

Tamil Arasu

August, 1-31, 1987 Re. I





On 15-8-87 Thiru V. R. Nedunchezian, the Finance Minister, hoisted the National Flag at Fort St. George.

TAMIL ARASU

IN SCOPE THIS MONTH

President's broadcast to the Nation on the eve of Independence Day.

Prime Minister's Independence Day Address

Prime-Minister's address on the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement at Madras

Sacred soil collected

Nehru lives in the Nation's Heart

—Kaviyogi Suddhananda Bharathi

A Tryst with Destiny

—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

The Message of Mahatma Gandhi

Sardar Patel

Periyar's Participation in Freedom struggle

—K. Kamaraj

**40th Anniversary of
Independence -
Special**

Thiruvalluvar Year 2018

August, 1-31, 1987

Aadi-Aavani



President's **Broadcast** **to the Nation**

On my first address on the eve of Independence Day I wish to extend to all of you my warmest felicitations and good wishes. On the day that I assumed office I had the privilege of addressing my fellow citizens through their elected representatives in Parliament. Today I have the privilege of speaking to all of you directly and sharing with you some deeply-felt thoughts.

We cannot but recall with gratitude on this anniversary of our Independence the sufferings and sacrifices of those freedom fighters who participated in the struggle for national liberation, the first salvo for freedom was fired in 1857, 130 years ago, in the historic war of Independence. This was followed by several movements—each with its own distinct character, until Mahatma Gandhi arrived on the scene and led us, in a unique way, to freedom. To each and every one of those heroes of national history let us, offer our reverential homage.

This is the fortieth year of our Independence. I am happy that plans are under way to observe the anni-

versary not only in a spirit of rejoicing, but also with austere dignity and introspection. You are all aware, that even as the Tricolour went up to herald the changeover, the horrors of Partition and the agonies of uprooted masses tinged the new dawn with deep distress. The sagacious presence of Mahatma Gandhi, the humanistic leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, the doughty pragmatism of Sardar Patel—above all—the solidarity and wisdom of the masses of the people of India, steadied the Ship of State on its destined course. The sea was as rough as the route was uncharted but we can look back with a legitimate pride on the great distance that has been traversed since then.

The most significant of our achievements is the success of the democratic form of governance in India. The wisdom of the founding fathers of our Constitution is amply demonstrated by the fact that the people of India have mastered the functioning of the system. No more is the patronizing phrase 'democratic experiment' applied to India. India represents to-day no experiment but a proven model and example of a successful democracy. Nor is our democratic structure a purely political mechanism. It has shown—pioneeringly—an ability to help transform the living conditions of our people, in accordance with the popular mandate.

India did not struggle for mere political freedom, the substitution of the white rulers by the brown or the shifting of pomp and pagean-

try from aliens to nationals. We promised the people that freedom was only an instrument for improving the lot of the masses and not an end in itself.

Post Subramania Bharati sang that in the new social order if a single individual goes without food, we will destroy the entire world. We wanted to remove social and economic inequality and ensure the sovereign rights of every citizen.

We launched the ship of independent Bharat with high hopes and deep dedication. Thanks to the acceptance of the concept of a planned economy by almost the entire country we have fulfilled several five year plans. As a result, today, we are self-sufficient in food. Gone are the days when we used to look up to other countries for food supply, food aid and concessions. With an efficient public distribution system we can now meet the food requirements of our masses. The industrial infrastructure has been firmed up and we are in the frontline of the newly independent countries in the production of basic industrial goods. In the field of science and technology, we have won recognition in the scientific world and are on the threshold of a take off in this area.

Progress, however, must relate to the lives of the people. If it does not interlock with their daily experiences, progress is only theoretical. It is here that we in India have a great reason for satisfaction. The indices of the quality of life show continuous and sustained improvement. Major endemic diseases like malaria, small pox and cholera have been controlled and, most telling of all statistics, life expectancy has improved from 32 years in 1951 to 55 years. With special attention being paid to immunisation and maternal and child care, further gains are expected. Access to education has improved, particularly in rural areas and for disadvantaged classes. There are nations in the Second and Third Worlds with per

capita incomes that are higher than ours, thanks to a smaller population and larger natural resources. But if they are evaluated by the crucial test of the amenities for the masses like education, medical care, communications etc., it will be observed that India stands far ahead of them.

While the overall situation is sanguine, the unprecedented drought in almost every part of the country except the Eastern region causes grave concern. This is the third successive year when the monsoon has disappointed us and the cumulative effect of all these threaten to cause misery to our masses who are all the time living on a narrow margin. Efforts to tackle the situation are urgent and I am glad that the Government have realised the urgency and constituted a Cabinet Committee with the Prime Minister as Chairman to deal with this trying situation. May I appeal to all of you to join hands with Government in avoiding waste and conserving resources so as to meet the situation caused by the truancy of the monsoon.

Friends, I referred at the beginning of this address to the agony that accompanied the ecstasy of our independence. Now again, as we prepare to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of our independence, deep anxieties assail us.

Like an eclipse over the radiant sun at noon, communal violence and political terrorism cast their shadow over our lives. The cult of terrorism being blind and heartless, attacks innocent people - simple men, women and children who have committed no crime, offered no provocation. Never before has the nation faced such fierce onslaughts. While the principal responsibility to combat terrorism violence rests with the agencies of the State, the people of India must support the efforts of the State with poise and maturity. I know fully well that grave provocations are being offered to the traditional values of our society. But I would like to commend for your

consideration the words of Jawaharlal Nehru (and I quote) "The consequences of acting in passion are always bad for an individual; but they are infinitely worse for a nation".

This is the time for the people of India, irrespective of religion, region or language, to rise above all sectarian loyalties to the ultimate loyalty towards the nation. I am confident that the ancient wisdom of our people which has bound them together in a unity that encompasses their diversities, will sustain us in the task of meeting the challenges that face us. There is no force, internal or external which seeks to disrupt our life and impede our progress, that we cannot meet if we remain united, confident and disciplined. We must recapture the spirit of unity and involvement that marked our freedom struggle, linking the people of all parts of the country in a common endeavour. Let there be no doubt that the people of India have the capacity to forge unity and solidarity whenever the nation's interests so demand.

Friends, at a ceremony in Rajghat on August 16, handfuls of soil brought from different sthalas of India's freedom movement will be mingled in one casket and thereafter returned to the various States of India, symbolizing the great trans-continental solidarity which underlay that momentous struggle. This gesture will vivify the truth that the freedom of India was wrought by the action of a people who functioned as one people with one resolve: freeing India from the yoke.

We have achieved only one objective, namely, winning freedom but we are still to reach the other goal of prosperity to the masses. In that sense our struggle is not over. We have to put our shoulders together and continue the struggle to rid the country of poverty.

Let us rededicate ourselves to this great and noble task.

*Beat, beat, my drum!
All this is sure to come.
May the affliction of poverty -
come to an end!
May all enjoy an education sound!
And all evils of life be gone!
Beat, beat my drum!
All this is sure to come.
May Tamil, our three-fold language
prosper well!
It bore the torch of wisdom to
the world.
May life be a life of lasting
fame!
Beat, beat, my drum!
All this is sure to come.
May mothers worthy children bear!
May we all work hard-our part
we play,
So that life becomes a wondrous
bliss,
Beat, beat, my drum!
All this is sure to come.*

- Mahakavi Bharathiar.



Prime Minister's Independence Day Address

**CALL TO FIGHT DROUGHT,
COMMUNALISM AND VIOLENCE**

The following is the speech of the Prime Minister, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi, from the Ramparts of Red Fort on the occasion of Independence day on August, 15, 1987:-

Each Anniversary of Independence is sacred to the country. On each Anniversary we remember our freedom fighters. On this day we recall the builders of Modern India. Today, standing on the sacred soil of Red Fort, I recall 1945 when soldiers of the Indian National Army were prosecuted here. Their only crime was that they fought for the freedom of the motherland. In 1947 at this

very place, Panditji hosted the flag of independent India. Today, when we are assembled here, we remember the ideals, the principles, the values, and the dreams which inspired our freedom fighters to win freedom for the country. Today, all of us assembled here rededicate ourselves to that cause, Jawaharlal Nehru had said "if we want to achieve great things, if we want to build a great India of our dreams, we shall have to become great ourselves and be worthy children of Mother India".

On this fortieth anniversary, we

naturally think not only of the events of the last one year but of the last 40 years. At the same time we look forward to the future as well.

Our elders got us freedom and entrusted us with the responsibility of safeguarding and maintaining that freedom. It is our responsibility to protect it.

No one can enslave us:

During these four decades we faced many situations, a number of threats and also pressures. We faced conspiracies, we faced aggressions. We did not bend, we protected the unity and integrity of India with our courage, our blood and our sacrifices. We showed to the world that India is strong, India is one and it cannot be divided. We demonstrated to the world that no one can enslave us again. We made it clear that nobody can weaken the unity of India. We make it evident that no sacrifice is too big for the security of our country, the independence of our country and the unity of our country. No amount of labour, no amount of sacrifice is too high a price to pay for this purpose. Our soldiers, our officers give the best years of their lives to guard our frontiers and to defend us. In return we look after them, we provide them with the best of weaponry and ammunition. We see to it that they get the best tools they need. We are pledged to do so. The freedom of India means the freedom of the people of India.

Roots of Democracy should be strengthened:

The freedom of India means that we should strengthen the roots of democracy, and hold impartial elections in which every citizen can participate. We conduct parliament in such a way that the voice of the people of India is listened to and which looks after and builds the future of the country. The meaning of free India is that it has an independent judiciary and rule of

law. Free India means that it has a free and unfettered press. But it is not so easy to protect democracy, especially when we find that there are people who endanger our freedom through irresponsibility and indiscipline, who show disrespect to the constitution and its institutions through their behaviour. Still we have demonstrated that the roots of democracy in our country are deep. Our people must remain alert. It is only a government based on democracy that can function in a country like India.

Eradication of poverty given highest priority:

Our great economic achievements have been acclaimed all over the world. Gandhiji taught us that the process of development and the task of building the country should begin with the poor people by eradicating poverty. He taught us that the moral duties should be kept in the forefront in our national life.

We have taken the country forward towards these very objectives. Eradication of poverty has been given highest priority. We have used our entire energy in eradicating poverty. Indiraji gave a call for eradicating poverty. She brought about a new awakening in the country as a result of which there was reduction in poverty. Because of her 20-point programme and other programmes for rural development, be it NREP or IRDP or any others, there has been improvement in the lives of the poor people of the country. We see that the picture has changed during the last 40 years. Forty years ago 2/3rds of India's population was below the poverty line. Today 2/3rds of the population has come above the poverty line.

This achievement is due to anti-poverty programmes. They have also smashed the hold of feudalism. Eradication of poverty has been carried forward through the green revolution. As a result in just few years' time our production of food-grains tripled. I remember the time when

there was drought 21 years ago, and Indiraji seek food-grains from foreign countries. How small she felt when she had to bow down to others for foodgrains. It was that she decided that never again would India appeal to foreign countries for foodgrains. She overruled her technocrats and her other advisers and took steps which brought about the green revolution in the north-western part of the country. Indiraji's foresight and her determination coupled with the seat and hard work of farmers of India, produced these desired results. We can say with pride that India will never scrape before others for food.

Industries fully developed:

Similarly, at the time of independence, our manufactures were restricted to a few simple things. Today with the development that has taken place during the last 40 years, our industries have progressed to such an extent that India can manufacture products comparable with those of advanced countries. We have today reached a stage from where we can leap forward with greater energy and complete with others. Our scientists have shown to the world that they are capable of achieving the highest in the field of science. Our technocrats have proved that they can master all types of technology successfully. The path ahead is long but none can say that we have not traversed far enough during the last 40 years. We are building the India of our future on the foundations of development that have been soundly laid during these 40 years. We shall see to it that our industries grow and expand rapidly. We shall see to it that our youth get new and more opportunities of employment. We have to see that our productivity rises, prices go down and quality improves. It should be our effort to associate our workers in the public sector units with management. We should ensure that our science and technology are not borrowed from foreign countries but develops in a way that benefits the country and also the poor

people of the country. They should be able to meet our demands and requirements. We also have to see that they go ahead and see the work done in other parts of the world, meet the challenges and show the way to the world. The most important thing however is that we should not allow our attention to be diverted. Our attention must be concentrated all the time on the poorest and the weakest persons.

Agricultural production increased inspite of adverse weather.

In the field of agriculture, the production has increased a great deal, it has reached 15 crore tonnes. But we find that it is stagnating at 15 crore tonnes for the last three years. It is true that the monsoon has not been good during these years. Farmers in many regions and parts of the country have to face difficulties but we are resolved to ensure that the farmers' produce is not affected by the vagaries of weather in future. We have to take steps to ensure increase in agricultural production in spite of adverse weather. Some 70 per cent of our population reside in rural areas, and almost the same percentage of people are poor and they earn their livelihood in the agricultural farms. The number of agricultural labourers is much more than that of farmers we have to pay special attention towards them. If we want to eradicate poverty we have to begin with the farmers' fields. We have started spreading the green revolution and we are happy to see that during the last two years, and improvement has been noticed for the first time in Uttar Pradesh. Improvement has also been noticed in Bihar, Orissa and Bengal where the output of farmers is increasing; poverty has been reduced in the rural areas. At the same time we have to pay special attention to the production of cotton, oilseeds and pulses. In this we will see that with the spread of greenery poverty would be gradually be reduced and would ultimately vanish.

