we have the benefit of Information Technology to make things happen much faster and grievance redressal more meaningful. This year, I have launched a major e-Governance initiative with an outlay of Rs. 58.10 crores in the Budget, with the specific intention of ensuring that the services provided by 10 Citizen Centric Government Departments are delivered speedily, without transaction hassles. Detailed work is underway in all these Departments and it should be our endeavour to ensure that the benefits reach the people at the earliest. Collectors should get familiar with these initiatives and ensure that they are implemented in the right manner in their Districts. I have dwelt on good governance practices with particular reference to e-Governance initiatives, as this applies to all development initiatives and in fact to the administration in general.

- I now turn to some key issues which merit serious attention. Food Security is a key goal of this Government. Tamil Nadu today has easily the best Public Distribution System (PDS) in the Country. This has been acknowledged in several studies. We have to ensure that every needy household is covered by the PDS and at

the same time prevent anti-social elements from misusing the system. I have already ordered expansion of the system to include all those needy families who have not been covered under the PDS. It is only in Tamil Nadu that 20 Kg. of rice is given at Rs.3.50 per Kg. every month. This is the lowest price in the entire Country. The process of inclusion of all those needy families who have not yet

“It is now quite clear that mere allotment of funds or outlays is not enough. It is the way these funds are utilized to provide maximum benefit to the poor that imparts the development momentum that we seek.”

been covered, together with the elimination of all bogus cards, should be taken up in right earnest. Collectors should gear up the district machinery to ensure timely supply to all the PDS shops, proper weighment, and good service to the public.

□ A key development issue confronting Tamil Nadu is, how to handle the water stress faced by the State. Tamil Nadu has one of the lowest per capita availability of water in the country. While interlinking of rivers is the ultimate solution, we have to take steps to secure rapid agricultural growth, assimilating the reality of lower water availability. It is for this reason, I have launched a campaign to promote water efficient crops such as Jatropha, Sweet Sorghum and Sugar Beet. Large Industrial Houses have been invited to establish processing plants to produce bio-fuels from these crops. This will be finalized shortly. These Industrial Houses will have to be assisted in contacting farmers to switch over to these water efficient crops. These Industrial Houses will enter into contract farming agreements with the farmers. Collectors should take a proactive role in ensuring that this programme is undertaken and implemented successfully.

□ It is well recognized that irrigation contributes most significantly to increased agricultural production. In a water stressed State such as Tamil Nadu, Rain Water Harvesting becomes most critical. The Rain Water Harvesting Structures which were installed last year, on my instructions, have had tremendous beneficial impact. This movement should now spread to irrigation structures in all rural areas. It should be implemented on a watershed basis. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Rural Development should work together in implementing a massive watershed

based Rain Water Harvesting programme, to enable better irrigation leading to farm prosperity.

□ The Farm Sector has to be reinvigorated after setting aside the debilitating effects of the successive droughts. The farmer has to be provided credit to undertake sowing of a new crop in the current South West Monsoon season. I have recently announced a package of support to Co-operative Credit Institutions to revive them and enable them to extend crop loans to the extent of Rs. 1,037 crores in the ensuing season. Collectors should undertake a detailed review to ensure that farmers are able to obtain fresh credit from Co-operative Credit Institutions or Commercial Banks, so that they can get on with farming operations in the current season.

□ Under my leadership, women in Tamil Nadu have shown that, given the chance, they can better the very best that men can achieve. The Women Self Help Group Movement which I launched in 1992 has flowered and grown into a huge banyan tree, nurturing thousands of new Women Self Help Groups. I am happy that today there are 1,70,802 Self Help Groups with 28,91,267 women in their fold. Their total savings amount to Rs. 469.33 crores and the credit availed of by them is Rs. 767.89 crores. This is a truly fantastic achievement which we can be proud of. We need to build on this sound platform that has been created. The credit linkages have to be improved and the

economic activities have to be tuned to the market. Market access has to be improved. Collectors should address these issues fully in their meetings with Bankers and Development Departments. The search for new opportunities to provide livelihood improvement should be imaginative with a keen sense of marketing.

□ So far, the focus has been on creating Women Self Help Groups. In order to solve the problem of unemployment and prevent social tensions that arise as a result, I would like the Collectors to bestow their attention on the formation of Self Help Groups for unemployed young men, especially in the rural areas.

□ We have a detailed agenda before us. Several important issues are to be discussed. This Government is mandated by the people to improve their quality of life. It is the District Administration which has to assist us in fulfilling the onerous duty cast on us. A mediocre effort will not do. Collectors and Superintendents of Police should look at the best practices which have produced outstanding results and strive to attain a new pinnacle of achievement.

Inaugural address made by
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Conference of Collectors and
Police Officers held on 9.8.2004
at Secretariat, Chennai.

Police Officers should work hard to make our State, the model for humane, just and efficient policing



Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of
Tamil Nadu, Chief Secretary,
Director General of Police,
Development Commissioner,
Home Secretary,
Senior Police Officers,

I am glad to inaugurate this annual exclusive Conference of Police Officers to review, introspect and chart out new directions, to reach greater heights of excellence in the coming year.

- The record of perfect maintenance of law and order that I have established with your unstinted support is a pinnacle of

achievement, which has enabled Tamil Nadu to be spoken about world wide as a haven of peace and tranquillity in the Indian Sub-Continent. This remarkable achievement has to be protected by careful intelligence, meticulous planning, assiduous implementation and prompt follow-up measures. It should be noted that multiple vested interests, scores of misdirected groups, numerous trouble makers and others would like to see this proud record tarnished. They will stoop to any extent to put through their diabolical plans to destabilise the peaceful situation in the State and foment trouble. The recent incidents in Chennai, Coimbatore and some other places of hoax bomb threats

leading to the mass exodus of school children in panic in several schools, causing severe injuries to a few children, is a typical example of the low depths to which these mischievous elements can descend, in trying to disrupt law and order. Eternal vigilance has to be the watch-word. I would like to exhort every Police Officer to be extremely vigilant, especially in tracking every bit of information, as there could be a nefarious design even behind a seemingly innocuous event. I have every confidence that you will continue the good work and put your best foot forward in every aspect of work that you undertake.

- You are all aware that I will not countenance any slackness in dealing with terrorists, extremists and fundamentalists. Terrorist groups and fundamentalist forces have been kept at bay in the State. My Government has banned all the major terrorist organisations and their subsidiary groups. Even the splinter groups have all gone into hibernation. The people of this State are happy and contented that they live in an atmosphere of security and peace, which enables them to pursue their individual lives without fear or distress. There are many sinister and mischievous groups out there, who are plainly envious of this record, and would do anything to besmirch the fair name of this Government.

□ I have strengthened your capability to restrict the ability of terrorist elements to thwart security systems, by inaugurating the Tele - Justice System through Video Conferencing throughout the State on 1.7.2004. This system which connects 11 prisons with 270 Courts, at a cost of Rs.8.61 crores, covers 78 different locations in the State. This facility, which is the first State-wide system in the Country, dispenses with the cumbersome process of escorting and producing prisoners before the Judicial Magistrates in the Courts. This has eliminated even the possibility of chance escape of prisoners during transit, possible smuggling of contraband into the prison premises, and overcrowding in the courts. It has also resulted in savings of Rs. 10.69 crores per annum. Thus, in our war against terrorism, I have ensured that we are always one step ahead. The wide ranging Modernisation of Police Force Programme that I launched in 2002, has also ensured that you have access to the latest technology in this war against terrorism. Let me again stress the simple message that I wish to convey, namely, that I will not brook any slackness in this all out effort to root out and vanquish terrorism, extremism and fundamentalism.

- Tamil Nadu has the distinction of maintaining perfect communal harmony and is clearly a model for other States to emulate. Communal harmony has been



well maintained throughout 2003 and 2004. I wish to repeat my instructions that elements which try to foment communal clashes should be kept under severe check. There have only been a few stray minor instances of communal disturbance. By timely preventive policing, some major caste clashes were averted. Law and order was effectively maintained. I commend all the Police Officers for this effort and want you to keep up the good work.

- On earlier occasions, I have expressed my concern over recurring incidents of custodial violence. I am happy to note that our efforts to sensitize the Police Force in this regard 'are bearing fruit. There has been a substantial reduction in the number of deaths in Police custody during the year 2003. Human Rights groups should certainly applaud this achievement. We cannot, however, rest on our laurels. The Police Force of this

State must set an example to the rest of the Country by its scrupulous observance of human rights and the elimination of custodial violence.

- You are all aware that I stand firmly committed to the rapid advancement of women in every field. All of you are familiar with the number of initiatives that I have taken such as the commissioning of the first ever 'Company of All Women Commandos', and the launching of an exclusive 'Women Police Battalion', making Tamil Nadu the first State in India to raise such All Women Forces.
- I have sanctioned 40 All Women Police Stations this year and with this, 181 All Women Police Stations are functioning in the State. I have just sanctioned 7 more All Women Police Stations and with this, Tamil Nadu will be the first State in the Country to have an All Women Police

Station in all the operational Police Sub-Divisions.

- On my instructions, one Woman Sub-Inspector of Police and 2 Women Constables are now posted in every Taluk level Police Station. I have also ordered that this arrangement should be extended to each and every Police Station in Tamil Nadu. As soon as the ongoing recruitment is completed, we will have a Women's Wing in every Police Station headed by a Woman Sub-Inspector.
- The Police Force has to be a humane, caring, sympathetic protector, friend in need and counsellor of the people, particularly women. It is to ensure this objective that I have placed so much emphasis on the recruitment of women in the Police Force. Women approach a Police Station seeking immediate redressal and expect that the Police Force would be sensitive to their search for justice. Thus, besides counselling and guidance, women want firm action on their complaints and the culprits nabbed. It is, therefore, imperative that the entire Police Force addresses the all important issue of crimes against women, imbued with this sensitive and responsive attitude.
- It is heartening to note that the crime rate in the State has continuously gone down since my Government assumed office in May, 2001. Yet an orchestrated campaign is sought to be

conducted, blowing up one or two incidents. The facts make it clear that the crime rate in the State has gone down, the detection rate has improved, and the value of the property recovered has increased. In every category, be it 'property crimes', 'violent crimes', 'crimes against women' and 'others', the incidence for the year up to June, 2004, is even lower than for the year up to June, 2003. The percentage of detection of crime up to June, 2004, is 76%, whereas it was 69% during the corresponding period of the previous year. The percentage of recovery up to June, 2004, is 73%, whereas it was 65% during the corresponding period of the last year. The overall crime rate has come down from 266.2 per lakh population for the calendar year 2002, to 248.71 in the calendar year 2003, and has come down even further to 245, on an extrapolated basis, with reference to the

“Let me again stress the simple message that I wish to convey, namely, that I will not brook any slackness in this all out effort to root out and vanquish terrorism, extremism and fundamentalism.”

data for the first six months up to June, 2004, in the current calendar year. The truth is thus incontrovertible.

□ Going beyond the numbers, I wish to reiterate what I had said on earlier occasions. Success in crime control lies in thorough investigation, detection and finally, securing conviction. With the help of information technology tools, it is now possible for a Police Station to analyse the past history of a pattern of incidents and crimes and plan their work with this knowledge. The focus should be on habitual offenders and organized gangsters.

□ I formulated the Highway Patrol Scheme during my first tenure as Chief Minister between 1991-1996. This was subsequently neglected by the successor Government. After assuming office again in May, 2001, I ordered the scheme to be revived. I inaugurated the Emergency

Accident Relief Centres in November, 2002. I ordered the augmentation of the Highway Patrol Scheme and its integration with the Emergency Accident Relief Centres. I launched this new integrated scheme on 22.8.2003. Eighty Accident Prone stretches on the National Highways are now patrolled round-the-clock with 80 new Highway Patrol Vehicles equipped with sophisticated equipment. I am happy to note that the total fatalities in these stretches have decreased by 27% after introduction of this Scheme, and the number of accidents have also come down by 28% for the period ending June, 2004. I am also happy to note that the Emergency Accident Relief Centres, which function in unison with the Highway Patrols, have helped to save the lives of 9395 victims of road accidents during the period from November, 2002, to May, 2004, by timely intervention and medical attention given to the victims of the road accidents. Much more needs to be done



“The Police Force has to be a humane, caring, sympathetic protector, friend in need and counsellor of the people, particularly women. It is to ensure this objective that I have placed so much emphasis on the recruitment of women in the Police Force.”

by the Police by way of awareness creation and impartial enforcement of the law. Stern action should be taken against the twin dangers of drunken driving and reckless speeding.

□ Illicit distillation and sale of illicit liquor is a social menace that needs to be put down firmly. There needs to be greater co-ordination between the regular Police Force, the Prohibition Wing and the Revenue Administration, in the collection of intelligence, raids and nabbing of culprits. I am happy to note the tremendous initiative of some Superintendents of Police in stamping out illicit distillation and distribution of spurious liquor. This outstanding

performance should be emulated by all Superintendents of Police. They must launch a drive to see that every Station House Officer is in a position to declare that the territory under his jurisdiction is “illicit liquor free”.

□ In view of the spread of illicit trafficking in drugs and the increasing use of banned substances everywhere, it has become necessary to exercise the utmost vigilance in this regard. Similarly, in this era of high tech entertainment, video piracy has assumed colossal proportions. This menace has to be dealt with severely. Our special wings dealing with narcotics and video piracy have, therefore, been strengthened appropriately to deal with the emerging scenario.

□ I have always laid emphasis on the need to make our Police Force the most modernized force in the Country in terms of its Weaponry, Equipment and sophisticated Communication facilities. I launched the scheme of Modernization of Police Force with an outlay of Rs.272.4 crores between the years 2001-2003. I have sanctioned schemes with an outlay of Rs.89.14 crores for the year 2003-2004, which are under various stages of implementation.

□ I have always worried about the welfare of every Constable on every beat, who ploughs a lonely furrow in ensuring our

security. To ensure that the morale of our Police personnel is kept high, and their dedication to duty and level of motivation in performing the highly demanding job of preserving law and order is kept intact, the utmost attention has to be paid to Grievance Redressal. In order to redress the grievances of the Police personnel, I personally conducted five Grievance days and heard as many as 8395 Police personnel. On my instructions, senior officers of the Police Department have also been conducting similar "Grievance Days" on a regular basis, taking prompt and appropriate action on the grievances brought to them. All such measures to maintain, enhance and boost the morale of our Police personnel must continue, even as the discipline of the Force is to be maintained without any compromise.

- I have been keen on implementing a generous package of welfare measures for the Police personnel. The various measures initiated by me, ranging from provision of medical facilities, Scholarships, Prizes, Ex-gratia Payment and Insurance Schemes, apart from grants from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund, have always enthused every Police Constable on duty to perform his/her task to the best of his/her ability. I have ordered enhancement of the payment of Ex-gratia to Rs.10 lakhs for Special Task Force personnel who get killed or incapacitated under heroic circumstances. I have also ordered that

all those Police personnel who exhibit courage and die, or are rendered incapacitated under heroic circumstances, will get the benefits available under the Group Insurance Scheme in addition to the Ex-gratia sanctioned to them, in recognition of their bravery. This has given every Police man and woman the confidence that my Government will always take care of his/her interests and the welfare of his/her family.

- The Tamil Nadu Police has an impressive record. The Tamil Nadu Police has always distinguished itself in very trying circumstances, showing exemplary commitment to duty, professionalism and remarkable courage. Leadership is vital in maintaining these high standards. Senior Police Officers should lead by personal example. Your integrity and the fearless and honest discharge of your duty is therefore a sine qua non at all times. Your foremost duty is to empower the weaker sections of our Society, ensure their security and make our State the model for humane, just and efficient policing.

Inaugural address made by
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Conference of
Police Officers held on 10.8.2004
at Secretariat, Chennai.



Police Officers' fearless performance of duty, upholding the rule of law will bring credit to the Government

We have had a meaningful exchange of views on many crucial issues of public importance, both yesterday in the Joint Session, and in today's exclusive Conference of Police Officers. I am glad that this format has enabled every Police Officer to bring out the specific issues relating to his district, besides offering views on better implementation of common approaches.

I have requested the Chief Secretary, the Development Commissioner and the Home Secretary, to carefully take note of all your suggestions, so that follow up action can be taken. I am confident that we will be able to address effectively all the issues that have

been thrown up, work out appropriate solutions, and implement them efficiently.

Based on the deliberations, I wish to set out a charter of action points, to which you have to apply yourself, with renewed dedication and commitment.

- ❖ Strengthen and upgrade your intelligence network to serve as an early warning system.
- ❖ Anticipate and plan your work meticulously. Prevention is always better than cure.
- ❖ Impart to the entire Police Force the commitment and motivation to work

zealously towards the set goals.

- ✧ Impart to all ranks a humane approach in dealing with the problems that people bring forth.
- ✧ Learn and use technology for noticeable improvement in your work.
- ✧ Bring about attitudinal correction in dealing with crimes against women.
- ✧ Create an effective Police - Public Interface.
- ✧ Stamp out illicit liquor and its distribution.
- ✧ Launch an all out war against the big offenders and perpetrators of organized crime.
- ✧ Focus on training and more training to make the Police Force fighting fit.
- ✧ Address the grievances of the Police Force, with empathy and build morale, showing true leadership.

This is the plan of action which you need to follow, to embellish and add glory to the already proud record of the Tamil Nadu Police Force.

As you are aware, I have placed the greatest emphasis on the Modernization of the Police Force, as a means to achieving the goals of improved performance that have been set. I am glad to announce the following initiatives which will further strengthen your ability to combat crimes, and maintain law and order:-

- ✧ During the last Conference of Police Officers, I announced that 1250 Police

Stations in the State would be provided with computers. This effort will be continued and all the Police Stations in the State will be equipped with computers by September, 2004.

- ✧ Fax Machines will be supplied to all Police Stations.
- ✧ A new Police Station will be established at Samalpatti Village in Dharmapuri District.
- ✧ For the Tamil Nadu Special Police Battalion positioned at Pochampalli, construction of administrative and other buildings will be taken up this year, at a cost of Rs.1 crore.
- ✧ 13 Ambulances will be purchased for the use of District Police establishments, Commissionerates, and TSP Battalions, at a cost of Rs.81.18 lakhs.
- ✧ Several Collectors and District Superintendents of Police have requested for additional allotment to the District Rehabilitation Fund in order to enable rehabilitation of erstwhile prohibition offenders. An initial allotment of Rs.2.35 crores was made. A further allotment of Rs.2.5 crores will be made and distributed to the District Collectors, to enable them to continue the good work of rehabilitation, and find a lasting solution to the problem of illicit distillation and distribution of illicit liquor.
- ✧ The Collector and Superintendent of Police, Cuddalore, has made a request for a high speed mechanized boat to take up coastal patrolling, for keeping

the peace among fishermen groups and to tackle smuggling along the coastline and for patrolling. The Collectors and Superintendents of Police of Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari and other Coastal District Collectors and Superintendents of Police have also made a similar request. Suitable speed boats will be provided. The crew will be outsourced locally using fishermen, with women crew also being promoted.

- ✧ In order to solve the problem of access to burial grounds of Scheduled Castes which often leads to minor clashes, a request has been made by Collectors and Superintendents of Police for an enhanced provision to acquire land and provide such pathways. The provision in the Budget for 2004-2005, namely, Rs.66 lakhs for this purpose will be doubled, to enable Collectors to take up this work in the current year.

- ✧ A request has been made by Collectors and Superintendents of Police that wireless sets may be provided to Taluk Tahsildars and Revenue Divisional Officers. Under a pilot scheme financed from the Calamity Relief Fund, coastal Taluks have been provided with wireless sets, with a separate radio frequency. The Rural Access to Services through Internet (RASI) Network is to be expanded. This will also provide a dedicated communication facility. A separate group will examine the best way of providing communication facilities to Revenue Divisional Officers and Taluk Tahsildars.

- ✧ An exclusive Prison for Women will be built at the premises of the Cuddalore Sub-Jail.

- ✧ Women i.e. Magalir Courts will be established at Cuddalore and Perambalur. The cost per Court is Rs.8 lakhs recurring and Rs.5 lakhs non-recurring.

- ✧ 105 posts of Home Guards will be redeployed to Dharmapuri District for positioning in 35 villages. Youth from these villages will be taken as Home Guards. These Home Guards will be used as Village Defence Committees.

- ✧ Replacement vehicles will be provided for the Revenue Divisional Officer, Dharmapuri; Tahsildar, Palacode; and Tahsildar, Pappireddipatti.

- ✧ The allocation for district development works for Dharmapuri District will be enhanced from Rs.5 crores to Rs.6 crores, and a separate allocation of Rs.3 crores will be made for Krishnagiri District in 2004-2005, which will enable relaying and upgrading of the roads in the Thalli area under the scheme for relaying and upgrading such roads of Panchayat Unions.

- ✧ In order to curb the menace of trans-border smuggling of illicit and spurious liquor from the adjoining States, 6 mobile check posts each, consisting of 1 Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 1 Head Constable and 4 Constables, with a vehicle, will be sanctioned to enable the District Superintendents of Police of Thiruvallur, Krishnagiri, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Thiruvallur,

to effectively control the smuggling of spurious IMFS from the neighbouring States.

✧ Presently, the Highway Patrol Scheme covers the National Highways in 80 stretches. This will be further expanded. The next stage of this Scheme will be to cover State Highways with high-density traffic. 40 new Highway Patrol vehicles will be introduced on State Highways. This will also cover the East Coast Road.

✧ To enable the Superintendents of Police to take up traffic engineering works in association with the Highways Department, funds will be provided to each Superintendent of Police.

✧ Very often, illicit liquor is sold in districts like Kanniyakumari under the guise of Arishtams. In order to control this practice, while issuing the production licence, the Director, Drugs Control, will also obtain NOC from the Police.

✧ A new Police Station will be established in Karur Town, by bifurcating the existing Karur Town Police Station.

✧ A new District Police Office Complex, located in the District Master Plan Complex, will be built at Namakkal, at a cost of Rs.3 crores, under the Scheme of Modernisation of Police Force.

✧ A Traffic Unit is sanctioned for, Thiruchengode in Namakkal District.

✧ A new District Police Office Complex, located in the District Master Plan Complex, will be built at Perambalur, at

a cost of Rs.3 crores, under the Scheme of Modernisation of Police Force.

✧ Two platoons of Armed Reserve Police will be positioned in Perambalur District.

✧ The Armed Reserve Complex at Erode will be established at a new site, which will be acquired at a cost of Rs.45 lakhs. This new Complex will be built before December, 2004.

✧ A Training Fund will be provided to each District, to undertake short-term training for field officers, on subjects such as conflict resolution.

✧ Sanction will be given for establishing a new Fire Station at Karambakudi in Pudukottai District.

✧ A Community Hall will be constructed at the Armed Reserve Complex in Pudukottai, at a cost of Rs.45 lakhs, by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation.

✧ Repairs to the Jetty at Thondi, and at Rameswaram will be taken up, at a cost of Rs.48.31 lakhs.

✧ A Marine Training Centre for training the Police Force in sea-patrols and other sea-faring skills, will be established at Mandapam.

✧ An additional water tanker of 9000 litres capacity for fire fighting operations, will be provided for Thanjavur District.

✧ A Wrecker / Recovery Van will be provided immediately to the Nilgiris District.

✧ A dormitory / barracks for accommodating Police personnel who come on duty to the Nilgiris District, will be built at a cost of Rs.75 lakhs.

✧ In the Court Complex coming up at Theni, a facility for safe custody of criminals during trial will be established. Adequate space with necessary facilities will also be provided for Police personnel attending the Court on duty to attend to their work and hold discussions with the Legal Officers.

✧ These facilities will also be provided in all other Court Complexes.

✧ An exclusive Police Station is sanctioned for the SIPCOT Complex at Thoothukudi which has several large industries with a substantial work force.

✧ One Mobile Court will be sanctioned for each district to deal with petty cases registered under the Motor Vehicles Act. The logistics of covering high density traffic corridors will be gone into.

✧ 8 new Crime Inspectors with supporting Police personnel will be sanctioned for Tiruchi City Police. This will consist of 24 Sub Inspectors, 48 Head Constables and 120 Police Constables.

✧ A new City Police Office for the Tiruchirapalli Commissioner of Police will be built.

✧ A separate Intelligence Wing with an Assistant Commissioner will be given for the Tiruchi City Police.

✧ Manikandam Outpost in Trichy City will be upgraded as a regular Police Station.

✧ A new Office for the Range DIG of Tiruchirapalli Range will be built.

✧ A Shorthand Bureau and a Finger Print Bureau and a Photo and Video Section will be sanctioned for the Tiruchirapalli Commissionerate.

✧ Awareness campaigns to educate the people about the evils and danger of illicit liquor will be conducted by all District Collectors and SPs in all Districts, involving Self Help Groups, NGOs and local bodies. A sum of Rs. 30 lakhs at the rate of Rs.1 lakh for every district will be sanctioned to the Collector for this purpose.

✧ A new District Police Office will be constructed for Tirunelveli District.

✧ The maintenance of the Police Commissionerate at Tirunelveli will be taken over by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation.

✧ Tiruvannamalai City will be sanctioned one more Police Station (Tiruvannamalai East Police Station).

✧ Two more Traffic Police Stations are sanctioned for Tiruvannamalai District at Tiruvannamalai and Arni.

✧ A new Police Station is sanctioned for Anaicut in Vellore District.

✧ Two Mobile Counselling Vans are sanctioned for Villupuram District.

- ✧ The land adjoining the AR Ground in Villupuram belonging to the Agriculture Department will be made available to the Police for establishing a Parade Ground.
- ✧ The District Hospital at Villupuram will be equipped to handle accident trauma cases and adequate Specialists will be posted.
- ✧ Simple Gym Equipment will be provided to all Police Stations to keep the Police personnel fighting fit at all times. Stress Management Training and Group Therapy will be imparted to Police personnel to improve their health status.
- ✧ Traffic Police Stations for Kallakurichi, Villupuram and Tindivanam are sanctioned.
- ✧ Two Traffic Police Stations will be sanctioned for Virudhunagar District - one at Rajapalayam and the other at Srivilliputhur.
- ✧ Aruppukottai Sub Division will be bifurcated as Aruppukottai and Tiruchuzhi.
- ✧ The proposal of operating the Highway Patrol Scheme on a 3 shift basis will be examined by a working group headed by the DGP.
- ✧ The Deputy Commissioners and the Joint Commissioners in Chennai City will be provided with Cell Phones.
- ✧ The Joint Commissioners in Chennai City will also be provided with Lap Top Computers.
- ✧ The Police Training College Library will be refurbished.
- ✧ A special recruitment of buglers will be taken up for the Police band.
- ✧ A special recruitment of drivers will be taken up for the Tamil Nadu Special Police.
- ✧ 100 Police Stations in sensitive areas will be strengthened with additional complement over the normal scale.
- ✧ CB-CID Units will be provided with photo copiers, faxes and telephones and cell phones.
- ✧ A new building will be constructed for the Office of the Commissioner of Police at Salem.
- ✧ Two Highway Patrol Vehicles, one for the East Coast Road and another to cover Villupuram Thirukoilur and Eraiyur stretch will be sanctioned.
- ✧ The post of one Deputy Commissioner of Police, Madurai City is sanctioned to look after traffic regulation.
- ✧ 77 Vehicles will be replaced in South Zone to enable the City Police to function effectively.
- ✧ Cell Phones will be provided to all Zonal I.Gs.
- ✧ An amount of Rs. 55 lakhs will be sanctioned to modernize the Wireless Communication Systems of the Fire & Rescue Services Department.
- ✧ 3 new units for the Narcotics Intelligence Bureau will be sanctioned at

- Kanniyakumari, Kancheepuram and Sivagangai.
 - ✧ The Number of Video Piracy Units will be doubled.
 - ✧ A Community Hall will be sanctioned for Villupuram District.
 - ✧ Eight Vehicles of the Narcotics Intelligence Bureau which are in a condemned state will be replaced.
 - ✧ All Zonal I.Gs who do not have buildings of their own will be given funds for construction of office buildings.
 - ✧ In view of the population and commercial turnover, the existing Tiruppur Sub Division will be bifurcated as Tiruppur North and Tiruppur South Sub Divisions. Also, two more Police Stations will be sanctioned and all the Police Stations in Tiruppur will be upgraded as 'A' type Police Stations.
 - ✧ One Deputy Commissioner of Police, 3 Assistant Commissioners of Police and 5 Inspectors will be sanctioned to strengthen the Chennai City Traffic Wing of the Joint Commissioner, South (Traffic).
 - ✧ Power to sanction assistance from Victim Assistance Fund will be delegated to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic).
 - ✧ The amount allocated for Rewards at Rs. 60 lakhs will be increased to Rs. 130 lakhs.
 - ✧ All condemned vehicles including cars will be replaced.
 - ✧ The Superintendent of Police, Cuddalore will be provided with a new vehicle and all the condemned vehicles in his jurisdiction will be replaced.
- These are the announcements that I have made today. There were many more other good suggestions and proposals. These require orders to be obtained after files are circulated. So, those announcements will be made after following the due procedure; that is why, I am not able to make those announcements now. I am sure, all of you must be quite happy with the numerous announcements that I have made.
- The fruitful deliberations that we have had here, together with the charter of action that I have set out today, must be translated into superlative performance, with attention to every detail, earning all round appreciation. I am sure you are conscious of both the strengths and the short-comings in your work. It is never too late to learn and improve. Please remember at all times that your fearless performance of duty, upholding the rule of law, marshalling the Police Force at your command into a fighting fit force, will bring credit to the Government in upholding law and order, even in trying times. I wish you all the very best in your endeavour, imbued with this spirit of achieving a new pinnacle of excellence.

Valedictory Address made by
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Police Officers Conference
held on 10.8.2004 at
Secretariat, Chennai.



Our main development goal is “Growth for All”

We have now come to the final Session of this Conference, after detailed deliberations over the last three days on various aspects of governance, with a special emphasis on taking up new initiatives and approaches, for better service to the people. Our mandate is to provide a responsive, efficient, just and caring administration and Collectors have to be at the vanguard of this effort.

Good governance is possible only with the assurance of peace and tranquillity. While I do not endorse a minimalist approach, there is no gainsaying the fact that without an assurance on law and order, the development agenda cannot even be

undertaken. Yesterday, in the Conference of Police Officers, I have set out a Plan of Action for achieving even better performance. I would like to exhort Collectors to co-ordinate their efforts with the Superintendents of Police, in gathering intelligence, anticipating events, finding tactful and just solutions, and being firm in upholding the rule of law. Collectors have a key role in anticipating the potential of even small issues getting blown up, due to apathy. By effective advance action, you can nip in the bud any such incipient conflagration. Along with the Superintendents of Police, you have to keep vigil on the activities of terrorists, extremists and fundamentalists.

Let me turn to the development agenda. What is it that we seek to achieve? We have to empower people to attain a better quality of life. We have to facilitate this process. The growth of the economy is a result of this process. We seek a higher growth rate of 8 per cent this year, getting over the debilitating effects of successive droughts and fiscal ruin. It has taken us a massive effort to provide a new launching pad; for the rapid growth of the economy. I am confident that, with the better agricultural prospects this year, Tamil Nadu will make rapid advance to the attainment of all round prosperity.

We are in the middle of the South West Monsoon, and except for a few Districts, the rainfall has been satisfactory so far. We still have to watch the situation. The prognosis is good, leading to optimism. You have to concentrate on the Farm Sector, enabling farmers to get a good crop this season. All arrangements for ensuring this have been made. Please see that you hold the Agriculturists' Grievance Day regularly and address all the issues raised, proactively.

Our main development goal is “Growth for All”. A special focus has to be placed on the empowerment of the poor. It is for this reason that we have several programmes under Rural Development, Social Welfare, Health and so on. The approach should be to realize the Millennium Development Goals at the fastest. This includes higher female literacy, -100% school enrolment,

reduction of infant mortality, reduction of poverty, access to safe water, and reduction of child malnutrition. Tamil Nadu is well on the way to achieving the goals set, faster than most other States. We should go even faster. The realization of these goals cannot be constrained by departmental rigidities. Collectors as co-ordinators should play a very active role, in ensuring the convergence of all the programmes, so that the synergistic benefit can be realised. Several innovative approaches in securing people's participation, and programme success are possible. I rely on the dynamism of the Collectors to provide the spark, for a truly imaginative and incandescent effort. I wish to lay stress on the leadership qualities of the Collectors, in marshalling available resources, and getting the best results. Collectors should be the binding force in this multi departmental team effort.

In my inaugural speech, I had spelt out in detail, the importance of good governance practices and grievance redressal. A Government's image very much depends on the empathy and caring shown, at the cutting edge. I would like you to take special efforts, to ensure that service is rendered promptly, effectively and with a smile. Let there not be anyone turned away from a Government office, without a solution to his / her grievance.

This year, with the prospect of a better monsoon, programmes such as the Comprehensive Wasteland Development

Programme, New Anna Marumalarchi Thittam, and the Special Initiative to promote Bio-fuel Plants, should be given a major thrust, and should be dovetailed together. This will give the best results. Collectors should take special efforts to achieve the objectives of these programmes. I shall be looking for innovation and excellence, in the implementation of these programmes.

I am glad that the Rain Water Harvesting Programme that I launched, has been an enormous success, greatly welcomed by the people. This has now to be broad based, to cover every watershed. I have decided to launch a State-wide watershed based Rain Water Harvesting and Soil Management Programme. The Secretary, Agriculture, the Secretary, Rural Development, and the Departments concerned should take action to finalise the details of this programme, so that it can be implemented immediately.

Even in the last Collectors Conference, I had placed special emphasis on Solid Waste Disposal, and keeping the environment clean. I find that the Clean Village Campaign has been received well. I would like the Collectors to make this even more popular, by getting all villages to participate in a friendly competitive spirit. The utilization of village waste as non-conventional energy sources, should be given a fillip. People will welcome the removal of waste plastic bags, which foul the environment and pose a health hazard.

The technology to use this plastic waste as useful binding material in road laying, should be utilized.

In response to the numerous requests made by all the Collectors, I will now make a series of new announcements:-

1. The Park in Vaigai Dam which is a major tourist attraction will be developed at a cost of Rs. 5 crores. An Amusement Park with water rides, musical fountains and other facilities will be set up.
2. A Primary Health Centre will be sanctioned for Varusanadu, K. Mayiladumparai Panchayat Union in Theni District.
3. A new building will be sanctioned with adequate staff for the T. Subbulapuram Primary Health Centre in Andipatti Panchayat Union, Theni District,
4. All Taluk Offices will be provided with an exclusive telephone facility to access internet for E-mail purposes.
5. A post of Personal Assistant to deal with Land matters, given that it is adjoining Chennai and rapidly urbanizing will be sanctioned for Thiruvallur District.
6. A common space will be provided in the Secretariat Complex to enable

Collectors to display and market the products of Self Help Groups of their Districts.

7. A new 48 bed ward will be constructed at Mannargudi Taluk Hospital in view of higher inpatient strength.
8. Additional upgraded Primary Health Centres will be established in Thiruvarur District.
9. Special arrangements are being made by the Agriculture Department to supply quality seeds to farmers in Cauvery Delta Districts for Samba sowing.
10. Under my directions, credit requirements of farmers of the Cauvery Delta Districts will be met by Co-operative Credit Institutions.
11. The period for submitting applications under the Protection of Girl Child Scheme will be extended from the existing period of 1 year to 3 years from the birth of the girl child.
12. In view of the good response for the Revised Girl Child Protection Scheme, the allocation will be enhanced in 2004-2005 from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 35 crores.
13. X-ray equipment will be provided to the Operation Theatres of Kuzhumani and Vayyampatti Primary Health Centres of Trichy District.

14. An Operation Theatre will be established at the Valanadu Primary Health Centre, Marungapuri Union, Trichy District.

15. Rivetment walls will be provided for the supply channel flowing from Reddiapatti Eri to Karikali Eri, Musiri Taluk in Trichy District.

16. A Ladies Hostel and an Examination Centre will be established in the Tirunelveli Medical College premises.

17. An additional building will be constructed for the Tirunelveli District Collectorate.

18. The Hockey Stadium at Tirunelveli will be provided a gallery at a cost of Rs. 30 lakhs. A mini stadium will be established at Tirunelveli.

19. The Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tirunelveli District will be developed at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs.

20. The Courtallam Falls will also be further developed from the Tourism point of view at a cost of Rs. 82 lakhs.

21. A bridge will be constructed in the Tandrapattu to Rayampattu stretch with funds from NABARD. Similarly, a bridge will be constructed in the Tiruvannamalai to Thanipadi stretch with funds from NABARD.

