



"VARUMUN KAPPOM THITTAM"

A scheme to provide healthcare
to people by conducting
free medical camps in villages

Hon'ble Chief Minister

KALAI GNAR M. KARUNANIDHI launched
the "Varumun Kappom Thittam" to provide
healthcare to people, at Poonamallee in
Thiruvallur District on 30.12.2006

DR. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDY MATERNITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Hon'ble Chief Minister

KALAI GNAR M. KARUNANIDHI
distributed assistance to beneficiaries
under Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity
Assistance Scheme at the launch of
"Varumun Kappom Thittam"

Tamil Arasu

Publication of the Information & Public Relations Department

JANUARY 2007

(Oct-Nov-Dec06 quarterly)

Rs.15/-

Thiruvalluvar Year 2038

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Printed at : Tamil Arasu Press, Omandurar Government Estate,
Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002.

Honourable Prime Minister and Members of the National Development Council,

I extend my warm greetings to you all. We are gathered here today at a time when the Indian economy has attained excellent levels of growth. It is in this background that we are discussing the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

I am happy to see that while the Approach Paper is bold in its ambition, it is realistic in its scope. While it aims at 9% growth, it recognizes that faster growth will not be meaningful unless the benefits of that growth reach the poor and the weaker sections.

The majority of our population continues to be dependent directly or indirectly on agriculture. The success of the Eleventh Plan will depend on our ability to revitalize the agricultural sector.

We have been witnessing a decline in the productivity of agriculture in drought-prone areas.

and water-starved areas on the one hand. On the other hand, we have been facing heavy damages caused by floods in our rivers and flow of more than 40,000 tmc. of unutilised water to the sea. But we have been fighting among ourselves for a mere 1 tmc. or 2 tmc. of water for irrigation and drinking. This is

potential. We have been talking for the last 50 years about nationalisation of rivers and linking them. But, now the time has come for us to act. Interlinking of Peninsular rivers has no international ramifications. The National Water Development Agency has completed feasibility studies on interlinking of the

Recommend nationalisation and interlinking of the rivers

Hon'ble Chief Minister

KALAINAR M. KARUNANIDHI'S address at the National Development Council at New Delhi on 9.12.2006

the Indian Paradox.

Our intention is to improve and revitalize the agricultural sector so that our farmers get sustained income and contribute largely to the economy of the country. This may not be possible without creating new irrigation

Peninsular rivers and assessed it as viable.

In a country like India, where technology is improving and new technologies are coming in, it is possible even to harness major rivers for our beneficial use.

I urge the National Development Council to recommend nationalisation and interlinking of the rivers, particularly the Southern Peninsular component, and ensure its inclusion and funding in the 11th Plan itself. Interlinking of the rivers would provide not only a flood control measure; it will also provide irrigation potential to drought-prone and water-starved areas, provide sustained agricultural

growth, and provide continuous employment to the rural poor. In the process it is possible for us to get more hydro power at cheaper cost and navigational facilities in our country. Efforts in this direction would be more productive and our primary sector would sustain in the years to come contributing to our growth. Unless we wake up now and act, the future generations will not forgive us.

While continuing the process of tax reform, the need for States to have flexibility in deciding taxation



policy must not be forgotten. The Government of India has completely exempted from Excise Duty goods produced in certain States. This is resulting in an artificial and economically unproductive shift of capital. I urge the Union Government to correct these distortions immediately.

I would also appeal to my colleagues from the other States that we should collectively evolve a mechanism to prevent unhealthy tax competition through exemptions which

harms all of us by reducing the resource base available to help the poor and weaker sections.

The Centre has kept to itself the power to levy Service Tax. Service Tax must be transferred to the State list and must be levied and collected by the States, though the proceeds can be shared with the Centre.

Another area of serious concern is compensation for phasing out of Central Sales Tax (CST). While we are willing to phase out CST,



I must strongly emphasise that there must be monetary compensation for the loss as recommended by the Empowered Committee of Finance Ministers.

As pointed out in the Approach Paper, Tamil Nadu has shown the best performance in the country in reducing technical and commercial losses in electricity. It is noteworthy that Tamil Nadu has not unbundled its electricity undertaking. We are against unbundling for the sake of unbundling. I call upon the Union Government to amend

the Electricity Act to give flexibility to the States to adopt structures suited to local conditions.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to implement sewerage schemes in all district headquarters towns. Sewerage projects have long gestation periods and may take 40 to 50 years to become viable. This poses serious problems to State Governments in attempting to finance sewerage schemes using loans of 10 to 15 years maturity. Similar problems arise in public transport. There is a pressing need in the country for a long

term debt market where securities of 40 to 100 years duration are traded. I would like to call upon the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India to immediately constitute a task force for the creation of a long term debt market in India.

Tamil Nadu now intends to universalise secondary education. I call upon the Planning Commission to introduce a SSA for secondary education in the Eleventh Plan.

Our State has already connected most of the

habitations and provided them with water, electricity and telephones. Our State's irrigation potential is also exploited to a greater extent than other States. As a result, there is no additionality in resources through Bharat Nirman in Tamil Nadu. In a sense, a State like Tamil Nadu which has done well is indirectly penalized for its success. I appeal to the Prime Minister to give a special dispensation to Tamil Nadu on Bharat Nirman. I request that in lieu of rural electrification, Bharat Nirman should fund provision of gas connections to the poor. Such a scheme will go a long way in improving the living conditions of poor women.

The issue of the appropriate size of the fiscal deficit remains unresolved. We should have an open and active debate on this issue. One point I would like to stress is that any relaxation in the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) targets should apply to the States also.

This Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a decision to

implement Value Added Tax (VAT) from 1.1.2007 in its very first budget immediately after assuming office. The shift to VAT at uniform rates is expected to result in a substantial loss of revenue in the initial year. Unless this loss is made good, the financing of the Eleventh Plan could be jeopardized. This makes it imperative that Tamil Nadu should be given compensation on the basis of 100% in the first year, 75% in the second year and 50% in the third year as was given to States who implemented it in 2005-2006. Without such compensation I am afraid it may be difficult to meet the resource requirements in the Plan. To deny compensation on the ground that the decision was not taken earlier would be unfair.

As we embark on the Eleventh Plan, it is time to take a fresh look at the planning process itself. Firstly, we must get rid of the artificial distinction between 'Plan' and 'Non-Plan'. Secondly, the process of approval of State Plans is unnecessarily cumbersome and almost archaic. In Tamil

Nadu's Annual Plan for 2006-2007, 76% is funded by State's Own Resources. The current process of "Plan Approval" gives misleading signals as if the whole Plan is funded by the Planning Commission. Thirdly, funds should be given with flexibility to tailor the conditions to the ground realities of different States in the Centrally Sponsored and assisted Schemes.

Tamil Nadu is the birth-place of Social Justice. About 85 years ago, when the Justice Party was in power in Tamil Nadu, the first Communal Government Order granting reservation of jobs was issued on 16.9.1921. Reservation in Government services and educational institutions for Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been under implementation in Tamil Nadu for a very long time and today it has reached 69%.

Though two Commissions were appointed and though 70% of the population of India are Backward Classes, a mere 27% reservation was

recommended. Many decades have passed since then. But even now we are debating on this issue. I would like to make a fervent plea that reservation for Backward Classes in all Central Government jobs and in all Central educational institutions be implemented without any dilution, at one go.

We have been talking about empowerment of women. Our Party very deeply believes in emancipation of women. This forum may be surprised to know that way back in 1929 in a Conference of Self-Respect Movement, the parent movement of the DMK, held in Chengalpattu, a resolution was adopted demanding conferment of equal rights to property to women. In 1989, when the DMK was in power in Tamil Nadu, a law was enacted recognising equal property rights to women. Our State was the first to reserve 33% of seats in the Local Bodies in 1996. We have been taking a number of welfare measures for the social and economic uplift of women. To quote a few, we have been giving:

- financial assistance of Rs. 15,000/- for the marriage of poor girls, irrespective of caste and religion to benefit 40,000 poor girls during the year.

- financial assistance of Rs. 6000/- to pregnant women to enable them to maintain their nutritional level, to benefit 1.66 lakh women during the year.

- financial assistance for inter-caste marriages and widow-remarriages

- small loan to women for petty trades and so on.

Ten years back I have written to all Chief Ministers requesting them to provide reservation for OBCs in their respective States according to the population of OBCs. Last month also, I have written to all Chief Ministers that flexibility to fix reservation for OBCs may be given to respective States.

If Central Assistance is extended to these schemes, we will be able to implement them on a more massive scale.

Reservation of 33% of seats for women in Parliament and State Legislatures is already overdue. It will be befitting if legislation on reservation for women is passed during the period when Tmt. Sonia Gandhi is the Chairperson of the UPA. I, very earnestly, appeal to all political parties to reach a consensus on this early with a view to enable India to usher in a true democracy.

Ensuring Social Justice and Empowerment of Women will pave the way for realising the objectives of the Plan and for the benefits of the Plan Expenditure to reach the poor and downtrodden.

I would like to conclude by congratulating the Honourable Prime Minister and the Planning Commission for coming up with an Approach Paper which provides a very good basis for formulating the Eleventh Five Year Plan. I wish to assure the Council that the Government of Tamil Nadu will be in the forefront of all constructive efforts to successfully formulate and implement the Plan. Thank you.

MURASOLI MARAN's statue unveiled in Parliament



The Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh unveiled a statue of Thiru Murasoli Maran, former Union Minister and leader of the DMK in the Parliament Complex on 8.12.2006 in the presence of Vice President Thiru Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Speaker of the Lok Sabha Thiru Somnath Chatterjee, Congress President Tmt. Sonia Gandhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi, Tmt. Dayalu Ammal, wife of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar, Tmt. Mallika, wife of Thiru Murasoli Maran and other family members including his son Hon'ble Union Minister for Communication and Information Technology Thiru Dayanidhi Maran, several Union Ministers, Members of the Parliament, Tamil Nadu State Ministers and other leaders.

A booklet brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat in English and Hindi on Thiru. Murasoli Maran was released on the occasion. It described him as a multifaceted personality who commanded immense respect and built up a formidable reputation in fields such as politics, journalism, literature and cinema. He was an outstanding Parliamentarian, and his innings in Parliament was one of the longest. He was a member from 1967 to 2003 till his demise. His administrative skills, leadership qualities, deep understanding of issues, and world view came out prominently during his stints at the Centre.



TAMIL NADU HAS GROWN TO BECOME ONE OF THE MANUFACTURING POWERHOUSES IN THE COUNTRY

Address of Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi
at the launch of DELL's India manufacturing Project
near Chennai on 5.12.2006

I am very happy to be with you this evening to launch DELL's manufacturing facility in SIPCOT's Hi-Tech Special Economic Zone at Thiruperumbudur. We have a feeling of satisfaction that DELL, a world renowned brand, has chosen Tamil Nadu as its manufacturing base in India. The fact that DELL has chosen Tamil Nadu speaks for itself. I have great pleasure in sharing with you the emerging trends in the Tamil Nadu economy, particularly the industry.

Tamil Nadu is one of the leading economies in India. The state has succeeded in reducing poverty levels and is steadily raising the standard of living of its people. Tamil Nadu also can boast of historically strong human resources, vital for industrial development. Riding on a traditionally strong and diversified industrial base, Tamil Nadu has grown to become one of the manufacturing powerhouses in the country in a variety of sectors. Textile - manufacturing units have met with

tremendous success both nationally and internationally. The state is home to one of the largest automobile industries in India.

Within six months of forming the new Government, the State Government has entered into MoUs with 6 large companies for investments totalling Rs.2,700 crores.

The principal reasons for the recent rapid growth in Industrial and services sectors are the proactive policies of our Government. A number of proactive policy measures such as single window clearances and easing entry barriers for investors have made it a chosen destination for Domestic and Foreign Direct Investments. Under our single window system, the investor is only expected to file a single application form. All statutory and other approvals from various agencies are given on this basis.

In recent time, Thiruperumbudur SIPCOT industrial estate has emerged into an electronic hardware zone, a breakthrough in the area of manufacturing excellence by Tamil Nadu. Nokia, Foxconn, Flextronics, Motorola, Tessolve and Samsung are some of the giants who are setting up their base in this cluster.

All round development has been the cornerstone of economic progress in the state, with equal attention being paid to all sectors of the economy. Tamil Nadu has a strong and stable government with proactive policies. The state policy aims to facilitate the creation of foreign and local ventures through investor friendly and transparent decision-making processes. The state is keen to further raise the manufacturing competitiveness of industry and ensure that infrastructure in all parts of the State rise to world standards. We are therefore keen that Government and Industry

throw open their windows to the fresh winds of change and innovation that is sweeping the globe today.

I am sure Tamil Nadu will soon become a part of DELL's global supply chain and we hope to benefit from it. DELL's presence will contribute significantly to the rise of productivity and global competitiveness of the computer industry in Tamil Nadu and in India.

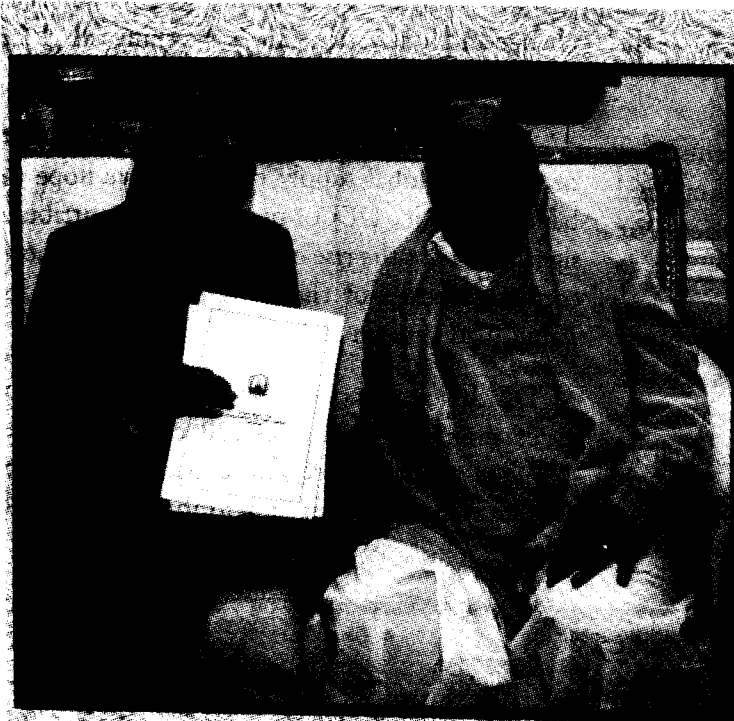
DELL's new facility will be set up with an investment of about Rs.280 crores. Major suppliers to DELL are also expected to set up projects in the Thiruperumbudur Special



Economic Zone. The project would provide direct employment to 1,100 persons and indirectly provide employment to about 4,000 persons, including employment in the vendor companies.

I convey my best wishes to DELL and hope that the facility becomes DELL's largest facility in Asia and generate even more employment for our people. I am happy to note that DELL have assured that a majority of people to be employed in DELL will be from this state. I will be watching their progress with interest.

I wish to assure DELL that State Government will continue to provide all required support for early completion of their project and for their sustained growth. ★



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi called on His Excellency the President of India Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 8.12.2006 and handed over a copy of the resolution passed unanimously in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly to make Tamil the official language in the Madras High Court.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi released the audio cassettes and compact discs of "Periyar", a film on the life and works of the late leader at a function held in Chennai on 23.12.2006. Film actor Thiru Kamal Hasan received the cassettes and CDs. DK President Thiru K.Veeramani, Lyricist Thiru Vairamuthu, Music Director Thiru Vidyasagar, actor Thiru Sathyaraj, director Thiru Gnana Rajasekaran, cinematographer Thiru Thankar Bachan, actress Tmt.Kushboo and the chairman of the Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram Thiru Rama Narayanan participated in the function.

Chief Minister Opens MODERN PRISON COMPLEX



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi declared open the newly constructed Central Prison Complex on 26.11.2006.

Declaring open the modern prison complex constructed at a cost of Rs.77 crores the Chief Minister said the Puzhal Prison Complex would serve as a reformation centre for prisoners.

Persons who had served jail terms should be humanised so that they could emerge as enlightened teachers in the hard school of life, he said.

Prison must reform, and not crush or destroy human spirit. Only then could such prisons set up in a hygienic environment with large facilities effectively serve their purpose, he said.

Recalling the travails of prison life experienced by persons like him in public life in the past, Kalaighnar said the State Government had taken adequate care to ensure humane treatment was provided to the inmates. As part of the efforts, the Government sanctioned 3,000 fans to all the cells in the prison. The Government was also considering using part of the old central prison complex site in the city for expanding the Government General Hospital, he said.

Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Law Thiru. I. Periasamy said the DMK Government had taken steps to enhance prison facilities, as instructed by the Chief Minister.



Chief Secretary Thiru. L.K.Tripathy, I.A.S. commended the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation (TNPHC) for constructing the prison complex with all facilities in a record time. Director of Prisons Thiru. V. Balachandran, I.P.S. said the Government had sanctioned Rs.90 lakh for providing non-vegetarian diet for prison inmates.

