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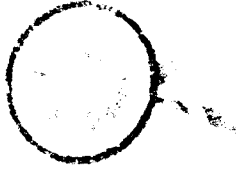
Publication of Information & Public Relations Department

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# Tamil Arasu

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Thiruvalluvar Year 2038  
Oct-Dec 2007

## EDITORIAL

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**Dr.A.C.Mohandoss, IAS.,**  
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### Reporters

**G.Shanmugam**  
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### Journal Assistants

**D.Periyar Socrates**  
**J. Jayasimhan**

### Photographer

**V. Radhakrishnan**

### Layout:

**A. Mathan**  
(Asst. Photo Typesetting Operator)  
**R. Balaji**

### Printed at :

**Tamil Arasu Press**  
Omandurar Govt. Estate,  
Anna Salai,  
Chennai - 600 002.

Tel : 25368926/25364906

Fax : 25364906

E-mail : [tamilarasu@tn.gov.in](mailto:tamilarasu@tn.gov.in)

Website : [www.tn.gov.in](http://www.tn.gov.in)

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**சூழ்ச்சி முடிவு துணிவுளய்தல் அத்துணிவு தாழ்ச்சியுள் தங்குதல் தீது.**

The end of all deliberations is to arrive at a decision, but is wrong of execution delayed on that decision.

*Thirukkural : 671*

**First Wrapper :** Third phase of distribution of free colour TV sets and free gas stoves was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi on 27, November 2007 in Chennai.

**Second Wrapper :** The newly created Ariyalur District was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiruvalluvar on 23, November 2007.

**Fourth Wrapper :** Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi with select children who suffer from rare heart conditions on 21, November 2007.

# REVOLUTIONARY DAY IN THE HISTORY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

**T**he Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 22, October 2007 unanimously adopted a legislation providing separate reservation in Education and Employment for Backward Class Christians/Muslims.

The legislation, replacing an ordinance promulgated earlier, is also applicable to private institutions with regard to reservation of seats in education. The Backward Class Christians and Backward Class Muslims will get 3.5 percent each within the 30 percent reservation for Backward Classes as per a law enacted in 1994.

Wrapping up the discussions on the subject, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi described the day as a red letter day in the history of the Assembly and a "revolutionary day" in the history of social justice.

Tracing the history of the struggle for social justice, he said, the seeds were sown by the Justice Party while in power decades ago. It was the battle cry given by pioneering Justice Party leaders such as C. Natesan (1896-1937), Sir Pitti Thiagarayar (1853-1925) and T.M. Nair

(1868-1919), which transformed the social scene for the marginalised sections and eventually blossomed into the present environment.

In the intervening period, several obstacles were encountered. "Even now, we have not crossed that stage completely. We have not forgotten that uncertainty prevails over our rights as far as the Supreme Court is concerned." Much more remains to be done, the



Chief Minister said, and called upon all to work together for the cause of social justice.

"We have not done every thing. There is much more to do. We have chiselled the statue and placed a pedestal in an appropriate place. But the statue will be complete and beautified only when the sculptor opens its eyes finally. The eyes of Tamil Nadu have not been opened properly. Until this is done, we cannot say that the statue is complete. Let us all work together to succeed in our effort to make the statue complete," the Chief Minister said drawing a comparison between achieving social justice and the making of a statue.

He recalled that the legislation had been brought in after crossing several hurdles. In a veiled reference to a previous Government, he said, "All of us are here. Only a farmer who works on the fields can aspire to see the paddy heaped on the thrashing floors and not others."

He thanked the Chairperson of the State Backward Classes Commission, Justice (retired) M.S. Janarthana, for enabling the Government to take the decision of providing quota for the minorities. He also commended political parties and the media for their support.

Participating in the debate, leaders of the Congress, PMK, CPM and CPI welcomed the Bill. Thiru Peter Alphonse (Congress) said the quota for the minorities was not a gift but a legitimate right. He added that the Chief Minister was the first to recognise this. Thiru Peter Alphonse along with Thiru G.K. Mani (PMK) wanted Dalit Christians to be covered within the ambit of reservation, as was done in the case of Scheduled Caste Buddhists/Sikhs.

Selvi K. Balabharathy (CPI-M) said the legislation was meant to safeguard the interest of the minorities.

Thiru. Peter Alphonse (Congress), Thiru. G.K. Mani (PMK), Selvi. Balabharathi (CPM) and Thiru. Ramasamy (CPI) recalled the anti-conversion bill passed by the previous regime and said the present Government concerned about social justice. They appealed to the Chief Minister to impress upon the Centre to implement the recommendations of the Sachchar Committee and ensure reservation for Dalit Christians.

## 34,028 houses built for Tsunami Victims

**H**on'ble Finance Minister Prof. K. Anbazhagan told the Assembly on 19, October 2007 that 34,028 permanent houses were constructed till 2007 September-end for Tsunami-hit people after the present Government came to power.

Winding up a debate on the first supplementary statement of expenditure and voting of demands for further expenditure for the current financial year, Hon'ble Finance Minister said 8,406 houses were built when the Hon'ble Chief Minister reviewed the status of the relief project in June last year. The Government took over the responsibility of building 3,000 houses, which had been given up by non governmental organisations.

The Tamil Nadu Assembly also passed 13 bills by voice vote apart from the one to provide reservation for minorities. The bills that were passed included the Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2007, TN Payment of Salaries (Amendment) Bill, TN Educational Institutions (Prohibition of Collection of Capitation Fee) Amendment Bill and Tamil Nadu State Housing Board (Amendment) Bill.

## TAMIL NADU WILL BE IN THE FOREFRONT IN ALL CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS



**H**onourable Prime Minister and Members of the National Development Council,

I extend my warm greetings to you all. It gives me great pleasure to participate in this NDC meeting convened to discuss and finalise the Eleventh Five Year Plan, which seeks to achieve growth with social justice. On this important occasion, I commend the UPA Government for launching a number of novel initiatives on agriculture, rural development, infrastructure and social sectors.

During the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan Period, our State faced stagnation in the agriculture sector, recording a growth of only 2.4%. We are determined to correct this during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Period.

Our State Government has already put in place various programmes to achieve food security and improvement in farm income. As you are aware, we have

*Hon'ble Chief Minister  
KALAI GNAR M. KARUNANIDHI  
address at National Development  
Council Meeting held at New  
Delhi on 19, December 2007.*

waived all co-operative farm loans in order to relieve the debt-burden of farmers, thereby improving their access to bank credit. Our flagship scheme for distribution of land to the landless agricultural labour has attempted successful improvement of wastelands through land development and creation of water sources. We have so far distributed 1 Lakh 34 Thousand acres of lands to 1 Lakh 16 Thousand families. Horticulture

is an important area, where precision farming methods are being used to improve crop quality and yield. Along with better post-harvest management and establishment of market linkages, all these steps will ultimately result in higher farm income. The Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors are also being strengthened to provide additional income for rural households.

These efforts will be combined with the national programmes, especially the National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) and the Food Security Mission, announced by the Central Government as an outcome of the last NDC meeting.

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the NDC to the present guidelines for entitlements of funds under NADP, based on net unirrigated area and other criteria. The formula suggested is too complex and it would be difficult for the States to arrive at the probable assistance and plan schemes accordingly. Hence, I appeal to the Government of India to simplify the procedure for the State-wise allocation. Otherwise the objective of this timely initiative may be defeated. Instead, the expenditure incurred by the State over and above the base line expenditure should be provided as grants.

In the last NDC meeting, I had strongly advocated for inclusion and funding of Interlinking of the Peninsular

Rivers in the first instance during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan itself. I would once again reiterate that the Interlinking of Rivers should be declared as a "National Project" and a time bound Action Plan should be implemented. I am afraid that any further delay in the implementation of this project will be detrimental to the development of our Nation.

All of us are well aware of the strain in the inter-state relations due to inter-state river water disputes. If unresolved, such disputes may pose a threat to the very unity and integrity of this country. Our Nation has an established constitutional and legal framework for resolution of such disputes. Hence, in the interest of harmony among the States, it is imperative that all such disputes are resolved under the existing Laws of the land and all the States respect and abide by the decisions of the competent authorities.

Linking of Intra-State Rivers will also require substantial funding which a State Government cannot afford to bear on its own. Therefore, I urge funding of projects for linking of Intra-State Rivers, as already resolved in the 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the NDC.

The Government of Tamil Nadu took a bold step to waive all co-operative farm loans immediately after assuming office. This step has brought immediate relief to farmers who were not able to repay loans due to successive droughts and floods and has enabled them to once again access credit. In this regard, I reiterate our request to share the cost of the waiver of co-operative loans, on the lines of the package of concessions given to select States in the country.

During the NDC meeting held on 9.12.2006, I called upon the Union Government to introduce SSA for secondary education in the Eleventh Plan. I commend the Government of India for introducing

the 'Scheme for Universal Access and Quality at the Secondary Stage (SUCCESS)'.

States like ours, which have already created rural infrastructure by using State funds, have not been able to access Central Assistance from Bharat Nirman. Be it rural electrification, connectivity or irrigation, Tamil Nadu's better performance has thus been indirectly penalised. The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing a scheme to provide free LPG connections and gas stoves to poor families in order to mitigate the sufferings of the women folk engaged in the traditional way of cooking with firewood. It is a major beneficial scheme for women and environment-friendly, which deserves the support of the Central Government. I request that funds may be provided under Bharat Nirman Scheme for providing LPG connections and gas stoves to poor families in States like Tamil Nadu, which have achieved rural electrification in full.

The health of women determines the health of the family. Many women from poor families are forced to work hard even during pregnancy. This affects the health of both the mother and the child. To correct this, we have launched a pioneering maternity assistance scheme. Under this scheme, each poor pregnant mother is being given Rs.6,000/- to compensate the loss of income during pregnancy and to ensure good nutrition. The growing children also need adequate quality nutrition. Towards this, we have been implementing a scheme of providing eggs thrice

a week to children in 2 to 14 years age group benefiting about 70 lakh children. I request that the above initiatives be discussed and implemented at the national level by the Union Government.

The unit cost for group houses constructed under Indira Awas Yojana has been fixed by



Government of India at Rs.25,000 for 210 Sq.ft. as early as 2004. With the unprecedented increase in the cost of materials and labour, today it is impossible to construct a 210 Sq.ft. house at a cost less than Rs.60,000. Hence, I urge the Government of India to increase the unit cost under IAY to Rs.1,00,000 per house for an increased plinth area of 325 Sq.ft. Alternatively, the States should be given freedom to fix the unit cost and plinth area depending on local conditions and to cover the number of houses that are possible within the allocation.

I welcome the extension of NREGS to all the districts of the country. One of the main reasons for the successful implementation of this landmark scheme in Tamil Nadu is the provision for a separate rural schedule of rates. This has ensured minimum wages for poor unskilled labourers, mostly women, whose productivity levels are naturally low. Hence, I would like to stress that the States should be allowed to continue the present system.

In view of the tremendous growth in air traffic, airports in the country require urgent expansion and upgradation. This revenue earning sector is in the Union list. The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has been insisting that State Governments bear the cost of acquiring private lands for this purpose. Similarly, Union Planning Commission has been insisting on contributions from States for major railway projects. These tantamount to reverse fiscal transfer from the States to the Union Government. Therefore, I urge the Government of India not to insist on financial contribution from State Governments for Central Projects.

Leather and Textile Industries in our State contribute significantly to India's exports and generate large-scale employment. While they are responsible for pollution control measures, they also need to be internationally competitive. Hence, I urge Government of India to provide financial assistance for establishment of

zero discharge effluent treatment plants for these industries.

The poor cannot afford to access private health care for major ailments. Therefore, Government should continue to provide free health care for such major ailments by strengthening Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals. It is in this context that I appeal to the Union Government for greater support for tertiary health care provided by State Governments by way of a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the 11<sup>th</sup> plan.

A lumpsum Central Assistance could be given based on an agreed strategy appropriate for each State, instead of the fragmented sums given now. This will make the Central Assistance more meaningful. I urge the Planning Commission to introduce this change from the 11<sup>th</sup> plan.

I wish to assure the Council that the Government of Tamil Nadu will be in the forefront in all the constructive efforts to successfully implement it.

The UPA Government, with the guidance of Thirumathi Sonia Gandhi, has been implementing several welfare schemes and is leading India in the path of Peace, Progress and Prosperity.

I firmly believe that Thirumathi Sonia Gandhi would continue her efforts to empower the women of India in getting their legitimate share in Nation building and governance.

I would like to conclude by congratulating the Honourable Prime Minister and the Planning Commission for formulating the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan with emphasis on growth with social justice.

Thank you.





## Chief Minister participates in Thevar Jayanthi Celebrations

**H**on'ble Chief Minister Kalaigiar M.Karunanidhi toured the southern districts on October 30th & 31st, 2007.

The Chief Minister visited Pasumpon village in Ramanathapuram district and paid floral tributes to Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar at his memorial at 10 am on 30, October 2007. Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar Birth Centenary was celebrated at the Pasumpon Village and the Chief Minister participated in the celebrations. In commemoration of the celebrations, a centenary celebration building was inaugurated, a souvenir was released, and prizes distributed to winners of various contests held in this connection in Ramanathapuram District.

The Chief Minister then inaugurated the Mani-mandapams of Tamil scholars Mozhi Gnayuru Thevaneya Paavanar and Parithimar Kalaigiar in Madurai on 31, Oct. 2007. Political leaders and members from other organisations paid rich tributes to Marudhu Pandiar brothers on their 206th death anniversary.

The 21-foot tall statues of the Marudhupandiar brothers were unveiled by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on October 31, 2007 near the Mariamman teppakulam in Madurai.



## Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar Centenary Celebrations

Chief Minister inaugurates development works

**H**on'ble Chief Minister Kalaigiar M.Karunanidhi on 30, October 2007 said the State would urge the Centre to name the Madurai Airport after Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar on the occasion of Pasumpon Thevar Birth Centenary Celebrations.

Speaking at Pasumpon Village in Ramanathapuram District, the birth place of Muthuramalinga Thevar, the Chief Minister said although naming of airports was a Central subject, the present Government would take steps to see that the Madurai airport was named after late Thevar.

Later, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigiar M. Karunanidhi while speaking to reporters on 31, October 2007 at Madurai said that

Tamil Nadu will not allow Kerala to construct a new dam across the Mullaperiyar. The State would pressure the Centre not to allow Kerala to build the dam. "We will continue to press our demand for increasing the dam level to 142 ft. storage of water up to a level to 186 ft, in the dam is testimony to the fact that it is strong enough to hold 142 feet". The request of CPM leader Thiru N.Varadharajan that financial assistance to students staying in Adi Dravidar and Backward Classes students hostels should be increased will be reviewed in the next budget, the Chief Minister said.

On the attack on Tamil Nadu Congress Committee President Thiru.M.Krishnaswamy, the Chief

## TRIBUTE TO MARUTHU PANDIAR BROTHERS



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi unveiled the statue of Maruthu Pandiars on their 206th death anniversary in Madurai on 31, October 2007.

Minister said that the police had prohibited vehicles proceeding to Pasumpon from passing through that area and that the circumstances that led to the attack are under investigation.

Asked about former Chief Minister's claim that her Government had allotted Rs.3 crore for the Thevar centenary celebrations and that the present Government had done nothing, he said that everybody was making such tall statements. He recalled that Vaiko had once said he would leave politics if, Chief Minister was able to prove that he had written to any Prime Minister on the Sethusamudram project, "I gave him evidence of the letters written by me to former Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Vajpayee, but those who said that they would leave politics did not do so," he said.

The Chief Minister said that he had been coming to Pasumpon village for many years after the death of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar. It was the present Government which had constructed the memorial for Thevar in Pasumpon village and also installed a larger than life statue for him in Goripalayam in Madurai.

Some sections in Tamil Nadu had charged him with supporting the backward and most backward classes. The present Government was committed to fighting for the rights of the Backward, most Backward and Adi Dravidars, he said.

He recalled having listed out the various postings given to the persons from these communities, under the Group I section of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission in the

Assembly on 10th August 1973. "It was after I released this list that some forces started working for the downfall of the then Government," he said.

Asked whether the State was prepared to share the cost involved with the Centre for introducing high speed trains between Madurai and Chennai and Coimbatore and Chennai, he said, a decision would be taken after discussions with the Centre.

When his attention was drawn to growing real estate business, that was resulting in farmers selling cultivable lands, the Chief Minister said the Government, as a matter of policy, was opposed to industries coming up on vast stretches of agricultural land.

