

Tamil Arasu

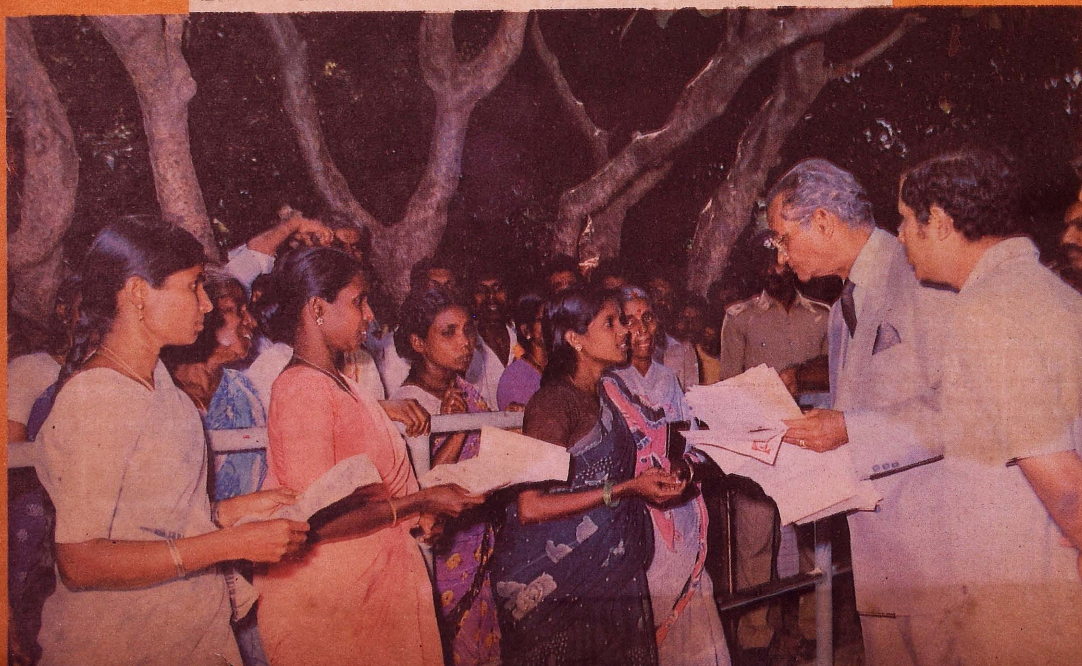
March 1988 Re. 1





His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr. P. C. Alexander, held discussions with his Advisers Dr. S.S. Sidhu, Thiru A. Padmanaban, I.A.S., and Chief Secretary Thiru M.M. Rajendran, I.A.S., on 18.2.'88.

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu received petitions from the Public at the Secretariat on 18.2.'88.



PROCLAMATION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE IN TAMIL NADU

NOTIFICATION

G.S.R. 66 (E) The following Proclamation by the President is published for general information:-

Whereas, I, R. Venkataraman, President of India, have received a report from the Governor of the State of Tamil Nadu and after considering the report and other information received by me, I am satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of that State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India (hereinafter referred to as "the Constitution"):

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 356 of the Constitution and of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I hereby proclaim that:—

(a) assume to myself as President of India all functions of the Government of the said State and all powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor of that State;

(b) declare that the powers of the Legislature of the said State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament; and

(c) make the following incidental and consequential provisions which appear to me to be necessary or desirable for giving effect to the objects of this Proclamation, namely—

(i) in the exercise of the functions and powers assumed to myself by virtue of clause (a) of this Proclamation as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for me as President of India to act to such extent as I think fit through the Governor of the said State;

(ii) the operation of the following provisions of the Constitution in relation to that State is hereby suspended, namely:

so much of the proviso to Article 3 as relates to the reference by the President to the Legislature of the State;

so much of clause (2) of Article 151 as relates to the laying before the Legislature of the State of the reports submitted to the Governor by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India;

Articles 163 and 164;

so much of clause (3) of Article 166 as relates to the allocation among the Ministers of the business of the Government of the State;

Article 167; and

so much of clause (1) Article 169 as relates to the passing of a resolution by the Legislative Assembly of a State, clause (1) and sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of Article 174;

Articles 175 to 178 (both inclusive);

Clauses (b) and (c) of Article 179 and the first proviso to that Article; and

Articles 180 and 181;

so much of Article 186 as relates to the salaries and allowances of the Deputy Speaker of Legislative Assembly.

Articles 188, 189, 193, 194, 195, and 196;

Article 198;

Clauses (3) and (4) of Article 199;

so much of clause (3) of Article 202 as relates to the salaries and allowances of the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly;

Articles 208 to 211 (both inclusive);

the proviso to clause (1) and the proviso to clause (3) of Article 213 and

so much of clause (2) of Article 323 as relates to the laying of the report with a memorandum before the Legislature of the State;

(iii) the Legislative Assembly of the said State is hereby dissolved;

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(iv) any reference in the Constitution to the Governor shall in relation to the said State be construed as a reference to the President, and any reference therein to the Legislature of the State or the Houses thereof shall, in so far as it relates to the functions and powers thereof, be construed, unless the context otherwise requires, as a reference to Parliament and in particular, the references in Article 213 to the Governor and to the Legislature of the State or the House thereof shall be construed as references to the President and to Parliament or the Houses thereof respectively;

provided that nothing herein shall affect the provisions of Article 153, Articles 155 to 159 (both inclusive) Article 299 and Article 361 and paragraphs 1 to 4 (both inclusive), of the Second Schedule or prevent the President from acting under sub-clause (1) of this clause to such extent as he thinks fit through the Governor of the said State:

(v) any reference in the Constitution to Acts or laws of or made by the Legislature of the State shall be construed as including a reference to Acts or Laws made, in exercise of the powers of the Legislature of the State, by Parliament by virtue of this Proclamation, or by the President or other authority referred to in sub-clause(a) of clause (1) of Article 357 of the Constitution and the Tamil Nadu General Clauses Act, 1891 (Tamil Nadu Act I of 1891), as in force in the State of Tamil Nadu and so much of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (10 of 1897), as applies to State Laws, shall have effect in relation to any such Act or Law as if it were an Act of the Legislature of the State.

NEW DELHI R. VENKATARAMAN
The 30th January, 1988 President.

NEW DELHI C.G.SOMIAH
The 30th January, 1988. Home Secretary.

MADRAS-9 A. PADMANABAN
The 30th January 1988 Chief Secretary.

ORDER

New Delhi, the 30th January 1988.

G.S.R. 67 (E)- the Following Order by the President is published for general information:-

In pursuance of sub-clause (1) of clause (c) of the Proclamation issued on this the 30th day of January 1988, by me under Article 356 of the Constitution of India, I hereby direct that all the functions of the Government of the State of Tamil Nadu and all the powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor of that State under the Constitution or under any law in force in that State, which have been assumed by the President by virtue of clause (a) of the said Proclamation, shall, subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the President, be exercisable also by the Governor of the said State.

NEW DELHI, R.VENKATARAMAN
The 30th January, 1988 President.

NEW DELHI C.G.SOMIAH
The 30th January, 1988. Home Secretary

MADRAS-9 A. PADMANABAN
The 30th January, 1988 Chief Secretary

Change is one thing, progress is another. "Change" is scientific, "progress" is ethical.

-BERTRAND RUSSELL

The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.

-ALFRED NORTH

Man's character is his fate.

-HERACLITUS

It is not the brains that matter most, but that which guides them - the character, the heart, generous qualities, progressive ideas.

-FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKI

The force that rules the world is conduct,

-NICHOLAS MURRAY



Address by the President of India to Parliament

Honourable Members,

It is a privilege for me to address you for the first time as President. I welcome you to this session of Parliament. I particularly felicitate the new members, who for the first time, include a representative from the newly constituted Constituency of Daman and Diu. I give my good wishes to the people of Goa, which has attained statehood.

A few weeks ago, we were deprived of the presence of a great soul. A link with the stirring days of the freedom struggle is no more. A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan was a symbol of the spirit of non-violence and secularism. His life was a saga of unsurpassed courage and sacrifice. I also

pay tribute to the other colleagues who have left us, including the former Prime Minister, Shri Charan Singh, and Shri M.G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who, through his farsightedness worked for and strengthened national unity.

Our vision of India is of a land whose unity and integrity are invulnerable to external threats or internal weaknesses, where the ideals of democracy, secularism and socialism enshrined in our Constitution, are fully realised.

—Where social justice prevails, with equality of opportunity for every human being.

—Where science and technology have helped to wipe out poverty and disease,

—Where economic development does not exhaust the bounties of nature, but creates wealth in harmony with it,

—Where industrialisation and modernisation are fused with moral and spiritual values,

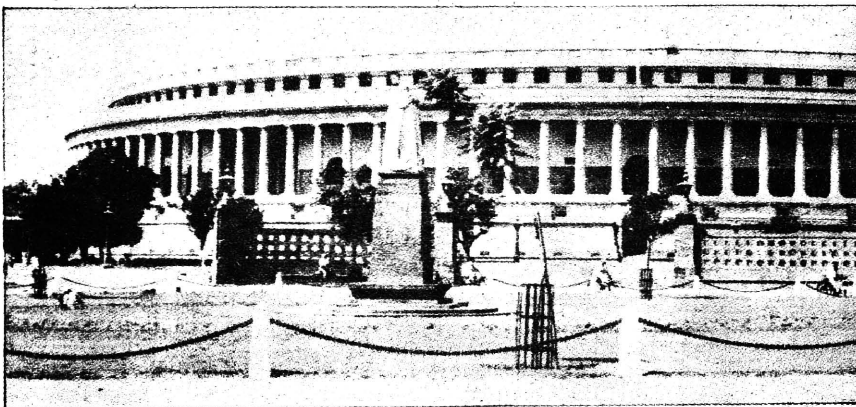
—Where all religions and cultures flourish in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation.

We want an India whose interaction with the nations of the world is dedicated to peace and international cooperation, and a new world order based on equality, freedom and justice. In the last 40 years we have progressed along this path, illumined by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru; we shall adhere to it, come what may, with the determination and courage instilled in us by Indira Gandhi.

The struggle for Independence was the precursor to the struggle for self-reliant progress, the struggle for social emancipation, the struggle to recover for India her traditional, historic place in the vanguard

of human civilization. Our achievements have been notable. More notable still has been the consistency of our endeavour, the sincerity of our effort, the dedication and hard work of our people. Our primary goal has been the rapid amelioration of poverty and its eradication. The key to the alleviation of poverty lies in a rapid and sustained expansion of employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas. Our strategy has been to combine direct intervention in favour of the poorer segments of society through asset-creation employment-creation, and anti-poverty programmes with faster and more diversified growth, underpinned by a massive programme of quality education. We seek to realize the full potential of our unmatched human resources while harmonizing the country's educational profile with the growth requirements and employment needs of our economy. We have moved purposefully towards the achievement of our aims. The pace of progress has markedly quickened in the last seven years. The Eighth Plan must provide for even faster growth, the maximisation of employment opportunities, and the vigorous reduction of regional disparities. We need both a higher rate of growth and a composition of growth which matches the basic needs of our people and the evolving requirements of our economy and society.

We have pursued growth within the framework of two crucial parameters: the freedom of our country and the freedom of our people. To this end, we have built strong institutions to guarantee the democratic rights of our citizens and to overcome the many challenges to our independence, integrity and nationhood. Efforts have been mounted, from outside and within, to subvert, suborn and undermine our democratic political system. Our ever-vigilant people have thwarted all such efforts.