Principal Secretary (Home) Thiru.Pavan Raina, I.A.S. said that given the severe overcrowding in the central prison in Chennai and the need for increasing the capacity with facilities, the Government had developed the new prison complex.

Director General of Police Thiru.D.Mukherjee, I.P.S. hoped the prison would provide an opportunity to the inmates to reform themselves and turn a new leaf in their life after their release. The police had been doing the commendable job for providing security

at the high security Tihar Jail, he said.

TNPHC Chairman and Managing Director Thiru. K.P. Jain, I.P.S. explained the facilities available in the complex. Not only the guidelines of the Prison Manual but also the norms prescribed by the National Human Rights Commission had been scrupulously followed. The complex, which could house 1,250 remand prisoners, 1,250 convict prisoners and 500 women prisoners, had come up on a 212 acre site with modern facilities, including computer rooms, meditation halls, hospitals, conference halls, an amphitheatre and videoconferencing.

Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Thiru K.P.P.Samy and the president of the Labour Progressive Federation Thiru C. Kuppuswamy M.P. also spoke.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi handed over a cash prize of Rs.15 lakhs to Shanthi, who won silver medal in 800 mtrs. hurdles at the 15th Asian Games held in Doha. Hon'ble Ministers Dr.K.Ponmudi, Thiru T.P.M. Moideen Khan and the athletes parents were present on the occasion (18.12.2006)



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi awarded the Tamil Nadu State Government's awards of Thiruvalluvar, Periyar, Ambedkar, Anna, Kamarajar, Bharathiar, Bharathidhasan and Thiru Vi.Ka. at a function held at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai on 8.1.2007.

The Chief Minister handed over the awards to Dr.Ka.Pa.Aravanan (Thiruvalluvar Award), Thiru Inamurasu Sathiyaraj (Periyar Award), Thiru Thol.Thirumavalavan (Ambedkar Award), Thiru R.M.Veerappan (Anna Award), Tmt. A.S.Ponnammal (Kamarajar Award), Thamizharuvi Manian (Bharathiar Award), Dr.Ka.Sellappan (Bharathidhasan Award) and Thiru Ka.Thirunavukkarasu (Thiru Vi.Ka. Award).

Prof. K. Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Chief Secretary Thiru L.K. Tripathy, IAS participated in the function.

The Government is committed to provide Quality Medical Facilities at the doorstep of the Citizens



Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the International Workshop on Dental Education organized by
Asia Pacific Dental Federation on 24.11.2006

The Government of Tamil Nadu is totally committed to provide quality Medical facilities at the doorstep of the citizens of the state, said the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu while inaugurating an international workshop on dental education, jointly organized by the Indian Dental Association and the Dental Council of India under the auspices of

the Asia Pacific Dental Federation / Asia Pacific Regional Organization. In his inaugural address, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said,

"I am happy that a workshop of this magnitude on Dental Education is being held in India and you have chosen my state and my city to be the host. I extend a warm welcome to one and all to Chennai.

Tamil Nadu State enjoys a premier position in health care in the country. Health parameters in the State are among the best in the Country. The Government of Tamil Nadu is totally committed to provide quality medical facilities at the doorstep of the citizens of the State. All efforts are being made to provide latest

medical equipments in the field of medicine through out the State.

In an effort to provide medical care at the doorstep of every citizen the "Varumun Kappom Thittam" has been launched by Government. Under this scheme, comprehensive health check up, treatment and health education to both rural and urban areas is provided. Medical camps will be conducted at Health sub-centre level every week covering a population of 5,000 persons. During these camps, specialist doctors, including dentists will screen beneficiaries for diseases. Treatment is provided at the spot and follow up camps conducted in referral hospitals. The camps under the "Varumun Kappom Thittam" will go a long way in improving further the health status of the State.

The research carried out in our Government Dental College shows that 66% of the population of Tamil Nadu suffer from Dental Caries, 88% from Gum Disease and 40% from bite deformity with a number of districts in our state prone to dental flurosis.

In Tamil Nadu there are in total 16 dental colleges. However, the dentist population ratio in the rural areas, is 1:50,000 and therefore we are in need of more dental practitioners in the rural areas.

Towards reducing shortages of dental doctors in rural areas my Government took a policy decision

to encourage Dental Colleges in rural areas. So far, we have given permission to start ten new colleges to raise the number of dental health professionals in the state.

In order to distribute the work - force and to reach the rural population, the Tamil Nadu Government has decided to appoint dental surgeons in all Taluk hospitals in Tamil Nadu. We have initiated actions to recruit dental surgeons to man these positions.

We have high regards for the Dental Council of India, the statutory body that controls Dental Education in the whole country; we appreciate the way it is being run, in a transparent and efficient manner. We would like to request Dr. Kohli to render support to the new dental colleges and provide more post graduate seats in Tamil Nadu so as to create a pool of specialists in the State. Their support is necessary in upgrading the oral health status of our state and the health status of the country.

I would like to compliment the Dental Council of India and IDA for conducting this International Workshop on Dental Education in association with APDF. As the need of the hour is not only to increase the number of dental professionals but also to introspect and re-focus our strategies to ensure that the very best in Dental Education and clinical practice reaches the common man.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating this conference and wish this conference great success. I hope you will return to your home countries with pleasant memories and a worthwhile report to enhance the standards of dental education globally.

Though I would like very much to be here, till the discussions are over, I am forced to take leave of you all including his excellency the Governor, as I am little indisposed. Dr. Vetrivendan, who is my personal and popular Dentist, knows this well, as he met me yesterday to remind of today's function".

Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala, His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu said, all spheres of education were undergoing a rapid transformation and a comprehensive plan and combined effort were required for bringing about a significant change in dental education.

It needed a paradigm shift in its curricula and should be oriented to supporting oral and dental health development of the nation. At the same time, it was necessary to focus on delivery of health care at the grassroots.

Thiru K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, Hon'ble Minister for Health, Thiru David T Hopper, US Consul General in Chennai, Dr. Anil Kohli, President, Dental Council of India and other dignitaries participated in the workshop.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi flagged off 242 new buses to be inducted in various Government Transport Corporations on 3.12.2006 in Chennai.

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru M.K.Stalin, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru Arcot N. Veeraswamy, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Dr. K. Ponmudi, Hon'ble Minister for Transport Thiru K.N. Nehru, Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment and Forests Thiru A. Raja, Chief Secretary Thiru L.K. Tripathy, IAS and Transport Secretary Thiru Debendranath Sarangi, IAS were present on the occasion.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi
donating to
Flag day collection
(7.12.2006)



CHIEF MINISTER DISTRIBUTES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER Dr.MUTHULAKSHMI REDDY MATERNITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi distributed financial aid to 25 pregnant women under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme at the Secretariat, Chennai on 22.11.2006.

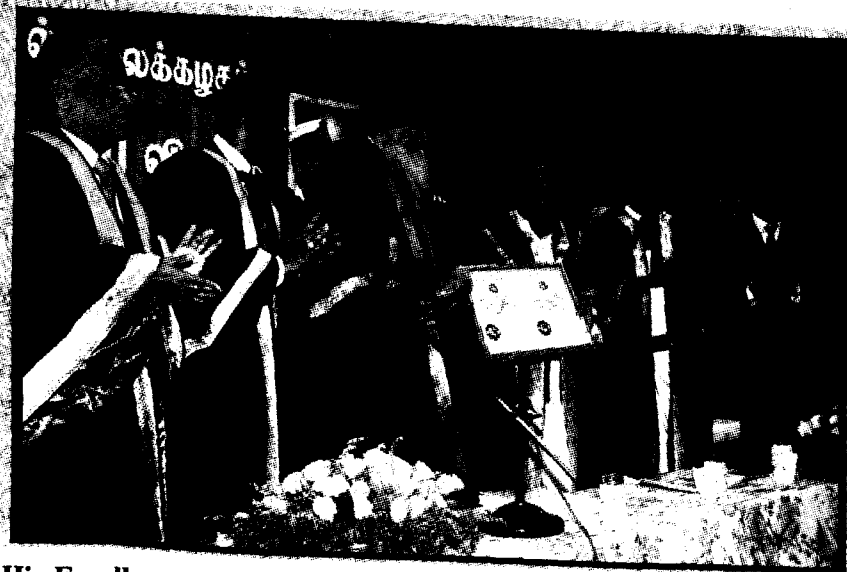
Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration, Thiru M.K. Stalin, Hon'ble Minister for Health Thiru K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran and Chennai Corporation Mayor Thiru M. Subramanian were present on the occasion.

The Government gives financial assistance of Rs.1,000 each for six months to pregnant women - three months ahead of delivery and three months after, so as to provide them rest and good nutrition. This assistance is given to them to compensate for the loss of wages during delivery time.

The scheme is being implemented from September 15, 2006. 1,21,985 women have received the assistance. The Government proposes to give this financial assistance to 2.11 lakh pregnant women before the end of this year and has allocated Rs.100 crore for this purpose. For Chennai an outlay of Rs.7.32 crore has been allocated to benefit 12,206 poor pregnant women. ■



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi planted saplings outside his residence in Gopalapuram on 15.10.2006 as a precursor to the proposed initiative of ISHA foundation to undertake mass plantation of seven lakh saplings across Tamil Nadu on October 17. The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi's wife Tmt. Dayalu Ammal, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru M.K.Stalin, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru Arcot N. Veeraswamy, Chief Secretary Thiru L.K. Tripathy, IAS and the founder of the ISHA foundation Thiru Jaggi Vasudev were present on the occasion.



His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala awarded the Honorary Doctorate to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi at the 40th convocation of Madurai Kamaraj University on 15.12.2006. Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Dr.K.Ponmudi was present on the occasion.



With a view to claim global accreditation for its silk saree, Co-optex, in association with Sirumugaipudur Sri Ramalinga Sowdeswari Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society in Coimbatore District, has ventured in the production of Silk saree with 164 colours in warp, 1003 colours in weft aggregating to 1,64,492 colours.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi started the sale of this unique silk saree with 1,64,492 colours at Secretariat, Chennai on 22.11.2006. He named the saree as "Mayil Thogai" meaning Peacock feather.

Thiru. V.Thirumoorthy, Weaver, Thiru. M.Dharmaraj, Designer, Thiru. R.Radhakrishnan, Manager and Thiru. P.Sankaravel Pandian, Special Officer of Sirumugaipudur Sri Ramalinga Sowdeswari Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society were honoured for their excellent efforts in bringing out this wonderful master piece and prototype unique silk saree.

Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru. Arcot N. Veeraswami, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru. M.K. Stalin, Hon'ble

"MAYIL THOHAI"

A silk Saree with
1,64,492 colours
introduced



Minister for Health Thiru. K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran and Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms and Textiles Thiru. NKK.P. Raaja, Thiru. L.K.Tripathy, IAS., Chief Secretary to Government, Thiru. C.P.Singh, I.A.S., Secretary to Government, Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi Department, Thiru. M. Malik Feroze Khan, I.A.S., Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Tmt. M.P.Nimala, I.A.S., Special Officer and Managing Director, Co-optex were present on the occasion.

The Saree

This wonderful master piece and prototype unique silk saree has been produced by using 5 Jacquard box and 11,531 Jacquard design cards were technically used by the skilled crafted artisan weavers to produce

1,64,492 colours on the saree. In addition to this, seven wonders of the world were also designed on the saree's border with Shri Meenakshi Amman Temple of Madurai depicted on pallu of the saree as an added attraction woven by the skilled crafted artisan weavers on the saree. The Seven Wonders which are depicted in the saree are Pyramid in Egypt, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Eiffel Tower in Paris, Taj Mahal in India, Great Wall of China, Empire State Building of U.S.A. and Hanging Garden of Babylon.

Besides, Yali design, Temple car designs and Hamsam designs were also woven on the pallu of the saree by using computer aided designs. This added to its natural beauty to the hand-woven silk saree.

The sun rays dazzling in the proposed 8th Wonder of the World Shri Meenakshi Amman Temple of Madurai has intrinsic blessing mascot on the entire saree.

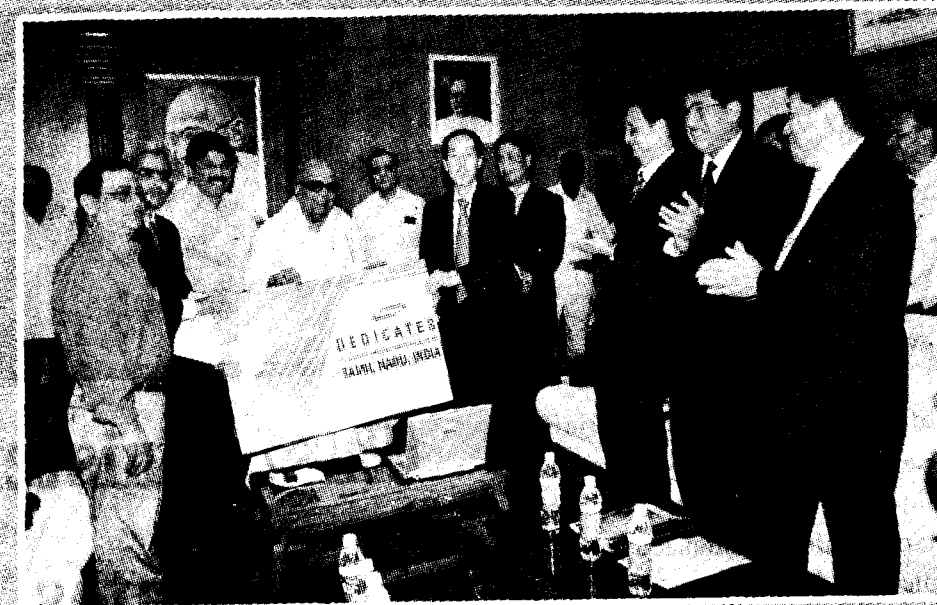
Certification

The Textiles Committee under the control of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has confirmed the usage of 164 colours in warp and 1003 colours in weft while weaving this wonderful master piece and prototype unique silk saree and issued certificate to this effect.

Price

This wonderful master piece and prototype unique silk saree has a selling price of Rs.40,000/- and it will take 25 to 45 days to produce on order.

Co-optex has initiated steps to include this exquisite and wonderful hand woven silk saree in the "Guinness Book of Records"



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi and Samsung South Asia CEO SH Oh exchange the Memorandum of Understanding for setting up a hi-tech special economic zone and domestic tariff area project (DTA) at Sriperumbudur, near Chennai at the Secretariat. Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and IT, Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran looks on . (10.11.2006)



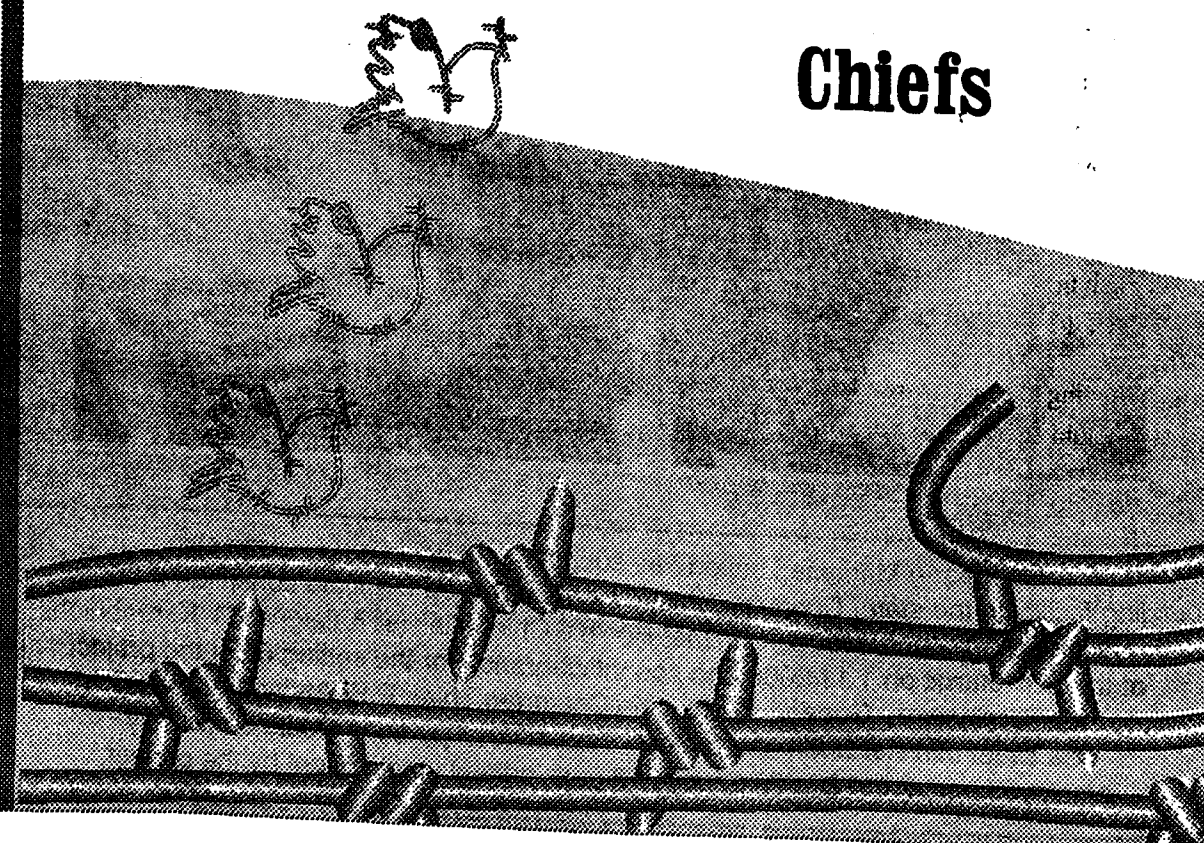
Goodearth Maritime Limited has sought to set up a world - class ship building facility in the state. Dongshik Shin, Chairman, Korea Maritime consultants Company, the technical adviser of Goodearth, met Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi at the Secretariat on 1.11.2006 and sought clearance for the setting up of the project near Cuddalore. Goodearth Maritime Chairman Thiru. P.B. Anandam briefed the Chief Minister about the project. About 5,000 persons would be directly employed and about 20,000 people will gain indirect employment by the project.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi felicitated the Panchayat presidents of Pappapatti, Keeripatti, Nattarmangalam, Kottakachiyendal, the people of those villages and the district collectors of Madurai and Virudhunagar at a grand function "Samathuva Peruvizha" in Chennai on 13th November, 2006.