22. The footpaths alongside the road at Arani and Vandavasi in Tiruvannamalai District will be developed at a cost of Rs. 60 lakhs to relieve the congestion on the roads.
23. Uniforms will be supplied to all children studying in Special Schools under the Elimination of Child Labour Project. Funds will be provided by the State Government for this purpose.
24. All Government Officers and staff will be required to wear a name lapel card to identify themselves while attending office.
25. A Juvenile Home will be started at Vellore to accommodate children identified as juvenile offenders.
26. A Juvenile Justice Board will be constituted at Vellore.
27. The Chief Educational Officer's Office will be constructed in the Collectorate Complex, Villupuram at an outlay of Rs. 99 lakhs.
28. The sanctioned strength of Government Tribal Residential School in Kalrayan Hills of Villupuram District will be increased from the existing 1383 to 2177 to accommodate all those in the waiting list,

29. Residential Quarters will be constructed for the Headmaster, Teacher, Cook and Watchman attached to the Government Tribal Residential School at Kalrayan Hills.
30. An office building will be constructed for the Range DIG, Villupuram.
31. A new building for the Villupuram Taluk Office will be built at the Villupuram Master Plan Complex at a cost of Rs.90 lakhs.
32. Posts of Pharmacist, Medical Nursing Assistant and Sweeper will be sanctioned for 7 upgraded Primary Health Centres in Villupuram District.
33. A Qualis vehicle will be sanctioned for the Executive Engineer (Buildings), PWD and the Public Relations Officer, Villupuram.
34. Funds to the extent of Rs.14 crores will be provided for construction of permanent buildings for 43 High and Higher Secondary Schools in Villupuram District.
35. A rubble mound sea protection wall will be constructed at a cost of Rs.1.06 crores in Sothanaikuppam, Nadukuppam and Kottakuppam coastal villages in Villupuram District.

36. An ambulance will be provided for the Sattur Fire Station.
37. A 9000 litres capacity water tanker will be provided for the Rajapalayam Fire Station.
38. The replacement of pipelines of the Virudhunagar Municipality Water Supply Scheme will be taken up at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs. Government will provide a grant of Rs.25 lakhs to the Virudhunagar Municipality.
39. A Taluk supply godown will be constructed at Kariapatti, Virudhunagar District by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation.
40. A Nursing School will be sanctioned for Virudhunagar District.
41. Six additional bus routes will be sanctioned to meet the demand of the travelling public in the Municipal limit of Virudhunagar District.
42. A Combined Water Supply Scheme benefiting 308 coastal and rural habitations of Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar Districts and Virudhunagar and Aruppukkottai Municipalities will be sanctioned at a cost of Rs.68 crores.

43. A book on preparation of Treasury Bills in Tamil prepared by the Virudhunagar District Administration will be published as a Government Publication.
44. To serve the hill areas in Coimbatore District, a mobile dispensary will be sanctioned.
45. 398 Child Welfare Centres will be started to cover unserved areas of Coimbatore District.
46. A Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme will be worked out for Vadakuthu and Maruvai Villages of Cuddalore District.
47. A Project House will be constructed at Chidambaram in Cuddalore District.
48. Two Primary Health Centres, one at Thozhudur and the other at Srimushnam will be upgraded as a 30 bedded hospital with operation and trauma care facilities.
49. Distribution of curry leaf powder and drumstick leaf powder to children in the age group of 3-5 in the Child Welfare Centres will be expanded to cover all the Districts
50. An additional Building with a Conference Hall will be constructed for the Cuddalore Collectorate.
51. A new vehicle will be provided for the Civil Supplies squad of Dharma-puri.

52. Thirty Houses for fishermen will be constructed in Dharmapuri District.
53. 1000 litres of fuel per year will be given as a special fuel reserve to each District Collector for allotment to Revenue Divisional Officers and Taluk Tahsildars for special work.
54. Kariyamangalam and Dharmapuri Hospitals will be given enough equipment and supplies to cope with the prevalence of AIDS in the area.
55. A building will be constructed for the Sathyamangalam Taluk Office.
56. 300 sluices of the Kalingarayan Canal of Erode District will be repaired in two phases.
57. The discretionary fund with the Collectors will be enhanced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs.
58. Rs.50,000 per annum will be sanctioned to the Forest Department in each district for supply of seedlings free of cost to the public to popularise tree planting.
59. A generator will be provided for the Palayaseevaram Water Supply Scheme in Kancheepuram District by the TWAD Board.
60. To upgrade the tourism potential of Kanniyakumari, new boats will be purchased at a cost of Rs. 1 crore.

61. An annual tourism festival will be conducted in Kanniyakumari.
62. A Fish Industrial Park will be sanctioned for Kanniyakumari.
63. A new Guest House will be sanctioned for Kanniyakumari.
64. A new Primary Health Centre will be sanctioned for Thadikankonam in Kanniyakumari District.
65. A sum of Rs. 20 lakhs will be sanctioned for conducting feasibility studies and consultancy studies for construction of fishing harbour at Muttam and Rajakkamangalam Thurai in Kanniyakumari District.
66. Digital Cameras will be provided for all Public Relation Officers in all Districts.
67. All District Revenue Officers in the District will be provided with Cell Phones.
68. The Headquarters Hospital in Karur will be expanded with additional building and other facilities.
69. A CT Scan facility will be provided to Krishnagiri District Headquarters Hospital.

70. A Water Treatment Plant at a cost of Rs.4 crores will be set up in Krishnagiri by the TWAD Board.
71. An indoor multi purpose stadium will be established in Krishnagiri District.
72. An Horticulture Training Centre will be established at Thally.
73. A 30 bed Hospital will be sanctioned for Thally.
74. An amount of Rs. 1.75 crores will be sanctioned for renovating the supply channels of the Kelavarapalli Water Supply Scheme.
75. A Government Tribal Residential School will be established near Thally.
76. An allotment to hold Grievance Day meetings effectively will be made for all Districts.
77. Rajaji Hospital in Madurai will be provided with additional equipment.
78. New rooms will be added to the existing Circuit House building at Madurai. 2 Cars and a Jeep will be provided to Madurai District to cater to the needs of visiting officials and dignitaries.
79. Rs.30 lakhs for improvements, in Point Calimere tourism infrastructure is sanctioned.

80. The Government Hospitals at Porayar and Sirkazhi will be provided equipment at a cost of Rs. 13 lakhs.
81. Quarters will be provided for the Tahsildar, Ilayangudi, Sivagangai District.
82. 5 Vehicles will be replaced in Sivagangai District.
83. Fax machines will be provided to all Taluk offices. Fax and photo copier will be provided to all Revenue Divisional Offices.
84. A new building will be constructed for the Collectorate of Salem.
85. The Primary Health Centre at Erwadi at Ramanathapuram will be upgraded as a 30 bedded hospital.
86. Primary Health Centre at T. Pallur, Perambalur District will be upgraded as a 30 bedded Hospital.
87. Power Supply will be enhanced to 20 hours from the existing 16 hours in the CMP area of Pudukottai.
88. A separate post of Project Officer, DRDA will be sanctioned for the Nilgiris District.
89. A new vehicle will be sanctioned for the Collector, Nilgiris District.

I have instructed all Collectors to take action under the Pre Conception and Pre-

Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, which is a Central Act to put down the practice of foeticide. Under this amended Act, Amniocentesis has also been included under the definition of "sex selection" and "diagnostic technique". Section 4 (1) of the Act prohibits use of diagnostic technique for sex selection. Any violation under the Act is punishable with imprisonment upto 3 years and it is a cognizable offence. The Joint Director of Health Services is the appropriate authority at the District Level and there are Advisory Committees at the District and Taluk levels to oversee the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Collectors should take firm action under the provisions of this Act to put down the barbaric practice of female foeticide.

There were numerous other requests put forth by all the Collectors. Whatever could be decided on the spot and announced on the spot, I have done so already. This does not mean that your other requests are rejected. All your requests are for the development of your respective Districts and that is what the Government also has in mind that is what the Government desires. So all your requests will be examined favourably. Wherever possible we will try to initiate action on your requests in this financial year itself. If that is not possible for big budget proposals, I give you an assurance, that all these

requests will be included in the next year's Budget.

Many of the Collectors attending this Conference, are doing so for the first time. They should very quickly get fully familiar, with every aspect of administration, in their Districts. Many Collectors have gone to a different District. A few Collectors are continuing in the same Districts. Each one has a distinct advantage. The fresher will bring in his own innovative approach, the person who has gone to another district will bring in his rich experience, and the person continuing in the same district will ensure completion of the goals he has set. I would like all of you to bring new enthusiasm to the realization of the goals that I have set. I want you to embody the spirit of the Olympic Games commencing at Athens this week - "Citius, Altius, Fortius", meaning "Faster, Higher, Stronger". You should combine the thrust and fire of the 100 meters sprinter, and the strength and prowess of the long distance runner. I congratulate and compliment the Collectors who have won awards in various developmental programmes today, and I would like to exhort the new Collectors to give them a hard time in retaining their awards.

Valedictory Address made by
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Conference of District Collectors
held on 11.8.2004 at
Secretariat, Chennai



Announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister

ELECTRICITY TARIFF REDUCED

In the interest of the Public the Government have decided to reduce the electricity tariff for domestic consumers as detailed below:-

Monthly Electricity consumption (Units)	Present rate fixed by the TNERC (Rs. per Unit)	Revised rate (Rs. per Units)
0-25	1.10	0.75 (65)
26-50	1.30	0.85 (75)
51-100	2.60	1.50
101-300	3.50	2.20
301 and above	4.75	3.05

The Government will pay an amount of Rs.910 crores for a full year towards subsidy for reduced tariff rates, benefitting 1,16,57,000 families directly. ★

PROCUREMENT PRICE OF MILK INCREASED

Most of the rural people especially women, eke out their livelihood by rearing milch animals and supplying milk to the Milk Co-operatives. Keeping this in view and to improve the rural economy and enhance the personal income of the stake holders in rural areas, Government directed the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers Unions to raise the procurement price of the cow's milk from Rs.9.50 to Rs.10.50 per litre and buffalo's milk from Rs.11.44 to Rs.12.50 per liter with effect from 1.6.2004 and that the milk cost as per the revised procurement price should be disbursed to the Milk Producers without any delay. While increasing the procurement price of the milk, it is assured that there would not be any increase in the selling price to the consumers. ★

NO PARKING FEES FOR TWO WHEELERS AND THREE WHEELERS

Based on the representations about unreasonable and high rates of parking fee collected by many local bodies in the State, the Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders regulating the fee for parking the vehicles in designated places coming under the jurisdiction of local bodies. The Chief Minister stated that in many cases general public are made to pay even for parking cycles and two-wheelers and when people visit many places within a short time they are made to pay a fee at every place of parking and cumulatively they are forced to shell out a large sum.

The parking fee paid in one place entitles the person to park his vehicle in any number of places upto the time prescribed. All the local bodies are advised not to charge parking fees more than the rates fixed. If certain local bodies are charging less than these rates they are advised to continue the old rates without any revision.

As per the revised rates, bi-cycle, two-wheelers and three-wheeler riders need not pay any fee for parking their vehicles in designated places coming under the jurisdiction of local bodies.

For private cars including tourist cars Rs.5 would be charged for six hours while the rate for whole day would be Rs.20.

For Tempo Vans, the parking fee would be Rs.15 for 12 hours and Rs.30 for a day while for lorries, the charges would be Rs.25 for 12 hours and Rs.50 for whole day. ★

NO FOOTWEAR CHARGES IN TEMPLES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has issued orders cancelling the charges collected from the devotees for chappals at temples, which came into force from 1.7.2004. The devotees visiting the temples need not pay any charge for keeping their footwear outside the temples. The administration of all temples coming under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department would make arrangements for keeping the footwears of devotees without any payment.

AGE LIMIT LIFTED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF SECONDARY GRADE TEACHERS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS AND SPECIAL TEACHERS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister lifted the age limit of 35 which stood as a block in many getting the job. A large number of youths who had completed their teacher training course were not in a position to get appointment as most of them had crossed the age of 35. Though they have got the required educational qualifications and seniority they have been rendered ineligible for appointment just because they are above 35 years.

By this announcement, people above the age of 35 can be appointed as secondary grade teachers, physical education teachers and special teachers in elementary schools in Panchayat Unions, middle schools, high schools and higher secondary schools. Thousands of people, who have completed teacher training courses and have crossed the age of 35, would be benefitted.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister as soon as she assumed office in May 2001 had ordered admission of thousands of youths who had completed teacher training courses in various private institutes which were de-recognised and provision of two years of proper training for them. The move then came as a window of opportunity for those whose future was in the balance.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister lifted the age limit of 35 for graduates and post graduate teachers also in Government high schools and higher secondary schools on 12.10.2001. ★

NEW INSURANCE SCHEME FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15.6.2004 announced a new insurance scheme to provide social security to handloom weavers and their families.

The Self-Insurance Scheme currently in vogue now, was being restructured as Bunkar Bima Yojana to provide more benefits to handloom weavers.

Under the new scheme which would be implemented by the State Government in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the Central Government, the Centre would contribute Rs.150 as its share for a weaver and the LIC Rs.100. The Weaver's contribution of Rs.130 as premium for the scheme would be borne by the State Government.

The Tamil Nadu Government will pay the entire yearly premium of Rs.98.23 lakhs for

75,565 weavers who are members of the savings and security scheme of the Co-operative Societies. The weavers need not spend any amount for payment of premium.

In the event of natural death of the policy holder before the age of 60, the legal heir would be entitled to a compensation of Rs.50,000 and Rs.80,000 for accidental death. Those who suffer total impairment due to accident would get Rs.50,000 and the partially-impaired Rs.25,000.

Apart from this, wards of handloom weavers studying from classes IX to Plus Two would be given Rs.300 for each quarterly for four years as educational assistance.

The new insurance scheme would be implemented from the current financial year (2004-2005).

★ ★ ★

NO ENTRY FEE IN GH

The Hon'ble Chief Minister in consideration with the representations received from poor people who visit hospitals cancelled the entry fee of Rs.5 from visitors of the inpatients in Government General Hospitals and Rs.5 as admission fee for outpatients in speciality clinics.

So far, the amount collected through the fees had been used for maintaining the hospitals and to provide facilities for the patients besides carrying out minor repairs and maintaining the records of the patients. Hereafter, the funds required for these purposes will be provided by the Government. ★

FREE BICYCLE SCHEME EXTENDED TO BC, MBC AND DENOTIFIED COMMUNITIES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 16.6.2004 extended the scheme of providing free bicycles to girl students belonging to BC, MBC and denotified communities studying in Higher Secondary courses as the scheme helps girl students to continue their studies, besides giving encouragement and self-confidence to them.

The Scheme, the first of its kind in India had been introduced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15.9.2001. During the last three years 1,54,410 girl students belonging to SC and ST Communities were benefitted at a cost of Rs.22.52 crores. For the current year (2004-2005) Rs.8 crores has been allotted to provide free bicycles to 50,500 girl students belonging to SC and ST communities.

As per the present announcement 2.96 lakh girl students from BC, MBC and denotified communities studying in plus 1 and plus two classes in the Government and Government aided schools throughout the State would be provided free bicycles, at a cost of Rs.47.36 lakhs. ★

ALL STUDENTS WILL BE PROMOTED UPTO FIFTH STANDARD

The State Government is according priority to achieve the objective of 'education for all'. A decision to this effect was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 17.6.2004. Children should learn their lessons without any fear

psychosis about the examination so that they can enjoy the learning. It can be achieved only when all students of standards one to five are prevented from dropping out.

Considering these issues the Cabinet decided to promote all students till fifth standard without detaining them while ensuring that the standard of education is maintained.

Based on this decision, all elementary school students, studying in schools coming under the Panchayat Unions and Municipalities, Government and Government aided schools will be promoted continuously if they have a minimum of 75 percent attendance in the academic year. This scheme would be implemented from the current academic year (2004-2005). ★

THE PRICE OF LORRY LOAD OF SAND REDUCED

The Government took over the sales of river sand for construction purposes to prevent sand quarrying in an uncontrollable manner in river beds and to maintain the necessary amount of sand in rivers and the Public Works Departments has been running the sand quarries from 2.10.2003. From then on, the price of one lorry load of sand was fixed at Rs.1000.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had received several representations from the public appealing to bring down the Price of sand so that construction costs could be brought down. Considering the plea, the cabinet on 17.6.2004 decided to reduce the price per lorry load of sand from Rs.1000 to Rs.600. The reduction of price came into force from 19.6.2004. ★

Urgent intervention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister requested to ensure better supplies of coal to Tamil Nadu

*Text of the D.O. Letter dated 27.8.2004 addressed to
Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
by Selvi J JAYALALITHAA, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.*

I wish to bring to your notice an issue of considerable concern to Tamil Nadu. This is regarding the inadequate supply of coal by Coal Companies of the Government of India to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is operating four Thermal Power Stations with an installed capacity of 2970 MW. The coal required for these Thermal Power Stations is transported by Rail-cum-Sea-cum-Rail link from the mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited, West Bengal and Mahanadhi Coalfields Limited, Orissa, to the Thermal Stations.

The requirement of coal of these Thermal Stations is about 14.5 Million Tonnes per annum and this quantity is allotted by the Standing Linkage Committee of the Government of India, consisting of members from the Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Power on a quarterly basis. As the coal from these mines is transported to the Thermal Power Stations in Tamil Nadu by a long Rail-cum-Sea-cum-Rail link and it is necessary to cover for any unforeseen delay in coal supply by the mines and unanticipated transportation bottlenecks, atleast a stock of 21 days requirement of coal has to be maintained in each Thermal Power Station to keep up the generation by these stations to the required level.

During the last six months, the supply from the Coal companies has been less than the linkage. As against the linkage of 82.95 lakh tonnes, only 70 lakh tonnes have been supplied for the period from January 2004 to June 2004. Further, the allotment during this quarter July-September 2004, has also been reduced to 11.55 lakh tonnes for July 2004 and later increased to 12.55 lakh tonnes for August and September. However, the actual receipt in July was only 10.31 lakh tonnes and in August only 9.20 lakh tonnes were received until 25.8.2004.

This reduced supply has resulted in the stock drastically coming down to 16 days requirement in the Thermal Power Stations. The stock available was enough for 17 days requirement in January 2004. This is a serious decline in the supply of coal and it has now become a hand to mouth situation. A stock out situation is now looming and the Thermal Stations cannot be operated to generate power to meet the demand if this happens.



As the Thermal Stations cater to the base load in the Tamil Nadu grid, there will be a major breakdown if the Thermal Stations shut down for want of coal.

As the coal supply situation has become critical, may I request you to intervene so that the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board gets adequate coal to operate its Thermal Stations without any breakdown? The allotment and supply should be atleast 14.5 lakh tonnes per month as against barely 10 lakh tonnes being received now. The coal availability at the pit head has to be improved significantly. The production performance needs to be stepped up. Unless there is immediate improvement the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board will be faced with a stock out situation, forcing it to shut down its Thermal Stations leading to a grid breakdown. May I therefore request your urgent intervention to ensure better supplies of coal, so that the coal stock in each Thermal Station, operated by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is again built up to 21 days requirement? □

Born on September 15, 1909, in a lower middle class family Kancheepuram Natarajan Annadurai endearingly called by the masses as Anna is by any test the darling of the masses.

He took his early education at Kancheepuram. After taking Master of Arts Degree at Pachaiyappa's college, Madras, he plunged headlong into Justice Party politics. While in college he took leading part in college debates and evinced keen interest in politics. Dr. Annadurai first met Periyar Ramaswamy in 1934. By slow degrees and relentless efforts, Periyar and Dr. Annadurai provided a mass base for the aristocratic Justice Party. Their efforts were crowned with success at Salem in 1944. Dr. Annadurai's resolution renaming the Justice party as the Dravida Kazhagam was adopted at the Conference.

Though a follower of Periyar, Dr. Annadurai did not hesitate to differ from his leader when occasion demanded. Periyar in his own way declared in 1947, that August, 15 the Independence Day was a day of mourning. Dr. Annadurai did not agree. The parting of ways came in 1949. Dr. Annadurai came out of the Dravida Kazhagam and founded the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on September 15, 1949. Under his guidance the party has grown from strength to strength and has become a powerful force in Tamil Nadu. The party contested the 1957 General Elections for the first time and secured fifteen seats. Dr. Annadurai, who was the leader of the D.M.K. legislature party represented the Kancheepuram Assembly Constituency. In 1962 he was elected to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) where he proved himself a great parliamentarian. In 1967 General Elections the D.M.K. won an absolute majority with 139 seats in a House of 234.

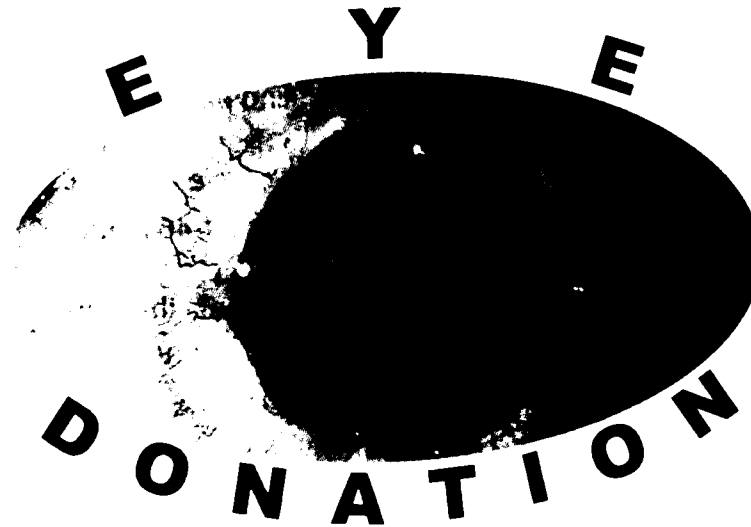


Anna

A life Sketch

Dr. C.N. Annadurai who was responsible for this "big change" in the political life of Tamil Nadu has been in office as Chief Minister hardly for two years. Yet within the short period he proved himself an able administrator and statesman.

Dr. C.N. Annadurai was a many sided personality. He was a politician, a statesman, a social reformer, a powerful speaker, a journalist, a dramatist, an actor and above all a man of the masses. Rightly has he been affectionately called as "PERARIGNAR ANNA". □



National fortnight on eye donation is observed all over the country from 25th August to 8th September with a view to intensify educational and motivational effort among the public to pledge their eyes for donation after death.

Eye donation denotes pledging by people to donate their eyes after death to be used for corneal grafting operations.

There are 1 million blind persons in the country who require corneal grafting. Majority of them are within 20 years of age. Only 7-8 thousand corneal grafting operations are done every year. But about fifteen to twenty thousand new victims of corneal blindness are added to each year to the already waiting list of 1 million blind persons.

Eye bank is an organization which deals with the collection, storage and distribution of donor eyes for the purpose of corneal grafting. First corneal transplantation in India was done by Dr. R.E.S. Muthiah of Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai. He also started first eye bank in India in the year 1948.

Cornea is the bright transparent bulging watch glass like cover situated on the front most part in the eye. Cornea becomes hazy

and opaque mostly due to ulcers and injuries. It is also affected in vitamin A and protein deficiency. The other conditions affecting the cornea are congenital anomalies, measles, chicken pox and toxic traditional medications.

In corneal grafting, the diseased and opaque cornea is replaced by a healthy transparent cornea taken from a donor. The success rate in corneal grafting is about 75%.

Risk of rejection is low because cornea is devoid of blood vessels.

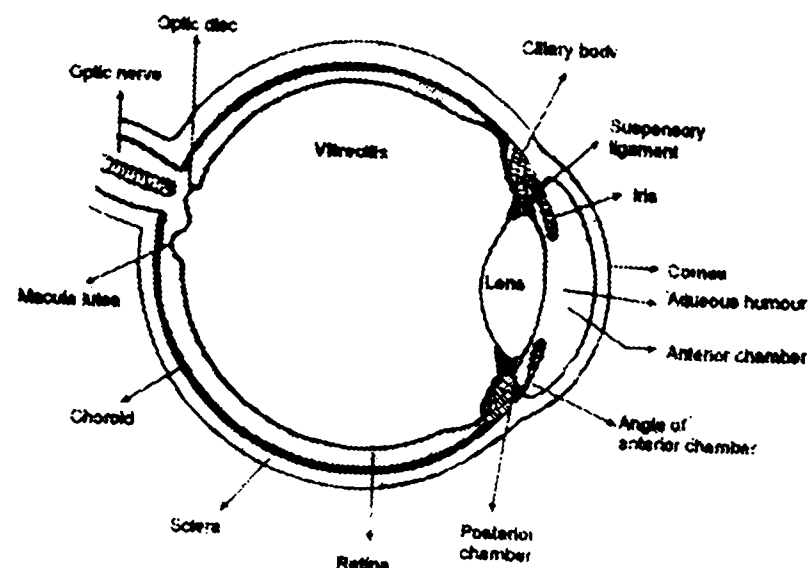
Practically anybody from the age of one year can be an eye donor. There is no maximum age limit. Eyes pledge forms are given to people who are willing to donate their eyes after death.

Eye donation pledge cards are given to those who submit their pledge form. The most important thing they have to do is to inform their close relatives and friends about their intention of eye donation. Then only it is fruitful. Eyes of deceased persons can also be donated by their next kin by contacting the eye bank after the death in the family, even if they have not pledged their eyes.

Let us see how to preserve the eyes of dead person before it is removed. Eyes of deceased person are to be kept closed and covered with moist cotton. Raise the head end of the body by one or two pillows.

Some of the basic facts about eye donation which we should know are:

Dr. K. MOHAN RAJ, M.S., D.O.,
PROJECT DIRECTOR,
TAMIL NADU STATE BLINDNESS
CONTROL SOCIETY,
CHENNAI



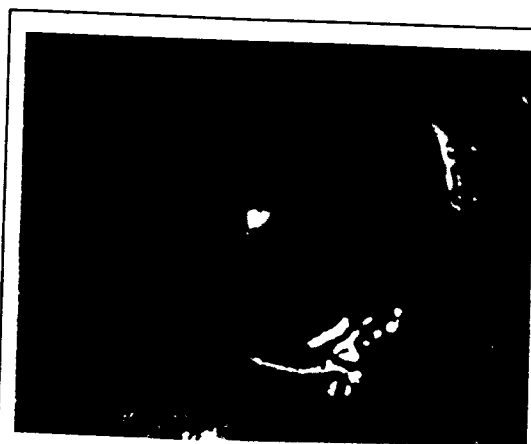
1. Almost anyone of any age can donate eyes even if the donor wears the glass or has cataract.

9. In Government Hospitals, Corneal transplantation operations are done entirely free of cost

6. Your donation gives sight to two blind persons.

7. Donated eyes are usually used within 24-48 hours.

8. In Chennai, the contact numbers are 28555281 and 28553840. In districts, any nearby eye bank can be contacted.



Before surgery



After surgery

2. Whole eye ball cannot be transplanted, only corneas are transplanted.

3. The eyes have to be removed within 6 hours of death.

4. The eye bank itself will make arrangements to send a team with a doctor to your home on receiving the call regarding eye donation.

5. Removal of eyes takes only 15-20 minutes and does not leave any scar or disfigurement

In Tamil Nadu in the year 2002-2003, 3320 eyes were collected. In 2003-2004, 4754 eyes were collected. There has been tendency of increasing awareness of eye donation. But this is insufficient. We are unable to match the demand. Let us join the eye donation movement and let more people be benefited by this.

**"Donate your eyes
Light two lives"**



PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN TAMIL NADU IS THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

Hon'ble Prime Minister
Dr. Manmohan Singh,

Hon'ble Union Ministers,

Hon'ble Chief Ministers of States,

Senior Officers of the
Union and State Governments,

I am glad that this conference on
"Poverty Alleviation and Rural
Prosperity" has been organised by the

Ministry of Rural Development,
Government of India. The theme of the
conference itself conveys the need for a
broad based strategy, not just to address
the question of providing better incomes
for the rural poor, but also to enable all
round rural prosperity. Our strategy has
to be inclusive and all encompassing,
not just with a focus on material
deprivation but also covering vulnerability
and exposure to risk. It has to be our
common task to remove the fetters and
provide each individual with what Prof.

Amartya Sen describes as "the capabilities that a person has, that is, the substantive freedoms he or she enjoys, to lead the kind of life he or she values". Our poverty alleviation strategy has to be based on this deeper understanding. The strategy should incorporate the four basic principles of promoting opportunity, facilitating empowerment, enhancing social security and good governance. Only by drawing on the synergy between these complementary strategies can we make rural prosperity a reality.

What we are now confronted with today is a completely different and complex scenario. Growth in the Agriculture Sector had started declining by the end of the Nineties. From the year 2001 Tamil Nadu has been seriously affected because of successive failure of monsoons. Tamil Nadu, already with the lowest per capita water availability in the country, is thus facing severe water stress. This has been compounded by the refusal to release our legitimate share of Cauvery water by Karnataka. This has had major adverse implications on the prospects for agricultural growth and consequently, rural prosperity. The effects of successive monsoon failure, together with a major drought in 2002-2003, followed by yet another drought in 2003-2004 has brought to the fore the new vulnerability of Tamil Nadu's rural economy. It is for this reason that I have placed the greatest emphasis on the Interlinking of Major Rivers as the only genuine means of attaining rural prosperity in a water starved State such as Tamil Nadu. I do hope the Hon'ble Prime Minister will take early steps to put the focus back on this key programme, which has the

potential to ensure genuine economic progress in our rural areas.

While rapid economic growth alone cannot be the panacea for reducing poverty, the robust growth of the economy does constitute a proper launching pad. Our first priority has to be to ensure that new momentum is imparted so that a sustained growth rate of 8% of the economy can indeed be achieved. Our own Tenth Plan target is to attain this annual growth rate of 8%. This implies that the Agriculture Sector has to grow at least at 4% per annum. The focus thus has to be on Agriculture, as it continues to sustain nearly 62% of our population living in rural areas, although its contribution to the State Domestic Product has come down to less than 17%. This has been rendered quite difficult with the successive monsoon failures and drought. The challenge is to bring back the growth momentum to the Agriculture Sector if we are to achieve significant reduction of poverty and revitalise the rural economy. This calls for major new initiatives in rural areas.

While welcoming the recent announcement regarding loans from Commercial Banks to farmers being rescheduled, I would like to emphasise the need for adequate capital support for restructuring and revitalising the Co-operative banking structure. The farm economy has to be revitalised after the successive disastrous droughts and for this a healthy Co-operative credit structure is vital.

May I therefore request that a comprehensive package of financial support for the co-operative credit institutions be announced?

In Tamil Nadu we have adopted a comprehensive new strategy for agricultural development as a key poverty alleviation intervention in the context of the water stress that the State is confronted with. This includes crop diversification, comprehensive wasteland development based on a watershed approach, encouraging water-use efficiency, precision farming, adoption of new technologies, information technology for quick knowledge dissemination, post harvest technology, access to free markets for best prices, reinvigorating the rural non-farm sector by introducing the New Anna Marumalarchi Thittam and revitalizing the co-operative credit structure. This comprehensive new strategy will necessarily take time to show results, but I am confident that we are on the right track to bring all round rural prosperity. No discussion on poverty alleviation and rural prosperity will be complete without a comprehensive review of our agriculture and water strategy. An integrated view is a must.

We are implementing a comprehensive multi dimensional strategy for accelerated poverty reduction. This involves food security, provision of wage employment, promotion of self-employment, empowerment, assessment and protection against vulnerability and risk, all designed to attain well being as the touchstone of rural prosperity. This is not at all an easy task in the context of continuous

droughts leading to sharp and real decline in incomes. It is only my Government's implementation of this poverty reduction strategy that has rescued the rural poor in Tamil Nadu from the disastrous effects of continuous drought.

The Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu is easily the best in the country as recorded in recent studies conducted by the Union Planning Commission. In Tamil Nadu rice is provided through the Public Distribution System at Rs.3.50 per Kg. which is the lowest in the entire country. All cardholders on a self-selecting basis are eligible for subsidised rice. My Government incurs Rs.775 crores as subsidy from the State Budget, which is the highest in the



country, to ensure food security. Malnutrition free Tamil Nadu is our goal. Further, when the spectre of drought threatened rural Tamil Nadu in 2003, my Government provided 30 Kgs. of rice free of cost every month to nearly 10 lakh rural families most affected by drought. This caring intervention together with the proper implementation

of the Food for Work programme ensured food security.

Providing assured wage employment on a widespread basis has to be the bedrock of our poverty alleviation strategy. Tamil Nadu has done extremely well in utilising the allocation and the rice available under the Food for Work Programme. We have consistently exceeded our allocations and obtained additional allocations reflecting the sound implementation of this programme in Tamil Nadu. Last year, I launched a major Rain Water Harvesting programme throughout Tamil Nadu in the context of the extreme water stress. This was implemented on a mandatory basis in all households. This was a resounding success and even though the monsoon failed the rainwater harvesting structures helped to alleviate the water stress. This year, our focus is on rain water harvesting structures to benefit the farm sector throughout the State in all rural areas. We are also integrating the rejuvenation of traditional drinking water sources along with this programme. The Food for Work programme is being implemented with this focus. I also welcome the idea of a National

Employment Guarantee Act, which will provide adequate work for all able bodied persons. This has to be backed by adequate cash and rice support, which should be provided to enable this guarantee to be implemented without stoppages.

I launched the concept of the Self Help Group (SHG) as a means of empowering women and getting them to participate in the development process in 1992. Today, it has blossomed into a huge movement in Tamil Nadu, with 1.66 lakh Self Help Groups covering 28.23 lakh women. The savings generated by these groups is Rs.469.06 crores and the credit availed of by these Groups amounts to Rs.726.54 crores. The Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) promotes the growth of these Self Help Groups. I find that the allocation of resources to the State under SGSY is going down despite our outstanding performance. May I suggest that this trend be corrected, and the allocations stepped up significantly, if we are to make further rapid progress?

One of the main issues to be tackled is to promote economic activities by these Self Help Groups and to get commercial banks and co-operative credit institutions to extend credit to them in a much bigger way. May I suggest the constitution of a new Working Group to examine how micro credit flow can be improved to the Self Help Groups? Simulta-



neously we have to examine how products produced by Self Help Groups can be marketed effectively. Skill upgradation, new product ideas, market access are all key issues relating to Self Help Groups which have to be addressed to consolidate the gains made already. We have taken several special projects under SGSY to achieve these objectives and I welcome the attention given to such special projects. We plan to take up many more.

I would now like to turn to certain area development programmes which are part of our poverty alleviation strategy. The watershed based approach adopted is right and we need to incorporate new technologies in our programmes to get better results. The Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, the Drought Prone Area Programme are all part of this area development approach. We have, on our own, launched a State-wide Comprehensive Wasteland Development Programme based on a watershed approach in order to bring lands lying fallow and waste under green cover. This programme has so far covered 1.19 lakh acres and it is our intention to ensure coverage of 1.5 lakh acres additionally in 2004-2005. Both horticulture and tree crops are promoted under this programme. Despite the drought conditions we have achieved tremendous success and with a normal monsoon forecast this year, it is our intention to intensify this effort. I agree with the suggestion that there ought to be a perspective plan with time bound targets to ensure rapid coverage of wastelands. Instead of having a multiplicity of schemes with different approaches it would be useful to integrate these into one common

programme with substantial stepped up outlays so that rapid progress can be made. Considerable flexibility to accommodate local conditions has to be considered.

Rural infrastructure is vital to improve the quality of life and nurture genuine well being in rural areas. The Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana Programme (PMGSY) has been welcomed as a major intervention in building rural infrastructure. Upgrading rural roads has to be given priority now and I do hope it will be possible to move forward with a larger upgradation component in the current year. The determination of a core network should be based on a realistic appraisal of the current status of these roads. An expanded Rural Roads Programme will go a long way in improving the quality of life in rural areas. I strongly recommend an enhanced outlay for this programme in 2004-2005.

Another important activity in rural areas, which not only improves the quality of life but also provides productive employment, is rural housing. The Indira Awaas Yojna (IAY) enables the construction of more than 15 lakh houses in the entire country. Unfortunately, the pending demand is huge. In Tamil Nadu, the Census 2001 data indicates that there are 29.34 lakh huts in rural areas and these constitute 35.5% of all houses. The agenda notes point to the fact that the programme size has to be more than doubled. I strongly recommend this.

Even with this order of Budget support the coverage will still be inadequate. Commercial bank financing of rural housing has to be given attention. This has not taken off so

far as there are no satisfactory financial intermediaries who can keep in daily contact with the beneficiaries. Now that the Self Help Group movement has gained considerable momentum it should be possible to utilize the Self Help Groups and their federations as financial intermediaries. May I request that a working group be constituted to examine



this so that we can enable rapid coverage in rural housing?