The failure of the rains has tested the resilience of our economy and the strength of our purpose, our farming community, and indeed the nation as a whole, has responded to this serious economic challenge in a most heroic manner. The people are cooperating magnificently with the Government. The nation's economic performance is a tribute to the soundness and strength of our development strategy.

With a determined and concerted national effort, the challenge of terrorism is being met in Punjab and elsewhere. Following President's Rule in Punjab, the law-enforcing agencies have harnessed the resurgent will of the people of Punjab, and mounted a determined campaign against misguided anti-national elements. The foremost task is to crush terrorism and isolate the secessionists. The terrorists have lately stepped up their depredations. They have to contend with the high morale, regenerated professionalism and strict vigilance of our security forces. They also have to contend with the people's refusal to be browbeaten or cowed. There can and will be no compromise over the nation's integrity and unity. In the search for non-violent political solution of the problem within the framework of the constitution, Government stands ready for a dialogue

with all those who eschew violence. The nation mourns the loss of innocent lives. We salute those who have laid down their lives in the cause of national unity.

In Tripura the extremists stepped up their campaign of terror. The escalated violence and mounting loss of innocent human lives left Government with no option but to declare Tripura as a disturbed area; we are determined to put down violence there.

We are unflinching in our determination to root out communalism, fundamentalism and other fissiparous tendencies. Committees of the National Integration Council have been active in devising measures for the promotion of communal harmony. The Centre and the States must make sustained efforts to implement the fifteen point programme for the welfare of the minorities.

We are committed to the elimination of consequences of centuries of ostracism, discrimination and oppression. We have reorganised the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and strengthened the Office of the Commissioner. The importance we attach to the welfare and development of these disadvantaged sections of our society is reflected in the

Seventh Plan Outlay of over Rs. 14,000 crores in their favour. It is a matter of particular satisfaction that coverage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the IRDP has reached 41 per cent, far exceeding the target of 30 per cent.

During the year, elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura.

The provisions of Article 356 of the Constitution were invoked in Tamil Nadu in view of the situation that developed there in January. Election in the State are proposed to be held at an early date.

The Commission on Centre-State relations which was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice R.S. Sarkaria has submitted its report. The views of Parliament, States and Members of the public will be taken into account before arriving at a decision.

The National Policy on Education is our pledge to the coming generations and our gauge to the future; quality education for all is the key to national development. A programme of action for the implementation of the policy was presented to Parliament in 1986. Major steps were taken during the year in pursuance of

the policy. Our concern for primary education is paramount. Operation 'Black board' was launched to improve the quality of instruction and the infrastructure in primary schools. Particular attention is being paid to the educationally backward States. The massive programme for training five lakh teachers annually has been continued. A National Core Curriculum is being developed to impart an awareness of our heritage and a sense of national cohesion. The number of Navodaya Vidyalayas has risen to 206. An analysis of admission test to these schools for 1986 shows that 41 per cent of the selected children belong to families below the poverty line, 77 per cent come from rural areas, and the percentage of children from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is much higher than their percentage in the total population. The scheme for free secondary stage education for girls is now being implemented in all States. A comprehensive scheme has been drawn up for the vocationalisation of education. Government is working on a number of measures to enhance the quality of higher education and technical education.

The promotion of the small family norm is a high national priority. Last year we recorded 20 million acceptors of contraceptive coverage, the highest level ever achieved. The problems of family welfare and health are interlinked. They are, therefore, being tackled through an integrated set of measures. Immunisation programmes have accelerated over the last two years.

The emancipation of women from all forms of prejudice, discrimination and abuse, deprivation and oppression is a national duty and a national task. Their full and equal participation in the nation's life is a national imperative.

Government have prepared a perspective plan up to the year 2000 to deal with the problems of women. Government have also reconstituted the National Committee on Women to review and advise on policies and programmes for women. A National Commission has been established to look into the problems of women in the unorganised sector. Its report is expected shortly.

Following the barbaric incident at Deorala, the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 was passed. Government are determined to root out this evil practice. These efforts should be backed by the widest possible mobilisation of public opinion.

A very significant feature of our changing society is the transformation taking place in the country's demographic profile. As a people, we are growing younger. Therefore, meeting the needs of our youth and fitting them for their role in the nation's life are matters of high priority. The Nehru Yuvak Kendras have been galvanised into a high level of activity, intellectual and physical discipline, and a sense of enterprise and adventure, are being instilled in lakhs of our boys and girls through the NSS, the Bharat Scouts and Guides and the National Cadet Corps. The Sports Authority of India has done commendable work in affording opportunity to the athletic prowess of our youth.

Harmonious industrial relations were a significant feature of the year. We compliment both labour and managements of their constructive attitudes. We want to promote a participator management culture in industry. Government intend to bring forward a comprehensive Bill on industrial relations and a Bill for major changes in the Employees' Provident Fund Act.

While segments of our workforce have organized themselves

to secure and safeguard their rights, the overwhelming majority of our working people are unorganized and therefore, exploited. Data about their conditions of work is inadequate and action to ameliorate their lot unsatisfactory. We are deeply concerned about their welfare and progress. We are committed to the improvement of their conditions. We have, therefore, appointed the National Commission on Rural Labour. We have also framed a national policy on child labour. Voluntary agencies are being associated in the identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour.

The Twenty Point Programme has infused new hope in the countryside. It accounts for 30 per cent of the total Plan Outlay for the current year. IRDP, NREP and RLEGP are our major instruments in the attack on rural poverty. In the last seven years, IRDP has assisted 23.4 million families belonging to weaker sections and other backward groups below the poverty line. Women now constitute 16 per cent of the beneficiaries. During the period April 1987-January 1988, NREP and RLEGP generated 471 million mandays of employment.

Water for the first time has been recognised as a vital national asset. The new national water policy derives from the national consensus on this point. This paves the way for effective planned development and efficient utilization of our national water resources.

The Ganga Action Plan has caught the nation's imagination. It is in full swing in 25 towns and cities. The protection of the environment has emerged as a major national priority. Environmental standards have been notified for 24 priority industries. Parliament has already amended the law on air pollution. Stringent legislative action is planned to protect

our forests and prevent the pollution of water.

Government undertook legislation in the winter session of Parliament to establish a National Housing Bank. One of its major tasks will be to finance housing for the weaker sections. In this session, Government will bring forward a national housing policy for providing dwellings for the unsheltered millions.

A major item of the Twenty Point Programme is the development of a more responsive administration, especially in its interface with the weaker sections. A series of workshops of District Collectors on the subject of responsive administration is being held. The machinery for the redressal of public grievances is being strengthened. Special programmes are being organised to train officials of the District Planning Cells.

Plans to provide speedy and inexpensive justice for the under privileged made headway. A Committee, with the Chief Justice of India as Patron-in-Chief, has been entrusted with the implementation of legal aid schemes.

A new impetus was given last year to the drive against smuggling, foreign exchange racketeering and drug trafficking. The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau is coming down hard on syndicate of smugglers and racketeers.

The menace of drugs is assuming worrying proportions. If we are not careful, the flower of our youth could be endangered, the physical and moral fibre of the nation could be sapped. We are determined to fight this evil.

The Narcotic Bureau made major seizures of drugs during the year. Programmes have been launched for the de-addiction and rehabilitation of the unfortunate victims of drug abuse.

We are consciously directing science and technology to the removal of poverty, particularly in rural India. This is the aim of our five technology missions. The tasks assigned to these five missions are : To provide potable water to all villages in the country, to immunise 20 million pregnant women and 18 million infants against vaccine-preventable diseases, to impart functional literacy to 30 million adults, to augment the production of oilseeds and edible oil and to provide increased access to telecommunication services. These missions have formulated their operational Plans for 1988-89 and 1989-90. The Plans are being closely monitored and carefully evaluated.

Government have adopted the approach of integrated energy of rural areas. Natural and perennial sources of energy like solar, wind, biomass, mini-hydel sources and improved chulhas are being popularised.

Oil exploration and exploitation are being intensified. Refining capacity will be further augmented. A centre for high technology has been established to acquire, develop and adapt modern technologies in refineries. The first section of the HBJ pipeline was completed during the year.

Significant strides have been made in electronics. India has emerged as one of the few countries with its own technology for manufacturing electronic exchanges. Software exports are shaping up as a major new area of growth.

In Nuclear Science, we are among the few with a mastery of the complete nuclear fuel cycle for the production of nuclear power.

A landmark in this area has been designing of 500 MWE capacity reactors. The Nuclear Power Corporation has been established to enhance the nuclear power programmes.

August 1987 was a landmark in our effort to develop capabilities in seabed mining. The preparatory commission of the International Seabed Authority registered India's claim for a mine site in the Indian Ocean for Exploration and Development.

The First Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, designed and developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is being launched next month by Soviet Launcher. The second flight of the augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle with the SROSS-II Satellite will be launched in April. This satellite will carry a joint ISRO-West German Payload. In June, our Communication Satellite INSAT-IC will be launched on the French Ariane Launcher.

Our economy has demonstrated its resilience in the face of one of the worst climatic setbacks in memory, namely, the widespread drought in most parts of the country and the floods in the Eastern Region. We have stood up well to the challenge and ward off a crisis because the development strategy followed by Indira Gandhi, and the new initiatives of the past three years, have imparted an intrinsic strength to our economy. You will ensure the restoration of momentum in agricultural growth as soon as normalcy returns to climatic conditions.

About 45 million hectares of land spread over 269 districts in 15 States and 7 Union Territories were affected by the drought. In many areas it was the second successive year of failure of rains, in some the third or the fourth. A shortfall of 7 to 10 per cent in food-grains production as compared to the 1986-87 level is apprehended. A comprehensive strategy was evolved to combat the impact of the States for employment, drinking water and the supply of fodder. The flow of essential commodities through the Public Distribution

System was greatly expanded. A package of debt relief and additional credit assistance was made available to farmers. For those affected for three or more years, this included a moratorium on principal and interest payments. A strategy for maximising Rabi production has been adopted.

We have always believed that the nation can be strong only if the farmer and farming are strengthened. Our quest for self-reliance in foodgrains has served us well. We built substantial buffer stocks. These have helped us to tide over difficult situations. In recent years rice productivity has increased in the Eastern States covered by the special rice production programme. Government are making determined efforts to ensure that foodgrains output reaches 175 million tonnes by the end of the Seventh Plan. Emphasis will be placed on increasing the productivity of dry land Farming. A task force has been set up to work out the details of the strategy. A recent innovation is agricultural planning on the basis of agro-climatic zones.

The funds needed for drought relief greatly exceeded the amount originally budgeted. It became necessary to take fiscal counter-measures to check inflationary pressures. A temporary surcharge was introduced on income-tax, wealth-tax, corporation-tax and customs duty. Strict economy was enforced in public expenditure. The Reserve Bank also took measures to mop up excess liquidity in the banking system and tighten selective controls. Inflationary pressures have been much less than in earlier droughts. In 1979-80 the wholesale price index had risen by over 21 per cent. In contrast, the increase upto the third week January 1988 has been only 9.8 per cent.

The performance of industrial sector has been commensurate with the targets set.