This year we have provided more

resources than ever before for programmes meant for eradication of poverty. At the same time we have strengthened the administration as part of the poverty eradication programme. I have myself travelled far and wide, and after seeing the work with my own eyes and discussing the matter with the officers, strengthened these programmes and intensified them. Most important of all we have treated education as a part of the poverty eradication programme because as long as the children of the poor people do not get good education, poverty cannot be eradicated.

Unemployment of the youth:

Today, however, we find another problem before us, a very serious problem, that is of unemployment of the youth. We find signs of pessimism in our youth. Millions of our young people do not succeed in getting employment and millions remain dissatisfied even after getting employment because they do not get what they want. We have to concentrate on the employment scene. There are some weaknesses and deficiencies in our set-up. There is employment, there are jobs, but the education, the skills that are required to fill up the vacancies are not there. Millions of boys and girls are matriculates, millions of them are degree holders but all cannot get white-collar jobs. We have taken care of these things. In our new education policy it has been our endeavour to make up the deficiency in our set up.

Through this policy we will ensure that the boys and girls coming out of schools and colleges, get such education which provide them employment. At the same time we will have to see that the rural employment programmes and other developmental programmes are implemented in such a way that the maximum number of people get jobs. But this will be possible only when we make a rapid progress in all fields, in agriculture, in industry, infrastructure and services. Most important,

perhaps, is the fact that we should succeed in the matter of self-employment. It is not so difficult to give jobs to all if we work with determination, if we examine things properly and if we see to it that our education matches the required skills it is only when we increase the pace of progress, when we bring maximum number of young people to the technical trades and inspired them to start small enterprises when we place maximum number of people in services, that objective can be achieved. We have to see that all people do not aspire for just government jobs, they should also go elsewhere. This can reduce unemployment and we are determined to eliminate unemployment. We shall place programmes before the country in the coming years to ensure that unemployment is eradicated.

Widespread drought:

This year we are facing a difficult situation because of drought. Such a widespread drought has not been experienced for many years. We had faced a drought in 1965-66. That was grave but was confined to only one or two regions. This year's drought has affected virtually all parts of the country. However, thanks to Indiraji's farsightedness which increased the production to our farmers, our economy today is quite strong and we can face the drought. There will be no shortage. No doubt there is drought but we can face it today because of the green revolution brought about by Indiraji. In many states this is the third or fourth year of drought. The poor are facing great hardships. Their basic needs are uppermost in our minds. Our minds also go out to the landless people and the marginal farmers who have been rendered unemployed and who are not getting any work today. In many states there is scarcity of drinking water as well. In many states there is shortage of fodder for the cattle.

Highest priority to deal with drought situation:

We will face the situation with all our might. As the head of the Government I pledge that we will concentrate all our attention and accord the highest priority to deal with this drought situation. We will see to it that we are able to reach foodgrains to every nook and corner of rural India from our granaries. We will ensure that enough employment is provided to the poor people through relief works. We will also ensure that employment is provided to all those who really need it. We will see it that there is no dearth of food. Nobody will have to go hungry. We will strengthen our public distribution system so that foodgrains reach all parts of the country at the doorsteps of the peoples, especially in the rural areas so that people do not have to go far for food. We will ensure that there is no scarcity of drinking water. We shall also pay special attention to the problem of fodder scarcity so that our cattle wealth and animals are also able to face this difficult situation.

We have to make a large collective efforts to deal with this drought situation. At the centre, as also in the states, we will see to it that all required assistance is provided by us. At the same time it is also to be seen that the state governments act firmly and with speed because it is they who reach down to the villages. We will give all assistance but the state governments will have to move fast. I have written to the Chief Ministers of states which are facing the drought situation. I shall call a meeting of the Chief Ministers in which we shall discuss and decide how the drought situation can be met collectively, and identify steps which are necessary to save the poor people from difficulty. A great deal remains to be done. But since the country is strong, we will accomplish the job and successfully face this challenge.

Face this challenge of Drought:

It is, however, necessary that we devote our full attention and energy to this problem. Our granaries are full. We have the experience and capacity today, we can face this challenge of starvation without any foreign assistance but we must be clear that it is not necessary to slow down the pace of development in order to deal with drought situation. By stalling development, by suspending development, we will have to face a greater crisis in the days to come. We have to find resources so that without refusing or slowing the pace of development we can face the present challenge. There is need for economy, austerity, it is necessary to refuse or eliminate non-essential expenditure. We have already advised each ministry to start taking such step. The State Governments should also take similar steps. The Government will do whatever it can but it cannot deal with such a drought situation alone. In such a situation it is necessary for the people to meet this challenge together with the Government. The young people especially should come forward to face this challenge hand in hand with the Government and others. We have to see that each man and woman and individual and each community as social group will join hands with the Government to face this great situation. We should build up such a movement that reaches all parts of the country.

Anti-Social elements should be kept under control:

This is the time when more fortunate people should come to the rescue of the less fortunate ones. We have to see that no anti-social element takes advantage of this situation to earn money and exploit the miseries of the poor people. We will have to deal firmly with such elements. Hoarding will have to be stopped, profiteering will have to be eliminated. If we face the anti-social elements resolutely

we will be able to keep the situation under control. We will not spare any effort. With all the might of the Government, we will see to it that the anti-social elements are kept under control. Any lacuna in the law that may come in the way of dealing with such people will be removed, and the Government will acquire the powers necessary for dealing with them, but I appeal to all to cooperate fully in raising resources and facing this national challenge boldly. We want constructive cooperation from every quarter, from legislators, from members of Parliament, from the opposition, from experts, from the press. In the context of the challenge it is necessary to forge a national effort to meet the situation effectively.

Remarkable Social Progress:

India has made remarkable social progress during the last 40 years. We find that casteism has decreased during these years. Our women have become more strong. We have provided more opportunities to our girls to go to schools and colleges. We have especially encouraged them to go to schools. Last year we consolidated further the anti-dowry law to strengthen the hands of women and we find that since then the number of girls killed because of dowry problem has gone down. We hope to further increase the strength of our women. We also have to pay attention towards our labourers and their problems. During the last two years we have passed a legislation to prevent child labour. This law prohibits all employment of children in hazardous industries. The legislation provides for the education of children also takes care of their food and health. The problem of agricultural labourers had been attended to during the past 40 years. We have set up a national commission to study the problems of agricultural labourers and suggest programmes to deal with their problems.

The tribal people have their own problems. I have myself visited those districts, the villages and

also their huts to have an idea of their problems and the way government programmes are being implemented, where these programmes need to be strengthened and where there is need for assistance. We have paid special attention to the problems of our Harijan brothers. We will see to it that the hands of the Commissioner of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes are so strengthened that he is able to deal firmly with the situation wherever the Harijans and the tribal people have not been given their due. We will see to it that the legislation intended to uplift the Harijans and the tribal people are strengthened their provisions are effectively implemented, and nobody is able to stall this work. We have implemented very effectively the 15 point directive of Tmt. Indira Gandhi relating to minority communities.

The middle class population has increased in the country because of increase in economic opportunities. A large number of people now go to different parts of the country to find employment. More and more people are now undertaking journeys in the country, people from one part of the country are going to other parts in search of jobs, they are getting employment outside their homes, their villages, their districts and sometimes even outside their respective States. This consolidates the unity of the country as such people are able to see the vastness of the country. The unity and integrity of the country is strengthened through these people. We have achieved a lot during the last 40 years but even then, in spite of the social progress, a lot still remains to be done.

Communalism harm to Unity:

Some of the problems are old and many new ones have cropped up. Communal feelings have come to the fore in some places. We see the misuse of religious places, the religious feelings of the people are being told with. We find one community fighting with another community

a brother fighting with his brother, a man fighting with another man, all these cause danger to our secularism. Communalism and sectarian forces were causing harm to unity and integrity of the country during the days of the freedom struggle. We had fought on the basis of concepts denouncing communalism, even today, there is no room for communalism in India. India is an ancient country inhabited by people believing in different faiths since centuries. People belonging to all religions and all thought have resided here since times immemorial. We have seen that people of all traditions and all faiths have lived like brothers in society. There is no room at all for communalism in our society, or democracy. We have face this challenge, it is the duty of every citizen to ensure this by all his actions and thinking. He should maintain cordiality in the society. Majority of the people who are deeply religious believe in true religion, and are secular and they should come forward and face those few people who weaken the country, who believe in sectarian things, who believe in fundamentalism, who believe in violence and who believe in looting and terrorism. There is no place in India for those people to weaken the country in the name of religion. People of different communities have lived in this country for centuries peacefully working together, playing together participating constructively in each other lives. Sometimes, however, hatred arises its head all of a sudden and things are on fire and there is terror.

Generally outsiders are responsible for this and sometimes because of religious leaders. These people weaken us by spreading rumours, creating misunderstanding and spreading falsehood.

Normally, innocent people fall victim to such conspiracies. Whenever such sectarian conflicts come to the force, maximum harm is caused to the innocent people. They are the worst sufferers. Our war

on sectarian forces cannot however be fought only through the machinery of law. This should be a peoples' war. It must be fought in every locality in every area, we have to ensure that all of us are one in this war against dangerous criminals, and stop the misuse of religion and eliminate the people spreading hatred. Those who are sowing the seeds of hatred among us must be crushed. We must face such people who are out to destruct our society. Communalism gives rise to separatism. Communalism produces terrorism and efforts are being made to eliminate our democracy through communalism, separatism and terrorism.

Terrorism should be completely eliminated:

We notice that all sorts of methods are being employed to weaken our country to disturb peace in our country. Efforts are being made to create a feeling among the tolerant and peaceful people of this country that may change the life-style herein we do not have to submit to separatists, we have to face them. We will face all of them with all our might who try to weaken our freedom, our security and our future through threats, pressurisation and causing in-fights. We will not allow them to rise. We will not stop till terrorism is completely eliminated or till the terrorists do not return to the country's mainstream giving up their arms. We do not have to give up our courage, we do not have to be fearful. Gandhiji has said "Independence means fearlessness against death. A nation afraid of death cannot become free and if it attains freedom it cannot protect it".

The words of Gandhiji should resound in our ears today and we must face this challenge boldly. We must remember that we will not counter them for taking revenge. If we try to take revenge then it will only serve the designs of the terrorists. Revenge would only bring victory to terrorism. If we use restraint, terrorism will weaken and ultimately

get defeated. We must not fall in the trap of terrorism. Gandhiji had said that violence cannot be an answer to violence. Only non-violence can be an answer to violence. India holds its head high in the world today. The voice of India is heard in the world with respect. Why? How is it that a country which was a slave, poor till 40 years ago, and about which people use to think that it would never stand on its own and could not safeguard its freedom, now speaks out in such a strong voice. It has been possible, because we moved forward taking with us the concepts of Gandhiji, principles of Panditji and the path shown by Indiraji.

Path of Non-Violence:

We have learnt to speak fearlessly we have learnt not to submit under pressures, we have learnt to move forward on the path on non-violence with courage and facing the challenges boldly. We launched a movement against the atomic weapons in the world during the last 40 years. Today many powerful countries are attracted towards it. The feeling that Gandhiji and Panditji had brought to the fore before our independence is now spreading throughout the world after 40 or 50 years. It is just insanity that we continue to manufacture weapons while the available weapons alone can extinguish the entire world 50 times. It is really madness that 15 to 20 million rupees are spent every minute in the world on arms race. Even a small fraction of it can help a lot in eradicating poverty, diseases and unemployment. Today, India is paying attention to these things. We are paying attention to human rights and human dignity.

South Africa, where Gandhiji had started his first satyagraha, is still reeling under slavery. The flag of freedom has not still gone up there. It is shameful that 100 years have passed, hundreds and thousands of freedom fighters have offered sacrifices including their lives and the place from where the flame of free-

dom rose is still under slavery., We have raised the question of poor people in the world. We have taken up the cause of suppressed sections of the world. We have demonstrated that our voice is that of balance, tolerance, compassion, truth and non-violence.

Indo-Sri-Lanka agreement:

Last month we signed an agreement in Sri Lanka-an agreement that proved the righteousness of our policy, which demonstrated that the impact of our foreign policy is good and that India was moving on the right path. This is an important achievement in these 40 years. The latest agreement that we have reached and signed has brought peace and cooperation in Sri Lanka. This has strengthened the cause of peace and cooperation in the entire region. We have stalled the activities of those people who were endangering the security of the entire region, otherwise the race of power blocks could have reached this region. The neighbourhood of India. This has strengthened the cause of non-alignment. It has been proved that countries can solve their problems through dialogue without allowing the big powers or other sections or parties to come in. We have seen that whenever outsiders interfere, the problems become more serious and difficult. Today on the 40th anniversary of our independence we have to rededicate ourselves to those ideas and concepts.

