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INDEPENDENCE DAY

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உறுபசியும் ஓவாப் பிணியும் செறுபகையும்
சேரா தியல்வது நாடு.

A Kingdom is that which continues to be free
from excessive starvation, irremediable
epidemics and destructive foes.

Thirukkural : 734

First Wrapper : Perarignar Anna
(Birth Centenary 15.9.1909 - 15.9.2009)

Second Wrapper : Hon'ble Chief Minister hoisted the
National Flag on the occasion of the
Independence Day Celebrations
at Secretariat (15.08.2008)

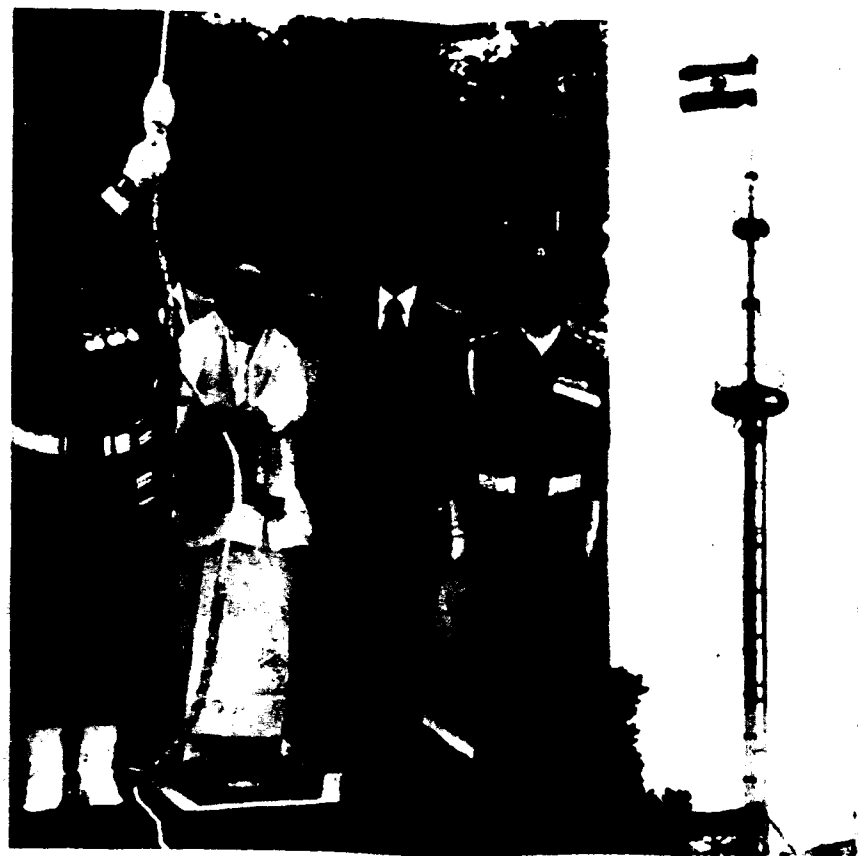
Fourth Wrapper : Hon'ble Chief Minister
inaugurated the
distribution of rice at Rs.1 per kg
through PDS shops in commemoration of
Perarignar Anna's Birth Centenary (15.9.2008)



Independence Day Celebration - 2008

Pay Scale Increase for Government Staff

- Address of Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi



I am delighted to hoist the National Flag for the 12th time on this Independence Day on the ramparts of this Fort, with a great sense of achievement as a person who voiced the demand and secured the right of hoisting the National Flag to the Chief Ministers of the States elected by the people.

When I see you all gathered in large numbers in front of this Fort, I recall Aarya alias Bashyam, who was imprisoned for scaling the ramparts of this Fort to bring down the Union Jack and hoist our national flag and stands immortalized as a statue unveiled by our Government, at the entrance of the Martyrs Memorial Hall in Guindy.



waged a heroic war and his ardent follower Muthuramalinga Thevar, the shining star of the South! The eminent scholar Rajaji! Thanthai Periyar! The Great Leader Kamarajar! National Poet Bharathiyar and Namakkal Kavignar!

With gratitude, I pay my tribute to all such martyrs and freedom fighters, on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu.

In the backdrop of my memory of unveiling the life size bronze statue of Shenbagaraman recently on 17.07.2008, at the Martyrs Memorial Hall, Guindy, and recalling the valour of this great hero, who joined the German Navy and sailed to Chennai in the German Warship Emden and bombarded this Fort; I reminisce the countless martyrs and freedom fighters who have fought to drive away the foreign rulers from this Fort.

Veerapandia Kattabomman, who kissed the gallows after a valiant fight against the Britishers! Sundaralingam, an epitome of sacrifice! Maruthu Pandiar Brothers! Dauntless Chinnamalai! Pooli Thevan of Nerkattum Seval! the Lion-hearted Alagu Muthukkone! Velu Nachiyar of Sivagangai! Chidambaranar, the first Tamil to ride on the high seas, who toiled in the prison yoked to the oil press! Tiruppur Kumaran, who made the supreme sacrifice in defending the Flag! The valiant martyr Viswanatha Das! Thillayadi Valliyammai, the brave Tamil Woman whose sacrifices earned accolades from Gandhiji, who devised a new non-violent strategy "Sathyagraha" to drive away the British in the war of Independence! Bhagat Singh, the paragon of fearless youth and the lion of rationalism! Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose who

This year marks the commencement of the Birth Centenary Celebrations of the greatest Scholar Arignar Anna, who once mentioned that though 15th August 1947, Independence Day, was celebrated as the day on which we settled the accounts with the British, today we celebrate it as a day to review the balance sheet of our achievements!

The Government of Tamil Nadu have set objectives of ensuring sustainable growth with social justice, protection of people's livelihood, enhancing the standard of life of people in rural and urban areas as the significant targets of this XI Five Year Plan.

In tune with these objectives, for the past two years, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Government have been implementing various result oriented schemes to promote faster growth in Agriculture, Industries and Service Sectors.

The level of food grains production in Tamil Nadu has registered a change and has increased from 60 lakh tonnes in 2006 to 100 lakh tonnes in 2008.

The Union Government has announced an annual target of 4% growth for agriculture sector during the XI Five Year Plan period.

By implementing the following strategies, viz; Waiver of agricultural loans to the tune of Rs.7000 crores - reduction of interest from 9% to 4% for co-operative crop loans - revival of 103 Uzhavar Sandhais - establishment of 50 new Uzhavar Sandhais - grant of pattas to 1,61,329 landless and poor agricultural labourers free of cost - issue of free house site pattas to 5,40,421 poor families - sanction of 50% subsidy in the premium paid to facilitate the 25 lakh farmers to adopt crop insurance scheme - grant of financial assistance to 2,84,000 agricultural families in the last 27 months to the tune of Rs.160 crores under the Agricultural Labourers and Farmers Security Scheme - formation of 10,000 Self Help Groups with 10 farmers per group and extending all financial assistance to them to adopt modern techniques and loan assistance to small and marginal farmers as a pilot scheme in India and increasing the procurement price of paddy to Rs. 1050 per quintal.

By extending such concessions to the farmers, unparalleled in the annals of history, the Agricultural Sector in Tamil Nadu has registered a momentous achievement of 6.5% growth during 2007-2008, surpassing the All India average of 2.6% growth.

With the avowed objective of augmenting industrial growth and creating more employment

opportunities in Tamil Nadu, after this Government came to power, 19 MoUs have been signed for major industrial projects with a total investment of Rs.25,683 crores with an employment potential of 1,74,000 jobs. So far 6 projects have commenced their production and works are going on in full swing in respect of another 10 projects.

The software exports through IT sector have increased to Rs.28,295 crores in 2007-2008 from Rs. 14,400 crores in 2005-2006. Besides, this has created employment opportunities for lakhs of youth.

By lifting the ban on recruitment imposed by the previous regime, employment opportunities



have been provided to about 3 lakh youth in various departments of the Government.

In addition to the distribution of rice at Rs.2/- per kg, with a view to keeping the price under control, a special scheme is being implemented for the distribution of commodities like red-gram, black gram, palm oil, maida and sooji through fair price shops.

In order to create a situation where there are no families without a colour T.V., it has been ordered to distribute free colour T.V. sets to 62,80,000 families at a cost of Rs.1517,87,50,000 and it has been planned to distribute 40 lakh more colour TV sets this year and the distribution is underway.

Free LPG stoves with free gas connections were given to 11 lakh families at a cost of Rs.220 crore and steps are on to distribute an additional 8 lakh



free LPG gas stoves with connections to poor women at a cost of Rs.160 crore.

Welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.239 crore has been distributed to 5,82,774 families of the unorganized labourers through 24 Welfare Boards, including the Welfare Boards for the transgendered and the sanitary workers.

A New scheme has been launched for providing financial assistance of Rs.400/-per month to poor unmarried women, who have crossed fifty years of age and are not able to earn their livelihood.

In addition to the existing 145 Samathuvapurams in Tamil Nadu, works are

on for the construction of 95 new Samathuvapurams with statues of Periyar.

The following schemes are being effectively implemented for the benefit of the poor :-

- Marriage assistance of Rs.20,000/-to the poor girls under the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Scheme.
- Assistance of Rs.6,000/- to the poor pregnant women.
- Varumun Kappom Thittam.
- Free electricity to Weavers, as is being given to farmers.
- Financial assistance to the educated unemployed youth.

In addition to the 6,500 new buses put in to service, steps have been taken to purchase additional 3,500 new buses.

On account of these measures, the percentage of families living below the poverty line (BPL) in Tamil Nadu is declining considerably.

This Government has launched a mega project fully funded by the State Government called 'Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam', with an outlay of Rs.2,524 crores to provide all basic amenities on par with urban areas, to all the 12,618 village panchayats at the rate of Rs.20 lakh per village panchayat, which is unprecedented in the history of this State.

Similarly works under Anna Marumalarchi Thittam are also implemented in the Town Panchayats by our Government.

The execution of Ramanathapuram Combined Water Supply Scheme, the largest among all water supply schemes implemented so far and designed

to benefit the people of Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai and Pudukottai Districts at a cost of Rs.616 crores, is expected to be completed by April, 2009.

The foundation stone has been laid on 6.2.2008 for Hogenakkal Combined Water Supply Scheme to benefit Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts, at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,334 crores and necessary follow up measures are under way.

With a view to permanently solving the drinking water problems of Chennai City, sea water desalination projects have been taken up at Minjur and Nemmeli near Chennai.

Along with the Nutritious Noon Meal, 3 eggs are also given to the children every week and banana fruit is distributed to those who do not eat egg, in order to give impetus to education.

100% enrolment of children has been achieved in the case of Elementary Schools. Measures have been initiated to attain universalisation of Secondary Education in the next 5 years.

As far as Higher Education is concerned, entrance examination for professional courses has been dispensed with.

Payment of tuition fee in Government Colleges, Government aided Arts and Science Colleges and Polytechnics has been abolished.

Six new Government Arts and Science Colleges have been established in Mettur, Valparai, Perambalur, Orathanadu, Surandai and Kulithalai; and six new Government Engineering Colleges are being started in Villupuram, Panruti,

Tindivanam, Thirukkuvalai, Ramanathapuram and Ariyalur.

Five Government Medical Colleges will start functioning at Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Tiruvarur, Sivagangai and Perambalur.



Three new Anna Universities at Trichy, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli and an exclusive University for Teachers' Education have been established.

The Union Government have permitted establishment of a Central University at Tiruvarur, a World Class University at Coimbatore and an Indian Institute of Management at Trichy.

A new Legislative Assembly and Secretariat Complex is under construction in Omandurar Government Estate, Chennai at a cost of Rs.200 crores and a Government Library of international standards is being constructed at Kotturpuram at an estimated cost of Rs.120 crores.

Metro Rail Project with an outlay of Rs.11,124 crores is being taken up to reduce the traffic congestion in Chennai City.

About 2,20,000 Noon Meal Employees are at present working in the ICDS centres for providing nutritious food to the children belonging to poor families and Noon Meal Centres for providing noon meal to children studying in schools.

Among them, about 1,30,000 employees including Anganwadi Helpers, Noon Meal Cooks and Cook Assistants have been working under consolidated pay for a very long time. The DMK Government increased their consolidated pay with effect from 1.9.2006. However, for many years they have been demanding that they should be provided time scale of pay. Although I have cared and wished to implement this demand, I have long anguished about the fact that it has not been possible to implement the demands of Noon Meal Employees, showing them the same compassion with which they feed the young children with motherly care, as if they were their relatives. Now, accepting this demand, I wish to announce with joy and gratification that this Government has decided to grant them a separate Special time scale of pay.

Apart from this, this Government has also enhanced the separate time scale of pay provided to 90,000 employees, including Noon Meal Organisers and Anganwadi workers, with effect from 1.9.2006. Among them, a situation exists wherein the employees working for more than 25 years are getting the same salary as the new recruits. They have been demanding that this has to be changed and the pay for the seniors should be increased, taking their service into account. Accepting this demand, this Government has decided to provide an increment for each 10 year

service period and increase the pay based on seniority.

In addition, with a view to ensuring the post retirement livelihood of these special employees who perform the great service of feeding children, a special pension will be provided.

Due to these decisions benefiting 2.2 lakh employees, the Government would incur an additional recurring expenditure of Rs.200 crores per year. These announcements would come into effect from the 15th of September of this financial year, during which the birth centenary of Perarignar Anna is being celebrated.

I would like to mention with delight on this occasion that as a result of the implementation of this demands, my longstanding anguish about the demands of noon meal employees has been cleared and with new vigour, these 2.2 lakh employees will take up the task of grooming the present young generation into the nation's future intellectuals.

I am happy to announce that this Government - with the philosophy that since the share of Government employees in execution of Plan Schemes and development works is significant, the remuneration provided to them should also be proportional to it - will issue necessary orders at the earliest to implement the decisions of the Union Government regarding the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission for Union Government employees, to the satisfaction of more than 10 lakh employees of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Even though only 27 months have passed since the formation of this Government on May 2006, 29 Cabinet Meetings have been conducted within



this period itself, to deliberate the progress of Tamil Nadu in various spheres, to accord approval of schemes and they are being implemented step by step.

With the fervent hope that my Tamil People will create history, live with prosperity and emerge successful due to these efforts, I have been striving hard, without wasting even a second, to uplift and

sustain the Tamil society which is synonymous with my life. Once again, I extend my hearty Independence Day Greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu.

Long Live Tamil Nadu!

Thank you, Vanakkam".

★ ★ ★

Anna Speaks.....

Anyone, who proposes to do good must not expect people to roll stones out of his way, but must accept his lot calmly if they even roll a few more upon it. A strength which becomes clearer and stronger through experience of such obstacles is the only strength that can conquer them, says Albert Schweitzer.

Though the problems in various countries are of similar nature, the peculiarity attached to the problems of our country is of a pronounced nature.

Ours is not a case of starting from scratch; had that been the case the only thing needed would have been the intensity of effort to be put forth. Ours is a case of erosion of the mind—we are not in search of fields, but have to engage in the task of fertilising it, irrigating it. We are not in search of ideals, but are engaged in the more intricate task of classifying, codifying and verifying layers of ideals. We are not wanting in culture but have to cleanse it from the cob-web of time and de-adulterate it. In short, we have to

re-discover ourselves, and re-construct our entire thought. Once we were the custodians of everything noble, but we have allowed the germs of decay to multiply and thrive. Our task to-day is to allow fresh air and sunshine and regain the original shape and stature that made us well-known in distant lands and climes.

Our literature, art and architecture are fine specimens of human intelligence—but they bear the ravages of time and also the effect of currents and cross currents so that to-day we have to listen to the Foreign historian or scholar in order to realise the "Glory and Grandeur" of our own country.

Age commands veneration but unless it is recuperated, decay sets in. Our culture and civilisation are hoary, but we have allowed scars and wrinkles to disfigure them. It is our duty therefore to re-discover and re-construct what is ours and enrich it by drawing liberally upon the achievements of other countries.

★ ★ ★



69 Projects Worth Rs.41,000 Crore being Implemented in Tamil Nadu

- Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi



Tamil Nadu has received more funds than any other state under Central sector schemes and 69 projects were being implemented at a cost of Rs.41,000 crore, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi said on 3rd August 2008.

In a statement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said as many as 915 projects were being implemented in all States at a cost of Rs.3,70,000 crore. Tamil Nadu's share was 11 percent of this.

"It is a matter of honour, though two atomic power projects in Koodankulam and Kalpakkam alone take Rs.17,000 crore. Besides, Rs.22,000 crore have been spent on various projects including national highways, development of ports, railway projects and the Sethusamudram project", the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister explained that though the Centre had issued orders for various projects to the tune of Rs.41,000 crore, it did not mean that the entire amount had been allotted to the State. In 2007-08, the allocation was only Rs.4,747 crore.

The Chief Minister said the financial assistance to Tamil Nadu from central tax and plan assistance had increased substantially. In

2005-06, when the previous Government was in power, Tamil Nadu received Rs.8,033 crore as share in central tax and plan assistance.

"The amount increased to Rs.14,597 crore in 2007-08 and will be Rs.15,073 crore in 2008-09," he explained.