It reflects the success of Government policies in stimulating investment and production, and promoting technological upgradation. A special tribute is due to our industrial workers who responded well to the call for raising productivity. Since 1984-85, industry has grown at a rate between 8.5 to 9 per cent per annum. The momentum continued into 1987-88 with the general index of industrial production showing a growth of 10.2 percent in April-November 1987. For the year as a whole, it is likely to exceed eight percent as the effects of the drought become evident in the non-agricultural sectors. The small-scale sector has contributed significantly to the rapid growth of industry in this period. A National Equity Fund has been established to provide financial support to small-scale manufacturing units. The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1987 became operational last May.

The infrastructure, which is almost exclusively in the public sector, has performed very well. This segment of the economy had shown healthy growth in 1986-87, with power generation expanding by 10.2 per cent, coal by 7.5 per cent and railway freight by 7.4 percent. All these continued to show their strong performance in the current year. Power generation April-December 1987 was 7.6 percent higher than the previous year, despite a substantial decrease in hydel generation due to drought. Thermal power generation grew by 16.1 percent. The plant load factor in April-December 1987 has averaged 55 percent, compared with 52.2 percent during the same period in the previous year. The growth rate in coal in the first nine months of 1987-88 was 10.2 per cent. Railway freight expanded by 5.4 percent.

The public sector occupies the commanding heights of the

national economy. It safeguards the economic Independence of India. It must and will continue to play this pivotal role in our development strategy of building socialism. For this very reason, Government have stressed the need for improving its efficiency and financial viability. We are giving the public sector greater operational autonomy through memoranda of understanding.

The balance of payments position has been managed successfully despite a difficult external situation. Government's efforts at promoting exports have yielded results. Exports have shown a healthy growth of 24.7 percent in value terms in the first nine months of the year. While the increase in imports has been kept at 13.5 per cent. The trade deficit over April-December 1987 was lower than the deficit in the same period last year. Government will keep the balance of payments position under close watch.

Central sector plan outlays have been ahead of Seventh Plan targets. While this is gratifying, we have to pay much closer attention to the achievement of physical targets. The mid-term review of the Seventh Plan has been completed by the Planning Commission and will shortly be presented to the National Development Council and Parliament.

From the earliest times, the Indian mind has transcended narrow domestic walls and seen all of humanity as one large family. Ours is a millennial heritage of tolerance and compassion, of the self-confident assimilation and synthesis of all that is best, from wherever it comes. Our struggle for freedom was guided by the ancient principles of truth, of non-violence and of humanity as one. The basic tenets of our foreign policy derive from this integrated and deeply entrenched world-view. The philosophy and practice of non-

alignment is modern India's outstanding contribution to contemporary international relations. It was a philosophy conceived and elaborated by those great men of vision, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. First a minority view, deprecated and even derided, it has grown to embrace two-thirds of the international community, profoundly influencing thinking people everywhere, crucially contributing to the shaping of a new world order. Our foreign policy has safeguarded our sovereignty, promoted our national interests and made a vital contribution to the building of a just, equitable and democratic world order. We believe in the peaceful resolution of international disputes. We seek the enlargement of our friendship and cooperation with all countries. We are committed to the promotion of peaceful co-existence and nuclear disarmament.

While defence strategists remained mired in obsolete concepts of deterrence, in a world threatened with extinction by nuclear weapons, on the very morning of Hiroshima, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru grasped the catastrophic implications of the advent of nuclear weapons. The elimination of those weapons became a principal plank of independent India's foreign policy. Throughout the last forty years, India has worked steadfastly for a non-violent world without nuclear weapons.

The six-nation initiative, in which Indira Gandhi played a leading part, contributed significantly to the resumption of the deadlocked disarmament negotiations. The initiative has mobilised opinion world-wide in favour of nuclear disarmament. It has helped set the stage for the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union signed in Washington last December on the elimination of land-based intermediate and short-range missi-

les. While welcoming this agreement as a historic first step towards nuclear disarmament, we have emphasised the need to ensure rapid progress towards further and substantial reductions in nuclear arsenals, and the induction of all nuclear-weapon powers into the process. The Stockholm Summit of the six-nation initiative last month spelt out the steps which need to be taken in the wake of the INF Treaty with a view to ensuring global elimination of all nuclear weapons within a specified period of time.

Our future is also threatened by the growing degradation of the environment. We must ensure environmentally sustainable development. We support international efforts to realise this objective. We hosted a meeting of the World Commission on Environment and Development. The Prime Minister addressed the United Nations during the special debate on the Commission's report.

In July 1987, we concluded the historic Indo-Sri Lanka agreement which has been welcomed in Tamil Nadu and all other parts of India as the harbinger of peace in Sri Lanka and justice for the Tamil minority in that country. The agreement has been internationally acclaimed as an act of the highest Statesmanship. The provisions of the agreement met all the legitimate aspirations of the Sri Lanka Tamil minority while ensuring the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. The agreement paves the way for durable peace and stability in that country. It meets important security concerns of ours and strengthens non-alignment in our region. As provided for in the agreement and in response to the urgent request of President Jayawardene, the Indian Peace Keeping Force was sent to Sri Lanka. They have done an outstanding job in the most difficult circumstances. We

pay tribute to our gallant soldiers. To those who have made the supreme sacrifice, we pledge that their sacrifice shall not be in vain. We are firmly resolved to secure the full implementation of all provisions of the agreement. We are giving further momentum to the processes envisaged under it. We are ensuring that the objective of achieving a durable solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka is realized in full measure.

Regional cooperation in South Asia is an important dimension of our foreign policy and of growing significance in our region. Under our Chairmanship, regional cooperation was consolidated and several major initiatives were promoted. The Third Summit at Kathmandu carried forward the process. We must realise the immense untapped potential for South Asian cooperation.

The peoples of India and Pakistan share much in common. We wish the people of Pakistan well. We want to promote trust and friendship through greater interaction between our peoples. We hope the Government of Pakistan will reciprocate our sentiments and help create the atmosphere for enduring peace and friendship. Unfortunately, our efforts in this direction have been hampered, and many of our initiatives thwarted. Pakistan continues its clandestine efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. They also continue to assist terrorist and secessionist elements in India. Is this the path of friendship and cooperation? My Government still believe that reason and good sense will prevail and the Pakistan Government will make a fresh assessment of its policy towards India.

We attach importance to building friendly relations with China. Outstanding issues have to be resolved in an amicable manner, consistent with our national interest. It is

important to maintain peace and tranquillity along the border.

We support the continuing efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations of Afghanistan. There are signs of positive movement, although hurdles are being put in the way of a settlement. We welcome the announcement made by General Secretary Gorbachev regarding the withdrawal of Soviet troops in accordance with the stipulated schedule. We hope the forthcoming proximity talks at Geneva will lead to a final settlement. We have been in touch with the parties concerned. We will work together with them to ensure the status of Afghanistan as a sovereign, independent and non-aligned country.

The travails of the Kampuchean people have caused us much distress. We have followed with sympathy and deep interest the efforts of the Kampuchians to rebuild their country, protect their independence and sovereignty and safeguard their non-aligned status. We are helping in the peace process. We have contributed towards bringing together those who must jointly work out a solution to the Kampuchean question. We shall continue our efforts in cooperation with the parties concerned.

We have been deeply sympathetic to the cause of the Palestinian people since the days of our freedom movement. The partition of India and the partition of Palestine took place in the same year. We have stood by the Palestinian people through their trials and tribulations and the terrible suffering they have undergone. We deeply deplore the brutal repression of Palestinians by Israeli forces in the occupied territories. There can be no solution on that ignores the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

They must have a state of their own in their homeland. To find a lasting solution, an international peace conference should be immediately convened, with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and others concerned.

The Iran-Iraq war is a matter of great sorrow. It has led to an increasingly volatile situation in our neighbourhood and the proliferation of external military presences in the region. We shall continue our work with others in the arduous search for peace.

Apartheid is a blot on civilization, repugnant to our commitment to the unity of the human family. Since Mahatma Gandhi's early experiments with truth in South Africa, the elimination of racial discrimination has been an integral part of our freedom struggle and as yet an unfulfilled mission of our foreign policy. Apartheid survives because of the economic and military sustenance which Pretoria receives from a few rich and powerful countries. The only way of ending this abomination without too much bloodshed is through comprehensive, mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. We have striven for this at the UN, non-aligned and in Commonwealth forums. All Commonwealth countries, with one exception, agreed at the Vancouver Summit last October to intensify their sanctions against apartheid. The Africa Fund, which we conceived of as a practical measure of support, has received a gratifying response from countries all over the world.

The moves in Fiji to deprive people of their rights solely on a racial basis have caused deep resentment. Fiji's constitutional arrangements must ensure fair and just representation in Parliament for all communities.

We welcome the agreement signed in Guatemala by leaders

of five Central American countries. We earnestly hope the agreement will lead to a just and lasting settlement ensuring the security, sovereignty and independence of all States of the Region.

There has been substantial progress in our bilateral relations with the United States of America, particularly in the technological and economic fields. The Prime Minister had wide-ranging talks with the US President. We continue to impress upon the United States the seriousness of our concern about the supply of armaments to Pakistan notwithstanding that country's relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons.

India's relations with the Soviet Union have always been warm and friendly. The Delhi Declaration of November 1986 affirmed the common commitment of both countries to non-violence and peaceful co-existence. In the last three years, we have enlarged and enriched the content of our relationship. There has been an unprecedented increase in high-level visits, an unparalleled expansion of trade, and new dimensions and new vistas added in areas such as science and technology, further expanding our already wide-ranging cooperation. The mutual goodwill of our peoples has found spectacular expression in the festivals held in the two countries. During the year, the Prime Minister of India visited the Soviet Union and Prime Minister of the Soviet Union visited India.

Honourable Members, with the united endeavour of the nation, we can meet with confidence the challenges that confront us and accomplish the tasks that lie ahead. We shall be faithful to the ideals and goals of our Republic. We shall place the national good above any sectional interest. I wish you all success in your endeavours in the year before us.

Jai Hind.

22nd February, 1988
New Delhi.

Dr. P.C. ALEXANDER

SWORN IN

AS GOVERNOR

Dr. P.C. Alexander was sworn in as the new Governor of Tamil Nadu at a ceremonial function at Rajaji Hall on 17th February, 1988.

He was administered the Oath of office by the Madras High Court Chief Justice Hon'ble M.N. Chandurkar, at a brief function in which Assembly Speaker Thiru P.H. Pandian, Advisers Dr. S.S. Sidhu, I.A.S. Thiru A. Padmanabhan, I.A.S., and Chief Secretary Thiru M.M. Rajendran were present.

Chairman of the high-level committee on Tamil Development, Dr. M.P. Sivagnanam,

Judges of the Madras High Court, Senior Civil and Police Officials, Prominent Citizens of Madras, Members of Parliament Thiru M. Palaniyandi, Tmt. Maragatham Chandrasekar, Thiru A. Jayamohan and some former Members of the Legislative Assembly were also present.



Earlier, Dr. Alexander drove ceremonially from the gates of Rajaji Hall to the stairs leading to the Hall. He was received by Thiru M.M. Rajendran, the Chief Secretary, and then introduced to the three services chiefs and the Director-General of Police, before inspecting a guard of honour presented by Air Force men.

Mine honour is my life; both grow in one;
Take honour from me, and my life is done.

—Shakespeare

Experience joined with common sense
To mortals is a providence.

