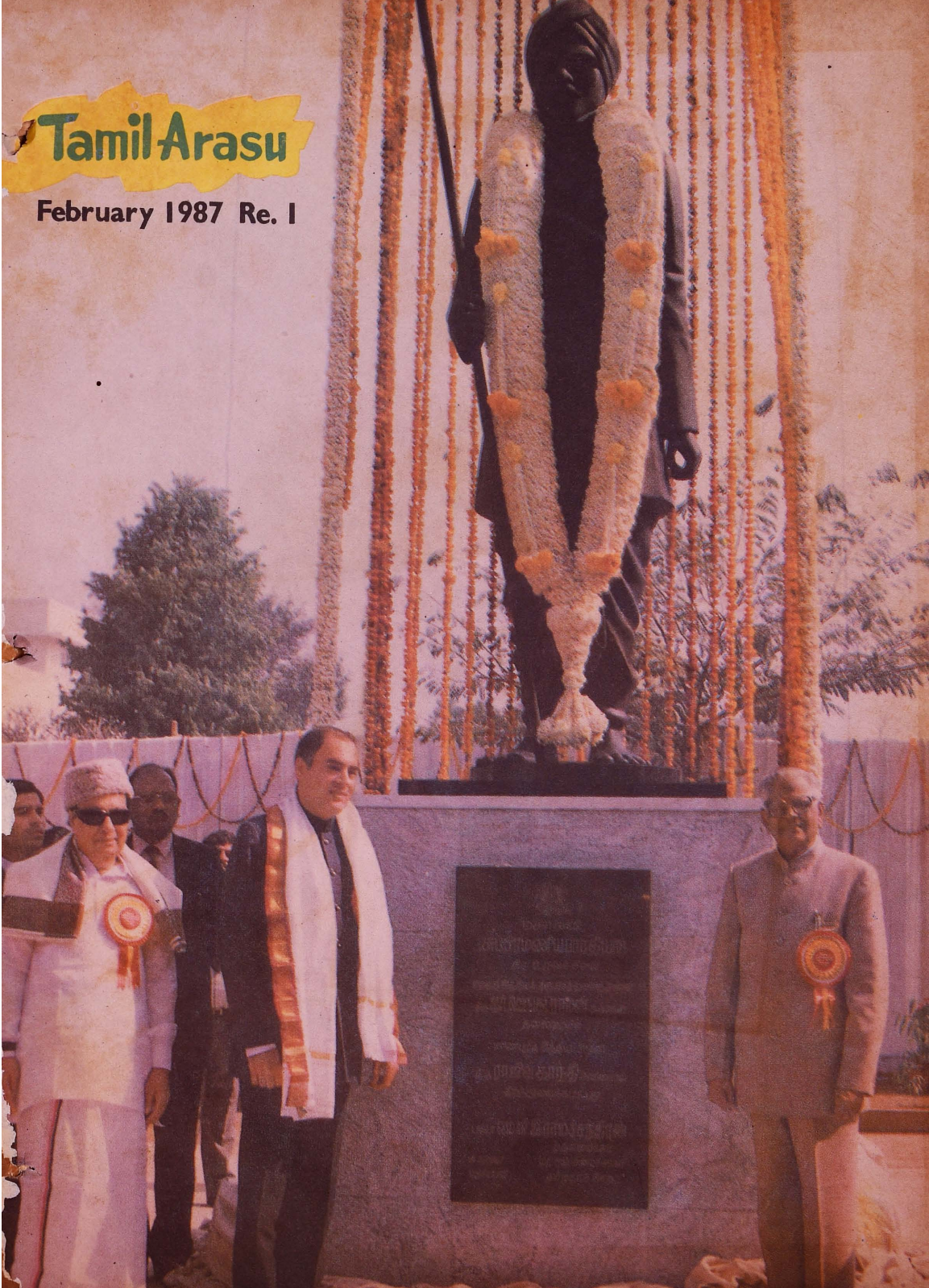


Tamil Arasu

February 1987 Re. I



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TAMIL ARASU

In scope this month

The Governor's Address

His Excellency, the Governor, Thiru S. L. Khurana addressed the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on the 27th February 1987.

The Address.

Poet Bharathi's Statue at New Delhi

Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi unveiled the 10 foot high bronze statue of Poet Bharathi at New Delhi on 4.2.1987.

A report

38th Republic Day Celebrations

The 38th Republic Day Celebrations were held in Madras on 26.1.87. His Excellency, the Governor, took the salute and the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the Anna Medals for gallantry.

A report

Thiru M. Bhakthavatsalam passes away

Former Chief Minister, Thiru M. Bhakthavatsalam passed away on 12.2.87. A study into the life and achievements of the elder statesman.



Thiruvalluvar Year, 2018

February, 1987

Thai-Masi



Address By:
Thiru SUNDAR LAL KHURANA
 Governor of Tamil Nadu
 at the
**THE TAMILNADU
 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2018
 -Atchaya-Masi 15
 27th February 1987

Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I wish you all a very Happy New Year. I also wish a year of prosperity for the people of Tamil Nadu.

2. The year 1987 should be an important landmark in the history of the State. The new year began with a note of fulfilment of one of the long standing assurances of the State Government. In order to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and keeping in mind the Directive Principles of the State Policy contained in the Constitution of India, the Government have prohibited the manufacture, sale and consumption of arrack and toddy from 1st January 1987 onwards. When the new year began, all the toddy and arrack shops throughout the State were closed. Besides as a step towards the rehabilitation of about 30,000 toddy tappers, Government have formulated a scheme in which a cash assistance of Rs. 2,000 each is being given to the erstwhile toddy tappers to enable them to purchase the tools and equipments for tapping of neera and manufacture of palmgur. The new year thus began on a promising note.

3. The day of Pongal this year was also of considerable importance for the people of Tamil Nadu. Most parts of the State were brought together into a communication network by the launching of Kodaikanal T. V. Relay Station. Regional programmes are now available to a large segment of the State's population.

4. The second year of the Seventh Five-Year Plan is coming to a close shortly and I am happy to announce that the plan performance of the State Government has been commendable as in the past. As against an approved outlay of Rs. 1,153 crores for 1986-87, the actual expenditure is expected to be about Rs. 1,200 crores. In order to maintain a similar tempo of economic development, the State will enter into the third year with an outlay of Rs. 1,250 crores. However, the Union

Planning Commission has assessed a resource gap of Rs. 86 crores for the State Government to reach this outlay. This has been due to various factors like consecutive droughts, failure of north-east monsoon, revenue depletion owing to the introduction of prohibition, sanction of ex-gratia payment to Government servants and payment of Dearness Allowance on par with the decisions of Government of India. The State Government have already requested the Government of India to release Rs. 86 crores either in the form of Special Central Assistance or Advance Plan Assistance to enable the State Government to overcome the resource constraints next year and maintain the momentum already generated in plan performance.

5. The major thrust in the plan investment during 1987-88 will be in the power sector which forms the basis for the growth of the economy. In my last address to the State Legislature in January 1986, I had pointed out that the Government are considering steps for augmenting generation capacity through external aid. I am now happy to announce that the Government have finalised an agreement with the Asian Development Bank for the provision of assistance of 150 million dollars to the State Government for setting up the North Madras Thermal Project. In the meantime, power generation capacity in the State is being augmented through various new projects. The first unit of the Mettur Thermal Power Project—I Stage has already been synchronised while the second unit will be commissioned shortly. These two units will have a generation capacity of 420 MW. Similarly, work has also commenced on the Tuticorin Power Project—Third Extension Scheme, which will create a generation capacity of 420 MW. In order to ensure adequate supply of coal to the thermal power stations in Tuticorin, the State owned Poompuhar Shipping Corporation has deployed its ships for transporting coal from Haldia to Tuticorin. All the three newly acquired ships have been put into operation by the Corporation. It is also proposed to set up a thermal project at Cuddalore with five units, each having a generation capacity of 210 MW in a phased manner. A project report has been sent

to the Central Electricity Authority for technical clearance and coal linkage.

6. The Government are aware that the strategy of lignite based power generation will play a crucial role in Tamil Nadu in the future years. The State Government will therefore render necessary assistance to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited in its new projects like second expansion of the first mine and excavation of third mine of 11 M.T. per annum which will have matching thermal power generation. The State Government appeal to the Central Government to make this lignite based power available to Tamil Nadu. Similarly, with a view to harnessing the non-conventional source of energy, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has installed 16 Nos. of 55 KW Wind Generators at Mullaikadu in Tuticorin. Four more Wind Generators of the same capacity are under installation in the same place.

7. In my last address to the Legislature, I had pointed out that our endeavour will be to focus our attention on increasing the productivity of the State owned public sector undertakings. The Government have already initiated several steps in this direction. Honourable Members are aware that the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation (TANSI) has already been restructured. As a further step in the same direction, the Government have decided to restructure the Tamil Nadu Ceramics Limited. The Government are fully aware that public sector undertakings while being economically viable, have a promotional role to play. The Government will therefore continue taking steps to combine the twin objectives of economic viability and promotional commitments of the public sector undertakings.

8. In the industrial sector, important developments have taken place. A programme for modernisation and expansion of Ariyalur Cement Works is already under consideration of the Government. A 100 per cent export oriented unit, viz., the TAMIL GRANITES of Tamil Nadu Minerals Limited has been inaugurated at Manali. A scheme for setting up a graphite beneficiation plant at Sivaganga with foreign technology is in the offing. A plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 52 crores is proposed to be set up by Tamil Nadu Magnesite Limited for the manufacture of Special Refractory Brick by using Dead Burnt Magnesite from the Rotary Kiln and high quality Sintered Magnesia from the chemical beneficiation plant. In recent years non-resident Indians have been showing interest in making investments in Tamil Nadu. The Government will continue to welcome and encourage such investments.

9. As a result of the measures initiated by the State Government, there has also been an impressive growth in small industries sector. The number of small units which have been granted permanent registration has risen to 77,382 by the middle of 1986-87. The investment generated by them has already reached the figure of about Rs. 950 crores by the beginning of the current financial year.

10. The State Government have taken note of the new sugar policy announced by Government of India and efforts are being taken to get maximum number of additional sugar mills in the State. We are optimistic that the response from the Government of India will be positive as it has been in the past. In my last address to the Legislature, I had pointed out that

the State Government are pressing the Government of India to set up the X-Ray Film Plant at Udhamandalam at a cost of Rs. 170 crores. Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly will be happy to know that the scheme has since been cleared by Government of India. I also take this opportunity to thank the Union Government for having cleared the Rs. 600 crores Aromatics Project proposed by the Madras Refineries Limited at Manali. This Project will also facilitate the setting up of a large number of downstream projects. Government of India have also been requested to clear the proposal of Madras Fertilisers Limited to double its capacity and also set up one of the 15 new fertiliser plants in Tamil Nadu during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period.