Apart from central assistance, the revenue generated through commercial tax, excise duty, stamp duty, registration fee, vehicle tax and other taxes had gone up after the present Government assumed office. Commercial taxes brought in Rs.16,646 crore in 2005 - 06, which went up to Rs.20,798 crore in 2008 - 09. Likewise, the excise duty collected in 2005 - 06 was only Rs.3,177 crore. In 2008 - 09, the collection went up to Rs.5,330 crore.

Revenue expenditure had increased to Rs.51,422 crore in 2008 -09 because of the various welfare schemes implemented by the this Government. The capital expenditure for the period was Rs.9,373 as more amount has been spent for developing infrastructure.

The total fiscal deficit was Rs.9,972 crore, which was 2.98 percent of the GDP of the State. "Though the expenditure has increased, the deficit was well within the target fixed by the Centre and economists," the Chief Minister said.

★ ★ ★



Law and Order in State Well Maintained

Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi

Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi on 12th September, 2008 expressed the hope that recommendations of the Third Police Commission would benefit the families of the police officials and personnel as well.

Addressing a function organised to give away President of India Medals and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Medals to the police officials, the

the Chief Minister recalled his meeting with Sub-Inspectors who were undergoing training in the police academy at Oonamanchery.

The Chief Minister said that he always had a soft corner for the Police Department even when he was not in power.

President of India Medals were given to 77 officials and policemen and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Medals were given to 164 personnel.

Police personnel working in vigilance and anti-corruption, fire and rescue services, prison and home guards and civil defence departments were given awards for their gallantry, distinguished service, meritorious

service, correctional service, outstanding devotion to duty, excellence in investigation, excellence in finger print science, technical and specialised service and excellence in public service.

Earlier, Thiru K.P. Jain, Director General of Police, welcomed the gathering.

★ ★ ★

Chief Minister said Tamil Nadu had implemented majority of the recommendations of the First and Second Police Commissions.

"The Government has received the recommendations of the third police commission. If the officials study and take action on the report, it would benefit the families of the police officials and personnel", he said.

Stating that a barring a few story incidents, the law and order in Tamil Nadu was well maintained,



Shenbagaraman Statue Unveiled



More than seven decades after he breathed his last, an unsung hero of the country's freedom movement was immortalised in a bronze statue by the Tamil Nadu Government.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi on July 17 2008, unveiled the statue of Shenbagaraman, a young man who fought a valiant battle for India's freedom from foreign soil in the early 20th century.

"The life of Shenbagaraman was largely an ignored and hidden part in the history of the freedom movement," he said, after unveiling the statue at the Gandhi Mandapam Campus in Chennai.

Born on September 15, 1891 at Puthan Chandai village near Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, Shenbagaraman rose in life to rub shoulders with Adolf Hitler and Lenin. His fierce opposition forced even the dreaded dictator Hitler to retract and apologise for his remark that Indians were not capable of ruling themselves. In his brief life span of 43 years, Shenbagaraman spent about 26 years in exile, but made a remarkable contribution to the freedom movement.

The freedom spirit was imbibed in him even as a school student as he started 'Bharata Madha Youth Association' in 1905. He was the first to raise the slogan 'Jai Hind' which became the battle cry of Subash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army (INA).

In 1908, Shenbagaraman crossed Indian shores to reach Italy with the help of a German biologist and spy. Graduating in engineering from Zurich, the young Indian also got a doctorate from Berlin University.

After starting a Pro - Indian committee to garner support of the world community for India's freedom movement against Britain, he published a magazine called Pro - India. Soon, Shenbagaraman became an advisor to King Kaiser Wilhelm and was decorated with VON.

During World War I, Shenbagaraman led the German warship S.M.S Emden that bombed the British military establishments in Chennai on September 22, 1914. One bomb exploded on the premises of the Madras High Court while the other fell harmlessly near Fort St. George. Appointed External Affairs Minister of the Provisional Government formed on December 1, 1915 in Kabul, the "practical and pragmatic revolutionary" rallied support for India's freedom and for the rights of the African community in the United States and South Africa.

According to legend, the Nazis unable to digest the insult to Hitler, slow poisoned Shenbagaraman. He died on May 26, 1934, in Italy. ★

Priority to revitalisation of Agrarian Sector



Conscious of the structural changes in the economy, the State Planning Commission, in its Eleventh Five Year (2007-2012) Plan document presented to the Chief Minister, has attached top priority to the revitalisation of the agrarian sector.

Fixing the target of at least four per cent growth in agriculture and allied activities, the Planning Commission said the scheme of distribution two acres of land to landless agricultural labour households would now be extended to private lands where a cluster approach would be followed for bringing marginal lands into productive cultivation.

Encouragement of rainwater harvesting, watershed management and precision farming techniques, providing incentives to water saving techniques and more importance to less water-

intensive crops such as pulses and oilseeds were among the strategies recommended by the panel.

Referring to the structural changes, the Plan document said the contributions of the primary and tertiary sectors to the Gross State Domestic Product had changed significantly between 1997-1998 and 2006-2007. The share of the primary sector comprising agriculture and related activities went down from 18.56 percent to 13.62 per cent.

The contribution of the secondary sector covering manufacturing, construction, power, gas and water supply saw a slight drop from 29.23 percent to 28.03 per cent. The share of the tertiary sector which included trade, hotels, railways, banking, communication, transport and business services, rose from 52.21 percent to 58.35 percent.

Against the targeted growth rate of four per cent during the 10th Plan period (2002-2007), the primary sector recorded 2.57 per cent only. The secondary sector grew at 7.5 per annum against the target of 7.12 per cent. The 10th Plan had set a target of 9.77 percent growth for the tertiary sector but the sector had registered 7.72 per cent.

On the agrarian crisis, the document said that compared to the projection of 106.38 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) per year of foodgrains production, the average annual production was 63.78 LMT, which was less than 85.33 LMT achieved during the 9th Plan period (1997-2002). The fall in the food grains production was attributed to severe drought conditions and floods coupled with tsunami of December 2004. Consequently, this led to increasing income deprivation among rural families, particularly small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. It only helped to accentuate the rural-urban divide.

Manufacturing and construction, major contributors to the growth of the secondary sector, recorded 8.1 per cent and 6.4 per cent per annum respectively during 2002-2007. While textile and leather industries registered negative growth rates in the 10th Plan period (against very high growth rates in the previous plan period), the food products industries had recorded only moderate growth. These industries, being highly labour intensive, should be revived for employment and income generation after addressing the environmental issues.

Though the services sector did not achieve the target fixed for the 10th Plan period, it made a major impact on the economy. In 2004-2005, it achieved an all-time high of 11.62 per cent. Communication, a constituent of the sector and a major propellant, showed 14.8 per cent growth rate. In the area of Information Technology, the

State had considerable growth in both hardware and software industries. However, consequent to non-farm sectoral growth, the movement of labour from villages to large urban areas had to be tackled through spatial dispersion of non-farm activities and the provision of better civic amenities in the urban areas. "major challenge," the Plan document said the initiative to address issues of effluent treatment in leather, textiles and chemical industries would be taken up in the 11th Plan. Suitable public-private partnership models should be created to manage solid waste and bio-medical waste in urban areas.

'Public opinion taken into account'

Terming the 11th five-year plan a "people's plan" that aimed to achieve inclusive growth for all sections of the society, Prof M Naganathan, Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission, on July 3, 2008 hoped that the targets fixed in the plan would be fully achievable.

"For the first time in the history of Planning Commission, we have elicited opinions from the public and various stake holders in seven centres in the State following the release of the approach paper. We received over 3,000 responses from the public, especially from the common man. We kept their aspirations in mind before formulating the plan," he told the Press.

The plan document, according to him, adheres to the principles of micro-level planning and area level planning. We have insisted that inter-district disparity in growth parameters should be reduced. Recalling the waiver of farm loans in the State, Prof. N. Naganathan said the State had been laying emphasis on agriculture sector. With the extension of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the ongoing Rs 2 per kg rice scheme, the State would reduce poverty, he hoped.



Stamps on Justice Party Leaders Released

"We will never forsake the rights of backward, most backward and depressed classes", Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalamnagar M. Karunanidhi declared.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister was receiving postal stamps on Pitty Theyagarayar (1852-1925), C. Natesan (1875-1937) and T.M. Nair (1868-1919), founders of the Justice Party, at a function in Chennai on 17.9.2008.

Expressing the hope that a positive outcome will emerge following his letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Manmohan Singh on the issue of the reservation, Chief Minister said otherwise, no purpose would be served by merely releasing the stamps of the leaders.

"We should rescue BCs, MBCs and Scheduled Castes from the present crisis, which aims at blunting the sharpness of the principle on which the concept of reservation was

founded", he said. The system of car forward could be adopted instead allowing the transfer of unfilled reserved seats to the general category.

Noting that he had earlier received a letter from Congress leader Thiru. Kuma Ananthan, recalling his earlier assurance to rechristen Pondy Bazaar as Soundara Pandian market place, the Chief Minister said though the area got its name from the self-respect movement leader W.P.A. Soundara Pandian the name was, subsequently, shortened. Hereafter, Pondy Bazaar would be called Soundara Pandian market place.

Releasing the stamps, Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Thiru A. Raja said the release marked the recognition of the Dravidian movement, which was, till recently, branded secessionist and one promoting hatred among castes. The ideals of the movement, laid down decades ago, had not yet been fully accomplished. Thiru. Parith



Ellamvazhuthi, Hon'ble Information Minister, Thiru. M. Subramanian, Chennai Mayor, Dr. Radhika Doraiswamy, Postal Secretary, Government of India and Tmt. Indira Krishnakumar, Principal Chief Post Master General (Tamil Nadu Circle) attended the function.



Be Honest in Public Life

- Chief Minister
Kalamnagar M. Karunanidhi

Launching Thoothukudi as the Tenth Municipal Corporation of Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalamnagar M. Karunanidhi on August 5, 2008 urged members of the civic body to be honest in public life and provide corruption free Governance.

foundation stone for 24 development projects to be executed at a cost of Rs.67.42 crore.

He said the Government would provide a grant of Rs.5 crore for implementing 10 projects proposed by the civic body with an outlay of Rs.16.49 crore. Major works planned included improvement of water supply, construction of building for the Corporation office, beautification of 16 'notified parks', desilting of the Buckle Canal and modernisation of two bus stands.

Recalling the dissolution of the present Government led Chennai Corporation council in the 1970s in the wake of the muster roll



The Chief Minister urged every one in the corporation, from Mayor, Tmt. Kasturi Thangam to security guard, to give a clean administration. He advised the Mayor of Thoothukudi Corporation and the civic body members to work honestly and strive to fulfil the needs of the people.

scandal, the Chief Minister asked Councillors not to forget the fact that he had taken action even against his close friends in connection with the scam. He told councillors that he would not tolerate any corrupt practice.

At the function, the Chief Minister also decried the practice of filing cases against development schemes for political reasons. Referring to a case filed by an opposition leader

The Chief Minister inaugurated the Thoothukudi Corporation and laid the



in the Madras High Court to obtain a stay on the function citing traffic disruption as the reason, he said present day opposition leaders were not as civilized as leaders like Perunthalaivar Kamarajar who did not resort to such attempts when Anna, after assuming power, was given a grand reception in Thoothukudi in 1967.

Taking pride in the fact that a worker in the noon meal centre had risen to the post of the Mayor of the newly - formed Corporation, the Chief Minister emphasized that the rise of an ordinary person to a prominent position in public life was reflective of the ideals of the Dravidian movement. The Chief Minister urged Local Administration Minister Thiru M K Stalin to fulfil the dream of making town like his native Thiruvavur as a Municipal Corporation in future.

He said with Thoothukudi becoming a Corporation, the Mayor should take steps to implement development schemes facilitating the growth of the Corporation. Service to the public has to be the top priority, the Chief Minister noted.

While criticizing the opposition party functionaries for protesting over the money spent for the inaugural function, the Chief Minister said, "Upgrading a Municipality to a corporation is a moment to cherish. Why do they have to protest? Are their marriages and party functions conducted in a very simple way?". The Chief Minister said that the State Government has sanctioned Rs.5 crore to the Corporation initially to take up development works, against the Rs.15 crore sought by the

municipal body. He said after the Present Government took over, four Municipalities have been upgraded as Corporations, which include Thoothukudi, Erode, Tiruppur and Vellore.

The Rural Development and Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin who presided over the function said that feasibility study to provide 60 million litres of protected drinking water per day to the residents of Thoothukudi Corporation was underway. Based on the recommendation of the study, the project would be implemented, he said.

The Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration said that the Government would shortly prepare a detailed project report to improve water supply in the newly formed Corporation, taking into consideration the demands projected for the next 30 years.

The demand after 30 years has been computed at 92 million litres per day to cater for a population of 6.87 lakh. At present, the civic body has the capacity to supply 32 million litres per day to 4.5 lakh people.

Under the All Municipal Anna Marumalarchi Thittam for 2008 - 09, two Municipalities in Thoothukudi district, including Kayalpatnam and Kovilpatti would be taken up, the Minister announced.

Earlier, Chief Minister inaugurated the memorial pillar marking the upgradation of Thoothukudi into a Corporation. He handed over the Mayor's ceremonial attire and sceptre

to Municipal Chairperson, Tmt. R. Kasturi Thangam, who took charge as the first Mayor of the Corporation. He also inaugurated seven infrastructure projects executed at an outlay of Rs.16.77 crore.

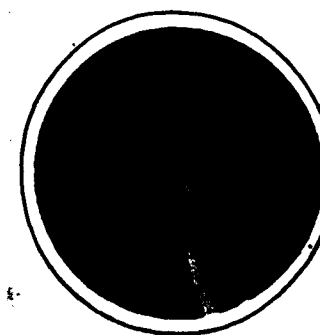
The Chief Minister distributed assistance to the tune of Rs.10.56 crore to 34,444 beneficiaries under Government sponsored schemes.

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for several development works to be taken up in Thoothukudi at Rs.67.42 crore.

Development works include Buckle Channel renovation - Rs.6.98 crore, infrastructure facilities including renovation of existing parks, municipal office, bus - stand and roads - Rs.2.93 crore, new building for Thoothukudi Corporation at Rs.4.75 crore, augmentation of drinking water schemes at Rs.2.69 crore, upgrading PHC and installation of 99 streetlights

at Rs.38.25 lakh, MLA constituency development works at Rs.1.31 crore and renovation of schools within corporation limit at Rs.1.95 crore.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for four drinking water schemes to be implemented by the TWAD Board at Rs.10.3 crore, strengthening infrastructure facilities at five town panchayats in the district at Rs.2.8 crore, new buildings for three town panchayats at Rs.2.75 crore, strengthening infrastructure facilities in 81 village panchayats at Rs.15.12 crore, seven development works to be implemented by Public Works Department at Rs.9.64 crore, upgrading Kalugumalai sub - station at Rs.3.94 crore and establishment of new office for district registrar at Rs.1.08 crore. Seven development works worth Rs.16.77 crore were inaugurated on the occasion.



"Democracy is not a form of Government alone - it is an invitation to a new life - an experiment in the art of sharing responsibilities and benefits - an attempt to generate and co-ordinate the inherent energy in each individual for the common task. Hence we cannot afford to waste a single talent, impoverish a single man or woman or allow a single individual to be stunted in growth or be held under tyranny. The Universities, the graduates they send forth year after year, should annihilate the forces that attempt at aggrandisement and tyranny, fight against cant and hypocrisy and enthrone human dignity."

**Anna
and
The
Crusade**

Wind Turbine Gearbox Manufacturing Unit at Coimbatore



The Tamil Nadu Government on June 28, 2008 signed a MoU with Hansen Drives Ltd., a subsidiary of the Belgium-based Hansen Transmission International N.V., to establish a wind turbine gearbox manufacturing facility at Karumathampatty near Coimbatore.

The Rs.1,500 crore unit will come up on 61 acres at the Hi Tech Engineering Special Economic Zone in Coimbatore. The promoter is Sulzon Infrastructure Ltd. part of Sulzon Group.

The agreement was signed by Industries Secretary Thiru. M.F. Farooqui and CEO of Hansen Transmissions International NV Thiru. Ivan Brems, in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi. Hon'ble Electricity Minister Thiru. Arcot N. Veeraswami was present. "There is a lot of support for the renewable energy industry in Tamil Nadu, and we are impressed by the level of technical talent available in Coimbatore," Thiru. Brems said.

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ASHOK LEYLAND, NISSAN TO SET UP MANUFACTURING FACILITIES IN TAMIL NADU

Auto majors Ashok Leyland, the flagship company of the Hinduja group, and Nissan Motor Company Ltd. will invest Rs.4,150 crore to set up manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu.

The joint ventures, Ashok Leyland Nissan Vehicles, will make light and heavy commercial vehicles, drivetrain and also work on technology development. The facilities will be located at Pillaipakkam in Sriperumbudur, Hosur and in Ennore.

Earlier, the State Industrial Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) had offered 380 acres at Pillaipakkam and another 150 acres for the Vendors' park at Pillaipakkam and its neighbouring areas and also in the other areas.

The joint venture will produce the new generation Nissan Atlas F24 light commercial duty truck in 2010 and a range of products in the 2.5 to 8 tonne gross vehicle weight category. The production volume is expected to top one lakh units a year and will be under both Ashok Leyland and Nissan brands.