Three colleges in Madurai, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts were named after Thevar, the Chief Minister added.

The Chief Minister inaugurated buildings, roads and other development works completed at a cost of Rs.2.05 crore to commemorate the Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar centenary celebrations and distributed welfare aid worth Rs.12 lakh to 12,212 beneficiaries.

Hon'ble Information Minister Thiru.Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, PMK leader Thiru. G.K.Mani, Thiru K.M.Khader Mohideen of the Indian Union Muslim League and Communist Party of India leader Thiru R.Nallakannu spoke.

The road heading from Madurai to Pasumpon Village in Ramanathapuram district wore a festive look with banners and cutouts.



## Greater devolution of powers to urban local bodies suggested

M. Karunanidhi at the Secretariat on 10, October 2007. The high-level committee

Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K. Stalin presenting the reports on devolution of powers to local bodies to the Chief Minister Kalaaignar

has suggested greater devolution of powers to urban local bodies in different areas including administrative and technical sanctions for development works and layout approval.

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has suggested greater devolution of powers to urban local bodies in different areas including administrative and technical sanctions for development works and layout approval.

## PARITHIMAR KALAINGAR Memorial Opened



Hon'ble chief Minister Kalaighnar M.Karunanidhi declared open a memorial of 'Parithimar Kalaighnar' (V.G.Suryanarayana Sastri) at Vilacheri near Madurai on 31, October 2007.

The house of the Tamil scholar, who gave the first clarion call to declare Tamil a classical language more than a hundred years ago, has been converted into a memorial by the State Government.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M.Karunanidhi accompanied by Hon'ble Ministers and officials, went around the old house that was renovated at a cost of around Rs.11 lakh. He also unveiled a statue of Parithimar Kalaighnar who is also referred to as 'Dravida Sastri'. Parthimar Kalaighnar died at a young age of 33 in 1903 by which time he had authored several books. ★



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M.Karunanidhi has urged the people to join hands with the Government to help it implement schemes for the progress of the State.

## Help Government implement schemes

Addressing the Tamil Nadu Ilanilai Asiriyar Peravai in Chennai on 21, October 2007, Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi said the Government's vision could be achieved only with the full cooperation of the people. Even if those who opposed the Government hatched any conspiracy against it, the Government could not be toppled since it had the support of the people, he said.

In response to the request of the teachers that those who had been regularised in 2006 be given benefits with retrospective effect from their date of appointment in 2003-2004, the Chief Minister said he would grant their requests at an appropriate time. He asked them to wait and see what was announced in the State budget.

Referring to the rationalist philosophy of Periyar, Chief Minister pointed out that rationalism was not the same thing as knowledge. He called upon teachers to inculcate the philosophy of rationalism in students. Hon'ble Higher

Education Minister Dr.K.Ponmudy urged the teachers to teach principles of rationalism. School teachers were responsible for moulding the next generation, and therefore they needed to be careful and ensure that they were teaching correct values, he said.

Hon'ble School Education Minister Thiru Thangam Thenarasu assured the teachers that the Government would support them. He added that the Chief Minister fulfils requests even before they were made.



## Develop Chennai - Bangalore Industrial Corridor :

Chief Minister Writes to Prime Minister



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi has urged Hon'ble Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to "announce the development of the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor as an Industrial Corridor of Excellence on the lines of the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor."

In a letter to Dr. Singh on 28, October 2007, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Karunanidhi said many multinational companies had chosen Chennai to set up huge manufacturing facilities. Many Economical Zones were coming up. Most of these investments were on the corridor between Chennai and Sriperumbudur.

"Our Government has, therefore, decided to develop Chennai - Sriperumbudur - Ranipet as an Industrial Corridor of Excellence. It is our vision to locate industrial parks, SEZs, IT parks, integrated townships, etc., along the corridor," he said. The objective was to provide "globally competitive infrastructure and promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development."

The Chief Minister said that "We expect that this process of development will slowly move beyond Ranipet on the National Highway towards Bangalore. Thus there is great potential to develop the Chennai-Bangalore corridor as an Industrial Corridor of Excellence similar to the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor announced by the Government of India".

"You will agree that the concept of balanced development of all regions of the country would call for urgent steps to develop the Chennai-Bangalore corridor while the Delhi-Mumbai corridor is being developed".

"The corridor between Chennai and Bangalore has already several key strengths in terms of availability of industries, skilled manpower and other basic infrastructure. Such a corridor can capitalise on the strength of Chennai and Bangalore. The international airports in Chennai and Bangalore and the two major sea ports (Chennai and Ennore) in Chennai can further contribute to the growth of this corridor", the Chief Minister wrote.

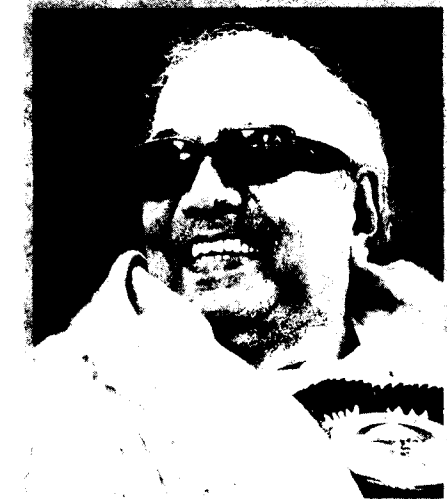
## Slew of Incentives to Attract Investments

Chief Minister Unveils New Industrial Policy

The Tamil Nadu Government will set up a land bank of 10,000 acres with quality infrastructure over the next five years to provide space for industrial parks, according to the New Industrial Policy released by Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 5, November 2007.

"The land bank will be mostly developed on dry and barren lands. Prime agricultural lands will be avoided," the policy said. The Government will also take steps to amend laws to enable automatic conversion of dry lands from agricultural to industrial use.

Private industrial parks must directly purchase land, which should be barren, non-irrigated and dry, as far as possible. Proposals with more than 10



percent wet land or double crop land will be rejected, according to the new criteria for an approved industrial park. Parks should be located at least 50km away from the Chennai city limits and should not include more than 5 per cent of Government land.

At least 10 per cent of the area in industrial parks developed by SIPCOT and TIDCO will be set apart for social infrastructure, such as skill development centres, financial services, housing, schools and hospitals. Another 20 per cent of allottable area will be reserved for small and medium entrepreneurs.

Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks promoted by SIPCOT, TIDCO or private developers will all be given equal incentives and facilities. Parks located 50 km away from the city limits will be granted a back-ended Industrial Park Infrastructure Grant of Rs.2 crore or 25 per cent of the investment in eligible fixed assets, whichever

### Chief Minister greets Arjun Singh

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 5, November 2007 greeted over phone Hon'ble Union Human Resources Minister Thiru Arjun Singh on the occasion of the latter's 78th birthday.



is lower. Such parks must attract at least 20 new manufacturing units with a minimum direct employment of 2,000 persons.

A back-ended state capital subsidy and tax exemption on power bought from the TNEB or from captive sources will be sanctioned for all manufacturing units, including raw-material based manufacturers. New manufacturing facilities and expansion projects located in Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram, investing Rs.350 crore over three years can avail themselves of a structured package of incentives, while the minimum investment for those outside those districts will be Rs.250 crore. The minimum investment levels will be reduced by Rs.100 crore in the case of electronic hardware units. Units which invest more than Rs.1,500 crore or which have been in the State for over ten years will receive extra benefits. In a press release, the Government also promised extra concessions for firms which gave priority to local workers and followed its reservation policy.

Industrial corridors of excellence will be developed, first in the Chennai-Manali-Ennore

and the Chengalpattu-Thiruperumpudur-Ranipet corridors, and later in the Madurai-Tuticorin and Coimbatore-Salem corridors.

Developers investing Rs.300 crore over three years in specific industrial infrastructure projects, including desalination plants, rail, road, port and water recycling infrastructure for SEZs and industrial parks, can avail themselves of a Rs.2 crore subsidy.

All incentives for manufacturing industries under the new policy will also be applicable to agro-industries and agri-machinery and micro-irrigation equipment manufacturers. Special Agro Economic Zones will be promoted. A wine manufacturing policy will be announced soon and mega orchards of 50 hectares and above will be exempted from the Land Reforms Act for the cultivation of high value crops.

With the growing importance of the biotechnology sector, the Government will announce an updated Life Sciences Policy and TIDCO will create a Life Sciences Innovation Fund. SIPCOT will develop a 2,000-acre Nanotechnology Park. To

## COMPENSATION FOR VACHATHI VICTIMS

The Tamil Nadu Government has so far sanctioned Rs.61.96 lakh, including Rs.34.4 lakh allotted to be paid as compensation to the victims of Vachathis violence in Dharmapuri District. The Government Order dated 3.11.07, said over Rs.34 lakh would be paid as "immediate relief."

encourage clean and efficient energy technology, a Tamil Nadu Technology and Efficiency Upgradation Initiative will be launched through a TIIIC-administered fund, which will offer soft loans to SMEs.

grass-root level and collaborative industry institute schemes. The Government is considering a Business Facilitation Act to formally empower and regulate single window clearance committees.

A number of skill development initiatives will be launched, including cluster-based,

Through the new policy, the Government aims to create 2 million additional jobs by 2011.

## Government spells out policy on SEZ

**T**he Tamil Nadu Government on 5.11.2007 spelt out its policy on the establishment of industrial parks and special economic zones(SEZ), with an emphasis on the minimal use of 'wet' agricultural land and the creation of social infrastructure.

The conditions for the SEZs, which form a part of the New Industrial Policy released by Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi, laid down that the Government would grant approval for industrial parks only if the promoter had atleast 250 acres in legal possession. Of this, not more than 10 percent was wet land or double crop land and not more than five percent, Government land.

The Park, which would be set up primarily for manufacturing activities, should be situated at least 50 kilometres outside Chennai city limits.

The processing area, including the industrial plots, R&D centres and testing and certification centres, should occupy at least 65 percent of the total area, while the remaining should be left for non-processing area.

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## Industry Leaders Welcome New Industrial Policy

Leading chambers in the Chennai city have hailed the "New Industrial Policy 2007" as path-breaking, saying it will help to attract more investments, thus taking the State to greater heights.

Federation of Indian Export Organisation vice-president and regional chairman Thiru. A.Sakthivel said the policy provided a comprehensive strength to all sectors to enhance production and create more jobs. It would help in the growth of the State's gross domestic product to a sizeable extent.

Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Thiru. M.Balasubramanian said the special thrust on export promotion would help the State's exports to grow rapidly and create more jobs. The policy would also lead to overall industrial development. Special incentives for industrial parks would encourage setting up of more industrial units.

Confederation of Indian Industry Tamil Nadu State Council Vice-Chairman Thiru.Manikam Ramaswami welcomed the introduction of e-filing system to get

permission from the Pollution Control Board for setting up of industries with different time limits for different categories. This would speed up clearance. "Besides, the introduction of Corporate Social Responsibility clause is thoughtful. When the industries are getting so many concessions from the State Government, it is time they took care of the neighbouring societies," he added.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry State Council Chairman Thiru.M.Rafeeqe Ahmed said the policy would make the State vibrant and the most attractive investment destination. Thanking the Chief Minister for accepting the federation's suggestions on agro-business, food processing and infrastructure sectors, he said, these sectors would get a fillip.

Chemical Industries Association President Thiru P.K.N.Panicker thanked the Government for having made a positive statement on the restriction on the use of methanol as a feed stock in chemical industries.

## WHAT THE NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY OFFERS

- ★ Centre for Excellence in chip and hardware design at Anna University.
- ★ SEZ for Leather Exports on the Chennai-Ranipet corridor.
- ★ Hi-tech Leather Processing complex to be setup.
- ★ SEZ for Auto Components, extending over 300 acres, near Chennai.
- ★ State-level task force for upcoming human resources and skills initiative.
- ★ Revised framework for industry-institute collaboration and public private-partnerships to be announced.
- ★ SEZ Act and policy to reviewed and updated.
- ★ Tamil Nadu technology and efficiency upgradation initiative to be launched.
- ★ Grassroot skill development initiative to be formulated.
- ★ Specialised drugs and pharma cluster in Nanguneri SEZ.
- ★ TIDCO to create State-level life sciences innovation fund.
- ★ Hazardous waste treatment storage and disposal facility (HWTSDf) to be set up at Gummidipoondi, Oragadam, Perundhurai, Cuddalore, Karur and Tirupur.

**D**ell is committed to investing around \$30 million in its Thiruperumpudur unit over the next few years, company officials told Hon'ble Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi here on 3, December 2007.

A Dell team, headed by Thiru Kip Thomson, Senior Vice-President, Global Facilities, Thiru Richard Nelson, Senior Manager Global Services and Thiru Pramod Jain, Tax Director called on Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi. Chief Secretary Thiru L.K.Tripathy and Industry Secretary Thiru M.F.Farooqui were present. They were briefed about the company's progress and future plans.

### FAST GROWTH

Later, talking to reporters, Thiru Thomson said it was a good move to have invested in Tamil Nadu

## Dell to invest \$30 million in its Thiruperumpudur unit

personal computer penetration in India is 2.3 per cent as they wanted this to grow to global standards.

The world over, 80 to 90 percent of people have access to computers.

Talking to the Press, Thiru Nelson said the plant would assemble 4,00,000 desktop computers. "We are likely to exceed the target. The production volume is meant for domestic consumption alone. It is slightly cheaper to produce desktop computers than import

it. We are passing on the additional margin to the consumers as it is a competitive world," he added.



as it had talented and capable workers besides good infrastructure.

"We are growing faster than expected and shipping more and more computers per week. The

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## Chief Minister Commissions CAPARO plant near Chennai



**T**he Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi inaugurated, the Rs.600 crores auto metal sheet manufacturing facilities at the SIPCOT complex by Caparo India, a part of the Caparo Group founded by Lord Swaraj Paul, in Thirupurambudur, around 44 km to the west of Chennai on 4, October 2007.

Established on an area of 120 acres, the facilities included a stamping unit, research and development (R&D) centre, tool room, aluminium foundry and a forging unit, which would employ 1,000 persons.

Pointing out that the new policy had been evolved after a wide consultative process, the Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi

said suggestions made by industry associations and captains of industry during the meeting of the Industrial Task Force, under his chairmanship, had also been taken into consideration.

"Our focus would be on providing world class infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the industry," the Chief Minister added. The policy sought to address the concerns of all the stake holders, he said.

Road infrastructure was being improved, he said, adding that the State Government with the Centre and the National Highways Authority of India was taking up the six-laning of the Koyambedu-Maduravoyal-Sunkuvarchatram Highway. This project would provide better connectivity.

He said that the Government had already taken up the matter with the Centre and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The Chief Minister was confident that the developments around the Thirupurambudur area would match the expectations of the local people. "We do not stop with just signing the MoUs. Our government places great emphasis on giving quick clearances for the actual implementation of the projects" the Chief Minister said and cited the Caparo plant which commenced production in a short span of time.

The Chief Minister urged new industrial units such as Caparo to give preference to locals in employment. He said, "It is our fervent hope that the developments in this area match the expectations of the local people. They are keen to be a part of the success story and hope to benefit from the new employment opportunities in these facilities."

Congratulating Caparo for its speedy implementation of the Thirupurambudur project, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said the Group, in line with the State Government's emphasis on taking industrial development to backward areas, was putting up a stamping unit at Nilakkotai, Dindigul district. The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) allotted 20 acres of land required for the project. "I congratulate Caparo for taking this initiative. The Government will extend necessary support to such initiatives", he said.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister said since May 2006, memoranda of understanding had been signed with 11 companies, including Caparo, for a total investment of Rs.11,083 crore.

The 11 projects were expected to provide employment to about 1.25 lakh people. While the projects of Samsung and Dell had gone on stream, those of Motorola in Thirupurambudur would commence production in about a month.

Caparo Group Chairman Lord Paul appreciated the assistance received in Tamil Nadu. "It is nice to see an attitude [among them] of how things can be done."

The Caparo group is confident that its India operations will contribute as much as half of its total worldwide sales in the coming years, according to Thiru Angad Paul, its Chief Executive, and Chairman of Caparo India.

"India is one of our largest customer bases every automotive company in the country is a customer of Caparo," said Thiru Paul.

Along with his father and Chairman of Caparo group Lord Swaraj Paul, he was addressing press persons here on 4.10.07 ahead of the inauguration of Caparo's manufacturing facilities at Thirupurambudur by Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi.