11. The State Government are also providing major thrust to the Handloom and Textile sectors. Rehabilitation of closed sick mills has been engaging the attention of the Government for quite some time. The State Government nationalised the Somasundram Spinning Mills in Pasumpon Muthuramalingam district in August 1986. The Government then declared the Bhavani Mills at Coimbatore as a relief undertaking and ensured its reopening in October 1986. The Sri Hari Mills Private Limited was also reopened in October 1986 on a joint management basis with Government assistance. Measures to rehabilitate other closed mills are also under consideration of the Government. As a part of the new textile policy of the Government of India, the State Government have also taken steps to issue registration certificates to all the powerlooms in the State.

12. The policy of the Government is to protect handloom industry and uplift the socio-economic conditions of the handloom weavers through handloom co-operatives. Out of 5-56 lakh handlooms functioning in the State, as many as 3-84 lakhs have already been brought under the co-operative fold by the end of November 1986. Tamil Nadu has, in fact, already exceeded the national target of 60 per cent coverage of looms set by the Government of India.

13. Agriculture forms a very vital part of our economy. In spite of the unfavourable seasonal conditions prevailing during the last two years, the sustained efforts taken by the Government made it possible to achieve a reasonable level of production and productivity. A '5 Step Approach' is being followed in the current year for achieving the target of minimum increase of 750 kgs. of paddy per hectare over and above the normal production in the samba season. Efforts are being taken for modernising the entire agricultural sector. Increased attention will be paid to attract the farm youths by providing essential training in handling agricultural equipments. A new scheme, viz., Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture is also being initiated to provide necessary agricultural skills to the women working in agriculture.

14. It is quite distressing to note that the actual rainfall in the State in the past few years has been far below normal. Consequently, the irrigation potential and the availability of drinking water in the State are on the decline and urgent steps have to be

taken to retrieve the situation. The Government are alive to this emerging problem and are continuing their efforts to mitigate the drinking water problem as well as to counter the declining irrigation potential. Substantial allocations for drinking water supply schemes are thus being made as in the past. Under the Minimum Needs Programme, an allocation of Rs. 30 crores has been made in 1986-87 and the same level of allocation will be continued in the coming year also. During each of the years 1986-87 and 1987-88, it has been programmed to complete 2,225 habitations under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and the Minimum Needs Programme. In addition, 5,339 borewells have also been sunk up to December 1986 in order to mitigate the hardship caused by the drought. Besides, it has been planned to complete 14 water supply schemes in the urban areas during each of the years 1986-87 and 1987-88. In order to augment the drinking water supply in Madras City, the Phase II study of the UNDP is also being undertaken. The construction of 90 mid. treatment plant and the enlargement of pumping capacity at Kilpauk Water Works as well as the scheme for extraction of 55 mld. of ground water from Poondi, Kortaliar and Kannigaipar at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores are under progress.

15. To overcome the problems arising out of the poor rainfall in the past few years, Government are considering an Integrated Crop Development Scheme with emphasis on sprinkler and drip irrigation, which will facilitate economy in water use. Pilot efforts in introduction of these systems in our State have met with great success. Farmers are willing to accept these modern systems and instal them to increase crop intensity and enhance profitability. To entuse them further and to maximise the productivity of water, a precious input, Government propose to implement a massive programme of popularising sprinkler and drip irrigation systems. External assistance to the extent required will be sought for implementing this scheme. To enable the small and marginal farmers to get the benefits of this scheme, subsidy and loan assistance will be provided to them. As a further step to streamline the water delivery system at the field level, the Government of India have formulated a scheme called "National Water Management Project" to be implemented with World Bank assistance. It is proposed to include a number of irrigation systems in Tamil Nadu under this scheme to benefit approximately 1,09,149 hectares at an estimated cost of Rs. 58.87 crores.

16. The Government are also providing substantial relief to the agriculturists in the State. In order to reduce their debt burden, aggravated by the successive years of floods and droughts, Government have written off the interest and the penal interest and interest on overdue on agricultural loans as on 31st March 1986. The Government have also granted extension of time for repayment of 50 per cent of the outstanding principal from 31st December 1986 to 28th February 1987, in order to enable maximum number of agriculturists to avail of this relief. The relief to the agriculturists under this write off procedure will be of the order of Rs. 125 crores. This measure will also strengthen the co-operative structure which was facing heavy incidence of overdue especially at the level of primary agricultural credit societies and primary land development banks. The co-opera-

tive movement is also being geared up to benefit the tribal population through LAMP co-operative societies with the objective of providing integrated credit, marketing and other services under one roof. As against 13 societies in 1986, it is expected that at the end of 1987, there will be 17 LAMP co-operative societies. Another step to benefit the agriculturists has been the comprehensive crop insurance scheme which has been under implementation in the State since 1st April 1985. The scope of this scheme has now been extended to cumbu, cholam, ragi and gingelly crops in the current financial year.

17. Tamil Nadu has been in the forefront in the realm of welfare schemes. The Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme continues to make positive impact on additional enrolment and in reducing drop-outs in schools. The rate of drop-outs at the primary level has come down from 40 per cent in 1977-78 to 23 per cent in 1984-85. During 1986-87, additional enrolment of students in the age group 6 to 14 years in schools has been 2.84 lakhs. The State has exceeded the target set under the 20 point programme. The Government have also opened as many as 100 high schools and 79 higher secondary schools during 1986-87. The scheme of free supply of uniforms has given employment to about 40,000 women who have enrolled as members of the tailoring societies, Magalir Mandrams and voluntary institutions. The Government are also encouraging the voluntary agencies to take up income generating schemes with initial minimum financial support from the Government. The rate of food charges for the inmates of the hostels run by the Departments of Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare and Backward Classes has been increased substantially. This will benefit about 80,000 inmates of such hostels.

18. In order to improve the working conditions of children, provide them with nutrition, education and health protection and to abolish child labour gradually, the Government have started a 3 year pilot project for Sivakasi area commencing from 1986-87 with Central financial assistance. Another scheme for the benefit of children in the State has been the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme. During the current year, 13 more rural Integrated Child Development Service Projects have started functioning in Pudukkottai district. It is proposed to start 13 more such projects. In order to help the physically handicapped children and adults, District Rehabilitation Centres have started functioning in Chingleput district covering 2 blocks. This is a pilot project for a period of 5 years and would be extended to other areas based upon its experience and success. For the tribal population, the Integrated Tribal Development Project is being implemented with vigour. While implementing the central scheme to supply subsidised foodgrains in the integrated tribal development blocks, the State Government are also giving additional subsidy on rice and are distributing it at Rs. 1.40 per kg. The distribution of rice and wheat under this scheme benefits 38,000 families.

19. I have already mentioned the positive impact of the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme in areas like nutrition, education, employment, etc. It is now proposed by the Government to launch an exemplary scheme viz., an Integrated Child Health

and Nutrition Programme by integrating the benefits of the ongoing Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme and the Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project which is coming to a close in 1988. The Nutrition and Health services offered under both these programmes will be integrated in the form of a package and will be made available throughout the State to children below 5 years and pregnant mothers. The cost of this project may be approximately Rs. 400 crores. It has already been posed to the concerned Ministries of Government of India and the Union Planning Commission and their response has been found to be quite encouraging. The prospects of soft loan from World Bank and I.D.A. are quite bright for this project.

20. Foot wear for working mothers and children : — Honourable Members are aware that this Government have been supplying free text-books and uniforms to school going children. I am happy to announce that the Government propose to introduce a scheme in 1987-88 of free supply of foot-wear to the school going children and poor working mothers in rural areas. Apart from the poor who are direct beneficiaries under this scheme, it would provide large scale employment opportunities through the revitalisation of the Foot Wear Co-operative Societies employing leather workers and the creation of new societies to cater to the needs of the very large number of beneficiaries.

21. In my last address to the Legislature, I had announced the intention of the Government to implement the massive housing programme in the State. A beginning in its implementation has already been made. However, a novel approach is now crystallising. The State Government had commissioned a pilot socio economic and housing survey in Anna district. On the basis of this survey, an innovative scheme has been formulated. The basic thrust under this new approach will be to ensure that the benefits of the investments flow directly to the rural areas, particularly to the poor in these areas. It is now proposed that the financial allocation under the budget for this programme need not be used only for house construction directly, but for financing a large number of co-operative societies decentralised at the taluk and village level which in turn will undertake the production of necessary building materials like bricks, tiles, slaked lime, etc. It is also proposed that the requirement of structural steel may be manufactured either by State-owned units or by various small structural steel shops available in various taluks. A large number of building materials co-operative societies will be formed under this new approach. The financial allocation available in the budget will be used as equity capital for these co-operative societies, which will enable them to borrow from financial institutions and commercial banks on the basis of debt equity ratio of 3 : 1. Thus, against the budget allocation, it would be possible to mobilise substantial resources. The building materials manufactured by these societies will be supplied to the beneficiaries and the individual beneficiaries would be required to contribute their labour in order to put up their new houses or to upgrade the shelter.

22. This scheme will be taken up with cluster approach so that whole villages are covered and

improved. It also envisages that there will be co-ordination with other rural development programmes so that simultaneous steps for water supply, sanitation, environmental improvement and social forestry can be taken up in these areas. This new approach of implementing the massive housing programme will ensure coverage of shelterless population in a specified time frame, generation of large volume of employment in the rural areas, usage of locally available materials and participation of beneficiaries in the construction programme. This new approach has already been taken up with Government of India who have been requested to permit the State Government to utilise the funds allotted under NREP and RLEGP in the manner now envisaged. The Government of India have also been requested to ensure sufficient mobilisation of credit from financial institutions and commercial banks and also to allow concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent on these loans with a moratorium of three years. With this approach, it will be possible to enlarge the coverage of this housing programme substantially in order to achieve our objectives.

23. While the thrust of the massive housing programme will be in rural areas, the State Government are equally concerned about the problem of housing and development in the urban areas. A new scheme viz., the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project at a cost of Rs. 428 crores has been sent to Government of India for obtaining World Bank assistance for the implementation of sites and services scheme, slum improvement, transportation, municipal services and technical assistance in Madras, Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli. Apart from these the existing thrust in housing and urban development will also be continued.

24. For the successful implementation of these programmes, a certain level of popular participation is essential. The democratically elected local bodies have an important role to play in this venture. As already pointed out in my last address to the Legislature, elections to the Municipalities, Panchayat Unions and Panchayats have been held and elected local self-government institutions have once again been established in the State. The Government are committed to the ethos of grass root level democracy and rationalisation of the administrative set up.

25. A number of steps have been taken by the Government to make the administration more responsive to the needs of the changing times. The programme of bifurcation of districts is being implemented as already announced by me in my last address to the Legislature. The bifurcation of Tirunelveli district has already taken place and steps are under way for the bifurcation of the North Arcot district. A special thrust has been given to the development of modern management information system at the Government level in order to effectively monitor and supervise the implementation of various developmental programmes. At the Secretariat level, information has been codified and a permanent data base has been created to facilitate this procedure. It is proposed to avail of the facilities offered by the National Informatics Centre to set up a Computer Net Work for storage, retrieval and speedy transmission of essential information relating to the developmental activities in the various sectors of the

economy. This will facilitate better monitoring and follow up action of plan projects.