The reserved panchayats of Pappapatti, Nattarmangalam, Keeripatti and Kottakachiyendal have long remained

Chief Minister felicitates Dalit Panchayat Chiefs



blots on Indian democracy as their Dalit chiefs resigned due to the diktat of upper castes most immediately after getting elected.

This farce continued for over ten years until now when the present Government insulated the elected Dalit Panchayat Chiefs from being intimidated. It was a personal triumph for Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi and Thiru. M.K. Stalin, the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration.

The latter took great pains to ensure that the grand celebration at Chennai, named samathuva peruvizha (celebration of equality) by the Chief Minister became a success.

District collectors Thiru. T. Udayachandran of Madurai and Thiru S.S. Jawahar of Virudhunagar, who competently managed not only the volatile panchayat elections on October 15 but also the post - poll tensions until the four Dalit panchayat presidents were hoisted on the Chennai dais for felicitations.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Minister said "For over ten years now, these four villages have been starved of development as their Dalit Presidents were not allowed to hold office. Now the Government has launched a drive to uplift these people by making a liberal sanction of Rs.20 lakh to each village. The DMK party will pitch in with another Rs.5 lakh each", said the Chief Minister, drawing applause.

Insisting that the Tamil language did not have the word jaadhi (caste), the Chief Minister said there was however the word sathi (conspiracy). "This sathi developed feet and ended up as Saadhi and that in turn was used to oppress and unleash violence against one another. Several leaders toiled to create a casteless society but all failed except Thanthai Periyar" he said.

Reiterating that there was no need to inform now that Thanthai Periyar was his teacher, Chief Minister

Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi fondly recalled the days when he worked as Sub-Editor under great social reformer.

Kalaingar said although he considered the title of "Samathuva Periyar" conferred on him by LPP leader Thiru. Thol Thirumavalavan, as a title given on behalf of the Dalit masses, nevertheless he did not consider himself to be fit for the title because he was grandson and student of Periyar.

Recalling the incident in 1945, when he was attacked and left struggling for life at Pondicherry, Kalaingar said Thalapathi Alagirisamy administered medicines and took him to the office of "Cudiyarasu" journal in Erode for working as Sub - Editor under Periyar.

Periyar wanted to test his flair for writing and asked him to write an article on Thiruvannamalai deepam festival (Festival of Lights). Kalaingar gave the title "Annamalaikku Arohara" to the article and on reading it Periyar called him and said the article was well written but he did not like flowery titles and languages and wanted the matter to be conveyed straightway. It was then Periyar became my teacher, Kalaingar said.

When Kalaingar was contemplating on the way to write to the liking of Periyar, a news item appeared in newspapers. A vocalist of Carnatic music belonging to higher caste demanded and got the dais consecrated religiously before his performance, because it was "defiled" by the earlier performer Dhandapani Desikar who rendered Tamil songs. Periyar got wild on reading the news, called Kalaingar



hurled the newspaper on him and asked him to write on the report. Kalaingar, gave the title "Theetayiduthu" (contaminated) to the article and Periyar appreciated the colloquial tone and tenor of the article and said that was the way to convey matters. Periyar used to speak and write in conversational language so that people understand and attracted masses. Our attempt to write in the style of Anna and poet Bharathidhasan was no match to Periyar's colloquial Tamil. And it is "Periyar's colloquial Tamil that has helped us in the eradication of castes and ignorance born of communal prejudices, the Chief Minister underlined.

Thiru. M.K. Stalin, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local administration, in his speech said the government had now achieved what had remained impossible for ten years. "The happiness gained from the victory of these four (Dalit) panchayats is much greater than the happiness felt when the DMK won a majority of seats in the recent local body elections," he said.

Referring to the many demands for development schemes sought by the presidents and Vice - presidents of the four panchayats. Thiru. Stalin said Keeripatti and Kottakachiyendal would each get Rs.20 lakhs under the New Anna

Marumalarchi Scheme, while Pappapatti and Nattarmangalam would get Rs.20 lakh each from the District Collector's discretionary fund "this year itself".

Thiru Thol Thirumavalavan, General Secretary of Liberation Panthers Party, Thiru D.Pandian, CPI State Secretary, Thiru N.Varadarajan, CPI(M) State Secretary, Thiru G.K.Mani, PMK President, Thiru M.Krishnaswamy, TNCC President, Thiru K.Veeramani, DK President, Thiru Kunrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar, Thiru Khader Moideen, MP, IUML Leader, Thiru Jagan Murthy, MLA, Leader, Puratchi Bharatham spoke on the occasion.

The Chief Minister presented shawls and plaques to all the presidents and vice - presidents of the four panchayats - Thiruvalargal P. Periyakaruppan and K. Devaraj (Pappapatti) P. Ganesan and A. Muthuramalingam (Nattarmangalam), M. Baluchamy and V. Palanichamy (Keeripatti) and S. Karuppan and M. Muniyandi (Kottakachiyendal). They were all brought from their villages, along with their friends and relatives, for the celebration.

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Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Balaji Sadasivan called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi at his residence on 3.10.2006.



A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Government of Tamil Nadu and South Australia for mutual economic and cultural benefit in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 30.12.2006. Thiru Mike Rann, the South Australian Premier, Thiru L.K.Tripathi, IAS, Chief Secretary and Thiru Sakthi Kantadas, IAS, Secretary, Industries Department are present.



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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH



The Tamil Nadu Government on November 11 launched a scheme for providing cash assistance of Rs.150 to Rs.300 a month to unemployed youth.

The scheme, for which the Government has earmarked Rs.110 crore in the current year's budget, was originally scheduled to have been launched on Gandhi Jayanthi (October 2) but had to be postponed as the local bodies elections had been announced and the model code of the conduct was in force.

With this the DMK Government has fulfilled one more of the major promises made in its election manifesto. It has already

implemented the Rs.2 per kg rice, twice - a - week egg in noon meals, assistance to pregnant women, marriage assistance, and the first phase of the free distribution of colour TV, and land for the landless poor Agriculturist.

Unemployed youth who have been on the live registers

of the employment exchange for atleast five years will get Rs.150 if they have passed 10th standard. Rs.200 if they have passed plus two / higher secondary and Rs.300 if they are graduates or postgraduates. The assistance would be given for three months, to enable them to meet at least a part of their financial requirements.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi launched the scheme at a function held at Tiruchy. Launching the scheme the Chief Minister said that, the monthly aid for the jobless

under the Unemployment Assistance Scheme is intended as a temporary relief and the Government is taking all necessary steps to generate permanent employment opportunities for them.

"The only request I make to foreign investors whenever a memorandum of understanding is signed for setting up industrial units in the State, is to ensure that a majority of job opportunities generated through their units go to locals", he said.

Already MoUs had been signed for setting up six major industries, entailing a foreign direct investment of about Rs.3,000 crore. These would generate thousands of jobs, he said.

Stating that sanction orders and first quarterly cheques of the assistance were being issued to 2,06,766



beneficiaries across the State on the day, Kalaigñar said nobody could wish that the scheme be continued in perpetuity. "I do not want to call this a dole or exgratia. This is a duty of the Government", he said pointing out to a truism of the former Chief Minister Arignar Anna cautioning rulers that unemployment, if left unattended would instigate rebellious ideas among the jobless.

The Government did not expect any gratitude from the beneficiaries but wanted them to use the assistance for equipping or training themselves for getting suitable employment or supplementing family income.

Referring to criticisms against poll promises made by the Democratic Progressive Alliance from certain quarters, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said those who had said that they were unfeasible had been left speechless with the Government fulfilling one promise after the other.

Attributing the "massive victory" of the DPA in the recent local body elections to the fulfillment of the promises, Chief Minister Kalaigñar said it also indicated that the people had faith that the Government would continue to do so.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also announced that the second phase of free distribution of land to the landless would start by December.

Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. K.N. Nehru, Thiru. N. Selvaraj and Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance, Thiru. S.S. Palanimanickam, Chief Secretary, Thiru. L.K. Tripathy, IAS, Tiruchirppalli Corporation Mayor Tmt. Sarubala R.Thondaiman and Collector Thiru. Ashishvachhani, IAS spoke.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the first cheque to a graduate Selvi S. Lakshmi of Palakurichi in Tiruchy District.

A total of 14,089 unemployed youth would get the assistance in the district.

Hon'ble Minister for Finance Prof. K. Anbazhagan started the scheme in Thiruvallur, while Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru. M.K. Stalin inaugurated it in Madurai. Hon'ble Union Ministers Thiru T. R. Baalu and Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran launched the scheme at two different functions in Chennai.



CHENNAI

TO BE IN WORLD

AUTOMOTIVE MAP

■ Chief Minister KALAI GNAR

With the inauguration of a Global Automotive Research Centre at Oragadam, Chennai is poised to find a strategic place in the world automotive map, said Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigñar M.Karunanidhi.

Speaking at the function for laying the foundation stone for the GARC, the Chief Minister recalled his pleas to the Centre to set up a modern testing and R&D facility near Chennai in order to cater to the needs of growing automotive industry in the State. Conceding the

demand, the Prime Minister, while inaugurating works of Sethusamudram canal project on 2.07.2005 announced that a National Automotive Testing Research and Development Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) would be set up in the state. Following this, the state government announced in the state Assembly on 22.07.2006 that about 300 acres of land at Oragadam would be earmarked for the project. Now our long standing dream has come true,' he said.

Acknowledging and thanking on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the UPA chairperson Tmt.Sonia Gandhi for implementing the cherished dream of Tamils for

Sethusamudram Project, granting classical language status to Tamil, setting up unit of mobile major Nokia, providing employment to thousands of youth, founding the National Siddha Medicine Research Centre at Tambaram, new railway zone with Salem as head quarters, sanctioning Rs.1,553 crore for setting up a new cold rolling mill in order to raise the steel rolling mill there to international standards thus "conceding as it is whatever is demanded" the Chief Minister noted.

Even while thanking them for granting the above said schemes, the Hon'ble Chief Minister took the opportunity to remind other pending demands of the State and urged them to sanction new schemes

such as setting up of a major port in Colachel, full compensation for the revenue loss due to the implementation of VAT regime in the State from 1.1.2007, implementing common effluent treatment plants, extending financial assistance for the desalination plant, modernizing Chennai airport, introducing bullet train services between Chennai and Madurai and Chennai and Coimbatore and ensuring successful implementation of the project announcing Tamil as a classical language besides giving annual awards named after Tamil Sages *Tholkappiyar* and *Valluvar*.

Pointing out that the state was in a lead position in the automotive sector for long time now with firms like TVS group and Ashok Leyland, the Chief Minister said with the advent of automotive majors Hyundai and Ford after 1996 the fortunes of the industry in Tamil Nadu underwent a decisive turn and various auto component manufacturers from the country and abroad started opening their shops here.

Tamil Nadu, he reminded accounted for 35 per cent of the national automotive sector. This mega project with an investment of Rs.1,718 crore is being set up by the co-operation of the Central and State governments. This NATRIP facility for which the State government had allocated 304 acres of land will employ 3000 people and most of them will be locals. The Centre will test automobiles and components according to Euro-five rules and issue Homologous certificates, besides testing passive safety and electromagnetic compatibility of vehicles. It will have a 18 km test running track and with the setting up of the centres, Chennai will become an automotive hub.

Speaking on the future of the automotive industry in the State, the Chief Minister said that Hyundai will enhance production to six lakh cars in 2007. He said vision 2005 envisaged an investment of Rs.2,000 crore and would generate 50,000 jobs. The present investment in the State in this sector was one billion dollars and 80,000 were employed.

Kalaighar said the state had the potential to record six to seven fold increase in the auto sector output and the projected size of the industry was \$ 15 billion to \$20 billion by 2015. Moreover he pointed out the market value of global vehicle testing and certification sector was \$ 560 billion and the centre would attract a sizeable share of the market and hence Chennai will find strategic place in the global map of automotive sector.

Referring to the five MOUs signed with global players Motorola, Apollo Tyres Tescove, Growth link and Dell Computers for an investment to the tune of Rs. 2,300 crore and direct and indirect employment opportunities for over 50,000 people, the Chief Minister said that his government is working in tandem and co-ordination with the Centre to facilitate rapid growth of the State and asked the Prime Minister to extend assistance and co-operation to Tamil Nadu.

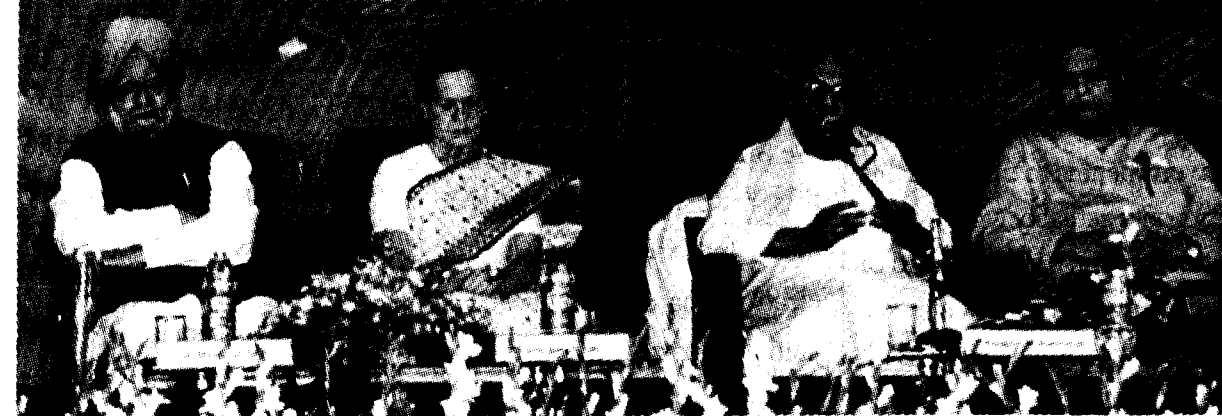
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TAMIL NADU

in the forefront of industrial revolution

■ Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighar M. Karunanidhi

Research Centre, Chennai September 2006



Chief Minister Kalaighar M. Karunanidhi exuded confidence that the existing ongoing schemes will put Tamil Nadu in the forefront of industrial revolution.

Speaking at the inauguration of Flextronics unit in Sriperumbudur, Kalaighar spoke as follows:

"For people of my generation, operating a telephone was a wonderful

boon. When the computer came, I wished for the day when operating computers would be as easy as using the telephone. That wish has come true. I have managed to get a hang of the basics of using the computer but thanks to people like Flextronics, I no longer know how to use my telephone! These wonderful gadgets practically bring the globe to your palmtop. They are so complex that it takes a while to understand and use them.

Winning the war against hunger, want and unemployment has always been uppermost in my agenda and close to my heart. I am convinced that arming my people with knowledge and appropriate skills are powerful weapons to win this war.

My efforts are therefore focused on creating an eco system that would attract investments from across the globe and thereby create employment and economic

prosperity for my people and that set the tone for industrial development when I announced in my policy note placed before the State Assembly that the Government has a vision and a commitment.

The vision is to accelerate the rate of economic growth in Tamil Nadu by maximising investment in industry and infrastructure; the vision is to give a boost to manufacturing, productivity, competitiveness and generation.

The commitment of the Government is to translate this vision into actuality within a time frame. Within a short period of assuming office, we have already signed 5 MoUs with manufacturing companies of national and international repute. It amounts to a cumulative investment of Rupees two thousand two hundred and thirty five crores. You would recall that during the CONNECT 2006, it was suggested that Tamil Nadu should aspire for a share of 25% of the total ICT production of India but we find Nokia, Foxconn, Flextronics, Motorola and Dell are already located here.