The Thirupurambudur industrial complex, set up on 120 acres with an investment of Rs.400 crore, houses an aluminium foundry, as well as facilities for forging, casting, tool and die making linked to research and development. It has the capability to design small automotive components and also serve as a platform for designing new vehicles Thiru Angad Paul said the facilities would also be involved in manufacturing maritime and aerospace components.

### Investment

As part of the second phase of the project Caparo would set up another manufacturing facility on a 100-acre plot at Oragadam, near here, with an initial investment of Rs.300 crore. It will manufacture tubular parts for automotive and aerospace, automotive braking systems, fasteners, composite material and also have testing facilities.

"The largest single concentration of our business facilities in India will be in the South," Thiru Angad Paul said. "By 2011, we estimate that we will have a turnover between Rs.3,000 crore and Rs.4,000 crore from our

India operations, of which a large proportion will be from Tamil Nadu." Caparo India, which expects to invest around Rs.1,000 crore in the state, is also planning to set up a manufacturing unit to cater to TAFE Limited (Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd) at Nilakkotai, Dindigul district. The plant will be established on 20 acres. The group plans to set up a technical education institution in Tamil Nadu, on the lines of the Caparo PTU School of Excellence in Material Manufacturing that it has set up in Jalandhar.

"There is no shortage of good people in Tamil Nadu," Thiru Paul said. "However, we have to invest in training, apprenticeship and education."

Caparo Group CEO and Caparo India Chairman Thiru Angad Paul said the inaugural function was a simple start to the investment plans of the Group for Tamil Nadu. British Deputy High Commissioner Thiru Mike Connor, Managing Director of Caparo India Thiru Sunil Pahilajani, participated in function.



The State Government has amended its local body Acts to restrict the use of "no-confidence" motions against elected heads of the local bodies.

The Governor promulgated an ordinance on 4, October 2007 through which amendments have been made to the Chennai City Municipal Corporation Act, Madurai City Municipal Corporations Act, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act and Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act. Accordingly, no-confidence motions against the Chairmen or Vice-Chairmen of the Council or the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor in the Corporations would not be allowed in the first and last years of the 5-year-term period. There are restrictions

on its use in the interim three-year period too.

Those moving for the no-

## GOVERNMENT AMENDS LOCAL BODY ACTS

confidence will require to be in much larger numbers than in the past.

In the explanatory note accompanying the order, it has been mentioned that the Government has decided to curb the undesirable recent trend of a

large number of no-confidence motions against Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen. "Such large number of no-confidence motions are unprecedented in the long history of the local bodies administration of the State of Tamil Nadu. This may be due to better awareness of the provisions of the statutes of the issue or may be due to the growing intolerance among elected representatives of the urban local bodies, out of political or personal reasons," it said.

The gazette notification added that the Government had decided to abate all motions made expressing want of confidence and pending before any officer, Authority or the Government, immediately before the commencement of the ordinance.



The Tamil Nadu Cabinet has decided to waive the Rs.787.42 crore owed to the Government by various city and Municipal Corporations.

Presided over by Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi, the Cabinet met on 26, October 2007 and decided to write off the credit and interest amount due from the Corporations and the Municipalities as on 3, March 2007.

The waiver will relieve the local bodies of the heavy financial burden and facilitate continuation of development works. It was also resolved to extend the scheme regularising the unapproved house sites in urban local bodies introduced by the Government last year till December 2007 since the scheme has largely benefited the public. The Cabinet accepted the extensively reviewed new industrial policy for implementation, an official release said.

It was resolved to allocate lands through Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) to HCL Technology, Honeywell International India Services, SIT India, Sathyam Computer Services, Sutherland Global Services, Cognizant Technology Solutions and a few other leading IT firms to offer IT and ITES services in Tier two cities like Madurai, Tiruchi, Salem and Tirunelveli.

Other decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting include allotment of lands to firms including Sify Limited, Sutherland Global Services, CTS and Scope International under ELCOT's SEZ in Sholinganallur on lease for



## CABINET DECIDES TO WAIVE CIVIC BODY LOANS

90 years and implementation of the recommendations put forward by Thiru Farooqui, IAS officer, who was appointed by the Government to inquire into the Senthur blast on the Tiruchi-Chennai National highway on 7, April 2007.

# CHIEF MINISTER INAUGURATES SAMSUNG's TAMIL NADU PLANT



"It gives me great pleasure to be here, on the inauguration of the production facilities of Samsung India Electronics.

I would like to invite your attention to the various stages in the development of this project, Samsung signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Tamil Nadu on 10, November 2006. Construction work at this site was started on 9, February 2007. Today the plant is being inaugurated. All this has happened within a period of just one year.

I am specifically citing this, just to show that we follow up all the issues and ensure that new industries are able to start production early. Issues relating to various agencies are resolved through the single window mechanism of the Government. It helps the companies to get quick clearances.

I would request you to kindly take note of this and spread this message to all other companies in Korea who may be contemplating investing in India. I am sure that your first hand

Address of  
Kalaighar M. Karunanidhi  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu  
at the inaugural function of  
'SAMSUNG INDIA's PLANT  
13-11-2007  
at Thiruperumbudur

experience here will give them all the necessary assurance and confidence to make up their mind about investing in Tamil Nadu.

There have been close links between early Tamil kingdoms and the far east. The Buddhist legacy of Korea can trace its roots to India. India and Korea are thus natural partners and share a lot of cultural affinity.

I understand that the Korean and Tamil words for, "Father" and "Mother" are the same.

Korea has been a shining example of rapid economic growth. It has been rightly called,



the "Miracle on the Han river" as it has seen a growth rate of over 7.5 per cent over the past four decades. It has produced industrial giants such as POSCO, HYUNDAI, SAMSUNG, LG etc. Infact, products made by these companies have become household names in India today.

I am happy that SAMSUNG has grown into a huge multinational company, present in Fifty seven countries with global sales of over Fifty seven billion dollars. I understand that at the SIPCOT Thiruperumbudur facility, that company is planning to produce Colour Televisions and LCD TVs. This plant will have a capacity to produce ten lakh colour TVs and three lakh LCD TVs in one year. It also plans to commence production of fully Automatic Washing Machines by the end of this year. I am also confident that soon thereafter, the company will start to manufacture other home appliances such as Refrigerators and Air-Conditioners also at this facility.

So far the investment by SAMSUNG at this Chennai facility is about Rupees one hundred

and twenty crore and the projected investment upto the year 2011 is Rupees four hundred crore.

I understand that this plant is intended mainly to produce for the Indian market though some of the production will also be exported to other countries. Land has also been allotted to Samsung at the SIPCOT Hi-Tech Special Economic Zone here at Thiruperumbudur.

I request you to speed up the setting up of the production facility at the Special Economic Zone also, as it would give a big boost to the exports from this region.

On this occasion, I would like to inform you that we have recently released the New Industrial Policy 2007. As per this policy, industries that make investments of over Rupees three hundred and fifty crore in the manufacturing sector in Chennai, Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur districts and over Rupees two hundred and fifty crore in all other districts, will be eligible for a structured package of

assistance. With a view to promote investment in the electronic hardware industries, this ceiling has been fixed as Rupees two hundred and fifty crore in eligible fixed assets in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram and one hundred and fifty crores of Rupees in all other districts.

Recognising the importance of availability of skilled manpower for such high technology industries, the policy gives a lot of importance to human resources and skill development. Various initiatives are planned in collaboration with the industry to improve the infrastructure at the industrial training institutes, to revise the course content and to provide the right inputs so that the students from the institutes find placement in the industries.

Regarding connectivity, we are taking up with the Government of India to provide rail connectivity to Thiruperumbudur and Oragadam areas. Road improvements are also being pursued with the National Highways Authority of India.

I wish to point out that companies have a responsibility to the society and community around their manufacturing facilities. At present the company has employed two hundred and eighty five employees. I hope that when the project is fully completed by 2011, will employ Two thousand and five hundred persons. Most of them will be from Tamil Nadu and specifically from Kanchipuram district. We have announced in our new policy that such investing companies which give preference to local employment and follow the Government's policy on reservation will be given additional incentives. In addition, such companies can also involve themselves in the improvements of nearby health and education facilities that will benefit the neighbouring community.

I wish to once again complement SAMSUNG on their decision to invest here

in Tamil Nadu and also to commend the speed at which they have set up this production facility. It stands testimony to the efficiency of such successful Korean companies.

I hope that products manufactured here will make their presence felt in the lives of people all over the world and the people around this facility will enjoy good progress and economic growth".

In connection with the inaugural function of Samsung, a message from Hon'ble Union Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Thiru. A. Raja said the electronics hardware industry in India has a bright future. By 2012 India would become a major manufacturing hub, he claimed.

Thiru H.B. Lee, President and CEO Samsung, South-West Asia Regional Headquarters, said "This is Samsung's second manufacturing facility in India. This facility has been set up in eight months with the aim of making it a global manufacturing hub. We will leverage the Indian talent along with our proven manufacturing technology to produce world class products from this facility".

Thiru. Jong Yong Yun, Vice-Chairperson and CEO, Samsung Electronics, Thiru. G.S. Choi, CEO and President, Telecommunication and Network Business, Samsung Electronics spoke about the growth of Samsung India since its inception in 1995. Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. Arcot N. Veeraswami, Thiru. Duraimurugan, Dr. K. Ponmudy, Chief Secretary Thiru. L.K. Tripathy and Industries Secretary Thiru. M.F. Farooqui were present on the occasion.

## MoU signed between BHEL & TNEB



A thermal power project with super-critical technology is to come up on a 900-acre Government 'poromboke' site at Udangudi in Tuticorin district.

The project with a total capital outlay of about Rs.8,500 crore will start functioning from 2011, increasing power availability in the State.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed here on 25, October 2007 by

public sector Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) to form a joint venture company (JVC) to execute the project.

Hon'ble Chief Minister KalamurM. Karunanidhi, Hon'ble Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Thiru. Santosh Mohan Dev and Hon'ble State Electricity Minister Arcot Thiru. N. Veeraswami were among those present when the MoU was signed

by BHEL Chairman and Managing Director Thiru. Ashok K. Puri and TNEB Chairman Thiru. Hans Raj Verma. The JVC is expected to be in place in about three months. The project work would commence shortly thereafter.

Addressing a press conference later, Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Santosh Mohan Dev said Tamil Nadu was an ideal place for power production.

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## THEVANEYA PAVANAR MANIMANDAPAM INAUGURATED

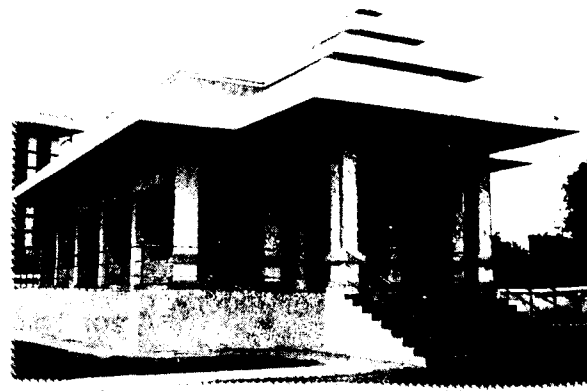
**H**on'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi declared open a Manimandapam for Thevaneya Pavaanar, a Tamil scholar and linguist, at Madurai on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2007. He also unveiled an eight-foot-tall bronze statue of the scholar.

"This memorial is as sweet as Tamil," he wrote in the visitors' book after taking a look at the photographs and other memorabilia depicting the achievements of the departed linguist. He gave away an order appointing A.M.D. Paripooranam, granddaughter of the scholar, as the caretaker of the memorial.

Pavaanar, who lived between 1902 and 1981, had written a number of books in which he had argued that Tamil is the most natural and oldest language of the world. He pursued autodidactic studies of Dravidian philology and comparative linguistics. The State Government had conferred on Pavaanar, the title 'Senthamil Selvar' in 1979 and he is also addressed as 'Mozhi Gnayiru' ('Sun of language').

The Manimandapam was built on 50 cents of land at a cost of Rs.40 lakh.

Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. Arcot N. Veeraswami, Thiru. Duraimurugan and Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi were present on the occasion.



**C**hennai Corporation's Mayor and Commissioner received the National Award for excellence in municipal initiatives outshining major cities, including Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Mayor Thiru M. Subramanian and Corporation Commissioner Thiru Rajesh Lakhoni received the award from Hon'ble Union Urban Development Minister Thiru S. Jaipal Reddy at a conference on the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in New Delhi on 9, October 2007.

Research and ratings firm CRISIL in partnership with the Urban Development Ministry evaluated seven mega cities - Delhi, Greater Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad - to assess their commitment to urban reforms and the progress made since the launch of the JNNURM.

## Chennai Corporation wins award for best initiatives

Chennai was commended for several new initiatives including online tender systems, online property tax collection, provision of birth certificates within 24 hours of an infant's birth and engaging burial ground workers as Corporation staff.

A panel of retired and senior bureaucrats including Thiru D.M. Sukthankar, formerly chief secretary of Maharashtra, Urban Development Ministry joint secretary Thiru M. Rajamani and US Agency for International Development programme manager Thiru Nabaroon Bhattacharjee evaluated the entries received for the award.

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**T**he State Government, through separate Ordinances issued on 17, November 2007 upgraded Tirupur and Erode Municipalities to Municipal Corporations from 1, January 2008.

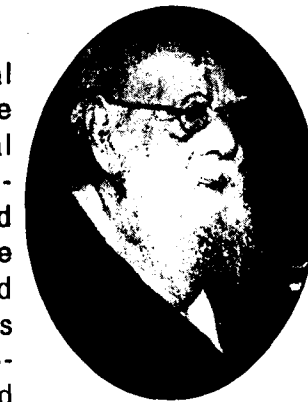
This was in conformity with Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi's announcement on 15, September 2007, according to an official release.

Apart from the current municipal jurisdiction, the following areas will come under the new Erode Municipal Corporation : Periyasemur, Veerappan-chattiram, Kasipalayam and Soorampatty (all Third Grade Municipalities), B.P.Agraharam and Sooriyampalayam Town Panchayats and Thindal, Gangapuram, Ellappalayam, Villarasampatti and Muthampalayam Panchayats.

Expansion of the Erode municipal area was one of the resolutions passed as early as 1917 when Thanthai Periyar was Chairman of the Municipality, the release said.

## Periyar's wish fulfilled

According to the release, Tirupur held the top spot in knitwear export. It was to provide further impetus to industrial growth in the region and infrastructure that the Tirupur Municipal Corporation was being formed.



Apart from the current Tirupur municipal area, the new Municipal Corporation would have jurisdiction over Velampalayam and Nallur (both Third Grade Municipalities), Chettipalayam, Mannarai,

Thottipalayam, Andipalayam, Veerapandi, Murugampalayam, Neruperichal and Muthanampalayam Village Panchayats.

**D**elivering the Convocation Address at the 17th Convocation of Tamil Nadu Dr.MGR Medical University on 10, October 2007, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi wanted the students to upgrade their knowledge skills throughout their professional life.

Detailing the steps taken by the present Government, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi said that as many as 2,297 doctors were appointed in Government over in May 2006. For several years there have been 30 to 50 percent of vacancies for Doctors in Nilgiris, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Villupuram, Thiruvannamalai and Perambalur districts. Now, vacancies in Government Primary Health and Health sub Centres have been completely filled thereby eliminating complaints about the lack of doctors. He also said that of the

# Medical students should serve poor

Hon'ble Chief Minister



9,000 health camps planned under the revived Varummun Kappom scheme, a total of 3,766 health camps were held benefiting as many as 39,95,089 patients till 5th October, 2007.

pay, have been moved to time-scale pay. Similarly, 2,540 nurses and over 600 paramedics and professionals in medicine-related fields had been

The Chief Minister said that medical students should consider serving the poor and downtrodden as a primary aim of their profession.

## Time-scale

A total of 1,405 doctors, who were on consolidated

moved to time scale. So far 9,000 of the 13,000 vacancies in fields such as nursing, paramedical and hospital work, have been filled and action is being taken to fill the rest of the posts, he said.

The Chief Minister said work had started on construction of medical colleges in Villupuram, Tiruvarur and Dharmapuri and funds had been allotted to refurbish Stanley Medical college.

Attention was also being paid to Indian Systems of Medicine, Siddha, Ayurveda, Unani, and Homoeopathy, with the appointment of 150 ISM practitioners in Government sector hospitals, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi said.

Earlier, presenting the annual report, Vice-Chancellor Thiru Meer Mustafa Hussain said the university proposed to start a separate department of Siddha medicine for research on the medicinal value of herbs.