The joint venture will produce two kinds of vehicles. The first are vehicles jointly developed by the partners specifically for the Indian market, which will be sold under the Ashok Leyland brand. The other are vehicles



Nissan already produces and markets outside India, such as the Nissan Atlas F 24 LCV. The Ashok Leyland branded vehicles will address the lower end of the market and the 'Nissan' vehicles, the higher end.

Top executives of the company signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the Secretariat on 8th September, 2008 with the State Government, in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi.

Ashok Leyland Managing Director Thiru. R. Seshasayee and Nissan Vice-President Thiru. Andrew Palmer signed the MoU. Industries Secretary Thiru. M.F. Farooqui signed on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

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All Villages in the State to have basic facilities within two years

- Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi



"In another two years all villages in the State will have basic facilities", the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi said in Chennai on July 28, 2008.

Speaking after distributing vehicles to Panchayat Union Chairmen at a function organised by the Rural Development Department, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi said the Government had launched the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam for providing basic facilities to villages.

The plan was to cover all villages over a five - year period. This scheme is well on course to achieve its objectives. This year, work on providing basic facilities had been taken up in 2,526 Village Panchayats at a cost of Rs.504 crore.

On distributing Vehicles to the 385 Panchayat Union Chairmen, the Chief Minister said that for the first time in the country that a State was giving vehicles to elected representatives at the Panchayat Union level. So far, vehicles were given to the unions, but this was meant for the use of the office and not exclusively for the union chairmen.

The Chief Minister expressed the hope that the vehicles would go a long way in implementing programmes at the local level in an effective manner.

The Tata Spacio Gold Vehicles were procured at a cost of about Rs.16 crore.

Praising the Rural Development Department and Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin for the many schemes that the department had launched successfully, the Chief Minister remarked in a lighter vein that he was tempted to give up the Chief Ministership and take up the responsibility of Local Administration.

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WORLD CLASS LIBRARY AT CHENNAI

Rs.120 crore complex will stack 11.5 lakh books



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M Karunanidhi laid the foundation stone for a World Class Library Complex on August 16, 2008.

The State Government is ready to double the number of copies of every book purchased for the public libraries to 2000, if writers and publishers made a contribution towards improving the quality of the libraries, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi announced on the occasion.

Addressing the meeting organised to lay the foundation stone for the Modern State Library Complex at Kotturpuram in Chennai, the Chief Minister said that earlier the Government bought 600 copies of a book. This was later increased to 1,000. "It will not take much time to increase the numbers to 2,000 if the writers and publishers help in improving the quality of the libraries," he said.

There were as many as 3,924 libraries in Tamil Nadu, incidentally, Chennai has 157 public libraries including the District Central Library at IJA building,

138 Branch Libraries and part-time Libraries which function for three hours a day. The Government has allotted Rs two crore in the state budget for repair and renovation works of public libraries.

The Chief Minister had a word of praise for the Hon'ble School Education Minister Thiru Thangam Thennarasu, who is also in charge of libraries in the State.

"He has fulfilled my expectations. He has the capacity to read my mind and discharge his duties", the Chief Minister said.

Recalling an incident of threat to his life in Kotturpuram, the Chief Minister said he and friends came to the area of the invitation of Corporation councillor Thiru.Gopal for canvassing among voters during a General election. Some opponents of the party welcomed them and as soon as they entered the area, locked them up inside a hall and assaulted. They were profusely bleeding and were running to



escape when one Sarangapani and his wife, who belonged to a most backward community, took him to their hut nearby to protect him and sent away other friends. When the opponents encircled the hut to catch him, the young wife of Sarangapani closed the mouth of her child so that she did not cry and invite the attention of the assaulters and lied below a cot all through the night. On hearing the incident, Anna sent K.R. Ramasamy and others to search for him and they came and took him back by 6 a.m. On reaching his house, Anna asked his wife Rani Ammal to thank Sarangapani and his wife for saving him (Kalaingar) and as a token of gratitude presented them a saree and dhoti.

The Chief Minister also recalled Anna's speech on AIR in 1948, in which the leader, in his inimitable style, lamented that people acquire all sorts of things for their home and proudly boast about them, but not books. He stressed the need for a small library in every home and said that must be given the first place after fulfilling the needs for food, clothing and other basics. Regretting that Anna's desire had not been fulfilled in Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister said 'we must march towards that ideal'.

ANNA SPEAKS

"The Government of Tamil Nadu has stated in unmistakable terms that Tamil and English can serve all our purposes, the former as the Official Language of this State and the latter as the link language. If it is accepted and the most emphatic of Hindi protagonists do accept that—if it is accepted that English can serve admirably as a link between our State and the outside world, why plead for Hindi to be the link language here? What serves to link us with the outside world is certainly capable of rendering the same service inside India as well. To plead for two link languages is like boring a smaller hole in a wall for the kitten while there is a bigger one for the cat. What suits the cat will suit the kitten as well.

English is foreign, some argue, as if we were out to destroy or give up everything foreign. We bring foreign wheat in foreign ships. We seek foreign aid not only in the shape of money but also in the form of technical know-how and not a week passes without one or other leader undertaking a journey to the West or East to secure what-ever aid is possible to secure. And on top of all these things we have given up so many systems peculiarly our own".

Referring to the remarks of the earlier speakers that his daughter Poet Kanimozhi mooted the idea for this mega library, the Chief Minister said although he would not and need not thank her for that, acknowledged that her interest had been given effect to by the Government.

Chennai city will boast of another landmark in April 2010 on the completion of a Rs 120 crore Government library of international standards, modelled on the famous National Library in Singapore.

The library will have a reading capacity for 1,250 people at a time and a stacking capacity of 11.5 lakh books which will be collected from all over the world. The complex would also house a separate auditorium with a capacity of 1,280 people and an amphitheatre on the terrace, Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru Thangam Thenarasu announced.

The ground floor will house a Braille and talking book section, two conference halls with a capacity of 200 persons and 30 persons each and a cyber cafe. While the first floor will have an exclusive



children's section and a reading hall, the entire second floor will be allotted for Tamil books.

The entire third floor will house English books, while the fourth floor will be dedicated to Dravidian languages except Tamil and other Indian languages. Back issues of newspapers and periodicals will be

stacked on the fifth floor and Government documents can be perused on the sixth floor.

Collections from donors and an audio-visual section will be featured on the seventh floor, while rare books, a preservation unit, photo and digital libraries will be accommodated on the eighth floor. Separate blocks for binding section and store, food court and scholars hostel have also been planned. ★

"Socialism is not mere welfare, because socialism is something other than guaranteeing welfare. It works to create inequality. I am aware, according to Laski, that equality is not identity of treatment, but affording equal opportunities for all."

"Pragmatism may be a way for obtaining your objective. But, Pragmatism ought to be built upon ideology."

"The Preamble to the Constitution says that the political sovereignty rests with the people. Then legal sovereignty is divided between the Federal Union and constituent units. Why don't you take it that our scheme is to make the States still more effective sovereign units? Why don't you take it in that light?"

"Sovereignty does not reside entirely in one particular place. We have a federal structure. That is why the framers of the Constitution wanted a federal structure and not a unitary structure, because as many political philosophers have pointed out, India is so vast - in fact it has been described as a sub - continent - the mental health is so varied, the traditions so different, the history so varied, that there cannot be a steel frame unitary structure here."



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40 Lakh Additional Colour Televisions to be Purchased



The State Government will procure an additional 40 lakh colour television sets for distribution to people without a television, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi said in Chennai on July 25, 2008.

He had given his consent for buying the additional sets to complete the project of providing a television in each home that did not have one, the Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi said at a function organised to distribute televisions for people in Chepauk and Triplicane constituencies.

A total of 59.55 lakh sets have been procured so far, he said. When the scheme was launched in September 15, 2006, the Government had bought 30,000 television sets, at a cost of Rs.9 crore. In the second phase, the Government ordered the purchase of 25 lakh television sets on February 15, 2007, at a cost of Rs.685 crore. All these television sets have been distributed.

In the third phase, the Government bought 34.25 lakh televisions at a cost of Rs.750 crore. Of this, 18 lakh television have already been given away. Distribution of the remaining sets was being taken up from July 25, 2008.

The Chief Minister who was elected from Chepauk constituency said that he had a vested interest in distribution of television sets on that day. Over 12,000 home in the constituency received television sets. Another 8,633 homes had already got one during the previous distributions.

There is no household in Chepauk without a colour television. Chepauk became the first and perhaps the only Assembly constituency in the country in which officially each household had a colour television.

The Chief Minister thanked the Rural Development and Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin, who heads the televisions procurement committee for this achievement.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Rural Development and Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin said that the function was yet another proof that the Government did not make empty promises. Each of the promises made to the people in the run up to the 2006 Assembly elections have been fulfilled or were on the verge of being fulfilled. From 26th July, 2008 onwards, Hon'ble Ministers and others will distribute televisions across the city and elsewhere, he added.

Chennai Mayor Thiru. M. Subramanian detailed the places where the distribution would take place over the next few days.

Chennai Corporation Commissioner Thiru. Rajesh Lakhoni, said that the civic body had been working hard to fulfil the needs of the people. It has distributed loans amounting to Rs.40 crore to self help groups last year and would arrange loans to the tune of Rs.158 crore this year.



FREE BICYCLES DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi launched the scheme in the city on July 25, 2008 and said the distribution of free bicycles would help students to have comfortable access to schools. The cost of bicycles distributed free of cost to over five lakh higher secondary students across the state have gone up by about Rs.300 each. The cost of a girl's bicycle rose to Rs.2,370 from Rs.2,060 a year ago and the price

of boy's bicycle went up to Rs.2,475 against the previous year's price of Rs.2,150. This is because the price of steel, diesel and rubber had gone up substantially and the bicycle manufacturerrs found it difficult agreeing to the price quoted by them last year. However, Atlas, TI cycles, Hero and Avon accepted the lowest quoted price as common to all of them.

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Chief Minister Sanctions Rs.25,000 to Girl Student



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on August 22, 2008 sanctioned Rs. 25,000 from the General Relief Fund to Yavasri, a girl belonging to the Scheduled Castes and residing in the Nallur village panchayat of Tiruvallur district, for her higher education.

The Chief Minister's action was in response to a report that despite securing admission in an engineering college, she could not join the course. The Chief Minister had directed the Villupuram District Collector to issue orders on August 22, 2008 granting a monthly pension of Rs.400 to five differently abled persons of Sathanandal village and providing assistance to three school students. The Chief Minister also asked all District Collectors to identify such differently abled persons and make arrangements immediately for providing assistance to them.



Perarignar Anna's Birth Centenary Celebration Chief Minister fulfils Anna's Poll Promise



The Birth Centenary celebration of former Chief Minister Perarignar Anna took off on 15.9.2008 with Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi launching the scheme of supplying rice at Re.1 a kg through the public distribution system.

Recalling the events after Arignar Anna became Chief Minister in 1967, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi told a function at Korukkupet in north Chennai to mark the inauguration of the scheme that the Madras State came to be called Tamil Nadu and legal sanction was provided to weddings performed under the method prescribed under the method prescribed by the self-respect movement.

The scheme of Re.1 a measure (slightly more than a kg) was announced then but could not be carried on for long due to economic conditions. Also, Anna did not live long. "What remained unfulfilled then is being accomplished today", Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi said.

Responding to criticisms of the present scheme, the Chief Minister said there might be shortcomings in its execution. "Point out mistakes. We will try to remove them", he told critics.

"What should be kept in mind was whether the scheme would help achieve savings by the economically weaker-sections of society and the middle class".

Calling upon all the parties to support the scheme, he said, that if they did not extend their support, they would be pronounced guilty by the public.

Referring to the nutritious noon-meal scheme launched by the former Chief Minister Thiru. M.G. Ramachandran, the former Chief Minister said he was never against the scheme but made suggestions on the mode of implementation.

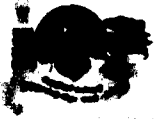
Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi had a word of advice to the media to present reports of seizure of smuggled rice bags in a way that reflected the Government's action against wrongdoers.

Hon'ble Co-operation Minister Thiru. Ko.Si.Mani, said that after the Government waived co-operative loans to the tune of Rs.7,000 crore, fresh crop loans were being given.

Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Thiru. E.V. Velu, said various welfare measures were intended to improve the economic condition of the people.

Thiru.C.Kuppusamy, Member of Parliament, Thiru.K.S.Sripathi, Chief Secretary, Thiru M.Subramanian, Chennai Mayor and Thiru K.Shanmugam, Food Secretary took part in the function.

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Schemes launched to mark Birth Centenary of Anna



Launch of the 'Re.1 a kg rice' scheme through the public distribution system, a new integrated emergency response service in the public-private partnership mode, were the events that marked the birth centenary of former Chief Minister Perarignar Anna on 15.9.2008.

Across the State, leaders garlanded statues of Anna, distributed various types of aid to the poor and the needy and organised meetings to recall the contributions of the first DMK Chief Minister. This is the beginning of the year-long celebrations organised on the occasion of his centenary.

The Re.1 a kg rice was a dream scheme of the Chief Minister Karunanidhi. When he launched the Rs.2-a-kg-rice scheme after he formed the Government in 2006, the Chief Minister recalled the promise Anna made to the people: "Oru padiarisi oru rupa" (One measure rice for Rs.1) and had stated

that he was implementing the electoral promise made. But because of the galloping inflation and the squeeze that people faced, the Chief Minister introduced more items through the PDS and also decided to reduce-the price of rice supplied through the PDS even further, though this meant an additional burden of Rs. 400 crore on the Government.

Hon'ble Chief Minister also commented on road accidents, reckless driving and the need for urgent medical care in the golden hour. He launched the emergency response scheme, which, he hoped, would not be used by people frequently. If there were too many emergency calls, it meant that many road accidents were taking place, he said, stressing the need for police to step up preventive measures. The integrated emergency care can be accessed by dialling 108.

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Perarignar Anna - A biographical sketch

C.N. Annadurai, fondly called as "Perarignar Anna", is a household name in post-independent Tamil Nadu. A brilliant Parliamentarian, Captivating Orator and endowed with a facile pen, Anna's charisma was such that even his adversaries admired and adored him. This regional leader soon blossomed into a National figure.

Anna wrote prose and poetry, short stories and novels, dramas and satires. The number of English and Tamil dailies and weeklies edited by him were eloquent testimony to his journalistic calibre and vigour. As an author and actor, playwright and poet, satirist and statesman, Anna combined in himself excellence in every field of activity. Anna was not only a politician and a statesman, he was also an organiser, administrator, scholar, social reformer, leader of the downtrodden, an agitator with constructive approach, humanist and a literary craftsman of a very high order.



Anna was always dressed in simple South-Indian style and presented a picture of tenderness. He was austere and quiet, but strong and dynamic when occasion demanded. He propagated against superstitious practices in his screen plays for movies and as Chief Minister legalised the self respect marriages in Tamil Nadu.

Anna could speak extempore on any subject - politics, economics, art, literature. Hearing his speech one could get a glimpse of his genius. Infact, he once made brilliant speech on "no topic" when the organisers of the meeting told him that there was no topic scheduled for the meeting.

He was popularly and lovingly called as "Anna" (elder brother) by people not only of Tamil Nadu, but across the whole of India and many other parts of the World, particularly among the Tamil speaking population of South-East Asian Countries. He contributed to the enrichment of India's literary, cultural and artistic heritage and ethos.

Biography

1909: Born on 15th September in a lower middle class family at Kanchipuram. He was the only son of Natarajan and Bangaru Ammal. His foster mother was Rajamani Ammal.

1914: Had his early education at the Pachaiyappa's Elementry School and Pachaiyappa's High School at Kanchipuram.

1927: Worked as a clerk in the local Municipal Office at Kanchipuram for few months.

1928: Joined intermediate course in Pachaiyappa's College at Chennai.

1929: On February 17&18, participated in the first Self-Respect Movement conference at Chenglepet.

1930: Secured a backward class student scholarship at Pachaiyappa's College, continued his studies in the same college, obtained his B.A.(Hon) and then M.A. degree in Economics and Politics. While still a student, he married Rani Ammaiyaar, arranged by his parents.

1931: On March 19th, "Magalir-koattam" the first article written by him was published in Tamil Maruthuvar Masilamani's "Tamilarasu".

1932: Came in contact with the "Bobily Arasar", the Chief Minister in the Justice Party Ministry.

1934: He first met Thanthai Periyar at Thirupur at a "Youth Conference" and was immediately attracted to him. He acknowledged openly that Thanthai Periyar was his one and only leader.

1935: A short spell as an English teacher in a high school at Chennai. Anna wrote articles about welfare of the labourers, when he was the editor for a weekly magazine "Balabharathi".

1936: Contested the election to the Madras City Corporation on behalf of Justice Party but lost.



1938: Anna served as Sub-Editor of the English weekly "Justice" and the Tamil weeklies "Viduthalai" and "Kudiarasu". Participated in the first Anti-Hindi movement led by Periyar on September 26th and was arrested. He was convicted to four months imprisonment.

1939: He became the General-Secretary of the "Justice Party".

1940: He was Translator when Thanthai Periyar met Dr. Ambedkar in Mumbai.

1942: On March 7th, became the editor of "Dravidanadu", a weekly.

1944: On August 19th, on Anna's resolution at the Salem Conference, the Justice Party was renamed as "Dravidar Kazhagam".