—Mathew Green

Life may change, but it may fly not
Hope may vanish but can die not;
Truth be veiled, but still it burneth

—Shelley



D. P. C. ALEXANDER

GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU

1. *Name :* PADINJARETHALAKAL CHERIAN ALEXANDER
2. *Permanent address :* P. C. Alexander,
Padinjarethalakal, Mavelikara,
KERALA
3. *Date of Birth :* 20—3—1921
4. *Academic qualifications :* M.A. (History & Economics)
M.Litt (Research)
D.Litt (Research)
5. *Service :* IAS (Retired)
6. *Training / Research abroad :* Training at the **Board of Trade**, U.K. under Nuffield
Foundation Fellowship.

Research at the **Stanford Research Institute**, California
under Ford Foundation Fellowship.
7. *Senior positions held in
Government of India :* Development Commissioner,
Small Scale Industries, 1960-63..
Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries and
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries 1973-75.
Secretary, Foreign Trade and later Commerce Secretary
1975-78.
Principal Secretary to Prime Minister 1981-85.
High Commissioner for India in UK 1985-88.
8. *Positions held in the
UN organisation :* Senior Adviser, Centre for Industrial Development,
UN Headquarters 1963-66 NEW YORK.

Chief of the UN Project on Small Industries & Chief
Adviser to the Government of Iran 1970-73 TEHRAN.

Senior Adviser and later Executive Director & Assistant
Secretary General, International Trade Centre (UNCTAD-
GATT) 1978-81 GENEVA.
9. *Books published :*
 1. The Dutch in Malabar.
 2. Buddhism in Kerala.
 3. Industrial Estates in India.



Dr. SHIVINDER SINGH SIDHU, I.A.S.,

*Adviser to Governor of
Tamil Nadu.*

Dr. Sidhu was born in Punjab on 13th October, 1929. He is an M. A., and his other qualifications are: Six month's training in General Administration in France under the Indo-French Technical Co-op. Scheme (with special reference to the study of organisation and Methods working of Public Sector Undertakings and Local administration); Languages—French (read, write & speak); Persian (read, write well and speak a little); educated at Arya High School, Ludhiana, Foreman, Christian College, Lahore and Saint Stephen's College, Delhi; He was appointed on 2nd April, 1952 after competitive examination held in 1951 year of allotment—1952; confirmed on 2nd April, 1953 and in senior scale on 18th October, 1959; Posts held—Undertraining at the I.A.S. Training School, Delhi 2nd April, 1952 to March 1953; Assistant Commissioner, Lucknow—2nd April, 1953 to 4th February, 1954; Joint Magistrate, Alla, habad—12th February, 1954 to 3rd January, 1955; Sub-Divi-

sional Officer and Sub-Divisional Magistrate for the District Banda—5th January, 1955 to 13th July, 1955; Sub-Divisional Officer and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Lalithpur District Jhansi—17th July, 1955 to 19th January, 1956; Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Jalaun—21st January, 1956 to 2nd March, 1956; Sub-Divisional Officer and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Lalithpur District, Jhansi—10th March, 1956 to April 1956; Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Jalaun—1st May, 1956 to 5th November, 1957; Also officiating Collector incharge, Jansi on 11th and 12th April, 1957; On deputation to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs from 6th November 1957; Deputy Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Port Blair—23rd November, 1957 to February, 1959. On deputation abroad for practical training in Public Administration 3rd March, 1959; Reverted to U.P. and appointed Deputy Commissioner, Kheri—21st December 1959 to 13th May,

1960; Deputy Development Commissioner, U.P. - cum - Deputy Secretary to Government U.P. Planning Department, Lucknow—16th May, 1960 to 19th April, 1963; Joint Development Commissioner, U.P.-cum-Joint Secretary to Government, U.P. Planning Department, Lucknow—20th April, 1963 to 21st April, 1964; Joint Secretary to Government, U. P.; Chief Secretary's branch and Director Cultural Affairs and Scientific Research Department and Joint Secretary, Industries Department, Lucknow—22nd April 1964 to 9th September, 1964; Officiated as Secretary to Government, U.P. Industries Department from 18th June, 1964 to 19th July, 1964; Secretary to the Chief Minister, U.P. and Secretary to Government, U.P. Cultural Affairs and Scientific Research Department and Director, Cultural Affairs and Scientific Research Department, U.P., Lucknow—10th September, 1964; Also was Secretary to Government U. P. Information Department from 12th September, 1964 and Secretary, Technical Education Department from 25th January 1965 (ceased to be Director, Cultural Affairs and Scientific Research Department from 5th January, 1965); Magistrate and Collector, Kanpur from 27-7-67; Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta from 7-7-70; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel and Mines, Department of Steel from 18-3-72; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi from 9-7-75; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs from 21-7-76; Administrator, Nagar Mahapalika, Kanpur from October, 1977; Commissioner, Agra Division, Agra from 20-12-78; Additional Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Rural Reconstruction from 23-8-80; Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from 1-7-81; Adviser to Governor of Punjab; Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation from 11-2-85.



Thiru A. PADMANABAN, I.A.S.,

*Adviser to Governor of
Tamil Nadu.*

Born on 14-12-1928. An M.A. in Economics, Public Finance, Politics and History of Madras University. Entered Government Service in 1951 and completed 36 years. As Sub-Collector and Collector, handled Revenue Administration, Law and Order Problems and implemented Development Schemes as the head of a team of officers of various departments. Held important posts in State Government, both in Executive and Secretariat Branches. Associated with the organisation and setting up of Industrial Development Corporation in Tamil Nadu. Also, as Chairman and Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation, planned and set up several large Public Sector and Joint Sector Projects. Also held posts directly related to setting up and running of Medium and Small Scale Industries. Led delegations abroad for Industries Project Study and negotiations. As Secretary to Government (Industries) he was fully responsible for Industrial Policy, Planning and Promotion in Tamil Nadu. As Secretary to Government, Public Works

Department and Health and Family Planning, he dealt with framing of policies for Irrigation, Buildings and Roads and for Health and Family Welfare. As Chairman, Electricity Board, implemented Hydro and Thermal Projects and toned up the Power Grid in the State. As Secretary to Government in Labour Department, he was concerned with Industrial Relations, Labour Legislation and Labour Welfare. When Binny Limited was facing crisis and one of its textile mills was under closure—a private company with 20,000 employees—due to mismanagement and loss, he was deputed by State Government on the request of Government of India, State Bank of India and Industrial Development Bank of India, to reopen and set it right. During his tenure as Managing Director, Binny Limited, he was able to reopen the Mills and operate it successfully. He tackled the labour problems in the mills with ability and understanding. Chairman, State Bank of India and Industrial Development Bank of India who were the main financing institutions for Binny Limited complimented his work. His

tenure in Government of India in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport includes experience in Major Ports Management and Shipping. Policies and Programmes for Major Ports in the country including their development were dealt with by him. He participated in ESCAP PORT Development Seminar organised by the Port of Singapore Authority. As Joint Secretary (Shipping) he was in charge of framing of policies for National Shipping and Shipping Services related to the National needs of trade and commerce. Also he was associated with Shipping Financing, laying down of policies for Public Sector Shipping Companies including Shipping Corporation of India and assistance to private Shipping Companies. He also dealt with Bilateral Shipping Agreements between India and other countries and led delegations abroad for this purpose. He was a member of several bilateral Joint Commission delegations from India to several countries like U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia and Algeria. Attended Seminar on "The Implementation of Global Maritime Safety and Prevention of Marine Pollution"

organised by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO) in Malmo, Sweden. Participated in discussions in Yugoslavia, Algeria, U.S.S.R., U.K. and other places. Also attended course on Marine-based industries in U.S.S.R. He was a member of the following High Level National Committees :

- (1) National Committee on Coastal Shipping constituted by the Government of India, Ministry of Shipping and Transport.
- (2) Committee on Shipping Development in 1980s, constituted by Ministry of Shipping and Development.

Headed the committee on Maritime Malpractices (Padmanaban Committee)

He was associated with Union Public Service Commission, Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, State Trading Corporation and other organisations in selection of executives and top-level officers.

2. Organised detailed instructions and directions for issue to all the major ports in India to implement industrial regulations relating to prevention of pollution. He is on the panel of Experts with the World Bank dealing with pollution problems. Attending the World Bank Meetings in Washington for Projects and Programmes connected with Environment, Ecology, Nutrition and Irrigation Projects. He is registered with Foreign Assignment (U.N. Panel) with Government of India (Department of P & A. R.)

3. As Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration and Relief Commissioner in Tamil Nadu, he was in charge of preparation of Anti-Disaster Plans. This includes prevention, preparedness and rescue and relief

operations in times of drought, floods and other natural calamities. Successfully tackled the flood crisis in the State of Tamil Nadu in December, 1983 and February and March 1984. Earlier tackled the severe drought in the State in the middle of 1983. He was promoted as Vigilance Commissioner and Commissioner for Administrative Reforms in the status and grade of Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu with effect from 1-8-85. Later he was posted as Chief Secretary to Government and he is continuing in this post from 21-7-1986. As Chief Secretary, he has tackled Law and Order situation, Sri Lanka Militants' and other connected problems, Development programmes, etc. with understanding, ability and dedication. Considering his rich experience, efficiency and responsive and effective administration, he was given extension of service by Government of India for 2 terms of 6 months each i.e. upto 30-6-88. He has since been elevated to the post of Adviser of Governor.

4. He is a powerful writer and speaker. His books of Poems in English—'Rain-Drops' and 'Light a Candle'—and prose work 'Saint Nandanaar' have received universal praise and commendation from critics and writers in India and abroad. He has been conferred with Doctorate for his contributions.

Some of the important assignments held by him

1. Deputy Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Madras.
2. Secretary to Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Board of Revenue, Madras.
3. Collector of Salem District.
4. Director of Fisheries.
5. Chairman and Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (TIDCO).

6. Additional Secretary to Government in Industries Department.

7. Chairman & Managing Director, Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd. (SIDCO), Madras.

8. Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation Limited (TANSI)

9. Secretary to Government, Madras. (Public Works Department)

10. Chairman, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

11. Secretary to Government, Madras. (Health & Family Planning Department).

12. Secretary to Government, Madras. (Industries Department).

13. Secretary to Government, Madras. (Labour and Employment Department).

14. Managing Director and Chief Executive, Binny Limited, Madras.

15. Joint Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Shipping & Transport, New Delhi.

16. Chairman, State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd. (SIPCO) Madras.

17. Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration, Government of Tamil Nadu.

18. Vigilance Commissioner and Commissioner for Administrative Reforms in the grade and status of Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu.

19. Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu.

20. Adviser to Governor of Tamil Nadu.



Thiru M. M. RAJENDRAN. I.A.S.,

*Chief Secretary
to Government of Tamil Nadu*

Thiru M.M.Rajendran, I.A.S. born on 12th April, 1935 studied in Madras Christian College and passed B.Sc., (Hons) and M.A., in Physics with 1st class and 1st rank in the University; passed the Indian Foreign Service and I.A.S. Examinations in 1957 securing 2nd rank in the All India Competition and 1st rank in Tamil Nadu; joined the Tamil Nadu cadre of I.A.S., in May, 1957. As the youngest officer to be posted as Collector, he worked as Collector of Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli Districts for 4½ years from 1964-68. His work in providing relief to the victims of the Thanushkodi cyclone disaster of 1964 and for the all-round development of Tirunelveli District was notable. Closely associated with the industrial development of Tamil Nadu in capacities such as Labour Commissioner for over 3 years, Secretary to Government in the departments of Labour and Employment, Housing, Public Works, and Chairman of Tamil

Nadu Electricity Board. He has also worked as Secretary to Government in Social Welfare and Rural Development Department. From 1976, headed the Bureau of Nutrition and Child Development in the Government of India as Joint Secretary in the then Ministry of Education and Social Welfare. He had led the Indian delegation to the UNICEF Executive Board in 1977 and was elected as Vice-Chairman of Programme Committee of UNICEF. He was subsequently also Member of the UNICEF Executive Board. He was instrumental in obtaining World Bank assistance for the Tamil Nadu Nutrition Project.