26. Redress of public grievances is also an important function of a responsive administration. The procedures for redress of public grievances and the monitoring of such redress are being simplified. A cell to attend to the public grievances is proposed to be formed. A Pensioners' Grievances Cell has already been constituted at the Secretariat. Similar efforts are also being taken up at the district level.

27. All these efforts can yield the desired results in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. The Government have been maintaining law and order effectively. There is, however, one basic problem which may come in the way of the efforts of this Government to implement its various developmental programmes. The State has been suffering from successive years of natural calamities in the recent past and according to the present trend the State may face a severe drought in the coming year also. However, the State Government are geared up to meet the challenge. In the current year, the drought situation in the State was tackled with earnest vigour. In twelve districts which had distress conditions relief measures were undertaken. A memorandum for drought assistance of Rs. 310 crores was submitted to Government of India. Although the Government of India approved a ceiling of expenditure at Rs. 31.77 crores for drought relief works during 1986-87, the State Government have in fact spent much more i.e., Rs. 105.40 crores on drinking water supply, employment generation and other drought relief schemes.

28. Anticipating severe drought in the next year, the State Government have drawn up an immediate contingency plan to the tune of Rs. 28 crores. The Government have also approved the sinking of 8625 borewells to tide over the situation. For Madras City, several contingency measures are also being initiated to face the declining water storage in Poondi, Sholavaram and Red Hills lakes. Action is being taken to conserve the available surface water and increase the drawal of ground water by sinking more borewells in the aquifers outside Madras. The Government have sanctioned special measures costing Rs. 163 lakhs for Madras City which include pumping out the dead storage water from Sholavaram and Red Hills lakes, rejuvenation of 14 borewells and sinking 16 new borewells and providing them with new pumpsets, renovation of over 600 filter point tubewells and 226 India Mark II hand pumps, sinking 1500 new filter point tubewells, drilling 120 borewells and fixing India Mark II hand pumps. In addition, the scheme for pumping additional 12 mgd. of ground water for Madras City at a cost of Rs. 15 crores is also being accelerated.

29. The State Government will take all possible steps not only to face the drought situation but also to ensure that it does not affect the other development programmes. As a further step in the same direction, this Government have already appealed to the Union Government to sanction various projects costing Rs. 2,000 crores. In addition to the World Bank



assistance sought for Nutrition-cum-Health programme and the Government of India assistance for the massive housing scheme, the State Government are drawing up a Rs. 800 crores scheme for metropolitan improvement, Rs. 400 crores scheme for modernisation of irrigation tanks and restoring them to the original standards, and a Rs. 140 crores scheme for environmental improvement through developing the city water ways. The Government of India have also been requested to step up their allocation for various central projects in Tamil Nadu like the Mass Rapid Transit System, Karur-Dindigul-Tuticorin broadgauge project, Third Mine cut at Neyveli, Sethu Samuthram project and development of Cuddalore Port. It is also expected that the Government of India will clear many of these projects and programmes in order to give a fillip to the economy of the State in the form of additionality to the total investment in the State.

30. Last but not the least, the State Government continue to be concerned about the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. The reported massacres and killings taking place in Sri Lanka are causing acute agony to the State Government. It is a matter of great concern that an amicable settlement to the ethnic problem of Sri Lanka has not yet been found. The State Government have been associating themselves with the Government of India in their efforts to find a lasting and acceptable solution for the Sri Lanka problem and hope that the 1.25 lakh Sri Lanka refugees will be able to return to their country in safety and with honour.

31. Despite these problems, I am confident that the State is poised for an era of prosperity and growth, thanks to the sincere efforts of the State Government. I take this opportunity to seek your co-operation in all these efforts.

Vanakkam



Poet Bharathi's Statue at the Capital

Poet Bharati's 10 foot high bronze statue was unveiled on 4.2.1987 in Bharati Nagar at New Delhi by the Honourable Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi under the chairmanship of His Excellency the Vice-President Thiru R. Venkataraman. The Minister for Electricity and Tourism Thiru V.V. Swaminathan welcomed the gathering. The Minister while giving his welcome address said that the Tamil Nadu Government is fulfilling the aspirations of Bharati in all earnestness. To make the dream of Bharati into reality the Tamil Nadu Government established a separate university for women, he said. Tamil University for the development of Tamil language and literature was established as per the direction of Dr. M.G.R. The Minister said, that Poet Bharati sang that even if one mouth went without food, we will destroy the world and realising this, the Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R.

introduced the Noon-Meals scheme for children.

The Honourable Chief Minister described Bharati as a 'People's poet' and poet of freedom and patriotism. The Chief Minister said that through his poetry he not only gave a clarion call for freedom but for the eradication of poverty, ignorance, slavery and superstition.

Unveiling the statue of Poet Bharati the Prime Minister said, born at a time when the British empire was at its zenith, Subramania Bharati rendered stellar service through his songs and poetry and instilled patriotism in millions of Indians.

In his presidential speech His Excellency the Vice-President Thiru R. Venkataraman said the greatness of Bharati's work lay in the fact

that they encompassed the entire human race and had a universal appeal.

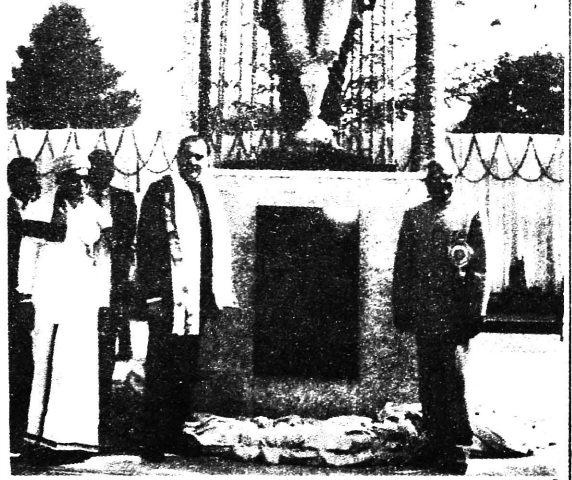
At the conclusion of the function, the Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. presented gold embroidered shawls to the Vice-president and the Prime Minister. The Chief Minister also presented mementos to the sculptor Thiru Mahandas and the CPWD Engineer, Thiru Gorgaonkar, involved in the installation of the statue.

The statue at the Bharati Nagar has been installed at a cost of Rs. 43,000 in an area of 600 square meters. The Tamil Nadu Government has spent nearly Rs. 5.53 lakhs on other works at the site.

**Want to have
someone wake you up
in the morning and
serve you tea? Try a
computer...**

JOHN Bowring of Corsham, England, is in the toy business and loves children. He likes the outdoors and lives a normal life, but for one small anomaly. He has 'married' a computer, who is called Mrs. Radionic CNS Bowring.

At 6.10 every morning, his 'wife' cooes into his ear, "Good morning, John, time to get up." If he does not respond, she coaxes him, "Come, John, up now. Come on now!" If he still doesn't move, she shouts: "Rise and shine, John Bowring! You know how bad tempered I get!"



By 6.15, the drapes are pulled back in the house (by the computer), the teapot perks on the stove and the toaster begins its work. By the time the toast is out, the television set is put on for the morning news. The car has meanwhile been warmed up and by the time John leaves the house, Radionic has already activated the burglar alarm that turns the house into a virtual fortress.

But John also has a real, human wife, Veronica. Doesn't old reliable Radionic get jealous of Veronica? Possible. But there is a greater likelihood of Veronica getting jealous of the computer wife. For, John depends on Radionic more than he does on Veronica.

UNVEILING THE STATUE OF MAHAKAVI SUBRAMANIA BHARATI

4.2.1987



Vice President's Speech at the unveiling of Subramania Bharati's Statue

Beloved Prime Minister, Esteemed Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, Legislators and friends.

It is a great pleasure that I join this distinguished gathering at which the Prime Minister of India unveils the statue of Mahakavi Bharati. It is appropriate that this statue of Subramania Bharati is erected in Delhi for the realised in the twenties of this century the oneness of India and unity and integrity of this country. About national unity Bharati said 'she has 300 million faces but one sole life, majestic and strong; 18 are her tongues for utterance and yet her heart is one. He envisaged a socialistic pattern of society that should come into existence after independence. Sketching Indian society after freedom, Bharati said, "To-day we shall make a law. Hence forth for ever enforce it. If a single mouth goes without food, the world we shall destory"

He kindled the fiery spirit of patriotism and instilled courage in the masses to fight the alien rule. My friends who have known Bharati intimately have told me that Bharati used to read out this poem with great emotion and fervour, sometimes at the top of his voice in a frenzy.

Rajaji who translated the poem 'Freedom Freedom. 'Freedom' (விடுதலை! விடுதலை! விடுதலை!) said the Tamil original of his poem has vigour lilt and tranquillity that cannot be captured in any English rendering. It was seen all over the Tamil land in the days of nationalist struggle. Its influence in rousing the democratic sense of the masses has been immeasurable. He is truly a poet of Indian nationalism and of Indian renaissance.

Bharati inspired religious tolerance and communal harmony. Bharati said we are all one clan, we are all one race and all are India's children of equal status of equal weight, of equal value, All of us are sovereign monarchs in this land. Yes, all of us are monarchs in this land. Long live Bharati Commonwealth".

His poems on women's right-eradication of untouchability and the dignity of labour at a time when Indian society was steeped in orthodoxy and obscurantism were truly revolutionary. In praise of dignity of labour, Bharati said "Ye that heat and melt iron, Ye the makers of machinery, ye the extractors of sap from sugarcane, ye divers into seas for pearls and fishery, ye that labour in a thousand trades-I praise



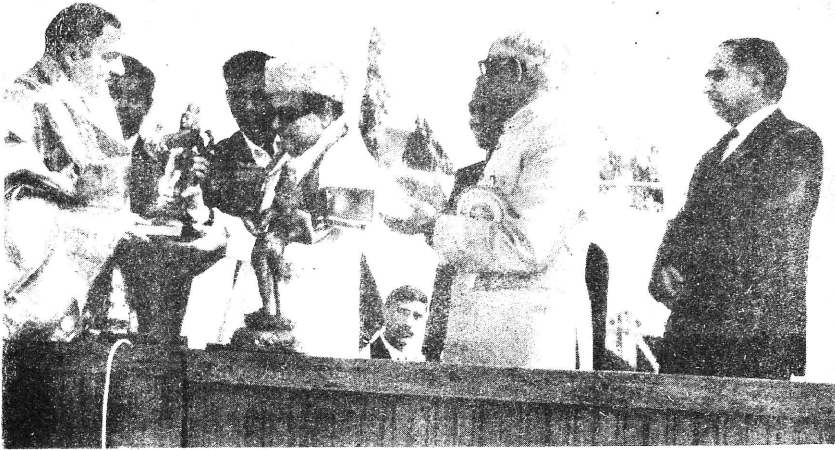
and glorify you all. You do promise work on earth. Bharati envisaged the future of India to be one wherein all provinces will live in

constructive meatuality. This is what our Santhamam also sang just now. Wheat from Ganges region will be bartered for Cauvery's betel-leaves'. People who do not know the value of betel-leaves may not understand this. It is most delicious and delectable thing. Wheat from Ganges region will be bartered for Cauvery's betel-leaves. With Kerala ivory we shall reward the lion hearted poets of Maharashtra. Instruments we shall make to bring to Kanchi the voice of Kasi pundits. He says, it was about the radio at a time when radio was not known. Instruments we shall make to bring to Kanchi the voice of Kasi Pundits. To Rajput warriors we shall give gold from the good Karnataka. Bharati's literary excellence covered not only national, political, economic and social issues but spread over a very wide area of classical epics as well as spiritual things. Had his works been translated contemporaneously into English, Bharati would have won the Nobel Prize. I have got enough to show the relevance of Bharati to the present and future India. Bharati lived only 39 years and it is remarkable that within the short span he had covered such a variety of fields. His life and works will certainly inspire the succeeding generations to imbibe his patriotism nationalism and socialism. I compliment the Government of Tamil Nadu and particularly, the Chief Minister who is a great patron of Tamil literature and a firm believer in national unity and integrity on the efforts taken for the installation of Bharati's statue in the capital of India. No one is more qualified than our beloved Prime Minister who is to-day a symbol of peace, communal harmony and brotherhood to unveil the statue of a poet who toiled hard to bring this virtue home to every Indian.