Ours is an ancient tradition and culture:

Our greatest achievement is the system given to us by our forefathers. We have seen that the system is in tune with our ancient traditions and our culture, which is continuing uninterrupted for thousands of years. We used that spirit in our struggle for freedom and should use it in building a new India. Today our greatest attainment is our democracy. We have to safeguard it, consolidate it. We must consolidate it. No weakness would be allowed to come in. Still we find that cer-

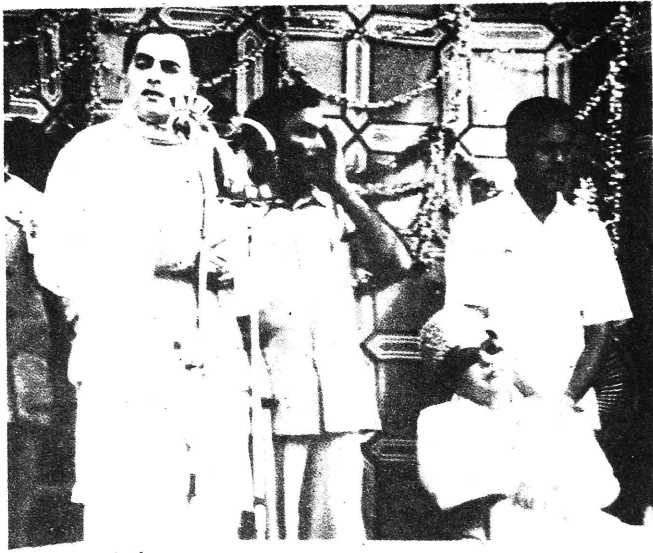
tain elements are trying to weaken it is bid to eliminate it. This system is on for the last 40 years and we have found that under it India has become stronger, it has remained one, it has progressed and has been able to face the world. If some people for their own petty political development want to disrupt the faith of the people and harm our democracy just for their own development and benefit we have to face them. We have to see to it that they do not come up. We have to ensure that they are not able to divert attention of the country. We also have to see that they are not able to conspire internally or from outside to weaken the country. It is true that a few things are not well in our society and our system. We will see to it that the people who are doing wrong things are dealt with promptly and firmly and are punished. Our concentration today should however be on national reconstruction today should however be on national reconstruction and not on rumours. We must pay attention to national reconstruction and taking the country on the path of progress. We should current the flaws in our system and sincerely bring forward such policies which would further strengthen our society and the system. We are doing so and we are trying to move on the path of progress. We would like to see that all sections of the people especially the youth, start a national campaign against compalence sectarianism and corruption. We have to abide by the principles which Gandhiji placed before us. We must safeguard our freedom. We must strengthen our society. It should be our endeavour to see that people belonging to all sections of our society work for the welfare of the poor and the weak, and with communal and religious harmony. We must ensure that Harijans, tribals and women progress in all respects in our society and consolidate their position. We have to be guided by Gandhiji's principles of truth, non-violence and human unity.

At the same time we have to ensure that we remain self-reliant we must remember that only right means can lead us to the right end. Gandhiji's message was not meant for his generation alone. It was for all the future generations. The message is important for the reconstruction and consolidation of the country as it was for achievement of our freedom. It is also important in the context of making the world stronger.

**United effort to move
ahead on the path of
Progress:**

Today I congratulate all my 78 crore brothers and sisters residing in different parts and remote areas of this peaceful country. This our India, yours and mine of those who are rich who are poor young and the old, people belonging to all religious, people belonging to different communities, people belonging to all States, people speaking different languages, and people having different cultures. Our unity is sound, our integrity is eternal. We take inspiration from the past, to move confidently to the future. It is our firm resolve that we will unitedly move ahead on the path of progress to safeguard our freedom, our democracy, our secularism, our socialism, our security and our non-alignment stage by stage and make India really great. Thank you.





Prime-Minister's address on the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement at Madras

On 2.8.1987, the Honourable Prime Minister of India Thiru Rajiv Gandhi was lustily cheered by the large gathering on the Marina, when he appeared on the dais in traditional costume of TamilNadu - dhoti, jibha and angawasthrum. More prolonged was the applause when Thiru Gandhi praised the Chief Minister's role in bringing about a solution to the vexed problem of Sri Lankan Tamils. He addressed a public meeting on the Marina on that day.

The Prime Minister devoted his entire 55 minute speech to the Indo-Sri Lanka accord and explained that the agreement represented an immense advance over what had been asked for by the Tamils in 1983 and contained major concessions made by the Sri Lanka Government on the Tamil's demands and for Tamil sentiments.

Agreement meets Tamils' demands:

The Prime Minister, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi said the recently-concluded Indo-Sri Lanka agreement would bring

about the much-needed peace to Sri Lanka, especially in the Tamil areas, and appealed to every one, both in India and in Sri Lanka, to do whatever he could for the implementation of the accord.

Describing the agreement as "Unprecedented in the history of the world, at least in this country", the Prime Minister said it had brought peace and tranquillity, secured justice to the Tamil minority, and provided autonomy approximately like that of an Indian State to the Tamils, "It safeguards the Tamils' identity, their language and their culture", he said addressing a mammoth public meeting of the Marina here.

"Every reasonable demand had been met and this is the time to stop fighting, stop the violence and stop the conflict; it is time to start building", he declared.

Thiru Gandhi paid a handsome tribute to the people of TamilNadu, and particularly to Honourable Chief Minister of TamilNadu Dr. M.G.R.

without whose help, he said, the agreement would not have been possible.

Cautioning about the forces which were interested in frustrating the agreement, the Prime Minister said the extremists on both sides should not be allowed to become pawns in the hands of these forces. They should not be allowed to break the peace and provoke retaliation.

Problems getting solved:

Thiru Gandhi said it was a little over two years ago, on July 15, 1985, speaking on the same platform, he had stated there could be only a peaceful solution to the problems of Sri Lanka. Now, he was there again today, and was happy to say that the problems in Sri Lanka were getting solved, and peace had come through patient negotiations and complex discussions and, most of all, through persuasion. During the last four years they were all worried and upset at the way things were taking place in Sri Lanka on account of the ethnic conflict. Many innocent people were killed by bomb explosions, aerial bombing, etc., Lakhs were made homeless and 1.5 lakhs of people had come to TamilNadu as refugees. "Now we have created condition for an end of the violence, for an end of the needless suffering and for an end of all discrimination". he said.

"Now the Tamils in Sri Lanka will continue to live as they lived there for hundreds of years as honoured and respected citizens enjoying all political and civic rights on a footing of equality with all other Sri Lankans".

Thiru Gandhi said he should also congratulate the Sri Lankan President, Thiru J.R. Jayewardene, on his wisdom and statesmanship, and on the moral courage he had shown standing up to the extremists in Sri Lanka. In accordance with the agreement and at the formal request of the Sri Lanka Government, a

number of Indian troops had landed in Jaffna to help maintain peace.

"The Sri Lankan Government has given us several assurances that it will not take advantage of the disarming of the militants. Before I wanted Sri Lanka to sign the agreement, I talked with the militants and the more moderate Tamils in Sri Lanka. I had consultations with all the fighters for justice and equality in Sri Lanka. The militants had all understood, and they agreed with the agreement that we have signed. This agreement secured everything that the Sri Lankan Tamils have demanded, short of breaking Sri Lanka, and, in fact, it goes well beyond the initial demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils".

"Under the agreement, approximately one third of the Sri Lankan territory will be made a single province, where the Tamils will have a clear majority. They will have regional autonomy, comparable to the State Governments in India. This represents an immense advance on what has been asked for by the Tamils in "Annexure C" in 1983. It represents major concessions made by the Sri Lankan Government.

"A stage has been set for a national reconciliation and we must do everything we can to assist in this task, in the process of reconciliation and rebuilding. There is nothing further to be gained by more violence and more killing".

"There should be no sympathy now to anyone who acts against this agreement because anyone acting against this agreement will be acting against the interests of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Some of the militant groups have been a little apprehensive, perhaps a little worried about their personal security. They were also worried how they will fit into the future set-up. But I have reassured them that the agreement covers both the aspects very effectively and we will see that security and involvement in this rebuilding process in there

for everyone in northern Sri Lanka", Thiru Gandhi said.

Pointing out that tension and violence in Sri Lanka was also causing a problem in the region, Thiru Gandhi explained that forces which did not stand for nonalignment, forces which were not in India's interest were showing their presence in Sri Lanka. "This hostility has opened up for others to fish in troubled waters and cause problems in this part of the world. The greatest threat to security in our region is if countries drift towards power blocs. Our security and strength lies in nonalignment. Certain outside presences in Sri Lanka were destabilising this commitment to nonalignment. This agreement not only brings to an end the hostilities but also brings peace, gives justice to minority communities in Sri Lanka and also removes opportunity for hostile forces to destabilise the region. It strengthens the security and nonalignment in our region.

Apart from the agreement which took care of the Tamils' interest in Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister said he and Thiru Jayewardene, Sri Lankan President, had an exchange of letters. In these letters "we have seen the security problem in our region. We will see that such hostile forces are not allowed to come into our region".

"This exchange of letters ensures that forces prejudicial to India's interest will not be present on the Sri Lankan soil. It also ensures that Sri Lankan ports including Trincomalee will not be given for military use if it is prejudicial to India's interest. It will also ensure that any broadcasting facility that is set up in Sri Lanka will not be used for military or intelligence purposes. With this agreement and the exchange of letters, President Jayewardene has shown his commitment to Gandhiji's ideals of non-violence, truth and his commitment to nonalignment, "Thiru Gandhi said.

"This is the time to end violence; this is not the time for recrimina-

tion or reprisal; it is time to bring peace to rebuild and to develop a new friendship and bondage between the various communities in Sri Lanka. This is the time for restoring confidence and faith for promoting amity and goodwill for the rebuilding".

New era of peace: The agreement, the Prime Minister said, ended a period of pain and sorrow, anguish and suffering and ushered in a new era of peace. "In this turning point in Sri Lanka's history" Thiru Gandhi said, "we must mourn the dead; our hearts should go out to the widows and orphans, mothers who have lost their sons and daughters who have lost their fathers; but this memory cannot be honoured with further bloodshed. Their memory will be honoured if Tamils continue to live in Sri Lanka with peace, with honour, with dignity and this is what we have made possible with this agreement", he said.

In the agreement, Thiru Gandhi saw "the greatness of our civilisation; the tolerance, the compassion of our civilisation". Many other civilisations did not survive because they were unable to adapt to new things or coexist; with differences of language, region or religion, they were not able to adapt. "Our strength is in our flexibility, adaptability and resilience and this comes from self-confidence". This self-confidence has allowed us to go beyond, to pick the best, yet remain ourselves" he said.

Indo-Sri Lankan links: This agreement, Thiru Gandhi maintained, drew upon the deep values of "our shared traditions and history with Sri Lanka; our relationships go back to thousands of years".

"Today we have realised Subramania Bharati's dream.....to Sri Lanka we shall build a bridge, raise Sethu to make a road; we have built that bridge of friendship".

While peace had already been restored, Thiru Gandhi said, "we

must be realistic and each one of us must do whatever there is in our ability to see that we do nothing which could disturb this peace which has come". Although peace had been fully restored it had come neither quickly nor easily. While there might be difficulties and problems in completing the agreement and whenever there had been such violence and such high tempers one could not expect that it could be switched off just at the turn of the switch. "We must approach these problems the way we have approached this peace--discuss, sit across the table and bring about solutions and I know that solutions are possible".

Thiru Gandhi said there would be many forces which would want to see that this agreement did not work out. All those forces whose presence would have to be removed would not like to see the agreement coming through. "And all those who feel they can benefit from violence and the killings will not want this agreement to come through. It is for us--Sri Lanka and India--which must see this agreement through with patience and perseverance.

The Prime Minister contended that the democratic method was the only method for getting real, workable and long-term solutions and it was there "we must seek for answers". The agreement, he said, had been possible because many people had been involved from the tentative steps in June 1983 when President Jayewardene first asked Indira Gandhi for help.

Pat for TamilNadu people: Thiru Gandhi paid a special tribute to the people of TamilNadu. The people of the State, he said, had demonstrated tremendous courage and humanity during these very difficult years. "You have suffered great anguish while relatives and friends have been killed, but you have persevered, you have shown tremendous strength".

The Prime Minister also praised the tremendous restraint of the pe-

ople of TamilNadu who, he said, had kept their heads level even in the face of serious provocations and incitement to violence. "You have kept the greater perspective in view. You have not been swayed at all by false rhetoric", he said.

Thiru Gandhi said the agreement was a major landmark in the four decades of India's freedom. "I am told no such agreement has been signed by any country in the world at least in this century. It is an agreement without any precedence in history. It is an agreement which does not have a parallel in the world. It is an agreement which vindicates the principles of good neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence and nonalignment.

Praise for Dr. M.G.R.: Paying a high tribute to the TamilNadu Chief Minister, Dr. M.G.R. for his involvement in hammering out a solution to the Sri Lankan Tamil's problem, the Prime Minister said that but for his help the agreement would not have been possible. "Without his sagacity, without his sagacity, without his profound humanism, without his rock-like support, especially during the most difficult and complicated negotiations, without the deep understanding that he has shown, we could not have achieved this agreement. Without his statesmanship in raising above all narrowness and selfishness and looking towards the greater interests of the country, the agreement would not have been possible. It is his patriotism and his support which made the agreement possible" he said.