Rural Drinking Water Supply has now assumed critical importance, particularly in the context of the water stress that States like Tamil Nadu are facing. One of the key problems that we are facing is the sustainability of water sources as also water quality. The water stress has been so intense and the depletion of ground water sources so severe that even already fully covered habitations have slipped into the partially covered category, and in many cases into the not covered category also. This situation has to be recognised. I find that the agenda notes indicate that as per an old survey, in Tamil Nadu all the 66,631 habitations are fully covered. We have already reported that this data is completely incorrect. The total number of habitations in Tamil Nadu is 81,787 of which the fully covered habitations are only 29,067 and as many as 11,790 habitations are not covered. The partially covered category includes 40,930 habitations. This data as on 1st April, 2003, has to be the basis for planning. May I suggest that in drawing

up plans and programmes we should be realistic and take note of the present conditions rather than going by dated information? The changing profile of water availability and the new issue of sustainability have altered the scenario adversely and this has to be recognised.

Tamil Nadu has made rapid strides in providing drinking water in rural areas. In fact, 26% of the entire country's performance under the Sector Reforms Project has been that of Tamil Nadu. My Government has made a conscious effort to step up the outlay on rural water supply to combat the new problem posed by the extreme water stress faced in the State. We are planning to implement a State wide Tamil Nadu Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project with support from the World Bank and this is at an advanced stage of consideration. Our intention is to find sustainable solutions given the nature of the water crisis in Tamil Nadu. May I appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to ensure full support to Tamil Nadu in this major effort? I also note with some concern that the outlay for the Swajaldhara Scheme in



2004-2005 is only Rs.211.50 crores with the allocation for Tamil Nadu being just Rs.8.89 crores. We have already gone far ahead and have taken up projects with an outlay of more than Rs.50 crores. May I request that the allotment be stepped up sizeably?

I have placed special emphasis on sanitation and hygiene in rural areas as a key intervention to improve the quality of life. The Total Sanitation Campaign is being implemented in all the districts in Tamil Nadu. As a major State programme, my Government is ensuring that community toilets for women are built in all Panchayats of the State. So far 9241 such toilets at a cost of Rs. 191.78 crores have been completed. Self Help Groups are put in charge of the use and maintenance of these toilets so as to keep them functioning. The household toilet programme has also gained tremendous momentum with the availability of low cost solutions. The sanitation coverage has moved up from just 15% in 2001 to 40% today and our goal is to ensure full coverage by 2006. We shall also ensure that toilets are provided in all schools and anganwadis by 2006. I have also announced a Clean Village Award of Rs.5 lakhs to each Village

Panchayat which is able to achieve certain basic standards of personal and environmental sanitation. We are making rapid progress towards the goal of total sanitation and I request the Centre to extend full support to this programme.

I have also been personally pursuing and supporting the cause of promoting energy

efficiency and utilization of alternate sources of energy in rural areas. Bio-gas Linked Toilets, Solar Powered Street Lights and Water Pumps, Bio-mass Gasifiers for Village Water Treatment Plants, use of Wind Energy for Panchayat energy needs and use of Waste Plastics in Rural Road Construction have been some of the highlights of our achievements in this direction. We must remember that the choice of alternate and renewable energy is an investment in sustainability and environmental protection so vital to the delicate rural eco-systems. We, in Tamil Nadu are working on an integrated project for Waste Land Development through bio-mass Production by Self Help Groups which will meet part or whole of village energy needs. The Government of India should actively propagate and fund a massive programme for the use of Sustainable and Alternate Forms of Energy in rural areas.

Another key issue that we have to consider as part of our poverty alleviation strategy is good governance, to ensure that our programmes are implemented effectively resulting in rural prosperity. Are the States not to be trusted as equal partners in

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the development process? An attempt has been made to portray the Centre as a champion of local self-governance and the States being ill-disposed towards this. It is the State Governments which are that much closer to the people in their everyday life and it is most invidious and petty to belittle the role of the State Governments in this fashion. The States collectively are themselves keen on ensuring that good governance practices result in the best benefits being realised by the people. It would be tragic if this tendency to tear asunder the basic fabric of our polity is attempted.

I wish to remind this august meeting that the founding fathers of the Constitution clearly visualised local governance to be in the State List. Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution are important new guiding principles to revitalize local self-governance. In actuating these principles many practical issues will arise. This is obviously going through a major evolutionary process. At the same time the Centre should desist from attempts to bypass the States and should not subscribe to the notion that the Centre can directly deal with the local bodies.

I wish to draw specific attention to the meeting of Chief Ministers held on 18th October, 2002, presided over by the former Prime Minister when the fiscal situation of the States was discussed. A consensus was arrived at in this meeting that henceforth all releases under Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be made to the Consolidated Fund of the States and not directly to the project implementing agencies. A condition was also laid down

that the States should pass on these to the end users within the stipulated time of three weeks and inform the Administrative Ministry in the Government of India of having done so. A detailed Office Memorandum dated 13th January, 2003, has been issued by the Finance Ministry, Government of India, communicating this revised procedure. I now find from the agenda notes that a suggestion has been made that releases in respect of items in the XII Schedule of the Constitution be directly credited to the Panchayats by the Central Government. This

“Another key issue that we have to consider as part of our poverty alleviation strategy is good governance, to ensure that our programmes are implemented effectively resulting in rural prosperity.”

suggestion is objectionable both in spirit and content as it seeks to denigrate the role of the States. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned we have a track record of releasing funds to the local bodies in time. Infact, on many occasions, releases have been made anticipating Central releases. I do not see the need for such a take over of the functions of the States by the Centre.

In Tamil Nadu, we have given substance and meaning to Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution by holding elections to all Local Bodies. Infact, the active participation of 1.17 lakh elected representatives ensures that all programmes are properly implemented by these rural local bodies. We have always placed emphasis on the two tier Panchayati Raj system as more appropriate in the Tamil Nadu context. Most importantly, it is only in Tamil Nadu that cheque drawing powers and executive functions have been entrusted to Village Panchayat Presidents; giving real meaning to the concept of decentralization and local self-governance. We have launched a massive capacity building effort involving Panchayat Presidents and other elected representatives. In Tamil Nadu, the convergence of the Self Help Group movement with village panchayats has also brought in new synergy. Self Help Group members participate actively in the Grama Sabha and even get elected as Presidents and Ward Members in Village Panchayats. These processes will surely strengthen our poverty alleviation efforts. In Tamil Nadu, we have constituted State Finance Commissions twice so far and have implemented their recommendations substantially. Untied devolution of funds is being made to all Local Bodies. I have personally ensured that Grama Sabha meetings are held frequently and we are now in the process of reconstituting committees of the village Panchayat to oversee every aspect of rural development. I am also of the view that a political consensus on issues of crucial importance is necessary if we are to make further headway towards the lofty goal of devolving more functions and finances to panchayat raj institutions.

We have learnt that the traditional strategies that foster economic growth are essential, but they have to be supplemented with a greater emphasis on institutional and social foundations of development and on managing the vulnerability of the poor. We are dealing with people here, their fears, voicelessness, vulnerability, hopes and aspirations. Good governance consists of reaching out to them and helping them to live decent lives. Let us not mix politics and polemics in taking demagogic stands, confounding the single minded effort which has to be launched to tackle the new challenges posed in our poverty alleviation programmes. I do hope it will be possible in this forum to introspect and draw up an agenda of action which will enable improved content and good governance of our poverty alleviation programmes.

The underlying message emerging from the agenda notes clearly shows that Tamil Nadu has done extremely well and is well and truly the star performer in the various programmes of poverty alleviation. I am acutely conscious that we cannot rest on our laurels and will have to continue to implement not only the existing programmes effectively but innovate consistently to realise our cherished goal of substantially reducing poverty in Tamil Nadu before the end of the Tenth Plan.

The speech of
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
presented at the Conference of
Chief Ministers on 'Poverty Alleviation and
Rural Prosperity' held at New Delhi
on 29 & 30 of June, 2004.

POONDI GUDIYAM CAVE

The history of Chennai as most of us know started from the time the British established their trading company here, but astonishingly Chennai (Madras) has been a place of habitation for pre-historic hominids (early man) who had lived here millions of years ago. The chain of explorations started off when Sir Robert Bruce Foote, a British Geologist, accidentally found a stone tool at Pallavaram in May 1863, followed by the discovery of enormous number of artefacts in and around Poondi, near Chennai. This tremendous discovery in the field of pre-historic archaeology pushed back the antiquity of man in Tamil Nadu to more than half a million years ago and placed this region firmly on the world map of pre-historic culture.

Interestingly, the Poondi reservoir, from where our city derives its water supply, and the Korttalaiyar river basin turns out to be significantly important for archaeologists and geologists around the world. The Gudiyam cave, the first of its kind in India, exists near Poondi in Tiruvallur taluk of Tiruvallur district. Reaching there takes some adventurous paths, meandering through the silent forests, which can actually turn out to be a nice expedition for trekkers and nature lovers.

Millions of years ago, man did not live as we live today. He lived in jungles like most of the

A UNIQUE PRE - HISTORIC PICNIC SPOT NEAR CHENNAI

animals. He ate fruits, nuts, berries and sweet roots or plants that were available with him. The animals were stronger than him and so he was afraid of them. He climbed up the trees or hid himself in caves at night. Whenever he could kill an animal with his bare hands, he ate the flesh raw. He did not know how to grow crops. As he could not find his food at one place, he had to move from one place to another in search of fruit and nuts and to kill animals for food.

It was very difficult to dig out roots or to kill animals with bare hands. So he needed a tool. He found that stones and rocks could be shaped to do his job easily. He picked up heavy stones and rocks, sharpened them and tied them to sticks with animal hair or nerves and used them as spears. These were his first tools. Thus he could dig out roots with sharp edged stones, or kill an animal without going very near to it. The first tool that man made were not very good but served his purpose. Some of those tools have been unearthed and are kept in Poondi museum.

Most of the stone implements have so far been collected from the surface, but some from

T.S.Sridhar, I.A.S.,
Special Commissioner,
Department of Archaeology,
Government of Tamil Nadu.

the terraces of the rivers. These early stone implements have been discovered at Korttalaiyar River Valley in and around Thiruvallur. Taking into consideration the distinct geographical features and different manufacturing traditions, scholars have divided the stone tools of this Palaeolithic age (old stone age) into two groups. 1. Sohan (Punjab) Industries, 2. Madras Industries. Hand axes and cleavers are the main components of the Madras tools. The most important characterization in the industry of this region is the presence of cores i.e. the stone used for making implements.

The region is represented by an old laterite plateau with isolated hillock ranges named as Allikulli hill which is formed of quartzite conglomerate rocks. These rocks on weathering have littered the ground with pebbles and boulders. These detrital rocks served as the source for the early man to make implements. Vegetation comprises of semi-evergreen scrub woodland, closed and discontinuous thorny thickets and scattered shrubs.

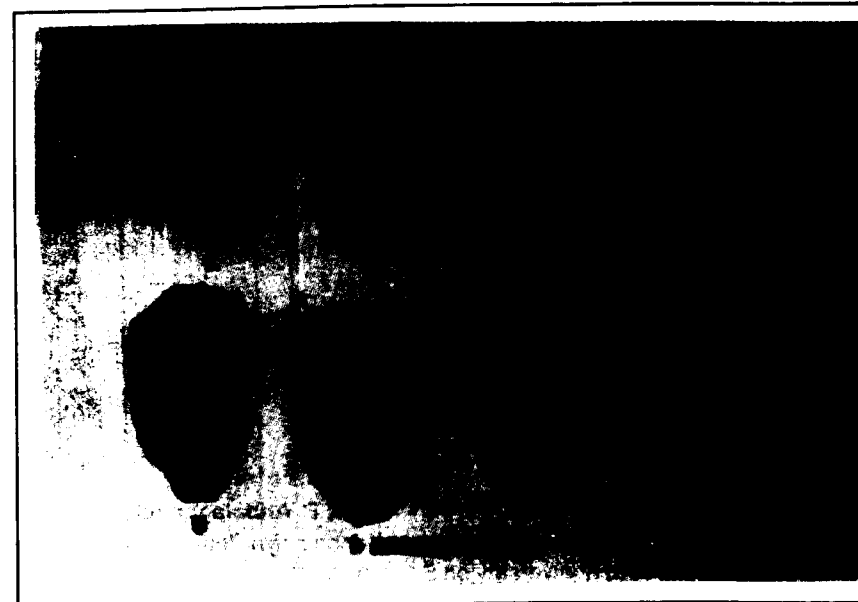
Gudiyam

Gudiyam is about 10 km from the Poondi reservoir, the actual cave can be reached from the foothills by walking to a distance of 3 km. The huge Gudiyam cave is presently known to the local people as Manachamman cave and the people of the nearby villages visit on Chitrapurnima day to worship the Goddess. The cave is at about 110 feet height and 200 feet breadth; about 200 people can stay here at a time. Similar rock shelters, sixteen in number, were noticed at Gudiyam. Out of them only 6 were inhabited by early man. This rock shelter of the Stone Age man was excavated in the year 1963 by the Archaeological Survey of India. Three trenches were laid, one inside the rock shelter and other two away from the shelter. Some stray tools were collected from this site. The occupational deposit of this place appears to be incidental and not a regular or permanent residence of the early man.

Poondi Museum

The Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu has conducted

extensive survey of this area and identified more than 17 villages where pre-historic tools are available in plenty. To understand the pre-history of Tamil Nadu as a whole and the palaeolithic age of this region in particular, the Department has established a small site museum at Poondi in 1985 for the benefit of the public, students and



scholars. Many artefacts such as hand axe, cleaver, hammer stone, discoid and core materials found in and around Poondi are exhibited here. Apart from pre-historic tools, the megalithic burial potteries, fossil remains of wood, snail, and leaf are the other important exhibits of this museum. Four life-sized models of early hominids and a rock portion with pre-historic paintings were also erected in the open space in front of the museum in the year 1993. The site museum at Poondi is the only museum of its kind in India, featuring the pre-historic heritage of the region.

Poondi is also a popular picnic spot which is 60 kilometres from Chennai and situated at a distance of about 12 kilometres north west of Tiruvallur; frequent electric trains (EMU) and buses ply from Chennai.

The museum is open on all working days from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm, except on Friday and Gazetted holidays. The entrance fee for an Indian adult is Rs.5/- and child Rs.3/- and for a foreigner adult Rs.50/- and child Rs.25/-. The Curator of the museum may be contacted for further information and guidance.

A visit to Poondi is an experience worth recounting for the above reasons. It offers several attractions to the casual tourist, serious research student as well as to the ardent archaeologist and geologist, according to their needs. It is the only pre-historic site south of the Vindhyas. The chance discovery of primitive stone tools used by early cave man has advanced our knowledge of pre-history by several millennia. Further research through excavations will help to understand better the life style of the cave man who lived in these parts of our State.

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Hon'ble Minister for Information & Publicity and Local Administration Thiru K.P. Anbalagan and Hon'ble Minister for Law Thiru D. Jayakumar garlanded the statue of Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI on his birth anniversary on 5.9.2004 in Chennai.



V.O. Chidambaram popularly known as V.O.C. is one of the architects of modern India. He was an erudite scholar in Tamil, a prolific writer, a social reformer, a great organiser, a fiery speaker, a Trade Union Leader and a dauntless fighter in the cause of the freedom of the nation.

When Chidambaram was practising law in Tuticorin his interest in shipping was aroused. Tuticorin was then a buzzing port with great commercial activity, with Britishers having the monopoly of shipping interest. During those dark days of ruthless repression of our national interests by the British rulers, V.O. Chidambaram dared to form a Swadeshi Shipping Company. The cult of Swadeshi fired the imagination of the people. One of the first attempts in the direction of self reliance was made. The swadeshi movement ultimately shook the very foundation of the British rule in India.

A friend of the poor man, V.O.C. organised labour union in the Coral Mills at Tuticorin. The strike organised by him in this mill broke the tyranny of the British capitalists, who, in the end, agreed to enhance the wages and reduce the working hours.

V.O.C The Beacon Light

Chidambaram was one of the contemporaries of dynamic leaders like Tilak and Bipin Chandrapal. He gave up his legal profession and threw himself in the struggle for swaraj and galvanised the masses by his eloquent speeches and powerful writings. The Government who were watching the activities of V.O.C. with obvious fear and suspicion prosecuted him for sedition.

He was sentenced to 40 years of transportation. On appeal the sentence was reduced to 6 years of rigorous imprisonment.

After serving a long term of imprisonment, Chidambaram came out of jail, penniless and broken hearted, with despair and anguish as to how to find his feet in life. Extreme hardships in jail had completely shattered his health. He saw only the ruination of the Swadeshi Shipping Company, which he had so fondly nurtured. To go back to law was his only recourse. But his sanaad had been forfeited by the British rulers. Thanks to the help of Judge Wallace he got back his sanaad. But he found that he could not make both ends meet. He gave up practice and turned his attention to literary pursuits.

V.O.C. had the sanctifying association of Poet Bharati who was then known widely as the Bard of Freedom. the stirring songs of Freedom began to ring through the words and work of Bharati. V.O.C. was an ardent admirer of Bharati. Bharati became a powerful associate of V.O.C.

V.O.C., Bharati and many others, stirred Tamil Nadu to its depths. The sacrifices they made, the sufferings they endured, the hardships they encountered, the odds they met, the obstacles they crossed, became the watch word and the bye-word of political thoughts and action.

V.O.C. stood out on an eminence of patriotic persons, a scholar who broke stones and drew the oil mill, a labour leader who became the champion for the working class, an intellectual who led the way for freedom struggle, V.O.C. is hallowed by fame and name. His renunciation was great. He showed the path. He gave the philosophy of national service. He was a beacon light. He had left a tradition of scholarship and national service. His voice has become still. But he lives in the minds and hearts of our people and will continue to inspire this generation and succeeding generations for the evangelical mission of serving the cause of the people and of making India good, great and glorious.

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I wish to draw your attention to the letter dated 29.7.2004 which I had written to you on the rain deficit situation in Tamil Nadu. I had pointed out that Tamil Nadu should also be included among the rain Deficit States and assistance should be extended to Tamil Nadu. This was with reference to the current South West Monsoon for the year 2004-2005. I had indicated in this letter that in 11 districts, the deviation from normal was greater than 20% showing a severe deficit in the current season.

Even at that stage we were hopeful of a revival of the South West Monsoon. While the revival of the South West Monsoon has benefited States like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, the situation has worsened in Tamil Nadu. I have recently analysed the rainfall data and I find that the actual rainfall in Tamil Nadu for the period 1.6.2004 to 18.8.2004 is less than normal by 26%. More importantly, the same data indicates that in 18 out of 30 districts the rainfall is below normal by more than 20%. This clearly points to a drought situation which is emerging.

In view of the fact that the South West Monsoon (2004) has not revived in Tamil Nadu and the rainfall situation has taken a turn for the worse, I



“Accord Higher priority to drought relief operations in Tamil Nadu”

(Text of the D.O. Letter dated 28.8.2004 addressed to Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, New Delhi by Selvi J JAYALALITHAA, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu)

enclose a detailed Memorandum setting out the drought situation in Tamil Nadu, together with the assistance package needed. As you are aware, Tamil Nadu has had to face a drought situation in 2002-2003 and again in 2003-2004. The failure of the current

South West Monsoon in the 2004 season is, therefore, a matter of great concern.

I also wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Government of Tamil Nadu presented a detailed Memorandum on 1st February 2004, on

the drought conditions in various districts in Tamil Nadu other than Chennai City, where an extraordinary water scarcity situation had developed, to handle which, a separate Memorandum was submitted on 16.1.2004. We sought an assistance of Rs.1584 crores and 10.8 lakh tonnes of rice for drought relief works in districts other than Chennai. A separate request for Rs.700 crores was made for tackling the acute drinking water scarcity situation in Chennai City which was one of rare severity. The Government of India sanctioned Rs.292.95 crores and 3.04 lakh tonnes of rice for the Food for Work Programme. We have fully utilised the funds for the drought relief operations relating to the year 2003-2004. We have in fact incurred much higher expenditure than the assistance received.

We are now confronted once again with a drought situation for the year 2004-2005, based on the progress of the South West Monsoon in this season starting from 1.6.2004. As pointed out we have already utilised the funds and the rice released in the context of the drought in 2003-2004. We have to now gear up to tackle the new situation posed by the failure of the ongoing South West Monsoon in large parts of the State. May I, therefore, request your full

support for undertaking necessary relief operations in the context of the current drought (2004-2005).

I would also like to draw your specific attention to the problem faced in Chennai City. You are no doubt aware of the acute water scarcity in Chennai City. The rainfall in Chennai in the current South West Monsoon has been deficient by 52%. In neighbouring Kancheepuram District, the rainfall deficit is 64% and in the adjoining Thiruvallur District the deficiency is 51%. Thus Chennai and its neighbourhoods have again not received satisfactory rainfall in the current South West Monsoon period. This has exacerbated an already difficult situation. We have to incur an extra expenditure of more than Rs.27 crores each month to keep a minimum water supply going. The ground water availability has also been declining sharply. We are consequently required to undertake transportation of water from very long distances to keep up the supply of drinking water. It is a situation of rare severity requiring maximum assistance from the Government of India.

The detailed Memorandum that I have enclosed sets out the extent of deficit rainfall in the current South West Monsoon period. In several districts, the rainfall has been scanty. In a

large number of districts, the rainfall has been deficient by more than 40%. This points to a serious deficit in the current South West Monsoon. As I have already explained, Chennai City has been greatly affected. We are managing the situation by supplying water through lorries as the City's three storage reservoirs have gone completely dry. Overall, it is an extremely difficult situation that confronts Tamil Nadu.

The detailed Memorandum enclosed sets out the relief measures necessary to tide over the situation caused by the failure of the current South West Monsoon. The financial assistance requested is Rs.1,680 crores. Apart from the financial requirement, we have also made a request for additional food grains support of 5.4 lakh tonnes for employment generation works. As Tamil Nadu is facing the third successive drought year, a Central team may be deputed to assess the situation. Based on this assessment, financial assistance and food grains support may be extended to Tamil Nadu as in the case of other rain deficit States.

May I request that the highest priority be accorded to my request for assistance to Tamil Nadu for drought relief operations?

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A long term and permanent solution should be found to the burning issue of violence against poor fishermen

*Text of D.O. letter dt. 10.8.2004 addressed to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, New Delhi,
by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu*

I am writing this letter to bring to your notice a matter of grave importance concerning the incidents of indiscriminate violence against Tamil Nadu fishermen taking place in the Palk Bay region where the Island of Kachatheevu is located. I am distressed to learn that the Sri Lankan Navy opened fire at our fishermen engaged in fishing in Indian territorial waters near Kachatheevu around 7.30 P.M. on 9.8.2004, resulting in the death of Thiru Ramu, S/O. Chokkalingam, aged 40, hailing from Rameswaram. Further, I would also like to bring to your notice that 19 fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu, who left for fishing from the Nagapattinam Port Base on 3.8.2004 in 4 boats were taken into custody while at sea by the Sri Lankan Navy on 4.8.2004.

You are aware that the fishermen of Tamil Nadu depend essentially on fishing in the waters around Kachatheevu for their livelihood. I have been repeatedly drawing the attention of the Government of India to the incidents of violence against Indian fishermen in the Palk Bay around Kachatheevu Island. I have already taken up this burning issue with the Government of India, urging that the traditional rights and privileges of the Indian fishermen to carry on their normal occupation of fishing in these waters will have to be recognised early and a suitable working arrangement devised.

The fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been repeatedly prevented from fishing in the waters around Kachatheevu by Sri Lankan fishermen who, with the help of the Sri Lankan Navy, have been taking the law into their own hands, capturing our Tamil Nadu fishermen and indulging in violent incidents. Such repeated instances of Indian fishermen being attacked and taken into

captivity have led to great anguish among the fishermen living in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. As on date, 29 Tamil Nadu fishermen and 87 boats are under the custody of Sri Lankan authorities.

I therefore, request your personal and immediate intervention in the matter to immediately take up the issue with the Ministry of External Affairs and direct the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka to intervene in the matter and take urgent steps to obtain the release of our fishermen who have been apprehended and ensure that their boats are repatriated.

I also request you to take up the issue of the indiscriminate killing of a poor fisherman belonging to Tamil Nadu on the high seas, with the Government of Sri Lanka and register a strong protest against this inhuman act perpetrated by the Sri Lankan Navy.

I have time and again suggested to the Government of India that a long term and permanent solution should be found to this burning issue of violence against, poor fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu taking place in the Palk Bay region. You will agree that shooting and killing of fishermen who venture into the seas in search of their livelihood violates all canons of natural justice. The Government of India has to find a long term and permanent solution to this problem as it involves the question of the traditional rights of our Tamil Nadu fishermen. I had on several earlier occasions suggested that a long term and permanent solution to this problem would be to take Kachatheevu on Lease in Perpetuity. With the increasing frequency of such incidents the time has come to ensure that a finality is reached on this issue by the Government of India without further delay. ♦

Fire accident at Kumbakonam

Hon'ble Chief Minister's solace to the parents and students



The gruesome fire accident which took place in an aided private school at Kumbakonam in Thanjavur District on 16.7.2004 took a heavy toll of the precious lives of 94 young children. Hon'ble Chief Minister rushed to Kumbakonam and inspected the site of the fire accident. She ordered criminal prosecution against the school Management. She also ordered the school to be closed immediately and instructed the officials to facilitate students who have survived the tragedy, transfer to other schools immediately. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also ordered the suspension of the Assistant Elementary Educational Officer, the District Elementary

Educational Officer, the District Educational Officer and the Chief Educational Officer who were found guilty of dereliction of duty.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister offered her deepest heart-felt condolences to the parents and relatives of the dead children. She prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured children.

She sanctioned an ex-gratia payment of Rs.1 lakh to the families of each of the children who died in the gruesome tragedy, from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. She also sanctioned Rs.25,000 to each of the grievously injured and Rs.10,000 for those with minor injuries.



The Chief Minister also ordered the School Education Department to take up an intensive inspection of all schools throughout the State immediately to ascertain and ensure the maintenance of safety standards.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered all District Collectors to inspect all schools in their jurisdiction and ensure that the thatched structures in schools are replaced with non-flammable material.

The Tamil Nadu Cabinet met on 19.7.2004 and paid homage to the unfortunate children. The Cabinet passed a resolution expressing deep grief and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the family members of the children whose precious lives were tragically lost in the fire. The Cabinet resolved that steps will be taken on a war-footing to ensure safety and security of all school buildings throughout Tamil Nadu so that such a ghastly incident does not occur ever again in future.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, headed by a retired Judge of the High Court. The Commission will inquire into the circumstances and the causes leading to this fire accident. The Commission will also go into all reform measures needed to ensure that such incidents do not recur. An Expert Panel will assist the Commission of Inquiry in going into all aspects of reform needed to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also said that in order to alleviate the congestion and prevent overcrowding in class rooms, a shift system will be permitted. Accordingly, children can attend school in different batches so that over crowding would be avoided. Suitable time schedules will be worked out locally in consultation with the Parent-Teachers Association.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister also ordered that all noon-meal kitchen sheds having thatched roofs be provided with non-flammable roofing immediately. She also ordered that Fire and Rescue Services Department should inspect all schools for fire safety. Provision for entry, exit and emergency exit in all schools will be ensured.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also issued orders that Fire Drill should be carried out twice a year under the supervision of the Fire and Rescue Services Department through local Fire Stations in every school.

The Fire and Rescue Services Department will organise a crash-training course for teachers on how to handle any fire emergency and also to undertake fire safety drills.

The Education Department, while according recognition and approvals, is required to go into all aspects to ensure the proper functioning of the schools. This includes Structural Stability Certificate from the Public Works Department/ Chartered Engineers, Public Building Licence

under the Tamil Nadu Public Buildings (Licensing) Act 1965, from the local Tahsildar and Sanitary and Hygiene certificate by the local Health Authorities. The Education Department officials and other Departmental officials have been directed to ensure strict observance of these mandatory provisions.

Selvi A. Kausalya D/o. Thiru Arivazhagan and Tmt. Jothi of Paalakkurai, Kumbakonam and Selvan B. Vijay S/o. Thiru Balasivaraman and Tmt. Rajalakshmi of Koranaathukkaruppur Natham Village who were seriously injured were admitted in the Apollo Hospital in Chennai for specialised treatment as instructed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Selvi A. Kausalya and Selvan B. Vijay who underwent intensive treatment for burns including plastic surgery were discharged on 18.8.2004. They met the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Secretariat along with their parents and thanked her for arranging treatment for them at the Multi-speciality hospital. The Hon'ble Chief Minister conveyed her best wishes, gave them chocolates and bid them farewell. ❖



Eradication of Child Labour

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had announced a 15 point programme for making Tamil Nadu the best State in the Country in every sphere. Eradication of Child Labour is one of the points. To achieve the above goal an "Action Plan" has been launched to eradicate child labour in all hazardous occupations by 2005 and in non-hazardous occupations by 2007. A State Child Labour Rehabilitation Cum Welfare Society has been formed in the Office of the Commissioner of Labour to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan. This would be achieved by convergence of services of various Departments of the State and Non-Governmental organizations, Employers, Trade Unions etc. for the release and rehabilitation of children working both in hazardous and non-hazardous occupations. The children have to be withdrawn from labour force and they should be encouraged to enter into education. Already the **National Child Labour Project (NCLP)** funded by the Government of India is in operation in 12 districts of Tamil Nadu.

It is in this context that a Project named **INDUS Child Labour Project** for eradication of Child Labour, jointly funded by the

Government of India and United States Department of Labour is being launched in Tamil Nadu. The International Labour Organization will be the executing agency for this project. The project is to be implemented in five Districts of Tamil Nadu viz., Kancheepuram, Namakkal, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai and Virudhunagar.

Survey conducted by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2003

In **Kancheepuram District**, 3417 child labourers were identified. Out of this 1806 are boys and 1611 are girls. 429 of the child labourers are aged less than 9 years. 262 children are engaged in hazardous occupation. Among the child labourers found in hazardous occupations most of them (125) are working in weaving.

In **Namakkal District**, 3229 child labourers were identified. Of these, 1735 are boys and 1494 are girls. 259 child labourers are aged less than 9 years. 1617 children are found employed in hazardous occupations. Among them 120 are working in Cotton ginning and 66 are working in Automobile workshops.

In **Tiruvallur District**, 1153 child labourers were identified. Of these, 571 are boys and 582 are girls. 281 are aged less than 9 years. 454 child labourers are found employed in hazardous occupations. Among them, the most prominents are weaving (156), Brick Kiln and Roof tiles (122), and Construction industries (55).

In **Tiruvannamalai District**, the survey identified 1427 child labourers. 795 boys and 632 girls. 60 of them are aged less than 9 years. Out of 423 children employing in hazardous occupations in this district 308 are found in weaving.

In **Virudhunagar district**, substantial number of child labourers (6838) was identified. Of this 3094 are boys and 3744 girls; 648 are aged less than 9. The number of child labourers found in hazardous occupations is 1640. Among them manufacture of matches occupies first place (1054) followed by fire works (144) and cotton ginning (126).

INDUS Project Structure

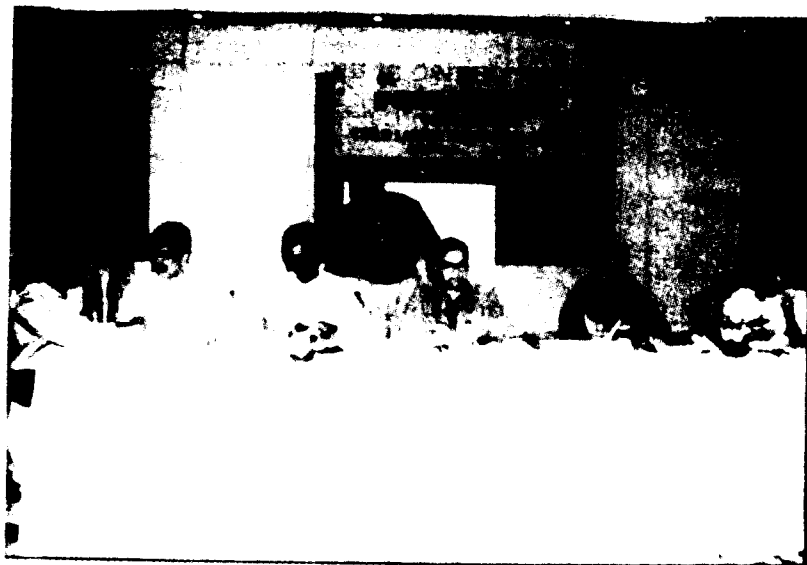
The project structure is organized at three levels national, state and district levels. The

project management team at the national level is located at the ILO Area Office, New Delhi, which provides institutional support and basic infrastructure to the central project team. There is close interface with the Ministry of Labour and Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, in the Central Government, as well as with the US Department of Labour. The project is supervised by the National Steering Committee, which is chaired by the Secretary, MOL, and has representatives from government agencies, NGOs, employers' and workers' organizations.

State Project Steering Committees (SPSCs) has been set up at the state level. A **State-level Resource Cell (SRC)** at the **State Child Labour Rehabilitation cum Welfare Society** will be established to assist the SPSC in its functioning. The Additional Commissioner of Labour (Child Labour Monitoring Cell), in the cadre of an I.A.S. Officer will function as the State Coordinator of SRC. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) society will be responsible for the implementation of the education component of the project in the state.

SSA Survey 2003 - Abstract

Sl.No.	District	Child Labour						
		Boys	Girls	5-9	9-14	Hazardous	Non-Hazardous	Total
1	Tiruvallur	571	582	281	872	454	699	1153
2	Tiruvannamalai	795	632	60	1367	423	1004	1427
3	Kancheepuram	1806	1611	429	2988	263	3154	3417
4	Namakkal	1735	1494	259	2970	1617	1612	3229
5	Virudhunagar	3094	3744	648	6190	1640	5198	6838
	Total	8001	8063	1677	14387	4397	11667	16064



The **National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Society**, headed by the Collector, will be responsible for project implementation at the district level. The NCLP society will be assisted by the District Project Team. The SSA's District Project Implementation Unit will be responsible for implementing the public education component.

Package of services

In each of the selected district there are three groups of direct beneficiaries:

1. 1000 younger children (5-8 years) who will be directly enrolled in regular schools and support services
2. 2000 older children (9-13 years), who will be provided with transitional education and support services
3. 1000 adolescents (14-17 years) who will be provided with vocational training.

In the target districts, the project will mobilize and strengthen the capacity of agencies in the private and public sphere

against child labour, enabling them to provide a multi-sectoral package of services. These services include:

- Identifying children working in hazardous and non hazardous occupations;
- withdrawing children and young persons from these hazardous and non-hazardous situations;

- placing the withdrawn children in meaningful and quality education or vocational education/training;
- providing viable income generating opportunities to the families of child workers;
- strengthening public education infrastructure in the target areas; and
- creating a positive environment for prevention of hazardous and non-hazardous child labour through public awareness-raising and through involvement of the community in monitoring child labour.

COMPONENTS OF INDUS PROJECT

Component : 1

Identification of children at risk

This component will involve a database on child workers in all hazardous sectors for each target district by;

- conducting surveys in the designated districts and targeted sectors to identify working children;

- developing profiles, by sector, of child workers, their families, their workplace and working conditions;
- developing a compendium of government and other agencies' programmes in the target areas; and
- establishing detailed and quantifiable indicators of achievement.

The survey agency selected by the State Government will conduct the survey.

Component : 2

Withdrawal and provision of transitional education

Children in the age group of 9-13 years will be withdrawn from hazardous work in the target districts and enrolled in transitional schools and services. Transitional education in special schools will be a bridge to formal schools or vocational training. This component will involve:

- identification of suitable agencies to run the transitional schools in consultation with the community;
- training instructors/teachers through governmental or NGO institutions;
- development/adaptation of appropriate teaching material;
- enrolment of identified children in transitional schools;
- provision of teaching material, textbooks, notebooks, stationery and play

material, as well as provision of cooked mid-day meals, to enrolled children;

- provision of appropriate health care to enrolled children;
- mainstreaming of children into formal schools within a period of 12 to 18 months;
- follow-up of children mainstreamed into formal school; and
- equip the transitional schools with play and reading material for use by children after school hours.

Component : 3

Vocational training for adolescents

Older children (14-17 years) from the child labour families will be provided vocational training in locally employable and marketable skills. This will involve:

- assessment of labour market to identify entry level skills for boys and girls to make them employable or self-employed;
- establishment of vocational training centres by local trade/industry associations, employers' and workers' organizations and NGOs;
- development or adaptation of existing material and resources for skill training in each locality;
- provision of life skill, language and numeracy education;
- provision of trained vocational training instructors;

- provision of training through attachments system and production-cum-training centres wherever appropriate and feasible;
- enrolment of identified adolescents for the vocational training courses;
- provision of monthly stipend to the enrolled adolescents;
- trade certification to students on completion of the course; and
- linking the centres to job placement services or to job opportunities.