The average man never really thinks from end to end of his life. The mental activity of such people is only a mouthing of clichés. What they mistake for thought is simply reception of what they have heard. My guess is that well over eighty percent of the human race goes through life without having a single original thought. Whenever a new one appears the average man shows signs of dismay or resentment.

—H. L. Mencken.

சிலை திறப்பு விழா
 UNVEILING THE STATUE OF
 MAHAKAVI SUBRAMANIA BHARATI
 4.2.1987 NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Unveils Subramania Bharati's Statue

The Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi unveiled the statue of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati at New Delhi on 4th February, 1987. Speaking on the occasion he said:

"I have the greatest pleasure in unveiling the statue of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati here in the heart of free India in its free Capital for whose freedom Subramania Bharati dedicated his brief but brilliant life.

Subramania Bharati was a great poet, but more than that he was a great philosopher, a great patriot, a great revolutionary. He was born into an enslaved India at a time when the sun of the British Empire was at its zenith. But Subramania Bharati was undaunted by the magnificence and panoply of the Empire. He fought the Empire through his poetry and through his songs. In his struggle against the British he enthused the deepest values of our civilisation. He appealed to common humanity; he appealed to all whether slave or master whether a compatriot or a foreigner. His appeal was to free India of the Empire and his appeal was equality to free the English from being

slave-drivers. He challenged the might of the British Empire with courage. He said:

"Fear is foolishness, fearlessness is intelligence"

He stressed that enslavement begins when the enslaved lose their courage to oppose. He roused India to a consciousness of her strength, not a strength of arms and weapons, but a strength for standing by the truth.

"Tireless, upstanding, heads erect,
 We shall speak the truth and dare to deeds
 heroic".

Bharati associated truth with non-violence. He abandoned early extremism, under Gandhiji's example of Satyagraha in South Africa. He stood with Gandhiji in his Satyagraha against the British. He introduced Gandhiji to the people of Tamil Nadu in his famous poem:

"Long you may live O' the Mahatma,
 You who have brought new life to Bharat

Shunning the way of war, which is but murder on a massive scale,

You have chosen a method much more effective”.

Bharati's passionate belief in truth and non-violence sprang out of a deep abiding belief in a universal brotherhood. His writings permeated with equality for all being created equal. "All human beings are equal, joy will abound if only we see that we are all onemankind. "I am all the birds that fly in the sky. I am all the animals that roam the earth. I am the shady forest trees, I am the wind and the water and the ocean too”.

Like Gandhiji he saw the freedom struggle not only against foreign rule but also against the inequities of our traditional social systems. He fought for the dignity of labour, he fought for the rights of women. He fought against the discrimination against women. In a moving passage he wrote.

“Men indeed have till now been trying with scant success to civilise one another by means of the sword and the bullet, the prison-cell, the gibbet and the rack but it has been the lot of women to have no other weapons than fables and parables and symbols in their work of civilising man.”

Also appalled by communalism and casteism, he said:

“Battle against casteism was joined many years ago as part of the Indian tradition”.

He quote the immortal words of the great Tamil poetess **Avvaiyar**

“Two castes alone there are,
The nobles, who are just and ready to help
The base, who are not.”

Bharati was not only a great Tamil poet, but he was also a master of English prose. In true tradition of India, he was open to absorbing, assimilating and synthesising all that was best from all over India and from beyond our shores from all over the Globe. Subramania Bharati did not look backward, but he looked ahead to the future.

He saw an industrialised India at the forefront of technology, highly respected. He wrote in English three quarters of century ago with startling foresight:

“We in India, all of us, who count for anything, being passionate lovers of the cause of freedom,

We pray that the side which will guarantee the freedom of nations, which will demolish once for all the stupid doctrine that might is right,

Which will establish a permanent and universal system of international equity and mutual respect, that side should win.”

In unveiling the statue of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, we pay tribute to one of the great founders of modern India, who drew inspiration from its glorious past, who looked forward to its glorious future, who celebrated everything that is Indian, who celebrated all humanity. Unfortunately, he was taken from us at a very early age. At 39 years he was gored to death by a mad elephant. He left an unfinished manuscript, whose last words are of poignant significance:

“Suddenly a storm arose in the southern province,
a great and wild storm of patriotism,
Let that storm of patriotism rage for ever,
in the hearts of all Indians.”

DEEPEST HOLE IN THE WORLD

NEW DELHI (CEE-NFS): A 14 -Kilometre hole, the deepest in the world, is to be bored by 1997 at Erbsdorf in the Federal Republic of Germany according to a report in German News.

The operation, part of the continental Deep Drilling Programme, is important to basic geoscientific research. Geologists believe that

two continental segments of the earth's crust collided in this region 250 to 400 million years ago.

The 270-crores project poses major technological challenges like that of developing, drilling and measuring equipment that can withstand temperatures of over 200°C and pressures of over 1000 bars. (CEE-NFS)

Speech of
The Honourable Chief Minister
Dr. M.G.R.

on the occasion of
Unveiling of the Statue of
The Great National Poet

**SUBRAMANIA
BHARATI**

at New Delhi

on the 4th February 1987



**YOUR EXCELLENCY
THE VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA
HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER
HONOURABLE MINISTERS
REVERED ELDERS
BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

Today, Honourable Prime Minister is unveiling the statue of our great National Poet Subramania Bharati at New Delhi. I express my gratitude to him.

**Our Bharati is a GREAT POET
A PEOPLE'S POET
A HEROIC POET
A FREEDOM POET and
A PATRIOTIC POET.**

He fought for the eradication of poverty, ignorance, superstition and slavery that afflicted our country. He sang:

**"IT IS UNITED INDIA, MY CHILD
YOU SHOULD WORSHIP AS GOD!"**

**"WHAT IS LIFE WITHOUT UNITY,
DIVISION ONLY SPELLS RUIN"**

He prognosticated the importance of India's integrity and the need for a strong, united India, even 70 years ago.

Bharati also sang that after Independence, a bright and young India should emerge!

Through poetry, Bharati gave a clarion call for the emancipation of women.

As the leader of young India, our Prime Minister is translating Bharati's dream and aspirations into a reality.

The statue of the great poet Bharati is being unveiled at a very important moment in our country's history.

I assure that Tamil Nadu will stand by our Prime Minister in all his efforts to

**SAFEGUARD INDIA'S INTEGRITY
STRENGTHEN INDIA
DESTROY EVIL FORCES AND
TO PRESERVE PEACE.**

The 4th February is an unforgettable day in my life. With the gracious help of our Mother Indira Gandhi and our Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi, it is on this day, two years ago, I returned to our Motherland, after my medical treatment abroad. I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to them on this occasion.

With the unveiling of the Statue of Poet Bharati, today becomes a memorable day not only for us Indians, but to the people of the whole world.

On this gracious occasion all of us should take a pledge to follow the ideals of Mahakavi Bharati.

Long Live Bharati!
Long Live
Mother Indira's Name!
Long Live Anna's Name!
Thanks!

To Make The Marina Greener



The Corporation of Madras has a programme to plant 10,000 saplings in the city. An exhibition on environmental awareness was organised by several organisations, including the Collectorate of Madras, Forest Department, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Environmental Society, Naturalist Society, International Youth Forum, USSR Cultural Centre, Madras University, Anna University, and Palla-

van Transport Corporation. On 19.1.1987, the Honourable Chief Minister Dr. MGR planted saplings at the office of the Director-General of Police, Queen Mary's College, Lady Wellington College, Bharat Scouts and Guides' State headquarters, Wenlock Park, Presidency College and Madras University. On 19.1.'87 the Madras Corporation arranged to plant 2,000 saplings on the Marina amid pomp and fanfare.

The Honourable Chief Minister also inaugurated the Exhibition on Environmental awareness at the Madras University. The Exhibition featured photographs, posters and charts on various aspects of the environment, as also pollution detection equipment.



Another significant feature of the day's programme was the participation of 1500 students from various corporation schools in the city and the educational institutions located on the Marina. While 200 saplings each were planted inside the Madras University, Presidency College and DGP's Office campuses, 100 each were planted in the Queen Mary's College and the Lady Wellington College premises. At Wenlock Park, 50 saplings were planted. The Marina Gardens Division of the Public Works Department would take care of





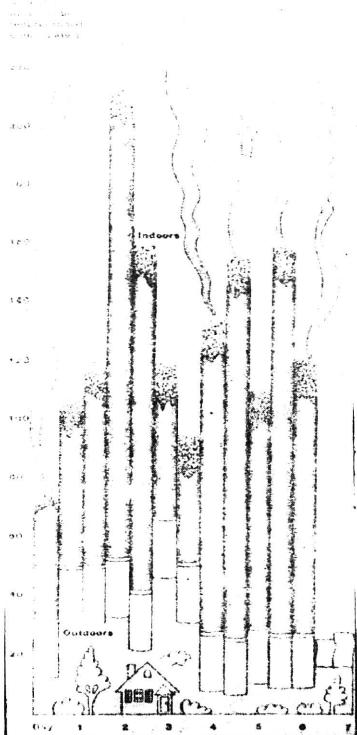
the saplings planted on the open space on the Marina while the other saplings would be tended to by the institutions and departments, in whose campuses they were planted.

The entire Marina wore a festive look with school children and scouts and guides in their colourful uniforms. Banners with slogans on environment protection inscribed on them were also on display at many places on the Marina.

The Principal of Queen Mary's College handed over to the Chief Minister a cheque of Rs. 7,000 for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. At the end of the function the Vice-Chancellor of Madras University gave to Chief Minister a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh on behalf of the University staff for the Sri Lankan 'Tamil refugees' relief fund.

Groups of school students rendered songs of tree planting and the need to keep Madras clean. They were relayed down the Marina through a public address system.