Since June, 1981, on the invitation of UNICEF, he went on deputation as Senior Adviser in UNICEF in its head quarters in New York advising on all new policy development and played a key role in evolving a global nutrition programme jointly with the World Health Organisation

in 18 countries around the World.

Even though, UNICEF wanted to retain his services on a long term basis, he paid heed to the call of Government of India to join Government Service and joined the Government of Tamil Nadu as Vigilance Commissioner and Commissioner for Administrative Reforms in February, 1987 and subsequently promoted to the grade of Chief Secretary. As Vigilance Commissioner, besides the regular work of supervising the anti-corruption machinery in the State, he gave a new thrust to the concept of preventive vigilance to reduce opportunities for corruption in Government departments and State Government Undertakings and thereby achieving a clean and responsive administration. He has looked into the working of 23 major departments/undertakings and made concrete suggestions for preventive vigilance in them. The implementation of these suggestions is being followed up.



THE UNIVERSALISM OF THIRUKKURAL

K. APPADURAI

The illustrious Thirukkural of Thiruvalluvar is easily the best read Tamil work among the Tamils themselves: it also happens to be the best-known and the most oft-translated Tamil work. So far as we know, it has kept up this place of honour all along the history of the Tamils. For there is not a single literary work in Tamil from the days of the Tolkappiyam and the Sangam Classics to the national poems of Bharati and Bharatidasan of our own day, that has not paid its tribute to Thiruvalluvar either by direct praise or by quoting from him or by using his own characteristic words, phrases or ideas amidst their own as a mark of their appreciation of his inimitable splendour.

Thirukkural is better known to the world abroad than the language and the land of its birth, albeit in a manner confined to a limited circle of intellectuals all over the world. Despite the inadequacies and imperfections of many of its foreign translations, the all-conquering universality of its appeal is such that it has permeated every land and every age, every tongue and every creed, and has won unstinted tributes from even those whose knowledge of the Tamil language, literature or cultures is otherwise negligible.

Even under these circumstances, the great thinker of recent days, Alfred Schweitzer has remarked, while referring to this work, that it has been the leaven that continually inspired and embellished the evolution of religious thought in India all through the centuries from the age of the Vedas to that of Saint Ramakrishna and his great disciple, Swami Vivekananda, and Mahatma Gandhi and Poet Tagore.

One particular couplet of Thirukkural (55) has had an exceptional

influence on the thought and beliefs of the people in Tamil Nadu as well as in other parts of India, and abroad. The couplet seems to hint, or at any rate, has been taken to hint at a subtle connection between Karpu or Chastity of a woman and the fall of timely rain from the heavens. The same couplet also seems to talk of chaste woman as one who would not deign to pay homage to any other deity but her own lord. Both these ideas are repeated parrot-like throughout Tamil literature from the days of the Sangam. Vestiges of these beliefs are found in many places of India and South Eastern Asia, not to say of regions beyond. A veritable Creed of Chastity has left its mark on the rural folk in India, Ceylon and China.

The universalism and modernism of Thiruvalluvar's Thirukkural thus appear to be due really to its far-reaching, though silent influence over the evolution of religion and culture, thoughts and ideas of people in Tamil Nadu and India in particular

and of the wider world in general, in the course of ages.

Alfred Schweitzer reads the influence of Thiruvalluvar's thoughts and ideas in the evolution of India's religion and culture through the ages. However, as he accepted the age of Thiruvalluvar as the 2nd century A.D, following current ideas about the same, he had to postulate a theory of his own in order to account for and explain this influence, which according to him, began far earlier than the 2nd century A.D, in fact, began earlier than the Vedas. He concedes for this purpose that the maxims of Thiruvalluvar existed long before him, and were only codified by him in the literary form of Thirukkural as we see it.

We see the Sun only through the light that emanates from him. Had it not been for the casual phenomenon of darkness at night, and gradations of light and shade, variation of temperature even in daytime, we perhaps would not have been conscious of the fact that we are able to see the Sun only because of the light that he disseminates. This fact is in a great degree applicable to Thiruvalluvar—we often see Thiruvalluvar through the culture light that he himself has helped to throw around us.

Among the early eulogists of Thirukkural (collected for us in the Thiruvallva Malai, which is not later than the 9th century A.D.) one Madurai Tamil Naganar has chosen to call it an encyclopaedia.

'In this work, one can see everything ;
There is nothing it does not contain'

Scholars quite recently have sought to collect the ideas that form the background of Thiruvalluvar's mind and to see some individuality

or other among his conceptions. They have searched for his ideas on Ethics from the section on Aram, of politics from that on Porul, of Love from that on Inbam or Kamam. Some have gone deeper and tried to cull out some system from his ideas-through a study of individual chapter or even couplets on economics or agriculture, education, warfare, espionage etc. But these are possibly no more than literary studies, more or less like the studies of Shakespeare's dramas to elicit his ideas or knowledge of particular fields like medicine, law, statecraft

etc. But these are characteristic of the spirit of the times that is not satisfied with the verbal interpretation of the couplets, but wish to get into the mind of the great sage and understand his innate ideas and ideologies.

The hand of the time-spirit thus shows that it is high time to study Thirukkural as a whole and see what are Thiruvalluvar's innate ideas on the essentials of life, how far they have influenced the progress of human civilisation and guided it, and in what respects they are in advance of our age and can give us

light and guidance for the future.

Thirukkural, as many early eulogists of Thiruvalluvar claim and as Tamil traditions affirm, has long been considered as a Veda or Bible, and has often been called the Bible of the Tamils. It has also been styled as Podu Marai or the Bible of all Humanity.

If these claims are correct, it follows that the Kural is not mere ethic, not mere philosophy, but a full-blooded religious philosophy, that has a unique message to mankind covering all the requirements of man.

The Twenty-Point Programme-1986

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Attack on Rural Poverty | 11. Justice to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes |
| 2. Strategy for Rainfed Agriculture | 12. Equality for Women |
| 3. Better Use of Irrigation Water | 13. New Opportunities for Youth |
| 4. Bigger Harvests | 14. Housing for the People |
| 5. Enforcement of Land Reforms | 15. Improvement of Slums |
| 6. Special Programme for Rural Labour | 16. New Strategy for Forestry |
| 7. Clean Drinking Water | 17. Protection of the Environment |
| 8. Health for All | 18. Concern for the Consumer |
| 9. Two-Child Norm | 19. Energy for the Villages |
| 10. Expansion of Education | 20. A Responsive Administration |

The Twenty Point Programme in Detail

The war on poverty is our first priority. In the past five years, more than ten crore of our poor have been raised above the poverty line. Our goal is to remove poverty and create fuller employment.

The Twenty Point Programme is the cutting edge of the plan for the poor. The programme has been restructured in the light of our achievements and experience and the objectives of the Seventh Plan. The restructured programme renews our commitment to :

- eradicating poverty
- raising productivity
- reducing income inequalities
- removing social and economic disparities, and improving the quality of life.

1. ATTACK ON RURAL POVERTY

We shall :

Ensure that poverty alleviation programmes reach all the poor in every village ;

Dovetail wage employment programmes with programmes for area development and human resource development and create national and community assets like school buildings, roads, tanks and fuel and fodder reserves ;

Correlate the various rural development programmes to :

- Improve productivity and production
- expand rural employment
- Promote handlooms, handicrafts, village and small industries and improve skills for self-employment ;

Revitalise Panchayats, cooperatives and local bodies.

2. STRATEGY FOR RAIN-FED AGRICULTURE

We shall :

Improve the technology for conserving moisture and ensure better management of land and water resources ;

Develop and distribute appropriate and improved seeds ;

Reduce vulnerability to drought through suitable changes in drought-prone area and drought-relief programmes.

3. BETTER USE OF IRRIGATION WATER

We shall :

Develop the catchment areas and improve drainage in basins and deltas ;

Improve irrigation management in command areas ;

Prevent water logging, salinity and wasteful use ;

Coordinate the use of surface and ground water.

4. BIGGER HARVESTS

We shall :

Revolutionise rice production in the Eastern Region and other areas of low productivity ;

Achieve self-reliance in edible oils ;

Secure greater production of pulses ;

Intensify the cultivation of fruit and vegetables ;

Augment facilities for modern storage, processing and marketing of agricultural produce ;

Help livestock and dairy farmers to increase productivity ;

Develop fish farming and sea fishing.

5. ENFORCEMENT OF LAND REFORMS

We shall :

Complete compilation of land records ;

Implement agricultural land ceilings ;

Distribute surplus land to the landless.



6. SPECIAL PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL LABOUR

We shall :

Enforce minimum wages for unorganised labour in agriculture and in industry ;

Fully implement laws abolishing bonded labour ;

Involve voluntary agencies in programmes for the rehabilitation of bonded labour



7. CLEAN DRINKING WATER

We shall :

Provide safe water for all villages ;

Assist local communities to maintain the sources of such water supply in good condition ;

Pay special attention to water supply for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

8. HEALTH FOR ALL

We shall :

Improve the quality of primary health care ;

Fight leprosy, TB, malaria, goitre, blindness and other major diseases ;

Provide immunisation for all infants and children ;

Improve sanitation facilities in rural areas particularly for women ;

Pay special attention to programmes for the rehabilitation of the handicapped.

9. TWO CHILD NORM

We shall :

Bring about voluntary acceptance of the two-child norm ;
Promote responsible parenthood ;
Reduce infant mortality ;
Expand maternity and child care facilities

10. EXPANSION OF EDUCATION

We shall :

Universalise elementary education with special emphasis on girls' education ;
Improve the content of education at all levels ;

Promote non-formal education and



functional literacy programmes, including promotion of skills ;

Stimulate adult literacy programmes, with the participation of students and voluntary agencies ;

Emphasise national integration and social and moral values and instil pride in our heritage.

1. JUSTICE TO SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

We shall :

Ensure compliance with the constitutional provisions and laws for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ;

Ensure possession of land allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ;

Revitalise the land allotment programme ;

Organise and assist special coaching programmes to improve educational standards ;

Eradicate scavenging and undertake special programmes for the rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis ;

Provide better direction and adequate funds for the special component programmes ;

Pursue programmes for the fuller integration of Scheduled Castes and Tribes with the rest of society ;

Ensure the rehabilitation of tribals displaced from their habitat.

12. EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

We shall :

Raise the status of women ;
Enhance awareness of the problems of women ;

Create mass consciousness about women's rights ;

Implement a national programme of training and employment for women ;

Enable women to participate with equality in socio-economic development and nation-building ;

Rouse public opinion against dowry and ensure effective implementation of anti-dowry legislation.

13. NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

We shall :

Enlarge opportunities for youth in

sports, adventure and cultural activities;
Promote physical fitness ;

Involve youth on a massive scale in projects of national development such as :

- the cleaning of the Ganga
- the conservation and enrichment of the environment
- mass education.