1945: On December 15th, Anna played the role "Kagapatta" (Sivaji's Guru) in the play "Sivaji kanda Hindu Rajyam" which he wrote himself.

1946: On July 29th, Anna presented Paventhar Bharathidasan a Porkizhi (purse) at a memorable function held in honour of the great poet and chaired by Navalar Somasundara Bharathiyar.

1947: On August 15th, Periyar's desire that India's Independence should be observed as a day of mourning came as a rude shock to Anna. He wrote a powerful editorial in his weekly 'Dravidanadu' recording his differences with Periyar on the issue expressing that the Independence day was indeed a day of rejoicing.

1948: On July 17th, participated in Anti-Hindi agitation and courted arrest.

1949: On July 9th, Periyar marries Maniammai.



Perarignar Anna with his wife Rani Ammaiyar

The split in Dravida Kazhagam came on 17th September when the majority of Dravidar Kazhagam formed the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam under Anna's leadership.

Anna assumed charge as the first General-Secretary of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

1950: On September 18th, Anna's article in Dravida Nadu was compiled as a Book "Ariya Mayai". It ran several editions. Anna was charged and sentenced to six months imprisonment.

1952: He participated in Anti Hindi agitation and removed all Hindi letters in Tamil Nadu.

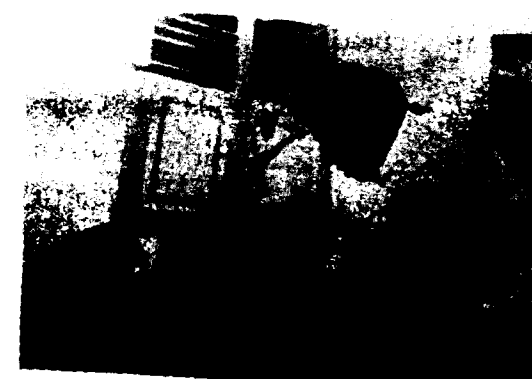
1953: On June 15th, assumed office as Editor of Tamil daily "Namnadu".

On July 15th, Anna was sentenced to undergo imprisonment of 3 months for "Three pronged Agitation".

1955: On January 14th, his film "Sorgavasal" (Gate to Heaven) released.

1956: During May 17-20, DMK party took an opinion - poll at the second conference of the DMK in Tiruchirappalli and decided to contest the General Election.

1957: Elected as Kanchipuram MLA.



On June 9th, Anna became editor of "Home Land" English weekly.

1958: On January 3rd, the DMK General Council took a decision to show black flags to Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he visited Madras. Anna was taken into preventive custody.

1962: Anna was defeated in his constituency of Kanchipuram. With the 50 members of his party to back him, he later won a Rajya sabha seat.

On July 19th, Anna was arrested in connection with picketing before

Government offices to protest rising prices of essential commodities. He was in Vellore Central Jail on a 10 week rigorous imprisonment. After his release, he served as editor in English weekly "Home Rule".

Addressed public meetings rousing the people against the Chinese invaders. He exhorted the people to join the Indian Army in large numbers. He collected huge amount for the war effort and wrote numerous articles to boost the morale of the people.

1963: Took efforts to take the movement into the mainstream of National politics without compromising the rights and privileges of Tamil people.

On November 17th, Anna sentenced to imprisonment for 6 months for burning the copies of 17th Language Act Book which insisted on compulsory Hindi.

1964: On July 26th, he started the Tamil weekly magazine "Kanchi".

1965: On January 26th, DMK decided to observe the Republic Day of 1965 as a Day of mourning. Anna exhorted the Tamil people to hoist black flags on top the houses to show their protest against Hindi becoming the sole official language. He was arrested.

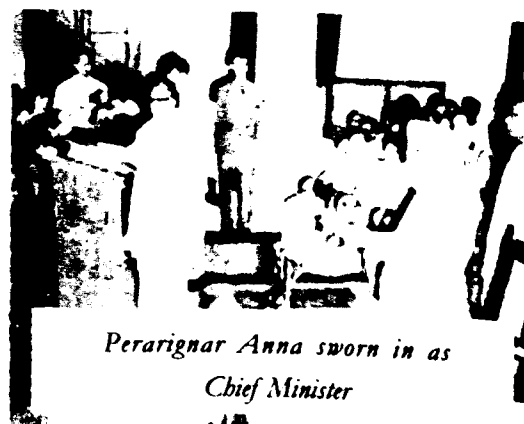
In July, visited Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hongkong, Cambodia, Japan.

1967: DMK Party obtained absolute majority in the Madras Legislature and formed the first DMK Government, with Annadurai as the Chief Minister.





On March 6th, assumed office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.



Perarignar Anna sworn in as Chief Minister

On April 26th, assumed office as a Member of Legislative Council.

On May 15th, implemented the subsidised sale of rice at one Rupee per measure.

On July 18th, a resolution was passed in the Tamil Nadu State Assembly to rename Madras State as "Tamil Nadu".

On July 23rd, the State Government brought pressure on Delhi to get clearance for Steel Plant at Salem. But the Centre rejected the proposal. Anna as Chief Minister organised "Salem Ezhuchi Nal" to impress on the Central Government, the need for a steel plant in Salem.

On August 16th, launched "Seerani".

On September 19th, started a scheme to clean up the Cooum river.

1968: On January 1st, MGR presented a statue of Anna to mark the World Tamil Conference.



Perarignar Anna at the inauguration of "Seerani"

The statue was unveiled on Anna Salai.

On January 2nd, statues of illustrious Tamil scholars were unveiled by Arignar Anna on Marina Beach.

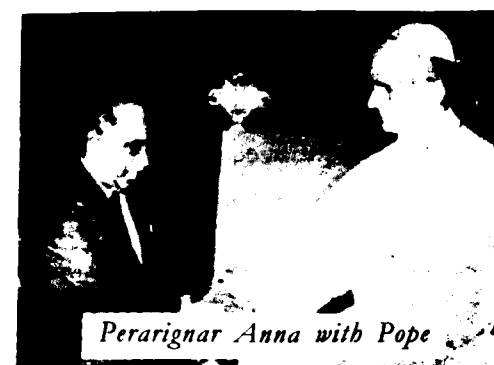
On January 3rd, the World Tamil Conference procession was held at Chennai. On the occasion, Anna announced Rs.9 lakh to Universities of Tamil Nadu for Thirukkural research.

On January 23rd, a resolution was passed in the State Assembly, adopting two language formula, i.e. Tamil and English in Tamil Nadu in a special session convened for this purpose.

April & May: Anna visited the United States at the invitation of US Government where "Yale University" conferred on him "Chubb Fellowship". Anna toured some of the European Countries like France, United Kingdom and Italy. He met the Pope at the Vatican city.

On September 8th, Annamalai University conferred on him "Doctorate".

On September 16th, he was admitted to a Hospital at New York for medical treatment.



Perarignar Anna with Pope

After undergoing a successful operation by Dr. Miller he spent a month there convalescing and returned to Madras on November 6th.

1969: Anna's last public function was the unveiling of the statue of N.S. Krishnan at Chennai on January 14.

On January 25th, Anna's health suffered set back. He was admitted in the Adyar Cancer Institute. Dr. Miller, the American Surgeon who operated on him for cancer in New York was specially flown to Madras to attend on him.

On February 3rd, at 12.20 midnight, Anna breathed his last. His mortal body was kept at Rajaji Hall for the public to pay their last homage to the departed leader.

On February 4th, Anna's mortal remains were buried in the sands of the Marina with state honours where his memorial now stands.

ARIGNAR ANNA'S SAYINGS

I believe only in the purity of my heart in order to make others accept my views.

- ★ Duty, Dignity and Discipline.
- ★ No language equals one's mother tongue.
- ★ Democracy believes in human dignity.
- ★ The habit of drinking spoils not only the ways of life but also the principles of life.
- ★ Adulteration of economic principles is a crime for which the present and future generations will have to pay.
- ★ Accumulation of wealth should not be the sole aim of man.
- ★ It is sweet and simple idea that Unity is Strength and Joy.
- ★ It is a universal idea that the National wealth of Country should grow day by day and everyone should strive hard for that. Unless you replenish it, coming generations will find only an empty coffer.
- ★ Student talents be used for raising the dignity of the Nation.
- ★ Let me call upon you to carry on the crusade against caste which cannot co-exist with democracy, against superstition which cannot co-exist with science and against tyranny of various dimensions which cannot co-exist with liberty, equality and fraternity.
- ★ We who are born in this sacred land should feel it our pleasant duty to safeguard the lofty traditions handed down to us by the wise.



- ★ A knowledge of English is essential to have close relation with the World and to enjoy the fruits of its treasures of knowledge.
- ★ Let Tamil be your dream of victory, let Tamil culture be your armour, Let wisdom

be your weapon. Let virtue be your guide and companion.

- ★ I am aware that equality means affording equal opportunities for all.



Perarignar Anna with Kalaigal M. Karunanidhi



IN HONOUR OF ANNA



Postage stamp on Perarignar Anna

In Memory of Anna, TamilNadu Government raised the Anna Square in Marina Beach, Chennai. The epitaph says, "Ethayum Thangum Idhayam Inge Uṇṅukirathu". A library, a book shop and live broadcast of Anna's speeches form part of Anna Square.

1969: Portrait of Perarignar Anna was unveiled in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

1970: On February 3, Government of India released a Postal Stamp in memory of Periarignar Anna.

1971: Chennai's Mount Road was renamed as "Anna Salai". Two ships purchased by Tamil Nadu Government named as "M.V. Tamil Anna and Tamil Anna".



1978: The Technology University setup by Tamil Nadu Government in Guindy was named as Anna University.



Memorial of Perarignar Anna

1980: On September 16, Anna's residence converted at Kanchipuram as Anna Memorial.

1990: Chennai International Airport was named as Anna International Airport.

1994: Anna's writings nationalised.



1997: Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigal M. Karunanidhi launched the Anna Marumalarchi Thittam to improve basic amenities in Villages.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigal M. Karunanidhi inaugurated Anna Museum built at the cost of Rs.36.39 Lakh.

1998: Anna square renovated at the cost of Rs.294.20 Lakh.

2007: Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigal M. Karunanidhi inaugurated "Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam".



2008: The scheme of "One kilo rice one rupee" was inaugurated in commemoration of the Arignar Anna Birth Centenary Celebrations by Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigal M. Karunanidhi on September 15th, 2008.





Hon'ble Chief Minister K. J. Somasundaram laid the foundation for new Legislative Assembly and Secretariat building at Omandurar Government Estate, Chennai on 12.6.2008.



Hon'ble Chief Minister K. J. Somasundaram inaugurated District Collectors and Police Officials Conference on 19.6.2008 at Secretariat.



Hon'ble Chief Minister K. J. Somasundaram received a memento at the Bi-Centenary of Thanjavur District Court at Thanjavur on 24.6.2008.



Hon'ble Chief Minister K. J. Somasundaram inaugurated a new scheme of rewarding Laptops to 1000 toppers of 10th std. public examination at Secretariat on 26.6.2008.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the office of Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Chennai on 30.6.2008. Hon'ble Minister for Finance Prof. K. Anbazhagan was present.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi laid the foundation stones for Nagarjuna's Petroleum Refinery Factory and Thiruchopuram Port Project on 2.7.2008.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the scheme of providing Bananas to children who do not consume eggs through Nutritious Meal Programme on 15.7.2008.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi flagged off vehicles allotted by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department for the 285 Panchayat Union Chairman at a function held in Chennai on 28.7.2008.



Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi paid floral tributes to the portrait of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi after leading the National Integration Pledge at Secretariat on 20.8.2008.



Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi distributed President of India and Chief Minister medals and awards to officials and police personnel for their gallantry, distinguished service, outstanding devotion to duty, excellence in investigation and excellence in public service on 12.9.2008 at Rajarathinam Stadium, Chennai.



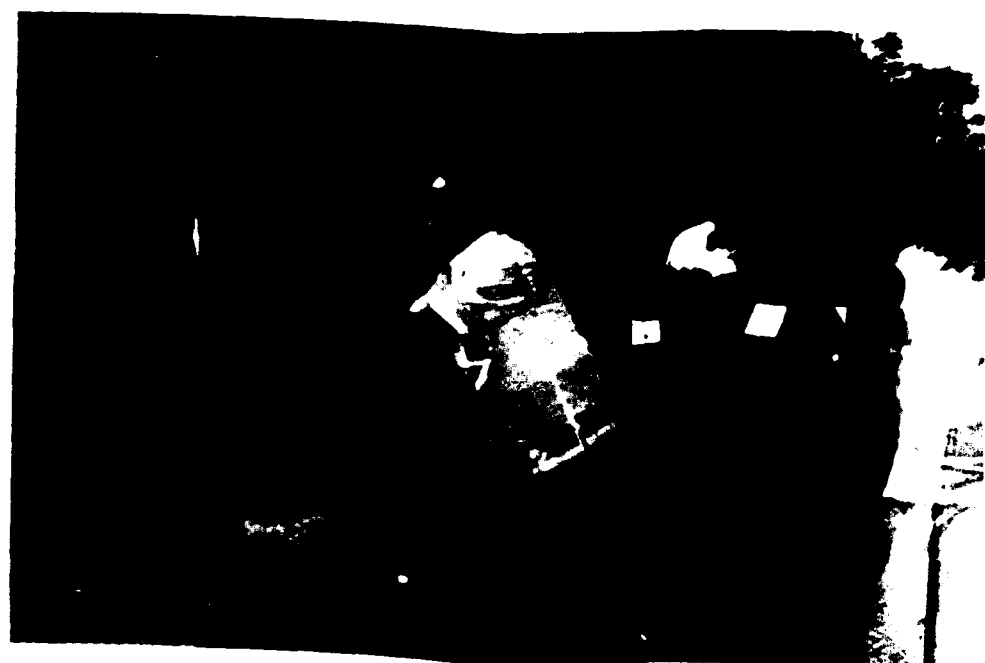
On the 100th birthday of Perarignar Anna on 15.9.2008, Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi paid floral tributes to a portrait of Arignar Anna. Hon'ble Ministers were present on the occasion.



On the occasion of 130th birthday of Thanthai Periyar on 17.9.2008, Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Karunanidhi paid floral tributes to the leader. Hon'ble Ministers were present on the occasion.



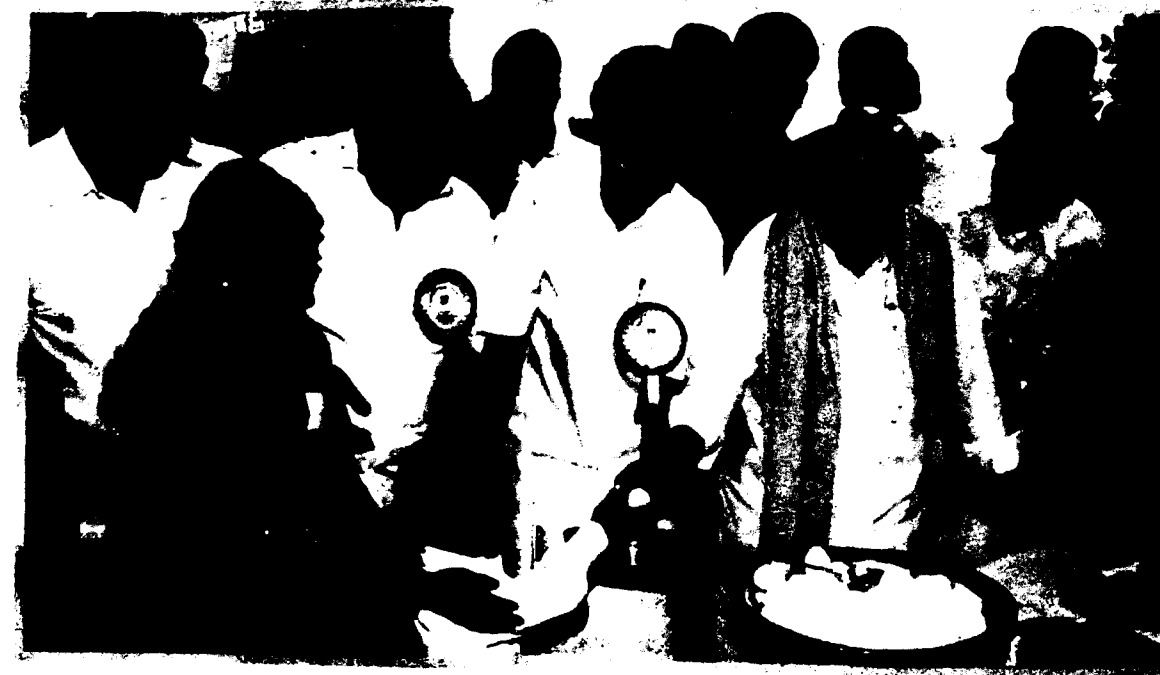
Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru. M.K.Stalin addressed Self Help Groups at a revolving fund distribution function held at Chennai on 19.8.2008.



On the occasion of 137th birthday of Kappalottiya Thamizhan 'V.O.C.' on 5.9.2008. Hon'ble Minister for Information, Thiru. Parithi Ellamvazhuthi paid floral tributes to the departed leader at the Chennai Port Trust campus. Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Tmt.Geetha Jeevan and Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Thiru K.P.P. Samy were present.