Many more investments in the electronics hardware sector



are in the pipeline. Seeing this trend of international and national investments flowing into the State, I am confident that this area will develop as a major hub for manufacturing electronic hardware and we will achieve our goal of increasing our share of ICT manufacture substantially by 2011. I would like to acknowledge the sterling contribution of the Union Minister for communication and information Technology Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran, who has worked shoulder to shoulder with the State Government to bring these projects to our State. My thanks are due to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Chairperson of the UPA for their solid support to all the State Governments initiatives.

What are the factors that make Tamil Nadu such an attractive destination for investments? It is definitely the immense pool of highly motivated and skilled manpower. The IIT, 19 Universities, 12 Deemed Universities, 252 Engineering Colleges, Polytechnics and 626 Industrial Training Schools that produce one lakh Engineering Graduates, 63 thousand Diploma Holders, one lakh and thirteen thousand ITI-trained manpower and 4 Lakhs 50 thousand Arts and Science Graduates is probably the largest pool of human resources in the country. Tamil Nadu Government is taking special steps to further enhance the skill set of this huge manpower base. This includes introduction of new courses that would be more relevant to

the needs of the emerging industry, skill up-gradation of the faculty by training and establishment of finishing schools. All this is being done on a public private participation mode with the active involvement of the Government.

William Arthur Ward, an author writes, "The pessimist complains about the wind; the

announced for strengthening the existing infrastructure and creating new ones, They are being monitored at the highest level. These include a comprehensive development plan for not only Chennai city but a master plan for providing basic amenities of power, roads, drinking water, sewerage and storm water drainage to meet the demands of the larger Chennai



optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails". I am aware that the 'knowledge eco system' cannot be a 'state of mind' alone. The physical state is as important as the virtual one. Hence our Government is firmly committed to putting in place the required infrastructure needed for sustaining the momentum. Time bound projects have been

Metropolitan area and its suburban areas. High speed transportation solutions are also being planned like a Metro Rail Project. Also on the anvil are plans to create fully equipped Industrial estates with the entire social infrastructure required. What would be of particular interest to investors in this area is that the road connecting Singaperumalkoil and

Sriperumbudur and the road connecting Vandalur and Walajahbad have been taken up for major upgradation. The important stretches of these roads will be converted to six lane highways and the remaining portions will be upgraded to 4 lanes. This would greatly enhance road connectivity in this fast developing region.

The Government is also in the industry at Sriperumbudur, Oragadam, Ennore and many other parts of the State. I have no doubt that these schemes will put Tamil Nadu in the forefront of the Industrial revolution. We are in close and constant touch with the Industry. I assure you that our Government will not be found wanting in any aspect relating to the sustained development of the State.

I take this opportunity to place on record my gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Chairperson of the UPA for their support. I request them to continue lending their support to the Government of Tamil Nadu in achieving our dream of an economically strong and vibrant Tamil Nadu. Together we will win the war against hunger, unemployment and for social justice. ■



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi flagged off the Hyundai Cars donated to Tamil Nadu Police. Hon'ble Union Minister for Communication and Information Technology Thiru Dayanidhi Maran, Chief Secretary Thiru L.K. Tripathy, IAS and police officials were present (24.10.2006).



Hon'ble Minister for Information Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi garlanded the statue of the former Mayor of Chennai Thiru Sivaraj on the leader's 115 birth anniversary on 29.9.2006

TAMIL NADU IS ONE OF THE MAJOR RECIPIENTS OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS

*- Address of Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi
at the National Executive Committee Meeting of FICCI at
Chennai on 2.11.2006*

I am very happy to be with FICCI today on the occasion of FICCI's Executive Committee meeting in Chennai. FICCI is one of the top industry associations. It has been regularly in touch with the State Government at various levels. We value FICCI's contribution to policy making. As economists say, it is boom time. Indian economy is experiencing a boom mainly due to the progressive policies of the Government of India in the last two years. Foreign investors are shifting their focus

from China to India. We need to work together as one team.

We are in an era of global markets without boundaries. Competition is an unwritten law in all walks of life. While FICCI members compete for business, State Governments are competing for investments and creation of jobs. Tamil Nadu has been and will continue to be a front-runner in attracting large number of domestic and foreign investors.



The manufacturing sector is a significant employment provider in Tamil Nadu. However, the service sector has emerged as the major player in providing employment. Hence, Government of Tamil Nadu wants a healthy growth of both manufacturing and service sectors. Support and contribution of FICCI to this process is vital.

Investment proposals are pouring into Tamil Nadu every day. Proactive initiatives of the State Government and investor confidence in Tamil Nadu are the key reasons. This needs to be sustained. I have therefore announced setting up of an Industrial Task Force under my Chairmanship.

Tamil Nadu Government is investor-friendly and transparent in decision-making. Further, State Government has been quick in responding to investment proposals. Most importantly, we honour commitments made to investors. It is no wonder that Tamil Nadu is one of the major recipients of industrial investments, particularly, foreign direct investment. Within five months of forming the new Government, State Government has entered into MoUs with Motorola, Appollo Tyres, Tessolve and DELL of USA and Feng Tay of Taiwan. These 5 projects involve investments totaling Rupees Two Thousand and Three Hundred Crores. These five projects will create direct and indirect employment for about 50,000 persons.

While we are keen on attracting investments, we are equally focused on development of infrastructure in Tamil Nadu. Our commitment is evident by the fact that the historical Sethusamudram project was launched on 2.7.2005 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at a cost of Rupees

Two Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Eight crores. Tuticorin Port Trust has initiated ambitious plans to develop the inner harbour. Ennore Port Limited has announced plans to develop coal, chemical, LNG, iron-ore and a container terminal. Chennai Port is likely to establish a second container terminal. All this is possible because of our coordination with Government of India.

We intend to enhance quality of technical education to make students industry-ready. We need to raise them to cutting edge of technology. This has to be done in partnership with the industry. The need for skilled manpower is growing. I therefore request member-industries of FICCI to work closely with polytechnics or Industrial Training Institutes. Students in these institutions can be given access to regular training in the industry. I look forward to receiving active support from industries for this initiative.

You will all agree with me that development has to necessarily have a human face. Growth in the economy must also mean growth in job opportunities. It must also mean greater opportunities for the under-privileged sections of society. The thrust of Government has always been to create employment opportunities for people of Tamil Nadu. Development of local communities through skill training, sharing business opportunities and widening choices available to them is our common goal.

Announcement of the Industrial Policy later this year will only renew our Government's commitment to economic development. I look forward to working very closely with FICCI in the coming months and years. I wish the Executive Committee Meeting all success. ★



Hon'ble Ministers Thiru Arcot N. Veeraswamy, Thiru Ko.Si.Mani, Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, Dr.(Tmt)Poongothai, Union Minister Thiru T.R. Baalu, the Mayor of Chennai Corporation Thiru M.Subramanian, Tamil Nadu Government's Special Representative at New Delhi Thiru Kambam P.Selvendran and others garlanded the statue of Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar on his 99th birth anniversary on 30.10.2006 in Chennai



Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru M.K.Stalin laid wreath and paid floral tributes at Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar's Memorial at Pasumpon Village in Ramanathapuram district on Thevar's 99th birth anniversary and 44th Guru Pooja. (30.10.2006)

We should work together to bring
Tamil in every sphere of
activity in Tamil Nadu



The Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi urged the leaders to work together with the Government to achieve the aim of having Tamil in every sphere of activity in Tamil Nadu. He was speaking at a function organised to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the formation of Tamil Nadu State at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai on 1.11.2006. He announced that the pension being given to 149 persons who fought for Tamil Nadu borders would be increased from Rs.3000 to Rs.4000. The

Hon'ble Chief Minister
K. Karunanidhi at the
Golden Jubilee of the
formation of Tamil Nadu
State on 1.11.2006.

family pension given to martyrs would be increased from Rs.1500 to Rs.2000 per month.

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala honoured those persons who participated in the agitation with a memento and a shawl. He said that

Tamil Nadu is surging ahead developing in all spheres of activities. He said a remarkable progress has been made in various sectors.

Earlier, Hon'ble Minister for Information Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi welcomed the gathering. Thiru M. Krishnaswamy, President, TNCC, Dr. S. Ramadoss, founder, Pattali Makkal Katchi, Thiru T.K. Rengarajan CPI(M) Central Committee Member, Thiru D. Pandian, CPI State Secretary and Thiru Thol. Thirumavalavan, general secretary of Dalit Panthers of India, spoke on the occasion. Thiru L.K. Tripathy, IAS, Chief Secretary proposed a vote of thanks.

ALL STATES MUST IMPLEAD THEMSELVES IN THE RESERVATION CASE

Hon'ble Chief Minister **KALAINAR M. KARUNANIDHI**

The text of the letter written by
Hon'ble Chief Minister
KALAINAR M. KARUNANIDHI
on reservation issue to all the Chief Ministers
on 26.10.2006.



Dear Chief Minister, I enclose a copy of my letter addressed to Tmt. Sonia Gandhi, President of All India Congress Committee. This letter is self explanatory. On receipt of this letter, she has taken immediate action by forwarding the suggestions contained in my letter to the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

I hope that the population of socially and educationally backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in your State should be over 70%. Therefore, your State would have naturally provided reservation in the matters of education and employment for these downtrodden and depressed classes. You are aware that there is a setback caused to this system of reservation by certain judgements of the Supreme Court. Now, the matter is being taken for consideration by the 9 Judges Constitutional Bench of the Supreme

Court. Any law enacted and brought under the 9th Schedule of the Constitution under Article-31(B) is also under attack. It has been listed for hearing on 30th October, 2006.

Therefore, the matter has become extremely urgent and immediate action may be taken by your State. In this context, my suggestion is that your State may also get impleaded in the case coming up for

hearing on 30.10.2006, with a view to protect the reservation already in force in your State for the welfare of the deprived classes.

In its recent judgement in M. Nagaraj and others versus Union of India and others, the Supreme Court has ruled that "It is made clear that even if the State has compelling reasons, as stated above, the State will have to see that its reservation provision does not lead to excessiveness so as to breach the ceiling limit of 50% or obliterate the creamy layer or extend the reservation indefinitely."

This judgement of the Supreme Court runs obviously against the spirit of the Constitution of India. In the preamble to the Constitution, it has been asserted to secure to all its citizens Justice, Social, Economic and Political. Also the Constitution contemplates reservation for only socially and educationally backward classes and not for any economically backward classes.

The socially and educationally backward classes were under yoke for several centuries and only after Independence and that too after reservation was inserted in the Constitution, the doors of Government services and educational institutions were opened up for these classes. In the last 50 years, these classes have been gradually rising in social strata. The 3 judgements of the Supreme Court have become a great shock to these classes as the ladder provided to them by way of reservation is pulled down.

In the same judgment, the Supreme Court has observed that "reservation has to be used in a limited sense otherwise it will perpetuate casteism in the country". Casteism has been prevalent in our country for thousands of years, despite a

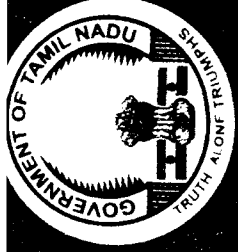
number of revolts and campaigns to abolish this system. Casteism is an in-built mechanism in the religion itself. Therefore, continuing reservation will not perpetuate casteism, as reservation has been in force only for the last 50 years.

Therefore, all the States have a compelling reason to oppose this trend against reservation and social justice. I very seriously consider that it is all the more important and necessary for the States to impress upon the Government of India with their views, to get impleaded themselves in the Supreme Court and take steps for referring the present case before the Supreme Court to 13 or more Judges Bench.

I request you to kindly take expeditious steps at this critical and historic hour to protect the interests of the socially and educationally backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and save them from the disastrous consequences.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
M. KARUNANIDHI



Tamilkarasu

CALENDAR 2007

THIRUVALLUVAR YEAR 2037-38

JANUARY						
Sun		7	14	21	28	
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	
Thur	4	11	18	25		
Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	6	13	20	27		

FEBRUARY						
Sun		4	11	18	25	
Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thur	1	8	15	22		
Fri	2	9	16	23		
Sat	3	10	17	24		

MARCH						
Sun		4	11	18	25	
Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thur	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	

APRIL						
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	
Tue	3	10	17	24		
Wed	4	11	18	25		
Thur	5	12	19	26		
Fri	6	13	20	27		
Sat	7	14	21	28		

MAY						
Sun		6	13	20	27	
Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thur	3	10	17	24	31	
Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	5	12	19	26		

JUNE						
Sun		3	10	17	24	
Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tue		5	12	19	26	
Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thur		7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	

LIST OF GENERAL HOLIDAYS FOR THE YEAR 2007

S.No.	Date	Day
1.	1. 1. 2007	Monday
2.	15. 1. 2007	Monday
3.	16. 1. 2007	Tuesday
4.	17. 1. 2007	Wednesday
5.	26. 1. 2007	Friday
6.	30. 1. 2007	Tuesday
7.	19. 3. 2007	Monday
8.	31. 3. 2007	Saturday
9.	01. 4. 2007	Sunday
10.	06. 4. 2007	Friday
11.	14. 4. 2007	Saturday
12.	1. 5. 2007	Tuesday
13.	15. 8. 2007	Wednesday
14.	4. 9. 2007	Tuesday
15.	15. 9. 2007	Saturday
16.	2. 10. 2007	Tuesday
17.	14. 10. 2007	Sunday
18.	20. 10. 2007	Saturday
19.	21. 10. 2007	Sunday
20.	8. 11. 2007	Thursday
21.	21. 12. 2007	Friday
22.	25. 12. 2007	Tuesday

JULY						
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	
Tue	3	10	17	24	31	
Wed	4	11	18	25		
Thur	5	12	19	26		
Fri	6	13	20	27		
Sat	7	14	21	28		

AUGUST						
Sun		5	12	19	26	
Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thur	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		

SEPTEMBER						
Sun	30	2	9	16	23	
Mon		3	10	17	24	
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thur		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	

OCTOBER						
Sun		7	14	21	28	
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	
Thur	4	11	18	25		
Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	6	13	20	27		

NOVEMBER						
Sun		4	11	18	25	
Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thur	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	3	10	17	24		

DECEMBER						
Sun	30	2	9	16	23	
Mon	31	3	10	17	24	
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thur		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	

Spectacular Development of Information Technology in Tamil Nadu

IT INITIATIVES IN TAMIL NADU

India has witnessed tremendous growth in the IT sector in recent years. **The Government of Tamil Nadu headed by Dr.Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi as Chief Minister during his previous tenure was instrumental in bringing the Information Technology revolution to Tamil Nadu. It is a matter of pride that Tamil Nadu was the first State in India to announce an IT Policy in the year 1997. TIDEL, a World class IT facility was also established during that period (4.7.2000). Likewise, many far-sighted schemes were implemented during the period 1996-2001. These measures laid the foundation for the spectacular development of IT in Tamil Nadu.**

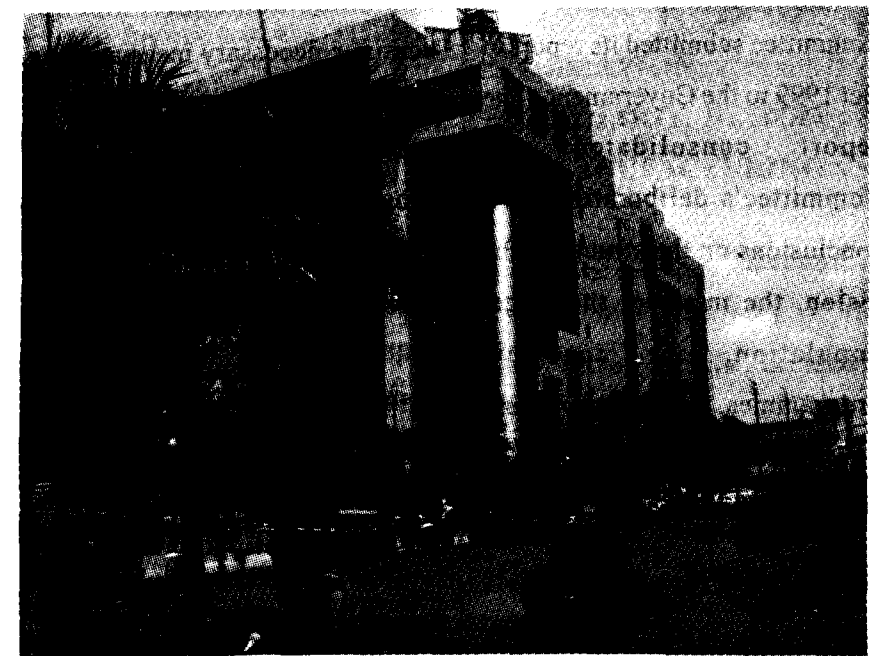
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU (ELCOT)

Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu, a wholly owned undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu, formed in 1977 functions as an arm of the Government to leverage Information Technology activities and functions as a channel of connectivity for the investors of IT and ITES sector.

ELCOT has been designated as the optional procurement agency for IT products to Government Department and Public Sector Undertakings. ELCOT has also established a Call Centre at ELCOT for attending to customer complaints on hardware and software. Procedures have been streamlined to ensure transparent and efficient services to all Government Departments.