Identify outstanding young persons in all fields to encourage and develop their talents ;

Involve youth in promoting national integration, cultural values, secularism and the scientific temper ;

Expand the network of Nehru Yuva Kendras ;

Strengthen the National Service Scheme and the National Cadet Corps ;

Encourage voluntary agencies working for the welfare of rural youth.

14. HOUSING FOR THE PEOPLE

We shall :

Make available house sites to the rural poor ;

Expand programmes of house construction ;

Lay special emphasis on construction of houses for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ;

Develop low cost building materials.

15. IMPROVEMENT OF SLUMS

We shall :

Restrict the growth of slums ;
Provide basic facilities in existing slum areas ;

Encourage planned house building in urban areas.

16. NEW STRATEGY FOR FORESTRY

We shall :

Grow more trees and raise more forest, with the full involvement of the people ;
Protect the traditional rights of tribal populations and local communities of access to limewood and forest produce ;



Reclaim wastelands for productive use ;

Plant appropriate vegetation in hill, desert and coastal areas.

17. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

We shall :

Enhance public awareness of the dangers of environmental degradation ;

Mobilise popular support for environmental protection ;

Promote recognition that enduring development demands preservation of the ecology ;

Ensure judicious site selection for projects and proper choice of technology.

18. CONCERN FOR THE CONSUMER

We shall :

Bring essential consumption goods within easy reach of the poor ;

Build a consumer protection movement ;

Restructure the distribution system so that subsidies reach the most needy ;

Strengthen the Public Distribution System.

19. ENERGY FOR THE VILLAGES

We shall :

Expand the supply of electricity for productive use in the villages ;

Develop alternative sources of energy, particularly bio-gas.

Promote integrated area specific programmes for rural energy.

20. A RESPONSIVE ADMINISTRATION

We shall :

Simplify procedures ;

Delegate authority ;

Enforce accountability ;

Evolve monitoring systems from block to national level ;

Attend promptly and sympathetically to public grievances.

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT OF TWENTY POINT PROGRAMME

Name of the District	TIRUCHIRAPALLI	District Code 09	Month	January 1988
Point	Item Name	Unit	Achievement during the month	(4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(4)
01A1	I.R.D.P (Old)	Numbers	1071	
01A2	I.R.D.P (New)	-do-	405	
01B	N.R.E.P	No. of mandays	2.07	
01C	R.L.E.G.P.	-do-	1.66	
01D	Small Scale Industries	Numbers	60	
05A	Surplus land distributed	Acres	6.02	
05B	Surplus land distributed Beneficiaries-Total	Numbers	9	
05C	-do- -do- SC/ST	-do-	4	
06	Bonded Labour Rehabilitated	-do-	—	
07A	Drinking Water villages covered	-do-	14	
07B	-do- Population covered	-do-	26400	
07C	-do- SC/ST Population covered	-do-	6100	
08D1	Immunisation of children-DPT	-do-	5794	
08D2	-do- Polio	-do-	3531	
08D3	-do- -BCG	-do-	5829	
09A	Sterilisation	-do-	1855	
11A	SC families assisted	-do-	2122	
11B	ST families assisted	-do-	89	
14A	Provision of house sites	-do-	3239	
14B	Construction assistance	-do-	—	
14D	EWS Housing	-do-	10	
14E	Houses constructed under LIG	-do-	—	
15	Slum Population to be covered	Number	—	
16	Tree planting	-do-	10,93,000	
19B	Pumpsets energised	-do-	1072	
19C	Improved chullas	-do-	200	
19D	Bio-gas plants	-do-	96	

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT OF TWENTY POINT PROGRAMME

Name of the District.	PERIYAR	District Code 08	Month	January 1988
Point	Item Name	Unit	Achievement during the month	(4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(4)
01A1	I.R.D.P. (Old)	Numbers	120	
01A2	I.R.D.P. (New)	-do-	133	
01B	N.R.E.P.	No. of mandays	119600	
01C	R.L.E.G.P.	-do-	37000	
01D	Small Scale Industries	Numbers	—	
05A	Surplus land distributed	Acres	—	
05B	Surplus land distributed : Beneficiaries-Total	Numbers	—	
05C	-do- -do- SC/ST	-do-	—	
06	Bonded Labour Rehabilitated	-do-	—	
07A	Drinking water villages covered	-do-	11	
07B	-do- Population covered	-do-	2285	
07C	-do- SC/ST Population covered	-do-	776	
08D1	Immunisation of children-DPT	-do-	2928	
08D2	-do- Polio	-do-	3304	
08D3	-do- BCG	-do-	NIL	
09A	Sterilisation	-do-	1320	
11A	SC families assisted	-do-	086	
11B	ST families assisted	-do-	—	
14A	Provision of house sites	-do-	1297	
14B	Construction assistance	-do-	—	
14D	EWS Housing	-do-	—	
14E	Houses constructed under LIG	-do-	81	
15	Slum Population to be covered	Number	1304	
16	Tree planting	-do-	55568	
19B	Pumpsets energised	-do-	736	
19C	Improved chullas	-do-	1100	
19D	Bio gas Plants	-do-	263	



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(An Undertaking of the Government of Tamilnadu)

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GRAMS : MINESALITE

20 Point Programme in the Corporation of Madras

The Corporation of Madras has made remarkable achievements in implementing the 20 Point Programme during 1986-1987.

Health for All

The Corporation's main aim is to improve sanitation. For the first time in its history, a conservancy Manual has been brought out which defines and earmarks the duties of the conservancy staff so that effective sanitation could be maintained. Over 9000 sanitary workers with a fleet of about 208 vehicles remove daily 2466 M.Ts. of garbage in the morning, afternoon and night keeping the City's 2772 K.M. of Roads clean. The Bell Cart Conservancy i.e. depositing garbage straight into the vehicle without throwing in the street bins as it comes ringing a bell has been successfully implemented in 100 localities. In order to avoid public defecating on road sides and pavements 98 children Public Conveniences, 839 free adult Public Conveniences and 92 paying Public Conveniences are maintained by the Corporation.



The Corporation runs 71 dispensaries, 2 Leprosy Clinics and 2 T.B. Clinics to improve the quality of the health of the economically weaker sections of the society. About 30,00,000 patients were treated in them during 1986-87. Due to Corporation's Anti-Malarial Programme like spraying, fogging and increasing the blood smear tests an overall reduction of 24% in the incidence of Malaria cases was noticed during 1986-87. Over six lakhs blood smears were taken and three rounds of D.D.T. residual spray was carried out in high incidence areas. The following statistics tell the marked reduction of Malaria cases compared to the previous year.

Year	Total smears	Positives	Reduction in the incidence of Malaria cases.
1985—86	4,89,441	49,574	24%
1986—87	6,06,743	37,938	

The Corporation of Madras runs 44 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres to provide immunisation for all infants and children. Immunisation performance during 1986-87.

	I dose	II dose	III dose	Booster.
1. Polio	27,687	24,887	31,885	13,656
2. D.P.T.	27,581	24,630	31,238	12,461
3. Measles	19,413			
4. B.C.G.	12,225			
5. T.T.(A.N.Mother)	26,559	28,159		
6. D.T.	6,095	5,155		
7. T.T. (10- years)	3,793	904		
8. T.T. (16 years)	1,473	314		
9. Cholera Inneculation	5,236			

Mass Immunisation Campaign against Measles :

During the period from 12-6-86 to 12-7-86 a mass Immunisation campaign was conducted. 102 Centres were opened and 11,616 Children were covered.

Two Children Norm

Through its 48 Urban Family Welfare Centres the Corporation of Madras strives to bring about voluntary acceptance of the two child norm. This is being done by Family Welfare advice, film shows, Mike announcements and orientation training camps for opinion leaders.

The targets and achievements for 1986-87 are as follows :

<i>Method</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Achievement</i>	<i>%</i>
Sterilisation	54,874	59,752	116.0
I .U.D.	50,000	68,610	157.2
Oral Pill user	7,372	6,500	88.1
Conventional contraceptive users.	12,567	14,667	116.7



Maternity and Child care is looked after by the Corporation's 44 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. 1/3 of the City's birth occur in Corporation Centres. A total number of 21,267 deliveries were conducted during 1986-87.

Total clinics conducted

<i>Nature of clinic</i>	<i>Number held</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Pre-Natal	5,597	34,913
Post Natal	2,056	14,066
Mother Craft	5,092	65,449
Well Baby	4,461	40,330
Group Talk	6,459	76,288

Expansion of Education

The Corporation of Madras maintained 362 Primary and Middle, 25 Secondary and 10 Higher Secondary



Schools during the year 1986-87. 1,90,811 pupils studied in them. Two school buildings with 9 class rooms were built at a cost of Rs. 9.91 lakhs. Dental check up camp was conducted and 30,000 children were covered. The Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meals Programme covers 1,66,172 pupils. The pupils also participated in an environment awareness training camp conducted by 'INTACH'. In the plus two public examination state firsts in Geography and Philosophy were from the Corporation Schools.

Protection of Environment :

In order to enhance public awareness of the dangers of environmental degradation and mobilise popular support for environmental protection the Corporation of Madras launched on a massive tree planting programme during 1986-87. A total number of more than 10,000 trees have been planted in various parts of the city including the premises of Educational Institutions and Government Offices. A special drive was also undertaken for planting trees in residential colonies. The residents were involved and they adopted trees in front of their houses.

With a view to involve the student community, special campaigns were organised in Educational Institutions and students were made to plant trees in their schools colleges and University campuses.

Public Sector Undertakings, Industrial Establishments, Voluntary Organisation etc. were also involved actively in the tree planting programme. A special tree guard has also been designed by the Corporation to protect the trees planted.

SPOTS FOR PILGRIMS AND TOURISTS

The sacred island of Rameswaram is some 100 miles from Madurai and Sri Lanka lies only 46 miles away on the other side of Palk Strait. This Silver of land separates the Bay of Bengal in the north from the Indian Ocean and the train ride to this out post of India offers some unique seascapes.

You will probably have company on your trip to Rameswaram. The island is one of the main goals of Hindu pilgrims who come here to pay tribute to Rama, that hero of the epic Ramayana, who came here in search of his wife, Sita. Rama is one of the ten incarnations of Vishnu and, to many pilgrims, Rameswaram is as holy as Varanasi...

Both you and the pilgrims will head straight for the Ramanathaswamy Temple, built on the site where Rama worshiped Siva in order to do penance for killing the ten-headed

demon king of Lanka. Rameswaram is so intimately linked with Rama that, to the Hindus every grain of its sand is considered sacred.

The Temple of Rameswaram is probably one of the most beautiful in all India in terms of sculpture. It rises above a lake as a vast rectangle about 1,000 feet along and 650 feet wide. It dates back to the 17th century although the process of building it took no less than three and a half centuries. The inspiration for its construction came from one of the princes of Sri Lanka.