Improvements to Noon Meal Scheme

Bananas Instead of Eggs for Vegetarians



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi introduced three eggs a week in the nutritious noon meal programme.

As many as 72 lakh students in the State consume egg three days a week and for the vegetarian students, who are less than a lakh, he has ordered to him to provide a substitute for the egg. Bananas could be given in place of eggs.

The banana should be 100 grams and should be given on the days that other children are given eggs. The total cost - depending on seasonal variations - would be between Rs.1.25 crore and Rs.1.5 crore.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the introduction of bananas in the nutritious noon meal scheme on 15.7.2008 the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Kamaraj at the Chennai Corporation

School on Model High School Road in Thousand Lights.

The Chief Minister said, that after this Government came to power, it enacted a law declaring Perunthalaivar Kamaraj's birthday as Education Development Day.

Recalling the Assembly election campaign ahead of the 1989 polls, the Hon'ble Rural Development and Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin said a malicious campaign was launched by the opposition that if the present Government came to power, it would not continue with the noon meal programme. History has proved otherwise, he said, adding that it was the present Government that had made many additions and improved the scheme.

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"One Software Unit Being Semp Every Two Days in Tamil Nadu"

Chief Minister
Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi

Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, in his message to the 'Connect 2008' expressed confidence that Tamil Nadu would top the ICT sector ahead of the 2011 target of garnering 25 percent of ICT production share and generating 8 lakh jobs.

One new software unit is being set up in the State every two days, Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi said that the number of software units had grown to 1,148 in 2007-08, with 183 of them floated in the last year alone.

Software exports from the State had grown to Rs.28 crore this year, accounting for 16 per cent of India's aggregate output while the IT industry had generated 77,000 jobs in the last one year alone, taking the aggregate recruits in this sector to three lakh, Hon'ble Chief Minister said in his message.

Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology Thiru. A. Raja on 12th September, 2008 said he would take up with the Union Government the demand for further extension of the "sunset clause" providing tax concessions to software technology parks.

Addressing the inauguration of "CONNECT 2008", the premier ICT event co-hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry, Tamil Nadu Government and Union Ministry of Communications and IT, the Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology said he would take up with the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister the demand from industry for continuing the tax sops, which are due to end next year.

The concessions regime under the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) scheme had already been extended once and he would propose a further extension by one year, he said.

The STPI scheme, with its unique features of single window clearance, tax benefits and business incubators, provided favourable environment for SME start-ups.

The STPI also facilitated equitable development through uniform dispersal of units in Tier II and III cities, he said.

The Centre's 'semi-conductor policy' has already triggered an inflow of over Rs. one lakh crore of foreign investments into the country, he said. The theme of the conference was "Global Competitiveness and Equitable Growth-Driven by Innovation".

Outlining various initiatives of the IT department, Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology Thiru A. Raja pointed out that the Indian IT/ITeS industry had netted a 33 percent increase, in revenue over the previous year-from US\$ 48 billion to US \$ 64 billion. Exports of software and services recorded an increase of 28.3 percent from US \$ 31 billion during the same period, the Union Minister said.

Hon'ble Higher Education Minister Thiru. K. Ponmudy called for closer linkages between industry and higher education institutions. He pointed out that Tamil Nadu alone produced over a lakh engineers out of the national output of about 7 lakh engineers every year.

Thiru. John Douglass, former President and CEO, Aerospace Industries Association said the US Federal Aviation Authorities are likely to engage their counterparts in India to collaborate on the massive re-engineering being undertaken at obsolete air traffic systems in airports across the U.S.

India had the potential to be the prime supplier of engineering workforce to the U.S. aerospace industry, which was beset by an ageing work force, Thiru. Douglass said.

Thiru. K.K. Aggarwal, President, Computer Society of India, said any benefit extended to the IT industry would be passed on to society, tangibly or not.

Thiru. Subu D. Subramanian, Chairman, 'Connect 2008', Thiru. Manikam Ramaswami, Chairman, CII, Tamil Nadu and Thiru. B.V.R. Reddy, Chairman, CII (southern region) also spoke on the occasion.

Moser Baer to set up Photovoltaic Plant

Moser Baer, a world leader in manufacture of removable data storage media, inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the State Government on setting up a facility to manufacture silicon - based photovoltaic thin film modules and allied products on 9.6.2008.

Moser Baer will invest over Rs.2,000 crore in the facility that will come up in the Oragadam high technology Special Economic Zone, said Thiru Deepak Puri, Chairman and Managing Director, Moser Baer India.

This is the second such facility that will come up at Oragadam. On 17.3.2008 the Government had signed an MoU with Signet Solar for manufacturing photovoltaic thin film modules.

"With the establishment of this facility of Moser Baer, Chennai will consolidate its position as the leader in the manufacture of electronic hardware and emerge as the preferred centre for the manufacture of photovoltaic thin film modules", an official release stated.

High technology interests the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, as it would provide livelihood to many and retain bright, young people in the State. His interest in the project stemmed from the fact that it would provide direct and indirect employment to 3,000 people.

The Chief Minister aims to create a million jobs in the State in the shortest possible time. He asked Thiru Puri when Moser Baer would lay the foundation stone.

The plant would start production within a year, said Thiru. G.Rajeswaran, President and CTO, Moser Baer Photo Voltaic Ltd, India.

The Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology Thiru. A. Raja, said the Moser Baer team had first approached his Ministry to set up their facility in India.

"When they met me, they told me that they were looking at South India. I told them to visit the four States, take a decision and come back to me. They chose Tamil Nadu", he added.

Once the choice was made, Moser Baer executives met Industries Department of the Govt. of Tamil Nadu with their proposal. "We began looking around in August - September and were clear about our location by early this year", Thiru Puri said and commended way the Government worked.

"I went to many other States. We got the most overwhelming response here," he added.

* * *

DAIMLER HERO GROUP TO SET UP PLANT

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on July 7, 2008 between the State Government and Daimler Hero Commercial Vehicles Company for a Rs.3,000 crore project to be implemented at the SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu) Industrial Park in Oragadam near Chennai. The company is a joint venture floated by Daimler AG (headquartered at Stuttgart, Germany) and the Hero group. As part of the project, a plant, with capacity to manufacture 70,000 commercial vehicles a year, will be established by 2010. It will provide direct employment to about 3,000 persons and indirect employment to 20,000 persons, according to an official release.

In the next few years, the investment may go up to Rs.4,000 crore.

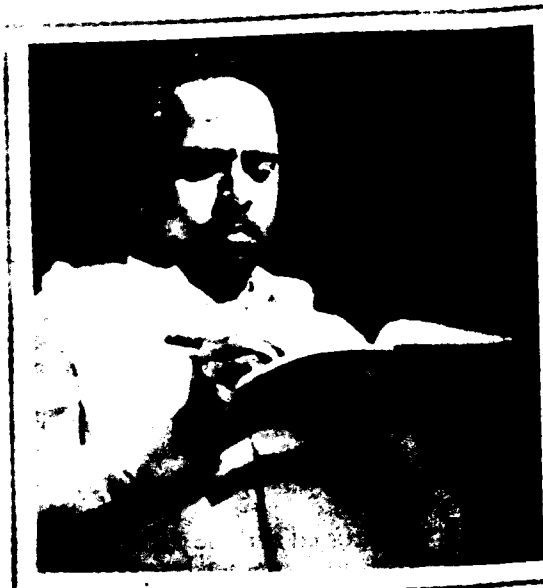
Automobile giants Renault and Nissan are executing a project in the Industrial Park. Hyundai Motor India Company is also taking up an expansion project.

With the Daimler - Hero project, the status of Chennai as a hub of automobiles will be enhanced, the release stated.

In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, the MOU was signed by Thiru M.F. Farooqui, Industries Secretary, Thiru. Andreas Renschler, member of the Board of Management of Daimler AG, Thiru.Sunil Kant Munjal, Managing Director of the Hero Corporate Services, and Marc Listosetta, Chief Executive Officer of the Daimler Hero Commercial Vehicles Company. *

Anna Speaks....

(Excerpts from Address at the Annamalai University Convocation, on 18.11.1967)



forces that attempt at aggrandisement and tyranny, fight against cant and hypocrisy and enthrone human dignity.

Graduates of the year, I wish you all a prosperous future for, after all, the immediate concern of every individual, graduate or no graduate, is to acquire the means for a decent living. That is the first motivation for all human activity and no one can ignore it, but that ought not to be the sole objective. Something higher and nobler than mere individual material advancement is expected of you for remember that University education is a privilege that you enjoy, for which you are deeply indebted to the community of which you are a member. Most of the money needed for maintaining institutions of higher education come from the revenues collected from the community through the State, and a good proportion of that revenue comes from the tillers and the toilers, men who did not enjoy this privilege,

Democracy is not a form of Government alone. It is an invitation to a new life, an experiment in the art of sharing responsibilities and benefits an attempt to generate and co-ordinate the inherent energy in each individual for the common task. Hence we cannot afford to waste a single talent, impoverish a single man or woman or allow a single individual to be stunted in growth or held under tyranny and the Universities should, through the graduates it sends forth year after year, annihilate the

men who willingly submit themselves to discomfort, so that they can enable the next generation to lead a better life. Graduates of the Annamalai University, may I ask you, how are you going to repay what is to be your contribution to the social chest on which you have drawn so largely? Unless you replenish it richly, coming generations will find only an empty coffer. Your superior education increases your responsibility to society and therefore, apart from or along with your own individual advancement, society has got a right to expect an adequate return from you not so much in terms of money as in terms of service in toning up society, in bringing light into the dark alleys, sunshine into dingy places, solace unto the afflicted, hope unto the despondent and a new life unto every one.

That this is a welcome and worthy ideal none would dispute, but not every one will come forward to translate that ideal into action and yet our ancient as well as modern thinkers have all stated in unmistakable terms that wisdom is manifested in action.

Unless service is the outcome, the sermons become sweet nothings. As Jefferson stated, "We must dream of an aristocracy

of achievements arising out of a democracy of opportunities."

And when I seek your help and co-operation in the supreme task of serving society, please do not wink and smile and say, it is all so easy to say. I am not unaware of the difficulties in the way, nor am I going to brush aside the influence of the environment on you. May be, the world in which you are to begin the journey is one which will dim your hope, disturb your determination. You may come face to face with the unpleasant sight of practices widely differing from the principles inculcated in you. You may find self-seekers enthroned and the patient worker decried. Tyranny of all sorts may stare at you and every step you take will be a struggle. I admit that the environment is such that even people with robust optimism will be discouraged and forced to take to the path of ease and comfort.

But, we should also realise that a continuous stream of men and women endowed with the spirit of service have been carrying on the crusade successfully and have conferred rich benefit on humanity.

* * *

New Health Insurance Scheme Launched

13 Lakh Government Employees benefit

Government employees and their families can walk into any of the 300 hospitals across the State and get treated for major diseases without paying anything with the Government sponsored new Health Insurance Scheme coming into effect from June 11, 2008 the kind of which is for the first time in the country.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi handed over insurance cards to about 10 employees, marking commencement of the scheme for 13 lakh staff employed by the Government, public sector undertakings, statutory boards, local bodies and universities.

"I have not had any major disease so far. But, this (card) gives me confidence," said, an employee at the Vandalur Zoo. Another lady employee of the Vandalur Zoo said she was aware of the earlier scheme and had compared the two. "Obviously this is much better. I can get treated for up to Rs.2 lakh every four years compared to the earlier one, where I could get treated only once for Rs.1 lakh for my entire service (in Government)," she said.

The total annual premium per individual is Rs.556 (Rs.495 plus service tax at

12.36 percent). The contribution of the employee to this scheme is Rs.25 per month (Rs.300 per annum). The remaining will be borne by the Government.

Under the new scheme, Government employees and their families (children upto the age of 25; parents of unmarried employees too are entitled) can avail of medical treatment upto Rs.2 lakh every 4 years. The treatment cost will be paid directly to hospitals by the insurance company. The scheme provides for treating more ailments (52 types) than can be availed under the present scheme.

Finance Secretary Thiru. K.Gnanadesikan handed over a cheque for Rs.35 crore to the main insurance providers, Star Health and Allied Insurance Company. The consortium of health insurance companies selected to implement the scheme was represented by Thiru. Jagannathan, Chairman and Managing Director of the company. "This is the first time that a scheme of this nature and scale is being attempted in the country", said Thiru. Gnanadesikan.

Financial Aid for Perunthalaivar Kamarajar's Niece

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on July 29, 2008 released Rs.1 lakh to meet the medical expenses of Tmt. Karpala Devi, niece of former Chief Minister Kamarajar. A press release stated that besides footing the medical bill, Rs.1.5 lakh from the Chief Minister General Relief Fund would be deposited in the Tamil Nadu Power Finance Corporation. She would receive the interest amount every month.

Rs.504 crore given for development works

Over 30,000 developmental works will be taken up under the 'Ananthu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam' in the current fiscal, and the Government had sanctioned Rs.504 crore for executing the works, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru.M.K. Stalin stated.

He was inspecting the progress of works being executed in different places in the district. As many as 3,342 developmental works have been completed, he said.

Majority of the works taken up under the scheme in financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 had been completed. The Government had sanctioned Rs.70 crore for carrying out 1,424 works in different town panchayats during the current financial year. With the cooperation of rural masses, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was being implemented very well in the State. Wherever complaints emerged, the Government was taking necessary steps. Regarding demands from labourers to defer the works under the NREGS for two months to enable them to take up farming, Hon'ble Local Administration Minister said a high-level committee, comprising members of all political parties, had been constituted to look into the issue.

CM denies charges on rehabilitation of Scavengers

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on August 23, 2008 denied allegations that funds allocated to the State for rehabilitating scavengers was not utilised, saying 83 per cent of them had received assistance for alternative employment.

Reacting to the allegations by Tmt Santosh Chowdhary, Chairperson, National Commission for Safai Karmacharis, that Tamil Nadu had utilised only Rs.24.52 crore of the allocation of Rs.57.80 crore, he said the allocation was not for a year. "It is the total of the sum allocated since 1992."

Till 2007-08 the State government had spent Rs.35.03 crore. As regards the additional Rs.21 crore, he said the amount was sanctioned only on July 8, 2008.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar said after the Centre introduced the rehabilitation scheme in 1992, a survey was conducted in Tamil Nadu in 1993 and 35,561 persons were identified. "Till 2007-08 subsidised loans were given to 29,291 persons. Whenever the present Government was in power the scheme was implemented very effectively," he said.

On the other hand, he said, only 838 persons were given assistance between 2001 and 2006, when the previous Government was in power.

Stating that Tamil Nadu occupies the second place in rehabilitating the scavengers, he said the State Government of West Bengal and Kerala had rehabilitated only 10 per cent of the total workers.

The Chief Minister added that the State Government conducted another survey when the Centre changed the scheme to benefit family members of the scavengers. "A total of 22,811 beneficiaries have been identified and a scheme at a cost of Rs.52.36 crore is being implemented. Steps are being taken to provide self-employment training to 13,101 persons. Another scheme at a cost of Rs.34 crore to benefit 20,000 persons is also being implemented."

The State Government, besides setting up a separate welfare scheme for scavengers, also had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice M.S. Janarthanam to provide sub-quota for Arundhathiyars, a community mainly involved in scavenging. "I regret that without knowing all these details the Chairperson has levelled allegations against the Government," the Chief Minister concluded.

Child Beneficiaries of Free Heart Surgery Scheme Meet Chief Minister



Eleven children from Dindigul, who were benefitted by the State Government's assistance for free heart surgery, met the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi to convey their gratitude on 18 August, 2008.

The children and their families made the trip to Chennai to personally convey their thanks to the Chief Minister for the scheme that enabled them to lead a normal life.

Under the School Children Heart Surgery Project, each child receives assistance for heart surgery. Inaugurated in June 2008, the project has also included 17 private hospitals.

Special teams

Special medical teams have been visiting schools in the State and, till now have tested 9,986 students.

Of this, surgery was recommended for 2,396 students and 162 of them have been operated on.

Dindigul district remains the leader in the State in implementing the medical checkup scheme, with 30 children receiving care and being operated on. It also leads in implementing the Young Children Heart Surgery Scheme launched in November 2007.

Good Wishes to children

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi extended his good wishes to the children.

Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru. Arcot N. Veeraswami, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru. I. Periasamy and Hon'ble Minister for Health Thiru. M.R.K. Panneerselvam were also present on the occasion.

Chief Minister inaugurates Free Emergency Services



Like the 911 emergency response system in the United States, anyone can dial 108, the toll-free number, and access emergency services. It is being operated on a public-private partnership model.

On receipt of information, the emergency



Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi flagged off 20 ambulances and inaugurated the 108 emergency services in the State at the Secretariat on 14, September 2008. It will provide a total of 198 ambulances. By 2010, the State will have a fleet of 600 state-of-the-art ambulances, equipped with emergency equipment ranging from defibrillators and ventilators, to extrication tools to handle any emergency. The ambulances will also have GPS and GIS equipment.

Pointing out that the West had ambulance-helicopters and advanced equipment to handle emergencies, the Chief Minister said the services were of utmost importance to save lives. EMRI had taken the initiative here, he said and commended those who had worked to set up the services in the State. Special Secretary, Health, Thiru P.W.C. Davidar, said that emergency treatment would be provided free for the first 24 hours to the victim.

response centre will send an ambulance (in the event of a medical emergency) or convey the information to the Fire Department or the police (in case of other emergencies).