Referring to Dr. M.G.R.'s proposed visit to the United States for a medical check-up, Thiru Gandhi said "We wish him all the best and a very speedy recovery. And I hope he goes with his mind in peace that the Tamils in Sri Lanka can now live in peace, equality and harmony. I wish him a speedy return so that he can devote many more years in the work of the people of TamilNadu and in furthering the glory of India".

Rajiv 'hero of peace': Earlier, Honourable Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. said Thiru Gandhi had come to Madras as a "hero of peace after signing the historic agreement. The Tamils in Sri Lanka had been undergoing untold sufferings for many years and the agreement had come as a culmination of the efforts initiated by Indira Gandhi to remedy the situation. "Indira Gandhi's dream has been fulfilled by his son" he said and appealed to the people to wholeheartedly support the accord.

It was to ensure that the people in the Jaffna peninsula lived without any fear that the Prime Minister had sent a contingent of the Indian Army to Sri Lanka as a peace-keeping force. "The militants should have confidence in the efforts of the Prime Minister and extend him

all support; they should respect the agreement and act according to it" he said.

Mementos presented: The Chief Minister presented a golden shawl to the Prime Minister. He also gave mementos to Thiru Rajiv Gandhi and his wife Tmt. Sonia Gandhi who was seated on the dais. Garlands were presented to Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Chief Minister by Hon'ble Ministers of TamilNadu and representatives of the TNCC (I) and the AIADMK.

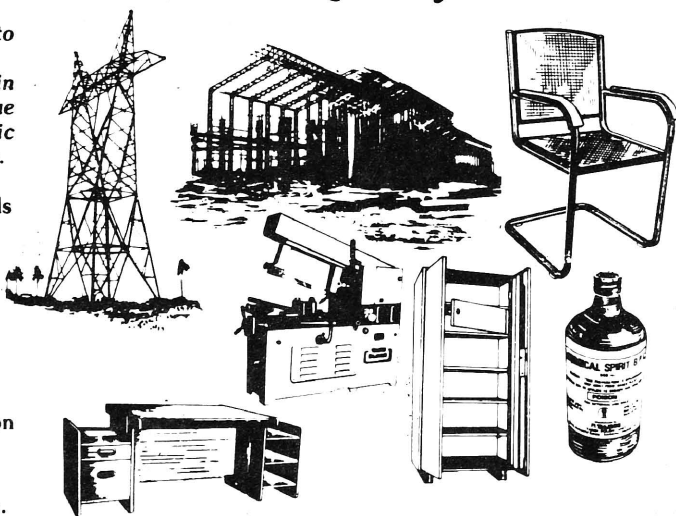
Among those who garlanded were Thiru A. Amirthalingam, TULF General Secretary, Thiru Sivaji Ganesan, Tmt. Vyjayanthimala Bali, Thiru Tindivanam Ramamurthy, Thiru Jaya Mohan, MPs, Tmt. D. Yashodha, MLA and the acting Chief Minister of Pondicherry Thiru Kannan.

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THE MESSAGE OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Through centuries, India has been spreading the message of tolerance and understanding. Even under alien domination, her endeavour has been to enrich human thought on art, philosophy, commerce and other manifestations of universal fraternity and cooperation. The twentieth century witnessed the emergence of Mahatma Gandhi as a guiding star for not only India but to the entire world. An apostle of peace, he blazed a new trail of universal love and nonviolence leading to world peace and concord.

Humanism:

"What would it profit a man if he gained the world but lost his soul" This sums up the message of the Mahatma to mankind. Material progress devoid of balancing spiritual strength is neither civilization nor happiness. Truth and love, sacrifice and restraint, discipline and humility, confidence and righteousness are the basic tenets of Gandhi's religion. His religion is not meant for separating men but to bind them.

The relevance of his message of fraternal love and peaceful means is gradually felt by the world community in its endeavour to uphold the dignity of man and nations. In a world of hatred, violence and constant threat of conflagration of nuclear war, Gandhiji's ideals of humanism are being recognised as a mascot for international peace and prosperity.

Mahatma Gandhi was not an individual but an institution, inviting men and women from all corners of the world to participate in his mission; his mission was not merely the attainment of Independence of his country but the promotion of international cooperation and goodwill. Devoid of the dividing walls of race, religion and class, Gandhiji's creed of non-violence and love, even during his life time, permeated the world over. The impact was albit gradual but not tenuous.

UNIVERSALISM:

Patriotism as adumbrated by Mahatma Gandhi, was not bellicose jingoism but consistent with the "broadest good of humanity". "It is not nationalism that is evil, it is the narrowness, selfishness, exclusiveness which is the bane of modern nations" he said. He sought freedom for his country, but not at the expense or exploitation of others. His cult of nationalism was not for the extinction of other races but the weaving together all human heads to constitute a congregation of inter-national community. Through-

The message of Mahatma Gandhi



out his life, both by words and deeds. Gandhiji transcended patriotic patriotism and said "The whole of my country may die so that the human race may live". He did not make any distinction between religions, nations and races. He thus stood out as one of the greatest internationalists known to the present generations. He believed that "if India reaches her destiny through truth and non-violence, she will have made no small contribution to the world".

NON-VIOLENCE:

The concept of non-violence is another gem of India's ancient philosophy that Mahatma Gandhi bequeathed to humanity. The use of force and violence in achieving even the genuine ideals of a nation was abhorred by the Mahatma. "It is my conviction that nothing enduring can be built on violence", he said. If use of force in international politics is anathema today it is because of the rays of hope that radiates from Gandhiji's concept. The call of UNO to international community is for preservation and promotion of peace through right means and non-violent action.

When one reads and rereads the chapter of UNO, one is repeatedly reminded that so many of its provisions reflect the very ideals that Gandhiji advocated and practised. His doctrine of non-violence inspired leaders of action and thought to show a way out of war and annihilation. So long as there is violence in the minds of men of the individual level, the quest for peace at international level will not fructify. Gandhi's message has now gathered tremendous momentum in a world stricken by nuclear threat. He stirred in the world conscience new thoughts relevant to all generations to come.

RIGHT MEANS FOR RIGHT ENDS:

The Mahatma was at once idealistic and practical in his entire approach. A nation, as visualised by him prospers if it has ideals. That

are applicable to a nation should be equally relevant to the whole human society; for a society is a living organism. Time and again national movements were bred on violence and carnage, leading by catastrophe of human race. Machiavellian doctrines of indiscriminate adoption of ignoble means for achieving national goals met an incorrigible critic in Gandhiji who asserted that purity of motive could never be a substitute for the purity of means. The success of his fight bears testimony, to the significance of this assertion. Besides, the principle of right means is now being recognised by all the civilised nations as the sheet anchor of international parleys aiming at collaboration.

THE WORLD IS MY FAMILY:

Mahatma Gandhi imbibed and assimilated the message of the West. A true democrat as he was Gandhiji acquired the grain of truth he found in the philosophy of Western thinkers like Tolstoy, Thoreau and Ruskin. Deeply rooted in the soil of his birth he never allowed himself to be walled by narrow national frontiers. "We are all tarred with the same brush; we are all members of the vast human family. Humanity is not divided into water-light compartments". And he declared "The world is my family".

Gandhiji's life and teachings have universal appeal. He was truly a moral force appealing to the conscience of man. He conceived of a superior world order in future, in course of Man's evolution, a world order which would be based on the same principles on which harmony in a family rests. He stood resolutely against all divisions and for the non-violent solution of any human friction. His fundamental objective was to lift the whole of humanity from the gruelling level of misery, poverty, and bitterness to the plane of higher, nobler, more complete and more purposeful life.

(V. Paranjothi)

**NOTIFICATION FROM THE ACCOUNTANT
GENERAL (ACCOUNTS & ENTITLEMENTS),
TAMILNADU, MADRAS-600 018.**

The Accountant General (A & E), Tamil Nadu, Madras-600 018, has commenced the despatch of Annual Account Statements of Provident Fund for the year 1986-87, in respect of all the subscribers of the Tamil Nadu Government. These Annual Account Statements are being forwarded to the heads of offices in which the subscribers were working in March '87.

Government Officials are, therefore, requested to contact the concerned heads of offices and collect their Statement of Accounts. Utmost care has been taken to prepare the Statement of Accounts in a complete shape in all the cases. However, due to various factors like incomplete or inaccurate basic documents received, etc. if there be any discrepancy in the accounts or if the Account Statements are not received by 30-9-87, the under-mentioned officer may be addressed giving full particulars of recoveries (subscription/refund), such as the month, gross and net amount of the concerned pay bill, head of account, etc. as well as the Account Number of of the subscribers. The letter may be sent through concerned heads of offices.

**Shri T.M. Padmanabhan,
Accounts Officer,
F.M.I. Section,
Office of the Accountant General (A / E),
261, Anna Salai, Teynampet,
Madras-600 018.**

Authenticated.

Accounts Officer/F.M.I.



A Tryst with Destiny

—Jawaharlal Nehru

Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, nor wholly or in full measures, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when the soul out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the pledge of

dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity.

At the dawn of history India started on her unending quest and trackless centuries are filled with her striving and the grandeur of her success and her failures. Through good and ill fortune alike she has never lost sight of that quest or forgotten the ideals which gave her strength. We end today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the grea-

ter triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future?

Freedom and power bring responsibility. That responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. Before the birth of freedom we have endured all the pains of labour and our hearts are heavy with the memory of this sorrow. Some of those pains continue even now. Nevertheless, the past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now.

That future is not one of ease of resting but of incessant striving so that we may fulfil the pledges we have so often taken and the one we shall take today. The service of India means the service of millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye.

That may be beyond us, but as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over.

And so we have to labour and to work hard, to give reality to our dreams. Those dreams are for India, but they are also for the world, for all the nations and peoples are too closely knit together today for any one of them to imagine that it can live apart. Peace has been said to be indivisible; so is freedom, so is prosperity now, and so also is disaster in this One World that can no longer be split into isolated fragments.

To the people of India, whose representatives we are, we make an appeal to join us with faith and confidence in this great adventure. This is no time for petty and destructive criticism, no time for ill will or blaming others. We have to build the noble mansion of free India where all her children may dwell.

(Nehru's Speech on the eve of Independence, August 14, 1947)

Awards for Tamil Nadu.

1. National Youth Award — 1985
Elumalai Mani — NSS Volunteer
2. Padmashri Award — Thiru V. Bhaskaran
Captain of Indian Hockey Team which won the Gold Medal in 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.
3. Arjuna Awardees during the period.
 - 3-1 A. Ramana Rao — Volleyball-1977
 - 3-2 D. Vijayaraghavan — Basketball-1977-78
 - 3-3 M. Tamilselvan — Weightlifting-1977-78
 - 3-4 A. Karunakaran — Weightlifting-1979
 - 3-5 Gnanasekaran — Athletics-1980
 - 3-6 Ramesh Krishnan — Tennis-1981
 - 3-7 G. E. Sridharan — Volleyball-1984
 - 3-8 D. Rajaram — Ball Badminton-1984
 - 3-9 V. Anand — Chess-1985
 - 3-10 Anand Amirtharaj — Tennis-1985



Sacred Soil

Elaborate arrangements for celebrating the 40th anniversary of Independence and the birth centenary of Jawaharlal Nehru were worked out by the State-level Committee. The programmes were taken up to ensure participation by every section of the population including the farmers. Efforts were taken to make the younger generation appreciate the difficulties with which the country's freedom was won and the need to preserve the nation's unity and integrity, defeating the forces of disruption.

It was decided to collect sacred soil from five places of importance. Five places are Vedaranyam beach, where the Salt Satyagraha was held, Tuticorin Harbour where V.O.Chidambaram Pillai operated his first ship, Maniyachi Railway Station, where Vanchinathan sacrificed himself after killing Col. Ash, Tilak Ghat (Marina, Madras) where several patriotic speeches were delivered and Tiruppur, where Tiruppur Kumaran sacrificed his life defending the Congress flag.

Thiru T. Chengalvarayan, freedom fighter scooped a few mounds of 'sacred soil' from the Tilak Ghat on the Marina on 7.8.87 into a receptacle. The receptacle was taken in a procession to Rajaji Hall and where it was placed till 9th August.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TILAK GHAT:

The silvery sand bed of the Marina Beach at Madras on the Bay of Bengal was the venue where great National leaders used to address the people to arouse the national consciousness. Leaders like Bala Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Raj, Bipin Chandrapal, Gandhiji, Subash Chandra Bose, C.R. Das, Poet Bharathi, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and others made their clarion call to the nation to rise against the British rule from this place. In 1908, Subramaniya Siva, a compatriot of Poet Subramaniya Bharathi, christened this point of the beach as Tilak Ghat. This place has witnessed the fiery, patriotic speeches of several national leaders and the



tireless tides kissing the sand still lend lustre to the soil touched by the great sons and daughters of Bharat Matha.

Sacred earth was collected from the place where Tiruppur Kumaran, freedom fighter, fell down and breathed his last holding aloft the congress flag when he was lathicharged by the police during the British regime in the Thirties. The first sod of earth was collected by the freedom fighter Thiru S. Perianna Mudaliar in the presence of a large gathering including Ramayee Ammal, widow of Kumaran. The copper urn containing the earth was taken round the streets of the town in procession in which freedom fighters, officials, students, scouts participated.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TIRUPPUR:

In 1932, Thiru T. Nachimuthu alias Kumarasamy (popularly known as Tiruppur Kumaran) led a civil disobedience procession in support of freedom movement at Tiruppur and was severely beaten up by police and he fell down carrying the tri-colour flag aloft. He was admitted into the hospital at Tiruppur where he died.