INDOOR POLLUTION



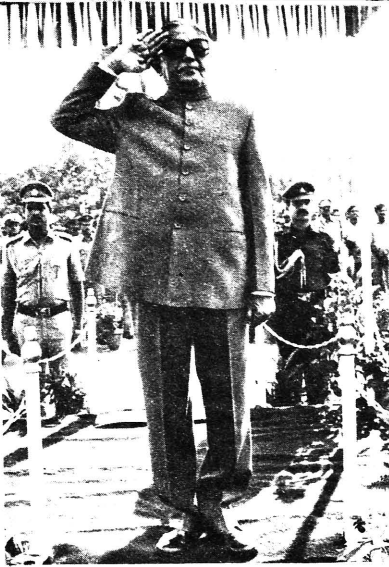
Few studies have attempted to relate the concentration of indoor residential air pollutants with health effects. For certain pollutants such as radon and carbon monoxide, evidence from occupational, community or toxicological studies can be used to assess the risk of exposure to known concentrations. For other pollutants such as formaldehyde and "passive" cigarette smoke, evidence is not strong enough to estimate risk. However, even if reasonable risk estimates can be made for *specific* exposures, projections of overall health effects from residential air pollution would be uncertain. This is because there is little information on the distribution of concentrations of toxic and potentially toxic materials in buildings.

Pollutant concentrations within homes vary widely according to weather, construction, cooking styles, cleaning

schedules, smoking habits, and hobbies. Determining how these factors influence human exposure to the long list of potentially hazardous air pollutants would require a massive research programme, conducted in a large sample of homes in different parts of the country and at various times of the year.

Despite the uncertainties, however, several generalizations are possible. Harmful pollutants from indoor source are sometimes found in higher concentration inside homes than in heavily polluted outdoor urban air. These include nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide from gas appliances, passive cigarette smoke, radioactive radon gas from decay of radium in the ground and in building materials, formaldehyde from furnishings and building materials, and asbestos and other mineral fibres in ceiling and floor tiles.

38th Republic Day



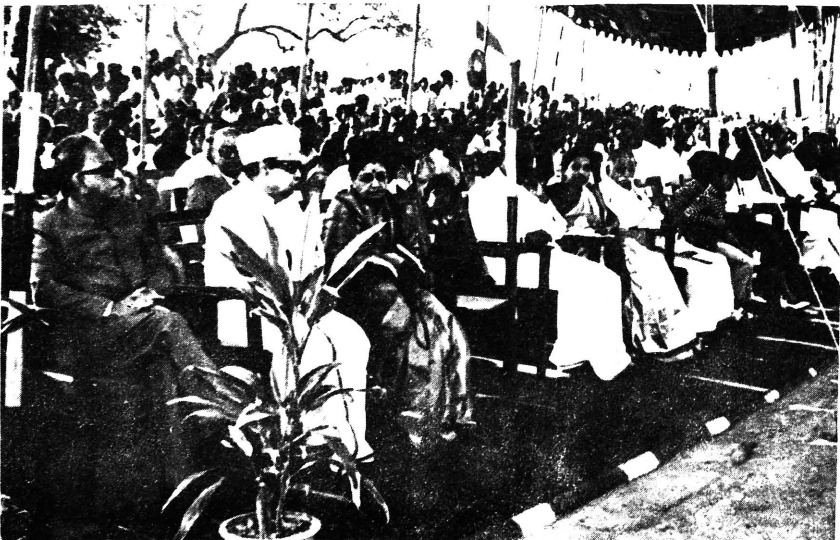
Colour and pageant blended with diverse folk dances symbolising the rich cultural heritage of the State provided a glitter to the 38th Republic Day celebrations in Madras on 26.1.'87.

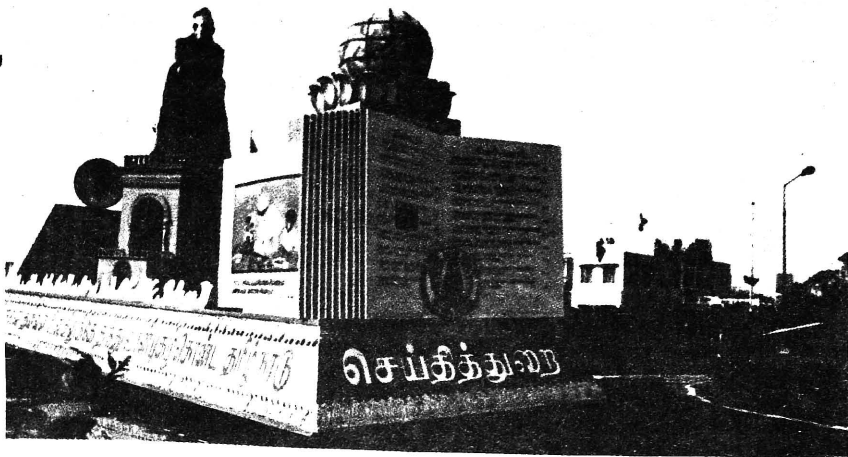
Thousands of people poured out on the colourful Marina to witness the spectacle as His Excellency the Governor Thiru S.L. Khurana unfurled the National Flag and took the salute at the ceremonial march past in front of the Gandhi Statue.

Honourable Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. presented Anna Medals for gallantry to eight persons. They were Thiru S.Bairavasundaram, Thiru G.Palani, Thiru S.Balasankar, Thiru R.Jeevanandam, Thiru A.Georgestephens, Thiru K.Sankar, Thiru S.Venkatesan and Thiru M.Selvam.

Well choreographed dances by school children with a dance each from 14 States including Nagaland and Himachal Pradesh were the highlight of the 90 minutes parade. The naval presentation had variety with floats carrying 105 mm naval gun, a giant naval torpedo-aerial depth charges, mines and sea-cat missiles. The State Government departments presented well-designed floats. The Information Department presented a huge model of the 75 feet Thiruvalluvar Statue to be installed at Kanyakumari.

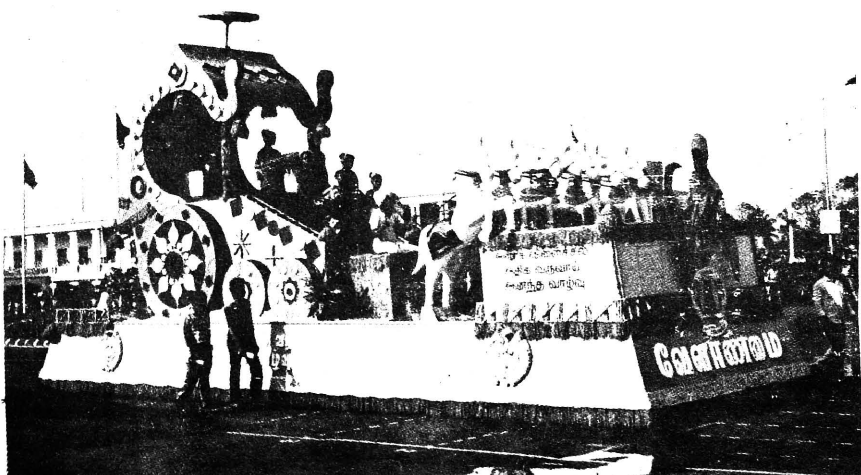
On the eve of Republic Day in a message His Excellency, the Governor, Thiru S.L. Khurana said that all factors inhibiting our march to progress whether it be parochialism, communalism, casteism or inefficiency have to be treated as shackles to be cast away to enable us to concentrate on the main task of quicker growth and a better way life for our people. He said, our success as a Republic lies





in being able to harmonise them into positive and constructive action rather than allow them to be entrenched in turrets of bitterness. Expressing happiness over the implementation of several social welfare and poverty alleviation

programmes, he said, great vigilance was necessary to ensure proper identification, more systematic planning and greater local participation.





Kalaimamani Awards Presented

Honourable Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. presented certificates and shawls to the 14 'Kalaimamani' title winners for the year, 1987 while His Excellency, the Governor Thiru S.L.Khurana decorated them with the pendants. A citation was read for each of the winners who covered diverse fields from Tamil literature and carnatic music to cinema, drama, Villupattu and puppetry. Honourable Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. also unveiled the portraits of five artistes who died recently-Mali, M.G.Chakrapani, Mani Aiyar, Serugalathur Sama and Jagaveerapandian.

The Tamil Nadu Governor, Thiru S.L. Khurana presiding over the function organised by the Tamil Nadu Iyal, Issai Nataka Mandram said many international cultural groups were not visiting Madras because there were no special facilities here to stage ballets and other performances. He suggested that the State Government should put up a modern theatre in Madras with all facilities for international and national cultural troupes to perform. The Governor said the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister were taking personal interest in the promotion of arts and culture. Several cultural festivals were being organised at the national and State level and he hoped these would help in developing artistes.

The Finance Minister Dr. V.R.Nedunchezhiyan presented a purse of Rs. 1000/- to some who had won the 'Kalaimamani' awards before. They are: Suddha Sathwananda, N.Ramachandra Aiyar, T.R.Kamala Murthi, S.Azhagiriswami, P.S. Venkatachalam, Alan-gudi Somu, R.Viswanatha Aiyar, N.M.Kannappa and A.S.Muthuswami.

The Education Minister Thiru C.Ponnaiyan gave away the shield for the best cultural organisation to Music Academy. The award for the best drama troupe was bagged by 'Stage Friends.'

The Chairman of the Manram, Thiru Vali said that 661 artistes had so far been decorated with the Kalaimamani titles and 14 were honoured for the year 1987. They are: Professor N.Pandurangan, Doctor Palani Ilankamban, Thiru Swaminatha Aiyar, Thiru T.S.Sankaran, Tirumathi Komala Vardahan, Thiru S.K.Kameswaran, Thiru T.M.Swamikkannu, Doctor Vasavan, Thirumathi M.S.Rajalakshmi, Thirumathi, Seethalakshmi, Thiru M.Karthik, Selvi Suhasini.



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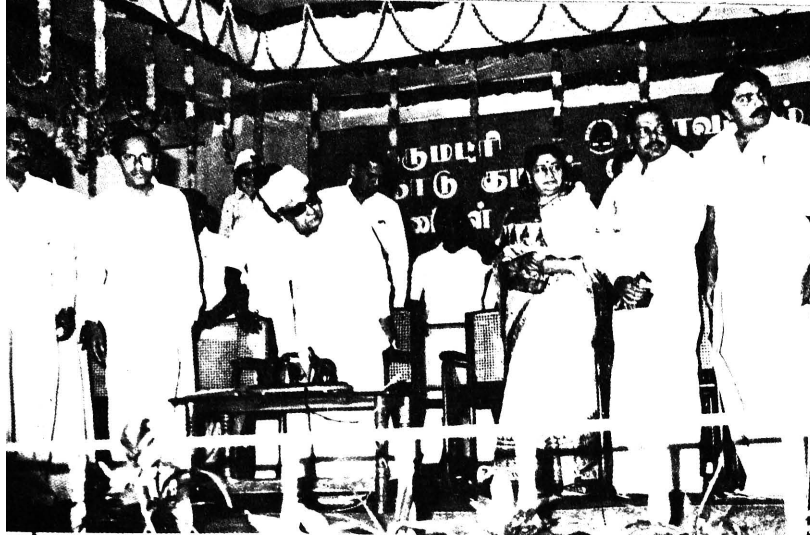
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MANALI
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TELEX : 41-6081 TNML IN

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Various Development Schemes for Dharmapuri Launched

Honourable Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. toured Dharmapuri District for three days since 10.2.'87 to 12.2.'87 to launch various developmental activities for the district welfare.