TAMIL VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY (TVU)

Under the guidance and support of late **Thiru.Murasoli Maran, former Union**



Minister for Industries and Commerce, an International Conference on Tamilnet'99 was organised in 1999. In the valedictory address of the Tamilnet'99 on 8th February 1999, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced, on the basis of suggestions and desires expressed by the delegates, that a Tamil Virtual University would be established to make Tamil education available to the Tamils around the world.

Following this announcement, the Government of Tamil Nadu had set up a High Level Committee in May 1999 to operationalise the announcement. **Prof V.C.Kulandaiswamy** was made the Chairman of this committee. The High Level Committee submitted its report in Oct 1999 to the Government. The report consolidated the Committee's deliberations and conclusions on the structure, the vision, the mission, the target population, the academic programmes, the infrastructure required, etc.

Tamil Virtual University was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister **Kalaignar**

M.Karunanidhi on 17th February 2001 at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai. Former Union Minister for Industries and Commerce, late **Thiru.Murasoli Maran** presided over the function.

The Tamil Virtual University was registered as a Society and now functioning with a Director with powers and responsibilities on par with Vice-Chancellor. It's function is directed and monitored by a Board of Directors headed by **Dr.V.C.Kulandaiswamy** as Chairman. This is a unique institution - **the first of its kind in India.**

The Vision of **Tamil Virtual University (TVU)** aims at providing Internet based resources and opportunities for the Tamil Communities living in different parts of the globe as well as others interested in learning Tamil and acquiring knowledge of the history, art, literature and culture of the Tamils.

The Mission of TVU is (i) to develop and deliver Internet based learning material in Tamil language, literature and culture to global Tamil Communities and others interested, (ii) to develop and deliver customised programmes to meet the cultural needs of the Tamil Communities in different parts of the world and help them retain contact with their heritage, (iii) to initiate and continue necessary measures to co-ordinate and pool together knowledge resources, developed in Tamil in different parts of the world, for wider dissemination, (iv) to offer academic programmes in Tamil Language, literature and culture for audit or credit and to award appropriate Certificate / Diploma / Degree through Tamil University, Thanjavur on completion of prescribed requirements.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) POLICY OF GOVERNMENT

With a view to consolidate the gains made so far and to propel the industry into a higher growth trajectory, the

Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to formulate a new Information Technology Policy. This policy will comprehensively cover all sectors of the IT industry- Software, IT Enabled Services, Business Process Outsourcing, Product Development, Knowledge Process Outsourcing etc. A separate policy for IT Hardware manufacturing and Bio Technology will also be formulated. In short, the policy will put in place the required environment for an all round growth of the "Knowledge Economy".

SECOND TIDEL PARK

TIDEL Park, a world class IT facility was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India in the presence of **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi**, the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the former Union Minister for Industries and Commerce late **Thiru.Murasoli Maran** on 04-07-2000. The 12 storeyed state of the art building has a built up area of 1.28 million square feet. The building is fully occupied since its inception with 32 Companies Indian as well as International occupying the building at present. More than 12,000 people are employed here. At the inaugural function of the **TIDEL Park**, Chief Minister **Kalaignar** had announced that a second **TIDEL Park** will be established at Chennai. In fulfillment of this decision a second **TIDEL Park** will be established at **Taramani** in Chennai.

IT PARK IN COIMBATORE

Hon'ble Chief Minister accompanied by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Communication and Information Technology **Thiru. Dhayanidhimaran** visited the premises of **WIPRO** and **Infosys** in Bangalore on 15-06-2006. On the basis of the discussions held there, a decision has

been taken to establish an **IT Park** on the lines of **TIDEL Park** at **Coimbatore**.

IT PARKS IN MADURAI, TRICHY, SALEM AND TIRUNELVELI

The Government of Tamil Nadu is firmly committed to spread the IT revolution to other Towns of Tamil Nadu. It has therefore decided to set up **IT Parks** in **Madurai**, **Trichy**, **Salem** and **Tirunelveli** apart from **Chennai** and **Coimbatore** announced earlier. The Collectors of the respective Districts have already commenced the process of identifying suitable lands for this purpose.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING

The Human Resources Development Ministry of the Central Government has decided to establish a National Centre of Excellence called "Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing" meeting

international standards at Chennai. As soon as the Government headed by Chief Minister **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi** has assumed charge, decision has been taken to provide the required land to the Central Government and render necessary cooperation. The establishment of this prestigious institution in Tamil Nadu will further enhance the attractiveness of the State as an IT destination.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

A State Information Technology Task Force comprising of representatives of Information Technology sector will be constituted to identify the infrastructural requirements. This will attract large investments to our State in the Information Technology sector.

SCHEME TO PROVIDE FREE COLOUR TELEVISION SETS

The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to launch a unique scheme of free distribution of Colour Television sets to the households not having Colour Television Sets. This scheme was commenced in the first week of September 2006 to commemorate the birth anniversaries of **Arignar Anna** on 15th September and **Thanthai Periyar** on 17th September and being

implemented now in a phased manner. A provision of Rs.750 crores has been allocated for this purpose in the State Budget.

Initially, a sum of Rs.9 Crores was spent for procuring 30,000 Colour Television sets and were distributed. In the second phase, action is being taken by the Government to procure another 25,00,000 Colour Television sets by floating International Tender Bidding. This shows the commitment of the Government to continue to implement the scheme. A Committee of Legislators comprising representatives of political parties in the Legislative Assembly has been formed to ensure transparency in procurement and proper distribution of Colour Television sets.

INCENTIVES FOR MANUFACTURE OF COMPUTERS IN TAMIL NADU

The Government of Tamil Nadu proposes to give special concessions to companies that come forward to establish factories in Tamil Nadu for the manufacture of computers so as to increase the use of computers in our State and create a situation where computers will be affordable to all. Exemption will be given from the General and Central Sales Tax without any limit on the sale of computers manufactured by companies with an investment exceeding Rs.100 Crores in the Special Economic Zones in Tamil Nadu. This concession will be given for a period of 10 years from the year of commencement of commercial production.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BY GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

One of the prime requirements for the growth of the IT sector is the availability of "Industry ready"

state of the art building infrastructure. Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) has been nominated by the Government of Tamil Nadu as the certifying authority for issuing No Objection Certificate for IT Buildings. ELCOT has streamlined its procedures for issue of No Objection Certificate where by the certificates are being issued within 72 hours of receipt of completed applications.

ELCOT has so far issued NOC to 143 IT Buildings with built up area in excess of 48 Million Sq.ft. Out of these, 23 buildings have been so far completed and fully occupied. The rest of the buildings are in different stages of construction and under processing. The availability of this huge pool of building infrastructure is a great attraction for investors in the IT sector.

The long delayed IT Expressway project has been put on the fast track and will be completed very soon. High level Committees have been formed to monitor the progress of this project and the project structure has been revamped to ensure that there are no bottlenecks in speedy completion. A comprehensive multi-sectoral development plan for Chennai city is being prepared to meet the challenges thrown up by the rapid increase of population on account of the phenomenal growth of the IT sector. A Metro Rail Project has also been planned for improving the transportation needs of the Metropolis. All these infrastructural developments will ensure that Chennai continues to be a preferred destination for national and international investors.

IT PROMOTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

The Government of Tamil Nadu through ELCOT participates in a number of National and International IT related events in order to promote the State as an investment destination.

The premier IT event in this regard is 'CONNECT'. This is a one stop forum that unites the diverse stakeholders in the ICT sector - the Government, Industry, Service Providers, Academia and most

importantly the End Users. The past five editions of **CONNECT** have attracted the attention of the cream of the IT Industry in India as well as from a large number of foreign countries and has emerged as one of the most popular forums in the National and International Calendar of ICT events. This year **CONNECT 2006** was held on 8th to 10th September 2006 in a grand manner. It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi** and Keynote Address was delivered by Hon'ble Union Minister for Communication & Information Technology, **Thiru.Dayanidhi Maran**. A large delegation of national and international participants attended the event.

INCENTIVES TO IT INDUSTRY

A provision of Rs.3 Crores has been made for reimbursement of Stamp Duty paid by the developers in the private IT parks. The Government has also

provided a sum of Rs. 1 Crore for encouraging the participation of Small and Medium enterprises in National and International events.

TAMIL NADU STATE WIDE AREA NETWORK (TNSWAN)

Tamil Nadu State Wide Area Network (TNSWAN) is a project jointly implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India aimed at providing backbone connectivity utilizing the 2 Mbps free bandwidth provided by the Public/Private Communication Providers (PCPs) linking State Headquarters at Chennai with all the 30 District Headquarters as well as linking Districts Headquarters to the Divisional Headquarters, Taluk Headquarters and Block Headquarters. The Project will be ready by December 2006. The Government has provided a sum of Rs. 12 Crores for this purpose for the year 2006-07.

CAPACITY BUILDING

A scheme called the National e-Governance Action Plan (NeGAP) has been announced by the Government of India to introduce e-Governance in selected Government Departments. As a part of this Plan, assistance is provided to the State Governments to enhance the capacity for the implementation of the e-Governance projects implemented in

the States. The project will be implemented with assistance from the Government of India. The Government has provided a sum of Rs. 13.95 Crore for this purpose.

DIRECTORATE OF E-GOVERNANCE

Tamil Nadu government is committed to harness e-Governance as an enabler for ushering in a new era of digital governance where services will be delivered to the citizens through convenient and easily accessible delivery channels for creation of a model "e-Governed State" in the country. For this purpose an Officer in IAS cadre has been posted as an Officer on Special Duty for creation of the **Directorate of e-Governance**. The Directorate of e-Governance will be instrumental in helping the departments in providing better accountability, enforceability, transparency, increased efficiency in service delivery to the citizens.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS BY ELCOT

Project Implementation of Driving License Card

The preparation and issue of Laminated Computerized Driving License was entrusted to ELCOT by the Transport Department in all the 86 centres in the State. This project will be continued during this year with deployment of additional manpower and Computer Hardware.

COMPUTER EDUCATION IN GOVERNMENT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Government has entrusted the work of implementation of Computer Education Project in 1,197

Government Higher Secondary and Corporation Schools to ELCOT. The Government has also entrusted the implementation of computer Education in 60 Government Arts, Science Colleges, 5 Law Colleges and 12 Medical Colleges to ELCOT. It has been announced in the Governor's address that all schools will be provided with computers in a phased manner in the next three years.

Computerization of Registration Department

The Government has entrusted the project of computerization of Registration Department in 475 District Sub Registrars offices to ELCOT. This project will be implemented with upgraded hardware. In addition, various other schemes like computerization of various departments, facility management, data entry and training are handled by ELCOT.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS BY TAMIL VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

Academic Program

To fulfill the vision of providing internet based educational materials, TVU has got the following educational programmes:

- Programme for Kinder Garden children titled 'Mazhalaiyar Kalvi'.
- Certificate Programme which covers the skills imparted in class 1-6 is offered in 3 Levels.
- Higher Certificate programmes which cover skills imparted in class 7 to 12 is offered at 3 Grades.
- Integrated Degree course leading to award of Diploma, Advanced Diploma & Bachelor's Degree in Tamil.
- Post Graduate course in Tamil.

STUDENTS REGISTRATION

About 2,466 students from various countries have registered for the Certificate Course and 2806 students have registered for B.A. Degree Course. Nearly 17,109 students have registered for usage of TVU Library. TVU now has 16 Coordinating Centres in 12 Countries. The TVU website (www.tamilvu.org) has so far attracted 13,76,036 visitors. Diploma Certificate has been awarded to 56 students of Sri Lanka who passed online and written examination.

A large digital Library has been created for the use of students and others who are interested to know their heritage and culture of Tamil. The Digital Library has been structured to have reference text books and reference books included in the syllabus

- Tamil literature – Sangam age to modern age. (250 books now available)
- Tamil Heritage – Video Clippings of Temples in Tamil Nadu (137 temples)
- Tamil Art – Dance & Folklore

■ Technical Glossary in Tamil for various fields of Science and Technology.(2,00,000 technical terms)

■ Dictionaries in English & Tamil (4 Dictionaries).

TAMIL SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION

Government of Tamil Nadu has provided separate fund for Tamil Software Development (TSDF). So far, 18 projects were funded under the scheme.

Apart from the above, the Government has entrusted to the Tamil Virtual University to test the Tamil Software developed by vendors for Tamil'99 keyboard, compatible with TAM/TAB standards approved by Government of Tamil Nadu and issues certificates. So far 19 products were tested and certified by TVU. Tamil Software were also developed using funds from Part-II Scheme

TOURIST TAMIL

For the benefit of the tourists, TVU has prepared a CD for Tourist Tamil.

TAMIL NEW ENCODING CONFERENCE (TANE)

TANE Conference on Tamil 16-bit all character encoding system was held on 2.9.2006 under the Chairmanship of Thiru.Dayanidhi Maran, Hon'ble Union

Minister for Communication & Information Technology. Based on the recommendations made in the Conference, the Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a Task Force to coordinate the activities of the Development of the acceptable 16 bit all character encoding for Tamil Language through appropriate testing and validation under the Chairmanship for Prof.M.Anandkrishnan, Chairman, Madras Institute of Development Studies.

PRODUCTION OF CDS OF E-BOOKS WITH SEARCH FACILITY

Production of CDs of e-books with search facility is under progress. To start with, an e-book on Thirukkural with search facilities will be released soon.

GROWTH OF IT & ITES SECTOR IN TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu has witnessed substantial growth in IT, ITES, BPO and IT Hardware manufacturing sectors. The Software exports from Tamil Nadu had touched Rs.14,115 Crores. The depth and range of the IT sector can be gauged from the wide based portfolio of its export basket - Application Software and System Software (70%); IT Enabled Services (ITES) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) (13%); Communication Software, VLSI design and Web Solutions (8%); IT Consultancy (6%) and Product Development (3%). The number of Software Units in the State is also growing rapidly. So far 1,437 Software units have established their facilities.

The rapid rise in the number of national and international players that have chosen to establish their business establishments and manufacturing facilities as well as the expansion of the activities of the established firms in this State is a firm indication that **Tamil Nadu has emerged as a preferred destination for domestic as well as foreign direct investment.**

Leaders in the Indian IT sector like Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, Wipro, Satyam, HCL, Patni Computers, I-Flex, Polaris and Hexaware as well as a galaxy of international majors - Accenture, Verizon, Xansa, Office Tiger, Standard Chartered Bank, ABN Amro, Alcatel, Cognizant

Technology have established their operations in Tamil Nadu.

To add to the leadership role that the State has in the Software sector, large international Hardware manufacturers like NOKIA, Foxcon, Flextronics and Motorola have already located their facilities in Tamil Nadu.

Government of Tamil Nadu is firmly committed to promote the State as a premier destination for investors equally committed to harnessing the powers of Information and Communication Technology as an engine of economic growth and rural transformation. The vision of the Government is to achieve this goal. 

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighar M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the 150th year celebrations of the Chennai Metropolitan Police on 4.1.2007. He took the salute and inspected a guard of honour. He honoured police personnel, laid foundation stone for the new commissionerate building in Vepery, inaugurated new police buildings in the city, inaugurated the exhibition show casing the growth of Chennai Metropolitan Police and released the souvenir brought-out to mark the occasion.



While addressing the function, the Chief Minister detailed the concessions and benefits given to the police by the present government

TV Wrapper

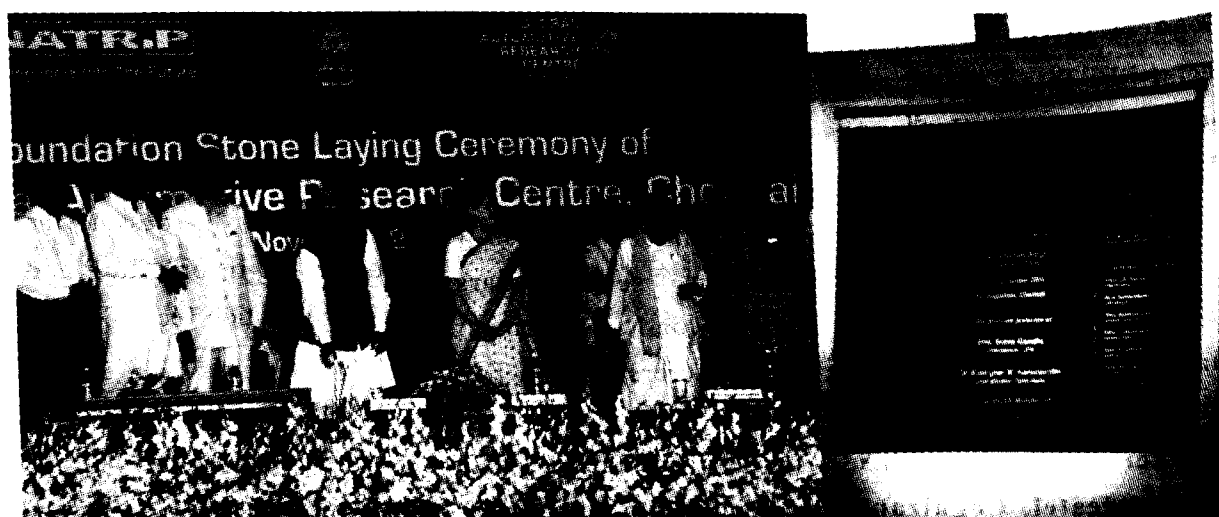
150th year celebrations of Chennai Metropolitan Police

including the donation of 100 modern patrol vehicles by the Hyundai Car Company, increase of risk allowance, removal of age restrictions for promotion and abolishing test for promotion of head constable to sub-inspector. He announced that 15,000 police officers and

medal. He also announced that 14,973 police personnel working in the city police constables to the grade of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police would be given 'Arm Patch' to mark the historic 150th year celebrations of Chennai Metropolitan Police.