At Tuticorin harbour, which perpetuates the memory of V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, who ran his Swadeshi Shipping Company competing against British interests.

Thiru N. Somayajulu of Tirunelveli, freedom fighter collected the sacred soil.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TUTICORIN:

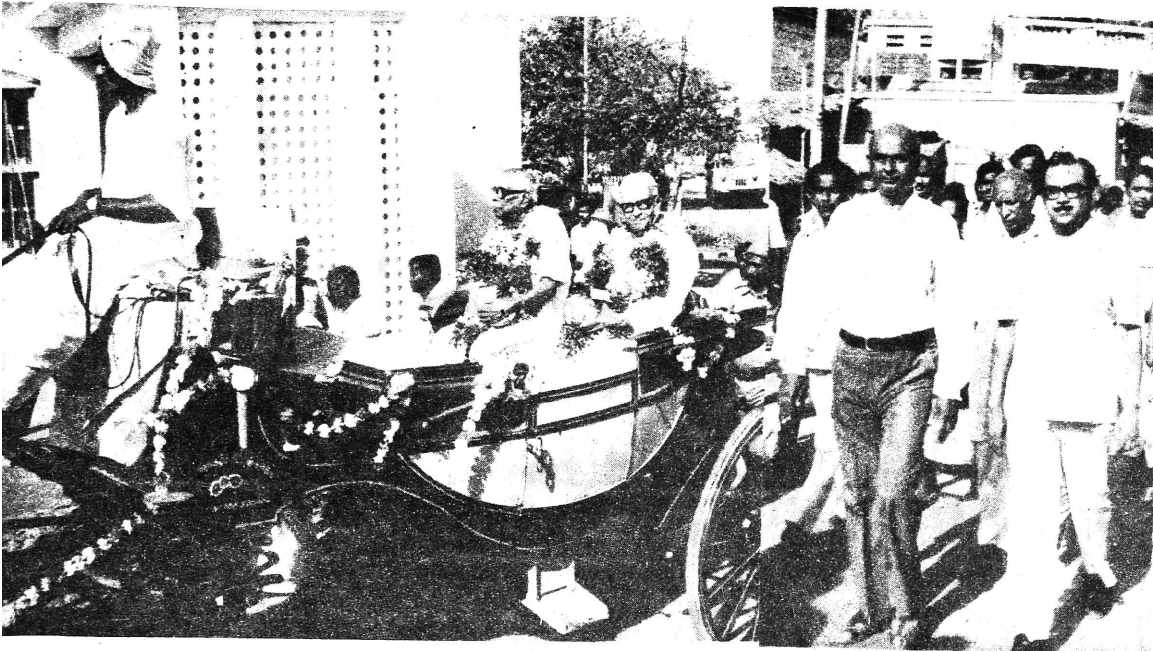
Tuticorin, the second Port Town in TamilNadu was hub of revolutionary political activity in the beginning of the 20th century. It is in this place that V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, a stormy petrel of pre-Gandhian period in Indian freedom struggle; started Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company, against the economic exploitation of the foreign rule. The two Swadeshi ships adversely affected the trade of the British. The Milk workers in Tuticorin were inspired by V.O.C. and they often went on strike. Thousands of yards of foreign textiles and other imported goods were burnt in this very seashore as a protest against the exploitation of the Indians by the British. Tuticorin occupies a place of pride in the history of Swadeshi movement in India. A new district

formed, has been named after this great patriot, V.O. Chidambaram with headquarters at Tuticorin.

Thiru L. Krishnaswami Bharathi of Tirunelveli, a freedom fighter who took part in the civil disobedience Movement and courted arrest collected soil at the Maniachi Railway station, where Vanchinathan shot and killed collector Ashe, a symbol of foreign dominance.

that the English Collector, a symbol of foreign repression was shot dead. To avoid arrest by the British Police for the murder, he heroically shot himself dead. This railway station still reminds us, of the self-less sacrifice of dedicated men for the cause of their mother-land.

Octogenarian freedom fighter Thiru M.P. Sivagnanam collected the sacred soil at Vedaranyam beach from where



THE IMPORTANCE OF MANIYACHI:

Tirunelveli in the Southern part of India rose in revolt against the British rule, with young educated men leading the fight. The repressive measures of the British District Collector, Robert William Ashe, gave them no choice but to resort to violent activities. The burning, fiery, patriotic fervour of the young, found vent at Maniyachi Railway Station on June 17, 1911. Sankara Iyer who was fondly called as Vanchi entered the first class compartment of the halting train at Maniyachi Railway Station and fired at the Collector and District Magistrate of Tirunelveli. Robert William Ashe. Vanchi was happy

the late C. Rajagopalachari had collected sea water during the salt Satyagraha movement. The urn was taken out in a procession to Vedaranyam town.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VEDARANYAM:

Mahatma Gandhi declared, "The salt tax oppressed all alike-the Hindu, Muslim, Parsee, Christian and Jew. It hits the poor man harder". Hence, the Dandi March. In the South, Rajaji started the Vedaranyam Salt Yatra from Tiruchirapalli. Starting from Tiruchirapalli on April 13, 1930, Rajaji and the volunteers reached Vedaranyam, after walking a distance of 150 miles for 16 days. Along with 16 fellow salt

Sathyagrahis, Rajaji picked up salt at Edathever Salt swamp, a couple of miles away from Vedaranyam. Rajaji, T.S.S. Rajan, Sardar Vedarathinam Pillai and several others were sentenced for 6 months rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs.200 each.

The vessels containing the sacred soil were taken from Rajaji Hall to Fort St. George in five decorated jeeps.

A special meeting of the TamilNadu

Legislative Assembly was convened in celebration of the 40th anniversary of India's independence. The leaders of various political parties highlighted the need to fight disruptive forces and to preserve the unity and integrity of the country.

The Speaker, Thiru P.H. Pandian handed over the receptacles containing the sacred soil to Thiru M.P. Sivagnanam, Tmt. M. Vijayalakshmi and sports stars Fonzia Begum, N. Annavi and G.E. Sridharan to be taken to Delhi.



RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

on Sunday, the 9th August 1987

On the occasion of celebrating, with pride and happiness, the fortieth year of Indian Independence the special meeting of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passes the following resolution :-

“ This special meeting pays its respectful homage to the thousands of martyrs who valiantly fought during the various phases of the country's freedom struggle by sacrificing their lives, liberties and properties for the country thereby demonstrating their unbounded patriotism.

This special meeting reaffirms its deep faith and regard in the unity of the Indian people and integrity of the Nation.

This meeting resolves that everyone shall rededicate himself/herself in future in the task of building a prosperous, powerful and glorious new Indian Society which will be free from caste, religious and racial differences and which will foster democratic norms in the political sphere, socialistic principles in the economic field and equality of opportunities in the social life.”



The Freedom- Forty Run

The Freedom-Forty Run, brainchild of the Sports Authority of India was held in all States during the third week of August. Commemorating the 40th anniversary of Independence of India, the Freedom-Forty Run was organised in Tamil Nadu by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Services and the Tamil Nadu State Sports Development Corporation.

The Freedom—Forty Run commenced on 17-8-87 evening with Sridharan handing over the torch to the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru S.L.

Khurana to loud cheers from the School children who were waiting with all eagerness to start off. The Governor then presented the torch to State Sports—personalities Thiru C.R. Kumar and Selvi Sri-vidya who jogged slowly along the Kamaraj Road. The Nation's future-school children participated cheerfully in the Freedom Forty Run organised in Madras on 17-8-87.

More than 5,000 School children jogged along the Kamaraj road on 17-8-87 evening in the Run. The 4-Km stretch from Gandhi Statue to

the War Memorial was closed to traffic as the Youth vied with one another to head to the front to see the State athletes leading them.

Sometime back two Sports persons from Tamil Nadu athlete Thiru N. Annavi and Swimmer Fouzia Begum went to New Delhi carrying Vessels of earth from places connected with the freedom struggle in Tamil Nadu. On 14, August Asiad bronze medallist and Volleyball player Thiru G.E. Sridharan received the eternal flame from Prime Minister

FIRST WRAPPER:

Asiad Bronze Medallist Thiru G.E. Sridharan received the eternal flame from Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi at New Delhi on 14-8-'87.

Freedom fighters carrying the vessels of the sacred soil collected from various places of importance of freedom struggle in Tamilnadu.



Thiru Rajiv Gandhi and brought it to Madras.

The Governor, Thiru Khurana waved a crisp white flag signalling the commencement of the Run. The students and others cheerfully

waved the runners all along the 4 km stretch to the War memorial where Honourable Tourism Minister Thiru V.V. Swaminathan received them. The Honourable Minister lit the eternal lamp, put on the island grounds, at a cost of Rs. 41,000 and presented plaques to the sports persona-

lities and other dignitaries. The Honourable Minister for Tourism Thiru V.V. Swaminathan lit an eternal lamp in the presence of high jumper Thiru N. Annavi, Swimmer Fouzia Begum and the Tamil Nadu Olympic Association President Thiru Sivanthi Adithan.





Thiru S. Satyamurthi

SYMBOL OF SACRIFICE

Thiru T. Chengalvarayan
Freedom Fighter

The Freedom struggle under the epic leadership of Mahatma Gandhi drew into its fiery fold many of that generation. Satyamurthy was one to be remembered. He was a magnificent model of the great values and virtues of those who became freedom fighters.

Satyamurthy was an ardent patriot of great flavour and fervour. Patriotism was in the marrow of his bone and in the tissue of his flesh. His zest and zeal for the freedom of India, was very intense and immense. He longed to see the dawn of freedom and before that dawn, he passed away.

Satyamurthi was a devoted and dedicated Congressman. He was not a mere sycophant finding his way up the ladder of leadership. He was a disciplined soldier of the national organisation, always carrying out the orders of the High Command. He once said "I will go to the front where I am sent". His attachment to the organisation was not due to any appointment, nor any disappointment (there were many) caused detachment. He would always express his view-point before the leaders and when once the organisation decided upon a course of action, he was in the forefront of the struggle.

Satyamurthy was an outstanding orator both in English and in Tamil.

If he was brilliant in his English speech, he was excellent in his Tamil speech. He was passionate in presentation, emotional in delivery debating in treatment devastating in attack and above all he was convincing in his speech. In mixture of words, in texture of phrases and in structure of sentences, he was *primus aut secundus*. In one of his thousands of speeches, addressing and appealing to the vast audiences, he said "Every vote cast for the Congress will be a nail driven in the coffin of British Bureaucracy."

Satyamurthi rose to meridian glory in his parliamentary performances. He was a perfect pattern of parliamentary performance. In the preparation of the materials, in marshalling the facts, in the array of arguments, in gathering authorities, in anticipating the opponents stand, he would be ready for the encounter. His speeches were fiery, his arguments were unanswerable, his persuasion was inescapable, his attack was devastating, his questions were piercing. He was not content to play merely (and always) an opposition role. In the interest of the country and of the people, he would support even an official Bill. The then government brought an Indian Insurance Bill to give protection to Indian Insurance which was just then emerging. He fully and wholly supported the Bill, giving necessary amendments practically to every clause. But for his great contribution the Bill would have been only Insurance Bill and not Indian Insurance Bill. In the same way his contribution to the Payment of Wages Bill was stupendous.

Satyamurthi was a great educationist. He felt that democracy has to be educated and education has to be democratised. The Annamalai University Bill bore the imprint of

his educational ideas. He was anxious to preserve the quality of education and persevered for equality in education. He was pleading for a National Educational Policy.

Thiru S. Satyamurthi, the son of Thiru D. Sundara Sastrigal, Vakil, was born on the 19th of August 1887 at Tirumayam, Pudukottai State. He was educated at the Maharajah's College, Pudukottai, Madras Christian College and the Madras Law College. His connection with the Indian National Congress began in 1908 when he served as a volunteer. He was enrolled as a Vakil of the High Court in 1913. From 1914 onwards he became an ardent and active Congressman.

In 1919 he visited Great Britain and Ireland as a member of the Congress Deputation. He spent nearly six months in those countries visiting almost all the important cities. During this period he addressed as many as sixty meetings and on rough estimate his audiences numbered sixty to seventy thousand. His main object in these lectures was to remove the then prevailing mis-apprehensions in the minds of the Britishers about India and the Indians. He kept his audiences spell bound by his eloquence. His powers of oratory were such that Col. J. Wedgwood was stated to have remarked "Satyamurthi is one of the best speakers in English beating even Lloyd George".

"The more than generous welcome which my countrymen gave me on my return from England" top quote his own words "made me resolve not to go back to my profession but to do Congress propaganda work in the country". True to this resolve during practically the whole of the year 1920 he carried on an intensive propaganda on behalf of the Congress

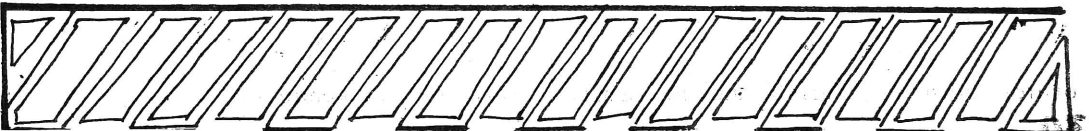
throughout the Madras Presidency visiting every important village therein. Besides he also travelled extensively in India and Ceylon on Congress work.