Honourable Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. opened two major irrigation schemes extending irrigation facilities to about 10,000 acres in both Salem and Dharmapuri Districts. This will result in an additional food production of about 12,500 tonnes. The Nagavathi project, completed at a cost of Rs. 3.13 crores will provide irrigation to about 2,000 acres in three villages in Pennagaram block increasing food

production by about 4,000 tonnes. The Thoppiar Project completed at a cost of Rs. 6 crores would provide irrigation to 5,330 acres in Dharmapuri District and stabilise about 2000 acres in Salem District resulting in total additional food production of about 10,500 tonnes.

Addressing a huge meeting at the Stadium grounds at Dharmapuri, the Honourable Chief Minister assured the people that the Government would evolve new irrigation projects to cover other areas also. He also assured that every step will be taken to start more industries in the backward district of Dharmapuri.

Honourable Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. also declared open the Rs. 32 lakhs Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Office building and the Accident and Emergency Wing at the headquarters hospital built at a cost of about Rs. 9 lakhs, a silk reeling centre constructed at the cost of Rs. 15.40 lakhs at Pennagaram, eleven rural water supply projects costing Rs. 27.13 lakhs and various rural development schemes, costing about Rs. 1 crore.

On 12.2.'87, the Chief Minister inaugurated various development schemes at Krishnagiri costing Rs. 6 crores.

Honourable Chief Minister also declared open various projects costing Rs. 419.44 lakhs completed by various departments at Krishnagiri, Kaverippattinam, Purgur, Veppanappalli, Palakgodu, Mathur and Karimangalam Panchayat Union areas.

Thiru K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, Minister for Public Works Department said nine irrigation projects had been commissioned in Dharmapuri district at the cost of Rs. 42 crores after the AIADMK came to power benefiting about 45,000 acres and increasing food production by 52,000 tonnes.

Thiru S.Thirunavukkarasu, Minister for Housing said new housing schemes costing Rs. 10 crores would be completed in about three years in and around Dharmapuri town.

While addressing the gathering, Thiru S.D.Ugamchand, Chairman of Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board said the Board has taken up for investigation a Rs. 94 crore comprehensive water supply project for bringing Cauvery water from Hogenekkal to Dharmapuri town. The scheme would benefit two municipalities, 13 major Panchayats and 13 Panchayat Union headquarter towns covering a total population of about 20 lakhs in Dharmapuri district.

Thiru M.Thambidurai, Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha requested that the new SIPCOT project sanctioned for Dharmapuri district be started in Karimangalam area.

Thiru K.Rajaram, Minister for Industries said that efforts would be taken to promote industrial activity in the district.

New Transport Corporation

A new State-owned Transport Corporation is to be formed for Dharmapuri District from April 1 with an initial fleet strength of 350 buses. The new corporation to be formed by bifurcating the Anna Transport Corporation would be christened Annai Sathya Transport Corporation.

Honourable Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. inaugurated ten new bus routes originating from Dharmapuri to be operated by the Anna Transport Corporation and one long distance route from Kaveripattinam to Madras to be operated by the Thiruvalluvar Transport Corporation. Honourable Chief Minister also inaugurated two ATC depots at Palacode and Pennagar.

AN INDIAN FIRST IN SURGERY



*Dr. Sharad Panday
Mani Manuthampal (inset)*

Mani Manuthampal, the wife of an army hawaldar from Pune, created medical history by becoming one of the few people in the world from whom a rare heart tumour was successfully removed. She was operated upon by Dr. Sharad Panday at a private hospital in Bombay.

Until recently, heart tumours were regarded as



The rare tumour in the left ventricle of the heart

medical curiosities, chanced upon during autopsies. The most com-

mon type occurs in the left atrium, the chamber that receives pure blood from the lungs. Tumours of the right atrium, the chamber that collects impure blood, are less common, while myxomas of the left ventricle or main pumping chamber of the heart are the rarest. A myxoma is a benign tumour made up of mucinous connective tissue. If allowed to remain in

the heart, it endangers life by blocking off the blood supply. Bits of this jelly-like tumour could affect other vital organs including the brain and kidneys.

There are less than ten successful removals of ventricular myxomas reported in medical literature. She was the first person in India to undergo successful surgery for this condition.



9th WORLD CONGRESS OF POETS MADRAS - INDIA

28th to 31st December
1986, Madras.

On 28th December, 1986, Madras blazed as the capital of World Poetry as over hundred poets from thirty countries thronged to read their finest poems.

On lines unattempted yet in international gatherings—Dr. Justice S. Mohan and Dr. Krishna Srinivas accomplished this most arduous task of convening the First World Poets gathering in India. Poets from Canada to Argentina, Denmark to Africa, Korea to Australia had come. Indian Poets from Himachal Pradesh to Kerala were there all names to remember.

His Excellency the Vice-President, Thiru R. Venkataraman inaugurated the congress on 28-10-86. He hailed poetry as the chief medium of worship. 'Fight injustice',

Mr. R. Venkataraman exhorted the poets of the world.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. M.G.R. unveiled the emblem of the Congress. He also garlanded Justice Mohan, Dr. Krishna, Dr. Rosemary of U.S.A., Dr. Chung of China,

Dr. Cho of Korea with Gold Medals. Later Justice Mohan stressed that the Motto of the Congress was peace through poetry and Universal brotherhood.

Dr. Krishna proposed a vote of thanks.





On 29th, poets read their poems in English, French, Danish, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam and Tamil. When thirty Tamils read their poems with deep feeling the audience went into raptures. Chinese sang in Chinese. It was a day to remember.

Next day, there were lectures on the importance of poetry.

On 31st, Dr. Cripps of Australia presided over the

poetry session—highlighting March of poetry to twentieth century. Dr. P. Pandian, I.A.S., Collector of Chengleput spoke on 'Yoga in poetry'.

The Valedictory address on 31-12-86, by His Excellency, the Governor, Thiru S.L. Khurana enraptured all. He stressed the need of serious poetry that can come with grips with man's eternal searchings into the mysteries of existence, against the backdrop of turmoils and

upheavals that threaten us.

Thanks to the hospitality of Tamil Nadu Tourism Department, the poets were taken in two buses to Mahabalipuram, Pondi, Chidambaram, Poompuhar, Velankanni, Thanjavur, Sivagangai and Kanchi.

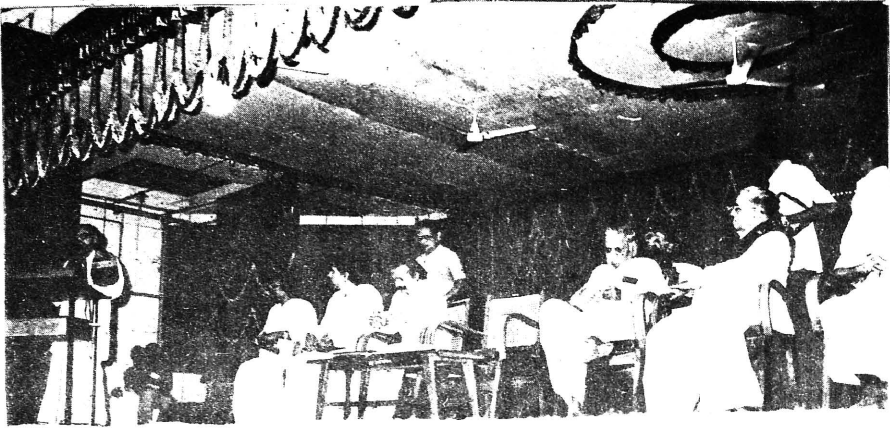
The Chief Secretary, Dr. A. Padmanabhan, a great poet himself, and Tmt. Kamala Das, participated in the sessions.

It is preoccupation with possession,
more than anything else, that prevents men
men from living freely and nobly.

—Bertrand Russell.

Anybody can be angry - that is easy;
but to be angry with the right person,
and to the right degree, and at the right time,
and for the right prupose, and in the right way-
that is not within everybody's power and is not
easy.

—Aristotle.



Awards for authors of good Tamil Books Presented

Thiruvalluvar Day celebration was held on 15.1.1987 at Valluvarkottam. The Education Minister Thiru C. Ponnaiyan presided over the function. He announced that an order was issued to buy 1,000 to 1,500 copies of books which were given the first prize for 1985 and between 600 and 1000 copies of the second prize-winning books will also be purchased and they will be supplied to libraries in Tamil Nadu.

The Finance Minister Thiru V.R.Nedunchezian gave away the awards to the authors of 27 books at the function. He presented the Thiruvalluvar award for 1987 instituted by the Tamil Nadu Government to Thiru K.A.P.Viswanathan for his 50 years of service to Tamil literature. This award was received by his son Thiru V.Kathiresan.

Poet Mu.Metha was presented the Paventhar award for his poetry. The Finance Minister also distributed cash awards to aged Tamil poets and scholars. He also distributed prizes for the best books and honoured persons who have rendered service to Tamil language and literature. The Local Administration Minister Thiru K.A.Krishnaswamy inaugurated the function. Tamil Development High Level Committee Chairman Thiru M.P.Sivagnanam and Thirukkural Propagation Centre Director Thiru V.Munuswamy offered felicitations.



Neyveli is green

The moment one says Mine Field, scenes of black and brown soil, dust and dirt pass through our minds causing mental suffocation. As a remarkable exception, Neyveli mines remains lush and green, promising peace and happiness in the environment. For, the reclaimed and refilled mine areas here including the mounts of dumps rising to a height of 45 metres are all covered with green vegetation. About 33 lakh Eucalyptus, nine lakh casuarina, two lakh bamboos, four lakh Acacia, eight lakh Agave Mexicana, three lakh teak and other timber trees and five lakh trees of different species abound in Neyveli today. .. Where there was a single coconut tree in 1957 when construction was taken up, we see today, more than 60,000 coconut trees. Thanks to the afforestation, the average summer temperature in Neyveli has come down from 42 C to 39 C and the average rainfall has gone up from 1,100 mm to 1,500 mm per year in the last few years.

Before 1957, the whole area was in a semi - arid condition. There were neither wet lands nor any water bodies such as lakes and rivers. It was all barren dotted with cashew and casuarina trees grown here and there. The mine work was started in an open-out method by removing the earth-cover over the lignite seam, and heaps and heaps of overburdened soil had to be removed and spread. Once the lignite was removed, refilling was also done. But, this refilled area remained irregular and needed levelling before afforestation. Bull dozers were engaged to level the area plots were formed, contour lines were marked and saplings prepared in the nursery were

transplanted. Avenue trees were planted on both sides. Treesaplings required for afforestation are made in the nursery kept in Mine I, which has a capacity of making 10 lakh plants every year. As for the dump heaps which formed into man-made mounts to a height of 45 metres, a number of steps were taken to conserve the soil, prevent erosion and to broadcast different seeds in order to achieve plant growth on the slopes.