The emergency response centre physicians and the emergency medical technicians in the ambulance will provide free pre-hospital care while transporting the victim to the nearest hospital of the patient's choice. The system will be run by Emergency Management and Research Institute (EMRI), set up with initial funding from Satyam Computer Services founder and Chairman Thiru B. Ramalinga Raju.

As many as 105 hospitals had signed up for this service in Chennai. Five hospitals in Coimbatore and 50 in Madurai had signed up too.

EMRI CEO Thiru. Venkat Changavalli thanked Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology Thiru.A. Raja for agreeing to make '108' toll-free.

Free Ambulance Services

Tamil Nadu Government is implementing Emergency Management Ambulance Services Scheme with Public Private Partnership across Tamil Nadu. The Emergency Management Research Institute (EMRI), Hyderabad experience with in this activity in several States has been selected and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 6.5.2008 in the presence the Hon'ble Chief Minister at Chennai..

In the First Phase, 198 Ambulances were handed over to the E.M.R.I., Hyderabad.

The skilled man power required to implement the Scheme are being recruited and trained by EMRI. In each ambulance besides the Driver, trained Emergency

Management Technicians are to provide emergency medical care. This ambulance service will be available for all kinds of emergencies and services will be totally free of charge. During transportation, required emergency management medical advise will be rendered by the Emergency Medical Professionals to the Emergency Management Technicians in the ambulance.

A Centralised Emergency Control Room is being established temporarily in the campus of

the K.G. Hospital for Women & Children. Triplicane, Chennai at a cost of Rs.1.85 Crore. The EMRI will provide the technical equipments, software, etc. in the Control Room is likely to start functioning shortly.

The temporary Emergency Management Response Centre will function from Chennai. Medical emergencies, fire accidents, Police and other emergencies will be attended to by this service from Toll Free Number 108. Emergency services will reach within half-an-hour of dialing the emergency number to render first-aid and then to transport to the Hospital. The patient will be given proper treatment in time to save his life. Training to the required persons are in progress.

For other Emergency Management Service, Government have allotted Rs.22.89 Crore for the first year towards buildings, technical equipments, etc.and Rs.8.38 Crore have been paid to EMRI so far. For administrative expenses, salary fuel, medicine, maintenance, insurance advertisement, etc. Rs.13.13 Crore have been allotted against which Rs.9.5 Crore have been given by the National Rural Health Mission as its share.

Please Call 108 !

Free Dial '108' Emergency Response Services in Chennai.

Government of Tamil Nadu with Emergency Management and Research institute (EMRI) have launched the '108' Emergency Response Services in Chennai.

'108' Emergency Response Service

- ♦ 24x7 is a Free Emergency Response Service
- ♦ 108 is a toll-free number to call for help in Medical, Police and Free emergencies
- ♦ Accessible from a landline or mobile phone without a suffix or prefix.

Types of Emergencies handled by '108'

Heart Attacks, Hypertension, Breathing Problems, Pregnancy and Child Health, Poisoning (Food / Chemicals / Animal Bite), Accidents, Suicide, Crimes, Traffic Accidents, Ragging, Natural Disasters, Fire Accidents, Head Injury, Burns, Diabetes, Drowning and almost every other problem.



ANNA

A leader to remember

by Norman D. Palmer (Formerly Professor of Political Science and South Asian Studies,
University of Pennsylvania)



C. N. Annadurai the beloved "Anna" to millions of his admirers was certainly "one of the finest leaders of the country," as India's Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, described him, and indeed one of the finest, most versatile, and most attractive personalities in the public life of any country. He was a political leader *par excellence*, a charismatic leader who had "the gift of grace," the ability to inspire and win the loyalty of millions of people. A man of unquestioned integrity and high personal and political standards, he was above factionalism and petty partisan quarrels; yet

at the same time he identified himself with the masses and kept the common touch.

In his own Tamilnad "Anna" was a well known and important personality for many years. He made his mark as a writer, a journalist, an editor, a story-teller, an actor, and an orator. He was well known in literary and motion picture circles. Gradually he emerged as an important figure in the politics of the Tamil speaking areas, first in association with the Justice Party and the Dravida Kazhagam as a disciple of his political guru, E. V. Ramaswami Naicker, and then as a founder leader of the Dravida Munetra Kazhagam. The political successes of the D.M.K. in the elections of 1957 in Madras and in capturing control of the Madras City Corporation.

Two years later made Mr. Annadurai a political leader to watch, and perhaps for the first time won him considerable prominence outside of his native State. Even after he was defeated in a campaign for re-election to the Madras Assembly in 1962, he continued to

grow in stature and in reputation. His election to the Rajya Sabha, which many thought was a sentence of political exile or perhaps even political death for this champion of Dravidian culture and autonomy, turned out to be an opportunity for him to assert the claims of his State and party on a national stage. His "maiden speech" in the Rajya Sabha, a masterful oratorical performance, attracted national, and even international attention. When he led his party to overwhelming victory in the elections in Madras State in 1967, and when his party elected 25 of the 25 candidates to the Lok Sabha surely a record in a democratic election thus becoming the fourth largest party in the Lower House of the national Parliament, all India took notice of the emergence of a new political force in a key Indian State, led by a charismatic political leader, a man of great ability, mass appeal, and personal charm. It is unfortunate that he did not have time to fulfil his destiny and to carry out his mission.

"Anna" was a man who grew in wisdom and in stature with the passing years. All who knew him were impressed with his growing maturity and expanding horizons. In 1957, when he first led his party in an election campaign, he remarked:

"We realise that we must either breed political capacity or be ruined by democracy." He worked hard, with great success to "breed political capacity" among his followers, and in the process his own political capacity broadened and deepened. He believed deeply in democracy, and he was not ruined by it.

For all his political success, "Anna" remained shy, reserved and charmingly human in his private life, but on the platform he never lost his ability to stir his listeners. I recall vividly listening to some of his street-corner political speeches in Madras City during the election campaign of 1962, and being moved, long with the rest of his audience, even though I understood very little of his Tamil oratory. Later I had an opportunity to discover how eloquent he was in English as well as in Tamil.

"Anna" never lost his special concern for the poor and the oppressed, and his interest in social reform and democratic justice. He appealed primarily to the masses of the people in Tamil Nadu, and they responded to him with affection and support. He was emerging as a State leader of commanding stature, one of the ablest of the new leaders who were, rising in





national importance. Many people outside of Tamil Nadu feared that he and his fellow D.M.K. leaders would return to their separatist ways, and would follow policies which would divide North and South, create grave problems in Centre-State relations, and threaten national unity. Instead, as Prime Minister Indira Gandhi herself has testified, he worked effectively with the national Government, while at the same time strongly asserting the rights of the States and the special linguistic, regional, and cultural claims of his part of the country.

In the last year of his life he spent some time in America, once in the congenial role of Chubb Fellow at Yale University, where he conducted a course in Tirukkural and endeared himself to the students and faculty who came into contact with him, and again in the less pleasant role of patient at a great cancer hospital in New York City, where he impressed all who met him with his calm demeanor and winsome personality. Although he had little experience outside of his own country, or even his own State, he had no difficulty in fitting into the life of foreign land, and he won friends and admirers wherever he went. He was that kind of a man.

Like many others far removed from his personal and political arena of action, he was charming man who emerged

in the south of India out of nowhere, it seemed and who made such an impact on the character and styles of Indian political life: I was impressed by the response of his followers to him, by his personal integrity and attractiveness, and by the appealing combination of personate modesty and public magnetism. When learned of his passing, I too was saddened! and when I read that some three million people turned out for his funeral and the cries of "Anna, Anna" filled the air, I felt that I too was in their midst and was joining in their cries. In a sense, therefore, I too an American with a long and deep interest in India, shared in the loss.

"Anna" left a great personal and political heritage, not only in Tamil Nadu, where roots were so deep, but also in India many other parts of the world. His inspiration and example, as a humble man of the people and literary artist who galvanized the politics of his own State and carved channels in Indian politics, made him, as "The Hindu" observed on the day following his untimely death, "A Leader to Remember."

I am privileged to have this opportunity to join in a tribute to such a man.

(Courtesy : "The Anna Commemoration"
Volume - 1970

Editor & Publisher : A.P. Janarthanam
(Periyar Research Library)

* * *



Cargo berth at Thoothukudi Port Commissioned



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi on July 14, 2008 commissioned via video conference from Chennai a new cargo berth at the Thoothukudi Port.

The Chief Minister who addressed the gathering at Thoothukudi Port Trust from Chennai through video conferencing said that the berth has been designed to handle container vessels of 65,000 DWT and bulk cargo vessels, of 70,000 DWT at 12.8m draught. Moreover, it is also envisaged to erect appropriate shore based equipments and cranes to handle container vessels.

The Chief Minister informed that the Central Government has approved the inner harbour development works at the cost of Rs.1,050.45 crore and outer harbour development works to the tune of Rs.4,350 crore to be taken up at Thoothukudi Port Trust under the 11th Five Year Plan.

The Hon'ble Union Minister for Shipping and Surface Transport Thiru. T.R. Baalu attributed the growth of the Thoothukudi port in the last few decades to the initiatives and suggestions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. He said under phase

one of the National Maritime Development Programme, a total of 17 projects had been undertaken (including the construction of Berth 9) to enhance the cargo handling capacity at the Thoothukudi port on an outlay of Rs.961.25 crore. The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Tmt. Radhika Selvi, the Hon'ble Minister for Highways and Ports Thiru. M.P.Swaminathan, the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Tmt. Geetha Jeevan and Deputy Chairman of Thoothukudi Port Trust Thiru. A. Subbiah spoke on the occasion.

Established on an outlay of Rs.44.57 crore, the cargo Berth 9 will increase the port capacity by two million tonnes per annum initially.

Dredging works taken up in the vicinity to increase the draught from 7 metres to 10.9 meters at a cost of Rs.41 crore would be completed by November 2008.

The capacity of the 335 metre - long berth would be augmented by another 2.5 million tonnes once two more wharf cranes and silos are established at Berth 9 in 2009 - 10.

'Clean Cargo' such as wheat, maize, sugar, edible oil, wood logs and granite blocks would be handled at the berth.

★

Municipal Corporation Should Serve People More



Inaugurating the Vellore Corporation at a function in Vellore on August 1, 2008, Hon'ble Chief Minister K. J. Somasundaram said though he had inaugurated the Corporation, the people wanted the Government to bring many more schemes to the city.

The Chief Minister said that upgradation into Corporation is meant to serve the people more.

He promised an airport for Vellore, but added that it will become a reality only after an assessment of the passenger potential in the city.

Pointing out that vast land is required for the airport, he said many persons were creating obstacles to land acquisition citing various factors. "We have to get over those obstacles."

The Chief Minister said the upgrading the Vellore Municipality was the fulfillment of the demands of several political leaders.

Vellore has been upgraded to serve people more on the lines of initiative taken by Dravidian leaders such as Periyar who had expressed his wish to

upgrade the Erode municipality when he was its chairman in the year 1917.

In addition to this, the seeds of freedom movement was sown in this very soil and the present Government, in recognition of this fact, had taken the lead to glorify the valour and the historical achievement, which were hitherto considered to be rooted only in North India, by expanding its civic services to benefit the region as a whole.

"What more honour will the people of this region relish?" he wondered.

With the upgradation, the civic body should step up its activities at higher level to cover a wider area so that the services designed by it benefited the people, he added.

Giving away welfare assistance to over 59,000 beneficiaries to the tune of Rs. 59 crore and responding to the various demands placed before him by the local MLA's that included the long pending airport project for Vellore, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said, "when I respond to your pleas, there are others who blocked it with ulterior motives. However, I will brave all those hurdles when I say something, it would be done".

"Victories are not mere words and they are the byproducts of hard work and sacrifices. My government would not hesitate to produce victories", the Chief Minister asserted.

Referring to the proposed annexation of nearby areas such as Katpadi, Arcot, Ranipet and Walajapet

to the Corporation, he recalled the words of Periyar, the then Municipal Chairman of Erode in 1917, in the municipality's records that the nearby areas such as Veerappanchathiram should be annexed to Erode to facilitate the upgrading of the Municipality.

The new Mayor Thiru P. Karthikeyan should not be content with the creation of the Corporation but should take steps to implement development schemes facilitating the growth of the Corporation to the envy of the chairmen of neighbouring municipalities.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government sanctioned Rs. 5 crore to the Vellore Corporation initially to take up development works, against the Rs.10 crore sought by the municipal body. He wanted the Mayor and others to strive to fulfil the needs of the people.

The Chief Minister declared that he does not want another shot at power. "I have no desire to hold the Chief Minister's post once again, instead I will be the motivating factor behind a leader elected by the people and who has the ability to take the state on the development path and win the confidence of the people," he said. He was responding to the desire of two of his senior ministers the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru Arcot N. Veeraswami and the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Law, Thiru Duraimurugan that he should become the Chief Minister for a record sixth time and continue to serve the State.

Pointing to the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Law, Thiru. Duraimurugan's claim that the



people of Vellore will always stand behind him, the Chief Minister said, "We cannot win with mere words. We have to work hard and serve the people to taste success in the coming days."

The Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development & Local Administration Thiru M K Stalin who presided said the Government had initiated a project to bring water to Vellore from Mettur and it would be taken up after the completion of a study in March 2009.

Under the All Town Panchayats Anna Marumalarchi Thittam for 2008-09, six town

panchayats in Vellore district, including Tiruvalam, Katpadi, Kaveripakkam, Shenbakkam and Panapakkam would be taken up. Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Ashoka pillar erected in the Old Bus Stand to commemorate the upgrading of Vellore Municipality.

The Chief Minister handed over the Mayoral robe and the Mayoral sceptre to Municipal Chairman Thiru Karthikeyan, marking his assumption of office as the first Mayor of the Vellore Corporation.

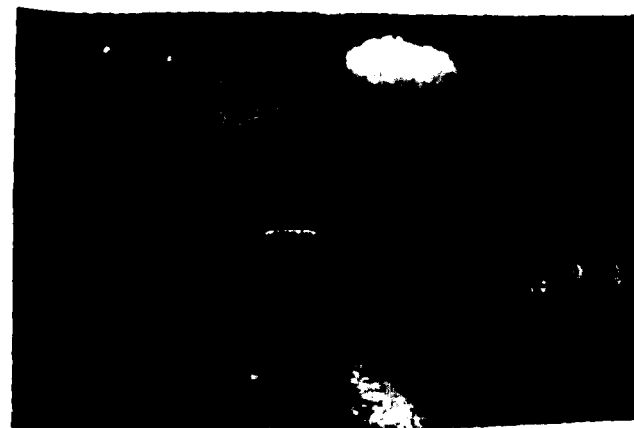


OVER 31,000 KM OF ROADS LAID IN TWO YEARS IN TAMIL NADU

In the past two years, the Highways department had laid 31,740 km of roads at a cost of Rs.4,476 crore. In the past two years, 6,475 km of roads have been upgraded to keep pace with the development of places along the roads.

In 2006 - 07, it took up repair and maintenance works at a cost of Rs.801.37 crore. The next year, the allocation rose to Rs.826.26 crore.

This and many other details on the functioning of the department and its achievements in the past two years are contained in a booklet, released by the Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin at Secretariat. He handed over the first copy to Hon'ble Highways Minister Thiru.M.P.Swaminathan. The progress of the World Bank - aided Road Sector project was very slow till March 2006, the booklet said.



Till then, only Rs.395 crore worth works were undertaken. But after this present Government came to power, Rs.1,085 crore have been spent. Of the 393 hectare land required for various projects in the sector, 380 hectares have been acquired.

The total road length under the project is 742 km. Of this, 380 km of road works have been completed.



Avadi Municipality Upgraded



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi on 9th August, 2008 announced that the Avadi Municipality would be accorded a higher grade that would place it above the Municipalities and just below the Corporations.

"It will be a Peru Nagaratchi," he said in response to a request made by Congress Legislature Party leader Thiru. D. Sudarsanam, who wanted special grade municipality status to Avadi.

Inaugurating various schemes including Rs.104.84 crore drinking water scheme and Rs.158.05 crore underground sewerage scheme for Avadi, the Chief Minister said file seeking upgradation for the municipality was with him.

Dismissing the allegations that lakhs of files were piling up on his table, the Chief Minister Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi said he disposed of files on day to day basis.

He said if he was not able to complete the work during the day time, he would call the officials to his house and work till 10 p.m.

"This is the practice I have been following since 1967. I never allow the files to rest. I will make them run, I never allowed red tapism," he said.

The Chief Minister Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi also praised Rural Development and Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin for effectively implementing the Anna Marumalarchi Scheme and bringing developments to the rural areas on par with the urban centres.

"The entire country is appreciating the scheme", he said.

Minister for Rural Development & Local Administration Thiru. M.K. Stalin said that if Tamil Nadu could achieve the growth rate of 10.26 percent, the credit should go to the effective functioning of self-help groups.

The Chief Minister also laid foundation stones for as many as 218 works at a cost of Rs.274 crore, including a new building for the municipality at a cost of Rs.3.20 crore. He also distributed house pattas to 3,000 people.