In May 1925 he again went to England for doing propaganda work on behalf of the Swarajya party. He returned to India in September of the same year after a successful series of meetings addressed to the Independent Labour Party in England, Scotland and Wales and after interviewing many leading politicians. He also obtained good publicity for the views of the Swarajya Party through the medium of several important dailies and periodicals.

He was a member of the Madras Legislative Council from 1923 to 1930. Since 1935 he had been an active member of the Central Legislative Assembly. His was a dynamic personality possessing high intellectual gifts, infinite industry, and rare powers of speech. He was a successful parliamentarian who could hold his own against the biggest of his opponents in debate. He was at his best in his work in the Legislature. He was the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party in the Central Assembly.

Thiru S. Satyamurthi was a member of the Senate and the Syndicate of the Madras University for several

years besides being president of the Faculty of Fine Arts and a member of the Board of Studies in Indian Music. He was also connected with several music and sanskrit academies and public institutions in South India.





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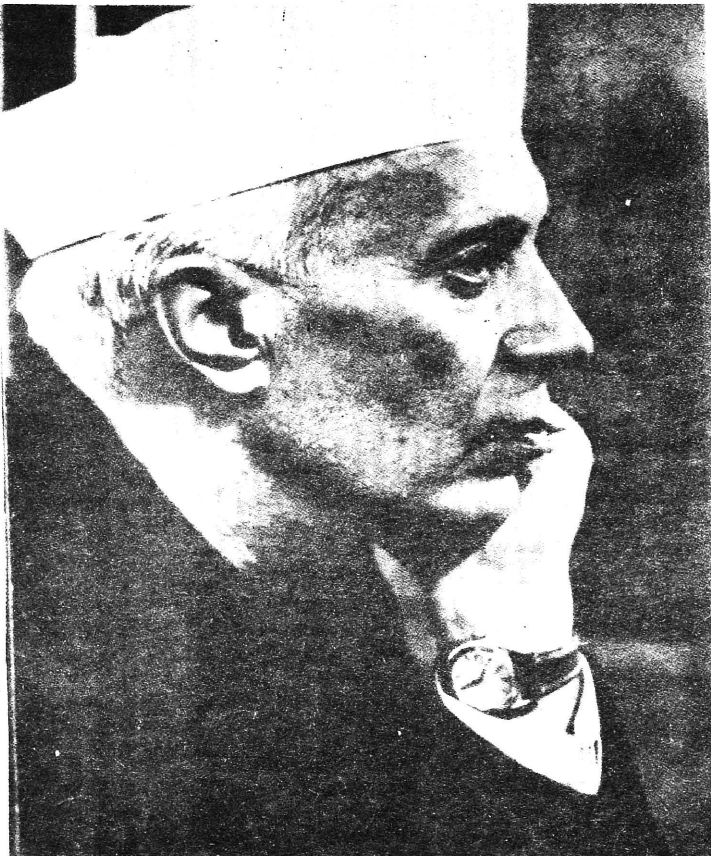
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Nehru lives in the Nation's heart

(Kavi Yogi Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati)

A *diamond Flame darted forth
From the princely Mother of Pearl*
It shone set in Golden TRUTH*

Hail Gandhi's gemlike Jawaharlal
Like Alpha-ray in Atom-power,
Golden sunrays from crimson dawn,
From Him the nation's life is
drawn

India spoke when Nehru spoke,
After Him His progeny acts
India seeks even now his like
Martyr Indira had his tacts.

India breathed in all his
pacts.

Nehru lives in the nation
he loves

The name of Gandhi too survives.

The smiling Rajiv saves his views.
That princely personality
Who worked out with ability
International amity
That was his special quality.
I was a busy globe trotter
In each country as a factor
Jawaharlal Nehru's name
Brought to India name and fame
He had Mahatma's truthfulness
He had Tilak's straightforwardness
Malaviya's pure heart and soul -
In diplomacy all in all,
Fresh rose smiled in his button hole
Love and light gushed out of his
soul
A child among children he played
Integral love - affection smiled
In his temperament so mild.
The concord of co-existence
A healthy integrated peace
A cosmic conscient alliance
A formidable intelligence
Has built up his new history
Every progress tells his story
Immortal Nehru lives
In every heart that loves.

*Jawahar means diamond

*Mother of Pearl=Motilal Nehru

*Golden Truth = Gandhiji





Sacred Soil was collected at Vedaranyam.

The great Salt Satyagraha in Vedaranyam

Vedaranyam is in forefront of India's freedom struggle through the Salt Satyagraha movement. This movement was the result of the Tamil Nadu Congress meeting 13th April 1930 at Vellore. It was decided to reveal to the people how the

British Government was unjust and bringing the Salt from Foreign and selling it at a high price where the same Salt could be manufactured and made available even to the poor from the natural resources of India. The decision led to the famous March under the leadership of Sri Rajaji from Trichi to Vedaranyam. The Movement was started solely to show Indian would resist such intention of British Government and such taxes.

Thiru Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai of Vedaranyam gave consent to lead the Movement. As this Movement was exposing how each individual of India was suffering under the Salt Tax, it stirred the people to political awarness. Non-violence was the essence of the movement setting example for the following movements in the India's Freedom Struggle. When the destination Vedaranyam in Thanjavur District was announced, patriots from various places in groups started moving towards Vedaranyam. The eminent persons who took part in the Satyagraha movement were former Railway Minister Thiru K.Santhanam, Thiru P.S.S.Rajan, Thiru G.Ramachandran and Thiru Vedaratnam Pillai of Vedaranyam.

As this movement was popularised by Rajaji through out Tamil Nadu in advance many enthusiastic volunteers joined with him, giving up their titles, studies and professions. But Rajaji, the leader of the March selected only hundred of them to proceed with the movement. The Sacred procession passed through some places in Trichi and Thanjavur Districts to Vedaranyam, the final destination of Salt Satyagraha.

Knowing about this successful March A.J. Tharn Durai, the local Magistrate wished the movements utter failure passed orders accordingly. It was announced through out the District that those who were providing shelter or food for the volunteers would either be imprisoned or fined under Indian Penal Code. Yet the movement Marched towards Vedaranyam successfully, where the patriots were given grand welcome. Knowing this Tharn Durai ordered to crush the patriots. The patriots were beaten severely with Tamarind twigs. It was Thiru Vedaratnam Pillai who destroyed his tobacco fields and gave shelter to the volunteers. His bravery over others at that time was well known and as recognition he was honoured later with the title of Sardar for the same deed. He presided over the Satyagraha meeting with all his majesty.

It is to be known that Thiru Vallabai Patel and Thiru Vedaratnam Pillai were the only two who were honoured with the title of 'SARDAR'. The former belongs to North India and the latter is from Vedaranyam of TamilNadu.

The spot where Rajaji made the Salt against the then British Rule is Agasthiampalli, a place very near to Vedaranyam. The police was not aware of the particular place where Rajaji dared to take Salt. So they were able to arrest him when he was nearing the Ashram with Salt. Afterwards as already planned the movement was led by Thiru K. Santhanam. The leaders were arrested one by one and sent to prison.

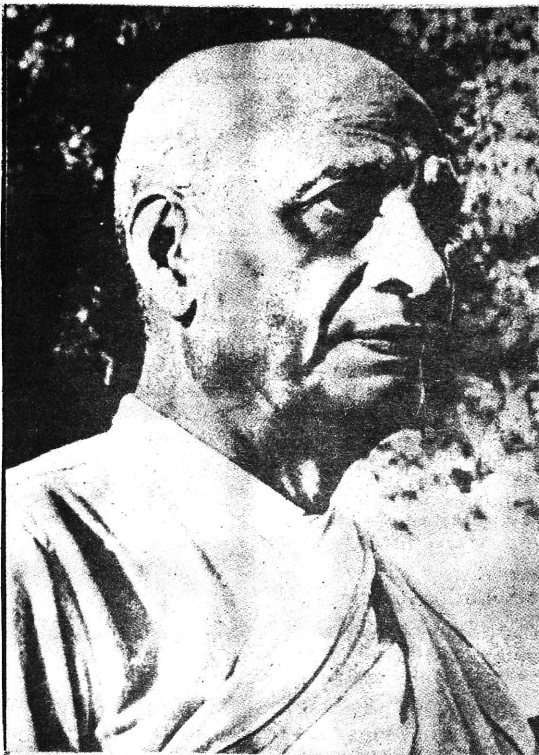
Though the volunteer suffered a lot, the struggle stimulated among the people thirst for freedom. When the British Government proposed to put an end to the Satyagraha movement used force to arrest all the patriots of the movements in the Asram, plundered the goods in the Ashram. Dr. Rajan who was residing in the Ashram was put under one year imprisonment and others were punished severely.

The popular Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha movement was thus non-violent and successful. It inspired the people of India to liberate themselves from the clutches of British misrule. It taught lessons to the then British rulers that the people of India will not allow the suppression and oppression at any cost.

GANDHIGRAM

During his tour in TamilNadu in the year 1946, Gandhiji was proceeding to Madurai via Ambathurai Railway Station by a Special Train on 2.2.1946. The people and Freedom Fighters of Chinnalapatti in Anna District requested the close associates of Gandhiji to arrange for a "DARSHAN" of Gandhiji by stopping the train at Ambathurai Railway Station. The persons concerned expressed their inability to stop the train. But patriotism which was the need of the day was so overwhelming that the people gathered in thousands near Ambathurai Railway Station and stopped the train by standing across the railway line and have the "DARSHAN" of Gandhiji for a few minutes. The Mahatma inspired the crowd with a few kind words for their future dedication to the service of the nation.

The area around the place where the people gathered and stopped and train has been named as "GANDHIGRAM". At Gandhigram many Institutions have now come up to help the rural poor. Rural University, Orphanage, Industrial Centre, Health Faculty Centres and Hospitals are functioning and propagating Gandhian thoughts.



SARDAR PATEL

-Thiru Prabhudas Balubhai Patwari
Former Governor of TamilNadu.

On the death of Sardar, on 15th December 1950, Shri Vinoba, before a gathering of villagers at his Ashram, observed that "a towering personality of the eminence of King Janaka has passed away from our midst. Amidst palatial glitter and royal pomp he had lived a detached life of King Janaka. Due to his presence in the Government, the people felt that the ship of the country was safe in his hands". This, to a degree, epitomizes Sardar's character and also refers abstractly to the services of Sardar at the altar of Mother Bharat that brought him perennial name.

It was said of that celebrated philosopher, Plato, that he considered it to be God's greatest mercy on him that he enabled him to see the light of the day during the Age of Socrates and for the rare opportunity he had to be the disciple of Socrates. In all humility, when I think of the Sardar of the later twenties when he had galvanized into life the entire peasantry of

the Bardoli taluk to give Bureau cracy one of the most decisive fights of the day with the matchless weapon of Non-Violence, I feel too that it was God's abundant mercy upon me to be able to devour with avidity those stirring sermons of the Sardar that instilled vigour and heroism in people like a magic touch and transformed their timidity into real valour. As Premila Thackersey ruminates on those stirring days; "Sardar had changed the simple and god-fearing peasants of Bardoli into men of valour, and the timid and ignorant peasant women, into Rajput heroines". Like Gandhiji Sardar made men out of clay, chiselled the man material and canalized their energies towards the enrichment of our national life.

Sardar's work in the relief field is practically an unknown matter outside Gujarat. But in that he took special delight and it will be truer to say that it is through this service of the Daridra Narayan that Sardar derived his suprehuman strength to serve the national cause.

During pre-partition days the Indian States 556 and odd, had occupied 45% of the land area of the country. When the ill-fated partition came, the area covered by them comes to 48% approximately. The area of the State of Jammu and Kashmir alone was 82,000 square miles. There were 15 States with an area exceeding 10,000 square miles. Again, there were at least 67 States whose dimensions ranged between 1,000 and 10,000 square miles. To put it succinctly India of those days was dotted with these bountiful patches.

States, constitutionally, were not treated as a part and parcel of the mother country. The successive British pronouncements, right from Queen Victoria's proclamation (1858) till Lord Wavell's clarificatory statement of May 46, had upheld this artificial separation of States from the mother country. Among the earlier constitutional verdicts, joins opinion of Lord Montague and Lord Chelmsford as stated in their report of constitutional reforms of 1919, is a striking example in point. "The Rules should be assured in the fullest and free manner that no constitutional changes that might take place (in British India) would impair the rights, dignities and privileges secured by them by treaties and sanads and engagements by established practice." "This imperial policy was aimed at killing two birds with one stone. First, it served as a weapon to check popular awakening in the princely India; and secondly, it stood as a dividing line between the Princely and the erstwhile British India, ultimately making India's Unity for Independence a most unrealizable task.