To manage and overcome acute shortage of faculty in the fields of basic medical sciences, it proposed to start PG Courses in Microbiology, Pathology, Physiology,

Pharmacology, Bio Chemistry (M.D. Courses) and Anatomy (M.S. Course).

Dr. Hussain said the Russian Embassy had entrusted the university with the job of selecting candidates for 12 English medium medical colleges in Russia.

All Students aspiring to go to Russia for medical studies would be selected by it.

Earlier, he read out the citations for the three medical professionals, S.K. Rajan, V. Chockalingam and B.Suresh, who received the Doctor of Science (honoris cause) degree from His Excellency the Governor and Chancellor Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala.

They were recognised for their contributions to the medical field.

Dr. Chockalingam was recognised for his work in the practice and teaching of cardiology, Dr. Suresh for contributions to research and teaching in pharamacology and Dr. Rajan for his contributions in the field of medicine and medical education.

## Medals Given

The Governor and Chancellor distributed medals and certificates to successful canidates.

Students received their Ph.D., D.M., and M.Ch., MBBS, B.Pharm, B.Sc. (Nursing), B.P.T., B.O.T., BSMS, BAMS, BUMS, BHMS, BNYS and PG Diploma certificates.

A total of 9,739 students were conferred their degrees. Fifty five gold medals, 17 silver medals and 38 cash awards were given away on the occasion.

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## CHENNAI - THE BIRTH PLACE OF TELEMEDICINE IN SOUTH ASIA



"I am very happy to be here for the 3rd National Conference of the Telemedicine Society of India. I am glad that there are 240 participants including 30 from overseas.

This is the first time that International Society for Telemedicine and e-Health, is holding its conference in South Asia. Apollo Hospitals, Apollo Telemedicine Networking Foundation and Ramachandra Medical University and Shankar Nethralaya have jointly organized the three day conference in Chennai.

Chennai can indeed be considered the birthplace of Telemedicine in South Asia.

Address of **Kalaignar M. KARUNANIDHI**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the  
3rd National Conference and  
12th International conference on  
Telemedicine and e-Health held  
on 3, November 2007.

In 2000 March, Bill Clinton formally commissioned the world's first enabled village hospital at Argonda, in Andhra Pradesh with Apollo Hospitals Chennai. Today Apollo Hospitals from Chennai alone have carried out more than 24 thousand tele-consultations. The Apollo Network has one hundred and three centres including 7 overseas.

One hundred out of the 5 hundred institutions in India using Telemedicine are located in Tamil Nadu. Apollo Hospitals was the first institution in South Asia to start a formal training programme in telehealth technology. Together with Anna University, 6 batches of 150 have been exposed to this new technology. The Tamil Nadu Dr.MGR Medical University, in association with Apollo Hospitals, will be the first medical university in South Asia to develop a course on Telemedicine exclusively for health care personnel.

ISRO has played a major role at the national level in spreading Telemedicine. All teleconsultations using the ISRO bandwidth is given free of charge. The Healthcare Delivery System in India is poised towards a major change. It will enhance the quality of service. ISRO has already made headway in establishing Telemedicine network linking Remote, Rural, District Hospitals with Super Speciality Hospitals located in major cities.

A major goal of Telemedicine is to eliminate unnecessary travelling of patients. High quality medical services can be brought to the patient, rather than transporting the patient to distant centres. There are about twenty five active mobile telemedicine units in India today.

The Government of Tamil Nadu encourages public private partnership in the field of telehealth. My Government is very

eager to provide benefits of the Telemedicine to poor people in rural and urban areas.. In 1999 Government sanctioned 87 lakh Rupees for launching Pilot Project to implement Telemedicine in Government General Hospital, Chennai. A State of Art Telemedicine Facility is now available at Government General Hospital, Chennai. Further upgradation is in process.

The Telemedicine Project will be inaugurated shortly in the Government Royapettah Hospital linking 6 Government Headquarters Hospitals i.e. Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai, Krishnagiri, Udhamandalam and Rameswaram.

A Pilot Project on Tele Health Project is currently under implementation at Tindivanam Taluk Hospital and Mailam Block Primary Health Centre, Villupuram District. Dr. Craig Barrett, Chairman of Intel Technology India Private Ltd., met me recently and held discussions on the implementation of the Pilot Tele Health project at Tindivanam Taluk Hospital. An MoU has been signed between Government of Tamil Nadu and Intel Technology India Private Ltd., for implementing the Pilot Project and to extend the project to other needy areas in Tamil Nadu. As per this programme the Taluk Hospital, Tindivanam and a few Primary Health centres in Villupuram District are linked to the major centres of excellence in Health care.

There is a big shortage of specialists in the Health Department not only in Tamil Nadu,

but also all over the country. Considering the disease burden of the country, there is huge demand for the services of specialists in our country. The people demand the services of specialists even in rural areas. Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country which created 98 comprehensive Obstetrics and Newborn Care Centres to provide the best care to pregnant mothers in our country. In order to meet the demand for the services of specialists, it is essential to have facilities of medical consultancies through Tele Health Projects like this. Especially in remote and rural areas, this sort of Tele Health Project will be very useful.

This conference assumes great significance. The conference is aimed at evolving optimum systems and drawing up necessary guidelines for an effective implementation of this important technology for the benefit of one and all. Greater participation by the health care providers and administrators. Government hospitals and NGOs is necessary to take this effort forward.

I wish you all success in this new and developing technology.

Thank you, Vanakkam”

**A**ddressing the Third National Conference of the Telemedicine Society Dr. C.Preetha Reddy, Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals, said Tamil Nadu had become the Asia's largest Telemedicine provider even as India had emerged as the world's largest provider of Telemedicine services.

Hospitals must not forget their responsibility in rural areas where Telemedicine was the only viable means of taking quality health care

to the people, Thiru.Michael Nerlich, President, International Society for Telemedicine and Health, said. Tamil Nadu was spearheading the existing field of innovation in Telemedicine, he added.

Dr.S.S.Badrinath, Chairman, Shankara Nethralaya said Telemedicine was one of the best methods to reach the unreachable, poor and have-nots. He urged the State Government to make Telemedicine available at district headquarters hospitals.

Thiru V.R.Venkatachalam, Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra University, elaborated on the various uses the varsity was putting Telemedicine to. With connectivity established between different Nations and different States in the country, Telemedicine was also being used to teach students and conduct continuing medical education programme for doctors.

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## PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD EXTEND MEDICARE

Hon'ble Chief Minister **Kalaignar M. KARUNANIDHI**  
inaugurates Health City

Inaugurating the Chettinad Health City (CHC) at Kelambakkam, promoted by Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar Charitable and Educational Trust on 15, Nov 2007 Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi said that private organisations should come forward to spend their time and funds for public healthcare. Government alone can not manage the public health care system, he said.

Though it was the responsibility of the Government to provide medical services to all sections of society, the private sector should also come forward to help the Government in this mission, the Chief Minister said.

More organisations should invest time and resources in taking affordable medicare to the masses, he said, while

inaugurating the first phase of the Chettinad Health City at Kelambakkam in Chennai. The Rs.500-crore project is being promoted by the Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar Charitable and Educational Trust.

Lauding the contributions and recalling the significance of the Chettinad family, the Chief Minister said Annamalai University found by Annamalai Chettiar produced 'n' number of scholars, lawyers, engineers, doctors and musicians. Thanthai Periyar and Arignar Anna held the family in great esteem. Their love for Tamil and compassion for the poor and downtrodden was hailed by Anna. That late Muthiah Chettiar came forward to be a pal bearer to the bodies of the martyrs of language struggle, Thalamuthu and Natarajan, and this act

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revealed his affinity for Tamil language.

Muthiah Chettiar served as Minister in Justice Party government and later as member of the Legislative Council when he was a Minister, the Chief Minister said and hailed his contribution to Tamil Music.

The Chief Minister said that the Government would issue 3.5 lakh free house-site pattas by March 2008 irrespective of the income of the beneficiaries. This year the Government issued around 2.25 lakh free pattas. He expressed his happiness on being told that the poor would get free treatment at the facilities in the health city.

The State government had earmarked a sum of Rs.600 crore this year for the health department, Hon'ble Health and Family Welfare Minister Thiru M.R.K.Panneerselvam said.

The Health City would function with the twin aspirations of providing the best possible medical education to aspiring youth and the best medical services for the poor and

the ailing, Thiru M.A.M Ramasamy, Managing Trustee of the Trust, said.

The United States had a strong interest in promoting health and medicare in India and had initiated several collaborative projects with the Central and various State Government, as well as with NGOs and the private sector, Thiru Fred Kaplan, Acting Consul-General, U.S. Consulate General in Chennai, said. Chennai was "home to several fine hospitals", a point which went down well with U.S.investors who were concerned with the education and healthcare infrastructure in the State, he added.

The Health City had a mandate to bring advanced and health education, health care, research and health IT to society, Thiru. R.Ravikumar, Cardio thoracic surgeon in the facility, said.

The Rs. 500-crore project comes with a one thousand bed facility and 52 specialities. The second and third phases will promote medical tourism and research. The entire project is to be completed by 2009.

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27.11.2007

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DISTRIBUTION OF FREE COLOUR TVs, GAS STOVES

WITH GAS CONNECTIONS

SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED

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committee included leaders of all parties in the Assembly. This was to ensure that there was no scope for any wrong doing.

The Chief Minister said 30,000 TV sets were distributed at a cost of Rs.9 crore in the first phase.

During the second phase, 25 lakh TV sets would be distributed at a cost of Rs.685 crore.

So far, about 21.09 lakh sets had been given to beneficiaries. For the third phase, the Government was procuring 34.25 lakh colour television sets at a cost of Rs.750 crore.

Estimating that the State would consist of one crore households, the Chief Minister said the distribution of TV sets to all at once was not possible. Hence it was done in a phased manner, he said.

Successful implementation of the free colour television distribution scheme has proved critics wrong, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi said in Chennai on 27, November 2007.

The Chief Minister was addressing a function held to distribute free colour TV sets and free gas stoves along with LPG connections.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, in its 2006 Assembly elections manifesto, had declared that if elected to power, it would implement such a scheme. At that time, those in the rival camp had ridiculed the idea and raised questions about its practicability. "They urged people not to be carried away by the promise. Today, the country knows very well who has been wrong," the Chief Minister said.

"As the whole process of purchase and distribution was being monitored by an all-party committee, there was no room for any irregularity in the implementation of the scheme" the Chief Minister added. The



Chennai's Worshipful Mayor Thiru M.Subramanian said 16,521 stoves would be distributed in the city during the week.

Chennai Corporation Commissioner Thiru Rajesh Lakhani announced that the work was underway on four of the ten bridges proposed. Bids would be floated shortly for six more bridges.



Her Excellency the President of India Tmt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was warmly received at the Airport by His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Surjit Singh Barnala and Hon'ble Finance Minister Prof. K. Anbazhagan during her visit to Chennai on 4th November 2007.



Hon'ble Rural Development and Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K.Stalin presented a shawl to His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru Surjit Singh Barnala on the occasion of the latter's Birthday on 21st October 2007. Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Dr.K.Ponmudy was present.

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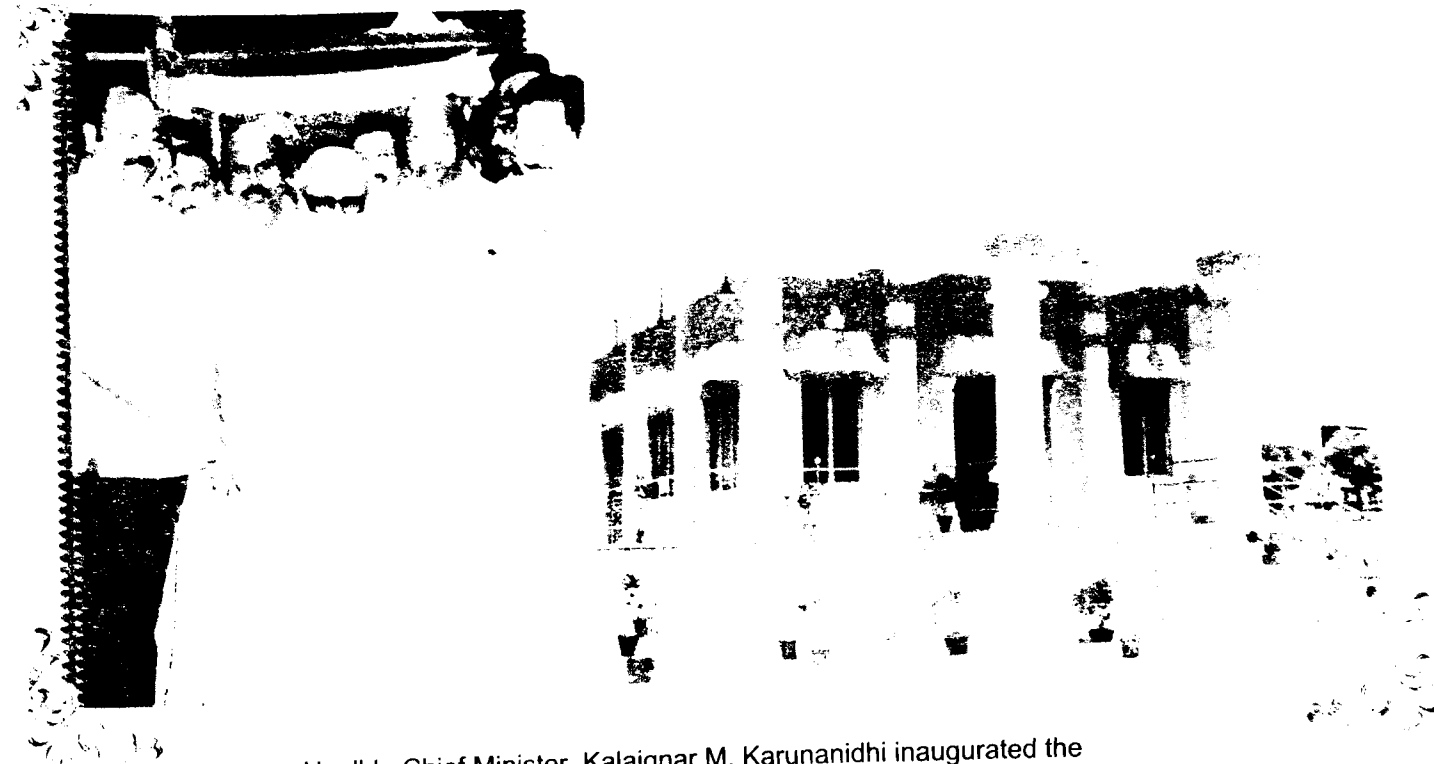
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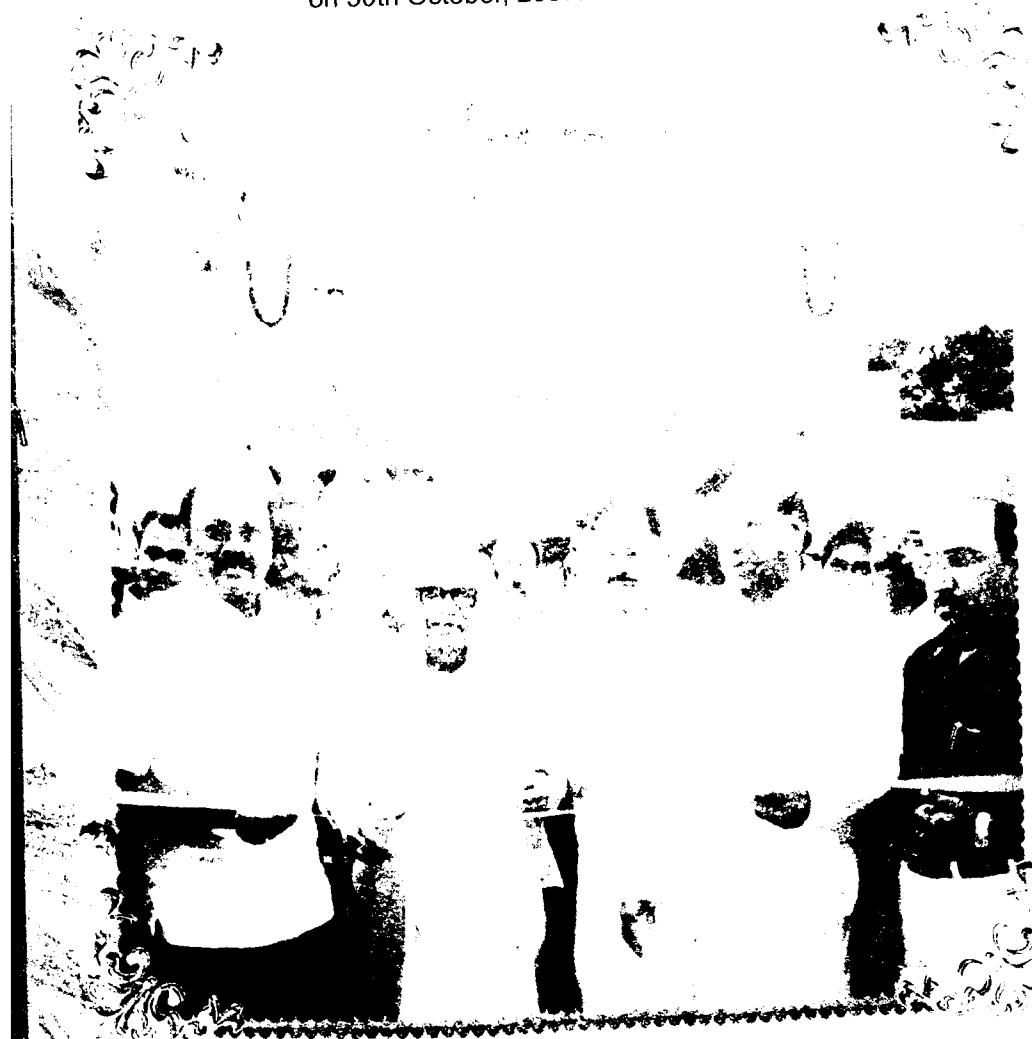
His Excellency the Governor Thiru. Surjit Singh Barnala paid floral tributes on the 119th Birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Chennai on 14th, November 2007. Hon'ble Ministers were present on the occasion.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi paid floral tributes to the former Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi on the occasion of National Integration Day on 19th November 2007 at Chennai.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the "Mozhi Gnayuru" Thevaneya Paavanar Manimandapam at Madurai on 30th October, 2007. Hon'ble Ministers were present on the occasion.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi declared open the Memorial of "Parithimar Kalaighnar" at Vilachery, Madurai on 31st October, 2007. Hon'ble Ministers were present at the function.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi distributed welfare measures to the Tsunami affected 40,794 fishermen on 12th October, 2007.  
Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department Thiru Duraimurugan,  
Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Thiru K.P.P. Samy and  
Chief Secretary Thiru L.K.Tripathy were present.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi presented on 5th October 2007 Medallions and Cash Award amounting to Rs.1,31,95,000 to the Award winning Athletes of the South Asian Federation Games and Commonwealth Games.