CHIEF MINISTER

Tyre Manufacturing facility at Gangaikondan .



A Rs.400 crore tyre manufacturing facility will be established at the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) Industrial Park at Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli District.

The facility, which will have a capacity to make 54,000 tonnes a year, is being established by ATC Tyres Private Limited. It is likely to generate direct and indirect employment for 1,800 persons.

The Company will invest Rs.300 crore in three years and another Rs.100 crore in the fourth and

fifth years. "The setting up of this project in Tirunelveli district will encourage other investors to locate their projects in the southern districts to which the Government accords high priority" said, an official release. In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M.Karunanidhi, a memorandum of understanding was signed on June 30, 2008 by Thiru. Ashok Mahansaria, Chairman and Managing Director of ATC Tyres and Industries Secretary Thiru. M.F. Farooqui.

★ ★ ★

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July-September 2008

Ready to bear insults for the Welfare of Tamils

Chief Minister KALAIIGNAR M. KARUNANIDHI



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaighnar M Karunanidhi on August 8, 2008 said that he was ready to bear as many insults, all for the welfare of the Tamils, as sometimes bearing insults would be tantamount to making sacrifice.

The Chief Minister spoke at the function that was got up for presenting awards to small screen artistes and technicians and financial assistance to the producers of low-budget films.

"Some persons are even counting the number of files he is clearing everyday," he said and added that after visiting the southern districts for the past three days, he had returned to Chennai only on August 7, 2008 and took a

plunge into the Government files as usual and cleared as many files till midnight.

"Only after completing all these official works, I am standing before you," said. Taking about some producers who had refused to accept the financial assistance extended by the State Government for their low budget films, the Chief Minister said he would not deem the refusal as an insult as it was a democratic right of any individual.

On the difficulties and losses incurred by some producers of films, he said that many such persons in the field stopped producing films and switched over to some other field in exasperation. His own nephew Murasoli Maran, who produced 7-8 films stopped production

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after releasing the film 'Engal Thangam'. It was to lift such persons who have failed in the field and to reinfuse confidence in them that such grants were given.

Great leaders like Thanthai Periyar and Mahatma Gandhi did not lose mental determination in the face of humiliations and insults. He accompanied Periyar to Cuddalore for a function to unveil the statue of that leader when some miscreants hurled a chappal at him. Undaunted Periyar waited for another chappal of the pair to be thrown at him, participated in the function and returned to Chennai. It was because of Periyar's determination and courage on that day, that today there were thousands of his statues throughout the state. If he had lost that determination then he could not have protected this great movement and imbibed spirit of self respect among all of us. Similarly Gandhi was thrown out of a train in South Africa by the British Whites regime. But he tolerated the humiliation and confidently faced the future and today he was being hailed all over the world, he said. The Chief Minister promised to provide lands for the TV Artistes Federation for building their office.

Stating that the Sethusamudram project would facilitate greater development and prosperity of the State, the Chief Minister said arguments were being adduced in the Supreme

Court in favour of the project because the completion of the project would be beneficial to trade and commerce of the State.

If the project were to be stalled, Sri Lanka would stand to gain, he said, adding that Thanthai Periyar, Arignar Anna and Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, had highlighted the need for its implementation.

He emphasised the importance of support given to the TV serials' makers. He hoped that the amount of grant provided to producers of low-budget films, which might not be adequate, would however, give them solace.

Television awards only in TN : Earlier actor Tmt.Kushboo said in no other state awards are given to television artistes and for the first time the Chief Minister is giving these awards in Tamil Nadu. This is the greatness of the State. Stating that working for the small screen is more difficult than working for films, she said, bearing this in mind the Chief Minister has honoured TV artistes for which they should be grateful to him all through their life.

Actor-producer Tmt.Radhika said film world and television field have received a pride place because of the Chief Minister.

Hon'ble Minister for Information Thiru Parithi Ellamvazhuthi said a total of Rs.4.9 crore was set apart for 70 low-budget films produced in 2005 and 2006 at the rate of Rs.7 lakh a film.

Thiru. Raama Narayanan and Thiru. M. Saravanan, film producers, commended the award-winning artistes.

Among those who received the awards under different categories for TV serials were Rani Somanathan, Delhi Kumar, Ajay and Bharath. 'Oruthi', 'Chidambarathil Oru Appasamy', 'Kasu' and 'Sasanam' were among the films chosen for the grants.

* * *



Arasu Cable TV Operation launched

The State Government will provide one more chance for Local Cable Operators (LCOs) to get registered with Arasu Cable TV Corporation (ACTVC) to obtain digital feeds, and Multi-System Operators (MSOs) can also make use of this opportunity, said Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi in Chennai on July 15, 2008.

Inaugurating ACTVC's Thanjavur digital control room through video conferencing, the Chief Minister said it would provide digital feeds to registered LCOs without bias. For others, one more chance would be given very soon. However, digital feeds would be given only to those who would abide by the rules and regulations of the Corporation.

"It is a new scheme that has not been introduced in any other State. ACTVC was started with the intention of providing quality service to the public at an affordable cost and not to increase the State's revenue".

Since it was not possible to provide all the 300 pay channels, ACTVC had discussions with the broadcasters to relay around 70 - 80 prime channels. "While some of them have agreed to provide feeds, others have not yet given their consent. To get the feeds, we will proceed against them legally," the Chief Minister said.

Having rolled out its services in Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Tiruchi, Nagapattinam, Perambalur and Ariyalur, ACTVC will charge Rs.100 per connection for relaying 60 channels. However, the rates in Chennai might be more as it falls under Conditional Access System.

Explaining the rationale for charging Rs.100 per connection, the Chief Minister said as per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's directive ACTVC would collect Rs.77 for free-to-air channels and the



balance for a few pay channels. Currently, for the same 60 channels, the users were being charged between Rs.150 and Rs.300 by the LCOs. "In Chennai, the users can get the services by paying Rs.100 per connection or go in for set top boxes for which the rates are different. In any case, ACTVC will not charge more money from the public," he added. It was aimed at providing quality services at fair prices. Some Multi System Operators had 'exploited' local cable TV operators and earned huge profits, the Chief Minister explained.

Information Technology Secretary Thiru. C.Chandramouli said that it costs Rs.5.54 crore to set up a digital control room. Thomson had been given the mandate to set up the digital control room in Thanjavur, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli while Tandberge would setup the digital control room in Vellore. Chief Secretary Thiru. L.K.Tripathy and ACTVC Chairman and Managing Director Thiru. Brijeshwar Singh also spoke.

The District Collectors of Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur spoke to the Chief Minister from the Thanjavur control room through video conferencing on the occasion.

★

TTDC's Platinum, Gold Cards Released



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigiar M. Karunanidhi on July 9, 2008 released Platinum and Gold Cards introduced by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC).

While the Platinum Card is priced at Rs.5,000 with 10 year validity, the Gold Card is priced at Rs.1,000 with a 3 year validity. Holders of these special promotional cards can get discounts ranging between 10 and 20 percent on accommodation at TTDC hotels across the State.

The Chief Minister handed over the first Platinum Card to Tmt. Shobana Ramesh, Bharathanatyam exponent, and the Gold Card to film director Thiru. S.P. Muthuraman. The function took place at the Secretariat in the presence of Hon'ble Tourism and Registration Minister Thiru. N. Suresh Rajan, Tourism and Culture Secretary Thiru. V. Irai Anbu, Chairman of the TTDC Thiru. Sanwat Ram and Commissioner of Tourism and Managing Director of the TTDC Thiru. M. Rajaram. *

SOLIATUM INCREASED FOR KIN OF FISHERMEN KILLED

The State Government on July 17, 2008 announced that solatium for families of fishermen killed in mid-sea attacks, would be increased from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.3 lakh. In case the fisherman, who is killed, is the sole bread winner, then the family will get a solatium of Rs. 5 lakh. The decision was taken during a meeting that the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigiar M. Karunanidhi had with representatives of fishermen's associations at

the Secretariat. The Chief Minister approved a compensation of Rs.50,000 for severely injured and Rs.20,000 to the injured. He assured the fishermen that necessary security cover would be provided to them by the Centre. Besides, Union ministers from the state and MPs from coastal districts will soon meet the Prime Minister in New Delhi and urge him to prevail upon the Sri Lankan Government to ensure safety for Tamil fishermen.

Rice Scheme well received



Functions to mark the launch of the 'Re.1-a-kg-rice' scheme of the State Government were held at fair price shops in different parts of the city on 16.9.2008.

The shops wore a festive look, decked with festoons and banners, as several people, including a large number of women, thronged the facilities as Hon'ble Ministers and officials launched the scheme in the respective areas.

The 'Re.1-a-kg-rice' scheme forms part of the welfare measures of the State government to mark the birth centenary celebrations of the former Chief Minister Perarignar Anna.

The beneficiary-family card holders at the functions commended the State government for its initiative.

Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru. Arcot N. Veeraswami inaugurated the scheme at a fair price shop on Brewery Street, Anna Nagar, and the Chintamani fair price shop in Aynavaram.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, "The Government has made the dream of Anna come true by providing people with subsidised rice through the public distribution system at Re. 1 a kg."

"The Government has consistently taken steps to solve the problems faced by the people. In order to solve the power shortage experienced in the State, the Chief Minister has taken initiatives.

He has urged industrialists to contribute towards tackling the power shortage faced by the State by generating at least 1,500 MW using generators available in the private sector. Together, all the generators in the private sector are capable of producing 3,000 MW," the Minister said.

"The industrialists have agreed. However, they have asked the Government for subsidised fuel for the generators, around 1,000 kilolitres a day to generate 1,500 MW. The State Government and the Centre would soon have a solution in this regard," the Minister added.



Under the free colour Television scheme, Chennai has received 1.69 lakh sets and about 53,000 sets would soon be distributed among the 14 Assembly constituencies in the city, said Hon'ble Rural Development and Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin.

He was speaking at a function organised to distribute Television for the beneficiaries residing in Thousand Lights and T. Nagar on July 26, 2008.

When the Scheme was launched in September 15, 2006, the Government bought 30,000 Television at a cost of Rs.9 crore. And in the Second Phase, the Government ordered the purchase of 25 lakh Television on February 15, 2007 at a cost of Rs.685 crore. All these sets have been distributed. In the third phase, the Government acquired 34.25 lakh Television sets at a cost of Rs.780 crore and the process of distribution of these sets are under way.

Over the next few days the city Mayor and State Ministers will distribute the remaining Television across the city, the Minister said.

The Rural Development and Local Administration Minister further said that the function was yet another proof that the Government did not make empty promises. Each of the promises made prior to the 2006 Assembly elections have been either fulfilled or are about to be fulfilled.

He also emphasised that the major schemes, including Rs.2 per kg of rice, three eggs per week in noon meals and waiver of farmers' loans were a big success.



1.69 Lakh Televisions distributed in Chennai

Explaining the developmental works carried out in Thousand Lights and T. Nagar, he said about 25 pattas were given to landless and three bridge works were underway in T. Nagar to decongest south Chennai.

Chennai Mayor Thiru. M. Subramanian and Corporation Commissioner Thiru.Rajesh Lakhoni were present on the occasion. ★



Aavin on July 24, 2008 introduced probiotic curd variety that contains unique probiotic micro-organisms, which can survive in the digestive system even in a highly acidic environment.

The high calorific probiotic curd was launched by Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration and Rural Development Thiru. M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat. Hon'ble for Dairy Minister Thiru.U. Mathivanan, Chief Secretary Thiru. L.K. Tripathy were present.

Aavin has introduced a 200gm pack of probiotic curd at a price of Rs.15. The product has benefits like controlling blood cholesterol, building up resistance, preventing liver - related disorders, claimed Aavin.



Aavin Launches Probiotic Curd

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Over the next few days the city Mayor and State Ministers will distribute the remaining Television across the city, the Minister said.

The Rural Development and Local Administration Minister further said that the function was yet another proof that the Government did not make empty promises. Each of the promises made prior to the 2006 Assembly elections have been either fulfilled or are about to be fulfilled.

He also emphasised that the major schemes, including Rs.2 per kg of rice, three eggs per week in noon meals and waiver of farmers' loans were a big success.



1.69 Lakh Televisions distributed in Chennai

Explaining the developmental works carried out in Thousand Lights and T. Nagar, he said about 25 pattas were given to landless and three bridge works were underway in T. Nagar to decongest south Chennai.

Chennai Mayor Thiru. M. Subramanian and Corporation Commissioner Thiru. Rajesh Lakhoni were present on the occasion.



**Aavin
Launch**

P.

honoured in
the media to film
Secretary Thiru. T.



Desalinated Drinking Water for Chennai City by January 2009



The improvement works in progress at the Kilpauk water distribution station, aimed at providing equitable water supply, will be completed by October 2009, Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru M. K. Stalin said in Chennai on September 23, 2008.

The Minister reviewed the works taken up at the Kilpauk distribution station under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission scheme at the cost of Rs.51.20 crore.

Addressing presspersons, the Minister said that of the nine underground tanks in Kilpauk Head Works, six with total storage capacity of 47.70 Million Litres (ML) were in use. The other underground tanks were in dilapidated condition. In a bid to increase the storage capacity to cater for the growing population, the defunct tanks are being repaired and a new tank is also constructed under the scheme. At present, 25 per cent of the works have been finished by IVRCL that has taken up the contract of the scheme.

Once the improvement works are completed, the distribution station would have its total storage capacity increased to 93 ML, the Minister said.

Moreover, an overhead tank of 9 ML storage capacity would also be constructed, apart from strengthening the pumping station. The scheme would be beneficial to a population of 10 lakh spread across areas such as Kilpauk, Anna Nagar, Ayanavaram, Chetpet, Purasawalkam, Egmore and Pulianthope.

The works being taken up in four water distribution stations, Kilpauk, Anna Poonga, Southern Head Works (Valluvar Kottam) and K.K.Nagar, would facilitate an equal distribution of water with adequate water pressure on 532 streets connected to the network, even those streets supplied with water through hand-pumps now would receive piped water supply. The works to improve the city water supply network had been taken up at the cost of Rs.337.48 crore, he said.

The Minister also reviewed the progress of work at the 100 million litre a day capacity desalination plant coming up at Minjur.

About 80 per cent of the work had been completed and the plant would become functional by January 2009, the Minister announced.

About preserving the buildings of historical value at the Kilpauk Head Works, Chennai Metrowater had been asked to restore the buildings as part of the improvement work, the Minister added.

Municipal Administration and Water Supply Secretary Thiru K. Deenabandu and Metrowater Managing Director Thiru Sunil Paliwal were also present.



Chennai Celebrates Corporation's 320th Anniversary

Local body staff and icons from various fields honoured

The Chennai Corporation is 320. City's long-time residents, former and serving Corporation staff, politicians and people from various walks of life gathered at a function in Chennai to celebrate the anniversary on 28th September, 2008.

They felicitated those who ran the civic body for its achievements and suggested ways to improve the city further. The Corporation was formed on September 29, 1688.



Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Thiru. M.K. Stalin released a souvenir on the history of the Corporation. He said the city's population had grown from 3.9 lakh in 1871 to 50.17 lakh in 2008. The local body had improved and expanded its services in several ways.

From 15 streetlights in 1914, the number had gone up to 1.24 lakh streetlights at present, he said.

He listed the Local Administration Department's achievements, which included flyovers to reduce traffic congestion, high mast lamps at important junctions, strengthening of the school education system and formation of four new Corporations in the State. He said that the present Government was instrumental in extending the Mayor's term from one year to five years for better implementation of schemes. The Minister said a grievance redressal hearing was being organised every week for people to directly approach the Mayor.

A short film on the Corporation's achievements was screened on the occasion.

The Corporation honoured icons from various fields, ranging from the media to film to social service. Former Chief Secretary Thiru. T.V. Antony

encouraged Chennai residents to take the responsibility of keeping public spaces free of litter.

Thiru. N. Ram, Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu, commended the importance that the local body gave to public health and school education. He suggested that the Corporation offer free wi-fi access in a few locations such as the Ripon Building campus and parks.

Actor-director Tmt. Revathy made an appeal to provide easy access for people with disability in government buildings and public places, such as theatres and malls.

Former Indian cricket team captain Thiru. Krishnamachari Srikkanth congratulated the Corporation for its "three centuries and still batting," score and Hon'ble Stalin's "good innings."

Municipal Administration and Water Supply Secretary Thiru. K. Deenabandu and Corporation Commissioner Thiru. Rajesh Lakhoni Actor Thiru. Sathyaraj, industrialist Thiru. Nalli Kuppuswami, writer Tmt. Sivasankari, Exnora International Founder Thiru. M.B. Nirmal, spoke.

Meritorious employees of the Chennai Corporation, former Mayors and Deputy Mayors were honoured on the occasion.

WATER CONNECTION AT Rs.100 FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED LAUNCHED IN CHENNAI

City residents living in dwelling units with built area less than 500 sq. ft. will now get water supply connections for Rs.100 each. The scheme for providing water supply connections at this rate for underprivileged consumers was launched at a function on 9.9.2008.

Launching the Scheme at Bojarajan Nagar, Old Washermenpet, Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin said an estimated 48,000 households in the city are expected to benefit by the scheme. At present, Rs.5,000 each is charged for new water supply connections for houses with built area up to 1,000 sq.ft. and Rs.7,500 for plinth area above 1,000 sq.ft. Similar charges are to be paid for sewer connections.