The Government of India Act of 1935 was a step further in drawing a wedge between the Princely and the British India by excluding from its purview "the rights and obligations of the Crown in relation to the States", suggesting thereby that the Paramount Power, i.e. the crown, by virtue of its personal relationship with the States, was alone empowered to provide ultimate sanction for the enforcement of federal authority over the States. The Federal Scheme, as enunciated in the Government of India Act of 1935, was abandoned in 1939. But if one cares to have a look at those provisions, one can easily conclude that it had left it to the States whether to accede to the proposed Federation or not and that it was pre-conditional to the acceptance of the sovereignty rights of the rulers. Again, that accession in content, only related to a very limited field in the residency sphere. Internal constitution of the States was matter

extraneous to the framers of the Scheme of 1935. They were absolutely silent with regard to fundamental rights of the people of the States. To put it in a nutshell, the rulers executive authority was preserved as supreme under Section 8 (1) (c) (ii) of the Act thereby circumscribing the executive authority of the proposed Federation. The Cripp's Draft Declaration of 1942 was hardly any departure from the previous authoritative pronouncements and Lord Wavell, during his negotiations of 1945, had preferred to keep silent over it.

How Sardar arrested this process and persuaded the States, one after another, to accede to the Union, though, to begin with on a limited basis in order to assure their participation in the Constituent Assembly even before India achieved its Independence and how on its dawn Sardar worked step by step towards that Unity of the country as we see it today, is a marvel absolute indeed. Only the main threads of that resurging drama can be touched upon in the gamut of this essay.

Sardar knew - and knew it well - that delay meant a disaster and so by wooing and also, at times, by speaking bluntly to the recalcitrants and by nipping in bud the nefarious designs of some of the princely States by a close watch on events within their territories and by swift counter moves to undo those designs without any hullaballo. Sardar could bring home to the Princely Order that their interests were not separable from those of their people and they being the part and parcel of the larger fraternity that is Mother India, it was in their interests to surrender their titular sovereignties at the altar of Mother India. And the Princes realizing that Sardar would only play fair to them and would also protect their legitimate rights and interests under the new dispensation vied with one another in patriotic spirit of duty in giving practically a carte blanche to the Sardar for what they possessed and ruled by virtue of their past prowess or otherwise.

Was there a compulsion in the process? If it were so, things would not have moved so swiftly. Nor would they have held Sardar in such high esteem; neither would they have felt so much forlorn after the demise of Sardar. It was not the duplicity of Lord Wellesley nor the ruthlessness of Prince Bismarck - for Sardar was far from it - but the act of most genuine, benevolent and outstanding statesmanship imbued with burning spirit of patriotism in him which made princes to read the signs of times and to rise up to meet those demands of the time in a spirit of comradeship and patriotism. This coupled with Sardar's spirit of utmost accommodation and understanding and the faith they carried in his words set the ball of this bloodless revolution rolling in full swing and in it the princes, the people of the States and the Government of India indeed played like cooperaters for a consummation so devoutly nurtured by the savants and the patriots of the ages and kept over burning by the ennobling spirit of the Mahatma, but at last sunk to greatest dejection and misery by the vivisection of the Mother of his Dream for which alone he worked and lived and died in a manner which has no precedent in history.

To revert to this most inspiring page of history of which Gandhi was a dreamer and an inspirer and Sardar the instrument of action, this revolution which in right sense, made its debut in December 1947 in the form of merger agreements with 40 B and C States of Eastern and Central India took into its "whirlpool" a veritable jig-saw puzzle of 449 different jurisdictions of Kathiawad involving the territory of 22,000 square miles all merging into the Union of Saurashtra. That spectacular event gathered such momentum and speed that from February, when this coveted union appeared on the political map of India, till up to July 1948, the Unions of Matsya, the smaller Rajasthan, the Vindhya Pradesh, the Malwa alias the Madhya Bharat and

the Pepsu, etc., emerged on the map of India in quick succession, thus practically marking the glorious end to this revolution and thereby adding nearly 4.5 lakhs square miles of territory to our motherland.

Only two unions, i.e., the Union of Greater Rajasthan and the Union of Travancore-Cochin were formed afterwards in 1949 and they were like the finishing touches to the new edifice of India that we see today.

While accomplishing his task of integration, Sardar's eye looking into the future, had some strategic considerations too in his mind. He first untied the gordian knot of Saurashtra because it was in that part of the country, some bold attempts for the balkanization of the country were mooted. He assigned Cutch to Central Administration for he thought of it as a vulnerable spot by virtue of its geographical position in the defence strategy of India. His anxiety to form the Union of Pepsu at the earliest possible opportunity was actuated by these very considerations to provide a stable base of defence against onslaughts from the North.

Junagadh, Hyderabad and Kashmir were the only States which created a plethora of problems for their integration into the Mother land. While Sardar could play his full role in case of Junagadh and Hyderabad, he was thwarted from acting in the case of Kashmir although it was essentially a 'subject' relating to States Ministry and was initially treated as much. It is worthy of note that how K.P.S. Menon flew to Srinagar and Jammu to get Maharaja's assent to the Instrument of Accession when the enemies were at a stone's throw from Baramula and how Sardar anxiously awaited his arrival for hours at the Delhi aerodrome not to lose even a moment to rush up Military by air in aid of the Valley. This is a fascinating story of dash and quick action.

V.O.C.

THE EXPONENT OF SELF RELIANCE

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

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

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

Chidambaram was one of the contemporaries of dynamic leaders like Tilak and Bipin Chandrapal. He gave up his legal profession and threw himself in the struggle for swaraj and galvanised the masses by his eloquent speeches and powerful writings. The Government were watching the activities of V.O.C. with obvious fear and suspicion and prosecuted him for sedition. He was sentenced to 40 years of transportation. On appeal the sentence was reduced to 6 years of rigorous imprisonment.



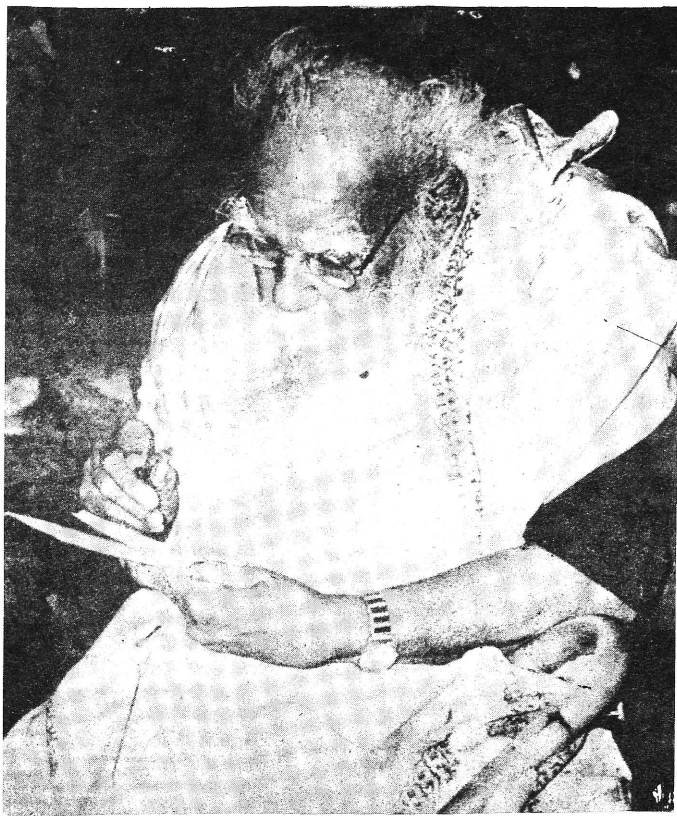
After serving a long term of imprisonment, Chidambaram came out of jail, penniless and broken-hearted, with despair and anguish as to how to find his feet in life. Extreme hardships in jail had completely shattered his health. He saw only the ruination of the Swadeshi Shipping Company, which he had so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

"Utter the name of Chidambaram Pillai

Before your eyes arises the flow of freedom

whatever sufferings you undergo
Strength you get to fight for Freedom".

During the birth centenary celebrations of this great nationalist and patriot the Government of Tamil-Nadu installed a statue at Tuticorin, which stands as a sentinel on our shores.



Periyar's participation in the freedom struggle

—Thiru K. Kamaraj,
(Former Chief Minister of TamilNadu)

There is a background for Periyar's participation in the freedom struggle. The late Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu was a medical practitioner at Thirupur. Because of his intense association with Congress, the British Government filed a number of cases against him. One of them was for treason. That happened at Madurai, Shri Rajaji came forward to conduct the case. Those days and in those parts he was a very popular lawyer.

Dr. Naidu and Rajaji, while on the way to Madurai, used to stay with Periyar at Erode as his

guests. At the residence of Periyar who loved the country so much, they often talked about public affairs. The talk would be wholly political. The talk attracted Periyar who was born in a rich family and was living like a lord. On hearing through these two men the aims of Congress and the services of Mahatma Gandhi, Periyar drew himself into the camp. In 1919, he represented the TamilNadu Congress as a delegate at Amritsar. The proceedings of the conference and the meeting of the Mahatma had made him out and out a nationalist. His name often appeared in the news journals.

First Meeting with Periyar:

It was in 1921 that I met Periyar for the first time. He was then the Secretary of the TamilNadu Congress. In 1920 at Nagpur took place the Congress Conference with Salem Shri Vijaya Raghavachariar in the chair. The conference made an important turn in the battle of the Indian Independence. It was only out of that conference the Movement of Non Co-operation was born; thence forth the propaganda of the movement gained speed.

In TamilNadu it was Rajaji, Dr. Naidu, and Periyar who took active part in the mass propaganda. The White Government arrested and penalised them. The judge who passed sentence of the three, however, dealt with Periyar less severely. When Periyar was released he found himself alone. But he was not discouraged. He was more active than ever before and went campaigning from district to district-himself a President, himself a Secretary. That apart, he removed the Tiruchi Office of the TamilNadu Congress to Erode-to his very home. By this measure, the work of the Congress intensified. His home, indeed, changed into a refuge to congressmen. Anybody could enter his house and if it was dinner-time, the visitor could also dine. like Periyar, the whole family turned out to be staunchly Congress. It so looked then that it was Periyar that was Congress.

In 1921, Periyar came to Virudhunagar. I was then a congress volunteer. I was about 19 years old. Shri Govindasamy Nadar was in our place the Chairman of the Congress Committee. It was he who introduced us all to Periyar. The speech of him who wore the rough Khadi was so sharp that it never failed to touch the heart. He wanted us to make rendezvous of all the volunteers prior to the public meeting-that was his proposal. Shri Nadar did so and Periyar addressed the volunteers first. He explained very clearly the principles of the



Mahatma. It was the first time we heard a speech so elucidative. With force he spoke explaining the importance of Khadi and emphasising the idea of social reform. It is a wonder that from those days to the last he held fast to certain matters which interested him much and which he stubbornly carried out without modification; he spoke with radical vehemence and deep interest. Radicalism was with him a quality inborn. Whatever may be the work that Periyar undertook, none could compete. He did it all with such a force that there could be no parallel to it.

The meeting of the volunteers closed and the public meeting began. As the leaders were on the dais awaiting the proceedings, a small instance took place. There was an elephant in our village temple, which was then passing by the venue of our meeting. Periyar recognised it as the one that was brought up in his home, when quite young. We were wondering how could that be, for it was too big to be recognised. On enquiry we came to know that it did happen. Periyar's power of

memory was so high that it was enough for him to meet anybody once-he wouldn't forget at all.

Periyar wanted Shri Govindasamy Nadar to collect all the women who spun yarn with charka. Shri Nadar ran hither and thither and brought to his fore quite a number. Periyar sat by them and observed how they worked at it. He advised others to follow and arranged to supply charka and cotton to all the rest.

Periyar and Shri V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar came to our village. The former was then a terror to the TamilNadu Government, because unlike the others his speech emitted sparks. It was Periyar's speech on schemes like khadi, removal of untouchability, Hindu-Muslim unity and prohibition that was attractive. He used to speak clearly and vehemently. Rajaji was then not so good a speaker in Tamil. For that reason, he would make Periyar speak first and he, at the end, would deliver a short speech.

The Collector of Ramnad issued an order prohibiting speeches in Virudhunagar. Periyar became wild and I still see it. "Down the order", he roared and came out. All felt it was not good for him to defy the order and court imprisonment, because leaders like Rajaji were all then in prison. It was only Periyar who was at the time looking after the affairs of the Congress. If he should also be caught the work would suffer. Periyar was, therefore, calmed by Thiru V.Kalyanasundara Mudaliar and others with great difficulty. Periyar never once feared the police or the prison. It was all simple and slight for him-defying order and courting imprisonment. In one place or the other that would happen, and that was in the news all days.

In 1923 Periyar became President of the TamilNadu Congress. Then, on an All-India basis, the Congress appointed a committee to defy law. Pandit Motilal Nehru, Dr. Ansari, Dr. Ajmal Khan, Rajaji, Vittalbai

Patel, and Kasturi Ranga Iyengar were members of the committee. The job of the committee was to ascertain from persons of importance the manner of running the Movement. You know, the TamilNadu Congress had already gone to Erode, Periyar's place. Hence, the committee, too. What would be the impact in TamilNadu when so many great leaders visited, you may well imagine. The TamilNadu volunteers, as we were, we all went to Erode. Erode put up a festive look. The reception that Periyar gave the members of the committee, the hospitality that he showed all remain fresh in my memory.

Only on seeing his large abode and the great hospitality, we wondered and appreciated him so much in awe. He never had at any time the thought of his affluence. Carrying on his very shoulders to rough Khadi bundles, he did the propaganda like an ideal servant of the society.