Component : 4

Income generating alternatives for families

Adult members of families of the target children will be provided opportunities to increase income and the possibility of self-employment. This will involve:

- formation of self-help groups (SHGs) of 15 mothers each;
- saving of Rs.30-50/- per month by each mother;
- matching grant to be given after six months;
- loan facility after a period of six months;
- training on various income-generation activities, micro-enterprise development, micro-credit, skill development, etc., for the mothers/parents;

- assistance to mothers to take up economically viable activities linked to the school, such as running TECs, mid-day meals, etc.;
- market linkages; and
- mentor services.

The NCLP society will oversee the programme. National/State level agencies specializing in income generating activities and micro enterprise development will be identified to act as technical resource agencies to the NCLPs.

Component : 5

Strengthening public education of childworkers

The project recognizes the need to strengthen the public education system, with a special focus on children at risk. It seeks to work through existing government programmes, foremost amongst them being the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). This will require the project to :



- invest in improvements in infrastructure, the quality of education, development of community monitoring systems to complement and feed into existing systems, and provide access to education to all children in the target areas;
- support activities, including community mobilization, to ensure enrolment, attendance and retention by extending incentives such as free textbooks and notebooks to all children studying in the target areas;
- support and improve educational institutional reforms, including the development and effective implementation of District Elementary Educational Plans; and
- strengthen both non-formal (transitional) and formal education through joint workshops and training activities.

SSA societies will oversee the activities under this component.

Component : 6

Monitoring and tracking

An independent and credible monitoring system is to be put in place to follow the progress of child workers and their families who are participating in the project. The monitoring system will see that the following objectives are achieved:

- Child workers are phased out from hazardous work and provided with education, vocational training, etc.

- Families of child labourers are benefiting from the activities envisaged.
- There is adequate follow-up and support after children are going to school.
- Measurable progress is being made towards the prevention and elimination of child labour in the identified sectors in the target areas.

The monitoring will be done by recognized institutions, with the agreement and involvement of the community. The monitoring system will be designed by technical specialists from the ILO and the Government of India. The selected institutions will gather information from the children, community, and NCLP, SSA and participating implementing agencies.

Component : 7

Social mobilization

Alongside the project activities, a continuous awareness raising campaign is essential to keep children away from work and prevent child labour in future. This will involve:

- advocacy and awareness campaigns to make parents, children, employers, social partners, and communities aware of the importance of education, negative consequences of child labour, as well as the legal provisions related to this, particularly the 1986 Act;
- identification of target groups at various levels, and preparation of advocacy materials in various media formats,

organizing forums for discussion, and networking; and

- mobilizing employers' and workers' organizations, civil society organizations, families and communities to undertake joint and separate action against child labour.

NCLP society will oversee the activities under this component. Advocacy material will be prepared by a communications agency.

Component : 8

Capacity building of national, state, district and local Institutions

At the state level, activities such as sensitization and training programmes/workshops will be undertaken to encourage coordination and convergence of all services operating for the elimination of child labour. This will involve:

- periodic training, supported by handbooks, guidelines, and other materials, to improve the capacity of labour inspectors to identify and monitor hazardous child labour;
- training to district and state Education Department officials about efficient methods for drawing up District Education Plans, fund utilization, manpower management, etc.;
- training to education officers to adopt participatory monitoring methods to ensure retention of children in conjunction with other stakeholders (e.g. community, village education committee, local self-government bodies);

- orientation to NCLP project directors and project staff, as well as the project staff under SSA about the details of the project and in particular about its objectives, outputs, activities and project management;
- training and sensitization programmes for government agencies, including the officers from rural development, women's development and child welfare, social welfare, policies, etc., on child labour; and
- training and sensitization programmes for employers' and workers' organizations, NGOs and other civil society bodies.

Component : 9

Raising interest towards action on hazardous child labour

Consequent upon a mid-term review of the project, the experiences of the project would be documented. This will involve:

- workshops in each of the four targeted states to document model;
- workshops in six additional states to raise interest; and
- follow-up on any interest raised.

Component : 10

Knowledge management

A national-level institute identified by the National Steering Committee and the GOI, in consultation with the ILO, will assist the NSC in an ongoing review of the project. It will be used as a data bank to store all data

pertaining to the project and provide appropriate technical support as defined by the NSC.

STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT

Stakeholders Workshops

In each of the above five districts Stakeholders Consultative Workshops were held. In order to launch the project, wide range of consultations has been made with key stakeholders. The stakeholders from Government Departments, NGOs, civil society partners, etc. have come with number of ideas and suggestions for designing project intervention on child labour.

At State Level the State Child Labour Rehabilitation Cum Welfare Society of Tamil Nadu organized a one day Stakeholders Workshop at Chennai on 18.2.2004. Hon'ble Minister for Labour Inaugurated the workshop. The Chief Secretary to Government presided over the function. The involvement of a cross section of stakeholders to generate ideas for interventions by the project and to develop ownership of the Project among stakeholders was the highlight of the workshop. Issues relating to child labour like, rescue, release, enforcement of labour laws, and rehabilitation through education, income generation, vocational training, monitoring and social mobilization were widely discussed. Thus, the implementation of the INDUS Project has been conceived after widespread discussions at different level.

Baseline survey

Open tender was floated through leading newspapers for selecting a professional agency to take up the survey in the five districts. The survey agency will be selected shortly. Detailed questionnaires prepared by ILO have been translated into Tamil.

The INDUS project team based at ILO New Delhi had appointed the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), an NGO based at Madurai to conduct Labour



Market Survey. The survey will assess the demand for skills in the district, keeping in view the likely profile of the adolescents from child labour families. This survey will throw up a list of skills in demand in the area and also approximate number of workers required for each skill.

On 3.2.2004, under the guidance of the INDUS Project Team, ILO New Delhi, a one day workshop to develop a child labour monitoring system was organized. Members from Village Education Committees, Block Resource Coordinators, etc. under SSA, Officials of labour department, Trade Unions, Employers, etc. participated. ★



Any move to disturb the functioning of the Tribunal is clearly an attempt to defy the rule of law and the Supreme Court

Press Statement of
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
(2.9.2004)

The news item that the Government of Karnataka convened a meeting of Leaders of all Parties on 1.9.2004 to elicit their opinion on filing an Application before the Supreme Court on the issue that Karnataka might not get justice from the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is most shocking. This is clinching proof that the Government of Karnataka which has consistently defied the directions of the Supreme Court, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Cauvery River Authority does not intend to respect the rule of law and will go to any extent to defy even the highest judicial institution, namely, the Supreme Court.

It is reported that at this meeting held at Bangalore on 1.9.2004 opinions have been voiced that the Karnataka Government should seek restructuring of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and its Members and in the event of the Central Government not conceding the demand, the State should boycott the Tribunal's proceedings. The decision at this meeting has been to organize a new Petition to be filed before the Supreme Court regarding the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. This is indeed most shocking as it constitutes open defiance of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal which is at the final stages of reaching its conclusions.

The Supreme Court directed the Government of India on 4.5.1990 to constitute the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. This was duly constituted by the Government of India on 2.6.1990 by their Notification No. 21/1/90-WD dated 2.6.1990. The Chairman and Members of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal are appointed by the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, after due consultation with the Supreme Court. Thus, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is a statutory body

constituted on the specific directions of the Supreme Court, the highest Court of the land and the Chairman and Members are appointed on the advice of the Supreme Court. The reported move of the Karnataka Government under the guise of an All Party Meeting to stall the proceedings before the Tribunal by seeking its restructuring is clearly the worst defiance of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has consistently insisted upon the River Waters Tribunal to complete their work in time. Any move to stall the proceedings of the Tribunal will constitute an open defiance of the Supreme Court. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has already taken 14 years and it is already the longest time taken by any Tribunal in this country. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that the Tribunal completes its work at the earliest more so as it is now at the stage of finalizing its award. At this juncture, any move to disturb the functioning of the Tribunal is

clearly an attempt to defy the rule of law and the Supreme Court. This should never be allowed to happen. My Government will take all the necessary measures to prevent any such move.

At present the Central Government has been constituted by the alliance led by the Congress Party. The Opposition Parties in Tamil Nadu who are part of this alliance are also in the Central Government. All matters relating to the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal are handled by the Government of India. A special responsibility is therefore cast on the Opposition Parties in Tamil Nadu which are part of the ruling alliance at the Centre to prevent any such move by the Karnataka Government which has been formed by a Congress led alliance. If they fail to do so, the farmers of Tamil Nadu will never forgive them for this treachery. □



Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalithaa honoured the winners of the 47th All India Police Duty Meet held at Hyderabad with cash awards amounting Rs. 1.60 lakhs at Secretariat, Chennai on 8.9.2004.



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Enhancement of Ex-gratia for Special Task Force Personnel

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered, enhancement of ex-gratia payment from Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs to the family of the Personnel of the Special Task Force (STF) who get killed under heroic circumstances. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa has also ordered sanction of Rs.10 lakhs as ex-gratia to the personnel of the Special Task Force in the event of permanent incapacitation. The Special Task Force (STF) personnel irrespective of their rank are eligible for these ex-gratia payments.

Further, in modification of the existing procedure which restricts the claim to either ex-gratia or Group Insurance Scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered that ex-gratia payment to the Police personnel who get killed /permanently incapacitated under heroic circumstances be made in addition to the payment under Group Insurance Scheme.

Enhancement of ex-gratia payment

At present Rs.5 lakhs is paid as ex-gratia payment to the personnel of STF



who get killed under heroic circumstances. Since it is considered that the existing ex-gratia amount paid is not commensurate with the valour exhibited by the personnel of the STF who risk their lives in the discharge of their duties, and keeping in view the welfare of the families of those who suffer permanent incapacitation, as well as to instil a sense of confidence and security amongst the Police personnel belonging to the STF, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J. Jayalalithaa has ordered payment of an enhanced ex-gratia, amount of Rs.10 lakhs to the STF personnel who get killed or permanently incapacitated under heroic circumstances, irrespective of their rank.

Payment of ex-gratia in addition to Group Insurance benefits

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J. Jayalalithaa introduced a Group Insurance Scheme in the year 1993 to boost the morale of and instil courage and confidence in the minds of personnel belonging to the Special Security Group and Special Task Force.

Subsequently this scheme was merged with the Group Insurance Scheme implemented for other Police personnel. At present, under this scheme, the Police personnel in the STF, Commando Force, Commando School, Special Security Group and Core Cell are sanctioned Rs.10 lakhs in the event of death or permanent incapacitation, and in respect of all other Police personnel depending upon their rank, the benefit varies from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.10 lakhs. Further, a scheme of ex-gratia payment for Police personnel who get killed permanently incapacitated under heroic circumstances is also being implemented.

However, since the existing rules restrict the benefit to the Police personnel either under the ex-gratia scheme or under the Group Insurance Scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J. Jayalalithaa has ordered that this restrictive procedure be dispensed with and has ordered that for the Police personnel who get killed / permanently incapacitated the ex-gratia payment be given in addition to the existing benefits under the Group Insurance Scheme, in recognition of the valour and sacrifice of the Police personnel.



The Thoughts of **THANTHAI PERIYAR**

"WHAT IS EDUCATION?"

that such people are illiterates. In another couplet Thiruvalluvar defines that an educated person is one who aspires the entire world to enjoy all things he enjoys. In another couplet he says, that he who does not compare with others and take the good for his own development is merely one amongst the dead.

Now, I would like to ask you as to what you do to evaluate our education on these lines. What are we going to gain by merely tutoring children, that a dog has four legs - a cat has a tail - the blind have no eyes - do not steal - do not beat and so on. All these things the children could learn by themselves, without the help of a teacher. They know that if one beats a person, he would weep and abuse. They know that if one steals he would be caught and beaten black and blue. They know which animal has four legs and a tail, the moment they see the animal. So, I am of the opinion that there is no need to spend so much money and precious time to teach all these things. It is not also necessary to make such a gullible propaganda about primary education.

To start with you must impart to children what self-respect is. You must first teach the children what manly actions are. You must teach things to make them safeguard their dignity, honour and prestige. Teach them to live

Education is not for mere earning to live! If we sincerely mean that education is for gaining knowledge, it must be for attaining self-respect and freedom. It must make the people live with love towards all and have no hatred towards any one. It must create a sense of unity. No one should think of harming or insulting others. Everyone must be made to feel for others and lead a disciplined and honest life.

Understanding the value of education, Thiruvalluvar had long ago stated that one who declines to suit himself to the world, cannot be considered to be educated at all, even if he be distinguished in the field of education. In short, he says in his couplet curtly

with equality. Teach them to be kind towards all. They must be taught about universal brotherhood. They must be taught to be patriotic.

In the olden days if one fails to repay the loan, a cow and a calf would be tied in the backyard without providing grass, hay, oil cake and water. Realising that it is condemnable to leave the cow and calf without food, the debtor would remove even the 'Tali' from the neck of his wife and sell it to repay the loan. It is only after settling the dues, he would walk in the streets with a raised head. My father told me about all these. If one should do like that in these modern days, the educated lawyer would counsel his client to milch the cow and get the milk to him. He would boldly say that he would face the disgrace. In this sort of way, the lawyer would make his client bold enough to do anything good or bad. That is the reason why we now find so many magistrates, munsif courts, session courts, high courts. Where all these found in the olden days, when people were uneducated? Is not our modern education system that is responsible for the degradation amongst our people? Is not our education responsible for the increasing dishonesty? What is wrong if I say that our modern educational system has ruined the nation and the people.

In the olden days, the teachers had no worry about their life. It was enough if they simply had a small hut. A small 'pandal' in front of the hut was enough for the students to learn. It was enough if there were a few palm leaves and a cartful of sand to learn. Any pointed, thin stick was enough for writing. Teachers had no worry about anything else. If the teacher puts a word to the boys during the harvest season, many baskets full of food grains would come to his doors. It would become very difficult for him to find adequate space to store up the



grains. So, he will have to say 'enough' to the boys. Firewood will be supplied for a month. Vegetables would be gifted to him daily. During festival days, he would get the new clothes needed for his entire family. To meet his other expenses the parents would whole-heartedly give lumpsums, out of gratitude. If anything good or bad takes place in his family, the parents and boys would extend help voluntarily and make the function a grand success. The teachers took up the responsibility to educate the boys entrusted to their care. The parents shouldered the responsibility to look after the teachers welfare.



RADHAKRISHNAN

THE TEACHER

The late 19th century and early 20th century saw the emergence of verily a tribe of giants on the Indian scene, scientists, statesman, religious leaders and finally, philosophers. Sarvepalli Dr. Radhakrishnan was such a giant, a veritable genius, but with such a well-rounded and remarkable personality that he extended his greatness to those around him rather than make them appear wanting. In short, a born teacher, destined to shed light and lustre wherever he was. His life itself, simple but with the richness of intellect and humanism is a lesson in itself.

Born in 1888 at a place near Tirutani, Radhakrishnan received his early education at Tirutani, Tirupathi and Vellore and at the Madras Christian College for his degree course. After a brilliant academic career, he joined the Presidency College at Madras as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy. The young man made his mark immediately; his lofty diction, at choice of words and phrases and clarity of thought kept the students gazing in ever increasing awe and admiration. The abstruse subject, philosophy adorned with gems culled from other branches of learning as well and the dazzle would remain long after the lecture had ended.

It was a common sight to see students from other faculties attending these lectures, such was the magnetic pull of Radhakrishnan's

eloquence. His old students from Madras, Mysore and Calcutta testify to the sonorous voice, choice of words and expression and clarity of thought and the flow of ideas which exerted such an irresistible pull on the listeners. Soon his fame carried him on to the Mysore University and thence to the Calcutta University. Meanwhile he was invited to give guest lectures in England and the U.S.A. where the audience marvelled at his mastery of



subject and the language and his masterly exposition.

M. Yamunacharya, a former student at Mysore recalls with nostalgia, the thrill and admiration for the man whom he taught. He recollects him as a 'God intoxicated man'. He distinctly remembers his frequent exhortation to the students, not "to lose their foothold on earth while sweeping the skies." His wonderful eloquence, the warmth with which he taught an abstruse subject philosophy won him many

admirers. Radhakrishnan's teachings did not merely end with eloquent lectures. He established tender human relationship with his students and was ever ready with kind words, encouragement and meaningful guidance. Thus he won himself an admiring crowd of followers who installed him in a carriage and dragged the carriage themselves to the railway station, when he left for Calcutta to accept the King George V seat of Philosophy.

Radhakrishnan has the distinction of being made the Vice-Chancellor of the University when he was fifty years. He served as Vice-Chancellor of Andhra and Benares Hindu Universities and both saw the emergence of Radhakrishnan, the administrator. Those were the days of student unrest and violence. While a staunch patriot himself Radhakrishnan maintained a sane balance between the pressures of administration and students' aspirations. He kept the University campus free from the inroads of governmental authority on the one hand and infiltration of political parties as such on the other. While he inspired by his personal conduct and example the love of freedom and a passion for integrity in conduct and academic achievement amongst his juniors and students, he showed in high degree, to put in his own words, "an almost uncanny knack of putting myself en rapport with any individual, high or low, old or young".

While a staunch patriot himself Radhakrishnan maintained a sane balance between the pressures of administration and students' aspirations. He kept the University campus free from the inroads of governmental authority on the one hand and infiltration of political parties as such on the other.

As Fyzee recalls one such incident, while Radhakrishnan was Vice-Chancellor of Benares Hindu University, it appears that there was a sports meet at Benares and some wrong had been done to some one in the team from Bombay. The team from Bombay was highly incensed and decided to give practical shape to the virtuous indignation felt by everybody in

the team. Fyzee being a strong man and a martinet, was elected to meet Radhakrishnan. He was asked to see the Chairman and discuss the agenda. "His sunny smile, his gentle laughter, his wisdom and moderation won me over. I protested against the silken web that he was weaving around me, but love and wisdom and moderation are stronger than Krupp's steel. Fyzee went on to become an ardent admirer of Radhakrishnan.

Such then was Radhakrishnan, the teacher, faultless memory avid curiosity, capacity to analyse, clarity of thought and eloquence there were but the means. But the essence of the man lay in his humanity and love for his fellow beings, a dispassionate approach to problems but a compassionate approach to human beings. This was the magic formula which made Radhakrishnan, the great teacher, remembered vividly by his students everywhere.

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மாவட்ட ஆட்சித்தலைவர்கள் காவல் துறை அதிகாரிகள் மாநாடு

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MY MISSION IS TO MAKE TAMIL NADU THE NUMBER ONE STATE IN THE COUNTRY IN ALL RESPECTS

It is my proud privilege to be here before you to participate in today's function, in which the International Human Rights Defence Committee, a chartered consultative body of the United Nations has seen it fit to confer upon me, the Golden Star of Honour and Dignity Award, in recognition of my services to the cause of gender equality and protection of the weaker sections of Society in Tamil Nadu and India. I stand before you in all humility to receive this award today. It has been my great good fortune to have been able to serve the people of Tamil Nadu, whom I love more than

my own life, and the people of this great Nation. My mission is to make Tamil Nadu the Number One State in the Country in all respects, in terms of economic development, social advancement and, in particular, to be the first in giving a fair deal to women and the weaker sections of Society.

The citation that accompanies this award has made some laudatory references to my services to gender equality and to the uplift of the weaker sections of Society. This is, indeed, a cause that is very dear to my heart and for this reason, the

Golden Star that you have chosen to confer upon me today shall always have a special significance in my life. I have tried to live my personal and public life in a manner that can be inspiring to millions of my sisters who struggle against unfairness, subjugation, exploitation, insult, humiliation and marginalisation in their day-to-day lives. In my own life, I have had to face similar and innumerable challenges and it was only the burning desire to demonstrate that a woman can overcome any injustice, any adversity, to achieve success and power, and the passion to work for a fair deal for women that gave me the steely resolve to overcome overwhelming odds and be where I am today. I am, therefore, deeply touched that the International Human Rights Defence Committee has recognised my public service and the deep association of my life with the cause of a fair deal for women and the weaker sections of Society. This ideal is, in fact, at the centre of my life's journey. I humbly thank the International Human Rights Defence Committee for conferring upon me this award, which identifies me closely with the cause of equality and justice for women and uplift of the weaker sections of Society.

This would be an appropriate occasion for me to share with you some of my thoughts on equal status for women. I firmly believe that a society that cannot protect the dignity and honour of its women, cannot be termed a civil society. As Swami Vivekananda has eloquently put it and I quote, "All nations have attained greatness by paying proper respect to women. That country and that nation which do not respect women have never become great, nor will ever be in future."

Being deeply concerned about crimes against women, I was convinced that a clear focus in dealing with crimes against women could only be achieved by a structural change within the Police Force itself. It has been my mission to transform the Police Force into a humane, caring, sympathetic protector, a friend in need and counsellor of the people, particularly women. It is this thought process and conviction that led to

the first All Women Police Station in India which I established in 1992, and has today done so much to instill a sense of security and well-being among women in every nook and corner in Tamil Nadu, with 195 All Women Police Stations functioning all over the State. Further, to make this a systemic movement, I have placed particular emphasis on the recruitment of women in the Police Force. Every regular Police Station in Tamil Nadu will have a women's unit headed by a Sub Inspector and this will completely resolve the problem of easy access for women. The formation of the first ever Company of All Women Police Commandos in the country and the first exclusive All Women Police Battalion which I have created are not just symbolic, but have served to infuse a sense of confidence among women in every strata in Society. The Mobile Counselling Centres established in every district ensure that every woman gets the opportunity to come forward and have her grievance redressed. I have also ordered that the entire Police Force should address the all important issue of crimes against women, imbued with a sensitive and responsive attitude. Another issue of access and quick redressal of crimes against women has been tackled by the establishment of Women's Courts.

I have also brought about amendments to the existing law, providing for stringent punishments to offenders who indulge in sexual harassment of women. These measures have led to much greater public awareness and a willingness to approach the Police, particularly, on the part of women.

Discrimination against women in our society starts early. In fact, in certain communities in certain parts of India and Tamil Nadu, it starts even in the womb. The Cradle Baby Scheme that I launched was intended to counter this scourge of female infanticide. Awareness campaigns in districts prone to the practice of female infanticide like Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Dharmapuri and Salem, have been conducted and stern punitive action against the persons responsible for the perpetration of such crimes has been undertaken.



I have also given directions to the District Collectors to prevent female foeticide by taking stringent action under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, against unscrupulous laboratories and diagnostic centres that resort to unauthorized amniocentesis. This will go a long way in rectifying the adverse female to male ratio in the population.

Gender inequity is apparent in something as innocuous as a name which, in the Tamil Nadu context, is predominantly patronymic. In order to set right this distortion, for the first time in the history of our State, I ordered that when a child is admitted in a school, the mother's name can also form the initial of the child's name, according an unprecedented primacy to the Mother and Womanhood in Tamil Nadu. Similarly, I have also ordered the addition of the term "Kudimagal" to the Tamil language. The term recognizes the feminine gender for the Tamil equivalent of "Citizen", hitherto referred to as "Kudimagan", which had an overt masculine connotation. The term "Kudimagal" translates as "Citizeness" and confers a political and civic feminine identity for the first

time in the Tamil language: it is a clarion call in the march towards gender equity and an important step towards women's empowerment in Tamil Nadu.

In fact, empowerment of women is an integral part of the ethos of the political party that I head, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. It is with pride that I wish to state that for the first time in the history of any political movement in the world, it is only the AIADMK that has, under my leadership, introduced 33% reservation in all party posts exclusively for women, as also 33% reservation for women in elections to the Local Bodies in Tamil Nadu. This apart, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was the first to raise its voice to provide 33% reservation for women in Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies in the country.

The Constitution of India guarantees the right to education to all, but it is a fact that in many households, it is only the girl child who is forced to drop out of school to look after her younger siblings and is trapped in the drudgery of domestic

chores. Securing increased girl child enrolment in primary schools on par with boys is also a key Millennium Development Goal. I am deeply concerned about the plight of the girl child, marginalized and exploited in Society. To bring girls into the mainstream of education and economic progress, I announced the Girl Child Protection Scheme, a unique programme where the Government ensures that a girl child is financially secure and can never ever be deemed a liability.

burdens on their time, and multiple demands on their energy. Women are invariably both overworked and underpaid, and quite often unpaid. Their ability to avail on conventional, credit-linked anti-poverty programmes is also severely circumscribed by gender inequities that inhibit the banking system. The Women Self Help Group movement which I started in 1992 has today become the rallying point for lakhs and lakhs of women with a definite assurance of livelihood security.



Today, if you travel anywhere in Tamil Nadu you will see girls cycling away to school brimming with confidence. The free bicycle scheme for girls belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes has transformed rural society and enabled girls to take a giant leap forward towards the goal of true equity with boys.

Economic independence through continuous gainful employment is undoubtedly the key to the empowerment of women and to giving them an equal place alongside men in society. Our rural women have, by and large, been by-passed by technological advancement. There are multiple

It is also my firm belief that if only women are given a fair chance, they can excel men in every field, even those that are considered to be exclusively male bastions. In order to positively reinforce this sense of confidence, I have instituted an award entitled the "Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise" in memory of the late Indian Astronaut Kalpana Chawla.

The process of economic development has to be inclusive - bringing hope and cheer to the millions of the poor and the weaker disadvantaged sections of society. I have devoted myself to making this happen. Tamil Nadu is well on its way

to achieving the Millennium Development Goals well in advance of the target dates. Besides rapid reduction in poverty, the focus is on quality of life, empowerment and building up of self esteem. I do believe that we should reach out to the weaker sections and those disadvantaged who are vulnerable, so that economic development is meaningful to them. It has been my constant endeavour to upgrade the quality of services so that the poor and disadvantaged are reached, bringing hope and cheer to them.

are dominating others, but when we are in authentic relationship with others, when we are true to ourselves and our passions. Female power is a creative and nurturing force. It is not a fist. It is an open hand that can write, that can sculpt, that can dance, that can heal, that knows how to both give and receive".

This definition of power is sublimated in our own Indian concept of "Shakthi", and it has been



We often speak very easily of empowerment of women, sometimes without understanding what empowerment or power is all about. To illustrate the true meaning of women's empowerment, I would like to refer to a few lines from Gayle Brandeis, author of "Fruitflesh - Seeds of inspiration for Women Who Write," and I quote,

"Power is a misunderstood word. In our culture, power often means might, brute strength, sheer force. It brings to mind images like a fist, a boot, a bomb. It connotes power over others, power to destroy others. This is an archetypal masculine view of power. The feminine view of power is very different. As women, we find power not when we

my untiring endeavour to infuse this positive life-force into my fellow women. I have no hesitation in saying that the Golden Star of Honour and Dignity conferred upon me today, will inspire me to strive harder and harder to achieve this goal. I once again thank you for bestowing upon me this unique honour.

Speech delivered by
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
Hon'ble Chief Minister at
"Golden Star of Honour & Dignity Award"
function held at Madras University Centenary
Auditorium on 11.10.2004. The Award was
conferred by the International Human Rights
Defence Committee, Ukraine.

I CONGRATULATE EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF STF FOR THEIR TREMENDOUS FEAT OF VALOUR



Statement of **Selvi J JAYALALITHAA** Hon'ble Chief Minister on 18.10.2004

It is with a sense of great pride and fulfilment that I wish to announce to the people of Tamil Nadu the good news that the notorious forest brigand, bandit, murderer and dacoit Veerappan, along with this entire gang, has been shot dead by the Special Task Force (STF) on 18.10.2004 in a daring and intrepid operation, bringing to a conclusion the manhunt that has been on for nearly two decades.

Thiru K. Vijay Kumar, IPS, Additional Director General of Police and Chief of the Special Task Force has informed me over phone that this daring operation took place between 10.50 p.m.

and 11.10 p.m. on 18.10.2004 between Papparapatti and Dharmapuri, 10 kms. from Dharmapuri on the main road, when the forest brigand Veerappan and his accomplices were trying to get away in a vehicle. They were intercepted by the STF and were asked to surrender and come out of the vehicle through the rear door. They responded by opening fire. Thereafter one more warning was issued. The forest brigand and his accomplices continued firing at the Police. Thereafter, the STF personnel opened fire in retaliation and overcame the forest brigand and his men. The STF seized deadly arms and ammunition from the brigand and his men.



The dreaded forest brigand Veerappan and his entire gang consisting of Sethukkuli Govindan, Chandra Gowda and Sethu Mani were killed in this operation.

I was filled with a sense of pride at the success of this daring operation by the Tamil Nadu Police and I immediately contacted His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu. His Excellency the Governor extended his congratulations to me and the Special Task Force for this splendid operation ridding Tamil Nadu of a scourge which has defied a solution for more than a decade.

It may be recalled that I created the Special Task Force in 1993 during my first tenure as Chief Minister to nab the notorious brigand Veerappan and to put an end to the atrocities perpetrated on the people of this State by Veerappan and his gang. The efforts to nab Veerappan continued unabated till the completion of my tenure in 1996.

The successor DMK Government led by Mr. Karunanidhi rendered the Special Task Force ineffective by shutting down its operations and

virtually demobilising it. When I came back to power in 2001, I immediately took steps to reconstitute and reinvigorate the Special Task Force and give it the necessary backing to go after the bandit Veerappan. Every political party in the State had mocked me for my stand in this whole operation, particularly the DMK, who not only shut down the operations of the STF, almost disbanding the force, but also played a dubious role in the Rajkumar abduction crisis. Even the Media have been sceptical about the whole operation, and have indulged in lampooning the efforts of my Government to nab Veerappan. I did not flinch, nor waver in the pursuit of the dreaded bandit as I had immense faith in the professionalism and dedication of the Tamil Nadu Police, which I have always believed is undoubtedly the best Police Force in the country.

My unstinted support and relentless determination to back the STF operations has now been vindicated with the elimination of the most elusive bandit Veerappan and his accomplices. My unwavering stand, patience and perseverance, in the relentless pursuit of the dreaded bandit has now been completely vindicated.



From the Chief of the STF, the Additional Director General of Police Thiru. K. Vijay Kumar, IPS to the last constable in the STF from the officers to the cooks and orderlies, who have sacrificed their safety and the comfort of their homes, spending years away from their families, leading dangerous lives in the thick of

the Sathyamangalam forests, braving hardship and sickness, courting danger and death every day, I congratulate each man and Officer for this sterling achievement of scaling the very heights of a risky mission, in ridding our society of the murderous menace that has defied us all these years, spreading pillage, destruction and death and destroying life and the ecosphere.

All their sacrifices have now paid dividends. This is indeed a feather in the cap of the Special Task Force, a precious jewel of my Government.

It exemplifies my proud record of perfect maintenance of law and order. It is also a tribute to the valour, dedication and professionalism for which the Tamil Nadu Police is nationally and internationally acclaimed.

At this proud moment, I congratulate each and every member of the Special Task Force for their tremendous feat of valour, even as we pay homage to the supreme sacrifice of the officers and men of the Tamil Nadu Police who have laid down their lives in the manhunt for Veerappan.

* * *



Hon'ble Chief Minister Calls on Hon'ble Prime Minister

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh at 4.15 P.M. on 16.9.2004 and presented a detailed Memorandum setting out various issues relating to Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the rainfall deficit situation in Tamil Nadu leading to drought conditions. The Hon'ble Chief Minister drew the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the detailed Memorandum on the drought situation in Tamil Nadu which has been furnished to the Government of India on 28.8.2004. The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested that a Central Team be constituted and deputed to the State urgently to assess the drought situation and recommend the assistance package to undertake drought relief operations with support from the

National Calamity Contingency Fund. The Hon'ble Prime Minister indicated that a Central Team, was being constituted and would be deputed shortly, and that based on the assessment of the Central Team, assistance from the Government of India for the drought relief operations would be provided.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the extremely difficult situation in the Cauvery Delta Districts caused by the failure of Karnataka to release Tamil Nadu's legitimate share of water based on the interim orders of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The Hon'ble Chief Minister brought to the specific notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the bitter fact that the farmers of the Cauvery Delta Districts had not been able to raise even one crop in the last two irrigation seasons. Even in the current year, the farmers have not been

able to raise the Kuruva crop. Based on the available storage the farmers have now raised the Samba crop which will come to harvest only by January, 2005. Karnataka has a healthy storage of 97.38 TMC ft. while the Mettur Reservoir in Tamil Nadu has a storage of just 43 TMC ft. Karnataka has to release 35.36 TMC ft. to Tamil Nadu from its storage reservoirs to the Mettur Reservoir as per the orders of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that the farmers of the Cauvery Delta Districts in Tamil Nadu are apprehensive that if Tamil Nadu's legitimate share of water is not released, the Samba paddy crop which has just been transplanted will be affected as in the past two years, and this cannot be allowed to happen. The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to convene a "Meeting of the Cauvery River Authority at the earliest and direct Karnataka to release Tamil Nadu's legitimate share of Cauvery water. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the attempt by Karnataka to stall the functioning of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal which is now at the final stage of finalising its award. The Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasized that as the Tribunal has already taken fourteen years, under no circumstances should any such attempt be allowed.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister drew the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the antiquity of the Tamil language and its rich literature. The Hon'ble Chief Minister stressed that Tamil should be declared as a Classical Language on par with Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic which have already been declared as Classical Languages. Further, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also emphasized that Tamil and other languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India be given the status of Official Languages of the Government of India. Thirukkural in the elegance of its literary form, the profundity of its concepts, in its masterly exposition of the tenets of justice and in its universalism is unparalleled in world literature. Bringing this to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Chief Minister requested, that Thirukkural be declared as National literature.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister brought to the specific notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the repeal of POTA as proposed will denude the State Governments of their powers to combat terrorism. Any such move will leave States without a viable mechanism to counter the threat and danger from terrorist outfits and subversive elements. The Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasized that the demand of the Government of Tamil Nadu that the proposed move to repeal POTA, 2002, be reconsidered and dropped should be accepted.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also brought to the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister other issues relating to Tamil Nadu, viz., getting Kachatheevu Island on 'Lease in Perpetuity' terms to resolve the problems faced by Tamil fishermen at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy and allotment of additional quantity of kerosene for the Public Distribution System, interlinking of rivers, particularly the grid linking Peninsular Rivers, a Constitutional Amendment to enable the two tier System of Panchayat Raj and revival of Hindustan Photo Films Limited at Udthagamandalam, The Nilgiris.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister stressed the need to take up development projects for Tamil Nadu viz., Sethusamudram Canal Project, Colachel Port Development, a New International Airport for Chennai and Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal at Chennai with a Gas Grid for Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested financial support from the Government of India to the Government of Tamil Nadu to enable the Government of Tamil Nadu to take up a 300 MLD Desalination Project in the State Sector to provide water supply to Chennai City. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister the need to include the restoration of tanks and small irrigation structures in Tamil Nadu under the guidelines of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme as Tamil Nadu has exhausted its surface water potential and can only go for Rain Water Harvesting.

★ ★ ★



Additional Guest House of the Tamil Nadu House inaugurated

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated the Additional Guest House of the Tamil Nadu House at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-21, built at a cost of Rs.26.35 crores on 16.9.2004.

The Tamil Nadu House is located at Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri. It was constructed almost 3 decades back. The accommodation available and the facilities for holding conferences, exhibitions are quite inadequate. The Government of Tamil Nadu took up the Additional Guest House Project on a plot of land, measuring about 1.97 acres (7958.82 sq.m.) located close to Yashwant Place. This Additional Guest House is also close to the existing Tamil Nadu House.

The Additional Guest House has 79 guest rooms and is centrally air-conditioned. It is equipped with a good Auditorium with a seating capacity of more

than 100. Along with this Auditorium, a Conference Hall and a Business Centre have been built. The Additional Guest House also has a spacious basement car park besides dining halls. The building is set in a beautiful landscape.

The catering service has been outsourced and will be operated by a reputed caterer from Tamil Nadu providing the authentic cuisine of Tamil Nadu. This will also be open to the public who can sample the delicious fare of Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated this spacious, architecturally aesthetic, modern guest house by lighting a Kuthuvilakku. Thiru O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Prohibition & Excise and Revenue, Dr. V. Maitreya, Special Representative to the Government of Tamil Nadu at New Delhi, Members of Parliament, Thiru N. Narayanan, I.A.S., Chief Secretary (In-charge), Thiru Pavan Raina, I.A.S., Principal Resident Commissioner, Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, I.A.S., Secretary-I to Chief Minister, Thiru T.Pitchandi, I.A.S., Secretary, Public Department and Thiru N.S. Palaniyappan, I.A.S., Secretary, Public Works Department attended the inaugural function. ★

TAMIL NADU IS WELL ON ITS WAY TO ACHIEVING THE MONITORABLE GOALS OF THE TENTH PLAN

- Selvi J JAYALALITHAA Hon'ble Chief Minister



Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia

present at the Session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

Hon'ble Members of the Union Planning Commission and

Senior Officers,

At the outset I would like to extend my greetings to the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman and Hon'ble Members of the reconstituted Union Planning Commission. We are gathered here to discuss and finalise Tamil Nadu's Annual Plan for 2005-2006. I would also like to share with you some views on the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan, which I had wanted to bring to your notice at the recent meeting you had convened at Bangalore, but which I could not attend, as I had to be unavoidably

Based on the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan, I am of the view that we should push for higher growth and seek rapid reduction in poverty. I welcome the idea of the Deputy Chairman that we should carefully utilize a portion of the foreign exchange reserves to build infrastructure and thereby once again kick start the growth process which has been seriously affected by successive droughts. May I request you to pursue this idea and also make available these funds to States willing to invest in infrastructure for rapid future growth?