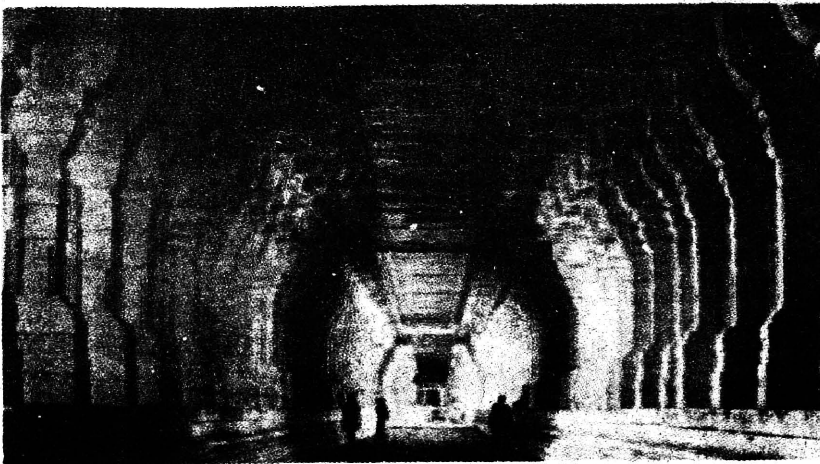
Here, you will find that tall gopuram as typical of Dravidian temples as the spire is of Gothic churches. But the corridors of the Rameswaram Temple are unique. They surround the rectangle, stretching out over a distance of 4,000 feet. Through occasional apertures, light filters into these corridors

and flits over the carved pillars lining every foot on both sides. Each pillar is an individual composition carved out of solid granite. But it is only one of an army, and the total effect of the two ranks standing watch on the sides of the corridors is quite overpowering. Leading authorities call this the most evolved of all Dravidian temples.

From Rameswaram, you return in to the main line of the Southern Railway and head back to Madurai. Dhanushkodi, at the tip of the island should be visited if time allows. It is a must for Hindus, as bathing at the spot where the Bay of Bengal meets the Indian Ocean is considered one of their most pious duties. It was once part of the railway system, but a huge storm destroyed the connecting line a number of years ago.

Cape Comorin (Kanya Kumari)

At Dhanushkodi, two seas meet, at Cape Comorin, the



southernmost part of India, the waters of three come together. At this point, which India calls Kanya Kumari, the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean can be taken in at a single glance. It was known to the ancients, too: Ptolemy called it (comaria akron) on his maps and Marco Polo knew it as (Comori.)

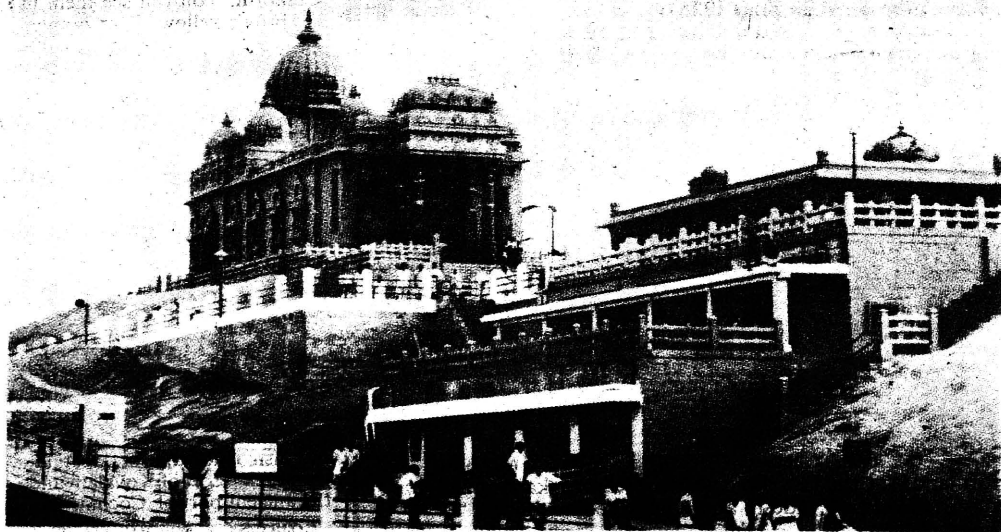
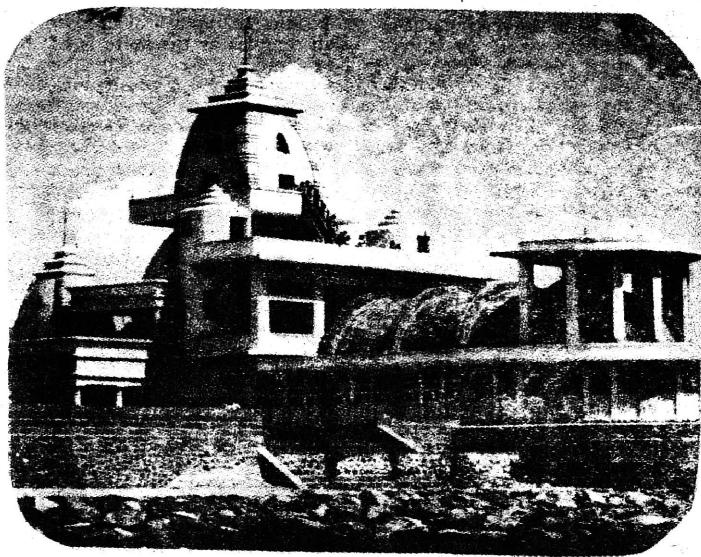
By road from Madurai to the cape is a good 120 miles or more, depending upon the number of side trips in which you decide to indulge. It's best to plan this excursion as a leisurely journey. Fortunately, it can be broken rather comfortably at Courtalam.

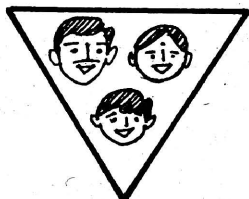
Courtalam lies in the Western Ghat mountain range and you probably will appreciate its revivifying climate after a trek through South India. Its main claims to fame are the 300-foot waterfalls of the Chittar River and, nearby, an interesting temple. The falls themselves have a local reputation as a spa—bathing in them is supposed to be good for both mind and body. With all these assets, Courtalam has developed into a pleasant resort. From here, it is a four-hour drive to Cape Comorin.

As you'll see on the map, though, there is no straight and

easy road south from Madurai to take in all points of interest on the way. Courtalam in 35 miles to the west of Tinnevely (or Tirunelveli) on the main highway. About the same distance to the east is Tuticorin, a seaport and a centre for pearl-diving. To the south east, also on the sea, is Tiruchendur with a temple on the seashore, dedicated to Subrahmanya.

Then, driven through this Tirunelveli district, believed to be one of the earliest centres of civilization in India (discoveries of prehistoric burial urns have been made here), you reach Cape Comorin. Here, the Western Ghats, which begin in Mysore run into the sea, leaving jagged rocks which make the Cape a danger point to shipping. It's a





FIRST PRIZE FOR THE THIRD TIME

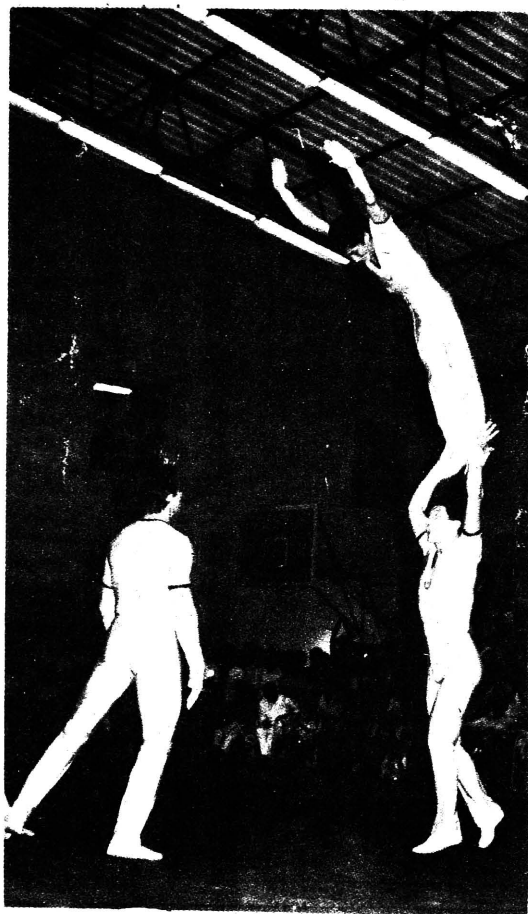
Tamil Nadu has been awarded the first prize of Rs. 2.5 crores for the best performance in the implementation of Family Welfare Programme under 'B' group states in 1986-87.

Union Minister of Health and Family Planning, Thiru Mothilal Vora, presented a bronze memento to Tamil Nadu Health and Family Welfare Department Commissioner Thiru N. Narayanan at the Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, held in Delhi.

Tamil Nadu achieved the birth rate of 24.8 which is second best in the country, next to Kerala which achieved the birth rate of 22.9. The State had obtained the first prize of Rs. 2.5 crores under 'B' group states for the best performance for the last three years. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa come under 'B' group states.

fantastic composition of sand, rocks and sea at the foot of green hills. According to a charming legend, this is where Siva married the goddess Parvati, daughter of King Himalaya. The seven varieties of rice thrown at the wedding were transformed for eternity into the seven coloured sands of Cape Comorin. You can see them in red brown, yellow, silver, orange, dark-blue and purple as they have been preserved by Varuna, God of the Sea. The Kanya Kumari Temple, erected on a promontory of the cape, is revered by Hindus. Offshore lie the two rocks where Vivekananda sat in meditation before he left for the United States. The Nagercoil wild life sanctuary is only a dozen miles northwest of Cape Comorin and, in turn, it is just a matter of minutes to drive from Nagercoil to Padmanabhapuram with its old fort and a palace in the shape of a pagoda. From here you can either return to Madurai or else continue up the Malabar coast, towards the lush landscape of Kerala, the beach resort of Kovalam and the ancient port of Cochin.

**COURTESY : POCOR'S GUIDE
TO INDIA**



Supple, Lissome and Rhythmic Sports Festival of USSR in India

"We have a common purpose—a common aim—to share a little love and care"

With these aims and purpose the Festival of India in USSR and the Festival of USSR in India are being celebrated from July 1987.