# TAMIL NADU STATE FILM AWARDS FUNCTION



This committee has been in contact with the National and Grand Jurisdictional  
in their handling the subject of the above grants and trusts  
and coordinated by this committee with the various local spiritual healers  
Edith Campbell, Hugh Hammer and Geraldine Smith, Minister  
in charge of the group meeting on 16th November 1966,  
at the newly completed, Hall, 11, Thomas

This record function was implemented by information standards for the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  components.

# HEALTH VILLAGE

for Medicare to come up near Chennai



**A** Health Village is to be established in Elavur, near Chennai, to serve as the hub for Medicare and Medical Research in South Asia. It is a joint venture between Frontier Lifeline Hospital and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO).

A Memorandum of Understanding, formalising the Rs.450-crore project, was signed on 21, November 2007 in the presence of

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi.

Frontier Lifeline was represented by its founding Chairman Dr.K.M.Cherian and TIDCO by its Managing Director Thiru.S.Ramasundaram.

Hon'ble Electricity Minister Thiru.Arcot N. Veeraswami and Hon'ble Health Minister Thiru. M. R. K. Panneerselvam were present along with Chief Secretary Thiru.L.K.Tripathy.

# POLL PROMISES ON EMPLOYMENT FULFILLED

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu  
**KALAINAR M. KARUNANIDHI**

**H**on'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on 4, December 2007 said promises made during the Assembly elections in 2006, for filling up three lakh vacancies in government jobs left unfulfilled by the previous regime are being fulfilled. The present government had provided employment opportunity for 2,28,149 persons in just one and half years so far and gave a department-wise break up of the filled-up vacancies.

The Chief Minister recalled that the present government soon after assuming office scrapped the order of freeze on recruitment in government services and gave employment to 2,28,149 in just 18 months. The department wise break up is as under:

|                                                  |   |        |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Rural Development                                | - | 16,602 |
| Town Panchayats (on time-scale)                  | - | 2,923  |
| Municipal Administration                         | - | 3,789  |
| Municipal and PU schools (on time-scale)         | - | 53,005 |
| School Education Dept (Teachers and other jobs)  | - | 51,009 |
| Teachers in Higher and Technical Education Depts | - | 5,558  |
| Electricity Board (Permanent Staff)              | - | 12,000 |
| Doctors, Nurses and others in Govt Hospitals     | - | 19,326 |

|                    |   |        |
|--------------------|---|--------|
| Revenue Department | - | 7,565  |
| Commercial taxes   | - | 1,070  |
| Highways           | - | 469    |
| Transport          | - | 10,095 |
| Public Libraries   | - | 795    |
| Social Welfare     | - | 32,105 |
| Police and Fire    | - | 6,637  |
| Judicial           | - | 345    |
| PWD                | - | 1,921  |
| Agriculture        | - | 340    |
| Other Departments  | - | 2,508  |

Besides, the government took the initiative and signed MoUs for an investment of Rs.11,000 crore and tens of thousands were getting employment in these industries.

On the poll promises of providing monthly financial assistance to the educated unemployed, the Chief Minister said so far 3,53,488 unemployed youths had been provided with monthly aid to the tune of about Rs.78 lakhs.

About the announcement of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister on supplying rice at Rs.2 per kg. The Chief Minister said the DMK was doubly happy that Tamil Nadu pioneered the scheme. In poll bound Gujarat, the

Congress Party had promised to distribute free colour TVs and PDS articles for the poor. Hence the present Government in Tamil Nadu provided guidance for other States, he noted.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on 5, December 2007 enlisted various schemes the State Health Department had implemented in the last year. The Chief Minister said he was happy to take "constructive criticism" as it helped him interact with officials and Ministers and correct them.

Listing the schemes in the health sector, the Chief Minister said it was wrong to jump to the conclusion that nothing had been done in the past year to improve the conditions in the public health sector.

"It is after the present Government assumed power that 3,000 vacancies in Government Hospitals and primary health centres were filled. Over 1,400 doctors, who were appointed on consolidated salary by the previous regime, were given "time scale" (on regular pay) by this government," he said in the question and answer column of Murasoli.

The Chief Minister said the Salem Medical College hospital was being upgraded to become on par with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences at a cost of Rs.120 crore.

"More than 47,26,944 persons have benefited through the health camps conducted by the State Government under the 'Varumun Kappom' scheme to treat disease before they reach the terminal stages. Through the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy scheme around 2,48,908 mothers have been given Rs.6,000 for nutritional and transportation expenses. As many as 820 Primary Health Centers have been made 24 hour hospitals. Due to this institutional deliveries have gone up. Around 87,881 deliveries have taken place in Primary Health Centers in the last financial year, while only 44,000 deliveries took place in Primary Health Centers during 2006-2005," he said.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi said he was mentioning the schemes to inform the public that it was wrong to assume that the present Government was not doing anything to improve the health sector in the state.

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## Steps taken to meet power shortage

Power Shortage, which is now 700 megawatt (MW) in the State, is expected to go up to 1,000 MW-1,500 MW during January-May, Thiru Arcot N. Veeraswami, Hon'ble Electricity Minister, said in Chennai on 22, November 2007.

Addressing a press conference after holding a meeting with industrialists at the Secretariat, he said: "We are taking steps to ensure there is no power cut in the summer. Due to unforeseen circumstances, a situation may arise wherein we may have to resort to load shedding for half hour."

Acknowledging that load shedding was now in force, the Minister said loss of wind energy of 1,500 MW and 1,000 MW from the Neyveli power stations and the Central pool had led to power shortage.

Due to steps taken by the present Government, the annual demand had gone up to 600 MW-700 MW from the earlier 400 MW, he said.

To face the problem in the coming months, industrial units, which wanted to use furnace oil-run generator equipment for energy requirements, would be exempted from the Value-Added Tax for the fuel from January to May.

Industrial units had been requested to reschedule their holiday, instead of Sunday. Some units had responded favourably to the suggestion and local officials of the Electricity Board would be advised to ensure that such units had stable power supply on Sunday. Units wanting to maximise their operations during night, would be provided smooth supply.

The State Government was taking steps to get 300 MW from Assam and Haryana. It had also approached the Centre to provide 500 MW from the unallocated pool. Regarding power sector reforms, the Minister said the State was not against the reforms per se. The primary reason for other States to go in for restructuring their Electricity Boards was low revenue collection and higher line loss. But, in the case of Tamil Nadu, revenue collection was 99 per cent and line loss 18 per cent, among the lowest in the country.

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**T**amil Nadu is made to surmount a lot of difficulties for obtaining welfare projects, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M.Karunanidhi said on 19, November 2007.

Inaugurating the Mass Rapid Transit System between Velachery and Tiruvanmiyur the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that to get the Salem Railway Division, the State's leaders had to toil for nearly a decade because the creation of the new division was opposed by a neighbouring State. Tamil Nadu had to make some compromise before getting it. Be it irrigation project or any scheme that would bring benefits for the people, the State had to overcome stiff resistance from various quarters, the Chief Minister added.

Expressing concern over the increasing number of road accidents, the Hon'ble Chief

## MRTS connecting Thiruvanmiyur and Velacherry inaugurated

Minister said only well trained drivers should be allowed to operate buses and lorries and police personnel should keep a watch on drivers, especially on highways. Appealing to commuters to patronise MRTS services in a big way, he said that the existing transport facilities were not commensurate with the growing population.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways, Thiru R.Velu sought the State's help in extending the MRTS beyond St.Thomas Mount.

Flagging off the first train at the inaugural function, organised at the newly constructed Velachery Railway Station, the Chief Minister said that Tamil Nadu needed more transportation facilities, including train services, considering the increasing population.

Stating that roads and flyovers in the State were not adequate, the Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that traffic problems continued to be on the rise though the State Government had constructed more flyovers.

Lamenting that the number of accidents had increased on a daily basis, the Chief Minister stressed that bus and lorry drivers should be given special training and traffic police should be more vigilant in ensuring that motorists adhered to road regulations.

In his address, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways Thiru. R.Velu said that

passengers from Chennai Beach would reach Velachery in 40 minutes using the MRTS while they journey could take two hours, particularly during peak hours, while using other modes of transport. All 17 MRTS railway stations in the Beach Velachery sector had lifts, escalators and parking facilities, he added.

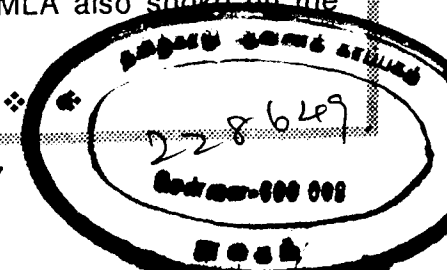
Stating that ticket fare from Beach to Velachery would be Rs. 120, the Union State Minister said that works towards extending the MRTS link to St.Thomas Mount through Puzhuvivakkam and Adambakkam would begin once the State Government allotted the required land.

In the meanwhile, works were in progress to construct a new MRTS station between Light House and Thirumailai (Mundakanniamman railway station) at a cost of Rs.11.5 crore, which was expected to be inaugurated by the end of 2008, the Minister informed.

The railways had already decided to take this MRTS service upto Ennore via Villivakkam and Thiruvottiyur, he added.

In his speech, Hon'ble Union Minister for Surface Transport Thiru.T.R. Baalu said Chennai - Central and Park railway stations should be linked since it would lead to train connectivity between Chennai-Central and Egmore.

Chennai Mayor Thiru.Subramaniam, Southern Railway General Manager, Thiru Rakesh Chopra and Thiru S.R.Raja, MLA also spoke on the occasion.



# METRO RAIL

## FOR CHENNAI

The State Cabinet on 7, November 2007 approved the Rs.9,757-crore metro rail project at the policy-level and the two routes prepared by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) in its Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The first route will be from Washermanpet to Meenambakkam via Egmore and Teynampet. The second route will be from Anna Nagar to St.Thomas Mount via Vadapalani, Ashok Nagar and Alandur. The total distance covered by both the routes is 46.5 km. About 20 km will be underground and the remaining on the surface.

The Cabinet decided to approach the Centre for financial assistance and loans for the project. A release issued after the Cabinet meeting said that Japan's Bank for International Cooperation would also render financial assistance.

It was also decided to implement the project through the 'Chennai Metro Rail Limited,' a company that would be set up with contributions from both the Central and State Governments.

The Government took up the mass rapid transit project to reduce traffic congestion in Chennai.

The issue of carving out a new district out of Perambalur and headquartered at Ariyalur was discussed at the Cabinet meeting. It was decided to create a new district on the basis of the wishes of the people and for administrative reasons, the press note said. The new district

will comprise Ariyalur, Udayar palayam and Senthurai circles. Perambalur district will now consist of Perambalur, Kunnam and Veppamthattai circles.

The Cabinet decided to revive the Maduranthakam Co-operative Sugar Mills in Padalam and Mathura Sugar Mills in Pandiarajapuram.

The State Cabinet decided to set up a high-level committee of officials to draw up norms for land acquisition while setting up special economic zones.

The committee, headed by the Chief Secretary, will have the Industries Secretary, Finance Secretary and Revenue Secretary as its members.

It will examine all aspects of the issue, hold detailed discussions with all stakeholders and draw up a draft policy, which will be studied by a Cabinet Sub Committee appointed by the Chief Minister.

Once the Sub-Committee clears the draft policy, it will be placed before the Cabinet for approval.

The Cabinet also decided to hand over the 1069.99 acres near the Chennai airport to the Airports Authority of India for taking up expansion work. A meeting of leaders of all parties represented in the Assembly had approved the decision on 22, May 2007.

## Chief Minister inaugurates SALEM RAIL DIVISION



The Centre and the State are two sides of a rail track said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Kalaigmar M.Karunanidhi as he pressed the button to mark the inauguration of the new Railway Division with Salem as headquarters at Salem on 1, November 2007.

relationship between the Centre and the State, which former Chief Minister C.N.Annadurai used to emphasise, the Chief Minister said.

The new 862 km Salem Division comprising 94 stations has been formed, is a witness to the cordial

The Chief Minister pointed out that the formation of the new





division, fourth in Tamil Nadu, was made possible with the State having an amicable relationship with the Centre. Drawing attention to the agitations and struggles for and against the division, the Chief Minister said that fighting for the rights should not degenerate into a confrontationist attitude, which would affect the very fabric of National Integrity. Like the rail lines that ran parallel, the State and the Centre should function in a co-ordinated manner to ensure good governance.

Synchronisation between the rail engine and coaches alone would ensure a safe and pleasant journey. Similarly, allies in a coalition had to synchronise their activities and thoughts. Many nurtured the fond hope of derailing the alliance, the Chief Minister said. If the journey continued safely, it would not only defeat some sinister wishes but also bring in overall development to the State, he added.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister further said that many doomsday prophets were predicting that the coalition in Tamil Nadu

would fall apart. But he was sure that the coalition stay linked like the coaches of a train.

"It was only after our people started occupying important ministerial posts, and through the coalition Government that Salem division had become a reality," the Chief Minister remarked.

Maintaining that he alone should not be given credit for the formation of the new division, the Chief Minister said all the alliance leaders, Ministers, MPs, MLAs, Hon'ble Union Railway Minister Thiru. Lalu Prasad and PMK leader Dr. S. Ramadoss were also responsible for realising the dream.

Hon'ble Union Railway Minister Thiru. Lalu Prasad recalled the several letters written by the Chief Minister Kalaikarni M. Karunanidhi for the formation of the new division. He also said that only after the UPA Government came to power that the travel and freight fares in the railways were reduced helping the common man. He referred to the turn around made by the Indian Railways and

said that the Railways would introduce A/C trains to all state capitals.

Sounding a warning against fascist forces that are rearing their heads once again, Thiru. Lalu Prasad asked the people and alliance leaders to remain united to save the country from them.