2005-2006 is the fourth year of the Tenth Plan. Tamil Nadu is well on its way to achieving the monitorable goals of the Tenth Plan and also the

planned outlay of Rs.40,000 crores for the Tenth Plan which I had set out. As you are no doubt aware, we have reached this position coming out of the morass of a fiscal crisis which enveloped the State by the end of 2000-2001. I am glad we have achieved the Plan outlays set out each year. You will note that Tamil Nadu is one of the very few States which has consistently achieved the approved plan outlay. To ensure this we have implemented the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2003 and we are on track in implementing the Medium Term Fiscal Programme set out under this Act. You will note that we deliver on what we promise.

The mid term review of the Tenth Plan indicates that we have to develop a fresh strategy for rapid economic development. We have proceeded to do so. This strategy includes reinvigorating agricultural growth, improving the investment climate to facilitate accelerated growth in manufacturing and services, achieving fiscal correction and stabilization and above all ensuring poverty reduction. We have refashioned our economic strategy keeping these major objectives in mind.

First and foremost we have to impart new momentum to the Primary Sector. Tamil Nadu has had to face three successive drought years. This has led to a sharp contraction in agricultural output and income. This year with a good North East Monsoon so far, we hope to see the Primary Sector rebound and register good growth. The experience of successive droughts and the acute water crisis confronting Tamil Nadu, which has one of the lowest per capita water availability in the country, has made me refashion our cropping strategy. I have placed the greatest emphasis on crop diversification, going in for less water intensive crops such as sweet sorghum, sugar beet and jatropha and connecting this to a bio-fuel manufacturing programme. The crop diversification programme also places emphasis on higher value addition through a focus on horticulture.

I have also launched a Comprehensive Wasteland Development Programme to bring nearly two million hectares of current fallow and permanent fallow lands lying waste under green cover in phases. This year we will register good progress under this Programme. Our new strategy for the Primary Sector thus involves crop diversification, new technologies for higher farm productivity, better communication techniques for quicker adoption of new practices, efficient management of available water and improved market access.

A major growth constraint is the lack of fresh water. Tamil Nadu has almost entirely exhausted its surface water. No new major and medium irrigation projects are possible. It is in this context that I have been repeatedly asking for the guidelines relating to the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) to be modified, to enable the restoration of traditional water sources to be taken up in Tamil Nadu. I also took up this issue with the Hon'ble Prime Minister when I met him on 16.9.2004. May I request the Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission to intervene and ensure that a water starved State like Tamil Nadu does not get neglected because of the current guidelines under the AIBP, more so with the significant step-up in the allocation for this programme? I request that at least an annual allocation of Rs.200 crores under this programme may be made available to Tamil Nadu with a revised set of guidelines.

I am also keen that we make an early start to the Inter - Linking of Rivers and this can start with the Peninsular River Water Grid linking Mahanadhi with the Gundar river in Tamil Nadu. China has made rapid strides implementing such projects and we should not fall behind.

I also wish to bring to your notice the need to encourage crop diversification by promoting the bio-fuel programme, I have written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to approve a package of incentives to encourage bio-fuel production. This includes

exemption from import duty on technology and capital goods imported for this programme, treating the bio-fuel industry on par with the Infrastructure Sector like the Power Sector and providing similar concessions, exemption of bio-fuels from Union Excise Duty, and exemption of imported feedstock from Import Duty. The crisis caused by repeated increases in petroleum prices has to be addressed on a long term basis by giving maximum encouragement to the bio - fuel programme. May I request the Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission to have this matter studied in depth so that a suitable package of incentives can be announced quickly?

I entirely agree with the views that you have expressed recently that the manufacturing sector has to be provided fresh momentum. I have set out a new Industrial Policy 2003 for Tamil Nadu. Initiating State level reforms, this policy framework places the focus on provision of quality infrastructure, adequate energy supply together with a focus on its reliability and quality, labour reforms encouraging mobility, deregulation and governance reforms to reduce transaction time and cost, and State level tax reforms. I am glad to inform you that we are making systematic progress on each of these issues and these reforms are yielding results.

Provision of world Class infrastructure is a must, if we are to compete with other economies in the world market. While Public Sector investment has to continue in a big way, we are also encouraging investments through Public - Private partnerships. Tamil Nadu is the pioneer in several such initiatives. I find that Public Sector investment is constrained by a ceiling on the borrowings of the State Government and Public Sector undertakings. There has to be transparency and clarity in arriving at any such debt ceiling and enough headroom to invest infrastructure has to be provided.

I know you have some concerns regarding the Power Sector. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board,

which is a vertically integrated organization, has the distinction of providing reliable and quality energy to its consumers. 61% of the energy is metered, which is the highest in the country. Transmission and distribution losses are the lowest in the country. Despite this record, I am surprised to find that the assistance under Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme (APDRP) has been reduced considerably. May I request you to restore this? Issues in the Power Sector such as pricing of electricity for different consumers, unbundling and introduction of competition, universal metering are all quite complex. In view of the successive droughts and the sharp contraction in the agricultural output due to the water crisis, we have to nurse the Farm Sector and consequently reforms will have to be calibrated. May I request the Deputy Chairman to use his good offices to initiate a consultation process on all these complex issues relating to the power sector, so that a genuine national consensus can be arrived at in due course?

I wish to establish the Chennai Metropolitan Area as among the best cities in the world, attracting the very best talent. It is for this reason that I launched a Ten Year Investment Plan for the Chennai Metropolitan Area with an outlay of Rs.18,000 crores in 2003 - 2004. This has yielded good results. On a fresh assessment, I find the infrastructure needs are much more and have to be addressed quickly. I understand that you are looking into the needs of Delhi and Mumbai. The Chennai Metropolitan Area should not get ignored. May I request that the Chennai Metropolitan Area be included in this programme? May I also request your good offices for the clearance of a new International Airport of World class standards at Chennai?

Tamil Nadu, particularly Chennai, is attracting Information Technology investments in a big way. We are undertaking major investments in infrastructure to handle the huge expansion. This, you will appreciate, calls for a lot of investment by

the Government. Unfortunately, Tamil Nadu and Chennai in particular, do not get rewarded in any manner including revenues to the State for this effort. May I request you to find a solution, enabling such States to get an infrastructure fund linked to performance in this sector?

We are also executing e-governance projects including a State Wide Area Network. May I request special support for these e-governance initiatives?



Tamil Nadu has done extremely well in the Social Sectors and the rapid rise in its ranking in the Human Development Index (HDI) in the last decade from 7 to 3 is indicative of this effort. I am glad to inform you that Tamil Nadu is on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. I have placed maximum emphasis on initiatives such as the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme, Girl Child Protection Scheme, Cradle Baby Scheme, Infant protection and care, reduction of maternal mortality and so on. We are making rapid progress.

The National Common Minimum Programme includes the midday meal programme for school

children. I understand substantial funds have been allocated for this programme. Tamil Nadu is a world famous pioneer in these programmes. Although our annual cost is Rs.844.97 crores on all nutrition interventions, the support we get from the Government of India is meagre, amounting to just Rs.201.17 crores. If we take the primary school component alone, as against the expenditure of Rs.418.77 crores, the support we get is Rs.48.98 crores as the value of the rice provided. May

I request that full assistance for our entire programme be provided?

I find that under the National Common Minimum Programme there is a step-up in the assistance for certain programmes. May I request you to provide Tamil Nadu a substantial step-up in the support under the National Slum Development Programme where the amount allocated has been doubled? I am also glad that the allocation under the National Social Assistance Programme has been stepped up substantially. May I therefore request that an additional allocation of Rs.100 crores be made under the National Social Assistance

Programme for Tamil Nadu? This is required just to clear the arrear claims which are pending to the extent of Rs.80 crores.

The growth prospects of the Tamil Nadu economy which were quite dismal when I assumed office in May 2001, are now looking very bright. We need to be assisted in this effort. I find there is a tendency to penalize the efficient States for their performance and reward the laggard States on grounds of equity. While this argument may have had merit in the past, it is my considered view that the answer does not lie in pumping more funds into these States at the cost of other well performing States. This is what is happening with the big step-up of Rs.1600 crores as Special Plan Assistance. Planned development should not become a process of dragging down those who are doing well. You should take up capacity building and governance reforms in such States to make for better outcomes.

It is in this context that I would like to refer to the clearance of certain externally aided projects for Tamil Nadu. In May 2001, when I assumed office, Tamil Nadu had a very poor pipeline of new projects. With tremendous effort we have built up a new pipeline of major development projects for financing by the World Bank and other multilateral institutions. These include the Health System Project, Poverty Reduction Project, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Water Resources Consolidation Project II, Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project III, and Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Project III. Suddenly we are confronted with a new strategy designed to channelise these funds only to certain States, and restricting the same in the case of States like Tamil Nadu. This has to be corrected. May I request you to have this policy revised so that equal opportunity is extended to all States and those with a better record are not denied funds?

We have already forwarded proposals to the Union Planning Commission for the development of the "Eastern Ghats" and the "Coastal Areas" at a cost of Rs.411 crores and Rs.265.50 crores respectively for special funding. I would like to use this opportunity to request the Deputy Chairman to kindly consider the above two proposals, which will conserve our natural resources and preserve the ecology of these areas, besides leading to the economic uplift of the people.

I would now like to turn to the question of resources for the Plan. As you may have observed, we have done very well in setting right the State's finances and generating resources for implementing the State Plan without any shortfall. I am confident that Tamil Nadu can move to a higher growth trajectory if we are given full support for implementing the Plan. We are targeting a Plan outlay of more than Rs.9000 crores for 2005-2006 and the assessment of resources indicates that this is feasible. But this requires your full support in the form of a bigger step-up in Normal Central Assistance. May I also request a special allocation under "Other Central Assistance" particularly from the special allotment that you have? Tamil Nadu's fiscal rating is the best in the country. May I therefore also request that Tamil Nadu be given an additional allocation of market borrowings of Rs.300 crores? With this support we can definitely aim at a higher Plan outlay in 2005-2006 to impart fresh momentum to the growth process in Tamil Nadu.

*Speech made by Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
Hon'ble Chief Minister during
discussion with Deputy Chairman,
Planning Commission at
New Delhi on 30.11.2004.*

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'Tele - Justice' first of its kind in the country



Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

I am happy to participate in this Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts, which has been convened, to evaluate the progress that we have made in firmly establishing the rule of law in the country, to chart out a new road map for the speedy resolution of disputes that would reinforce the majesty of the rule of law in the minds of the people. On this occasion, I consider it appropriate to share with you a few thoughts.

The idea of Development as Freedom is one that has been dealt with extensively by economists like Amartya Sen, who has linked the rights and opportunities of citizens in terms of political freedom, economic opportunities, social facilities, transparency

guarantees and protective security, as interlinked factors that contribute to the enhancement of human freedom. It seems to me that in civil society, apart from the five freedoms listed by Amartya Sen, the access or the capability to access the justice system must be viewed as an equally defining right that would enhance the freedom of the individual. The Constitution of this Country, no doubt, grants all individuals the Fundamental Right to Equality before the Law. However, there is no doubt that the same socio-economic factors that lead to the relative deprivation of the weaker sections of Society in being unable to access the educational system or the public healthcare system or even the market, also equally apply to their capacity to access the system of justice at various levels. This leads to a situation where the economic or political rights are taken away from them, because of their limited ability to seek speedy and effective judicial redress, by reason of ignorance, high costs and the inability to sustain themselves during prolonged litigation.

It is in this context that this Conference will have to assess whether we are adequately prepared and equipped to uphold the majesty of the rule of law, to sustain the fairness of our criminal justice system, which have been set out as guiding principles by the Founding Fathers of the Nation in the Constitution of India.

The Constitution of India is a brilliant tapestry, weaving into it the co-ordinated interplay of the three instrumentalities of the State, namely the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. It has built in a system of checks and balances in a harmonious blend such that the domain of each wing is not



disrupted by the other. While the Executive has to maintain law and public order by keeping disruptive forces at bay, and strive to bring about rapid economic growth, and thereby provide a congenial atmosphere for both the Legislature, and the Judiciary to function, it is necessary that each institution should respect the other's domain, eschewing transgressions.

Before going to the specific subjects listed in the agenda, I would like to briefly dwell on the pith and substance of what this Conference should signify. It should signal an era where we can truly break free from the injustice manifest in William Gladstone's aphorism that, "Justice delayed, is justice denied". It would seem that we are inexorably caught up in the pendency of litigation before the Courts. The need of the hour is to infuse speed in disposal so that there is no disenchantment with the system. Therefore, an onerous duty is cast upon this Conference to devise new instrumentalities and approaches to seek and attain a dramatic reduction in the pendency before Courts.

Most States of the Union have a severely strained financial position and are faced with the compulsion to expend whatever resources they have on direct interventions for the poor and needy.

My Government has consistently ensured that the maximum resources are made available for the judicial system in Tamil Nadu. Funds to the extent of Rs.65.44 crores have been made available for the establishment of the Bench of the High Court of Madras at Madurai. This prestigious project has been completed and was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 24.7.2004. It fulfills a long pending demand of the people of the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu. This shows our commitment to the rule of law and administration of justice, as we have continuously provided unstinted support and resources for this project. It is a matter of pride that the Madras High Court has achieved the distinction of being one of the few High Courts in the country to record a higher rate of disposal per High Court Judge.

I consider that a liberal scheme of Central Government support to tackle the huge pendency of cases in a time bound manner is a must, if we are not to be mere by-standers watching the backlog grow. May I, therefore, suggest that a clear decision on an appropriate scheme of Central support for the establishment of new courts with adequate facilities be finalised as part of this Conference?

I have been passionate about securing the goal of true gender equity in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is undoubtedly the leading State in attaining the goal of equality before law for women. I have consciously promoted the achievement of this goal by taking the lead in the establishment of All Women Police Stations, Mahila Courts and Family Courts. I launched the first All Women Police Station in India in 1992. Today, I have ensured that in every operational Police Sub-Division, there is an All Women Police Station. A total of 195 such Police Stations entirely staffed by women have been established so far in the State. I have also established Mobile Counselling Centres, which constitute an outreach service to create greater awareness among women, so that they can come forward to put forth their grievances without fear of persecution. This awareness has resulted in a new demand for speedy redressal of grievances. Consequently, my Government has already established 6 Mahila Courts. I have recently given directions to constitute two more Mahila Courts, one at Cuddalore and another at Perambalur. May I suggest that the Ministry of Law and Justice approach the Twelfth Finance Commission to set apart adequate funds for all the States to establish at least one Mahila Court in each district, as part of the programme of upgradation of the standards of administration? This is an imperative need if we are to effectively deal with gender inequity, discrimination and

persecution that are deeply embedded in our Society.

We have also established 6 Family Courts under the Family Courts Act, 1984, in Tamil Nadu. Even though it is mandatory to establish such Courts only in Cities where the population exceeds 1 million, I am glad to indicate that we have established Family Courts in Cities like Madurai, Coimbatore and Salem where the population has not yet crossed 1 million. I am also happy to state that from the level of 4897 cases in 2001, which were disposed of by these Family Courts, the disposal has gone up to 7163 cases in 2003, and during 2004, 7381 cases have been disposed of so far. Unfortunately, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme introduced in 2002 - 2003 does not support the States which had established Family Courts even earlier. May I suggest that the Central Government also bring into the ambit of this scheme such Family Courts as have been already established, even prior to the launch of the scheme, and to provide them with funds? I also consider that the scale of assistance is very meagre and needs to be enhanced. A liberal scheme will enable the States to establish Family Courts in many more districts rapidly.

My Government has accorded priority to the Modernization Programme in order to facilitate the speedy disposal of cases and eliminate delays inherent in the due process of law. I am glad to inform this august assembly that Tamil Nadu is the first State in the Country to establish a "Tele Justice" System, which connects 9 prisons, including two exclusive prisons for women and 270 Courts in Tamil Nadu. This facility, which has been established at a cost of Rs.8.61 crores, covers 78 locations in the State and enables remand extension of prisoners, even while they remain in the prison premises, by the Judicial Magistrates seated in their Court

Chambers, through Video Conferencing. The cumbersome process of escort and production of prisoners before the Judicial Magistrates in the Courts is thus dispensed with. It is a win-win system since, not only does it eliminate the possibility of escape of prisoners during transit, or the possible smuggling of contraband into the prison premises, and overcrowding of Courts, but also results in substantial savings in the expenditure on the manpower involved in escort and fuel cost. I commend this scheme for adoption by other States and request the Government of India to liberally assist the State Governments in this regard.

Realising the importance of Information Technology, my Government has already provided, Rs.2.80 crores, which includes Rs.1.42 crores being the Government of India's share for the computerization of the High Court of Madras, and the High Court Bench at Madurai. However, we must go even further and implement a project to provide end-to-end IT solutions. Two such project proposals, for the High Court of Madras at a cost of Rs.5 crores, and another project for the High Court Bench at Madurai at a cost of Rs.2.54 crores, have been sent to the Government of India for sanction under the Centrally Sponsored scheme. May I request their early clearance?

Repairs to several dilapidated old buildings where many Courts are functioning have to be carried out. It is also important that adequate housing facilities are provided for judicial officers. My Government has sent a detailed proposal for the construction of Court Buildings and houses for the judicial officers at a cost of Rs.140 crores. It is my firm view that the Government of India should provide substantial assistance to the State to implement these proposals.

Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in the establishment of Fast Track Courts and so far, we have established 49 Fast Track Courts. This has enabled the disposal of 1,05,395 cases, which is the best performance in the country. We must sustain this momentum. Therefore, the Government of India should continue the funding of these Fast Track Courts beyond 31.3.2005 also, by an adequately funded scheme. If such financial support is forthcoming, it will be possible for us to increase the number of Fast Track Courts as has been requested by the High Court of Madras.

In Tamil Nadu, we have placed great emphasis on various Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms. The Lok Adalat scheme under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, has registered tremendous progress. We have recently provided an exclusive building for the State Legal Services Authority at a cost of Rs.1.85 crores. We have, also launched a scheme to build proper Legal Aid Centres in each District Court Complex. This is to facilitate the conduct of the Lok Adalat. We have also gone down to the Taluk level and 141 Taluk level Legal Service Committees are functioning.

Spreading legal awareness and creating legal literacy has been taken up as a campaign by the State Legal Services Authority. An Information, Education and Communication campaign has been launched by using different communication techniques, including the mass media, CDs, booklets and documentaries. A legal literacy campaign has already been held in 14,184 habitations in Tamil Nadu. The Lok Adalat has also been extended to cover new areas, including cases relating to the Negotiable Instruments Act. Special Lok Adalat are also held to settle cases relating to Public Sector Undertakings. I believe that we must



effectively implement a system of legal education which goes beyond legal literacy so that all citizens are aware of their rights as well as their duties. This should enable them to seek proper redress of infringement of their rights. Conciliation as a means of settlement of disputes, avoiding expensive litigation, should be encouraged.

The Prisoner's Adalat scheme is doing well in Tamil Nadu. First started in the Central Prison, Chennai, it has now been extended to other Central Prisons. This has proved to be a useful facility that allows prisoners easier access to the Presiding Officers of the Courts.

The independence of the Judiciary is the corner-stone of our Constitution. In order to ensure this independence to uphold the majesty of law, several reforms are required in the service conditions of the Judiciary. We ought to raise the retirement age of a Judge of the High Court from 62 years to 65 years,

and a Judge of the Supreme Court from 65 years to 67 years, in order to utilize their rich experience. The Judges of the Superior Judiciary should be treated as a completely different class, and I have no hesitation in affirming that they should be given all the benefits, including the provision, even after retirement, of all facilities that they received while in service, including pension at the level of the last pay drawn, vehicle, personal staff etc. After retirement, many Judges render invaluable service heading Commissions and Tribunals. It is but appropriate that they are extended the same facilities and privileges as serving Judges.

There has to be a special provision of at least Rs.50,000/- per year per Judge, to enable the Superior Judiciary to keep up-to-date with the latest law books, periodicals and journals. Governments should provide full support to enable Judges to attend Conferences at National and International levels, with no ceiling on such visits abroad. This facility should be extended to retired

Judges as well. We should utilize the services of retired Judges of the Superior Judiciary, drawing on their rich, experience. They should automatically be the first choice for appointment to high offices such as Ambassadors, Governors, etc.

I have briefly covered the issues listed in the agenda before us today. In the light of the Supreme Court's observations, every effort has been taken in Tamil Nadu to provide better amenities, service conditions and emoluments to judicial officers. States will have to be supported with a liberal scheme of financial assistance under various heads, which I have already outlined. I would once again like to reiterate the need for a completely new Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide for the establishment of new Courts, including Fast Track Courts. This alone will enable fresh momentum to be imparted.

This Conference is indeed unique, since it brings together the Executive and the Judiciary in one forum, in an effort to evaluate and assess our position, to set out specific action plans geared to ensure the speedy delivery of justice. These deliberations will certainly be useful in providing the acceleration needed in the incessant race to keep up with the huge inflow of new litigation. It is clear that we have to pursue several fast tracks, including Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms, if we are to achieve our common goal of establishing and embellishing the rule of law and justice.

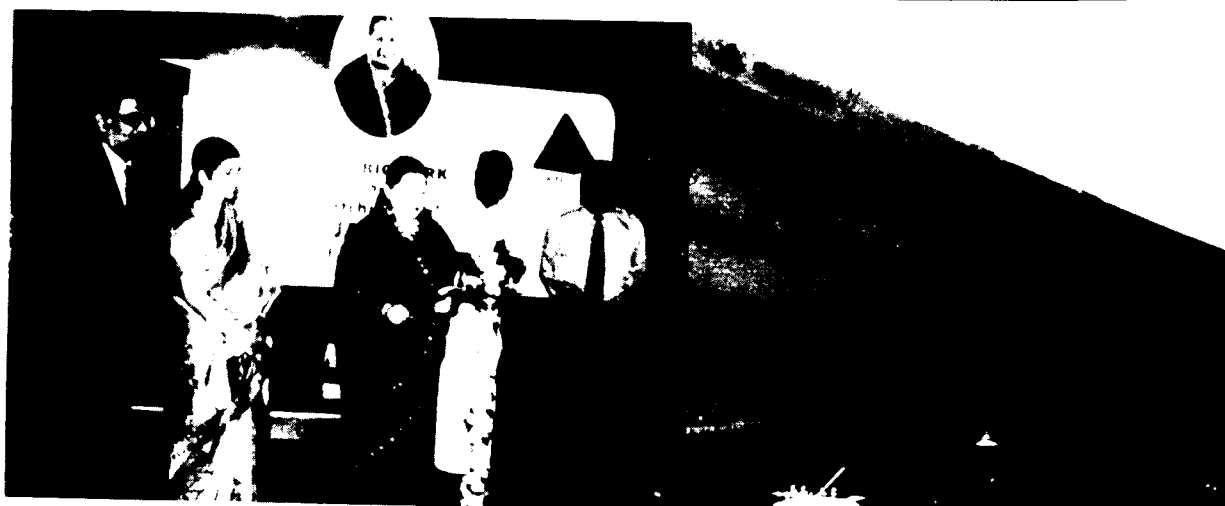
While every effort will be made to provide the resources and the facilities for judicial administration to function effectively, it is ultimately up to the judicial wing to set for itself the highest professional and ethical standards and to maintain them in upholding the majesty of the Rule of Law. It is relevant to note that the accountability and discipline

of the Judiciary must be by means of self-regulation through procedures developed in house. It is not for the Superior Judiciary to be regulated by any external authority. We have every belief and confidence that the self-regulation exercised by the Superior Judiciary will only embellish and enhance the lustre of the Judiciary.

For all of us in public life, whether we serve the people of this country as leaders who have been elected to power, or as public servants appointed to serve them or even as those who rise to the Bench to dispense justice, I wish to put before you, the words of Henry Brougham and I quote, "It was the boast of Augustus that he found Rome of brick and left it of marble. But how much nobler will be the sovereign's boast when he shall have it to say that he found law ... a sealed book and left it a living letter; found it the patrimony of the rich and left it the inheritance of the poor; found it the two-edged sword of craft and oppression and left it the staff of honesty and the shield of innocence". (Unquote)

Cicero has said; "The Welfare of the people is the ultimate law". I believe that in a democracy, the *raison d'être* of government is the welfare of the people and all laws must be made only for the good of the people. It is a sacred duty cast upon the Legislature. The same holds good for the other pillar of our democracy - the Judiciary. It will, therefore, be our common endeavour to provide all the necessary facilities and support needed, not only for the speedy disposal of cases, but also to achieve a qualitative improvement in the dispensation of justice.

*Speech delivered by
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Conference of Chief Ministers and
Chief Justices of High Courts held
on 18.9.2004 at New Delhi.*



Hon'ble Chief Minister SELVI J JAYALALITHAA inaugurates TICEL BIO PARK

Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa inaugurated the TICEL Bio Park (Tidco Centre for Life Sciences) set up at a cost of Rs.62.5 crores with technical assistance from the Cornell University, USA, at Taramani, Chennai on 10.11.2004.

Hon'ble Chief Minister had laid foundation for the Bio Park on 22.4.2003 in order to provide a park with world class infrastructural facilities for research in Life Sciences which would generate thousands of employment opportunities.

TICEL Bio Park has been built at an outlay of Rs.62.5 crores by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) with the technical assistance of Cornell University of USA in an area of 1,32,642 sq.feet with 6 floors.

The ground floor with an area of 22,000 sq. feet, houses the Bio Resource Centre with six modern laboratories for the research activities in Microbiology and Fermentation, Molecular Biology, Plant Tissue Culture, Animal Tissue Culture, Downstream Processing and analysis. A training centre with video conferencing facility has also been set up in this floor.

The other five floors would be allocated to companies involved in bio technology research for

rent, lease or they can buy the required space. All the floors adhere to Bio Safety Levels (BSL - 2 and BSL - 3) in accordance with international standards, facilities like protected drinking water, compressed air, vacuum facilities and de-mineralised water have been provided. The labs have been provided with centralised air conditioner with 100 percent power back up and waste treatment and disposal facility. Rain water harvesting structures have also been built.

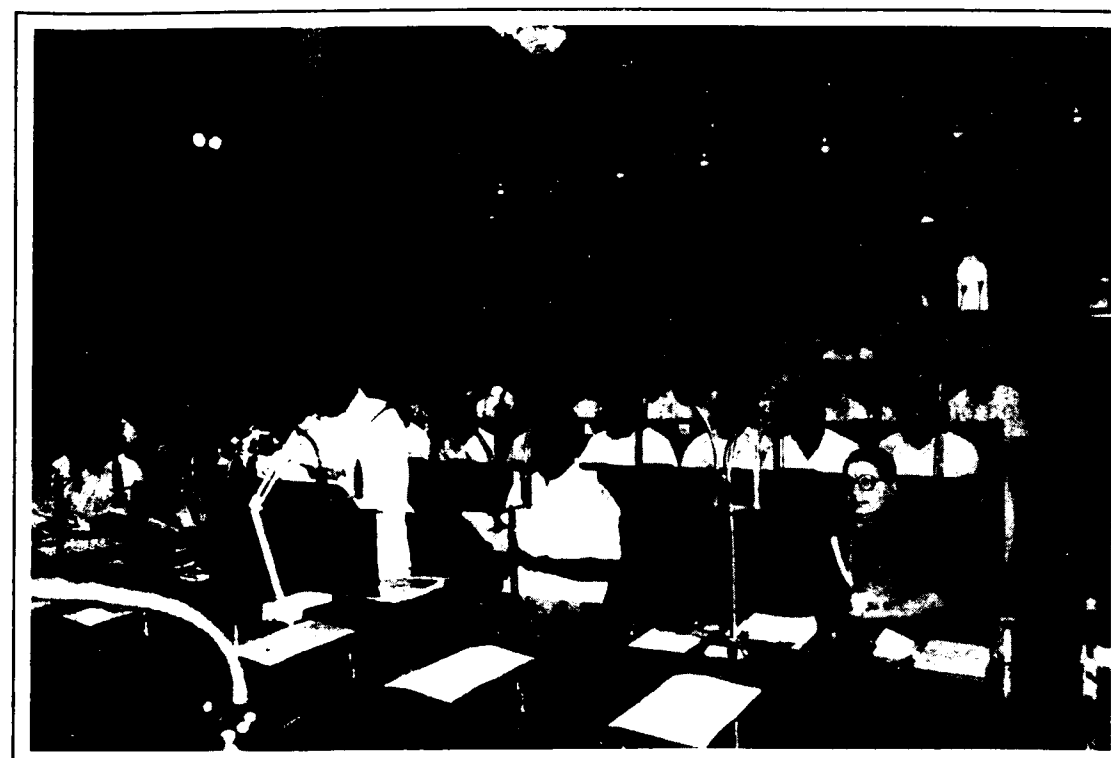
This TICEL Bio Park would generate 1,500 direct and indirect employment opportunities in the first phase. It is expected that by these activities Tamil Nadu would earn bio technology investment of Rs. 1,000 crores in 5 years time.

This world class TICEL Bio Park was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 10.11.2004. Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. Nainar Nagendran, Chief Secretary Tmt. Lakshmi Pranesh I.A.S., Finance Secretary Thiru N. Narayanan I.A.S., Industries Secretary Thiru. Ramesh Ram Misra I.A.S., and Managing Director, Ticel Bio Park Thiru K.R.Viswanathan participated in the function.

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SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 2004 - 2005

Thiru. C. PONNAIYAN Hon'ble Minister for Finance



I rise to present the Second Supplementary Estimates for the year 2004-2005. A detailed statement explaining the demand for Supplementary Grants is placed on the table of the House. The Supplementary Estimates placed before the House are for a sum of Rs.60.35 crores. Of this, a sum of Rs.53.12 crores is in the Revenue Account and the balance amount of Rs.7.23 crores is in the Capital and Loan Accounts.

The Supplementary Estimates are being presented mainly to obtain the approval of the Legislature for expenditure on "New

Service" incurred through advances from the Contingency Fund since the presentation of First Supplementary Estimates for this financial year on 27th July 2004 and to enable recoupment of the Contingency Fund.

To provide relief to Fishermen, Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.1.83 crores as grant towards reimbursement of Central Excise duty on High Speed Diesel Oil supplied to the mechanised fishing vessels below 20 meter length. A sum of Rs.1.83 crores has been given as advance from the Contingency Fund to meet the expenditure initially. A sum of Rs. 1.83 crores has been

included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.7 - Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department - Fisheries".

As a process of strengthening the Medical facilities in Government hospitals, Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.1.95 crores for procurement of equipments to Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai. A sum of Rs.1.95 crores has been included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.18 - Health and Family Welfare Department".

The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.369.90 crores to undertake 26 important Road works within the Chennai Metropolitan Area. This is to help improve traffic flow in these roads. A token provision is included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.20 - Highways Department" as this is a New Service.

The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.22.71 crores towards payment of cash award of Rs.3 lakhs each to the 757 Police Officers/Police men, who were deployed to the Special Task Force which has undertaken the successful operation for eliminating the forest brigand Veerappan and his gang. A sum of Rs.22.71 crores has been given as advance from the Contingency Fund to meet the expenditure initially. A sum of Rs.22.71 crores has been included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.21 - Home Department - Police".

In order to strengthen the infrastructure facilities of Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals, the Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.187.29 crores for construction of College and Hospital buildings at Government Tirunelveli Medical College and

Hospital, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari Medical College and Hospital at Asaripallam in Kanniyakumari District, Government Thoothukudi Medical College and Hospital, Thoothukudi, Government Vellore Medical College and Hospital, Vellore and the Government Medical College and Hospital, Theni. A token sum of Rs.6,000 has been included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.38 - Public Works Department". Necessary funds will be provided based on progress of works.

A sum of Rs.15.61 crores is additionally required for the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan scheme. A token sum of Rs.2,000 is included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.41. School Education Department" and the rest will be found by reappropriation.

The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.87 lakhs for the rejuvenation camp of elephants for the year 2004-2005. A sum of Rs. 87 lakhs has been included in the Supplementary Estimates under "Demand No.45 - Tamil Development-Culture and Religious Endowments Department - Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments".

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I commend the Second Supplementary Estimates for 2004-2005 for the acceptance of the House.

- Speech of Thiru C.Ponnalyan,
Hon'ble Minister for Finance
presenting the
Second Supplementary
Estimates for the year 2004-2005
to the Tamil Nadu Legislative
Assembly on 17th November 2004.

REVIEW OF TRENDS IN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO THE BUDGET 2004-2005

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has enacted the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003 (Act No. 16 of 2003).

According to Section 6 (2) of this Act, the Minister-in-charge of the Department of Finance shall review every half year, the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, remedial measures to be taken to achieve the Budget targets and place before the Legislative Assembly, the outcome of such reviews. Section 6 (3) of the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, states that while placing before the Legislative Assembly the outcome of such review, the Minister shall make a statement explaining:

- Any deviation in meeting the obligations cast on the State Government under this Act,
- Whether such deviation is substantial and relates to the actual or the potential budgetary outcomes, and
- The remedial measures the State Government proposes to take.

The Minister for Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu, conducted a review of half

yearly trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget 2004-2005 on November 12, 2004. The outcome of this review is placed before the Legislative Assembly.

REVIEW OF REVENUE RECEIPTS

The total revenue receipts of the Government include the following :

- Tamil Nadu's Share in Central Taxes
- State's Own Tax Revenues
- State's Non-Tax Revenues
- Grants-in-Aid from the Government of India.

The Budget for 2004-2005 estimates total revenue receipts of Rs.24,792.30 crores. According to the pre-actuals till end-September 2004, the Total Revenue Receipts of the State Government were Rs. 12,519.30 crores.

Thus, the Total Revenue Receipts till 30th September 2004, constitute 50.50 percent of the projections in the Budget Estimates. The following table provides details of the Total Revenue Receipts of the State Government in relation to the Budget Estimates of 2004-2005.

TRENDS IN TOTAL REVENUE RECEIPTS OF GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU UPTO 30.9.2004				
		B.E.2004-2005	Pre-Actuals till 30.9.2004	% of Budget Estimates
		(Rupees in crores)		
1.	Share in Central Taxes	3709.82	1849.88	49.86
2.	States Own Tax Revenues	17438.64	9086.10	52.10
3.	State's Non-Tax Revenues	1899.90	1028.47	54.13
4.	Grants-In-Aid from Government of India	1743.94	554.85	31.82
5.	Total Revenue Receipts	24792.30	12519.30	50.50

a) Share in Central Taxes: Based on the Government of India's Budget Estimates 2004-2005 presented in July, 2004, the anticipated Share of Tamil Nadu in Central Taxes is Rs.4430.84 crores. This is higher than that estimated in the State's Budget Estimates, namely, Rs.3709.82 crores. This is worked out on the basis of the principles set out by the Eleventh Finance Commission. Tamil Nadu's Share in the divisible pool of net Central Taxes has been fixed at 5.385 percent by the Eleventh Finance Commission.

The receipts till end-September 2004 have been Rs. 1849.88 crores. This is 49.86 percent of the Budget Estimates. The final position will only be known after the Government of India finalises its Revised Estimates for the current year based on trends in the collection of Central Taxes.

b) State's Own Tax Revenues: The following table highlights the trends in collection of State's Own Tax Revenues.

COLLECTION OF STATE'S OWN TAX REVENUE UPTO 30.9.2004		
(Rupees in crores)		
BE 2004-2005	Collection up to 30.9.2004	% of collection
17,438.64	9,086.10	52.10%

The Minister for Finance reviewed the trends in collection of the State's Own Tax Revenues. The summary of this review is given below.

Receipts under State's Own Tax Revenue till end-September 2004, according to pre-actuals, is Rs.9086.10 crores. This shows

an overall growth of 19.85 percent over the receipts in the previous year during the first six months.

The receipts from Stamps and Registration, Sales Tax & Entry Tax and other taxes and duties on commodities and services are keeping in line with the Budget Estimates.