A picnic centre has also been made with an artificial lake and boating facility. The rose garden here is an enchanting invitation.

All these activities need a lot of money. So far Rs. 15 lakhs have been spent for reclamation work in the mined-out area alone and Rs. 25 lakhs for afforestation. But, this amount will never go waste.

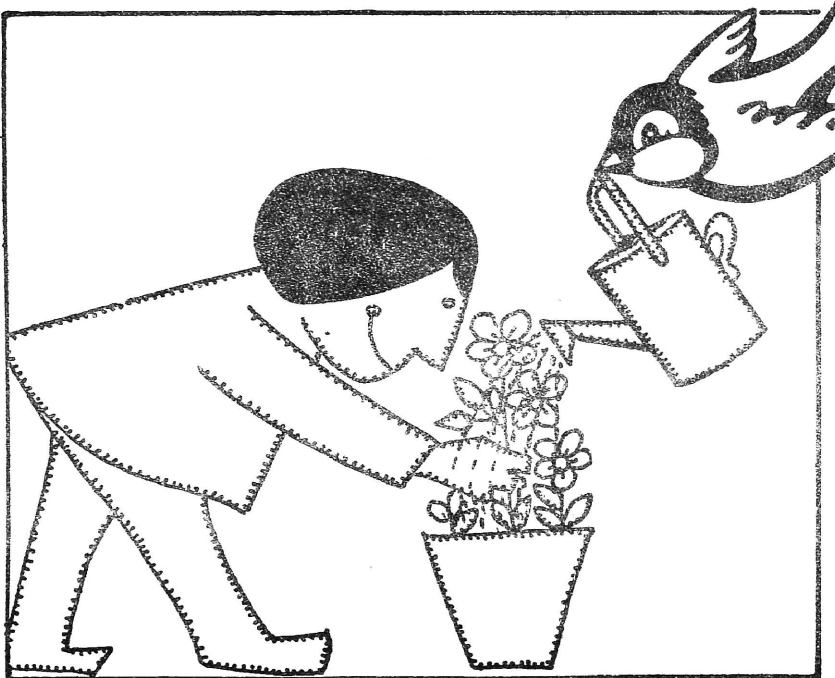


The Honourable Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. instructed authorities to donate Rs.5000 and 3 cent land to Saritha, the chess Champion. 12 years old girl Saritha is a daughter of Nagabushanam of Hosur. She earned first prizes in the chess tournaments held at U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.

Neyveli Township covers an area of 15 sq. kms. with 15,576 houses connected by 360 kms. of roads. All these have a canopy of greenery. With the implementation of massive afforestation programme in the last five years, tree population in the Neyveli Lignite Complex has increased to over 72 lakhs bringing trees per family to 350 as against the national slogan of 'One Tree—one Family'.

Eucalyptus can be cut after five years to be used in the paper industry. The trees will again grow, offering two more cuttings once in five years. Timber trees will be useful for construction in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation itself. Agave Mexicana can be used for ropes. Other trees are useful as fuel. Thus, all the plants will give enough return in future to be ploughed back for further afforestation.

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Former Chief Minister Thiru M. Bhakthavatsalam passes away



'Tamil Arasu' record with deep regret the passing away of Thiru M. Bhakthavatsalam, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the age of 89. He had the unique distinction of being associated with all the congress Ministeries in Tamil Nadu right from 1937.

Starting as a Parliamentary Secretary in Rajaji's Ministry in 1937, he joined the Cabinet in 1946 and became an automatic choice in the subsequent Ministeries. Except for a brief spell of 10 months in 1952-53 he continued as a Member of the Cabinet for 21 years as a Minister till 1963 and as Chief Minister for over three years till 1976. He was firmly committed to the policies adopted by the congress party and implemented them with determination.

As Chief Minister for over three years, he contributed a great deal to the all-round development of the State, particularly in industry, education and agriculture. Madurai University was created on his initiative and the Kundah and Periyar hydro electric projects were planned and executed during his term. As Minister of religious endowments, he was responsible for toning up the administration of temples and undertaking renovation work on a large scale with UNESCO assistance.

As a speaker and debator, Thiru Bhakthavatsalam was hardly flamboyant, but was always effective. He was deeply religious and believed that secularism did not mean neglect of religion. He was a man of abstemious personal habits and a strict vegetarian.

He was born on 9th October 1897, in Nazarathpet, a village in Chingleput district. He had his early schooling at Ponneri and later at P. S. High School, Madras. He graduated in Economics from Presidency college and then studied Law. Called to the Bar

in 1922, he did his apprenticeship under Sir Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer. He left the legal profession in 1927 to take up full time political activity.

During the freedom Movement, he was first imprisoned in 1932 for leading a procession and spent six months in the Vellore jail. He was arrested again in 1940 and was given a nine-month sentence. He was imprisoned in 1942 again and sent to the faroff Amaroti Jail in Madhya Pradesh. He spent nearly three years there with Kamaraj, V.V. Giri and other top Congress leaders.

After the Congress split in 1969, he opted for the ruling Congress and continued to work for the party till the end. Unmindful of falling health and bad eyesight, he was active till his last days.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu Dr. M.G.R called at Thiru Bhaktavatsalam's residence and paid homage to him. As a mark of respect, the Government of Tamil Nadu ordered a seven-day mourning.

His Excellency President of India Thiru Zail Singh, the Vice President Thiru R. Venkataraman and the Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi condoled the death of Thiru Bhaktavatsalam.

His Excellency Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru S.L.Khurana said, "in the death of the former Chief Minister we have lost an eminent educationist, Vetern freedom fighter, sagacious political leader and able administrator"

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. described Bhaktavatsalam as a shining example of sacrifice, service, honesty and integrity. A blemishless national leader, he had spent all his time and energy in the service of the nation for more than seven decades. Honourable Chief Minister paid tributes to him saying that he had offered valuable suggestions on important political administrative and social issues.

The mortal remains of Thiru M.Bhaktavatsalam were considered to flames with full State honours. The funeral held in Guindy Madras on 13.2.1987 evening.

CIVILISATION

"Civilised man was nearly always able to become master of his environment temporarily. His chief troubles came from his delusions that his temporary mastership was permanent. He thought of himself as 'master of the world', while failing to understand fully the laws of nature.

"Man, whether civilised or savage, is a child of nature—he is not the master of nature. He must conform his actions to certain natural laws if he is to maintain his dominance over his environment. When he tries to circumvent the laws of nature, he usually destroys the natural environment that sustains him. And when his environment deteriorates rapidly, his civilisation declines".

"One man has given a brief outline of history by saying that 'civilised man has marched across the face of the earth and left a desert in his foot prints.' This statement may be somewhat of an exaggeration, but it is not without foundation. Civilised man has despoiled most of the lands on which he was lived for long. This is the main reason why his progressive civilisations have moved from place to place. It has been the chief cause for the decline of his civilisations in older settled regions. It has been the dominant factor in determining as trends of history".

"The writers of history have seldom noted the importance of land use. They seem not to have recognised that the destinies of most of man's empires and civilisations were determined largely by the way the land was used. While recognising the influence of environment on history, they fail to note that man usually changed or despoiled his environment.

"How did civilised man depoil this favourable environment ? He did it mainly by depleting or destroying the natural resources. He cut down or burned most of the usable timber from forested hillsides and valleys. He overgrazed and denuded the grasslands that fed his livestock. He killed most of the the wildlife and much of the fish and other water life. He permitted erosion to rob his farm land of its productive topsoil. He allowed eroded soil to clog the streams and fill his reservoirs, irrigation canals, and harbours with silt. In many cases, he used and wasted most of the easily mined metals or other needed minerals. Then his civilisation declined amidst the depoliation of his own creation or he moved to new land. There have been from ten to thirty different civilisations that have followed this road to ruin (the number depending on who classifies the civilisations)."

—Tom Dale and
Vernon Gill Carter.

The Tamil University poised for a big leap forward

On 8th of Jan. '87 Prof.S.Agesthalingom, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University announced the various research programmes to be undertaken in Tamil Language and Culture. They are listed as follows:

The Vice-Chancellor expressed a keen desire that the Tamil University should emerge as a model and foremost research institution in the world and assured that he would take all efforts to achieve this goal.

There is a good appreciation of the Tamil language abroad especially in countries like Germany, Japan, U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R. The university has made laudable progress in the last five years. Instead of starting new depart-

ments the existing departments will be strengthened further. The U.G.C. has agreed to sanction a grant of Rs. One crore to the Tamil University for its general development during the VII plan. This is a singular achievement of the former Vice-Chancellor Dr. V.I.Subramoniam.

Rare Tamil manuscripts and books will be collected from all over the world for research on various subjects. A comprehensive Tamil grammar will be brought out by the Tamil University in 20 to 25 volumes.

Under a special Adult Literacy Scheme for the tribals to be formulated at the Tribal Research Centre, Uthagamandalam 100 literacy centres with 50 persons each is proposed to be run. The funding is shared by 50:50 basis by the State and Central Governments. An earnest effort will be taken to eradicate illiteracy among tribals within 3 to 4 years. Marine archaeology will be pursued at Mandapam and it is proposed to give a fillip to the activities of the department of Archaeology which has done commendable work in identifying the Tamil civilization and culture which existed two thousand and three hundred years ago.

INDIAN SCIENTIST HONOURED FOR AIDS RESEARCH

Acquired Immune Deficiency (AIDS) is feared by many, but understood by few: One who understands more than most is Indian-American scientist Mangalasseril Gopal Sarangadharan. Dr.Sarangadharan recently was honoured by two Indian-American associations.

He was given the outstanding achievement award "For Meritorious Accomplishment in AIDS research ", by the Association of Indians in America and the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in America.

Dr.Sarangadharan currently is working on efforts to characterize the AIDS virus, which is transmitted through the exchange of bodily fluids. However, he is perhaps best known for his collaborative work to develop a blood screening test to insure that blood donated for transfusions is not contaminated with the AIDS virus. The patented test that screens for antibodies to the AIDS virus is now successfully used in blood banks around the world. It is licensed by the U.S. Government

and diagnostic kits are available through a number of pharmaceutical firms.

Due to the terminal nature of the disease, it is crucial that these tests be administered accurately. Dr. Sarangadharan said the assay he helped develop is "a very sensitive test". It is designed to eliminate false negative results. Positive results are always screened further, for final confirmation, before the person is informed.

The new drug AZT (azidothymidine) is offering some hope to those who are afflicted with AIDS. The experimental drug, as yet unlicensed, acts as an antiviral agent. Dr.Sarangadharan described it as a "very good" drug. It is a drug which prolongs the lives of victims, however, and not one with curative powers.

Of his own work, Dr.Sarangadharan said he "is looking for footprints. Our end is to isolate and prepare different antigens of the virus". In a worldwide scientific collaboration biochemists and virologists are hoping to eventually purify the virus itself.