Police personnel displayed their skills in cultural programme. Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, MLAs, Chief Secretary L.K. Tripathy, IAS, Home Secretary Tmt.S.Malathi, IAS, DGP Thiru D.Mukherjee, IPS, City Police Commissioner Tmt.Letika Saran,IPS and other senior police officials participated in the function. ■

men who would have served the city police for more than six months between 25.4.2006 and 24.4.2007 would be presented a



AN INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR OF EXCELLENCE

Achievements of Industries Department

Government has constituted a Special Task Force under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister with the participation of the representatives of Industry and Commerce Associations and eminent industrialists to resolve the problems and difficulties faced by industries and to ensure hassle free growth of industries.

A new Industrial Policy will be announced in the current year.

An Industrial Corridor of Excellence will be established with infrastructure of World Class Standards. Necessary further action is being taken to

implement this scheme. Industrial parks, Special Economic Zones, I.T.Parks and Townships will be set up along this corridor which will be well connected to airports and seaports through express highways and railway lines.

- ★ An extent of 304 acres of land at Oragadam near Chennai has been selected now for establishing a National Automotive Testing and Research and Development Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) at a cost of Rs.470 crores. Enter Upon permission has been granted to NATRIP by SIPCOT on 12.10.2006 to carry out Construction activities. Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone for this project on 4.11.2006.

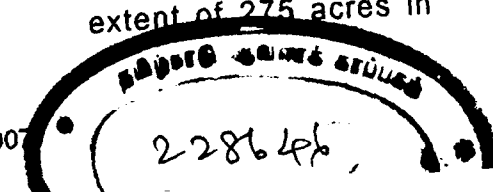


- ★ The Government has announced the establishment of a Centre for Higher Studies and Research in Biotechnology to improve the productivity in agriculture and develop new medicines for various diseases. Action is being taken to set it up quickly.

Six MoUs in 6 months:-

- (i) Government of Tamil Nadu has signed a MOU with M/s. Motorola of USA on 07.06.2006 to set up a factory for production of Mobile Phones and other communication equipments at an investment of Rs.135 crores. An extent of 70 acres has been allotted in the Hi-Tech SEZ within Sriperumpudur Industrial Park of SIPCOT. The Company has already commenced its project implementation.
- (ii) MoU was signed with M/s Apollo Tyres on 07.08.2006 to set up a Radial Tyre manufacturing facility at SIPCOT Complex, Oragadam, at a total investment of Rs. 520 crores. This facility will add to the capability of Chennai as an automobile hub. A structured package of assistance was granted to the company on 1.9.2006.
- (iii) MoU was signed by Government of Tamil Nadu on 18.08.2006 with M/s. Tessolve Services Ltd (U.S.A.)
- (iv) Similarly, another MOU was signed by Government of Tamil Nadu with M/s. DELL of USA on 14.9.2006. M/s. DELL will locate their computer manufacturing facility in Sriperumbudur SIPCOT HI-Tech Special Economic Zone over an extent of 50 acres at a total project cost of Rs. 280 crores.
- (v) The Government have signed a MoU on 14.9.2006 with M/s Growth Link Overseas Ltd., a subsidiary company of M/s Feng Tay, a Taiwan based shoe manufacturing company, to set up a Footwear SEZ with Footwear manufacturing facility in an extent of 275 acres in

for setting up of an Assembly and Production Test Centre for Integrated Circuit Devices (semi conductor devices). The Project will be set up in Sriperumpudur Hi-tech SEZ over an extent of 50 acres with an investment of Rs.1000 crores over a period of five years.



Cheyar SIPCOT Industrial Park. This will generate direct employment opportunity for 15,000 persons especially Women, in an industrially backward area.

(vi) MoU was signed by Govt. of Tamil Nadu with M/s. Samsung India Electronics Limited on 10.11.2006 for setting up a Domestic Tariff Area Project to manufacture Colour T.Vs., Refrigerators, Air Conditioners and Washing Machines etc. with an investment of Rs. 284 crores. Samsung is also setting up another project in Special Economic Zone format for manufacturing Computer Monitors (LCD Monitors), Computer Printers and other Technology Products with an investment of Rs.166 crores. Thus Samsung is investing Rs.450 crores in both the projects. The Government have allotted 80 acres of land at SIPCOT Industrial Estate at Sriperumpudur for the above projects. These two projects would provide direct employment of 2500 persons and indirect employment for 1500 persons. Samsung's projects will be a further boost to Chennai's standing in electronic hardware sector, especially in I.T.&.ITES equipment map of the world.

An extent of 49 acres in Taramani has been earmarked for establishment of Second TIDEL Park and TIDCO is in the process of preparing a

comprehensive master plan to make this park an I.T.Hub

- ★ Due to proactive approach of the Government, a large number of industries have evinced interest to establish their new industries in Tamil Nadu. Proposals are pouring in every day. To cater to the growing need of industries for land, State Government has approved acquisition of about 2000 acres of additional lands for expansion of the industrial complexes of SIPCOT at Oragadam and Sriperumpudur.
- ★ A new Automotive Special Economic Zone will be established in Oragadam SIPCOT Industrial park to cater to the Automobile Ancillary industries.
- ★ To cater to the needs of Leather industries, a new Leather SEZ will be established near Chennai over an extent of 250 acres. This will be in addition to the Footwear SEZ and Components Park being set up by the SIPCOT and leather industries respectively. SIPCOT has already initiated work on a Footwear SEZ in an total extent of 150 acres in the Sriperumpudur Industrial Park at a cost of Rs.40 crores, which includes a Government of India assistance of Rs.14 crores. Special infrastructure like design and testing centre, training and business centre etc. is also being provided. In addition to these two SEZ's, SIPCOT has started work on a

Footwear components park in an area of 50 acres in Sriperumpudur.

TNPL will be modernized at a cost of Rs.650 crores and its production capacity will be increased from 2,30,000 MTPA to 3,50,000 MTPA. The EIA study for this project has already been taken up. TNPL will also establish 5 new Windmills at a cost of Rs.30 crores to generate 6.25 MW of additional power. TNPL has already finalized the procurement and implementation plans for this.

Considering the industrial backwardness of Perambalur District, an integrated SEZ is being established in this District through TIDCO, which will attract investment of Rs.5000 crores over a period of 5 years and provide employment opportunities to a large number of people. The Government of India has already given in-principle approval for this SEZ.

The Government is determined to tap the Natural Gas resources in Cauvery Basin Region using new exploration technology. Efforts are being made to get natural gas from Krishna-Godavari basin and establish a gas distribution network in Tamil Nadu. TIDCO is considering plans to set up a new joint venture company for undertaking exploration, production and distribution of Oil and Natural Gas in Tamil Nadu.

★ Till the previous sugar season, sugarcane transportation charges up to a distance of 10 Kilometres from the Sugar Mills was borne by the cane growers themselves. For distances in excess of 10 Kilometres, transportation charges was borne by the sugar mills. From the current crushing season starting from October, 2006, Cooperative and Public Sector Sugar Mills will bear the transportation charges for sugarcane for distance within 10 kilometres also. This will give a benefit of about Rs. 40 crores to the cane growers.

★ It is proposed to establish Ethanol Plants at Salem and Amaravathi Co-operative Sugar Mills at an estimated cost Rs. 6 crores. These would be the first Ethanol Plants in Cooperative / Public Sector Sugar Mills in the State.

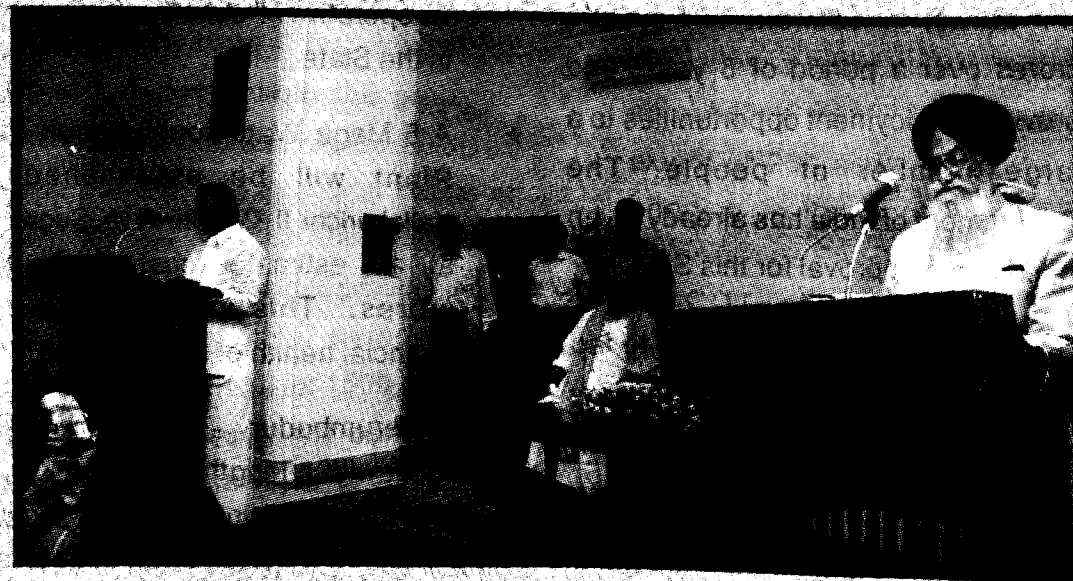
★ A 6 Mega Watt Cogeneration Power Plant will be established at Kallakurichi II Cooperative Sugar Mills at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.50 crores. This would improve the financial health of this Sugar Mill.

★ Sriperumbudur - Singaperumal Koil road, with a length of 24 Km, will be upgraded into 6 lane Highway. Vandalur - Walajabad road which is 20 km long, will be upgraded into 4 lane Highway. Total cost of these 2 projects is Rs. 300 crores. Necessary administrative approval has already been given by the Government for this.

□ □ □



Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru M.K.Stalin started the construction work of Perambur bridge in the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister for Communication and Information Technology Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran, by lighting the traditional lamp on 25.11.2006.



Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala, His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu administered the oath of office to Thiru Pongalur N. Palanisamy as the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi at Raj Bhavan, Chennai on 29.10.2006. Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly and higher officials attended the swearing-in ceremony.

ANAITHU GRAMA ANNA MARUMALARCHI THITTAM FOR THE HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THE VILLAGE PANCHAYATS

Achievements of Rural Development and Panchayatraj Department

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is entrusted with the responsibility of enabling the various Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) to function as effective units of Local Self Government. The department is also responsible for the implementation of various Centrally sponsored and State Schemes for poverty alleviation,



provision of basic amenities, employment generation, sanitation, capacity building, women's social and economic empowerment among others.

I. PANCHAYAT RAJ:

- + General Elections to the rural local bodies successfully conducted in October 2006 with **reservation and rotation** for SC, ST and women candidates.
- + Elections, which could not be held for many years were successfully conducted for **Pappapatti, Keeripatti, Nattarmangalam, Kottakatchiyendal** Panchayats.
- + Action is being taken to constitute **expert committees:**
 - a) For upgradation and delimitation of the local bodies
 - b) To examine and recommend devolution of powers and functions of local bodies.
- + **Uthamar Gandhi Panchayat award** for Panchayats with outstanding service delivery, special initiatives and innovative works has been instituted.

- + To ensure effective conduct of Grama Sabhas, the Government have issued orders rationalising the **quorum and rotation of venue** covering all the wards. Grama Sabha was successfully conducted with the revised norms on **14th November 2006**.

- + Annual maintenance cost for power pumps and hand pumps have been upwardly revised from **Rs.7000** and **Rs.300** to **Rs.7500** and **Rs.600** respectively.

II RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES:

SPILL OVER WORKS:

- + **1,29,071** works have been completed out of the **1,54,245** works which were pending as on **13.05.2006**.

ANAITHU GRAMA ANNA MARUMALARCHI THITTAM :

- + The scheme envisages holistic development of all the **12,618** Village Panchayats during the next 5 years by providing **Rs. 20 lakhs** per Panchayat as additional funds. Every year, **1/5th** of the

Village Panchayats in each block will be covered under the scheme. Selection of Village Panchayats for 2006-07 and baseline survey have been completed. This scheme was inaugurated on **21.1.2007** at Vellore district by Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi.

MLACDS:

- + The fund allocation for each MLA has been enhanced to **Rs.1.20 crores**.
- + Under the scheme, one computer, printer and internet connectivity will be provided to each MLA.

TAMIL NADU RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME:

- + This scheme is being implemented in 6 districts namely Villupuram, Cuddalore, Tiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam, Sivaganga and Dindigul.
- + To ensure minimum wage of **Rs. 80** per day for 7 hours of labour, the government notified the rural schedule of rates exclusively for this scheme which is about 60% over and above the PWD schedule of rates.
- + The Government have notified the TNREG scheme under the provisions of NREG Act 2005.
- + The Tamil Nadu State Employment Guarantee Council has been constituted for regular monitoring and review of the scheme.
- + So far **9,50,702** households (42%) have been issued job cards under this scheme.



Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru M.K.Stalin handed over colour television sets to beneficiaries at Sakkimangalam Samathuvapuram in Madurai district on 11.11.2006. Hon'ble Minister for Housing Thiru Suba.Thangavelan and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.



Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru M.K.Stalin declared open the renovated building of the Connemara Public Library at Chennai on 22.11.2006. Hon'ble Minister for Information Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru Thangam Thennarasu and the Chennai Corporation Mayor Thiru M. Subramanian participated in the function.

- + 65 lakh mandays of employment has been generated so far.
- + 4,393 works are in progress and Rs.55.93 crores has been spent as wages so far under this scheme.

- + For the effective implementation of the scheme, the Government have ordered the creation of

(i) 180 posts of Computer Assistants

(ii) 383 posts of Technical Assistants.

INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA:

- + The state share towards roofing cost which was reduced to Rs.9,000 in 2004, has been restored to Rs.12,000 by the Government.
- + The list of BPL families has been finalised and approved in the Grama Sabha on 14.11.2006 after the resurvey to ensure that no deserving family is left out.

RURAL ROADS:

- + In order to ensure the participation of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the implementation of PMGSY, the scheme has been retransferred to Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department from Highways. Under Phase-V, 379 road works for a length of 849.127 Kms at an estimated cost of Rs. 174.31 crores is proposed to be taken up.
- + The Government have obtained a loan assistance from NABARD under RIDF – XII for strengthening 889 bus plying Panchayat and

Panchayat Union roads of 1,543.32 Kms at a cost of Rs. 107.395 crores.

- + Orders have been issued for renewal of BT of bus plying roads in 2,540 Village Panchayats costing Rs. 103.60 crores under 12th Finance Commission grant.
- + Under Bharath Nirman scheme, 1,148 roads measuring 1,989 Kms will be taken up at an outlay of Rs. 345.11 crores.

SWARNA JAYANTHI SWAROJGAR YOJANA (SGSY) :

- + The Government have issued orders to rename the SGSY commercial complexes as "Poomalai" commercial complexes.

III. TAMIL NADU CORPORATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN:

- Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Limited and Vazhndhu Kaatuvom Project have been brought under the

administrative control of Rural Development Department to achieve convergence.

The Board of Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Limited has been revamped to include representatives from Banking, Corporate and other relevant sectors.

- 5,290 new women SHGs have been formed with an enrollment of 80,747 women and a savings of Rs.203.80 lakhs.

Training cost paid to SHG Members has been increased to Rs.45/- per day instead of Rs.7.50 paid earlier. 17,096 SHGs have been imparted SHG training and 18,705 SHGs have been given A&R training.

1,486 Youth SHGs with 22,293 men have been formed.

40,401 SHGs have been credit rated and 41,104 have been credit linked. Credit linkage has been provided to the tune of Rs.312.50 Crores.

5,920 women have been imparted skill training and 3,743 women have been imparted EDP training.

Revolving fund of Rs.10,000/- each was distributed to 950 SHGs in



Chennai and 5,000 Urban SHGs have been identified for releasing Revolving Fund throughout the State.

IV. VAZHNDHU KAATUVOM PROJECT:

- District Offices have been set up in all 15 Project districts and project staff are in place.
- 60% of project staff have been imparted induction training.
- Orientation on the project has been given to newly elected Panchayat Presidents, district officials and Bankers.
- Initial project activities are going on in full swing in all the 581 Gram Panchayats taken up in the first phase.
- Out of the 581 Gram Panchayats, 357 Gram Panchayats have resolved to join the project in the special Grama Sabha held on 14.11.2006.