DETAILS OF COLLECTION OF STATE'S OWN TAX REVENUES UPTO 30.9.2004			
State Taxes	B.E. 2004-2005	Collections up to 30.9.2004	% of B.E
(Rs. in Crores)			
Agricultural Income Tax	0.00	0.29	—
Land Revenue	21.43	14.74	68.78
Stamps and Registration	1350.23	736.68	54.56
Taxes on immovable property other than Agricultural Land	14.72	5.97	40.56
State Excise	2350.59	1060.25	45.11
Taxes on Vehicles	1101.11	530.50	48.18
Taxes and duties on Electricity	222.72	93.02	41.77
Sales Tax and Entry Taxes	12322.32	6571.60	53.33
Other taxes, and duties on Commodities and Services	55.52*	73.05 *	131.57 *
Total	17438.64	9086.10	52.10
* B.E. 2004 - 2005 is net receipt after devolution to respective local bodies whereas actuals upto September 2004 are the gross receipts.			

It is expected that State Excise Receipts will go up in the second half of the financial year with payment of the dues by TASMAL under special privilege fee.

Electricity Tax receipts have been lower than the Budget Estimates due to the retention of the collected tax by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. Electricity Tax is being remitted with a lag. With the collection of arrears during the second half of the financial year, the Budget Estimates are likely to be achieved.

c) State's Non-Tax Revenues : The collections till end-September 2004 are Rs.1028.47 crores against the Budget Estimates of Rs.1899.90 crores. Thus, the collection in the first half-year is 54.13 percent of the receipt estimates under Non-Tax Revenues. This shows a growth of 31.88 percent over the receipts during the first six months of the previous financial year.

d) Grants-in-aid from Government of India:

As against the estimate of Rs. 1743.94 crores in the Budget Estimates, total grants-in-aid receipts from Government of India till September 2004 have been Rs. 554.85 crores. This is 31.82 percent of the Budget Estimates. The bulk of the Grants-in-aid are received in the fourth quarter.

Overall the Total Revenue Receipts are likely to exceed the Budget Estimates and there will not be any shortfall. Total Revenue Receipts upto 30th September 2004 are showing a healthy growth of 23.42 percent over the collections during the first six months of the last financial year.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURE

The Budget Estimates 2004-2005 provides Rs.28128.73 crores towards Revenue

expenditure. Further, the First Supplementary Estimates 2004-2005 provides Rs. 1008.21 crores towards Revenue expenditure. The Revenue expenditure till end-September 2004, according to pre-actuals, is estimated at Rs. 12056.80 crores. This is 41.38 percent of the total appropriation for Revenue expenditure. The Revenue expenditure till end-September 2003, was Rs. 10954.06 crores. Thus, the growth of Revenue expenditure over the previous year during the first half of the fiscal year is 10.07 percent.

The Budget Estimates 2004-2005 provides Rs.3335.01 crores towards Capital expenditure and Rs.250.33 crores towards Loans and Advances (net). The First Supplementary Estimates 2004-2005 provides Rs.595.89 crores towards Capital and Loan expenditure. The Capital expenditure including Loans and Advances (Net) till end-September 2004, according to the pre-actuals, is estimated at Rs. 1004.59

crores. This is 24.03 percent of the total appropriation available in Capital and Loan accounts.

The performance against the Plan outlay of Rs.8001.08 crores in 2004-2005 has been reviewed. The Plan achievement in the current year, for the first six months, has been 36.03 percent against the targeted outlay. This is keeping to the usual trend and the plan outlay for 2004-2005 will be achieved.

In 2003-2004, against a Plan target of Rs. 7000 crores, the total achievement till September 2003 was 36.60 percent. The Plan performance in the current year is almost at the same level as in the first half of the previous year. Instructions have been given to ensure that the Plan performance of Rs.8001.08 crores in 2004-2005 is realised.

The Plan performance in the first half of the current financial year is summarised below:

ANNUAL PLAN 2004-2005 (Expenditure up to 30.9.2004)				
(Rs. In Crores)				
	Sector	Estimates 2004-2005	Expenditure up to 30.9.2004	%of Estimates
1	Agriculture and Allied Services	622.51	77.92	12.52
2	Rural Development	892.62	282.03	31.60
3	Irrigation and Flood Control	539.53	88.01	16.31
4	Power	1207.71	519.69	33.03
5	Industry and Minerals	321.11	151.15	47.07
6	Transport and Communication	1237.67	334.19	27.00
7	Science and Technology	2.78	0.78	27.96
8	General Economic Services	66.00	47.60	72.12
9	Social Services	2958.10	1362.32	46.05
10	General Services	153.05	19.21	12.55
	Total	8001.08	2882.90	36.03

OVERALL FISCAL SUMMARY

The Government has presented a Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) to set right the fiscal health of the State in line with the targets set out in the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003 (as amended) namely to bring down the Revenue deficit below 5 percent of Total Revenue Receipts and the Fiscal Deficit to 3 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by March 2008. The guiding principle of the MTFP is to correct the fiscal imbalance without affecting the interests of the poor and the disadvantaged sections of the society.

The Revenue Deficit on Total Revenue Receipts was 23.28 percent in the year 2002-2003. As per Budget Estimates 2004-2005, the Revenue Deficit on Total Revenue Receipts was estimated at 13.46 percent as against the ultimate target of 5 percent to be reached by 2007-2008. Likewise, Fiscal Deficit in 2002-2003 was 4.39 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product. It was estimated to be 3.86 percent in the Budget Estimates 2004-2005 as against the target of 3 percent by 2007-2008.

The Budget for 2004-2005 had estimated a Revenue Deficit of Rs. 3336.43 crores. The Budget Estimates for 2004-2005 had forecast an overall deficit of Rs.590.47 crores. Together with the additional commitment of Rs. 1434.48 crores in the first and second supplementary estimates the projected overall deficit for the year 2004-2005 would have gone up considerably.

However by undertaking a series of measures and the improvements in the year,

it is now anticipated that the Revenue Deficit and the overall Deficit will be within the levels set out originally in the Budget Estimates 2004-2005.

As per the pre-actuals available till 30th September 2004 the growth in Total Revenue Receipts is higher than that of Total Revenue Expenditure. Eventhough there are higher expenditure commitments in the second half of the financial year based on the supplementary estimates, the overall trend reflected in the data for the first half year upto 30th September 2004 indicates that there will be an improvement over the estimates of Revenue Deficit and Total Deficit for the entire year 2004-2005.

The Medium Term Fiscal Plan presented along with the Budget Estimates 2004-2005 gives the road map for further fiscal correction towards attaining the targets prescribed in the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003. As a measure towards greater fiscal transparency, the Government has posted Budget related statistics and information on the Web to enable greater public debate and participation.

This Review for the period ending 30th September 2004 indicates that the fiscal goals and trends set out in the Medium Term Fiscal Plan are being maintained.

C. PONNAIYAN

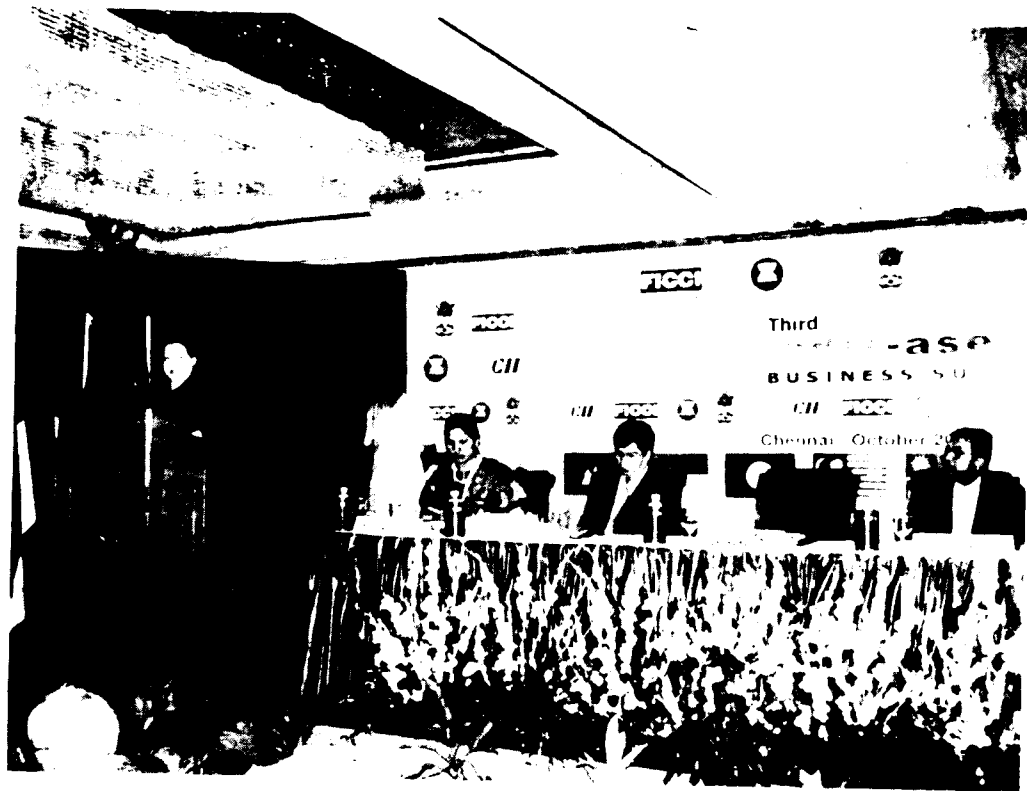
MINISTER FOR FINANCE

17th November 2004

★ ★ ★

TAMIL NADU HAS BEEN RANKED AS A “LEADER” STATE IN e - READINESS AND e - GOVERNANCE

- Hon'ble Chief Minister SELVI J JAYALALITHAA



I am glad that the Third India - ASEAN Business Summit has been organised today at Chennai, India's Eastern Gateway to the World. I welcome this opportunity to meet with all of you at this Summit, which has been organised jointly by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry, in association with the Ministries of External Affairs and Commerce & Industry, and the Government of Tamil Nadu. At the outset, I wish to extend my greetings and welcome to all the delegates, including Ministers from ASEAN countries, who

are assembled here today in our elegant city of Chennai, in the glorious State of Tamil Nadu.

I have been requested to give the keynote address at this Summit, at a time when there is a flurry of activity between ASEAN countries and India. As I was reflecting on what is significant about this summit, and in fact, about this continuing dialogue, I was struck by the recurring theme of mutual interdependence, in a new global order. There was a time when India with its large population, did believe it could cocoon itself in a totally isolationist mode. Those days

are gone. Since 1991, India has been integrating with the rest of the global economy, in a sequence of steps labelled the First Generation Reforms. It was indeed a dramatic change, which prompted many Cassandras to predict doom. It is a tribute to the ingenuity of the Indian people, that they have adjusted to this cataclysmic change with aplomb.

It is against this backdrop of mutual interdependence, that we are gathered here today, to forge new alliances and initiatives, to strengthen the growing relationship between ASEAN and India. To my mind, it is a historical accident that this mutual interdependence between ASEAN and India has had to be reinvented, even though tradition and culture always predicated strong bonds between our nations. This is particularly exemplified by Tamil Nadu, which, as a coastal State, has a glorious tradition of close interaction with ASEAN countries. We have to build on these traditional ties, bringing new vigour to a relationship, which goes back several centuries. This Summit marks another significant milestone in this new journey of regional co-operation and mutual interdependence.

What do we have in common? First and foremost, geography. We are in the Asia-Pacific region and we need to connect. India and the ASEAN recognize the pluralistic nature of our societies, encompassing major religions of the world, and a wealth of diverse cultures. We have a lot in common, in understanding the aspirations of our people, in that particular Asian way which we are all familiar with. We have a common goal of ensuring that we create a modern society, with a high quality of life for our people and yet preserving values, which are dear to us. The very Asian trait of modernity and values, is what really binds us together and will, I am sure, add depth and vibrancy to our relationship.

With tradition and culture behind us, and the common goals of building modern societies nurtured on Asian values, economic ties and co-operation have to march ahead. More than three million people of Indian origin in 10 ASEAN countries are the brand Ambassadors of this new relationship. They are already forging new links and taking across the message of mutual interdependence. We have to build on this. The possibilities are immense. This is particularly true as we are witnessing a new convergence of ideas, after having pursued different paths in the already distant past. More trade and business leads to more economic activity, and is a sure recipe for success. It is important to ensure that the fruits of economic growth and development, brought about by free trade and commerce, reach the rural poor and that it is not at their expense. This is central to the whole thought process, on promoting free trade and mutual interdependence.

There is tremendous potential for building on the progress already achieved, between India and the ASEAN. The two-way trade of about 13 billion US dollars, does not appear commensurate, with the huge potential, provided by the total combined population of 1.5 billion, producing a trillion and half dollars worth of goods and services annually. There are so many opportunities for increasing trade and promoting growth. The best way to go forward is to have active and meaningful interaction with the Chambers of Commerce, and regular exchange of business delegations. A summit such as this, offers a great opportunity to review the entire gamut of activities, and chart out new plans of action.

Given the clear understanding that the ASEAN and India as a dialogue partner, do constitute a major trading formation, we need to look at all possibilities in promoting mutual

interdependence, including Free Trade arrangements. It is on this basis that the framework of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India, and ASEAN, has a built-in exchange of tariff concessions, and elimination of tariffs, on an agreed list of items, based on full reciprocity between India and ASEAN.

Naturally, when the old order is changing, and free trade winds are blowing, there are

Sugar Industry in Tamil Nadu, and the Sugar Industry in Thailand. It is possible to facilitate close interaction, leading to improved performance in the respective regions. Tamil Nadu, with its strength in Engineering and Capital goods, can certainly support new initiatives. We can jointly explore the possibilities of bio-fuel. We can share notes on restructuring the Sugar Industry. Similar is the scope in



bound to be some serious apprehensions. We have to use our ingenuity to smoothen out and calibrate this process, of facilitating free trade in the region. There are several opportunities for close interaction and co-operation. Traders from Tamil Nadu are known to have trade relations with Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar and other countries in the ASEAN region. Business between India and these Nations was quite famous. It is but natural that these ties are renewed, to promote trade and growth in the region. To my mind, there are several possibilities. Take for example, the

automobile components, leather, textiles, and so on. India, with its tremendous advances in Information Technology, can support the requirements of ASEAN. Thus, it can definitely be a two-way interaction, creating opportunities for all. We have to, of course, modulate these growth impulses with care, so that rural economies do not get rudely disturbed.

I would now like to turn to the second theme, that I wish to highlight in this address, a theme that is my favourite. Anatole France once said, and I wish to quote, "Existence would be

intolerable if we were never to dream". I dream of making Tamil Nadu the Numero Uno State in the country, achieving all round development, leading to prosperity for our people. I would also like to add that because I took the liberty to dream, two of my dreams, have come true. They were two things interact that everyone said could never happened two of my projects, one was the Veeranam Scheme to bring water to Chennai City from Veeranam Lake and the other pet project was the capture and elimination of dreaded forest brigand Veerappan. All political parties, political commentators, arm chair - critics, media persons every one said this will never happen. Veeranam water will never reach Chennai City and Veerappan can never be captured. I have made a success of these two projects. I have successfully brought Veeranam Project to Chennai City, which is now being supplied every day to 7 million people living in this City, and as you all are aware, it is only a day before yesterday our Police, our Special Task Force succeeded in capturing and eliminating the dreaded branded Veerappan who was menace to Society. So, because I had the courage to dream two of my dreams have now come true, and I am sure my other dreams for Tamil Nadu will also be realized in due course. In the wake of the liberalization of the Indian economy in 1991, Tamil Nadu registered rapid growth in the period 1991-1996, when I was Chief Minister. A significant reduction in poverty, together with a remarkable improvement in the human development index resulted. This growth momentum slowed down in the late nineties, and this was followed by successive droughts, affecting the economy. I have had to resurrect the economy with a bold new economic vision, which I have sought to realize with a set of policy reforms. Tamil Nadu is again on the move, with rapid strides with an outward orientation, which

is natural to Tamil Nadu as a Coastal State. This set of reforms encompasses reinvigorating agriculture growth, improving the investment climate for manufacturing and services, achieving fiscal correction and stabilization, and above all ensuring poverty reduction. I have launched this new economic vision statement for Tamil Nadu, with a clear understanding that it will not be easy, but is needed for the long term development of Tamil Nadu.

To make my vision a reality, my Government has initiated a number of innovative policy measures. In the Indian context of populous States, Industry cannot march ahead, unless there is robust all round growth in the Primary Sector, particularly in Agriculture. Tamil Nadu has seven diverse agro climatic conditions, and is a major producer of fruits and vegetables. Abundant agro resource potential offers plenty of opportunities for co-operation with ASEAN. We invite investments in value-added food processing. As we bring in new technologies, and open out the Primary Sector to new markets, the opportunities for growth are bound to be immense. It is for you, the captains of industry, to capitalise on these new opportunities with your investment plans.

My Government is committed to putting through, a package of Second Generation Reforms, with a view to promoting rapid growth in the Manufacturing Sector. This set of reforms includes rapid infrastructure development, assured supply of quality energy, deregulation to reduce transaction time and costs, labour reforms to promote retraining and mobility, and State level tax reforms with an emphasis on simplification of procedures.

My purpose in enunciating a New Industrial Policy 2003, is to strengthen Tamil Nadu's

often called the "Health Care Capital City of India". It has ultra-modern world class hospitals, and super-speciality clinics. Since the cost of major surgeries / organ transplantation in Chennai is a fraction of what it costs in Europe, without compromising on the quality of health care, and no waiting time, Chennai has become the favoured Health care destination in the region.

Tourism is another promising segment. Enchanting Tamil Nadu welcomes you. 10 years ago, there were few Indians travelling as tourists. Today, flights to Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur are full of tourists. This regional movement of tourists will help the growth of our economies. We must actively promote Indian-ASEAN tourism in a concerted manner. I see great potential in this segment.

The purpose of this India - ASEAN Business Summit is to encourage interaction and trade flows between India and ASEAN. In Tamil Nadu's New Industrial Policy 2003, my Government had indicated that entry tax would not be charged on imports from abroad, used by manufacturing units in Tamil Nadu. Keeping this in mind and the spirit of greater co-operation, based on the principle of mutual interdependence highlighted in this Business Summit, I am glad to announce that henceforth all the scheduled goods, when they are directly imported and used in the manufacture of goods within Tamil Nadu, will be exempt from entry tax, subject to a declaration that will be prescribed. This will include a complete list of goods and will facilitate the free movement of goods. Likewise, the entry tax will be exempted for scheduled goods, when imported and sold by any registered dealer, under the Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act, and used in manufacturing by 100 percent

Export Oriented Units, and Units in the Madras Export Processing Zones, and Special Economic Zones.

I am confident that this Third India-ASEAN Summit held today, offers a unique opportunity for Indian and ASEAN business leaders, to expand existing relationships, forge new partnerships, and identify new areas of collaboration, by creating new synergies. The vast natural resources, vibrant markets, diverse technologies, and human talents of India and ASEAN, can be mobilized for greater mutual benefit.

We, the people of Tamil Nadu, look forward to a comprehensive engagement, with all ASEAN countries. We would like to share our strengths, for the development of the whole region.

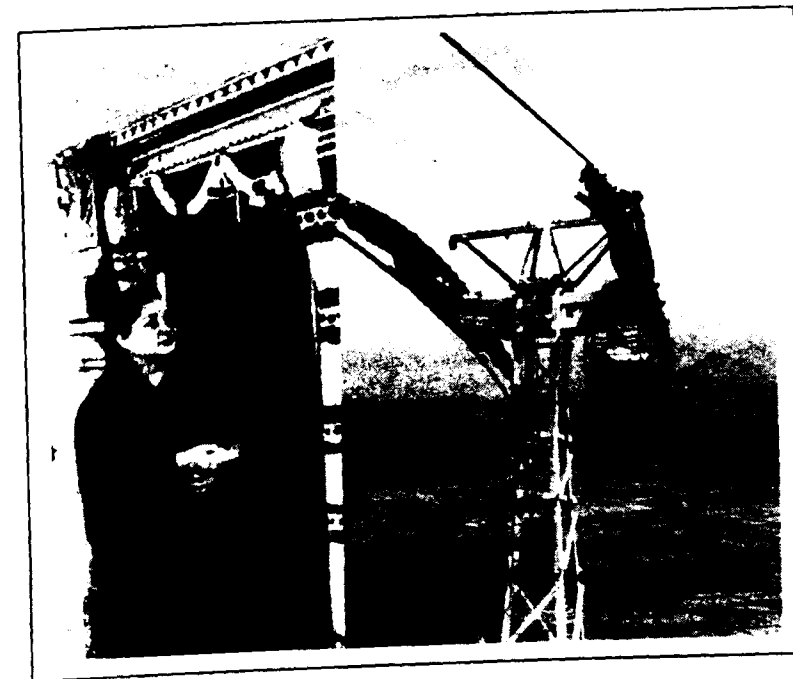
I congratulate the FICCI and the CII for hosting this important event in Chennai. To quote the poet Kahlil Gibran and I quote: "Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be". I am quite convinced that, through this India-ASEAN Business Forum, we can create a solid foundation, of mutual co-operation, for equitable and mutual benefits for our countries, the region, and the world.

Keynote Address made by
SELVI J JAYALALITHAA
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Third India-ASEAN
Business Summit
held at Chennai on 20.10.2004.

* * *

ROPE - CAR SYSTEM COMMISSIONED AT PALANI TEMPLE

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa commissioned the Rs.4 crore rope - car system connecting the foot of Palani hill to the Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple at the top, on 3.11.2004. In a simple ceremony the Hon'ble Chief Minister pressed the switch to make the system operative and the colourful cars began their upward journey.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister had directed the erection of the rope-car system for the benefit of devotees coming to the shrine, since the three winches

could not cater adequately to the large number of devotees coming to the shrine everyday. Pilgrims use either the flight of 693 steps or one of three winches. Each winch could carry only 34 persons and takes eight minutes to reach the top of the hill from the base station.

On the other hand, the rope - car takes only 2.45 minutes to cover the distance of 323 metres. There are 24 individual carriages, each of which could accommodate 4 persons. 800 persons could be carried every hour.

* * *

Wrappers

I Wrapper : Hon'ble Chief Minister presenting a bouquet to His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Surjit Singh Barnala at the Governor's swearing-in ceremony.

II Wrapper : Felicitation function for STF

III Wrapper : Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa lighting a Kuthuvilakku to inaugurate the rope - car facility in Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swami Temple at Palani.

IV Wrapper : Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa garlanding the statue of Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

A package of measures to help Tamil Film Industry

Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
on 27.9.2004



The entire Tamil film industry held a procession on 23.9.2004 and met me and represented all the problems faced by the Tamil film industry. During the meeting all the representatives of different associations of the film industry highlighted the various problems confronting the film industry and requested me to solve the problems and put the film industry on a revival path. As I have myself been part of the film industry earlier, I am aware of all the issues confronting the film industry. Based on the detailed

discussions with the representatives of the film industry, I have decided to implement a package of measures with the specific intention of helping the film industry of Tamil Nadu to come out of the slump and make rapid strides. This package of measures which will be implemented by my Government will consist of the following:-

The main problem confronting the film industry is the prevalence of video piracy which results in audiences staying away from theatres. The representatives of the film industry requested me to take new measures to put down the practice of video piracy which is affecting the film industry. I have already taken a strong stand against video piracy and given strict instructions that this menace should be curbed by effective action. It was only on my instructions that 6 Special Video Piracy Cells were created in 1995. These 6 Special Cells have been doing their best to arrest this menace. Earlier, in a period of 9 years ending December 2003, the total number of cases booked were 2354 and the property seized was Rs.12 crores by the Video Piracy Cell. On my strict instructions, in the first nine months of 2004, as many as 959 cases have been detected and property worth Rs.10 crores has been seized. This itself shows the efficacy of the special drive launched by my Government to check video piracy.

While appreciating this strong effort taken by my Government, the representatives of the film industry requested that very stringent new

provisions should be introduced to ensure that here is an effective deterrent against video piracy. I have had this matter examined thoroughly and I have decided to implement new measures which will serve as an effective deterrent against video piracy. Video piracy results in the unauthorised exhibition of films, including uncensored films, in a manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order. My Government has decided to bring forth amendments to the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug-offenders, Forest offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic offenders and Slum Grabbers Act, 1982 (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982) to include video pirates under its purview. This will act as a very effective deterrent against the widely prevalent practice of video piracy which is disturbing public order and causing loss of revenue to the Government. Organised groups of anti-social elements are indulging in this practice. The proceeds from this activity are also being used to fund other anti-social activities. This results in clashes between interested groups resulting in disturbance to public order. All these indicate that video piracy should be brought within the ambit of this law and my Government will take steps to do so.

In addition to introducing a new effective deterrent under Act 14 of 1982 against video piracy, my Government will also take steps to implement strictly the Copyright Act, 1957 (Act 14 of 1957 - Central Act). The offences under this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 6 months but may extend to 3 years and with fine which shall not be less than Rs.50,000 but which may extend to Rs.2 lakhs. My Government will also take steps to ensure that prosecution under the Copyright Act 1957 (Central Act) is made more effective. This will involve the production of witnesses and ensuring quick trial to secure proper conviction

including imprisonment. For this purpose 6 more Video Piracy Special Cells will be established in addition to the existing 6 Cells making a total of 12 and the existing 6 Cells will be strengthened immediately.

It will also be ensured that the Police Control Room which can be accessed by dialing Number "100" will alert the Video Piracy Cell on receipt of a complaint. This is for prompt action.

Another issue which was brought to my notice is the widespread practice of exhibition of pirated video films in buses. Strict instructions have been given to the State owned Transport Corporations not to exhibit any pirated video films in buses. It will be ensured that Government owned Transport Corporation buses do not exhibit such pirated video films. In addition, private bus operators have also been given strict instructions that they are not to exhibit such pirated video films in buses. Any such exhibition is an offence under the Tamil Nadu Exhibition of Films on Television Screen through Video Cassette Recorders and Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1984 (Tamil Nadu Act 7 of 1984). Action will be taken under this act to book bus operators who violate the provisions of this Act. My Government will also undertake steps to amend Sec. 15 (2) of this Act to provide for punishment for a term which may extend to 2 years or with fine or both. The fine shall not be less than Rs.1 lakh but may extend upto Rs.5 lakhs. Sec.15 (2) will also be amended to provide for enhanced penalty for repeat offenders.

The representatives of the film industry have requested that the Entertainment Tax may be brought down in view of the difficulties faced by the industry. I have carefully gone into all the issues relating to the levy of Entertainment Tax. I have decided to implement major changes in the

Entertainment Tax structure to provide the maximum fillip to the film industry.

The rate of Entertainment Tax applicable to Municipal Corporation areas and Special Grade Municipalities is currently 25% of the Gross payment for new films and 20% for old films. This will be reduced to 15% for new films and 10% for old films. This will also be applicable to permanent and semi permanent theatres within a radius of 5 kms of these local areas.

In other areas, Entertainment Tax is levied under compounding tax per show or compounding tax per week. I have decided to do away with the compounding tax system and instead introduce a simple system of levy of 10% tax on the gross payment for these areas.

90% of the Entertainment Tax receipts received are given to local bodies as a tax devolution at present. Due to the sharp reduction in the tax rate, local bodies may lose revenues. In order to protect the local bodies from any loss of revenue, a suitable compensation arrangement will be made.

There has also been a request from the industry for total Entertainment Tax exemption for low budget films with good themes. Low budget films with good themes useful for social mobilisation and propagating good values will qualify for total exemption from Entertainment Tax.

A request was made that the maintenance charges which were allowed before the last revision of admission rates may be reintroduced to facilitate the maintenance of theatres and cinema houses. In view of the request, maintenance charges will be allowed at the rate of 50 paise per ticket for non-AC theatres and Re.1 per ticket for A/C theatres.

Another issue which has been brought to my

notice is the levy of Sales Tax on lease of Outdoor units, Equipment hirers, Studios, Laboratories and Recording Theatres, Audio, Video, Satellite rights at 12% which is a great hardship in the current financial position faced by the film industry. I have therefore decided to exempt such lease transactions of the film industry from the levy of sales tax for a period of 3 years. In view of this decision, the penal action taken to recover sales tax on such leases will also be withdrawn.

The film industry has requested that the rates for location of shooting in public places may be lowered to promote shooting of films in Tamil Nadu and to help the ailing film industry. The rate for location shooting in Category-I locations such as Colleges, Kodaikanal and Ooty lake, sanctuaries, hospitals etc., is presently Rs.50,000 per day. This will be brought down to Rs.10,000 per day. The rate for Category-II locations which includes all other public places will be reduced from Rs.25,000 per day to Rs.5,000 per day. The rate for location shooting at Rajaji Hall which is Re.1 lakh per day will be reduced to Rs.25,000 per day.

In order to encourage the film industry, a subsidy scheme was implemented earlier which could not be continued due to the acute financial crisis which affected the Government from the year 2000. The film industry has now represented to me that in view of the difficult position faced by the industry this scheme should be revived. I am glad to announce that a new scheme of providing subsidy to low budget films with total prints not exceeding 25 and length not exceeding 3000 metres at an enhanced rate of Rs.7 lakhs per film will be introduced from the year 2003. This will be implemented at an annual cost of Rs 2 crores.



Chief Minister Presents the Tamil Nadu Government Film awards



Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalithaa gave away the Tamil Nadu Government Film Awards to a galaxy of film stars, directors and technicians at a glittering function held at the Madras University Centenary Hall, Chennai on 3.12.2004.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented awards to the recipients in various categories, viz. Best Film, Film that upholds the dignity of women, family oriented social conscious quality tamil feature film, best actor, best actress, best villain actor, best comedy actor, best director etc, awards for the students of film and Television Institute of Tamil Nadu and veteran awards for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002.

The awards presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the movies for 2000 were :

1.	Best Film	First Prize	Vanathaipola
2.	Best Film	Second Prize	Vanavil
3.	Best Film	Third Prize	Vetrikodikattu
4.	Best Film	Special Award	Bharathi

5.	Film that upholds the dignity of women	Special award	Iniya Udhayam
6.	Family oriented, social conscious quality tamil feature film	First Prize	Budget Padmanaban
7.	Family oriented, social conscious quality tamil feature film	Second Prize	Mugavari
8.	Family oriented, social conscious quality tamil feature film	Third Prize	Uyirile Kalanthathu

1.	Best Actor	Murali (Kadal Pookal)
2.	Best Actress	Devayani (Bharathi)
3.	Best Actor (Special Prize)	Jeyaram (Thenali)
4.	Best Actress (Special Prize)	Shalini (Alaipayuthe)
5.	Best Villain Actor	Prakashraj (Vanavil / Appu)
6.	Best Comedy Actor	Vadivelu (Vetrikodikattu)
7.	Best Director	Vikraman (Vanathaipola)
8.	Best Story Writer	Manoj Kumar (Vanavil)
9.	Best Dialogue Writer	Cheran (Vetrikodikattu)
10.	Best Music Director	Deva (Kushi), Uyirile Kalanthathu / Santhithavelai
11.	Best Lyricist	Thamarai (Thenali)
12.	Best Playback Singer (Male)	Harish Ragavendra (Bharathi)
13.	Best Playback Singer (Female)	Bavadharani (Bharathi)
14.	Best Cinematographer	Aananda Kuttan (Kannukkul Nilavu)
15.	Best Sound recordist	Sivakumar (Rithm)
16.	Best Editor	Mohanraj (Seenu)
17.	Best Art Director	G.Krishnamurthi (Thenali/Vanavil)
18.	Best Stunt Master	Stunt Siva (Mugavari)
19.	Best Choreographer	Brindha (Mugavari)
20.	Best Makeup Artiste	Kirisan (Seenu)
21.	Best Costume Designer	G.Krishnamurthi (Bharathi)
22.	Best Child Artiste	Yuvaganth (Mayi)

In order to encourage the Tamil Film Industry, the Government of Tamil Nadu has instituted Film Awards to the best Tamil feature films, actors, actresses and technicians. Every year a committee is constituted by the Government to select the best feature films, actors, actresses and technicians. The following awards are presented to the selected films:

1. First Prize Rs.2 lakhs and a memento
2. Second Prize Rs.1 lakh and a memento
3. Third Prize Rs.75,000 and a memento
4. Special Prize Rs.75,000 and a memento

A cash award of Rs.1.25 lakh and a memento are presented to the best Tamil feature film which portrays women in good light and which promotes the cause of women and upholds their dignity. A five sovereign gold pendant and a memento are presented to the selected actors, actresses and technicians. Dubbing Artistes (both male and female) have been included for these awards from the award year 2000.

VETERAN AWARDS

Veteran awards are presented in the names of Arignar Anna, Kalaivanar, Raja Sandow, M.G.R., Kavignar Kannadasan, Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan and Thiyagaraja Bagavathar who have made indelible marks in the history of Tamil film industry and won the hearts of the millions.

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY

To encourage production of low-budget, social conscious, quality Tamil feature films, the Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing a

scheme of granting subsidy to such films. Every year a Selection Committee is constituted by the Government to select quality Tamil films. The selected films are granted subsidy at the rate of Rs.5 lakhs per film.

EXEMPTION OF ENTERTAINMENT TAX

In order to encourage production of low budget quality Tamil films, entertainment tax is exempted for a period of four weeks from the date of release of the eligible films.

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS THE FOLLOWING CONCESSIONS TO TAMIL FILM INDUSTRY

1. The low budget quality Tamil feature films are granted subsidy at the rate of Rs.5 lakhs each.
2. Entertainment tax is exempted to low budget quality Tamil feature films for a period of first four weeks.
3. Cash awards, gold medals, mementos, etc., are presented to the best Tamil films, actors, actresses and technicians.
4. Veteran awards are presented to the doyens of film industry.
5. Permission is granted for film shooting in Government premises under single window system.
6. Committees have been constituted at district level and state level to resolve disputes in film industry.
7. A sum of Rupees One lakh is granted from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the family of stunt actors who die while shooting a film and a sum of Rs.50,000 is granted if he is incapacitated on the occasion.