"Though the Rs 22 crore project faced several obstacles, the Railway Ministry resolved the issue after a meeting with all the MPs of both the state," he said. For the first time in the history of railways, the Salem division has been completed in just 10 months while seven years were taken to complete Agra, Pune and Arangiya divisions, Union Minister said.

The Union Minister announced that dedicated freight corridors Mumbai - Chennai and Chennai - Howrah would be set up soon. Eventually, the entire southern part of the country will be linked to the commercial capital Mumbai, he said. Union Minister added that the ministry is working towards providing dedicated double line across the country, which would help the railways earn more profit. For the layman he said the railways would expand the Garib Rath to all the state capitals. So that even the poor can travel in air-conditioned coaches. He said the railways which incurred losses during the previous National Democratic Alliance regime, has made Rs 20,000

crore profit during the United Progressive Alliance regime without increasing the passenger and freight fares.

Drawing attention to the success of the coalition Government in Tamil Nadu, the Minister said, the alliance parties in the state were like "coaches" and it would continue its journey without any derailment. Chennai would be brought under the freight corridor soon, he said.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways Thiru. R. Velu urged the Chief Minister to allot 50 acres for the new division and share at least 50 percent of cost for converting the 273 km Villupuram Dindigul broadgauge into a double line.

"Bread would come only through rail, road and plane and not by any shouting of slogans like Inquilab Zindabad," he noted.

PMK leader Dr. S. Ramadoss said that Periyar's dream and several decade old dreams had been fulfilled only due to the efforts taken recently. Hon'ble Union Health Minister Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Thiru. Veerapandi S. Arumugam, CPI state Secretary Thiru. D. Pandian, CPM state Secretary Thiru. Varadarajan, Dalit Panthers of India leader Thiru. Thol Thirumavalavan, General Manager of Southern Railway, Thiru. Rakesh Chopra and Officer on Special Duty, Thiru. Bola Singh, were also present at the function.



## CHIEF MINISTER HANDS OVER APPOINTMENT ORDERS TO ENGINEERS



There were 569 vacancies for the post of Assistant Engineers. All these were filled through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission and the appointment orders given to as many persons at the function. Besides, services of 1,056 workers on daily wages were regularised and 52 persons appointed on compassionate grounds.

As many as 1,953 Assistant Engineers (AEs) were appointed to the Public Works Department (PWD) since 1972 during different spells of the present Government, Hon'ble Chief Minister K. J. Somasundaram said on 22, October 2007, while giving away appointment letters to recruits at function organised by the PWD.

Pointing out that totally 2,873 assistant engineers were recruited by the department in the last 35 years, he alluded to the previous regimes in the past had 15 AEs appointed in 10 years.

At the time of assumption of office by the present Government in May 2006, there

Referring to his Government's unemployment allowance scheme, the Chief Minister said it was being given to the youth as jobs could not be given immediately to them. Hon'ble Public Works and Law Minister Thiru Duraimurugan said construction of the Assembly complex and a modern State library building would be completed as scheduled.

He advised the recruits to work wherever they were posted.

Thiru L.K.Tripathy, Chief Secretary and Thiru S.Audiseshiah, Public Works Secretary were present.



Hon'ble Chief Minister K. J. Somasundaram requested the Centre to cover the cost of giving pension to destitute old people covered under old age

Scheme held on 19, November 2007, the Chief Minister said when it was launched in 1962. Rs.20 was given as

## Chief Minister launches INDIRA GANDHI OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME in Tamil Nadu

old age pension scheme in operation in the State. After the present Government came to power, this amount was enhanced. When they returned to power

Tamil Nadu pioneered the scheme in 1962, and the pension was revised to Rs.400 a month since August 2006. As many as 13.54 lakh senior citizens benefit from the scheme.

"In the Rs.400 [per person per month given] Rs.200 is our funds and Rs.200 is Central Government funds. If the Central Government gives the entire Rs.400 from its own funds it will be good. It will also help our finances," the Chief Minister said. Many schemes pioneered in Tamil Nadu had been praised and emulated at the national level.

Speaking at a function to mark the launch (in the State) of the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension



last time, the pension was raised to Rs.200 and on August 1, 2006, the amount was doubled.

Under the Indira Gandhi scheme, a better version of the National Old Age Pension Scheme, all persons over 65 and who are below poverty line are eligible for the amount. In the

State over 5.4 lakh people were given financial aid under the Old Age Pension Scheme, said Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister Dr.Poongothai Aladi Aruna. As many as 80,356 were granted pension for physically handicapped; 5.36 lakh received destitute women pension; 97,830 were given destitute agricultural labourers pension and 91,235 benefited by deserted wives pension.

The Minister said that according to a Central Government assessment

9.77 lakh persons could benefit from the scheme in the State. The State Government would take efforts to identify all those eligible and grant them pensions, she said.

The Chief Minister distributed pensions to senior citizens on the occasion.





## Chennai City Traffic Police get Patrol Vehicles from TVS

On 3, December 2007, TVS company handed over to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi 101 gleaming patrol motorcycles of international standards-fitted with warning lamps, a siren, a wireless microphone and a high power search lamp-as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility project.

"We took some time to put together the additional features," Thiru Venu Srinivasan (MD of TVS Motor Company) said when asked about the features and testing of the 150-cc motorcycles.

The warning lamps in the front are red and blue halogen lamps and it has a rotary halogen lamp hoisted at the rear of the vehicle.

The height of this lamp can be adjusted. The siren has three tones and can be adjusted for warning, overtaking or pursuit. All the electrical components are powered by two batteries on either side at the rear of the bike.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi has been encouraging corporate houses to come forward to augment the Government's help in various sectors. Just after

he came to power in 2006, when top bosses of Hyundai Motor Company met him and wanted to know what they could do for him, Chief Minister said he wanted world class patrol cars for the State police.

About six months ago, when Thiru Venu Srinivasan called on Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, part of the conversation was about the dearth of the right kind of patrol motorcycles with the city police. "I told him then that we could do something to help," Thiru.Venu Srinivasan said.

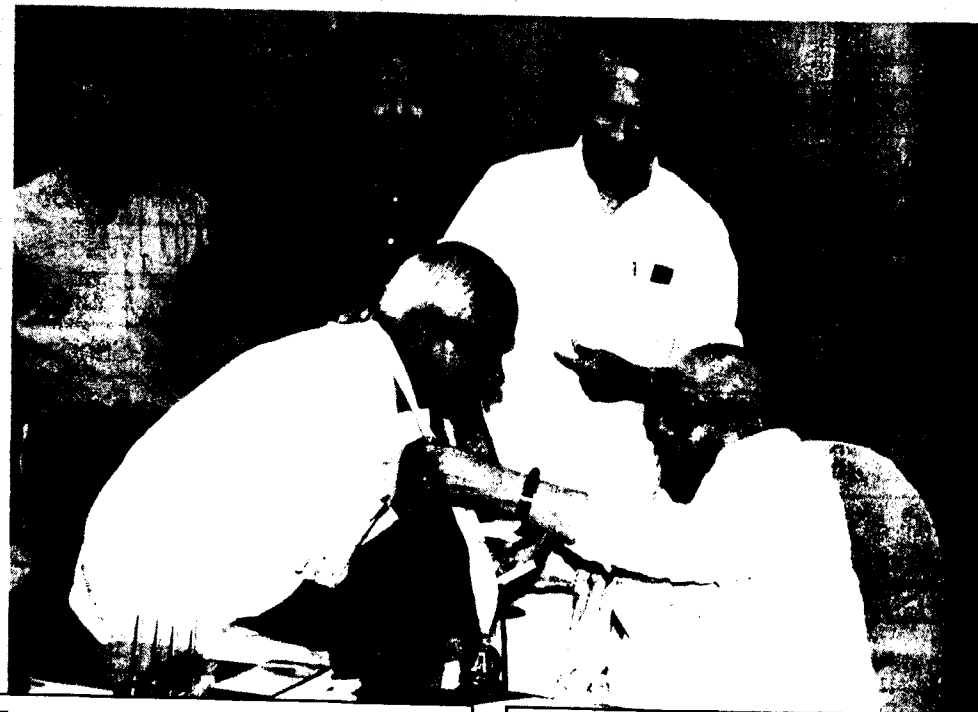
In his short speech at the ceremony where he was handed over the keys, Chief Minister said other corporate houses too should emulate the example of TVS Motors and come forward to augment the Government's efforts in various sectors.

## LIST OF HOLIDAYS FOR THE YEAR 2008

Under the "Explanation" to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (Central Act XXVI of 1881) read with Notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, No. 20-25-26, Public-1, dated the 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1957, the Government of Tamil - Nadu hereby declares, that in addition to "Sundays" expressly defined as Public Holidays in the said "Explanation" the following days shall be Public Holidays for the year 2008.

| Sl. No. | FESTIVAL                                                                       | DATE       | DAY       |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1.      | New Year's Day                                                                 | 01.01.2008 | Tuesday   |
| 2.      | Pongal                                                                         | 15.01.2008 | Tuesday   |
| 3.      | Thiruvalluvar Day                                                              | 16.01.2008 | Wednesday |
| 4.      | Uzhavar Thirunal                                                               | 17.01.2008 | Thursday  |
| 5.      | Muharram                                                                       | 20.01.2008 | Sunday    |
| 6.      | Republic Day                                                                   | 26.01.2008 | Saturday  |
| 7.      | Meelad-un-Nabi/Good Friday                                                     | 21.03.2008 | Friday    |
| 8.      | * Annual closing of accounts for Commercial Banks & Cooperative Banks          | 01.04.2008 | Tuesday   |
| 9.      | Telugu New Year's Day                                                          | 07.04.2008 | Monday    |
| 10.     | Tamil New Year's Day                                                           | 13.04.2008 | Sunday    |
| 11.     | Dr. B.R. Ambedhkar Birthday                                                    | 14.04.2008 | Monday    |
| 12.     | Mahaveer Jayanthi                                                              | 18.04.2008 | Friday    |
| 13.     | May Day                                                                        | 01.05.2008 | Thursday  |
| 14.     | Independence Day                                                               | 15.08.2008 | Friday    |
| 15.     | Krishna Jayanthi                                                               | 23.08.2008 | Saturday  |
| 16.     | Vinayakar Chathurthi                                                           | 03.09.2008 | Wednesday |
| 17.     | * Half yearly closing of Accounts for Commercial Banks and Co-operative Banks. | 30.09.2008 | Tuesday   |
| 18.     | Ramzan                                                                         | 01.10.2008 | Wednesday |
| 19.     | Gandhi Jayanthi                                                                | 02.10.2008 | Thursday  |
| 20.     | Ayutha Pooja                                                                   | 08.10.2008 | Wednesday |
| 21.     | Vijaya Dasami                                                                  | 09.10.2008 | Thursday  |
| 22.     | Deepavali                                                                      | 27.10.2008 | Monday    |
| 23.     | Bakrid                                                                         | 09.12.2008 | Tuesday   |
| 24.     | Christmas                                                                      | 25.12.2008 | Thursday  |

## Uthamar Gandhi Awards Presented to Panchayat Presidents



**H**on'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi presented Uthamar Gandhi awards to 22 Panchayat Presidents in the State at a function at the Secretariat on 10, October 2007.

Twenty-two leaders of Village Panchayats from different parts of the State, who came here to receive the Uthamar Gandhi Panchayat Award, were received warmly by the State Government's befitting their achievements.

The Panchayats were selected on the basis of overall performance, efforts taken

to improve over the last year and for innovative practices, from wind mills to bio-gas plants. While the Past Presidents got a gold medal and citation, the Present Presidents received Rs.5 lakh for the development of the Panchayat and a merit certificate.

"The award presentation ceremony we attended today was unlike any other function that takes place in a mechanical fashion. We were warmly received by the Chief Minister. The Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin hosted a tea in our honour. Today is a memorable day," said the 73 years old

Thiru N.O.V.S. Ramanathan, who was President of the Nallukottai panchayat in Sivaganga district for four decades.

Though Thiru. Ramanathan is not the Panchayat President now, he was given the award for his leadership during 2001-2006. Nallukottai was chosen for its emphasis on green cover, sanitation and water harvesting.

The 49 years old Tmt. Jesumary, serving her third consecutive term as President of Michaelpattinam in Ramanthapuram District, said the present administration was so receptive to the requirements of Panchayats that, the rural local bodies could function with great vigour.

Thiru.R. Shanmugam of Odanthurai in Coimbatore district, who became popular during his tenure (2001-2006) for innovative initiatives of harnessing new and renewable energy, felt that judicious spending of allocations by the Panchayat Presidents would make a big difference.

Thiru K. Viswanathan, President of Kattuputhur in Vellore District, lauded the Chief Minister and the Local Administration Minister for providing persons like him with a sense of recognition and fulfilment. The Panchayat leaders, including Thiru. Ramanathan and Tmt. Jesumary, were among the 22 representatives of the 15 Panchayats, which received the award for 2006-2007. The Department received nominations from the Collectors for 124 village panchayats. Of the 46 Panchayats short listed, 15 were finally chosen. A cash prize of Rs.5 lakh was given to every Panchayat.

Seven leaders, who held the post during 2001-2006, were given certificates and medals. In all, 22 were honoured.

The list of Panchayats forwarded by each district Collector was verified by a team, headed by an IAS officer, that took four months to visit all the villages and shortlist the winners.

The Panchayats, the District and the name of the Presidents, Past and Present, are as follows: Odanthurai, Coimbatore : Tmt. Lingammal, Thiru.R. Shanmugam; Thindal, Erode: Tmt. K.Manimekalai, Thiru. S.Kumarasamy; Michaelpattinam, Ramanathapuram: Thiru.S.J.Sesumary, Nallukottai, Sivaganga : Tmt.S.P. Rajeswari, Thiru. NOVS Ramanathan; Kattuputhur, Vellore : Thiru.K.Viswanathan, Tmt.A. Chandrika; Chinnanoor, Salem : Thiru. A.Sekar; Kizhthirupalaikudy, Thiruvavur: Thiru.T.M.Mathivanan.

Thikkangodu, Kanyakumari : Thiru. S.A.George; Valadi, Tiruchy: Thiru. S.Jeyachandran; Lakshmipuram, Theni : Thiru.VLK.Jeyapalan, B.Gananamani; Kadachanallur, Namakkal : Thiru.K.M.Muniappan; Pappanallur, Kancheepuram : Tmt.P.Karpagam; M.Kolakudi, Cuddalore : Thiru.K.Baburajan, Tmt. P.Kalaiarasi; Jakkampettai, Villupuram : Tmt.K.Kamsala, Thiru.K.Premkumar and K.Keeranur, Dindigul : A.M.Nattuthurai.

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru Stalin was present when the Chief Minister gave away the awards.

\* \* \*

Impressive performance of the women self help groups (SHGs) had helped the State to achieve massive economic growth, Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin said on 29, November 2007 at Chennai.

While distributing revolving funds to 100 men self help groups in the Chennai Corporation, Thiru.Stalin said that the state had experienced



a 10.26 percent growth during the last fiscal, which was ahead of the country's overall GDP. And this was mainly because of the contribution made by women SHGs.

During the last fiscal alone, Rs.10 crore was allotted for strengthening SHGs in the State and 2.43 lakh members were benefited. Their efforts had earned them Rs.13.48 crore towards savings, he said.

## REVOLVING FUND FOR MALE SELF HELP GROUPS DISTRIBUTED

As part of socio-economic development of youth, the state spent Rs.10,000 to each member towards their vocational training programme. About 5,000 members were benefited in the last two years and

Government also assured of them loan assistance from nationalised banks, the Hon'ble Minister stated.

More than 90 percent of the members of Men's Self-Help Groups (MSHG) in Chennai were able to find employment last year, added the Minister.

### Training

Community colleges started by the Corporation provided training in a dozen trades to the members, the Minister said. In order to help unemployed, graduates, the Government introduced doles for them.

During the last budget, Rs.10 crore was allocated for SHGs in the State.

At present, more than 16,275 MSHGs were functioning, which had a membership of nearly 2.43 lakh persons, Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K.Stalin said.

At present a total of 1,100 MSHGs were functioning in the city alone, said Chennai Mayor Thiru M.Subramanian. He also said that about 850 youths in Chennai were given vocational training in various fields. Similar support had helped 18,927 members to earn Rs.5.04 crore against their savings.

He also said that 90 percent of the students, who completed their six-month, vocational courses in the Corporation's community colleges have been employed in reputed private concerns.