THE WORLD OF PRESS CONFERENCES

Incentives to foreign investors to start electronics units

Thiru K.Rajaram, Minister for Industries told on 25.2.1987 that the Tamil Nadu Government would provide all incentives and facilities to foreign investors and non-resident Indians for starting electronics industries in the State. It was the intention of the Tamil Nadu Government to promote electronics industries involving an investment of Rs. 10,000 crores by 1990. Tamil Nadu would welcome foreign investors setting up units in the Export Processing Zone in Madras, where all the requisite facilities were being created. The Madras Port also offered excellent facilities for exports through containers. Besides skilled man-power by way of engineers and technicians, Tamil Nadu could also offer cheap labour.

Sodium vapour lamps for Anna Flyover

The Commissioner of Madras Corporation Tmt.Santha Sheela Nair told on 25th February, 1987 two 100-feet high poles with 33 sodium vapour lamps are to be installed along the flyover. The Rs. 9 lakhs scheme executed by the Philips is expected to be completed in the next two months. Work is also in progress in some parts of North Madras-Tiruvottiur High Road to install 250 Watt Sodium lamps. The Corporation Special Officer said parts of Greenways Road, Santhome High Road, Chamiers Road and Sardar Patel Road were also being provided with Sodium vapour lamps.

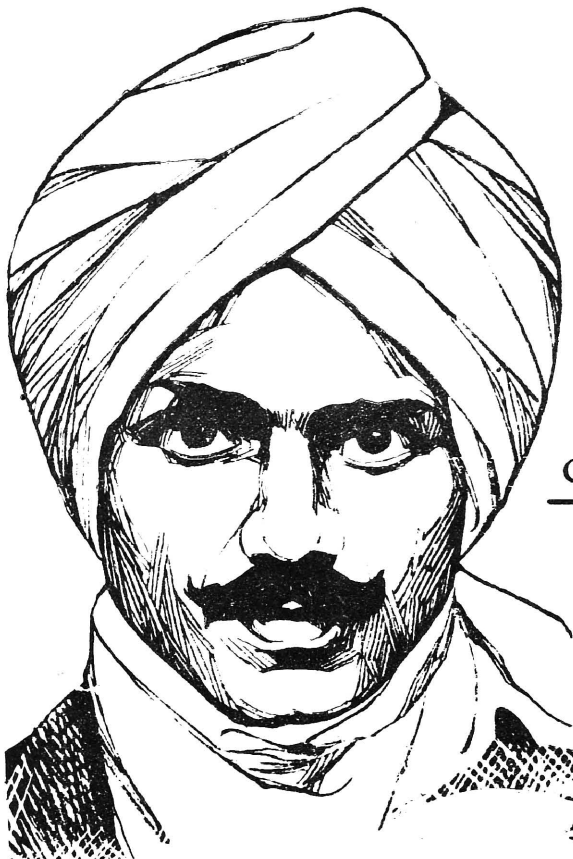
Shelter for poor plans

Dr. A.Ramachandran, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements told at Madras that it was estimated 1000 million

people around the world were living in inadequate shelters unfit for human habitation and 100 million were totally homeless. He said a study had shown that the worst sufferers among the homeless were women and children in all parts of the world. Over 30 million children were living on pavements, neglected by their families. The United Nations decided to launch a global programme to provide shelter to the homeless, particularly the poor, in the remaining years of the 20th century. The programme would commence this year. He said that since the Tamil Nadu Government had contemplated a massive housing scheme, it could work out a 10 year and 20 year strategy of spatial distribution in various towns and cities and develop the basic infrastructure and services.

New pay scales for temple staff

Thiru V.V.Swaminathan Hon'ble Minister for Electricity and Tourism who is also incharge of Religious Endowments told on 26.2.1987 that the revised scales applicable to 2640 employees in 18 temples in A and B categories would be effective from April 1, 1986. This would result in increasing the pay out by Rs. 20 lakhs in a year. He said, until recently the scales which were numerous used to be fixed from time to time. Under the proposal accepted 125 pay scales were reduced to 20. In the lowest scale the minimum basic pay would go up from Rs.60 to 200 and in the highest scale from Rs. 800 to Rs. 1320. The Minister said at present there were 1800 temples under the direct control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department. The new scales of pay were fixed for the employees in the A and B category temples, in respect of the others, the Government would examine the possibility of a revision. He said that an order has been issued that the administrative expenditure of a temple should not go beyond one-third of its annual income.



Tamil Nadu's contribution to the propagation of Bharati's ideals

Ministry of Information and Broad casting by organising, A.I.R., T.V. Programmes on Bharati and also a sound and light programme in Tamil and Hindi.

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu organised Maha Kavi Bharati Centenary Celebrations on a grand scale throughout the State during the centenary year from 11-12-1981 to 11-12-1982. It was so organised that the centenary was celebrated on all the 365 days of the year in anyone of the Panchayat Unions or Municipal Towns in the State.
2. A high-level Cabinet Committee under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. M. G. R. guided the Centenary Celebrations Committee which was headed by the then Chairman of the Legislative Council, Thiru M.P. Sivagnanam.
3. The State Government declared and observed the centenary year as National Integration Year.
4. In keeping with the national and international stature of the great poet, the Government of India rendered all help through the Mass Media Wings of the
5. At a celebration organised in New Delhi by the All India Bharati Centenary Committee the President of India, and the then Prime Minister, revered Indira Gandhi participated.
6. The Central and State Ministers participated in centenary celebrations in the capitals of other states.
7. Indian Embassies in the U.K., U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Malaysia, Mauritius, Philippines and Australia celebrated Bharati Centenary.
8. In Tamil Nadu, more than 1000 Public Buildings, constructed during the centenary year in the Panchayat Unions and Municipal Towns, were named after Bharati.
9. A spectacular mammoth women's rally marked the completion of the Centenary Celebrations.
10. A new University in the name of Bharati, known as 'Bharathiar University' has been started, at Coimbatore.

11. As announced by the Chief Minister a Separate University for women, the Mother Teresa University, has been established at Kodaikanal in keeping with the spirit of the poet who ardently advocated the emancipation of women.
12. A Co-operative spinning Mill at a cost of Rs. 5.1 crore has been started at Ettayapuram, the birth-place of Bharati.
13. A Polytechnic for women has also been started at Ettayapuram.
14. Bharati Endowments in Universities in Tamil Nadu and fellowship in Punjab University have been instituted.
15. Members of Bharati's family and scholars and writers who have specialised in and propagated Bharati's works were honoured.
16. A commemoration volume on Bharati was released by the Annamalai University.
17. A volume of selected works of Bharati translated into English and edited by a committee headed by Prof. K. Swaminathan was released by the Publications Division of the Union Ministry of Information.
18. Bharati's Statue donated by the Government of Tamil Nadu was erected at Calcutta and was unveiled by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R., under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Thiru Jyoti Basu.
19. The South Indian Association at Patna has constructed the Bharati Memorial with a contribution of Rs. 1 lakh by Tamil Nadu Government.
20. A major Road, in New-Delhi has been renamed as Maha Kavi Subramania Bharati Marg.
21. Bharati's writings were translated into Russian, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, English and other major languages.
22. A special centenary commemoration coin was released by the Government of India.
23. Special cultural troupes were deputed to all the States and abroad with programmes highlighting Maha Kavi Bharati's life, and teachings.
24. The Government Hospital at Elambhuvanam, near Ettayapuram has been named after Bharati.

Deaf to music

Like all snakes, cobras are deaf and do not dance to the tune of the charmer's flute. With their eyes and forebody they follow the movements of the flute and the swaying of the snake charmer's body who merely moves with the rhythm of his music to make it appear that the snake is dancing.

Cobra venom is more toxic than the King Cobra's. The venom paralyses the nerves causing death by asphyxiation

and heart failure. One gram of dehydrated cobra venom would bring death to 465 humans.

Mongoose, a well-known predator of venomous snakes, can tolerate a dose of cobra venom that is eight times the quantity that would kill a rabbit. In Mongoose-cobra encounter the cobra seldom wins. Other cobra predators are the serpent eagle, large fishing owls, peafowl and wild boar.

Cobras do not attack animals other than their prey and generally bite as a last resort when

teased, stepped on or injured. They are not so dangerous as man is to them. Thousands of snakes are killed each year out of fear, or for their skins which fetch high prices in the leather market.

Why conserve snakes is a question often asked. To this is a simple answer-snakes eat rats. These pests eat more than 30 per cent of our grain besides doing untold damage to our crops. The snake is nature's perfect rat catcher. So by protecting snakes we are ensuring a controlled rat population and saving our crops. (CEE-NFS)

Tamil Arasu

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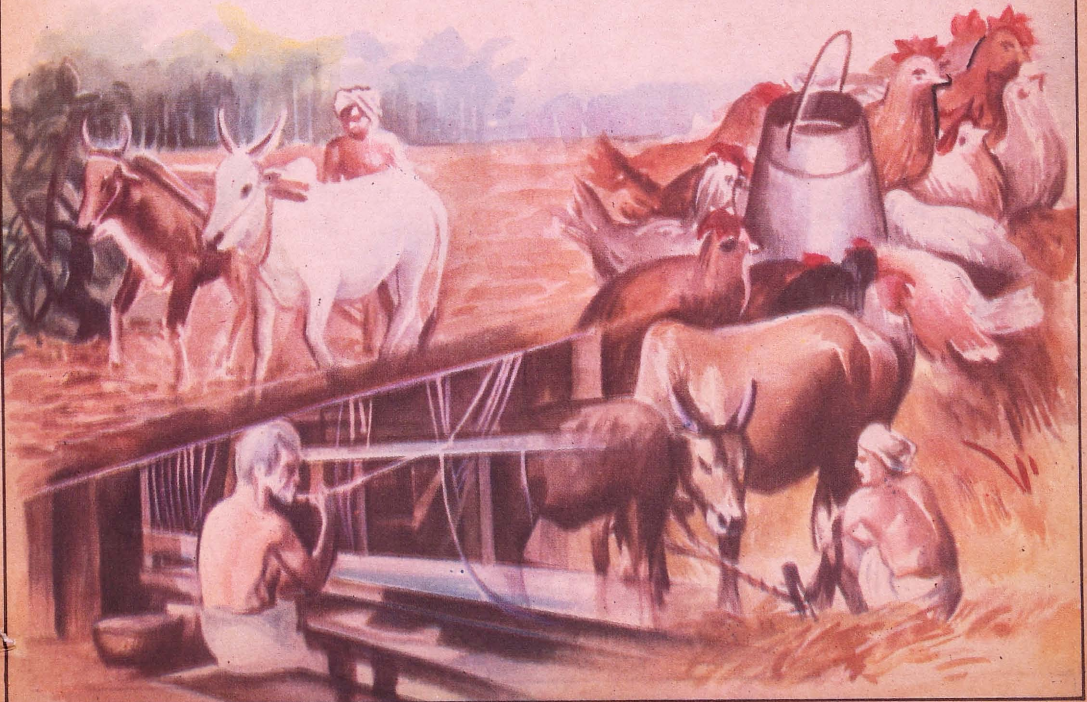
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