23.	Best Dubbing Artiste (Male)	Rajeev (Bharathi)
24.	Best Dubbing Artiste (Female)	Savitha(Piriyamanavale)

Awards for the students of Film and Television Institute of Tamil Nadu for the year 2000 - 2001

1.	Best Director	V. Arivazhagan (Pudinam)
2.	Best Cinematographer	Vinodkumar (Sirakukal)
3.	Best Sound Recordist	Thamizhvanan (Velicham)

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| 4. | Best Film Editor | Jaya (Iyya) |
| 5. | Best Film Processor | Narasimhalu (Sirakukal) |
| 6. | Best Actor | Vijai Ragavendra (Malarattum) |

Veteran Awards for 2000

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|
| 1. | Arignar Anna Award | Thirumathi Anjalidevi |
| 2. | Kalaivanar Award | Thirumathi Padmini |
| 3. | Raja Sandow Award | Thiru Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan |
| 4. | M.G.R. Award | Thirumathi Jamuna |
| 5. | Kavignar Kannadasan Award | Thirumathi S. Varalakshmi |
| 6. | Nadigar Thilagam
Sivaji Ganesan Award | Thirumathi Sukumari |
| 7. | Thiyagaraja Bagavadar Award | Thirumathi M.N. Rajam |

Tamil Nadu Government Film Awards for 2001

- | | | | |
|----|---|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Best Film | First Prize | Virumbukiren |
| 2. | Best Film | Second Prize | Pandavarboomi |
| 3. | Best Film | Third Prize | Anandam |
| 4. | Best Film | Special Award | Nandha |
| 5. | Film that upholds the dignity
of women | Special award | Jamila |
| 6. | Family oriented, social conscious
quality tamil feature film | First Prize | Sonnaldhan Kadhala |
| 7. | Family oriented, social conscious
quality tamil feature film | Second Prize | Poovellam Un Vaasam |
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- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Best Actor | Surya (Nanda) |
| 2. | Best Actress | Sneha (Virumbukiren / Anandham / Punnagaidesam) |
| 3. | Best Actor (Special Prize) | Ajith (Poovellam Un Vaasam) |
| 4. | Best Actress (Special Prize) | Suvalakshmi (Jamila) |
| 5. | Best Villain Actor | Alex (Mitta Mirasu) |
| 6. | Best Comedy Actor | Vadivelu (Thavasi) |
| 7. | Best Director | Susi Ganesan (Virumbukiren) |



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|-----|-------------------------------|---|
| 8. | Best Story Writer | Sara Abubucker (Jamila) |
| 9. | Best Dialogue Writer | Shajahan (Punnagaidesam) |
| 10. | Best Music Director | Vidhyasagar (Dhill / Thavasi / Poovellam Un Vaasam) |
| 11. | Best Lyricist | Snehan (Pandavar Boomi) |
| 12. | Best Playback Singer (Male) | Unnikrishnan (Dhil) |
| 13. | Best Playback Singer (Female) | Sujatha (Dhil) |
| 14. | Best Cinematographer | Rathnavelu (Nanda) |
| 15. | Best Sound Recordist | Sathya (Choclate) |
| 16. | Best Editor | Kasi Viswanathan (Alavandhan) |
| 17. | Best Art Director | Prabhakaran (Poovellam Un Vaasam) |
| 18. | Best Stunt Master | Super Subrayan (Thavasi/Mitta Mirasu) |
| 19. | Best Choreographer | Chinni Prakash (Thavasi) |
| 20. | Best Makeup Artiste | Nageswara Rao (Dhil) |
| 21. | Best Costume Designer | Sai (Poovellam Un Vaasam / Thavasi) |
| 22. | Best Child Artiste | T.R. Kuralarasan (Sonnaldhan Kathala) |
| 23. | Best Dubbing Artiste (Male) | Sai Ravi (Dhil) |
| 24. | Best Dubbing Artiste (Female) | Srija (Dhil) |

The Following Awards were given for the first time

1. Best Character Artiste (Actor) **Rajkiran (Pandavar boomi / Nandha)**
2. Best Character Artiste (Actress) **Easwari Rao (Virumbukiren)**
3. Best Comedy Actress **Koval Sarala (Poovellam Un Vaasam)**

Awards for the students of Film and Television Institute of Tamil Nadu for the year 2001 - 2002

1. Best Director **Sampathkumar (Payanam)**
2. Best Cinematographer **Premkumar (Paramapatham)**
3. Best Sound Recordist **Jagan (Thatha)**
4. Best Film Editor **Balaji (Suvadugal)**
5. Best Film Processor **Sethu raguraman (Paramapatham)**

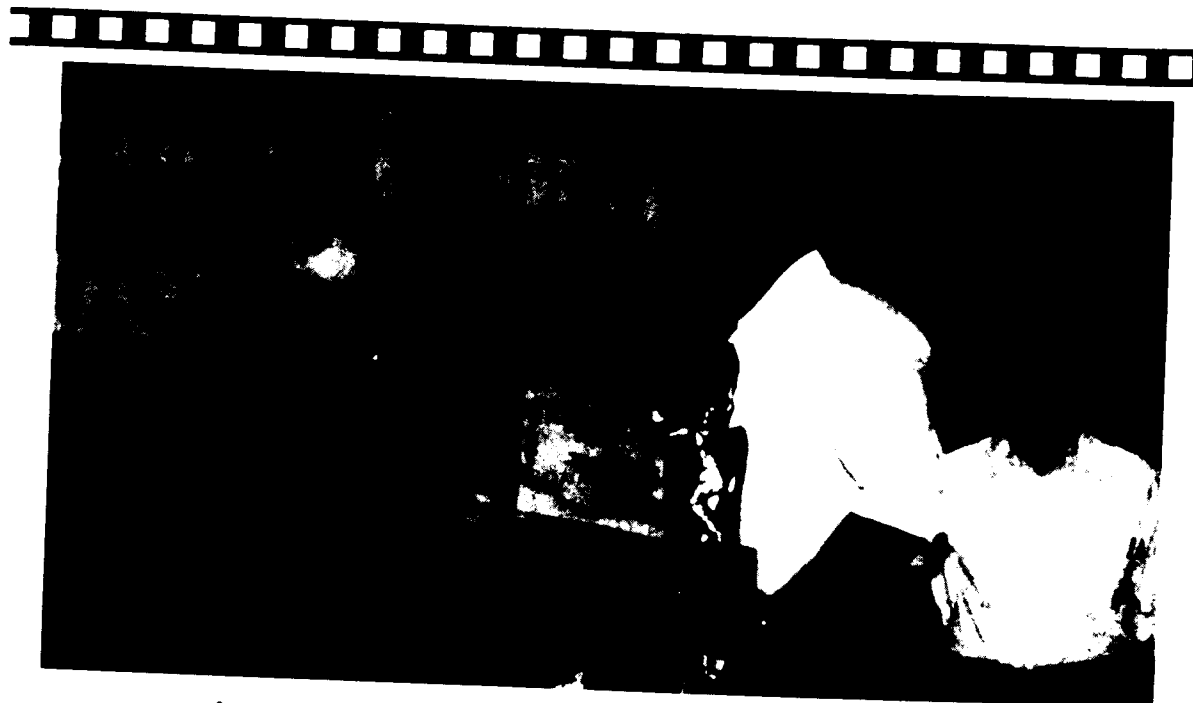
Veteran Awards for 2001

1. Arignar Anna Award **Thiru. Bharathiraja**
2. Kalaivanar Award **Thirumathi Raja Sulochana**
3. Raja Sandow Award **Thiru K. Balaji**
4. M.G.R. Award **Thirumathi B.S. Saroja**
5. Kavignar Kannadasan Award **Thirumathi Vanisri**
6. Nadigar Thilagam **Thiru Ravichandran (Actor)**
Sivaji Ganesan Award
7. Thiyagaraja Bagavadar Award **Thirumathi Vaijayanthimala**

Tamil Nadu Government Film Awards for 2002

1. Best-Film **First Prize Ramana**
2. Best Film **Second Prize Kanathil Muthamittal**
3. Best Film **Third Prize Unnai Ninaithu**
4. Best Film **Special Award King**
5. Film that upholds the dignity of women **Special award Guruvamma**

1. Best Actor **Madavan (Run / Anbe Sivam / Kannathil Muthamittal)**
2. Best Actress **Meena (Ivan)**
3. Best Actor (Special Prize) **Prabhu (Charile Chaplin)**
4. Best Actress (Special Prize) **Nandita Das (Kannathil Muthamittal)**
5. Best Villain Actor **Nazar (Thamizh)**
6. Best Comedy Actor **Vivek (Run)**
7. Best Director **Manirathnam (Kannathil Muthamittal)**
8. Best Story Writer **Susi Ganesan (Five Star)**
9. Best Dialogue Writer **A.R. Murugadas (Ramana)**
10. Best Music Director **Sirpi (Unnai Ninaithu)**
11. Best Lyricist **Ravishankar (Unnai Ninaithu, Varushamellam Vasantham)**
12. Best Playback Singer (Male) **Unnimenon (Unnai Ninaithu, Varushamellam Vasantham)**
13. Best Playback Singer (Female) **Sinmayi (Kannathil Muthamittal)**
14. Best Cinematographer **Arjun Jana (Kathal Virus)**
15. Best Sound Recordist **Ganesan (Ramana)**
16. Best Editor **V.T. Vijayan (Run)**
17. Best Art Director **Sabu Ciril (Kannathil Muthamittal)**
18. Best Stunt Master **Jaguar Thangam**
19. Best Choreographer **Dinesh (King)**
20. Best Makeup Artiste **V.P. Rajan (Anbe Sivam)**
21. Best Costume Designer **S. Rajendran (Anbe Sivam)**
22. Best Child Artiste **Keerthana P.S (Kannathil Muthamittal)**
23. Best Dubbing Artiste (Male) **Muralikumar (Run)**
24. Best Dubbing Artiste (Female) **Anuradha (Roja koottam)**
1. Best Character Artiste (Actor) **Janagaraj (King)**
2. Best Character Artiste (Actress) **Anuhasan (Run)**



**Awards for the students of Film and Television Institute of
Tamil Nadu for the year 2002 - 2003**

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Best Director | J. Nandhini (Ottam) |
| 2. Best Cinematographer | Prabhakar (Pinkurippu) |
| 3. Best Sound Recordist | Anbarasu (Sldarth) |
| 4. Best Film Editor | Rajeswari (Ottam) |
| 5. Best Film Processor | S.Suresh (Pinkurippu) |

Veteran Awards for 2002

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Arignar Anna Award | Selvi Jamuna Rani |
| 2. Kalaivanar Award | Thiru P.B. Srinivas |
| 3. Raja Sandow Award | Thiru A.V.M. Saravanan |
| 4. M.G.R. Award | Thirumathi E.V. Saroja |
| 5. Kavignar Kannadasan Award | Thirumathi M.S.Viswanathan |
| 6. Nadigar Thilagam
Sivaji Ganesan Award | Thirumathi M. Saroja |
| 7. Thiyagaraja Bagavadar Award | Thirumathi G.Sakunthala |

Earlier the Hon'ble Minister for Information, Publicity and Local Administration Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan welcomed the gathering. Thiru. V. Ramadoss IAS., Secretary, Information and Tourism Department proposed a vote of thanks.

The function was attended by the Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, Chairpersons, Officials, Public and a large gathering of Tamil film industry.

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TAMIL NADU IS MAKING RAPID PROGRESS IN ALL SPHERES

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- Statement of Selvi J Jayalalithaa
Hon'ble Chief Minister on 12.10.2004

I have always believed that workers and employees who form the back bone of our economy should be enabled to have a life of good quality which will motivate them to give of their best. It has always been my intention to provide better working conditions and benefits to workers and employees of Public Sector Undertakings, such as the State Transport Corporations, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board etc., so that improved production and services can be realized for the benefit of the people. Eventhough this has been my unshakable belief, conditions were created by the previous DMK Government through mismanagement to ensure that my Government could not put through any measure at all for the benefit of workers and employees when my Government assumed office in May 2001, even though I had very much wanted to undertake such measures.

The previous DMK Government left the finances of the State Transport Corporations in total disarray. In the year 2000-2001, the financial position of the State Transport Corporations was

so bad that they were making substantial losses and were defaulting on all payments, including payments to financial institutions and even to Oil Companies which had supplied fuel. The position was quite hopeless and these Corporations were near closure. The accumulated loss as on 31.3.2001 in the case of State Transport Corporations was as high as (-) Rs.2031.19 crores. The loss in 2000-2001 alone was (-) Rs.228.87 crores. The situation had become so bad that even current payments for operational expenditure such as salaries and fuel were all seriously affected. A serious doubt on payment of salaries itself had arisen.

In the case of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, the situation when my Government assumed office was equally hopeless. Upto the year 2000-2001, the previous Government covered up the position by showing huge amounts as subsidy payments from the Government, which were not paid at all. Consequently, when my Government assumed office and presented the correct position, the loss

that my Government had to face in 2001-2002 was (-) Rs.4851 crores. The result of this mismanagement by the previous DMK Government was that the TNEB could not make payments for purchase of electricity from Central Utilities and others, and also had serious problems in making regular payments for salaries, cost of coal and other costs. In short, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board's operations were facing a complete stoppage when my Government assumed office.

Eventhough I wanted to immediately improve the wage levels and other benefits of workers in the State Transport Corporations and the TNEB, the gross mismanagement by the previous DMK Government made it impossible as the problem had become so serious that even regular monthly salary payments could not be made and operational expenses could not be met. Thereafter, my Government took resolute action to set right the financial position of both the State Transport Corporations and the TNEB. As the result of the various measures taken, considerable improvement in the operations of the State Transport Corporations and the TNEB has been achieved.

The annual loss of the State Transport Corporations which was (-) Rs.228.87 crores in 2000-2001 has been turned into a small profit of Rs.2.38 crores in 2003-2004. This is solely because of the sound measures that my Government has undertaken. All workers will recognise the sincere effort of my Government to save the State Transport Corporations from complete ruin, and thus protect their very livelihood which was under threat because of the mismanagement of the previous DMK Government. The workers and employees understood the extreme seriousness of the situation and co-operated with my Government in the measures undertaken to set right the position, so that real benefits can accrue to them in future. Today, thanks to the excellent co-operation extended by workers and employees of the State Transport

Corporations, the situation has been completely rectified and in 2003-2004, for the first time in 18 years, the State Transport Corporations have achieved a profit. I extend my appreciation to all the employees and workers who have made this possible. Even now there is a serious threat to the healthy finances of the State Transport Corporations, due to the increase in diesel prices announced by the Government of India. This has once again affected the State Transport Corporations in 2004-2005. We have to take measures to counter this new threat of increased cost by better efficiency, performance and productivity. I am sure the workers will extend their full support to the efforts of my Government to ensure profitable operations and therefore additional benefits to workers.

In the case of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, in 1999-2000, the real loss was (-) Rs.850.65 crores and in 2000-2001 it was (-) Rs.1055.34 crores. This was shown to be covered up by release of subsidy from the Government which was not actually paid. These losses accumulated and had to be faced by my Government on assumption of office in May 2001. Consequently, in 2001-2002 all the accumulated losses which were shown to be covered by releases of subsidy from the Government, but which were not actually paid, had to be set right. The loss figure in 2001-2002 which reflected the true loss accumulated from the previous years and had to be faced by us was (-) Rs.4851 crores. Due to various measures undertaken by my Government in the year 2002-2003, we were able to turn around the situation. My Government arranged for the payment of the unpaid bills of Rs.1962 crores to Central Utilities left unpaid by the previous DMK Government. We also took measures to improve the revenue. With these measures in 2002-2003, the TNEB was able to record a net profit of Rs.112.57 crores.

In 2003-2004, the bad monsoon and the resulting drought had a particularly severe adverse effect on the generation based on hydel reservoirs

and the TNEB had to face a loss of (-) Rs.1166.42 crores. With improved hydel storage in 2004-2005 the financial position will improve. Thus it may be seen that from a totally hopeless situation, the position of the TNEB has been set right substantially, making good the loss which occurred during the previous DMK Government period, and also settling all the arrear liabilities to the Central Utilities left pending by the previous DMK Government. It is my Government which has rescued the TNEB from bankruptcy and put it on a new growth path. There are new threats to the financial position of the TNEB with a further increase in costs by Rs.167 crores in 2004-2005, due to the increase in coal prices effected by the new Central Government. Still, the measures we have already undertaken and the assured subsidy provided in cash by my Government has ensured a major improvement in the TNEB's finances.

Thus under my directions, the resolute measures that have been undertaken by my Government have substantially set right the totally impossible financial position faced by the State Transport Corporations and the TNEB.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all the workers and employees who have co-operated with the Government in undertaking these measures to set right the financial position. Without their co-operation, it would not have been possible at all to provide a new lease of life to these organisations.

The wage settlement in respect of workers and employees of State Transport Corporations could not be undertaken earlier in view of a dispute which has been pending in the Madras High Court. In the case of the TNEB also, till recently, a dispute in the Madras High Court prevented the continuance of wage negotiations. I have carefully gone into the entire matter and I have decided that pending formal commencement of wage settlement negotiations, the workers and employees deserve appreciation for the unstinted co-operation they have extended for setting right

the fiscal position and better performance of the organisations. I have therefore ordered that an Interim Relief at the rate of Rs.250 per month shall be paid to all workers and employees of State Transport Corporations and the TNEB with effect from 1.9.2003. This interim relief is an interim measure and will be adjusted against the wage settlement when concluded. Both the State Transport Corporations and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board will make all out efforts to commence negotiations on the revised wage settlement. I have every confidence that all the workers and employees will greatly welcome this announcement made by me, of providing interim relief without waiting for the conclusion of the wage settlement negotiations. This clearly shows the good intentions of my Government with regard to the welfare of workers and employees.

The additional cost for State Transport Corporations on account of the payment of this interim relief at the rate of Rs.250 per month will be Rs.34.52 crores per annum. This interim relief will be paid along with the monthly salary bill commencing from October 2004. The arrears for the period 1.9.2003 to 30.9.2004 viz: for a period of 13 months amounting to Rs.37.40 crores will be paid in cash. This measure will benefit 1,15,000 workers and employees in the State Transport Corporations.

In the case of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, the additional cost on account of payment of interim relief at the rate of Rs.250 per month will be Rs.26.10 crores per annum. This will be paid along with the monthly salary bill commencing from October 2004. The arrears for the period 1.9.2003 to 30.9.2004 viz: for a period of 13 months amounting to Rs.28.28 crores will be paid in cash. This will benefit 87,000 workers and employees in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

The workers and employees should always remember that the public are our real masters. The principle that we should never under any circumstances cause inconvenience to the public

was established in 2001. Therefore, as a measure of promoting goodwill with workers and employees with clarity on this salutary approach of my Government, I have decided to treat the period during which the workers went on strike prior to 31.12.2000 as leave to which they are eligible, except in respect of employees against whom criminal cases are pending.

In the wake of the huge financial crisis confronting both the State Transport Corporations and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, urgent measures had to be taken to somehow set right the financial position and keep these organisations operational, as otherwise they would have gone bankrupt and closed down. My Government had to take measures to ensure that this catastrophe did not occur. As part of the package of measures, a temporary restriction on the facility of encashment of Earned Leave which is usually allowed for a period for 15 days in a year was imposed. In the case of TNEB the restriction on encashment of leave has already been kept in abeyance due to an Industrial Dispute. The workers and employees have now represented that this restriction may be lifted taking into account the special nature of work rendered in State Transport Corporations and the TNEB, requiring operational safety and high level of performance. I have decided that the workers and employees of State Transport Corporations and the TNEB shall hereafter be allowed to encash Earned Leave at their credit for 15 days in a year as per the annual cycle. I am sure the workers and employees will welcome this measure both to improve the overall productivity and performance of these organisations and confer cash benefits on them.

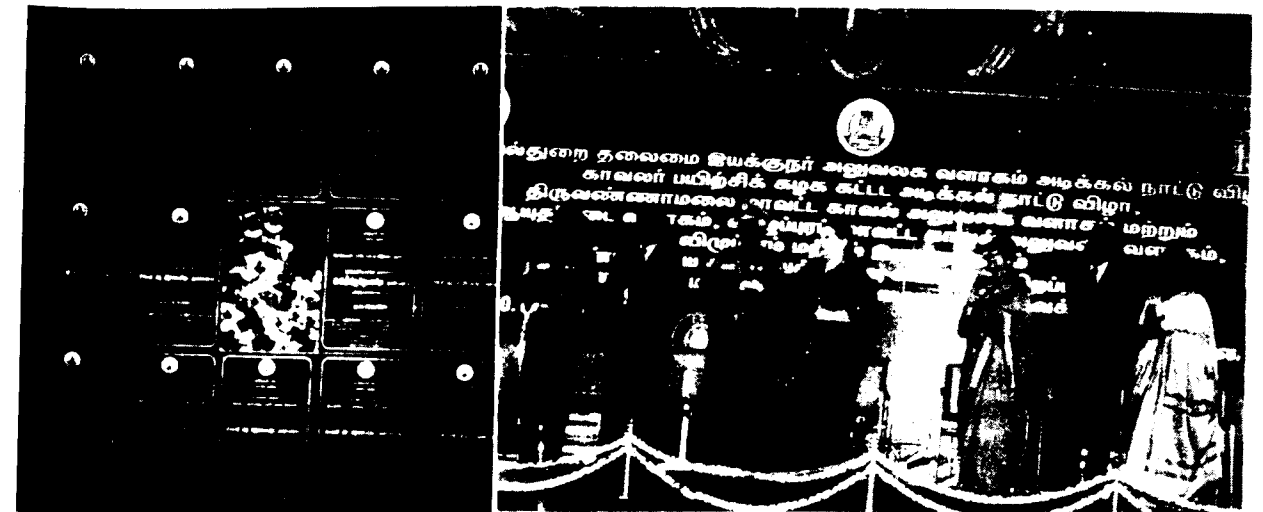
In the financial year 2003-2004, the State Transport Corporations have earned a profit for the first time in 18 years. In the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, due to adverse seasonal conditions, there has been a loss in 2003-2004 but the Board has been showing improved performance in 2004-2005. The workers and employees have co-operated in ensuring the turn around in the performance of

these organisations. Eventhough the financial position has not completely been rectified and although there are further cost additions, due to increased diesel prices and coal prices which will affect their financial position, it is necessary to encourage the workers and employees to continue to work with dedication, improved productivity and performance in their organisations. I have therefore decided to take a magnanimous view and I am happy to announce that for the financial year 2003-2004, besides the bonus of 8.33% , an ex-gratia of 1.67% totalling 10% will be paid to all the workers and employees who received bonus at 8.33% last year. This will cost the State Transport Corporations Rs.34.38 crores. This will cost the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Rs.23 crores. I am also happy to announce that the same scheme of payment of 8.33% bonus and 1.67% of ex-gratia will also be applicable to the employees and workers of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation. This will cost the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Rs.3.5 crores.

I am committed to taking Tamil Nadu to the Number One position in the Country. Tamil Nadu is making rapid progress in several spheres. It is by better production, productivity, performance and efficiency that we can grow faster and reach this committed goal. The employees and workers have extended their co-operation in ensuring that Tamil Nadu goes forward towards its appointed place, by tightening the belt when needed. I fully appreciate their enormous contribution to the successful turn around of the State Transport Corporations, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation. I greatly appreciate their total dedication and co-operation in this major effort. It is with a sense of satisfaction at the success we have achieved together, that I am glad to announce this new package of interim relief, bonus and ex-gratia and other concessions for employees and workers, so that we can go rapidly ahead in our journey towards securing Tamil Nadu's Number One place in the country.

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POLICE MUST COMBINE VALOUR AND TOUGHNESS WITH SYMPATHY AND CONSIDERATION



It is indeed a pleasure to participate in today's function, a proud day for the Tamil Nadu Police. It is my privilege to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for important additions to the infrastructure of the Tamil Nadu Police at a total cost of more than Rs.87 crores. The Tamil Nadu Police Academy and the new office of the D.G.P. are two major landmark buildings that will be the cynosure of all eyes.

I have a vision for the Tamil Nadu Police which already enjoys a very high reputation of professionalism in India. It must be celebrated as the Number One Police Force in the entire country. It is for this reason that I have accorded the highest priority to modernize, equip, train, arm and implement welfare schemes for the Tamil Nadu Police, not only to build up their professional core competence but also to build up their morale and *esprit de corps*. From May 2001, when I became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and took charge of the Home portfolio for the second time

my Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.514.54 crores towards buildings, equipment, weapons, training as well as housing for the Police. Such budgetary support is unprecedented in the history of the Tamil Nadu Police.

I am happy to lay the foundation stone for the new office of the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu which is to come up here at Taramani at a cost of Rs.30 crores. The Director General of Police's office is presently located in an extremely old heritage building, and the delicate nature of its structure makes it impossible to carry out any expansion or modification. The new complex to house the office of the Director General of Police will cover an area of 24 acres of Prime Land at Taramani. It will have a built up area of 3 lakh square feet and will contain state-of-the art Information Technology based infrastructure and ultramodern communication hardware as would befit the office of the head of a highly professional force like the Tamil Nadu

Police. On completion, this command centre of the Police Force in Tamil Nadu will be the best of its kind in the country.

I am also happy to inaugurate the District Police Office Complexes at Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram, each built at a cost of Rs.3 crores. The Armed Reserve Complex at Thiruvannamalai built at a cost of Rs.87.66 lakhs - and the Regional Forensic Science Laboratories at Villupuram and Ramanathapuram built at a cost of Rs.85 lakhs and Rs.86 lakhs respectively. I shall continue to make adequate financial provisions for infrastructure to make the Tamil Nadu Police a thoroughly professional and effective force, capable of making Tamil Nadu a haven of peace and prosperity.

It would be a truism to state that no progress can be achieved if we do not guarantee the perfect maintenance of law and order. I have always been totally uncompromising, in making Tamil Nadu a haven of peace and tranquillity. This has not happened by chance. It has been achieved by meticulous planning and an indomitable will that has backed up your efforts in keeping at bay all anti-social, extremist and fundamentalist forces that try to disrupt the peace or breach public order. It is to this end that I have systematically planned the modernisation of the Tamil Nadu Police by generous budgetary support, to improve communications and mobility, arms and equipment, buildings and training.

I am proud to note that all the Police Stations in the State are now equipped with computers. 1365 video cameras have been provided for use at the Police Station level. We have been systematically strengthening communications by VHF and mobile sets. Microwave communications in the State have been digitalised. Significant additions have been

made to vehicle strength, apart from a programme of regular replacement of condemned vehicles.

However, I believe that modernisation of the Police Force, is more than just the provision of more funds or new technology. The Tamil term for Policeman is "காவலர்" which epitomises his / her role as the guardian of the law and the protector of the people. In this role of protector, the Police must combine valour and toughness with sympathy and consideration. These qualities must be honed by rigorous training, skill development, and capacity building by a professionally drawn up curriculum and regular in - service programmes. It is for this reason that I envisaged, the setting up of the Tamil Nadu Police Academy at Oonamancheri village, at a cost of Rs.48 crores. I am happy to lay the foundation stone of this most modern Police Training facility which will cater to the multifarious requirements of imparting foundational training for new recruits, as well as in - service refresher courses for other police personnel. This academy will have the infrastructure to train 800 police personnel of various categories with exclusive facilities for imparting world - class training, accommodation for trainees, a residential complex for the training staff, a shopping complex, a hospital and dispensary, and a modern gymnasium. This landmark institution, to be built over a sprawling area of 132.92 acres of land will have an elegant yet utilitarian design, a congenial environment, and an ambience of international standards. I have no doubt that it will become a premier training institution of Police personnel in India.

We are all aware that the preservation of public order has become a very complex operation. The new challenges before the police are those of terrorism and fundamentalism, remote controlled bomb explosions, organised crime and drug mafias. Crime and Criminality have become



extremely sophisticated with the Information Technology revolution spawning a new virus of cyber crimes. New strategies and a completely restructured training programme alone can prepare the police to deal with such problems. Right from its very inception, the Tamil Nadu Police Academy should focus, on the highest levels of physical fitness, capacity building in terms of computer training, bomb disposal, handling of sophisticated arms, special operations, crisis management and negotiation skills for officers apart from programmes to manage stress. I expect this academy to design and implement multi-layered training modules not only for new recruits to the Force, but for officers at different levels, to prepare them to meet the new challenges of modern day policing.

I have announced that a memorial should be built, within the precincts of the Tamil Nadu Police Academy to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of the officers and men of the Tamil Nadu Police, who laid down their lives in the operations against the forest brigand, Veerappan. Following

my clear and firm mandate to the STF and the wholehearted support that I extended to them, the brutal saga of murder, pillage and destruction of forest wealth that had plagued Tamil Nadu for nearly 20 years was brought to an end by the thoroughly professional, meticulously planned and efficiently executed operations of our special task force. The daring and swift encounter that brought down Veerappan has fired the imagination of the entire Nation and has brought name, fame and glory to the Tamil Nadu Police. It would, therefore be in the fitness of things that a Memorial comes up here in the Tamil Nadu Police Academy so that every single man, woman and officer of the Tamil Nadu Police Force, who will enter the portals of the academy will know of the brave sacrifice made by these heroes, and will pay homage to them, as well as be inspired to perform similar acts of bravery and sacrifice.

Keeping in view the ideals of empowerment of women and the creation of a society where women are free from exploitation, and a criminal justice system that guarantees them full

protection against crime and victimisation, I gave an entirely new orientation to the Police Stations in the State, by making them women friendly. From the first ever all women police station which I inaugurated in 1992, today 188 operational Police Sub - Divisions in the State have an all women police station. I have ordered the appointment of one woman Sub-Inspector and two women police constables, Grade II in each of the existing regular Police Stations in the State. I have also taken steps to commission the first ever company of all women commandos and an exclusive all women police battalion, making Tamil Nadu the first state in India to raise such all women forces. It is my vision that the metamorphosis of the image of the Police as a humane, caring, sympathetic protector, a friend in need and counsellor of the people, particularly women would originate in the all women police stations of Tamil Nadu.

I am, therefore, glad to declare open 7 new all women police stations in the commissionerate of Chennai at Egmore, Vepery, Ayanavaram, Vadapalani, Royapettah, Teynampet and at the Highcourt Complex. The commissionerate of Chennai will now have an all women police station in each one of its 27 ranges. I trust that this will go a long way in giving Chennai the image of a safe city, particularly for women.

You are aware that I have also announced and implemented a number of welfare schemes for the police force. Apart from police housing at a cost of Rs.224.75 crores, I have stepped up grants for officers, men and women who are killed or are grievously injured in heroic circumstances. A number of educational schemes for wards of police personnel have also been introduced. Similarly, a liberal Health Scheme for police personnel was also introduced by me. I have taken these steps to keep the morale of our Police Force high, so that they can be equal to any

challenge, and ready and willing to undergo any hardship, and make any sacrifice in the line of duty.

The Tamil Nadu Police has an impressive record and has always distinguished itself in very trying circumstances, showing exemplary commitment to duty, remarkable courage and professionalism. You must be sensitive to the problems of the weaker sections of society and the problems of women. The creation of a society without fear and the reinforcement of the people's sense of security should be uppermost in your mind. You must strive hard to make our State the model for humane, just and efficient policing.

My vision is to make Tamil Nadu the Number One State in the country in all spheres by achieving overall economic growth and development. The bedrock for this is the perfect maintenance of law and order. To make this vision a reality, I call upon the officers, men and women of the Tamil Nadu Police to give their unstinted co-operation and loyalty. I expect that you will live up to the highest standards of performance and professionalism, that you will sustain your credibility as a friend of the people, and protector of the poor, and that you will be a Model Police Force for the entire country.

- Speech delivered by

Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,

*Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
during the foundation stone laying function
for the office complex of the
Director General of Police &
Police Academy and Inauguration
of various police office buildings
held on 10.11.2004.*

★ ★ ★



Peace, development and good governance are the aspirations of the people

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Tmt. Sheela Rani Chunkath, Home Secretary,
Thiru I.K. Govind, Director General of Police, Tamil
Nadu, Thiru S. Ramani, Director General of Police,
Training, Distinguished participants from all over
India, Officers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am indeed very happy today to inaugurate the National Workshop on 'Terrorism in India : Evolving Patterns and Police Response', organized by the Tamil Nadu Police. This is a welcome initiative taken by the Police Training College. I had, while addressing the recent conference of Police Officers on 10.8.2004, stated that "I will not countenance any slackness in dealing with terrorists, extremists and fundamentalists. Terrorist groups and fundamentalist forces have been kept at bay in the State."

Therefore, this initiative of holding a National Workshop is in tune with my vision that, not only Tamil Nadu but also the country as a whole, should address the issue of terrorism and deal with it firmly.

A year and a half ago in January, 2003, while inaugurating the National Seminar on "Crime Prevention Management - A Multi Pronged Approach" at this very venue, I observed that, "Today's world is marred by the threat of violence,

terrorism and crime that lurks everywhere. The scourges of serial bomb blasts and organised violence are no longer problems that some poor Third World countries have to battle alone. Terrorism has become a global phenomenon of epidemic proportions". We are yet to recover from the latest strike of mayhem by the terrorists who hijacked a school in Southern Russia resulting in the massacre of over 350 innocent school children, or the outrage of the 12 Nepalese nationals publicly executed by terrorists. So far as India is concerned, in the year 2003, the South Asia Terrorism Portal has published a very high figure of 658 civilian deaths due to terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir alone. These are, indeed, deeply distressing statistics and call for effective counter measures.

Globalisation has opened up the World. Information Technology and Communication Technology have taken giant leaps forward and even antipodal points on the globe are now in instant communication with each other. But man has paid a heavy price for globalization. New horizons of crime and criminality have opened up leading to organized crime, economic crime, fundamentalism and terrorism, often each interlinked to the other. The character of modern day terrorism is that of the mythical, multi-headed Hydra, with world-spanning networks of cellular connections and Internet linkages. Modern day terrorism has many faces and varied sponsors. Narco-terrorism is interlinked with a flourishing trade in contraband arms. A variety of legitimate businesses and charitable and religious trusts are really fronts for insidious terrorist enterprise. Electronic banking transactions facilitate money laundering that funds terrorist activity. The modern terrorist possesses the ability to move chameleon-like across International borders, with scandalous ease and impunity, making a mockery of visa

procedures and passport controls. The ease with which the assassins of the former Prime Minister of India were able to penetrate not only our borders and the customs barriers, but also to infiltrate the security cordon of a protected VVIP, is a case in point that exposes the extraordinary reach and extreme mobility of the modern terrorist.

An entirely new dimension is, of course, State sponsored terrorism, which in the Indian context has over arching connections with our problems with Pakistan. Certainly, the incessant terrorist activity in Jammu & Kashmir, the dastardly attack on our Parliament and the attack on the Akshardham Temple in Gujarat represent a new high in the escalation of terrorist activity in India, that has active cross-border implications in terms of providing sanctuary, routing of funds and arms, locating training camps and setting up logistics support in Pakistan. The religious origins of terrorism, especially of the Jehadis belonging to the Jaish-i-Mohammed or the Lashkar-i-Toiba, have their links traced to a Pan-Islamic "Umma" (Community) of groups like the Al Qaida and the Hamas, which operate from the Middle East.

It is my firm conviction that terrorist and subversive elements that try to disrupt our peace and tranquillity must be dealt with firmly. The reason for my unwavering stand is my unflinching belief that if we take a soft stance and allow these elements a toehold, containment later on will become impossible. Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, the North East and Andhra Pradesh are all such examples. The rapid economic growth that we desire will be greatly jeopardized by our constant preoccupation with terrorists and their activities. It is better to be firm upfront and give no quarter at all to terrorist forces. Political parties that espouse such causes are doing so for their own short-term electoral gains, throwing



national security and the very peace that we desire to the winds.

You are all aware of my unswerving commitment to stamping out extremism and the fissiparous forces that it generates. Terrorist groups and fundamentalist forces have been kept firmly under check under my Chief Ministership. The LTTE's activities in Tamil Nadu have been totally contained. This organization was banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, as well as under POTA, 2002. Pointed intelligence was available regarding the support of other extremist groups in Tamil Nadu, like the Tamil - National Retrieval Troops (TNRT) and Tamil Nadu Liberation Army (TNLA) being extended to the LTTE. Therefore, these outfits were banned under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908, and on the recommendations of the State Government, the Government of India also banned these outfits under POTA, 2002. The LTTE has a notorious and dubious record of duplicity. They have jettisoned the peace process in Sri

Lanka on more than one occasion, as is clear from the fresh bout of internecine killings by LTTE groups within Sri Lanka. The LTTE has also resorted to unauthorized naval operations in International waters and has abducted Indian fishermen, even while seeking to assume the mantle of legitimacy by claiming to have naval control of the International waters off the coast of Mannar. Since the role played by a deadly terrorist group like the LTTE in political developments in Sri Lanka has implications for the internal security situation in India, particularly Tamil Nadu, I have opposed the starting of a ferry service between Thoothukudi and Colombo as a serious security hazard which exposes our coastline to narcotic smuggling, infiltration of terrorists and asylum seekers. Thus, at every juncture, I have adopted an open stance of firmness in the context of the LTTE, even at the cost of great personal risk.

We have been keenly aware of the history of the criminal and extremist activities of the Communist Party of India - Marxist Leninist

(People's War) known as People's War Group, which is known to operate in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri Districts of Tamil Nadu. Considering the fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has, in a policy shift, decided not to extend the ban on the CPI-ML(PW) in Andhra Pradesh beyond July, 2004, which could result in cadres and sympathizers infiltrating into Tamil Nadu, I have declared the CPI-ML(PW) and front organizations as 'Unlawful Organizations' under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908.

Since terrorism has many faces, many sponsors, and many different modes of action spanning the entire globe, our approach to fighting terrorism will have to be multi-pronged, combining measures to strengthen intelligence and beef up security infrastructure, along with a developmental initiative that addresses the basic grievances underlying disaffection.

The alienation of the poorer sections of Society in certain pockets from the national mainstream, owing to extreme poverty, rural indebtedness, unemployment and exploitation, are important causes that make them easy targets for extremist propaganda, particularly of groups like the Communist Party of India - Marxist Leninist (People's War). There is also evidence of funding by external agencies that consider these to be fertile breeding grounds for destabilizing the State'. Here, the socio-economic problems need to be addressed if we have to root out extremism. It cannot be viewed as a policing problem alone and has to be tackled by a combination of developmental initiatives, and measures to involve the youth in gainful employment, and improving Police-Public relations. This will go a long way in ridding the youth of frustration and disillusionment which are primarily responsible for driving them to extremism and violence.

It is for this reason that so far as the containment of extremist activity in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts is concerned, I have taken special steps to sanction a sum of Rs.5 crores for the economic rejuvenation of the backward areas of the districts, with special focus on employment programmes particularly for the youth.

In the post September 11, 2001, context, the global security environment as well as the internal security environment in India, have undergone a sea change. It is well known that special situations warrant special laws. Terrorist activities, abetted by a slew of unscrupulous, internationally dreaded organizations and inter-linked to drug cartels, are spreading disaffection in many parts of our country. No State in India is safe from the disruptive violence that these banned organizations let loose. Their extraordinary reach and influence can only be countered by a special enactment like POTA. The repeal of POTA has now denuded the State Governments of their powers to combat terrorism. It also means that now the law enforcement agencies will not have any special law at their disposal to effectively tackle terrorists and extremist outfits, and they will have to rely upon the provisions of archaic laws, which have repeatedly proved inadequate, even to handle serious and heinous crimes. It is, perhaps, not very well known that "sabotage", which is an act of violence, particularly resorted to by terrorists, is not even defined in the Indian Penal Code! There is no doubt in my mind that if we are to effectively defend the territorial integrity of our Nation from the onslaught of terrorist forces, a special enactment like POTA should have been allowed to remain in the legal armoury of the law enforcement agencies. Its repeal has only resulted in their emasculation. I do not see much point in

the assurance that necessary provisions will be added to existing laws to compensate for the repeal of POTA. In fact, such a stand merely shows ambivalence and vacillation and only strengthens our stand that the repeal is ill-considered and has left behind a vacuum in our defence against terrorism.