The Mayor wanted the men self-help groups to avail of the Corporations's revolving funds to the optimum level for their development.

Commissioner Thiru Rajesh Lakhoni said that the Corporation provided revolving funds to 100 MSHGs and each group would get totally Rs.25,000, of which Rs.10,000 would be subsidy and the remaining amount loan.

Tmt.R.Sathyabama, Deputy Mayor, Thiru M.Jayaraman, Mylapore Zone Leader, Thiru P.Ravi Congress floor leader and Thiru N.Ramalingam, DMK floor leader participated.



Hon'ble Rural Development and Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K.Stalin handed over appointment orders to 60 Assistant Project Officers of the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Corporation and opened a training programme for them at a function at Chennai on 3, November 2007.

These officers are expected to provide all assistance to self help groups, right from group formation to quality evaluation and micro credit, says a release.

The appointments were made following demand by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department that the vacancies be filled up, Minister said.

He also exhorted the officials to strive towards implementing programmes like the Mahalir Thittam with commitment.

At the function a hand book on Self Help Group and Panchayat Level Federation designed and created by the Corporation was

## Training Programme at Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation

published by the Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration.

Rural Development Secretary Thiru Ashok Vardhan Shetty, Chairperson of the Corporation Tmt Susan Mathew, and Managing Director Thiru N.Muruganandam took part in the function.



## Greater devolution of powers to urban local bodies suggested

Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K. Stalin presented a Reports on devolution of powers to local bodies to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi at the Secretariat on 10, October 2007. The high-level committee has suggested greater devolution of powers to urban local bodies in different areas including administrative and technical sanctions for development works and layout approval.

College students and Graduate's Association of the Blind met Hon'ble Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi at the Secretariat on 1, October 2007. Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister Dr. Poongothai Aladi Aruna, the Chief Secretary,

There are over 200 graduates among the visually challenged in the State. Also, 200 BT teachers would be appointed from them after consulting the Education Department, the Government said.

## CHIEF MINISTER SYMPATHETIC TO THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Thiru L.K. Tripathy, the Social Welfare Secretary, the Finance Secretary and the Commissioner for the Disabled were present. The Chief Minister held discussions with the representatives and assured that the visually impaired students would be offered scholarships, exemption from tuition and examination fees, and provision of 30 minutes extra for writing their examinations. Also, the reservation of five seats in the seven government B Ed colleges, lapsing this academic year, would be extended till 2011.

They were also assured that two percent posts would be reserved for them during recruitment of teachers.

The Chief Minister told the representatives that the demand for two per cent reservation in graduate teachers' vacancies

would be considered after consulting with the school Education department.

Travel concession in government buses across the State would also be considered on 75% waiver; bus passes after consultation with the Transport department. The State Government agreed to consider the other demands after scrutiny in a phased manner.

After the meeting, Thiru R. Muniappan ASGAB President thanked the Chief Minister for considering their demands favourably. He said the Chief Minister had agreed to look in to other demands in a month.

The newly- created Ariyalur district will be provided all infrastructure facilities needed for its socio-economic and industrial development, Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration and Rural Development Thiru M.K. Stalin announced on 23, Nov 2007.

Speaking after inaugurating the district, carved out of Perambalur district, he said that the scope for industrial development of Ariyalur was high, as the timing of the bifurcation coincided with the execution of the much-delayed Jayamkondam Lignite Power Project.

The State Government would spare no effort to ensure the overall development of the district, he added.

The bifurcation of Perambalur district was yet another achievement of the Government in keeping with its poll promises, the Minister said. The introduction of a tender system under the free colour TV scheme had resulted in a saving of Rs.163 crore, he said.

Hon'ble Minister distributed assistance to the tune of Rs.2.66 crore to 5,000 beneficiaries and inaugurated new buses on 10 routes from Ariyalur.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Information Technology and Communications Thiru.A.Raja sought the co-operation of land owners in and around Jayamkondam for the expeditious take over of the land for the project.

Around 300 acres out of the total 3,500 acres for the Perambalur Special Economic

## ARIYALUR DISTRICT INAUGURATED

Honble Local Administration Minister  
Inaugurate  
New District on 23, November 2007



Zone had been acquired, The remaining land would also be acquired through an amicable settlement with land owners within the next six months, he said.

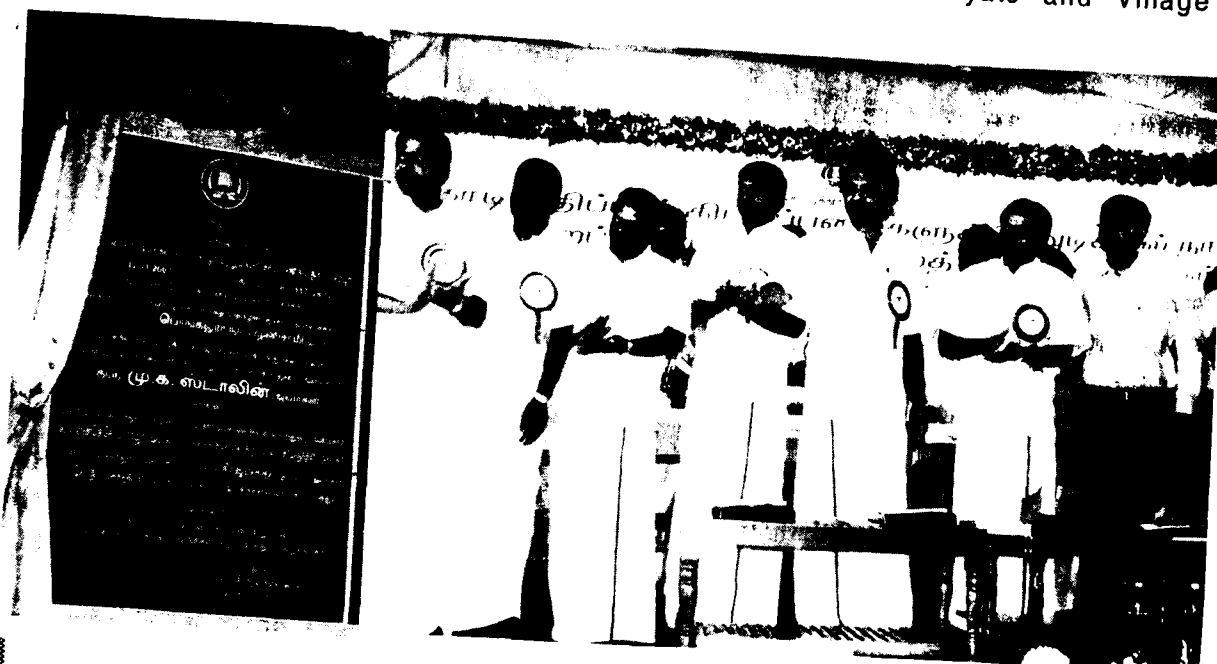
Hon'ble Revenue Minister Thiru. I.Periasamy, Hon'ble Transport Minister Thiru K.N.Nehru, Hon'ble Forest Minister Thiru N.Selvaraj, MLAs Thiru.D.Amara-moorthy and Thiru S.S.Shivashankar, Special Commissioner for Revenue Administration Thiru Shakthikanta Das, , Thiru Ambuj Sharma, Revenue Secretary, Thiru V.M.Xavier Chrissio Nayagam, Collector, Ariyalur, and Thiru Anil Meshram, Collector, Perambalur, spoke.

**T**he Government is taking steps to tackle the problem of staff shortage in local bodies, Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Thiru M.K.Stalin said at Coimbatore on 12, October 2007.

Launching the Coimbatore Corporation's Rs. 377 crore underground drainage scheme to be implemented under the

## Rs.377 crore Underground Drainage Scheme for Coimbatore

lack of adequate staff caused to Corporations, Municipalities, Town Panchayats and Village



Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, he said: "This problem is not restricted to my Ministry every department in all the other ministries also faces staff shortage. The Government is taking efforts to fill the vacancies." Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Thiru M.K.Stalin said he understood the problems

Panchayats. It was caused by the ban on recruitment, including those on compassionate grounds, imposed by the previous regime.

Conceding that development works suffered, he said: "I know that we have not filled all the vacancies. But we have filled many in the last one-and-a-half years after lifting the ban. I assure you that we will fill all vacancies very soon."

The Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration handed over appointment orders to 50 persons recruited by the Corporation. Subsidised loans worth Rs 50 lakhs to 200 women under the Urban Employment Scheme to start industries were also given away. He said the needs of all local bodies were being examined. Periodical discussions were being held with the heads of the local bodies and the authorities concerned at the Government level to assess the needs.

The officials in the Corporation, the contractors and the public have a collective responsibility to ensure the completion of the works on schedule.

Stressing that there should be no room for irregularities, the Minister pointed out that the UGD scheme would benefit the entire city having a population of 10 lakh.

Responding to queries by Thiru K.Subbarayan, MP, the Minister said that all the Corporations in the state were facing the problem of shortage of workers.

Though 766 sanitary workers were appointed in Coimbatore Corporation the figure was still inadequate to cope with the growing population, he said and added that steps would be taken to appoint more workers.

Agreeing with the MP's statement that many Panchayats do not have sufficient revenues even to meet the electricity bill, Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Thiru M.K.Stalin said that the Government had reduced the

electricity tariff after holding a meeting with the Presidents of 618 village Panchayats, months ago. Still further reduction is required, the matter is under consideration, he said.

The Minister recalled that the Government had waived the debts of civic bodies in the state to the tune of Rs 760 crore. Coimbatore district was one of the major beneficiaries as loans to the tune of Rs 112.68 crore was waived. He further said that 30 lakh colour televisions would be distributed to eligible families in the third phase soon. If necessary, more TVs would be ordered for distribution in the fourth phase.

Replying to Hon'ble Rural Industries Minister Pongalur Thiru N.Palanisamy's suggestion to create Great Coimbatore Development Authority on the lines of Bangalore and Bombay Development Authorities, Thiru M.K.Stalin said "we will take up such matters with Chief Minister before deciding on it."

Coimbatore Mayor Thiru R.Venkatachalam urged Hon'ble Rural Development and Local Administration Minister to take action to regularise the sites which were declared as surplus land under Urban Land Ceiling Act in the city.

Thiru Subbarayan, MP also urged the Local Administration Minister to amend the rules regularising only the layouts having a very broad road of about 16 feet.

District Collector Thiru Neeraj Mittal said that infrastructure would be developed in the city at Rs 3,200 crore under the JNNURM.

Hon'ble Khadi Board Minister Thiru N.Ramachandran and Hon'ble Highways Minister Thiru M.P.Saminathan also participated. ❖



## TWO PREMIER COLLEGES TO BECOME VARSITIES

**T**he Queen Mary's College alone will need 87 new class rooms, which will be constructed at a cost of Rs 2.5 crore. An additional Rs 50 lakh will be allotted for the repair of old buildings on the campus" announced Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin.

The Minister was addressing a function to lay the foundation stone for the Dr.Kalaingar Block at Queen Mary's College on 11th October, 2007.

Hon'ble Higher Education Minister Dr.K.Ponmudiy said that it was estimated that the country would need around 1,500 universities to meet the challenge of improving the quality of higher education. More colleges would be made into universities soon.

Two grand old institutions of higher education in the State will soon be accorded a honour that has been more than a century in the making - Queen Mary's College and Presidency College will become universities. Both colleges will also receive substantial grants from the State Government for augmenting infrastructure and setting up additional facilities.

They will be the first among many colleges in Tamil Nadu that will be elevated as universities.

The elevation is in continuance of the grant of autonomy to both institutions. For Queen Mary's College, especially, the promise of better infrastructure comes as a welcome relief as the nearly 90-years-old institutions is housed in buildings badly in need of repair.

### Heritage building

It was the heritage status of this building, which was built in 1800 and housed the first women's college of the then Madras Presidency.

The Dr.Kalaingar Block will be in harmony with the heritage architecture of other buildings on the campus. To be completed in a year, it will be a two-storey structure with a library, administrative offices, a conference hall and classrooms.

### Women Empowerment

The State Government is committed to the empowerment of women, Thiru Stalin said. The number of women representatives in local bodies had exceeded the 33 percent mandated by the State Government. Out of the 13,751 panchayat leaders, for example, 5,427 were women (nearly 40 per cent).

Higher Education Secretary Thiru. K. Ganesan, Director of Collegiate Education Tmt. Nalini Ravindran and College Principal Tmt. Eugene Pinto were present.

## Montessori Teaching Launched

**H**on'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K.Stalin said that Montessori teaching programmes will be introduced in Kindergarden classes in Chennai Corporation schools to help children enjoy their lessons better.

On 10, October 2007, he inaugurated a Montessori teaching programme at two Corporation schools. The programme would be extended to 28 other schools within a year.

The Thideer Nagar Corporation Middle School, Saidapet, and New Market Farm Middle School, Tondiarpet, are the first to start the programme. Play equipment worth Rs.12 lakh has been bought for the schools.

In the first phase, six teachers have been trained with assistance from UNICEF. In the second phase, Rs.2 crore would be spent on educational equipment and Rs 25 lakh on training 96 teachers, the Minister said.

The programme's focus would be on interactive learning said Mayor Thiru.M.Subramanian.

A park on Gandhi Irwin Bridge Road would be developed at a cost of Rs 40 crore. The Mayor said that several other projects are under way in the constituency.

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## NEW URBAN PROJECTS DRAWN UP

The State Government has drawn up fresh projects worth Rs 1437.93 crore for taking up works in urban areas under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Thiru.M.K.Stalin, who reviewed the proposals on 20, November 2007, said that the proposals would be sent to the Central Government for its approval and funding.

### Projects

Among the projects that would be sent to the Centre include the Nerkundram Village Panchyat

drinking water scheme, the Avadi sewage network scheme, provision for continuous water availability at the Valluvar Kottam filling point in the city and improvements to the Chennai storm water drains and waterways network.

As many as 47,513 houses are expected to be constructed under the scheme.

Among the proposals approved to be sent to the Central Government were schemes worth Rs 137.44 crore in Chennai city, Rs 235.9 crore in Coimbatore and Rs 195.45 crore in Madurai.

## WORLD CHESS CHAMPION HONoured BY CHIEF MINISTER

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi handed over a cheque for Rs 25 lakh to World Chess Champion Grandmaster Thiru Viswanathan Anand at the Secretariat here on 24, October 2007.

A press release said that Anand, having won the title for a second time, had brought glory to India and Tamil Nadu. On learning about the victory, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi had immediately announced the reward of Rs 25 lakh.

When Anand won the world title for the first time in 2000, the State had felicitated him and allotted him a high income group apartment in the SAF Games Village in Koyambedu.

Hon'ble Ministers Thiru Arcot N.Veerarwami, Thiru M.K.Stalin, Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, Thiru T.P.M.Mohideen Khan, Thiru Suresh Rajan, Thiru K.P.P.Samy, Thiru U.Mathivanan and



Chief Secretary Thiru L.K.Tripathy were among those present on the occasion.



## 34 lakh colour TV sets to be distributed in third phase

Speaking at a function held by the Chennai Corporation on 3, December 2007 at Thousand Lights in Chennai, Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru M.K.Stalin said that tenders have been floated for the third phase of the free colour television scheme to acquire 34 lakh more television sets at a cost of Rs.750 crore.

The Minister said that this scheme started by the Hon'ble Chief Minister last year was being carried out at a rapid pace. The Government had so far distributed more than 21 lakh television sets across the State, costing about Rs.700 crores, he said.

The Government had saved Rs.163 crore in the tender process, which would be used to get 4.25 lakh more television sets, the Minister added. Sets across the State, costing about Rs.700 crores, he said.

The Government had saved Rs.163 crore in the tender process, which would be used to get 4.25 lakh more television sets, the Minister added.



**Prof.K. Anbazhagan**  
Minister for Finance  
Thiruvottiur - Thiruvallur District



**Thiru M.K. Stalin**  
Hon'ble Local Administration Minister  
and Tmt. P.Geetha Jeevan  
Minister for Animal Husbandry  
Vasavapuram, Thoothukudi District



**Dr. K. Ponmudy**  
Minister for Higher Education, Mines and Minerals  
Thiruvannainallur - Villupuram District



**Thiru I. Periasamy**  
Minister for Revenue and Housing  
Manalur - Dindigul District



**Thiru Arcot N. Veeraswami**  
Minister for Electricity  
Chidambaram - Cuddalore District



**Thiru Ko.Si. Mani**  
Minister for Co-operation  
Thiruvaiyaru - Thanjavur District



**Thiru K.N.Nehru**  
Minister for Transport  
Valanadu - Trichy District



**Thiru N. Suresh Rajan**  
Minister for Tourism and Registration  
Nallivillai - Kanniyakumari District

Elaborating on the scheme, the Minister said that the Government had proposed to distribute about 1.40 lakh television sets in all the 14 constituencies of the city, so that every constituency received about 10,000 sets. So far the City Corporation and District Administration have distributed as many as 76,661 television sets to Chennaites, Hon'ble Minister said.