V. TSUNAMI REHABILITATION PROJECT – TEAP ASSISTED BY ADB AND ETRP ASSISTED BY WORLD BANK

a) TSUNAMI EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROJECT (TEAP) - LIVELIHOOD

- ☐ **8287** Self Help Groups have been given additional Revolving Fund of **Rs. 20,000/-** each, for **Rs.16.57 crores**.
- ☐ **9162** Self Help Groups have been given Revolving Fund of **Rs.30,000/-** each, for **Rs.27.49 crores**
- ☐ **9835** disabled persons have been given the grant of **Rs.10,000/-** each, for their Livelihood activities for **Rs.9.83 Crores**.
- ☐ Economic Assistance has been provided to **243** Self Help Groups for **Rs.2.45 crores**.
- ☐ Totally **Rs.56.34 crores** has been spent towards Livelihood restoration.

b) ROADS AND DRAINAGES:

- ☐ **520** Road works to a length of **568.20 kms** have been taken for **Rs.77.06 crores**.
- ☐ **41** Road works have been completed and **367** works are under Progress. **Rs.3.89 crores** has been spent so far.

c) EMERGENCY TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (ETRP) - HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION AND BASIC AMENITIES:

- ☐ Blanket exemption from Town and country planning clearance for Tsunami related project was accorded.
- ☐ Coastal Regulation Zone clearance obtained for **137** sites (Housing sites) and for **135** sites for the Provision of basic amenities.
- ☐ For providing individual house service connection/street lights a sum of **Rs.2.45 crores** has been spent.
- ☐ Tenders to the value of **Rs.16.38 crores** have been called for to provide Cement Roads in the new habitations, where houses are constructed.
- ☐ Procurement plans for Public Buildings for **Rs.8.84 crores** and Street Lights for **Rs.2.84 crores** have been forwarded to World Bank for approval.

d) RAJIV GANDHI REHABILITATION PACKAGE UNDER TSUNAMI RELIEF:

- ☐ **2920** houses have been sanctioned under this Package.
- ☐ Unit cost of the house has been raised from **Rs.1.20 lakhs** to **Rs.2.10 lakhs**.

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9,000 MEDICAL CAMPS UNDER VARUMUN KAPPOM SCHEME

Achievements of Health & Family Welfare Department

1800 Nurses have been appointed in 600 PHCs under RCH Project to provide reproductive and Child Health services round the clock.

- 1427 doctors recruited by TNPSC were appointed in the vacancies available in the PHCs and Government Hospitals. Speedy action is being taken to recruit doctors in the remaining 592 vacancies.
- The 779 female workers of Anganwadi and Noon Meal Centres in Social Welfare department who have completed VHN training have been appointed as VHNs.
- 742 male workers had completed MPH training during 1991-92 and they were not given appointment so far. Now these persons have been appointed as Health Inspectors.

Permission has been given to fill up about 7000 vacancies in various paramedical categories available in the Teaching Hospitals, District and Taluk Hospitals and Primary Health Centres. District Health officials are taking necessary action to fill up these vacancies. These vacancies will be filled up in a period of one month.

About 1000 persons were appointed on consolidated pay of Rs.2500 per month in the categories of Pharmacist, Lab. Technician Grade II, Lab. Assistant, Dark Room Assistant etc. during 2002-03. They were not brought into regular time scale of pay even after they completed two years of service. They have now been brought into regular time scale of pay by this Government.

2636 nurses who are working on consolidated pay of Rs.2500 per month in Teaching Hospitals, Government Hospitals and Primary Health Centres have also been brought into regular time scale of pay from September 2006.

- The consolidated pay of Rs.2500 per month being given to 2540 nurses working in the World Bank Projects has been raised to Rs.3500. This will be hiked to Rs.4000 when they complete one-year service and Rs.5000 when they complete 2 years service.
- Orders have been issued for bringing the 1505 contract Medical Officers / Contract Medical Consultants who were appointed on consolidated pay of Rs.8,000/- p.m. into time scale of Pay of Rs.8,000 - 275 - 13,500 with effect from 01.11.2006. Their services will be regularized after passing the special qualifying examination to be conducted by the TNPSC.
- In tune with the policy of the present Government to establish one Medical College in every district of Tamil Nadu, action has been initiated to open one new Medical College in Villupuram. This will function from the next year.
- The Government have taken a decision to start new Nursing Colleges in the rural areas through Private Charitable Trusts. This will facilitate ample employment opportunity to the rural women. Permission has been granted to the Private Trusts for the starting of 9 Nursing Schools and 11 Dental and Medical Colleges.
- An amount of Rs.100 crores has been sanctioned for payment of maternity assistance of Rs.6000 to the poor pregnant women at the rate of Rs.1000 per month for six months under Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Memorial Maternity Assistance Scheme. The poor women will utilize this amount to consume

nutritious food. The will also compensate their wage loss during this period. 142326 women have been benefited upto 29.11.2006 under this scheme.

Sanction has been accorded for Rs.2.34 crores towards strengthening of the neo-natal ward in Government Hospital for Women and Children, Egmore, Chennai. This will save those children born with a weight of half Kg.

The 'Varumun Kappom' Scheme has been revived and revitalized. Under this scheme, 9000 medical camps will be conducted both in the urban and rural areas at a total cost of Rs.18.30 crores.

Sanction has been accorded for an amount of Rs.23.97 crores for providing the modern diagnostic MRI scan facility to the Teaching Hospitals at Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore and Vellore.

In order to diagnose the disease accurately in any part of the body in 20 seconds, sanction has been accorded for Rs.5.5 crores for providing a modern sophisticated 64-slice CT scan to the Government General Hospital, Chennai.



- Sanction has been accorded for Rs.3.00 crores for providing Lithotripsy equipment to the Government General Hospital, Chennai and Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai. This will enable the Hospitals to remove stones in the kidney without much pain. This is the first of its kind in the history of medical service in the public sector in Tamil Nadu.
- Sanction has been accorded for Rs.85.94 lakhs for strengthening of the various units such as ophthalmology, skin, child health, orthopaedic, Nephrology and Urology at Government Royapettah Hospital.
- Sanction has been accorded for Rs.10.50 crores for providing the Accident and Emergency units in the seven Government Hospitals on National Highways viz. Government Hospitals at Namakkal, Tenkasi, Padmanabhapuram, Cuddalore, Tambaram, Walajapet and Melur.

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TOURISM IN TAMIL NADU

Tourism plays a major role in earning foreign exchange, employment generation and national integration. Realising the importance of Tourism, this Government has provided a sum of Rs.46 crores during 2006-2007, out of which Rs.12 crores have been earmarked for promotion and marketing and Rs.23 crores for providing infrastructure facilities in the tourist centres.

1) Tourism Police:

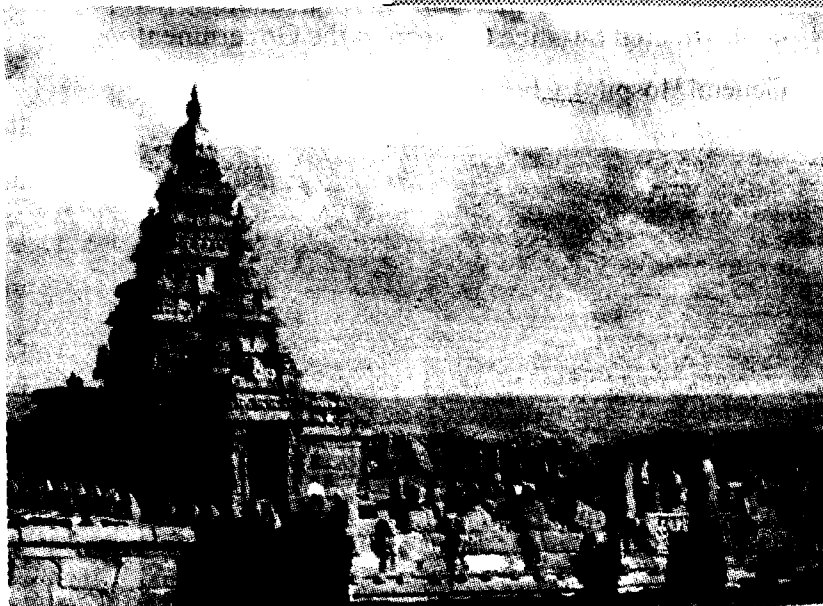
Keeping in view the security and safety of tourists coming to our state, Government have ordered on 17.10.2006 forming a Tourism Police. In the first phase it will be introduced at,

- a) Mamallapuram
- b) Udhagamandalam
- c) Kodaikanal
- d) Madurai
- e) Kanniyakumari

One outpost Police Station will be established in the above destinations. One Head-Constable and five constables will be appointed in those outpost police station.

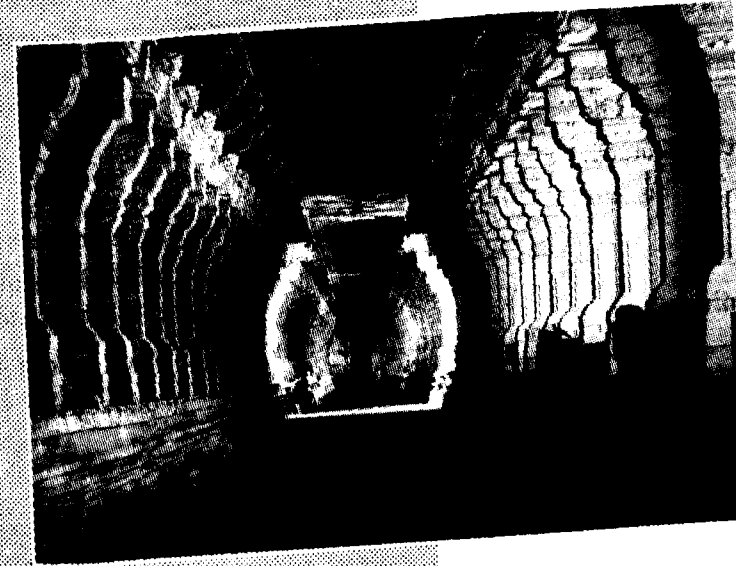
2) Providing Trained Guides:

To ensure dissemination of correct and exhaustive information to tourists, Government have ordered



on 5-9-2006 Training for 400 Tourist Guides who will work at the following Tourist Centres.

- 1) Chennai
- 2) Mamallapuram
- 3) Kancheepuram
- 4) Tiruchirappalli
- 5) Kodaikanal
- 6) Thanjavur
- 7) Madurai



- 8) Rameswaram
- 9) Kanniyakumari
- 10) Udhagamandalam

Applications have been called for from the aspirant candidates. Anna Institute of Management will organise the Training Programme.

3) Action taken for increasing domestic tourist arrivals:

To increase domestic tourist arrivals marketing campaigns have been conducted in the last six months at Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkatta, Hyderabad and Jaipur.

TTDC introduced Rail-cum-Road Tour in association with Railways from Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Jaipur. Due to the continuous publicity efforts taken by Tourism Department, TTDC has been able to book tours upto December 2006 approximately of value of Rs.85.02 lakhs against the total revenue of Rs.32.38 lakhs generally tune these tours during 2005-2006.

4) Increase in Tourist Arrivals

Due to the publicity efforts taken by Tourism Department number of tourists visited Tamil Nadu during this year has increased from 2,85,94,592 in the year 2005 to 3,40,11,821 (till November 2006). Similarly, the number of foreign tourists visited Tamil Nadu has also been increased from 9,66,159 in the year 2005 to 10,78,000 (till November 2006).

5) Development of Less Known Tourist Place :

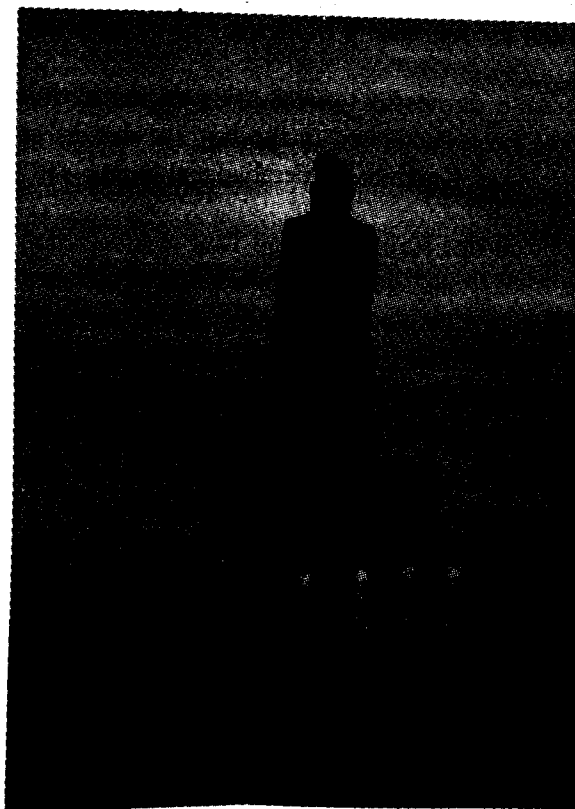
Under the scheme of Development of less known Tourist Place during 2006-2007 Elagiri Hills (Vellore District) Rs.100 lakhs Pulianchola (Thiruchi District) Rs.98 lakhs would be taken for development.

6) Development of major Destinations

During 2006-2007, infrastructure facilities would be provided in major Tourist destinations such as Thanjavur (Rs.427.46 lakhs), Kammyakumari (Rs.258.52 lakhs) and Madurai (Rs.478.03 lakhs). These facilities would be implemented with the financial assistance of Government of India.

7) Calendar :

As a part of the promotion of Tourism, Tourism Department has brought out a monthly calendar highlighting the Tourist Destinations in Tamil Nadu. These calendars would be sent to all the



Tourist Offices in abroad as well as in other States for issue to the Travel Writers, Tour Operators, Hoteliers etc.

8) Coffee Table Book

There are 26 world heritage monuments in India, out of which five are in Tamil Nadu. In order to give wide publicity about these world heritage monuments, a Coffee Table Book under the following topics have been produced by this Department:

1. Nilgiris Mountain Railways
2. Great Living Chola Temples
3. Pallava Monuments

This Coffee Table Book would be sent to the Travel Writers, Travel Agencies and Tour Operators.

9) MAMALLAPURAM DANCE FESTIVAL 2007

As part of efforts of the Tourism Department to increase arrival of tourists to Tamil Nadu and to increase their stay, the Tourism Department is organising several festivals. Among them "Mamallapuram Dance Festival" is one of the important festival. This is organised every year during December-January. For the year 2007, the Mamallapuram Dance Festival inaugurated by Thiru. N. Suresh Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism on 29.12.2006 at Mamallapuram near Arjunan penance. Thiru. Pongalur N. Palanisamy, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries inaugurated the Handicraft Exhibitions. Thiru. T.M. Anbarasan, Hon'ble Minister for Labour rendered special address. Thiru. V. Irai Anbu IAS, Secretary Tourism Department, Thiru. Sanvant Ram, IAS., Commissioner of Tourism, Thiru. Pradeep Yadav, IAS., District Collector of Kanchipuram participated in the function.

SUBRAMANYA BHARATHI The Poet

PATRIOT



The name Subramanya Bharathi brings to one's mind, a person breathing the fire of patriotism which his poems reflect. Bharathi's poems influenced and inspired a number of people to plunge head-long into the struggle for freedom. Great stalwarts like V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, V. V. S. Iyer, Vanchi, Kumaran and a host of others in Tamil Nadu, played a key role in the struggle for political emancipation.

The freedom-fighters valiantly marched to the martial music of Bharathi. They underwent untold sacrifices and sufferings. Many gave up their professions, forgot their homes and were swept deep in the current of national upsurge. They were undaunted by the blows of lathis or shower of bullets or hardships of prison life.

Every nation has produced poets. But few have reached such heights as Bharathi. Bharathi was a great poet of extraordinary talents. His poems not only infuse patriotism but also brim with Bhakthi. His poems have captured the spirit of multi-faceted India and all that India stands for. This is his unique distinction.

Subbiah was born with a gifted tongue. His poetic genius was recognised early in life and the title "Bharathi" conferred on him. An orphan at the age of 15, he was brought up by his uncle at Banares. He became proficient in Sanskrit and Hindi. At the young age of 22 he was appointed as the Assistant Editor of "Swadesamitran". He was under the aegis of the stalwart

India's Freedom struggle attracted poets not from one area or one province but from every nook and corner of this country. Bharathi occupies a prominent place among the patriotic poets of India. He sang the song of freedom in Tamil and aroused the sentiment of freedom in the hearts of people. Bharathi is no more among us but his voice still resounds in our minds. Simplicity and effectiveness are the characteristics of Bharathi's verses. Educated are influenced by his melodies.

G. Subramania Iyer, the founder of the paper and doyen of editors. This was the period when he was deeply immersed in political activity and poetic creativity. His songs brimming with the fire of patriotism were so popular, that V. Krishnaswami Iyer, dubbed a "moderate" by the political extremists, but a great admirer of Bharathi, printed 10,000 copies at his own cost and distributed them.