I launched in 2002, in which more than Rs. 361 crores has been sanctioned to the Police Force for weaponry, equipment and sophisticated communication facilities, has also ensured that they have access to the latest technology in this war against terrorism.

The need to strengthen the intelligence machinery is another major area of concern. A



Since the terrorist groups are equipped with the latest arms and equipment including chemical weapons, there can be no half-measures in modernizing or equipping our Police Force. Therefore, in Tamil Nadu, I have strengthened the capability of the Police to restrict the ability of terrorist elements to thwart security systems, by inaugurating the Tele Justice System through Video Conferencing throughout the State, connecting 11 prisons with 270 Courts, covering 78 different locations in the State, at a cost of Rs.8.61 crores. Thus, in our war against terrorism, I have ensured that we are always one step ahead. The wide ranging Modernisation of Police Force Programme that

failure of intelligence has invariably been noticed in the postmortem of various violent terrorist acts. The ease with which terrorist organizations are able to find suicide squads to carry out their murderous missions and the extremely high levels of motivation and fanatic zeal of the terrorist groups, no doubt, have complicated the task of the intelligence machinery. A new approach is now called for. A surveillance system based on community watch organizations, along with a sensitization programme of the public, should go along with the provision of high-technology interception and surveillance equipment to the Police. The absence of co-ordination between State and Central Agencies

and turf wars, only inhibit the process of exchange of intelligence. Given that terrorism has multifarious dimensions like money laundering, syndicated crime and drug cartel networks, apart from links between terrorist groups of different origins, as for example, the LTTE with the ULFA, it is important that the State Police, the intelligence Bureau, the Customs and Internal Revenue Departments, the Narcotics Control Bureau, and the Coast Guard, apart from agencies handling external intelligence like RAW, are brought together under an institutionalized set up, with an IT - driven database, and information sharing protocol. At the State level, it should be under the Chief Minister of the State, and under the Union Home Minister or the Cabinet Committee on Security at the level of the Government of India.

The changed post-September 11, 2001 security environment has exposed the need to redesign the orientation of the State security infrastructure. A massive capability enhancement exercise and review of security arrangements will have to be undertaken. Apart from V.V.I.P. security, special plans to protect valuable economic infrastructure and installations like Nuclear Plants, Dams and Power Stations will have to be drawn up. Considering that terrorists now have access to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and chemical weapons, training of security personnel in handling such situations will have to be imparted, going far beyond conventional explosives.

The State Police will also have to be trained to handle hostage crises by imparting special training in negotiation, bargaining psychology etc.

I believe that it is important not to capitulate to any pressures brought about by any terrorist action, including kidnappings, hijackings and hostage crises, irrespective of the pressures and the media mileage sought to be gained by such actions. India cannot afford to give the impression

of being a soft State or a soft target, that would be prepared to negotiate and compromise with terrorists under pressure. Above all, what is of paramount importance is the firm political will to fight terrorism anywhere and everywhere.

I have always emphasized that Peace, Development and Good Governance are the three basic aspirations of the people who have mandated us to power. A crime-free society and freedom from fear are the basic ingredients of peace. If we do not devise a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism now, the world would necessarily revert to the state of nature so graphically described by Thomas Hobbes in his Leviathan and I quote, ".....no arts, no letters, no society, and, which is worst of all, continual fear and danger of violent death, and the life of man solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." (Unquote)

I wish that the deliberations of this all important Workshop on terrorism and the challenges that it presents to the Police, should bring out a set of recommendations that would rescue civil society from this Hobbesian state of nature. If violence can ever be legitimate, it must be so only in the war against terrorism.

In the end, I would like to remind carping critics and the people that, we sleep safe in our beds only because the Police stand ready in the night, to protect us from those who would do us harm.

Thank you

Speech of Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
Hon'ble Chief Minister at the inauguration
of the National Workshop on
"Terrorism in India Evolving Patterns
and Police Response"
at Secretariat on 22.9.2004.



THE PUBLIC ARE OUR REAL MASTERS

- SELVI J JAYALALITHAA
Hon'ble Chief Minister

- Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister on 20.10.2004

It is now a well-accepted fact that the delivery of services by a Government has to be improved in order to ensure that the planned benefits reach the poor. The importance of improved service delivery cannot be over emphasised particularly in the context of public finance where resources are always inadequate. While on the one hand all the employees have to be encouraged so that they have a better quality of life and can serve the people better, on the other hand we have to ensure that adequate benefits reach the poor promptly. The challenge of good governance is to ensure that a delicate balance between these requirements is actually found. Government employees and teachers who form the backbone of the Government's service delivery system need to recognise this dominant requirement of good governance.

It is this balance that had to be established in Tamil Nadu when my Government assumed office in May 2001. At that time, Tamil Nadu was confronted by a fiscal collapse of unimaginable proportions. The previous DMK Government which ruled the State between 1996 — 2001, while apparently pretending to confer huge benefits on Government employees and teachers was at the same time unable to honour these commitments. Thus, the previous DMK Government postponed the

payment of 60% of the balance of arrears of pay and allowances, to the year 2003-2004, following the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission's recommendations. Likewise, the arrears in respect of pensioners were also similarly postponed by the previous DMK Government. No responsible Government can announce such concessions without the capacity to honour them.

Despite the fact that these commitments were not honoured by the previous DMK Government and were left to be settled in the future when there was no hope of doing so, my Government has recently come forward to settle all these arrears left by the previous DMK Government, in a phased manner. This itself will indicate the sense of responsibility with which my Government has been undertaking the management of public finances, keeping the requirements of the poor and needy uppermost in mind, while at the same time placing emphasis on improvements to the quality of life of Government employees and teachers so that they can serve the people better.

When my Government assumed office in May 2001, it is now well known that the State treasury could not even honour cleared payments and such bills were kept pending for several months

and even years. In fact by the end of 2001-2002, with the further reduction in resources from the Government of India following the Eleventh Finance Commission's recommendations, the situation became unmanageable with current liabilities and bills pending amounting to as much as Rs.4000 crores. With a similar situation in all the State Transport Corporations and in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, my Government had no choice but to set right the fiscal ruin that the State had been pushed into by the previous DMK Government. It was impossible to carry out any new programme for the people nor was it possible to even maintain the existing benefits to Government employees and teachers.

It was for this reason, that I had counselled patience on the part of the Government employees and teachers so that the position could be set right. Unfortunately, last year in 2003, despite my appeal some Unions of Government employees and Associations of Teachers decided to enter upon a strike instigated by certain political leaders. At that time, my Government had to establish the principle that the Government, Government employees and teachers should all serve the people who are our real masters. This principle that all of us should never under any circumstances cause inconvenience to the public was established last year.

Once this was set forth with clarity, I ensured that there was no ill will or intention to hurt Government employees or teachers. The very fact that I have invited all the Unions and Associations for a meeting today (20.10.2004) itself indicates that my Government and I bear no ill will of any kind. I also announced a general amnesty to even those who were punished as recommended by the Panel of Judges. I announced this in the Legislative Assembly in February 2004 itself. In May 2004, I reiterated the fact that there was no ill will towards Government employees and teachers.

It is with great difficulty that my Government has retrieved the impossible financial position to a considerable extent from the deep abyss that the

DMK Government left it in. This required sacrifices by all. My Government had to ensure that the burden of this adjustment would not fall on the poor and the needy. It is this background that Government employees and teachers should understand. I have, in May 2004, announced a new package of support for the poor of the State. This has a major impact on the finances of the State. Yet, I am confident that the efforts we have taken to set right the fiscal position will provide the wherewithal to handle these essential requirements for the poor. At the same time we have not yet fully resolved the threat posed by new cost increases, particularly in the State Transport Corporations due to diesel price hike, and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board due to coal price hike. We have to provide in cash the subsidy requirements of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to benefit farmers, hut dwellers and domestic consumers. We have to provide increased requirements of subsidy for the Public Distribution System. All these requirements have to be met. As I have said before, we have to find a proper balance between these requirements and the aspirations of Government employees and teachers.

It is with this background, particularly to establish the firm position that my Government has absolutely no ill will or bias against Government employees and teachers, as is made out by some leaders of political parties, that I invited representatives of Unions and Associations to hear their requests personally. I am glad that the Unions and Associations have extended their co-operation in the task of reaching out to the poor and needy which is our common agenda. I am glad that it has been possible to let bygones be bygones and to look forward to a constructive and meaningful future with a new resolve and dedication to serve the people better.

It is with this new spirit of mutual understanding that my Government has viewed all the requests that have been placed before the Government. It will be clear that my heart is willing to do the very best for Government employees and teachers but the finances still threaten.

My Government has considered with great care all the requests made. These requests have been examined in detail. Simultaneously we have reassessed the fiscal situation. My Government has also to keep in mind the obligations under the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act 2003. Above all, the people who are our real masters require better services which my Government is striving to provide.

Keeping all these aspects in mind and with the clear intention of promoting understanding between my Government and the employees and teachers, I am glad to announce the sanction of one instalment of dearness allowance at 4% of pay with effect from 1.7.2004. This will apply to all State Government employees and teachers. This will also apply to the teaching and non-teaching staff working in Aided Educational Institutions, employees under Local Bodies, Noon Meal Organisers, Child Welfare Organisers, Anganwadi Workers and others. This will also be extended to pensioners. This will increase the total Dearness Allowance from 55% to 59% with effect from 1.7. 2004. The arrears from 1.7.2004 will be paid in cash. An adhoc increase of Rs.20 per month for those who are drawing consolidated pay, fixed pay and honorarium above Rs.150 per month as on 1.1.1996 and Rs.10 per month to those drawing less than Rs.150 per month will be allowed from 1.7.2004. This sanction of Dearness Allowance will benefit in all 12.33 lakh Government employees, teachers and others, as also 4.37 lakh pensioners at a total cost of Rs.267.08 crores per annum. The arrears Rs.66.77 crores from 1.7.2004 to 30.9.2004 will be paid fully in cash immediately.

Government employees and teachers have also requested that the balance instalments of dearness allowance be sanctioned. I am glad to announce that the next instalment of Dearness Allowance of 2% basic pay will be paid with effect from 1.1.2005 at an annual cost of Rs.135.38 crores. This will bring the total rate to 61% with effect from 1.1.2005. Thus, a major effort to reduce the gap between the Government of India's rates of Dearness Allowance and the State Government's

rates of Dearness Allowance has been made, and it will be the endeavour of my Government to reduce the gap in future as the financial position improves further. I am sure Government employees and teachers will greatly welcome this measure of assured payment of Dearness Allowance.

Government employees and teachers requested me today that inspite of the financial strain, I should consider providing the facility of encashment of leave. The facility of encashment of leave does not exist in most States and not even in the Government of India. Even so, Government employees and teachers have requested that this benefit may be provided. I have given careful consideration to their plea and I have decided to sanction encashment of leave for 7 days in a year as per the regular annual cycle, so that the costs are incurred evenly throughout the year. This will take effect from 20th October, 2004. It will benefit all employees and teachers. The annual cost will be Rs.171.34 crores. Despite the requirements of public finance with the need to conserve resources, and the fact that this facility does not exist in most other States as well as the Government of India, I have decided to sanction this facility with a view to promoting goodwill and encouraging Government employees to give of their best in terms of service delivery to the poor.

As I have said before, the public are our real masters and we should never cause them inconvenience. Whenever requests are made, they should be done keeping this uppermost in mind. My Government has clearly set out the principle of 'No work, No pay' as a principle of public policy and this cannot be deviated from. Employees and Teachers Associations requested me today that a generous view may be taken and their period of absence during the last strike from 1.7.2003 to 24.7.2003, when they actually rejoined duty may be treated as duty. They have cited certain extenuating circumstances and highlighted that they had already expressed regret in the High Court and their willingness to end the strike and to rejoin duty very early during the strike. The discipline involved in the principle 'No work,

No pay' has to be upheld. At the same time, I have decided to treat the whole episode of the strike last year by the Employees Unions and Teachers Associations as a misguided unfortunate event which is best left buried in the past. In this spirit, I have decided to take a magnanimous view. The period from 1.7.2003 or 2.7.2003 upto and including 4.7.2003 will be treated as "No work, No pay". The remaining period upto 24.7.2004 will be treated as duty. This is a major departure from the principle of "No work No pay, but I am undertaking this to ensure that Government employees and teachers will fully reciprocate and respond by extending their unstinted co-operation to the Government in all its efforts for the benefit of the poor and needy.

It is necessary for Employees Unions and Teachers Associations to function responsibly in close co-operation with the Government so that services are rendered effectively and efficiently to the people. Never for a moment should Employees Unions and Teachers Associations forget this responsibility. There may be grievances and requests, but Employees Unions and Associations should always realise that the primary purpose of the Government itself is to reach out to the poor and needy and provide a better life to them. Employees Unions and Teachers Associations should never let themselves be carried away, forgetting this primary goal of governance. Their demands and requests will always be considered by my Government, but with a sense of balance, keeping the needs of the have-nots as the top priority. This approach has to be recognised. Accepting this, Employees Unions and Associations of Teachers have requested that their recognition which was withdrawn after the strike in July, 2003, may again be granted, indicating that they will discharge their responsibility with care and diligence in close cooperation with the Government. Keeping in mind the spirit of goodwill and cooperation extended by Government Employees and Teachers Associations, I have decided to restore the status quo ante prior to the strike in July, 2003. All the 37 Employees Unions and Teachers Associations whose recognition was withdrawn

following the strike will again be granted recognition. My Government expects that they will carry out their functions in a responsible manner and also inculcate among their members the mission of improved service to the people.

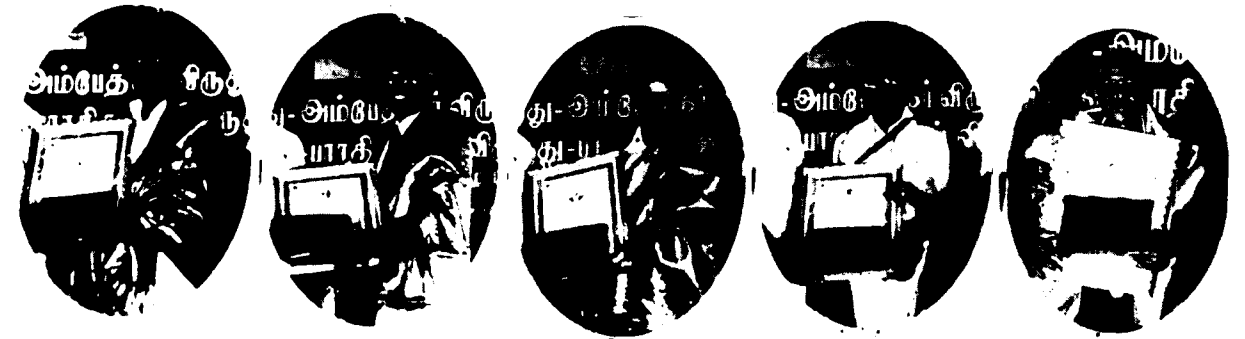
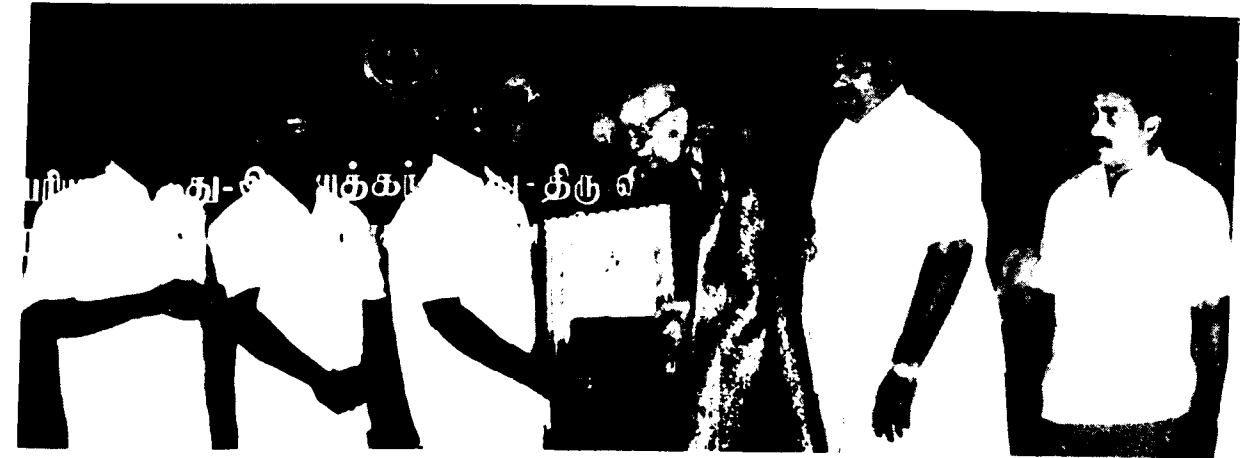
Today, many of the Employees Unions and Teachers Associations have represented that there are many minor issues, which can easily be resolved at the district level and the departmental level if a suitable forum is provided. I am glad to announce that at the District level, Department level and Secretariat Department level, "Service Delivery Improvement and Grievance Redressal Committees" will be constituted to focus on both improved performance and efficiency, as also redressal of grievances of Employees and Teachers. I am also glad to announce the reconstitution of a State Level Joint Council headed by the Chief Secretary, wherein such issues can be discussed and solutions found. I am confident that these measures will facilitate the ongoing dialogue between my Government and Employees Unions and Associations towards the common endeavour of better service to the people.

A plea was made that those in non pensionable service such as anganwadi workers, ayahs, cooks and helpers working in the Noon Meal Scheme and ICDS projects should be given certain benefits. Similarly, a plea was also made to suitably change school timings particularly in rural areas to be more convenient for both students and teachers. These will be considered favourably and separate announcements will be made.

I have evolved this package after careful consideration of all the views put forward by the Employees and Associations. I have done so in the hope that Employees Unions and Teachers Associations will extend full co-operation and support to my Government, in its determined bid to take Tamil Nadu to the Numero Uno position in every sphere.

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TAMIL SAVANTS AND SCHOLARS HONOURED



To perpetuate the memory of great souls who had fought for the cause of freedom, tamil language and society, the Government of Tamil Nadu present awards to eminent tamil savants and scholars every year in the names of Periyar, Ambedkar, Thiru Vi Ka, Bharathiar, Bharathidasan and Ki Aa Pe. The awards for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 were presented at a function held at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 17.9.2004.

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Prohibition and Excise and Revenue gave away the awards and delivered the

presidential address. In his address the Hon'ble Minister said he was happy to give away the awards in the names of Thanthai Periyar, Dr. Ambedkar, Thiru Vi Ka, Mahakavi Bharathiar, Bharathidasan and Ki Aa Pe since they had superior thoughts and had served the society selflessly. For a country to become a developed nation it should have selfless leaders he added.

Hon'ble Minister for Information, Publicity and Local Administration Thiru K.P. Anbalagan who presided over the function expressed happiness and congratulated the recipients.



Hon'ble Minister for Education and Commercial Taxes Thiru. C.Ve. Shanmugam, Hon'ble Minister for Adiravidar Welfare Thiru C. Karuppasamy and Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Thiru. Se. Ma. Velusamy also spoke on the occasion.



Thiru. V. Ramadoss, I.A.S., Secretary, Information & Tourism Department welcomed the gathering. Thiru. S.M. Shanmugasundaram, Joint Director, Public Relations, proposed a vote of thanks.



The function was compered by Thiru. R. Bharathan, Joint Director, Administration. The function was attended by a large gathering of Tamil Scholars, Officials, students of Schools and Colleges.



The following scholars received the awards.

2002

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|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Periyar Award | - Thiru. Ka. Jegaveerapandian |
| 2) Ambedkar Award | - Thiru. M. Damodaran |
| 3) Thiru Vi Ka Award | - Prof. T.V. Gopal Iyyar |
| 4) Bharathiar Award | - Thiru. K.V. Krishnan |
| 5) Bharathidasan Award | - Dr. S.S. Ramar Elango |
| 6) Ki Aa Pe Award | - Dr. M. Thamizhkudimagan |

2003

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Periyar Award | - Thiru. Durai Govindarajan |
| 2) Ambedkar Award | - Thiru. V. Subbarathanam |
| 3) Thiru Vi Ka Award | - Dr. M.R.B. Gurusamy |
| 4) Bharathiar Award | - Thiru. R.A. Padmanabhan |
| 5) Bharathidasan Award | - Prof. A. Dakshinamoorthy |
| 6) Ki Aa Pe Award | - Dr. S.V. Subramanian |

2004

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Periyar Award | - Justice P. Venugopal |
| 2) Ambedkar Award | - Thiru. A. Sakthidasan |
| 3) Thiru Vi Ka Award | - Dr. S. Agathiyalingam |
| 4) Bharathiar Award | - Thiru. Seeni. Viswanathan |
| 5) Bharathidasan Award | - Prof. L.P. Karu Ramanathan |
| 6) Ki Aa Pe Award | - Dr. Rajarajeswari |

* * *

Tamil Nadu is first in South Asia to form river - basin board



Thiru. **O. Panneerselvam**,
Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Prohibition &
Excise and Revenue

First of all, I thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Idhayatheivam Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for having permitted me to deliver the inaugural address on the "National Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Assessment, Development and Management".

I am very happy to state in the midst of you that this is one of the major areas in which the Government under Idhayatheivam Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has made remarkable achievement.

Water is one of the most vital, renewable resources. It is also crucial for the quality of life.

It is not only vital for sustenance of life but is also essential for socio economic development. With the growth of population, rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, increased standard of living and life expectancy, improvement in sanitation etc. the demand for water is increasing. There is heavy competition among the main sectors, namely,

Domestic, Agriculture, Industries, Power sectors etc. Land and water are two basic resources of the nation. Productive land is the source of human survival and security.

The volume of water on earth is 1,400 Million cubic kilometres. Out of this 2.8% is fresh water and surface runoff accounts to 40,000 cubic kilometre. The average per/capita availability of water per year in the world is around 7400 cubic meters. The world population is six billion (Jan first 2000) and the forest coverage is 2370 Million Hectares in the year 2000.

India has got 329 Million Hectares as geographical area (2.45% of the World area) and population 1.027 billion (16% of the World population) cultivable area to 184 Million Hectares per/capita availability of water per year in 2001 is 1820 cubic meter and forest coverage is 65 Million Hectares (20% of Geographical area) of the country.

India faces twin problems, population growth and poverty. Its economy is based on agriculture, irrigation and agriculture have always been given priority in development plans to make the country become self reliant on food front.

Tamil Nadu is a water starving state next to Rajasthan. It is not self sufficient on food either. With 4% (13 Million Hectares) of the land of the country and 6.4% (62.11 Million) of the country's population it has to sustain with less than 3% of country's water resources.

Barring the degraded and wastelands all cultivable area is being sown with appropriate crops.

Attempts are now on way to find out ways and means of reclaiming the wastelands and degraded lands as well, so as to augment production. Only about 47% of the area sown is presently being irrigated by all available water resources. The intensity of cropping is only around 120% Irrigation and drainage systems are environmentally degrading.

Groundwater development has proceeded with little consideration of environmental implications. There is insufficient water available in river basins to address environmental and ecological considerations. The forest coverage is 2.28 Million Hectares (17.5% of geographical area).

Having harvested 95% of surface water potential and 75% of ground water potential, conservation and management of water, land resources and other allied resources is the need of the hour.

There are 34 river basins in Tamil Nadu including one west flowing river Parambikulam Aliyar and for hydrological studies they have been grouped into 17 river basins.

With large scale water development and increased utilisation of water for various uses, many areas and concerns needing attention have emerged. The supply demand gap is widening in order to solve the various issues encountered in the basin. There must be an organisation for water allocation, management and monitoring of the resources.

Hence for integrated planning monitoring, management and development of water, land and other natural resources with the active participation of stakeholders to achieve socially and environmentally sustainable development of the resources in the river basin, the Tamil Nadu Government have formed river basin management and development boards for Palar and Tambaraparani river basins with basin management committees and a common Technical Secretariat. Tamil Nadu is first in South Asia to form river basin boards. The issues encountered in the basins are sorted out by involving stakeholders, Water Users Association, Line departments, MLAs, MPs & Ministers.

Based on the successful completion of the present water resources consolidation project, on the advice of Hon'ble Chief Minister Idhayatheivam

Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, a proposal for about Rs.2900 crores, under Water Resources Phase-II, has been sent to the World Bank and the World Bank has accepted to take up the follow on project. A project concept document is under preparation to enable a successful and effective implementation.

In order to integrate the activities of various line departments Hanaumanadhi sub basin is taken up for modernisation, water conservation, micro irrigation like sprinkler and drip irrigation, soil conservation, afforestation, fisheries, watershed management etc as a pilot sub basin for integrated water resources management involving the participatory approach at a cost of Rs.61 crores.

Government of Tamil Nadu have introduced groundwater legislation. The act is called "Tamil Nadu ground water development & management act 2003".

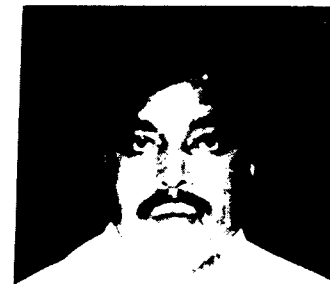
Under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Idhayatheivam Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, Tamil Nadu is fore-runner in implementing rainwater harvesting structures and artificial recharge schemes to augment water resources in all the houses and office buildings including irrigation structures all over Tamil Nadu in one stroke.

To evolve effective utilisation of water resources and equity, farmers organisation and turn over is being implemented in the state under Tamil Nadu farmers management of irrigation system Act. In order to tackle pollution and other issues relating to water, remedial and preventive measures are taken up in the water resources sector. Importance is being given to solve site specific problems by field oriented applied research. I hope the two days workshop on water resources would emerge with new findings and conclusions.

I wish the workshop all success.

*Inaugural Address by
Hon'ble Minister for Public Works,
Prohibition & Excise and Revenue
Thiru O. Panneerselvam
at the National Workshop on
Integrated Water Resources Assessment,
Development and Management (IWRADM)
on 23.9.2004 at GRT Grand Hotel, Chennai.*

NUTRITIONAL EFFECTS ON FLUOROSIS



Thiru. K.P. ANBALAGAN,
Hon'ble Minister for Information &
Publicity and Local Administration

I consider it a great privilege to be with you in this august assembly for the important purpose of deliberating issues related to health effects due to consumption of excess fluoride from drinking water and food, the preventive measures and strategies to be followed for mitigation of the diseases and safeguarding the future generation from the resultant ill effects of fluoride toxicity.

Due to over extraction of water sources, continued depletion of water table and poor rain fall, deterioration of quality of the water sources has been noticed. Of all water quality parameters, fluoride can be

considered as the most health significant parameter.

As you all know, the problem of fluoride is due to nature of rocks and soils containing fluoride minerals. Excessive fluoride in water causes different types of fluorosis. Fluoride affects the teeth in children. It affects the skeleton of all age groups. In addition, other symptoms like pain in the joints, neck and bones are also experienced by the people. Fluoride is considered as non-reversible and prevention and proper nutrition intervention is essential. Fluoride is present in water, food, air (Industrial gases), cosmetics, some kinds of toothpaste and drugs. Fish, tobacco and tea are reported to contain high levels of fluoride. The fluoride entering human body directly acts with bones and teeth where calcium is present, The permissible limit for fluoride is 1.0 mg/litre and under no circumstance it can exceed 1.5 mg/litre. The presence of excess fluoride in water is the main cause for fluorosis. Statistics show that aged persons, persons affected by heart diseases, kidney diseases, malnourished children, people living in tropical areas, people exposed to sunlight are the most affected by the intake of water with high fluoride water.

In India about 17 States are reported to be having fluoride problem. States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh Rajasthan and Gujarat are severely affected. The latest resurvey of habitations reveals that there are totally 5574 water quality affected habitations as against the 81787 habitations in Tamil Nadu. Of these habitations, 1899 habitations are considered as non safe source habitations with respect to fluoride only. The districts of Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Salem and Erode are severely affected. Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts alone account for 1065 fluoride affected habitations.

In Tamil Nadu, various water supply schemes have been implemented with alternate distant fluoride-free sources. The fluorosis mitigation programmes include creating awareness under IEC activities, providing safe and alternate source, promoting defluoridation activities, etc.

I am also happy to inform you that a state level "Multi-Disciplinary Fluorosis Control Cell" has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and water Supply Department. The fluorosis control cell periodically reviews the status of fluoride affected areas to take appropriate mitigation measures. The Cell guides in the implementation of various water supply programmes in fluoride affected areas.

With the assistance of Gandhigram Rural Institute and other private institutions, defluoridation plants were installed in Dindigul and in Dharmapuri Districts on

experimental basis and the results were found to be encouraging. But, the installation of onsite plants cannot help the Districts like Dharmapuri where the problems are so acute in many habitations. Therefore, major water supply schemes with River Cauvery at Hogenakkal as source is under active consideration for solving the problem permanently in Dharmapuri district.

In addition to providing safe and alternate source, there are other options like nutritional intervention for both prevention and cure of fluorosis. It is pertinent to note that medicinal and nutritional effects on fluorosis have not been debated adequately so far and therefore, I am happy that this workshop is rightly timed with the experts representing all different sectors on the subject.

I am sure that the deliberations in the two days seminar would generate lot of new ideas and suggestions for taking appropriate actions at National and State level to completely eradicate the problem of fluorosis from the country.

I once again wish the Workshop a great success.

*Speech of Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan,
Hon'ble Minister for Information &
Publicity and Local Administration,
at the National Workshop on
"Nutritional Effects on Fluorosis"
on 19th & 20th November 2004
at Chennai.*

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Iodine Deficiency and Iodised Salt Some Basic Facts

What is iodine and why is it so essential for human beings?

Iodine is a natural element, which is essential to human life. It is an essential component of the thyroid hormones i.e., thyroxine (T4) and tri-iodothyronine (T3). Iodine is essential for the normal growth, development and functioning of both the brain and body.

Lack of iodine can cause iodine deficiency disorders. Iodine is particularly essential during early childhood, puberty, pregnancy and lactation. A pregnant woman who is deficient in iodine is likely to give birth to a child with impaired mental and physical abilities. This condition of the child can worsen as she/he grows older.

How much iodine does a person normally need?

Conditions such as age of an individual and pregnancy and lactation in women determine the quantity of iodine required by a person. The average daily requirement of an adult is 150

micrograms and that of a pregnant and lactating woman is 200 micrograms. The age specific daily requirement of iodine of a child is as follows:

Infant	0-11 months	50 micrograms
Child	12-59 months	90 micrograms
School age child	6-12 years	120 micrograms

From where do we normally get iodine?

Iodine is present as salts in soil and water. Normal requirement comes from food grown on soil with adequate iodine. But, when the soil of any area lacks iodine, the crops grown on such soil are also deficient in iodine. Consequently, those people who live in iodine-deficient areas and eat locally grown food items regularly, do not get their daily requirement of this essential element in their food.

Are there any special foods that are rich in iodine?

Except for certain types of seaweed there are no foods that are rich in iodine. All foods derive their iodine from the soil on which they grow. If the soil is poor in iodine content the foods grown on it are also low in iodine content.

Contrary to the general belief, seawater is not a rich source of iodine. Seawater contains about 0.05 milligram/litre (0.05 ppm) of iodine. Only the specific variety of seaweed located near coralreefs have inherent biological capacity to concentrate iodine from the sea water. The reef fish that thrive on this variety of seaweed is rich in iodine. Thus, population consuming a specific type of seaweed and reef fish have high intake of iodine, as is the case in Japan.

Are all sea foods rich in iodine?

It is wrongly believed that all sea foods are rich in iodine. It is also wrong to say that salt made from sea water is rich in iodine. Sea salt contains only 0.28 ppm iodine. Only seaweed growing near

coral reefs and reef fish feeding on such seaweed are rich source of iodine. In fish, the thyroid gland that is rich in iodine is located in the head. As the head of fish is not commonly consumed, iodine intake is limited even among those who eat reef fish.

What is the relationship between goitrogens and iodine assimilation?

Goitrogens in certain kinds of foods such as cabbage, cauliflower, radish, turnip, sweet potato and casava prevent the uptake of iodine. The excess of thiocyanate in these foods, if consumed in large quantities, can trigger off goitrogenic action.

CONSEQUENCES OF IODINE DEFICIENCY

What happens if a person does not get enough iodine?

A number of physical and mental disorders, some serious, some mild, result from iodine deficiency. The most visible and easily recognisable sign of iodine deficiency is goitre (goitre is an enlarged thryroid gland). Iodine deficient women frequently suffer abortions and stillbirth. Iodine deficiency can also lead to hypothyroidism, mental retardation, growth retardation, cretinism, low IQ, impaired mental abilities and decreased child survival.

Among adults this deficiency can result in low productivity and lack of energy. Inadequate iodine during pregnancy leads to decreased availability of iodine to the foetus, which leads to decreased synthesis of thyroxine. The decreased availability of thyroxine prevents the normal development of the foetal brain and body. Such brain damage is permanent and irreversible and irrevocably limits intellectual growth in later years.

Studies have documented that iodine deficiency results in lowering the average ntelligence of the entire school age population by

as much as 10-15 IQ points

What are Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD)?

Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) form a spectrum of abnormalities which affect every stage of life. The following table summarises IDD.

The Spectrum of Iodine Deficiency Disorders

Stage in life	Effects
Foetus	Abortions Stillbirths Congenital Anomalies Increased Perinatal Mortality Neurological Cretinism - mental deficiency - deaf-mutism - spastic diplegia - squint Myxedematous cretinism - mental deficiency - dwarfism - Psychomotor defects
Neonate	Neonatal goitre
Child	Goitre Mental retardation/ learning disability Juvenile hypothyroidism
Adolescent	Impaired mental function Retarded physical development
Adult	Goitre with its complications Hypothyroidism Impaired mental function

Why does a child become a cretin?

A baby growing in the mother's womb needs a regular supply of iodine for the normal growth and development of its brain and body. Only the mother's body can provide this essential iodine. If the mother is iodine deficient, the foetus too is deprived of iodine. If the woman's iodine deficiency



Is salt iodisation benefiting the big and multi-national companies?

In India, as of 31st March 2002, there are 878 salt iodisation plants with an annual capacity of producing 112 lakh tonnes of iodised salt. Details in this regard are as follows:

Plants installed by	No. of plants
Small common salt manufacturers (upto 10 acres)	323
Medium common salt manufacturers (10 - 100 acres)	79
Other common salt manufacturers (above 100 acres)	114
Traders	333
Refineries	29
Total	878

There is not even a single multinational company in iodised salt production. However, one multinational company is providing marketing assistance to some salt refineries. The country is self sufficient in production of common salt. Iodisation plants are also fabricated indigenously.

SAFETY OF IODINE INTAKE

Is potassium iodate safe?

Potassium iodate is totally safe in the quantity consumed, i.e. the quantity that is added to salt for iodisation. The average per capita salt consumption in India is 10 grams per day. The 50 ppm of potassium iodate added to salt at the

manufacturing level to ensure presence of 30 ppm of iodine, is well within safe levels of consumption.

Is excess of iodine intake harmful?

A safe daily intake of iodine has been estimated to be 1000 micrograms. When iodised salt is consumed, the daily iodine intake is expected to be in the range of 150 to 300 micrograms. This quantity of iodine intake is 6 to 3 times, respectively, less than the upper limit set for iodine intake. Also, about 90 percent of iodine consumed is eventually excreted through urine.

If a person lives in an area that is not iodine deficient, can the extra iodine in the salt consumed be harmful?

Our body needs only a small amount of iodine to function normally. If this iodine is available to the body through dietary intake, additional quantities will be excreted through the urine.

Does the dietary consumption of iodine cause allergy?

No. To date, there has been no report of allergy to iodine when it is consumed in physiological levels (required level of iodine to maintain normal body functions). In response to general appeal in the Annals of Allergy in 1974 to report cases of allergy to iodine, no case has ever been reported.

Can iodised salt cause goitre?

No. Only a very large dose of iodine, viz., 200,000 micrograms can lead to "Iodine Goitre" and very rarely cause hyperthyroidism. This is 1300 time more than the average intake of an individual consuming iodised salt.

*Courtesy : Salt Department,
Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion,
Ministry of Commerce & Industry,
Government of India,
Jaipur.*

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