At this Juncture a big altercation arose. Chittaranjan Doss and Motilal Nehru were stubbornly for entering legislature. But Rajaji was not for it. Rajaji used to speak beautifully in English about the Mahatma's schemes in the North. Periyar used to listen to it with rapt attention. Then in TamilNadu he would speak in Tamil with what Rajaji spoke as the basic material. He would elaborate for two hours what Rajaji said shortly. He would speak so nicely with winning examples that those who listened to him would doubtless come under his sway. Rajaji liked his speech so much that he used to say "let Shriman Naicker proceed without interruption". Rajaji and Periyar would also argue with each other like lawyers. To look at and to listen to, that of course would also be sweet. The love and attachment they both had for each other is indescribable, and to whatever camp they belonged individually they remained friends to the last.

The Nagpur flag agitation is an important stage of the freedom stru-

ggle. The volunteers went to Nagpur in order to observe Satyagraha and were arrested.

At the same time took place in Madurai a picketting in front of the toddy shops. Volunteers were needed and the volunteers had to brave the lathi charges of the police. With the seat on his brow and with no rest whatever, he collected volunteers. So many he gathered that none more was needed. His service received people's appreciation. During that time some raised doubts as to why the picketing at all. Rajaji and Periyar answered them adequately.

Nagammaiyar Arrested:

Periyar did not stop with words; he did some thing more. Along with his wife Nagammaiyar and his sister Kannamma, he carried out the picketting. The whole of TamilNadu wondered because Nagammaiyar and Kannamma were arrested along with Periyar. In TamilNadu it was these two ladies who were the first to go to prison. The whole of Erode was stunned to see the people of a rich and renowned family go to prison.

Some wrote to the Mahatma that the picketting was unnecessary. He gave the following reply: "some people have written me raising doubts about the picketting of toddy shops. There is one who can reply them adequately. That is Erode Ramasamy who has gone to prison with the members of his own family. Therefore, they can express their doubts to him". The whole of India applauded Periyar in appreciation on the reply of the Mahatma.

Vaikkom Satyagraha:

In Travancore there is a village called Vaikkom. The Harijans were subjected to torture by the Caste-Hindus of the village. Shri T.K. Madhavan, Kesava Menon, and George Joseph agitated against that. The agitation did not gather warmth. They wrote to Periyar to go over

to the place. Periyar did so immediately with a number of volunteers. He made a whirl-wind tour of Vaikkom and addressed many public meetings exposing the atrocities. There was good response to every one of his speeches. On seeing that the State authorities invoked Section 144 Civil Procedure Code Periyar defied it and courted arrest. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment. He was just awaiting the 30 days to pass. Immediately on his release he began addressing the public. The State authorities banned his entry into Travancore. Unscared of the order, he stepped into the State and addressed a meeting, too. He was again arrested and sentenced to six months. R.I by this time, Periyar's disobedience of State Orders and the arrests gained an All-India importance. Gandhi wrote condemning vehemently the suppression and praising sky-high the action of Periyar. Besides, Gandhiji warned that if the restrictions imposed on the Harijans were not removed as per the wishes of Periyar, a big agitation would be launched. The State authorities cast away the restrictions in accordance with Periyar's wishes and released him, too. This agitation got him the title, "the Hero of Vaikkom". The instance made Gandhiji hold Periyar in high esteem.

(From Periyar Memorial Souvenir)





People must assist Government

The TamilNadu Finance Minister, Thiru V.R. Nedunchezian on August 15th called upon all sections of society to extend their unstinted co-operation and support to the Government in its endeavour to provide all basic necessities to life to the people and ensure peace and progress.

He was addressing a gathering at Fort St. George after hoisting the National Flag at the Fort ramparts. Besides the State Ministers, the function was attended by the Speaker of the Assembly, Thiru P.H. Pandian, judges of the Madras High Court, consular representatives, high officials and distinguished invitees.

Thiru Nedunchezian said that to minimise the impact of the severe drought conditions in the State, the Government was implementing a number of schemes on a war footing aimed at ensuring adequate supply of drinking water and food and providing jobs in rural areas.

In 1986-87 it had executed drought relief works to the tune of Rs.105 crores. During the current year Rs.94 crores has been earmarked for the purpose of which Rs.73 crores was spent, he said:

Successful culmination: Referring to the Indo-Sri Lanka accord the Minister said, it was the successful culmination of a long and sustained effort of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi and the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. M.G.R. to end the agony of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Apart from strengthening the friendship between India and Sri Lanka, Thiru Nedunchezian said, the agreement had ensured the security of the region. He recalled how the Prime Minister had acknowledged at the recent public meeting the immense contribution of Dr. MGR in solving the Tamils' problem. Fort decorated: in connection with the 41st Independence Day Celebration, the Fort area was colourfully decorated with bulbs, flags and festoons.

On arrival at the saluting dias on Rajaji Salai, the Finance Minister was received by the Chief Secretary, Thiru A. Padmanabhan and introduced to the Commander, TamilNadu Kerala Sub area, Brig, Santokh Singh, the Naval Officer-in-charge, Madras, Commodore S. Padmasankar, Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station, Tambaram, Air Commodore S.P. Dhawan, the Director-General of Police, Thiru K. Ravindran, the

Inspector-General of Police (L&O), Thiru S. Sripal and the Sheriff of Madras, Thiru M. Saravanan.

Before unfurling the National Flag, Thiru Nedunchezian took the salute and inspected a guard of honour presented by the TamilNadu Police. As part of the celebration, he distributed food packets and milk to the poor and physically handicapped children assembled there.



Governor's reception: In the evening, the Governor, Thiru S.L. Khurana, gave a reception on the lawns of Raj Bhavan, Guindy, which was attended by a large gathering. Those present included Thiru M.N. Chandurkar, Chief Justice and other judges of the High Court, Thiru P.H. Pandian, Assembly Speaker, Thiru V.R. Nedunchezian, Finance Minister and other Ministers and senior Government officials. A cultural programme, followed the reception.



Subramaniya Siva

Thiru Subramaniya Siva, a Great Freedom Fighter was born in Batlagundu, a village in Anna District, TamilNadu in 1884. The village is about 35 Kms. from Dindigul. His Father's name was Rajam Iyer and Mother's name Nagammal. He involved himself in Freedom Struggle in the age of 20 in the year 1904. He was one among the Trio to fight against the British Rule the other two being Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharathiar and V.O. Chidambaram Pillai who have made history in the Indian Freedom Struggle. Thiru Subramaniya Siva was very popular for his fiery speeches, and organising the youths for the Freedom Struggle. He was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment on 7.7.1908 by the Additional Sessions Judge, Tirunelveli. He underwent 2½ years rigorous imprisonment for the second time from 17.11.1921. He constructed a temple for Mother India. (Bharat Matha) in the year 1923 and Thiru C.R. Doss laid its foundation stone on 22.6.1923 at Pappaparatti in Dharmapuri District. He fought for the country's freedom for 21 years from 1904 to 1925 serving the country as a writer, a journalist and an orator. His health was completely spoiled in the fight for freedom and he had an attack of leprosy. He died on 23.7.1925, at the age of 41. Batlagundu has become historically important in the freedom struggle, as it gave birth to a great hero. Hence a small quantity of soil is taken from his birth place at Batlagundu.

The Role of Thillayadi Valliyammai

Birth of Valliyammai:

Valliyammai was born and brought up in Johannesburg, South Africa which is noted for diamond mines in 1898. She was the eldest daughter of Munisamy and Janaki alias Mangalathammal. Thillaiyadi is her birth place which is situated in Thanjavur District, Tharangambadi taluk, TamilNadu State. She joined a school but her education proved failure due to her participation in the passive resistance launched by Mahatma Gandhi against the British Colonial Government in South Africa.

Her Principles:

Valliyammai was too young to conceive ideals and formulate principles for the movement. She was simple minded in faith. She had not the knowledge that Gandhiji had. She did not know what passive resistance was, she did not know what it was the community would gain, but she was simply taken up with unbounded enthusiasm for her people. She opposed the racial discriminative law of the British Government. She did not worry about the sudden end as her education. She was very much upset whenever the British Government united its cruelties upon the South African Indians; because it was the Indians who settled in Africa toiled very hard and made South Africa a flourishing region.

Valliyammai's entry into the movement:

So far as the South African movement is concerned, a large number of women took part. The cause was the British Government's arrogant attack on the sanctity of monogamous Hindu marriages. The Indian women had to lose the status of a legal

wives, their children would not inherit their parental properties as per that law. The result was that a great rebellion broke out. Against the challenge of the Act Gandhiji started his Satyagraha against the colonial British Government. A number of Indian women joined the Resistance.

Imprisonment:

As Valliyammai had been interested in Satyagraha since her early days, she joined the movement. A huge procession of women proceeded towards Natal. Valliyammai went with her mother. On the way the labourers of Newcosil coal mines joined hands with the Government.

It was guilty, in those days, to enter into Transvaal from Natal and Viceversa without permission. On 22nd December 1913, on her crossing the boundary of Transvaal Valliyammai was arrested by the Government with her mother.

Valliyammai had to suffer rigorous imprisonment for three months. Her hardships and sufferings in the maritzburg prison were beyond all words, weak bodied and bonny faced. She came out of the prison like an old lady. Even in this last scene which ended her strange eventful history, she held on her stand point. She was proud of dying for the sake of her people.

Gandhiji met Valliyammai:

Whenever Gandhiji talked and though her fact appeared before him. Gandhiji called on her in order to console her. The strong words resolution and her sacrificial arrested Gandhiji's mind. He asked her if she was sad at her imprisonment. Valliyammai replied that even then

too she was prepared to go to prison Valliyammai dared even to die for her mother land. These words clearly disclosed her true Nationalism sacrifice, and patriotism.

Final Days:

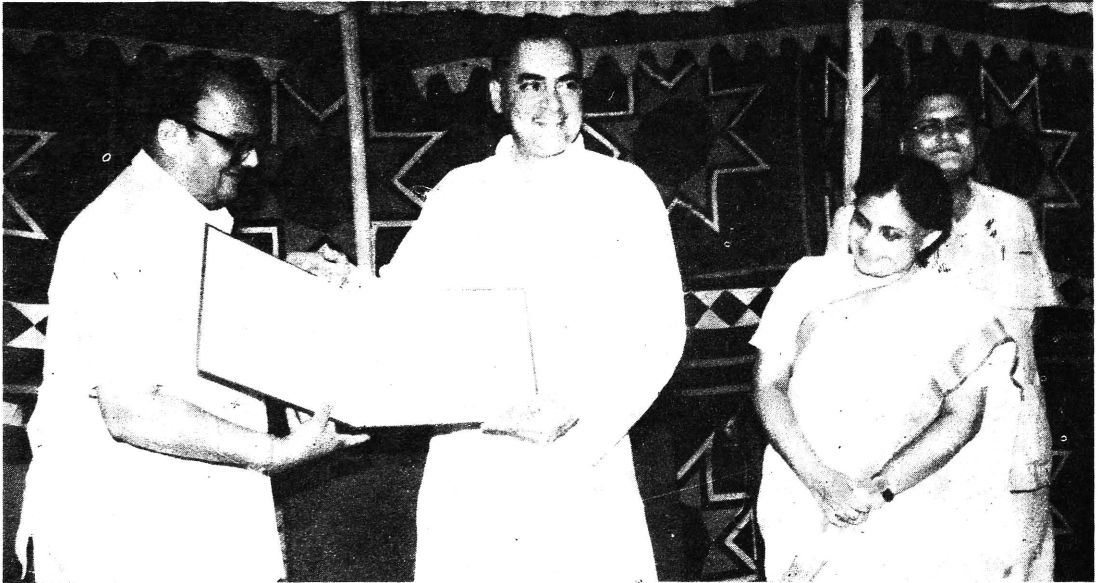
Her sufferings and illness due to some cruel fever told upon her death. Valliyammai had her last breath on 22nd February 1914. "All meet death, but their achievements became memorials and consolidate the fame". According to Gandhiji, Valliyammai's service is immortal". She occupies a vital place in the History of Satyagraha of South Africa. She was a Janade Arc in the South African struggle.

Memorials:

Gandhiji was greatly moved at the immatured and sad end of the young girl at the age of 16.

Before his departure from South Africa, Gandhiji unwielded the memorial of Valliyammai on 15th July 1914. On his South Indian Tour Gandhiji visited Thillaiyadi. Gandhiji was so much touched by her sacrifice that he did not forget her in his life and wrote about her sacrifice in his auto-biography. To how his ratitude, he took with him a member of her family.

Thillayadi became a temple of Valliammai, and the village is a model village named as Valliyammai Nagar. In honour of her services a Government High School has been renamed as Thiagi Valliammai Government High School.

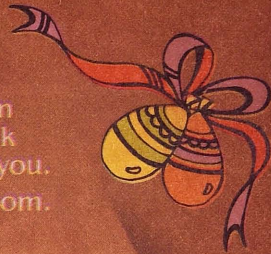


The Prime Minister, Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi releasing a special stamp commemorating 40 years of Freedom at a function in New Delhi on August 15, 1987.

Photo shows the Union Minister for Communications, Thiru. Arjun Singh presenting an album of stamps to Thiru Gandhi.

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