Hon'ble Minister Thiru Stalin said that the process of distributing free television sets would continue in other constituencies as per schedule. Colour televisions were distributed simultaneously in all the districts along with gas stoves with Gas connection by Cabinet Ministers who attended functions at their respective districts allotted to them as per schedule.

Worshipful Mayor Thiru M.Subramanian, Corporation Commissioner Thiru Rajesh Lakhoni and senior Corporation officials took part in the programme.



**Thiru Veerapandi S. Arumugam**  
Minister for Agriculture  
Bethanaickenpalayam - Salem District



**Thiru M.R.K. Paneerselvam**  
Minister for Health  
Kulathur - Perambalur District



**Thiru E.V. Velu**  
Minister for Food  
Vettavalam - Thiruvannamalai District



**Thiru Duraimurugan**  
Minister for Public Works and Law  
Pazhaiapalayam - Vellore District



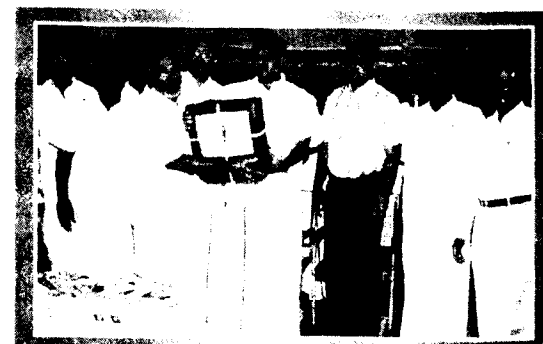
**Thiru Pongalur N. Palanisamy**  
Minister for Rural Industries  
Chinnavedampatty - Coimbatore District



**Thiru Suba Thangavelan**  
Minister for Slum Clearance  
Koravalli - Ramanathapuram District



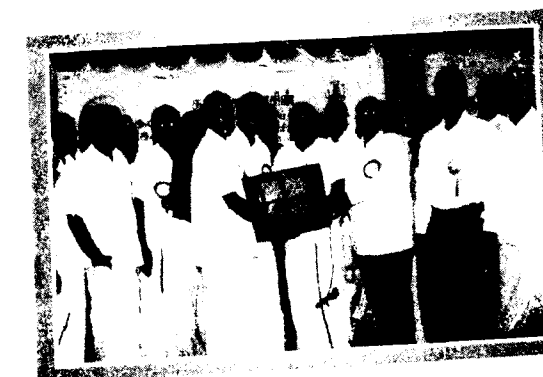
**Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi**  
Minister for Information  
Nedungur - Karur District



**Thiru NKK.P. Raaja**  
Minister for Handlooms Voothiyur -  
Erode District



**Thiru N. Selvaraj**  
Minister for Forests  
Pottaveli - Ariyalur District



**Thiru K.P.P. Samy**  
Minister for Fisheries  
Arandangi - Pudukottai District



**Thiru K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran**  
Minister for Backward Classes  
Muthandipuram - Virudhunagar District



**Thiru Thangam Thenarasu**  
Minister for School Education  
Kaveripattinam - Krishnagiri District



**Thiru Vellakoil M.P. Saminathan**  
Minister for Highways  
Punganur - Nagapattinam District



**Thiru U. Mathivanan**  
Minister for Dairy Development  
Kizhthirupalakudi - Thiruvannamalai District



**Thiru T.M. Anbarasan**  
Minister for Labour  
Pallavaram - Kancheepuram District



**Thiru S.N.M. Ubayadullah**  
Minister for Commercial Taxes  
Acharahalli - Dharmapuri District



**Dr.(Tmt.)Poongothai**  
Minister for Social Welfare  
Piranur - Thirunelveli District



**Thiru K. Ramachandhiran**  
Minister for Khadi  
Udhagamandalam - The Nilgiris District



**Thiru KR.Periakaruppan**  
Minister for Hindu Religious and  
Charitable Endowments Mitravayal - Sivagangai District



**Thiru T.P.M. Mohideen Khan**  
Minister for Environment  
Kilavadukarai - Theni District



**Tmt.A. Tamilarasi**  
Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare  
Nedumadurai - Madurai District



**Thiru V.P. Duraisamy**  
Deputy Speaker  
O. Pattuudaiyanpalayam - (Namakkal District)

## MINISTER PORTFOLIOS CHANGED

On the advice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the subjects of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities, Indian Overseas, Refugees and Evacuees hitherto held by Thiru M.R.K. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes are reallocated to Thiru K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, Hon'ble Minister for Health. The subjects Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare hitherto held by Thiru K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, Hon'ble Minister for Health are reallocated to Thiru M.R.K. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes. The subjects of Registration and Stamp Act hitherto held by Thiru M.R.K. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes is reallocated to Thiru N. Suresh Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism in addition to the subjects held by him.

Consequently, Thiru M.R.K. Panneerselvam is redesignated as Hon'ble Minister for Health, Thiru K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran is redesignated as Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes and Thiru N. Suresh Rajan is redesignated as Hon'ble Minister for Tourism and Registration.

### TTDC hands over Government's share of profit

Hon'ble Minister for Tourism and Registration Thiru N.Suresh Rajan on 12, November 2007 presented a cheque for Rs.1.71 crore to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M.Karunanidhi towards the Government's share of profit earned by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation. The Corporation remitted 50 percent of the profit as against 75 percent earlier and made the payment in one instalment.

### TAMIN presents Government's share of profit

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Mines and Minerals Thiru K.Ponmudy on 12, November 2007 presented a cheque for Rs. 14.94 crore to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi towards the Tamil Nadu Minerals Limited's payment of lease for poromboke lands and the Government's share in its profit.

## Youth should be sensitised to take care of elders

Hon'ble Minister for Finance  
Prof. K. ANBAZHAGAN



Awareness meetings should be held in every district, he opened.

The Minister handed over the Award for the best social worker serving senior citizens to Dr.V.S.Natarajan, senior Geriatrician. Five elderly women aged over 100 years- Tmt. Saraswathi Ammal, Tmt. Lakshmi Ammal, Tmt. Jagadambal, Tmt. Meenakshi and Tmt. Sanjeevi Ammal-were honoured on the occasion.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Prof. K.Anbazhagan on 1, October 2007 called for greater awareness of issues relating to senior citizens and the need for the youth to take care of the elders. The youth should be sensitised to the need for taking care of the elders in their family.

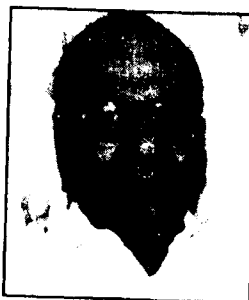
Speaking at the World Elders Day function organised by the Department of Social Welfare on 2, October 2007 Hon'ble Minister Prof.Anbazhagan said spreading awareness was an essential task of government and non-governmental agencies.

Dr.Natarajan, recipient of the B.C.Roy Award, was responsible for starting the first geriatric ward at the Government General Hospital at Chennai. Dr.Natarajan urged the government to start one geriatric ward in every government hospital. ID cards should be provided to elders and an insurance scheme introduced for them. He also urged the government to give senior citizens drugs at concessional prices.

Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister Dr.Poongothai Aladi Aruna said the Government made a budgetary allocation for building a senior citizens' home in every district this year. While it was worrisome that the joint family system was disintegrating, the changes brought about by globalisation and privatisation put a huge burden on the youth. Dr.Poongothai joined Prof.Anbazhagan in distributing aids and appliances to select senior citizens.

## Four minor ports coming up

The State Government proposes to construct four new minor ports at Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Marakkanam and Tuticorin, the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Thiru Arcot N. Veeraswami, has said.



Distributing land documents to beneficiaries under the 5th phase of free land scheme near Watrap in Virudhunagar district on 12, October 2007 said that the ports would support the Government's proposal to set up power plants to produce an additional 30,000 megawatt.

A total of Rs. 1.20-crore investment would come for the sector from foreign and domestic private players. Besides, it would create employment opportunity for 60,000 people, the Minister said.

Tamil Nadu was the only State that had achieved self-sufficiency in power sector, the Minister said, adding that the State was selling 1,500 mw of electricity to Maharashtra and Punjab. Besides, the State had the distinction of having covered all villages with electricity though 1.25 lakh villages in the country were yet to have the facility.

"Even remote habitats in hilly regions have been given solar power supply," the Minister said.

The Minister told reporters that frequent power cuts faced across the State were due to technical problems faced at two units in Neyveli and one each at North Chennai and Tuticorin. "It will be set right in a day or two," he said.

The Minister distributed benefits worth Rs.3.94crore to 2,487 persons.

## MINI ANGANWADIS FORMED

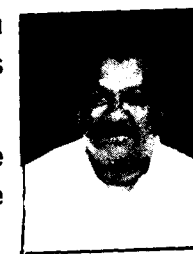
Pursuant to the Supreme Court's directive to establish mini Anganwadis in all parts of the country with a minimum population of 400 people, the Tamil Nadu Government has decided to create 4,800 such centres in the State.



At Tirunelveli on 12, October 2007 to mark the inauguration of Anganwadi, the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Dr. Poongothai Aladi Aruna, said that 45,000-odd Anganwadis had been formed in Tamil Nadu with the objective of increasing the learning capacity of children, particularly those from poor families, by providing nutritious diet to them. Moreover, it would effectively prevent dropouts.

## INTEGRATED TEXTILE PARK AT VADIPATTI

Sixty acres of land had been allotted at Vadipatti to establish an integrated textile park, said Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms and Textiles Thiru NKK.P. Raaja in Madurai on 13, October 2007.



Addressing press persons, the Minister said that the park would come up at a cost of more than Rs.250 crore of which 40 per cent would be sanctioned as Central Government subsidy.

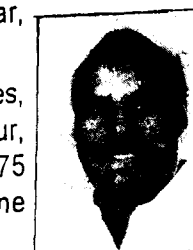
Madurai Textile Park would be one among the 13 parks to be established in the State, he said and the proposed integrated park would have an apparel export park, weavers hi-tech park and weavers' park.

Briefing about the free power supply for weavers, the Minister said that out of two lakh applicants as many as 1.75 lakh people benefited from the free power supply that provided 100 units for a handloom and 500 units for a powerloom for every two months.

The Minister said that the Government had extended its health and life insurance scheme even to private weavers.

## 16.5 LAKH TONNES OF PADDY TO BE PROCURED

It is planned to procure 16.5 lakh tonnes of samba paddy this year, according to Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru E. V. Velu.



He told reporters in Thanjavur on October 11 that out of 16.5 lakh tonnes, it was estimated that 13.5 lakh tonnes could be procured from Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts. This year, farmers would get Rs. 75 more per quintal of paddy. The price would be Rs. 725 a quintal for fine variety and Rs. 695 for common variety.

Samba procurement is expected to start from December this year and will reach the peak in January. It is planned to open 1,450 Direct Purchase Centres for procuring samba paddy. Last year 1,200 DPCs functioned.

Taking into consideration heavy arrivals of paddy at some centres last year, which forced officials to extend operations till late in the night, it has been decided to open two centres at places where the procurement was 2,000 tonnes a day.

The amount given for purchasing paddy at a DPC will be increased to Rs. 6 lakh from Rs 3 lakh. This will help in procuring more paddy. Sixty cap storages will be opened in the delta to store paddy besides moving 10,000 tonnes of paddy through rail and 15,000 tonnes by lorries a day.

To help farmers find out the exact weight paddy sold, electronic weighing machines will function at the DPCs. A total of 1,100 electronic weighing machines have been procured by the Government.

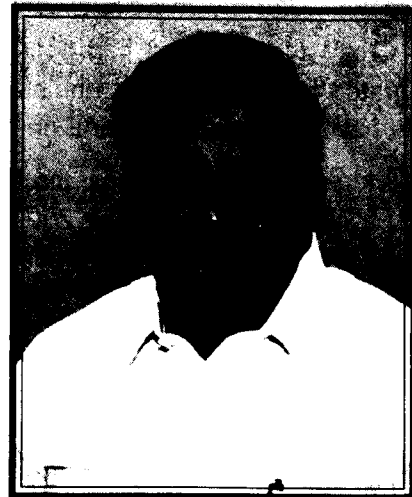
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance Thiru S.S. Palanimanickam, Hon'ble Commercial Taxes Minister Thiru S.N.M. Ubayathullah and Hon'ble Dairy Development Minister Thiru U. Mathivanan were among those who attended the meeting.

**H**on'ble Transport Minister Thiru K.N.Nehru on 3, December 2007 announced at Chennai that the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) would be introducing 325 new services by January 2008 first week. The existing services of MTC numbered 2,775, the Minister said.

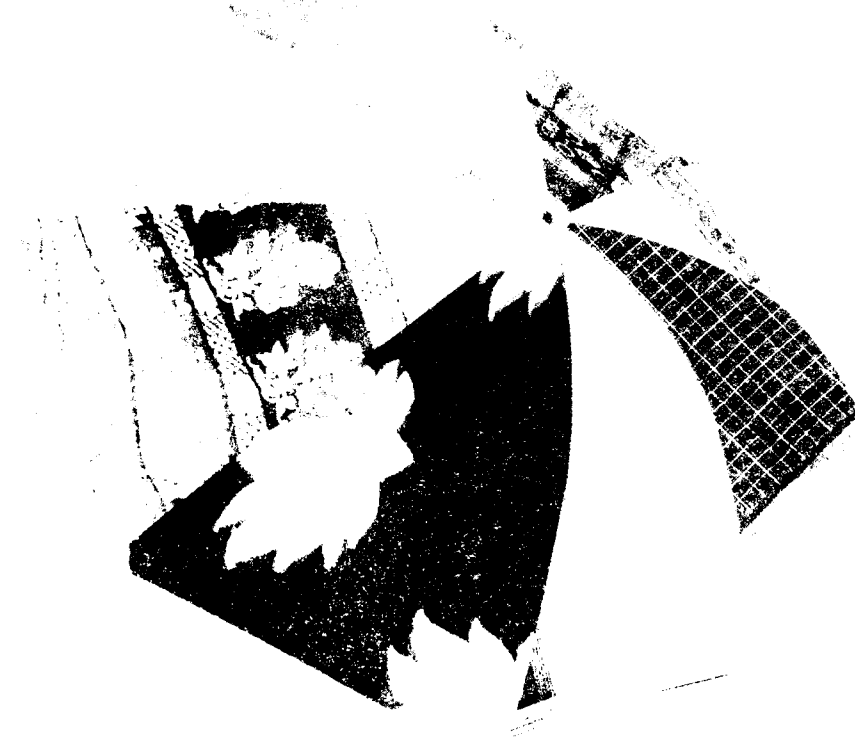
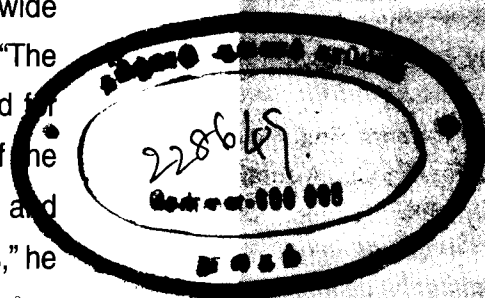
He announced this at a public consultation organised by the MTC, in which hundreds of commuters and representatives of their associations participated. On the consultation process, the Hon'ble Minister said, "We value the people's input in deciding on useful routes; this is why we decided to organise a meeting of this scale". He said that the State Government had undertaken various studies to ascertain the number of routes and bus services a city like Chennai needed. Academics were consulted and extensive research was conducted for the purpose.

Transport Secretary Thiru Debendranath Sarangi said the meeting was also to obtain feedback on the new bus services and routes. He said the MTC had increased the fleet strength recently and also introduced luxury services. Plans are under way to add 500 buses soon.

Chennai Mayor Thiru M.Subramanian said that it was for the first time that such a wide consultation was being conducted by MTC. "The city is developing rapidly and there is need for modern transport facilities. The quality of the buses and related facilities are improving and becoming on par with the developed nations," he said.



## 325 New MTC Services from January, 2008



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