The British Indian Government were disturbed by the growing popularity of the Bharathi songs and kept a close watch on him. Bharathi sought refuge in Pondicherry. Pondicherry was the haven of patriots who rebelled against the foreign yoke. During his stay in Pondicherry, Bharathi came under the magnetic spell of



Hon'ble Ministers Thiru Arcot N. Veeraswamy, Thiru Ko.Si.Mani and Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, Thiru Kumari Ananthan and other dignitaries garlanded the statue of Mahakavi Bharathiar on the poet's 125th birth anniversary on 11.12.2006

Sri Aurobindo. The company of this freedom fighter and V.V.S. Iyer brought Bharathi into deeper contact with Indian culture and philosophy.

Bharathi's catholicity of outlook was remarkable. He sung in praise of gods and goddesses not only belonging to the Hindu faith, but of prophets and founders of all other religions. He was outspoken in condemning the caste system and felt bitter that this evil brought about fragmentation of the people of the country. He affirmed :

Religion and caste shall not divide us ;
Once born in Bharat,
Be they of the priestly class or any other
All are children of the Mother. In his vision of the future India, he said :

" We are of the same caste and race,
We are children of Bharat all ;
We are equal in law and stature,
And everyone is Bharat's King"

Subramanya Bharathi showed us the way for national integration. His vision of India is superb.

" A bridge to link Lanka let us make;
Fill up Sethu and lay there a road;
Excess of water flowing in Bengal
Let it cultivate the land in Central Bharat
Let us dig and bring out ores and gold from mines,
For sale in distant lands and bring what we want
With wheat from the gangetic region;
Let us exchange betel leaves from the Cauvery
Ivory-ware from Kerala shall we give;
As presents to poets of leonine Mahrattas

A device let us make for people in Kanchi ;
To hear Pandits performances in Kasi
To the brave Rajput heroes, let us give
Gifts of gold from Karnatak."

Bharathi's poems are essentially lyrical in character. But his poetic genius could be seen in 'Kuyil Pattu' where his narrative power is of a high order. It is unquestionably the most enjoyable of his creations. Bharathi has eulogised women in his poems. He has championed women's emancipation. He says that woman is man's equal. She is no weak creature and is actually the Sakthi, the source of man's strength. Portraying the modern woman (*Pudumai Penn*) he has said that she should take an active role in the building of modern India."

His " *Panchali Sabatham*" a masterpiece is an eloquent and moving, concise version of the Mahabharatham. This poem, a symbol of Mother Bharat's plight under alien rule is comparable to the ordeal of Draupadhi in the court of the Kauravas. In her resentment and in a blaze of fury she turns on her unmanly,

tormentors and pronounces the ominous vow that brings the down fall of the Kauvaras a ultimate prediction of the eviction of the British and the liberation of India.

His Kannan Pattu are highly versatile and full of spiritual fervour. Like the Alwars of old he too has characterised himself as the beloved of Krishna and the songs poured forth Bhakthi. His vision of Krishna as a child, a teacher, a servant and so forth was a marvellous piece of poetry depicting original thinking on his part.

Departing from the old poets and pandits in the matter of usage of language and the style, Bharathi created poetic pieces in simple, forcible, straightforward Tamil which could be understood by the learned and the layman alike.

There is not a home in Tamil Nadu where some line or other of Bharathi is not quoted by someone almost daily. His is a great name that the Tamils honour unanimously.

VANDEMATARAM

Let us chant 'Vandemataram'
Let us pray to Mother India.
We care not for caste or creed;
be they Brahamins or not,
they are great, because
they are sons of this blessed soil.
Let us chant 'Vandemataram'
Let us pray to Mother India.
Unity is strength.
When we abandon it
We debase ourselves in the eyes of
others.
Let us try to understand this truth.

Once we attain this wisdom
We don't need anything else.
Let us chant 'Vandemataram'
Let us pray to Mother India.
Whatever may happen to us
will be common to all of us.
If we live,
all the thirty crores of us will live.
If we fall,
all the thirty crores of us will go
under.
Let us chant 'Vandemataram'
Let us pray to Mother India.

-Subramanya Bharathi



ACHIEVEING TOTAL LITERACY

The Government in School Education Department has formulated the following policies for implementation.

- Achieving enrolment of all school age children into schools.
- Retaining all the children enrolled, up to the completion of eighth standard in schools.
- Bringing dropouts to nil percent.
- Focusing in quality of education.
- Ensuring essential minimum level of learning competencies to all children.
- Decentralisation of Educational management through effective community participation.
- Enabling all those who have successfully completed primary education to pursue Secondary and Higher Secondary Education.

- Help the students studying in high and higher secondary schools to complete the secondary and higher secondary education within the stipulated period.
- Improving the professional skills of teachers handling different subjects.
- providing quality Elementary Education by empowering teachers through training by explorative, creative, interactive and technology based methods
- Achieving total literacy
- Reducing gender disparity in literacy through Special Literacy Programmes for women.
- To improve the basic amenities in schools
- To improve and enrich the syllabus

- To disseminate health education in schools
- To impart computer education to all students

Achievements of School Education Department

As assured in the Governor's Address an Act called "Tamilnadu Tamil learning Act 2006" has been enacted to provide learning of Tamil as one of the subjects for all schools in the State of Tamil Nadu. According to this Act Tamil shall be taught as a subject in standards 1 to X in all schools, in a phased manner, commencing from the academic year 2006-2007, for standard I, from the academic year 2007-2008 for standards I and II and shall be extended upto X standard in a like manner.

Within six months of assumption of office, this Government has issued orders and is taking action to fill up 7635 teacher posts in Government schools in time scale of pay. Besides teachers employed on contract basis and paid consolidated pay in Government and Government Aided Schools numbering 45,987 are now being paid time scale of pay from 1.6.2006. It has also been ordered that in future vacancies of teaching posts in Government and Government aided schools will be filled up only on time scale of pay.

Government issued orders to fill up 8468 vacant Teachers Posts in various categories in Government/ Panchayat/ Municipal/ Corporation/ Primary/ Middle Schools/ Higher Secondary Schools as on 1.6.2006 in the time Scale of Pay. In addition to this 7979 B.T. Assistant Posts were created under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan scheme and action is being taken to fill up the

posts by adopting employment exchange seniority.

This year, 120 Middle Schools have been upgraded as High Schools and 120 High Schools have been upgraded as Higher Secondary Schools.

Guidelines for a transparent counselling process for general transfer in the interest of the teachers working in Government schools have been issued by the Government. The general transfers for teachers implemented based on these guidelines during the academic year 2006-2007 have been widely welcomed by them. The Government is considering extension of the transparent counseling for teachers now under implementation to other departments of the Government.

The Government has announced that 15th of July the birth day of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, who toiled hard for promotion of education by starting many schools to remove the darkness of illiteracy and implemented midday meal scheme will be celebrated as 'Education Development Day'. A Law has been enacted to celebrate 15th July as "Education Development Day". This year, students celebrated 15th of July by decorating the portrait of Kamarajar.

The Government has decided to continue the implementation of free bus passes to school students that was introduced during 1996-2001 and distribution of free bicycle to students.

The Scheme of issue of Community Certificate, Nativity Certificate and Income Certificate of family to the students leaving the 10th and 12th Standards introduced in 1999-2000 and which benefited lakhs of students is being implemented again.

The programme of Education for All will continue to be implemented this year with an outlay of Rs. 723.18 crores with Central assistance. A sum of Rs. 180.80 crores as State's share for this programme has been provided in this Revised Budget. A total of Rs.5438.88 crores has been allocated for School Education Department, in this Revised Budget.

In educationally backward districts like Dharmapuri, Viluppuram, Perambalur, Salem and Erode, it is proposed to identify 200 schools in which students scored below average pass percentage, and to give special coaching in the schools itself after the schools hours so as to enable them to pass in the Public Examinations.

2 NEW TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITIES

STUDENT WELFARE MEASURE - THE GOVERNMENT CARE FOR THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE

1. As per the judgement of the Supreme Court of India, dated 12.8.2005 in P.A.Inamdar's case the Self Financing Colleges will be at liberty to fill up all the 100% of the seats by themselves without any quota for Government. As per the judgement they need not also follow the rules of reservation of the Government.

With a view to help the student community, the Government enacted a legislation that all the unaided non minority engineering colleges have to follow the rule of reservation of the State while making admission in the management quota seats also.

With a view to benefit meritorious and students from poor families, the Government entered into a consensual agreement with the Association of the Private Unaided Professional Institutions and issued orders for sharing of seats between Government and the managements. As per the orders,

a) In respect of Non-Minority Unaided Engineering Colleges, 65% will be Government quota seats and 35%, will be management quota seats;

b) In respect of minority Unaided Engineering Colleges 50% will be Government quota and 50% will be management quota seats.

Consequent to the above arrangement, this year more than 52000 students were benefited through the Single Window System of the Government, (i.e.) more than 13000 students benefited than the last year.

2. The fee in the Government Engineering Colleges during the previous years was Rs.12,550/-. As announced in the Governor's speech, this has been reduced to Rs.7,550/- by this Government. By this, students from poor families are benefited to a great extent.

3. The Self Supporting Post Graduate Courses started by the previous Government in the Government Engineering Colleges have been converted into regular courses and the annual fee fixed at Rs.41,565/- for the above said courses has since been reduced to Rs.8,550/- from this year onwards. By this, students belonging to poor families benefited.

4. As promised by the Government during Higher Education Demand a comprehensive Bill to provide for regulation of admission and determination of fee in professional educational institutions in the State has since been passed in the State Legislative Assembly on 2.9.2006.

5. Self Supporting courses in Government Arts and Science Colleges which were started in the year 2002-2003 have been converted as regular courses, thereby enabling the students from low income level families to pursue higher education. The fees for self supporting courses used to be in the range of Rs.10000 to Rs.35,000. Now this has been brought on par with regular courses.

6. Shift system in ten Government Arts and Science Colleges has been introduced in this year. The students who could not pursue higher education by paying higher fees in Self Financing Colleges will be benefited by the shift system in Government Colleges. All the seats have been filled up in the ten colleges where shift system were introduced. In the coming academic year, the shift system will be introduced in all Government Colleges, thereby doubling the intake of students in Government Colleges. By this, the students enrolment in the first year in Government colleges will be increased from 30000 to more than 60000.

7. To make the students in Government Arts and Science Colleges familiar with Computer, all Government Colleges would be provided with latest Computers, internet facilities with broad-band with the assistance of Ministry of

Information Technology, Government of India. This programme has been inaugurated in Government Arts Colleges at Villupuram and Thiruvannamalai on 19.9.2006 and will be extended to all colleges in phased manner. Also steps are being taken to train non B.Sc.(Computer) and BCA students in Computer and IETS/BPO services. This scheme will enhance the employability of students from Government Arts and Science Colleges.

8. Employment to qualified persons as lecturers in Government Colleges:

a) The Government have ordered recruitment of 1000 Lecturers on regular basis in Government Arts and Science Colleges through Teachers' Recruitment Board.

b) The Government have also ordered recruitment of 20 Lecturers on regular basis from among the category of blind and handicapped persons through Teachers Recruitment Board.

c) The Government also permitted the Aided College managements to fill up 600 Lecturer posts in their colleges on regular basis as per rules.

9. Government ordered to start four new Arts and Science Colleges at Valparai, Mettur, Orathanad and Perambalur. This has created an opportunity to the people belonging to the area hitherto having no Government Arts Colleges to pursue higher education.

10. As basic infrastructure like Class Rooms have not been provided in many Government Colleges there is a situation to conduct Classes outside the classrooms with no facilities. This year around 80 Class rooms in 13 Government Colleges will be constructed and in the coming year all efforts would be taken to provide adequate basic infrastructures in all Government Colleges.

11. The oldest College in south India, Presidency College will have a new lease of life this year. Renovation of entire College building at a cost of Rs.3.23 crores is being taken up.

12. Government is taking all steps to establish two technology Universities at Trichy and Coimbatore at the earliest possible. This will create an opportunity to the rural people to have technical education in large numbers.



Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru Arcot N. Veeraswamy, Hon'ble Minister for Information Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhu and other dignitaries garlanded the statue of Mootharingnar Rajaji on the leader's 128th birth anniversary on 10.12.2006. The grandson of Mootharignar Rajaji Thiru C.R. Kesavan also participated.

The Leaders of Tomorrow

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

Nehru loved humanity especially children. Children's bright eyes and innocent faces always held fascination for him, because they held so much promise for the future. Children all over the world, appear outwardly different in many ways, speaking different languages, wearing different kinds of clothes and yet are so very like one another. If you bring them together, they

play or quarrel. But even their quarrel is some kind of play. They do not think of differences amongst themselves, differences of class or caste or colour or status. They are wiser than their fathers and mothers. As they grow, unfortunately their natural wisdom is often eclipsed by the teaching and behaviour of their elders. At school they learn many things which are no doubt, useful but they gradually forget that the essential things is to be human and kind and playful and to make life richer for ourselves and others.

I try to study the millions of faces I see wherever I

go and I have seen a good proportion of India's vast population. Although I see them in crowds and in groups, I look into their eyes and try to read what lies behind those eyes. I do this, especially when I meet young men and women, because I am deeply concerned with the future of India which they represent to me.

The future of this country ultimately depends on her young men and women, most of whom are in colleges and universities today. I am very anxious to find out what stuff they are made of. They are large in number, but what really counts, if our country is to progress, is the quality of our human material. The future of India does not depend on her numbers or even on her past, except in so far as the future grows out of the present and the present grows out of the



His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala garlanded the statue of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on the 118th birth anniversary of the leader. Hon'ble Ministers Thiru M.K. Stalin, Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, Thiru K.P.P. Samy and Chennai Corporation Mayor Thiru M. Subramanian and others also paid floral tributes to the late leader.

past. It is possible for a country to make progress to some extent even with people of mediocre quality. India has a large number of them. Obviously that is not enough. If a great country like India is to be greater, it is essential for her to have men and women who must be more than mediocre. We produced men and women of quality in the past. Subsequently, however, that quality seemed to have worn off and we became a nation that more or less lived on its inheritance. Ofcourse, nothing is more advantageous and more creditable than a rich heritage; but nothing is more

dangerous for a nation than to sit back and live on that heritage; but nothing is more dangerous for a nation than to sit back and live on that heritage. A nation cannot progress if it merely imitates its ancestors; what builds a nation is creative, inventive and vital activity.

To the youth of the country I would make a special appeal for they are the leaders of tomorrow and on them will be cast the burden of upholding India's honour and freedom.

My generation is a passing one and soon we

shall hand over the bright torch of India, which embodies her grant and eternal spirit, to younger hands and stronger arms. May they hold it aloft, undimmed and untarnished, so that its light reaches every home and brings faith and courage and well being to our masses.

There is a time for work and a time for play, just as there is a time for laughter and there is a time for tears. And today is the time for work in this nation.



Gandhiji is a symbol of the times and uprising - He is the embodiment of the Renaissance.

- Arignar Anna

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

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

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

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

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

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



times and uprising: he is an embodiment of the Renaissance.

If we view him as a politician, we will be content to admire his 'Satyagraha' (war of righteousness) with wonder. He has won tremendous success not only in the political field but also in other fields. He has stamped his mark in all fields. His life and service are modelled in such a



His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala and Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigal M. Karunanidhi paid floral tributes to the portrait of Gandhiji on Gandhiji's 138th birth anniversary on 2.10.2006. Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment & Forests Thiru. Raja and other dignitaries were present

way that people in different fields view with one another in claiming Gandhi as one of their own because he lived and served them. This is the reason why his birthday is celebrated by the people of different walks of life. He represents an era in the history of our country. He has given splendour and strength and brought about a turning point in all fields.

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

because it symbolises a golden period in the history of our country.

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

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

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

He did not perform any miracle. But he made heroes of

cowards, inspired them to blow the trumpet of freedom and instilled fearlessness in them even in the face of overwhelming obstacles and difficulties.

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

He achieved all these not by war but by non violence, not by killing our enemies but by following the path of



Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala, His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on Gandhiji's 138th birth anniversary. Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment & Forests Thiru A. Raja, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru M.K. Stalin and Hon'ble Minister for Information Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi and others were present on the occasion (2.10.2006).



Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala, His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu handed over certificates of merit to winning students in oratorical and essay writing competitions at a function organised to celebrate the 138th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, at Gandhi Mandapam, Chennai on 2.10.2006. Hon'ble Minister for Information Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, Information Tourism Secretary Thiru V. Irai Anbu, IAS and Director of Information and Public Relations Thiru S. Kosalaraman, IAS participated in the function.

minds of millions of our countrymen the spirit of heroism which enabled them to defy even the mighty armies.

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

He never felt or said that 'Swaraj' was the end of our struggle. Nor did he fail to tell us how the

country and the people should attain a healthy status.

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

The chains of slavery have been shattered. But let us ask ourselves whether we have succeeded in creating the India of his dreams. Let us have the moral courage to give a negative

answer. Let this day instil in our minds the firm determination to create the India that he dreamt of.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We should realise that Gandhi is not dead but he has become one with us. His thoughts and ideals have

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

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

- Radio talk by
ARIGNAR ANNA on 2.10.1967

★ ★ ★

Vikramaditya
Answers Vedha

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