However, under the scheme, water supply and sewer connections would be provided at Rs.100 each for economically weak households.

Such beneficiaries need not furnish income certificate from the Revenue Department, the Minister said.

Highlighting various schemes taken up by the Chennai Metrowater, Thiru.M.K. Stalin said the desalination plant in suburban Minjur, with a capacity of 100 million litres per day (mld), would be operational by February next. Nearly 87 per cent of work has been completed.



Tenders are to be floated soon for the Nemmeli desalination plant. About Rs.300 crore has been allotted, as the first instalment by the Central Government, for the project, he confirmed.

Metrowater supplies 585 mld of water to the Chennai city. Steps are being taken to provide 1.2 lakh new water supply connections of which 40 per cent belong to economically weaker section.



PHCs to Provide Free Meals to Women Admitted for Delivery

From 15.9.2008 Primary health centres (PHCs) across the State will provide free meals thrice a day for three days to all women admitted for delivery and those undergoing sterilisation.

Hon'ble Health Minister Thiru. M.R.K. Panneerselvam, said the meals scheme was in addition to the free meals being provided to women on the day they visited ante-natal clinics. The free meals scheme was being implemented with the support of self-help groups in nearby areas.

Also, to start with all 1,421 primary health centres in the State will function round-the-clock. Currently, 1,000 PHCs work 24 hours. No other State had performed such a feat.



A sum of Rs.1.61 crore has been earmarked for providing food to the pregnant women for three days. For providing food to them once a week, Rs.25.5 lakh has been earmarked under the National Rural Health Mission.



The Honourable Supreme Court of India has observed that the Educational Institution vehicles should be easily recognizable by all road users, by having a distinct colour, so that the safety of the school children could be ensured.

School and College buses to be painted yellow

Accordingly Government of Tamil Nadu have issued order for Painting of Educational Institution Vehicles.

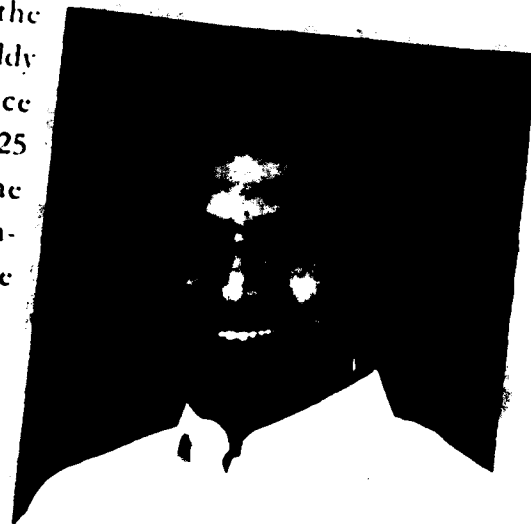
- Every educational institution bus shall be fully painted in Yellow Colour.
- The inscription "School Bus" or "College Bus" shall be painted in the front and rear top of the vehicle, as the case may be, in bold and clearly visible letters.
- On both exterior sides of the vehicles in a circle of 60 centimeter diameter and on both the front and rear exterior sides in a circle of 20 centimeter diameter, diagrams shall be painted in dark blue colour with yellow back-ground in the school and College buses, respectively.

All the existing educational institution buses shall be painted, as ordered by the Government, when renewal of fitness certificate is sought for from the authorities concerned.

CIVIC PROJECTS IN CHENNAI INAUGURATED

Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration Thiru M.K. Stalin on September 6, 2008 inaugurated several projects in Chennai, including parks, community halls and school buildings, developed at a cost of Rs.6.34 crore.

beneficiaries of the Muthulakshmi Reddy maternity assistance scheme, and Rs. 11.25 lakh under the Moovalur Ramamirtham marriage assistance scheme.



The Minister said that 40 lakh colour television sets were to be given in the fourth round of distribution. All families in the State that did not have a colour TV would soon own one. The Minister inaugurated parks and school buildings in north Chennai on September 7, 2008.

Downloadable Birth, death certificates A click of the computer mouse is all that is required now to get copies of birth and death certificates issued by the Chennai Corporation.

Twelve new/renovated parks in various parts of south Chennai were also opened. One of the new parks in MRC Nagar was developed through a public-private partnership on open space reservation land.

The Minister said the Corporation spent Rs.14.21 crore on renovation and development of parks in the last two years. Parks along roads and inside traffic islands would also be renovated.

He distributed financial aid of Rs.24 lakh to

NEW ICT POLICY FOCUS ON SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi released the new Information Communication Technology policy for Tamil Nadu that provides a slew of concessions to the industry and envisages creation of about 3 million jobs by 2011 on.

The policy aims at promoting "Socially inclusive growth" and achieving a share of 25 percent of Indian ICT production by 2011.

Vision 2011 envisages creation of opportunities to employ 0.8 million directly in IT firms and another 2.2 million indirectly. ICT Services and ICT manufacturing sectors are expected to employ 0.7 million and 0.1 million people respectively.

The policy lays stress on the right mix of development to enable the State to stay in the lead in South Asia. For this, an elaborate plan to nurture talent has been drawn up. This includes promoting centres of excellence, setting up finishing schools and developing soft skills, allowing industry representatives to have a say in the syllabus committee and ensuring that all high and higher secondary schools in the State have broadband internet connectivity by 2011.

The Government plans to boost research and development by setting up higher institutes of learning, encouraging industry - academia collaboration in Research and Development, instituting scholarships to take up research, setting up labs in the public private partnership mode and research parks.

The policy says that IT-ITES facilities set up in Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts with an investment of over Rs.250 crore in a period of three years would be eligible for a structures package of incentives. In the case of other districts, the minimum investment will be Rs.150 crore. All locations in the State apart from the three districts will be treated as Tier 2 / Tier 3 locations for availing the incentive.

The policy also announced capital subsidy and electricity tax exemption for a specific period depending on the investment; exemptions in stamp duty and registration fee of up to 50 percent and relaxation on FSI to the extent of 100 percent for IT-ITES parks. The Government will also formulate a comprehensive data security policy.

The Chief Minister handed over the first copy of the ICT policy to Thiru. A. Raja, Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology. IT Secretary Thiru.C. Chandramoulli explained the salient features of the policy. Members of the second task force including Chief Secretary Thiru. L.K. Tripathy, Finance Secretary Thiru. K.Gnanadesikan and Industries Secretary Thiru. M.F. Farooqui, IIT-Madras Director Thiru.M.S. Ananth, Anna University Vice-Chancellor Thiru.Mannar Jawahar, Thiru.M. Ramaswami and Thiru.C.K. Raganathan from the CII, attended the meeting.



Rs.150 crore revolving fund For SHGs

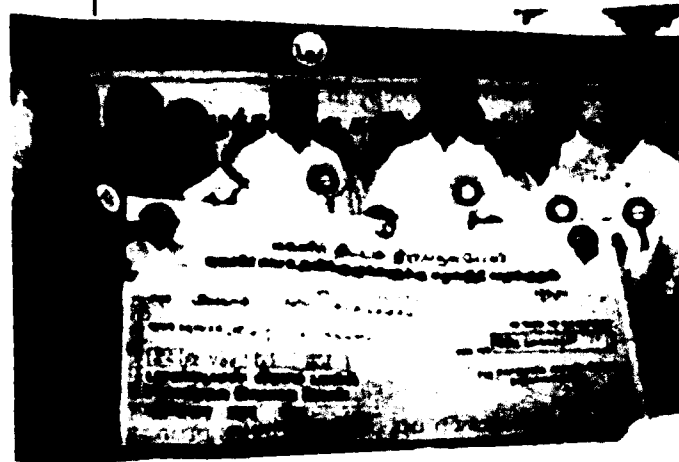
Tamil Nadu Government has allotted Rs.150 crore as revolving fund for distribution to over 1.50 lakh eligible self-help groups, which are yet to receive the assistance, according to Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru.M.K. Stalin.

Addressing a function organised to distribute the fund for SHGs, inaugurate development works and lay foundation stone for new projects on VOC Ground at Palayamkottai on 10th September, 2008, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin said the SHG concept, conceived and introduced in 1989 at Dharmapuri by the Government with the objective of strengthening the rural women's livelihood, had grown over the years to reach an enviable number of 3,70,312 SHGs with 59,25,000 members.

There were 16,222 groups in Tirunelveli district with 2,60,754 members, who had obtained loan subsidy to the tune of Rs.26.19 crore.

"Prompt repayment by SHGs encourage banks to give them loans time and again. Of the Rs.1,824 - crore loans provided by Indian Bank to 2,57,641 SHGs across the country so far, 1,41,845 groups from Tamil Nadu have received Rs.1,056 crore, which proves that SHGs in the State are prompt in repaying their loans", the Minister noted.

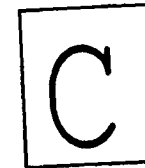
On the disbursement of revolving fund subsidy, the Minister said that Rs.25 crore was disbursed to 25,000 odd urban SHGs during 2007-2008 and Rs.150 crore allotted to help 1.50 lakh odd qualified and exceptionally performing SHGs, which were yet to receive the assistance from the Government. Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration inaugurated 54 works executed at a cost of Rs.6.46 crore, laid foundation stone for 1,984 projects to be implemented on an outlay of Rs.17.75 crore and distributed welfare assistance to 32,779 beneficiaries to the tune of Rs.10.46 crore.



Hon'ble Speaker Thiru. R. Avudaiyappan, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Tmt. V. Radhika Selvi, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Sports and Youth Welfare Thiru.T.P.M. Mohideen Khan, Thiru. R. Dhanushkodi Adityan, M.P., MLAs Thiru. M. Appavu, Thiru. V. Karuppasamy Pandian, Thiru. N. Maalairaja, Dr. Poongothai and Thiru. S. Peter Alphonse participated in the function.



Dr.U.Ve. Swaminatha Iyer



aminata Aiyar (1855-1942), a man of vast learning, was entirely unaware even of the existence of the breath taking epics and anthologies of early Tamil, until he met a liberal-minded munsif (civil judge) named Ramacuvami Mutaliyar, in a small temple town, Kumpakonam. Aiyar records the date of this fateful meeting, for it was no less, as October 21, 1880, a Thursday. To him, as to all students of Tamil literature, this date is "etched in red letters." The munsif had just been transferred to that small town. When Aiyar met him, the judge asked him what he had studied and under whom. Aiyar named his well-known mentor and listed all the grammars, religious texts, and commentaries he had labored over. The judge, unimpressed, asked him, "That's all? What use is that? Have you studied the old texts?" He named some. Aiyar, one of the most erudite and thoroughgoing of Tamil scholars, was aghast that he had not even heard of them. The judge then gave him a handwritten manuscript to take home and read. In his autobiography (the chapter is called "What Is the Use?"), Aiyar says the good fortune of his past lives took him there that Thursday



and opened a new life for him. Caminata Aiyar, who was 44 then, devoted the rest of his long life to roaming the villages, rummaging in private attics and the storerooms of monasteries, to unearthing, editing, and printing classical Tamil texts (Caminataiyar 1952: 326-43).

It is to him and to his peers, such as Ci. Vay. Tamotaram Pillai (1832-1901), that we owe our knowledge of this major tradition. They rescued manuscripts from oblivion and put them into print and circulation. Pillai described the situation in the late nineteenth century in a preface he wrote to the first edition (1877) of one of the Eight Anthologies:

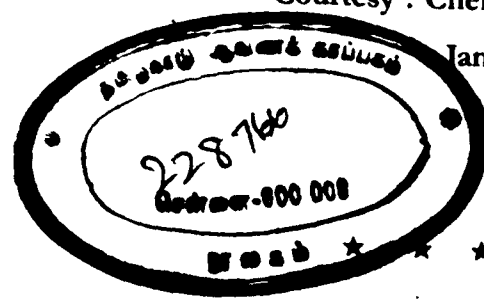


Only what has escaped fire and water (and religious taboo) remains; even of that, termites and the bug named Rama's Arrow take a toll; the third element, earth has its share.... When you untie a knot, the leaf cracks. When you turn a leaf, it breaks in half... Old manuscripts are crumbling and there is no one to make new copies. ...

Written texts, and among them the very classical that are the pride of Tamils today, were thus precariously, expensively, often only accidentally, transmitted. The story of Caminata Aiyar dramatizes the transition from palm leaf to print, from a period of private sectarian ownership of texts to a period of free access to them (Ramanujan 1970a).

Ramanujan A.K., 2006. *Poems of Love and War. (Selected and translated from the Eight Anthologies and the Ten Long Poems of Classical Tamil)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. xvi-xviii.

Courtesy : Chemozhi dated Jan - June 2008



A tribute by C. Subramaniya Bharathiar

Who will be in ecstasies because the ruddy sun has his brightness, the nectar is reputed for its sweetness, all the gods in heaven are immortal? Why should you go into raptures when the erudite Caminathan who resembles Kumbamuni has attained boundless fame?

Though we are ruled today by aliens ignorant of Tamil's glory they have on him conferred the honorific Mahamahapatyaya heartily hailing Caminathan of the golden city of Kutantai.

Is it possible to speak of the Jume he would have won had he lived during the Pandyas' days in the past?

King of artists from Kutantai city, don't be disheartened thinking that we know no wealth, we know no way to taste everyday a crore of earthly joys. You will receive the praise of poets, their prayers till the language born in Potiyai hill lives. Knowing no death, you will forever shine.

(Tr. P. Marudanayagam)

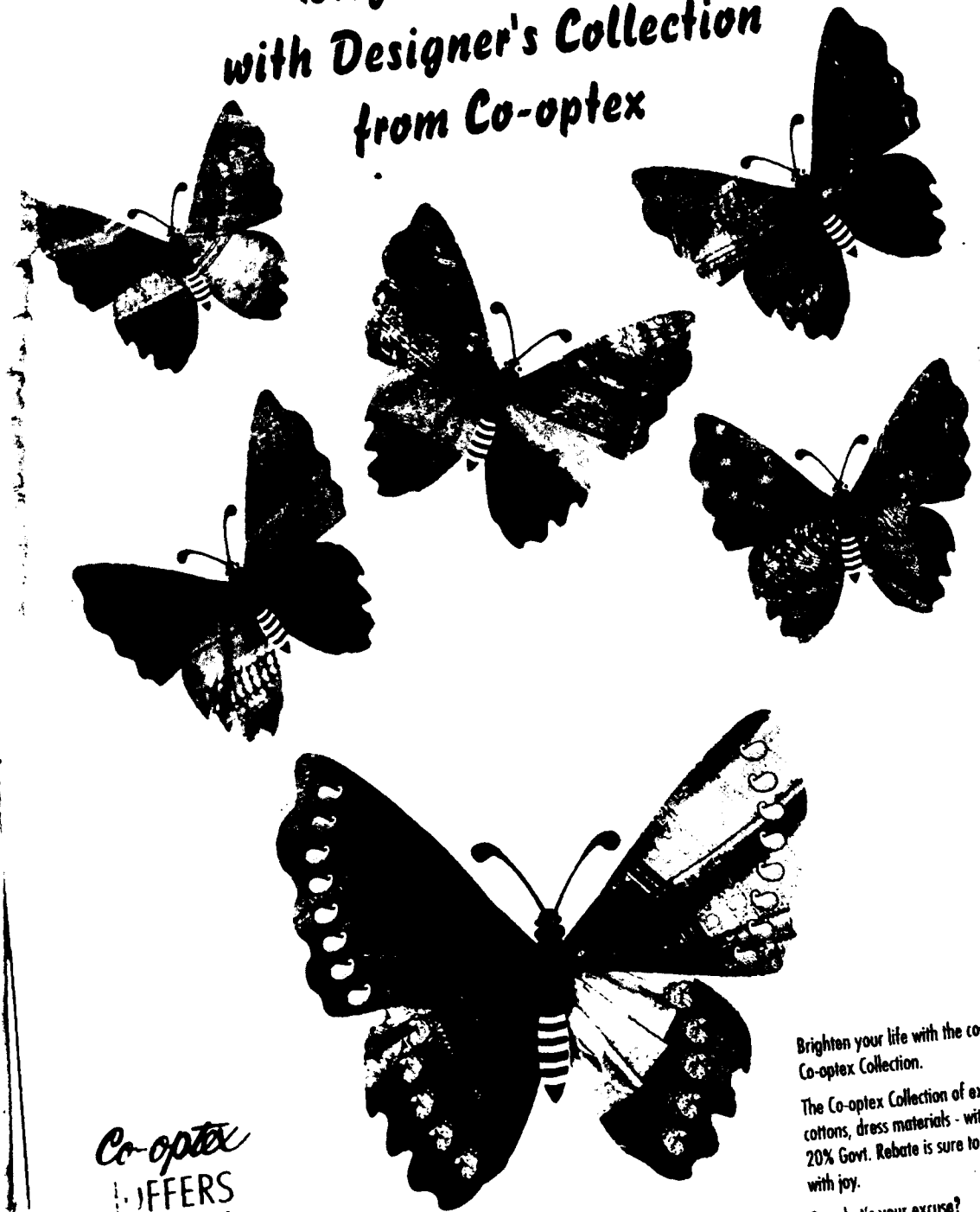
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