A cultural team from Bharathidasan University and a

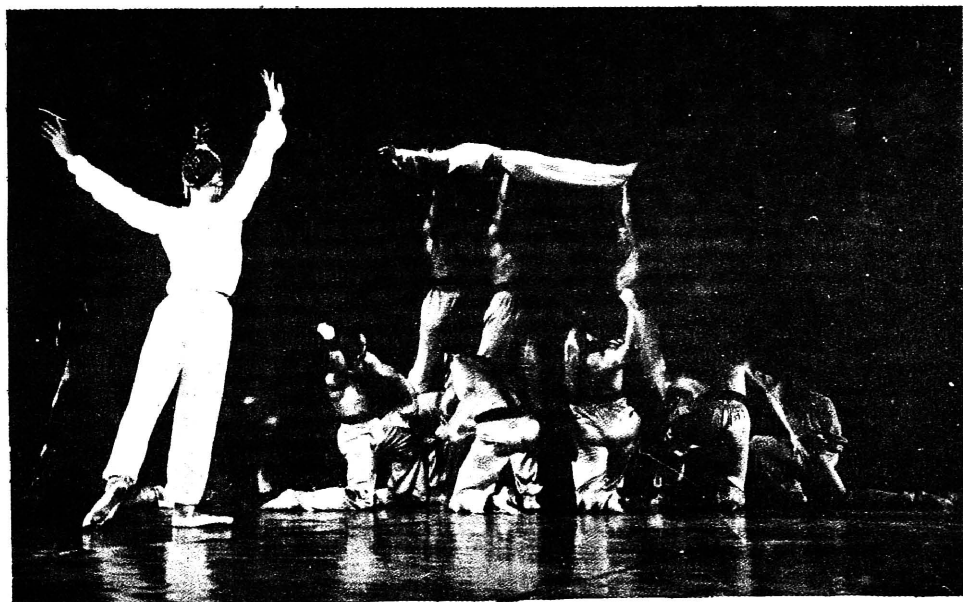
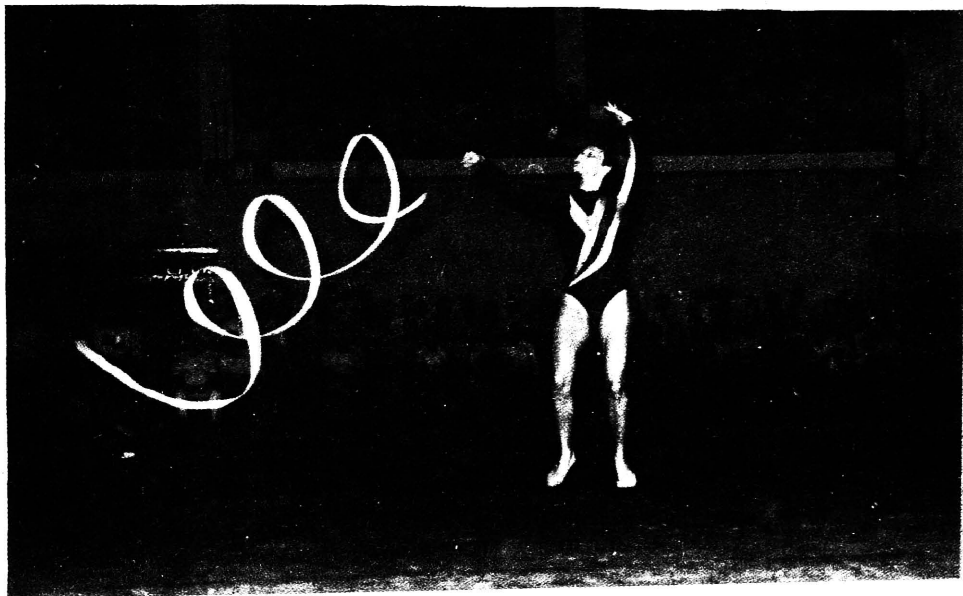
Silambam (Staff fencing) team from Tamil Nadu also displayed their modern and traditional cultures in USSR last year.

As an exchange the USSR teams are visiting India this year. Two teams comprising of 98 youths visited Tamil Nadu during the last week of December 1987.

A Sports team comprising of 37 members visited Madras in the last week of January 1988. They were given traditional welcome at the Madras Air port by the Commissioner of Sports and Youth Services, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Swinging with exhilaration, a packed crowd in the Madras University Union Indoor Stadium watched the Gymnastics acrobatics and Wrestling performance of the USSR team.

Individual and synchronized gymnastics, harmonious with rhythmic background, performed by supple blonds and blondes was not only sporting but also artistic and thrilling.



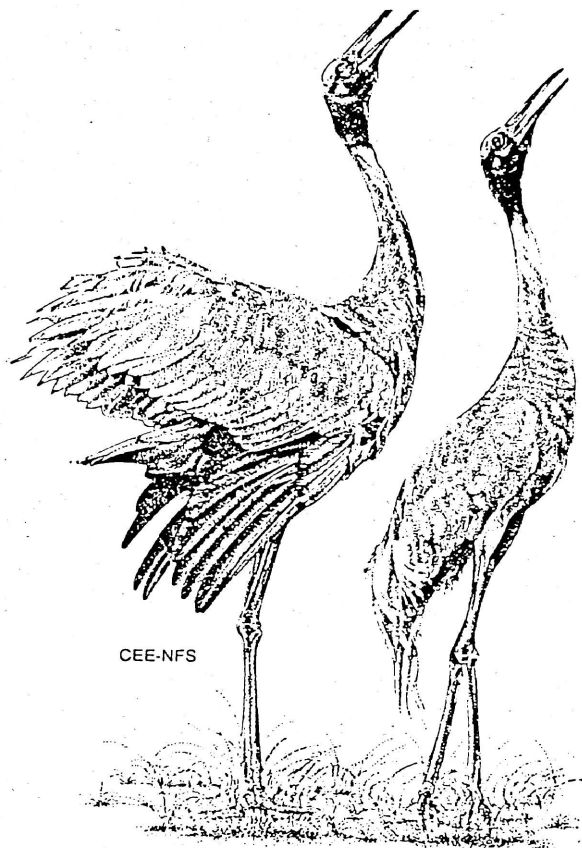
Hoops, rubber-balls, sticks, ribbons were also played along with their beautiful and lissome chores movements.

Sambo, a traditional

wrestling in USSR in which the wrestlers hold only the upper parts of the body above the waist depicted their marshal talents.

The goodwill building- dis-

play was arranged by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Services and the Tamil Nadu State Sports Development Corporation Ltd. on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.



CEE-NFS

THE STATELY SARUS

By

Lalsinh M. Raol.

The Sarus is the largest of all the birds found in India. It could easily reach up to your shoulders when standing. It is a serene and serious looking bird with a slow and dignified gait. Its voice is loud and sonorous, but at the same time sweet and pleasant to hear. Its flight is slow, with methodic, uniform wing beats. While flying, the neck is kept stretched forward and the legs backward. It generally does not fly very high from the ground.

Sarus usually move about in pairs. When with the young ones, they may also be seen in groups of three to four. In summer, four or five of them may congregate together, especially near water bodies.

The featherless head of the Sarus has the colour of ash. The upper portion of the neck is red. The legs are pink and the beak is tinged with green. The rest of the body is grey. The neck, legs and beak are long. When the wings are

closed, their feathers hang over the tail. Recent studies indicate that the red portion of the neck is shorter in the female. Otherwise, the male and female are alike.

Bonded for life :

There are only a few birds in India which tradition does not allow to be killed. The Sarus is one of them. There is a widespread belief that if one of a pair of Sarus is killed, the other dies a slow, lingering death pining for its lost partner. The male and the female have great affection for one another. Once they have paired, they stay together for a lifetime.

City dwellers may have a problem in recognising a Sarus, but to villagers it is a well-known bird.

The Sarus too is not shy of man. It lives on the ground itself where most of its food is found—mainly water, plants, grain, frogs and other living things. It even nests on the ground.

Usually it remains quiet while foraging for food, but if one of a pair begins to call, the other immediately responds and calls too. The Sarus also calls while flying.

Memorable sight :

With the rains, the breeding season of the Sarus begins. Even before summer, as a prelude to breeding, their graceful courtship commences. In suitable places a great many pairs of Sarus congregate. First the male, and then the female move forward in short leaps, holding their necks outstretched and high. As if bowing before the other in reverence, they lower their necks gently and then leap into the air. Then they prance after each other in circles. Their dancing ceremony is a

rare and filling sight. I once had the privilege to see such a performance on the banks of the Ajibandh lake in Rajkot. The sight has become firmly lodged in my memory.

The sun has sunk into the horizon, the shadows of evening are lengthening. With the

gentle blowing of the wind, silence and night are settling down. At this juncture, the Sarus pair calls in its bugle-like sonorous voice. How rapturous one feels at the sound! How serene is the sight of these magnificent birds flying away, close to the ground, into the evening horizon. There is no

doubt that the Sarus enhances the natural beauty of our farms, fields and water bodies.

(A translation from Lalsinh M. Raol's Gujarati book, published by the Centre for Environment Education.)

SANGAM TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

(Sambapathy Amman Temple)

This temple is located in a place called Sayavanam, which is in the Kaverippoompattinam region of Sirkali Taluk. This is dedicated to Mother Goddess called Sambapathy. This temple is referred to in Silappatikaram and Manimekalai. This is the only temple which survives today to stand as the best evidence for Sangam Temple Architecture.



The chemical analysis of the bricks of the temple, also confirm the date to 2nd century A.D. Inside the temple is present the Stucco image of the Goddess with heavy breasts and huge stomach. The temple has Gajaprishta Mandapa.

- A. Veluswamy Suthaathiran,
Dept. of Sculpture.

Source : Tamil University, News Bulletin.

MATSUO BASHO AND SUBRAMANIA BHARATI

Matsuo Basho (1643-94) is the founder of the Modern School of Poetry in Japan. Before Basho, the Haiku poets of Japan indulged mostly in word play. It was Basho who raised the dignity of haiku to a higher level. Basho considered himself as 'half priest half lay'.

There are many similarities between Basho of Japan and Subramania Bharati, the great poet of Tamilnadu. Bharati's poems had a philosophic meaning and his close association with Shri Aurobindo is well known.

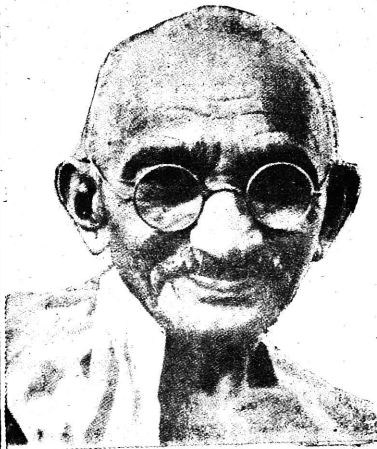
Basho and Bharati represent an ancient

literary tradition (twenty centuries in case of Tamil and sixteen centuries in case of Japanese). Apart from poetry they are pioneers in prose writing. They preserved the traditional culture during the most insecure times of civil war in Japan and independence struggle in India.

The translation of Bharati's poems into Japanese and Basho's works into Tamil is a must. A comparative study of Basho and Bharati is a need of the hour.

- R. Gopalakrishnan,

Source : Tamil University, News Bulletin.



Marriage by Purchase

THERE is no doubt that the custom (of dowry) is heartless. The system has to go. Marriage must cease to be a matter of arrangement made by parents for money. The system is intimately connected with caste. So long as the choice is restricted to a few hundred young men or young women of a particular caste, the system will persist no matter what is said against it. The girls or boys or their parents will have to break the bonds of caste, if the evil is to be eradicated. Then, the age for marrying has also to be raised and the girls have to dare to remain spinsters if need be, i.e., if they do not get a suitable match. All this

means education of a character that will revolutionize the mentality of the youth of the nation. Unfortunately, the system of education has no connection with our surroundings which, therefore, remain practically untouched by the education received by a microscopic minority of the boys and girls of the nation. Whilst, therefore, whatever can be done to abate the evil must be done, it is clear to me that this evil, and many others which can be named, can only be tackled if there is education which responds to the rapidly changing conditions of the country. How is it that so many boys and girls, who have even passed through colleges, are found unable or unwilling to resist the manifestly evil custom which affects their future so intimately as marriage does? Why should educated girls be found to commit suicide because they are not suited? Of what value is their education, if it does not enable them to dare to defy a custom which is wholly indefensible and repugnant to one's moral sense? The answer is clear. There is something radically wrong in the system of education that fails to arm girls and boys to fight against social or other evils. That education alone is of value which draws out the faculties of a student, so as to enable him or her to solve correctly the problems of life in every department.

The Role of Women
by
M. K. GANDHI.

Truth is immortal; error is mortal.

—MARY BAKER EDDY.

If you want to be free, there is but one way; It is to guarantee an equally full measure of liberty to all your neighbours. There is no other.

—CARL SCHURZ.

Mental slavery is mental death, and every man who has given up his intellectual freedom is the living coffin of his dead soul.

—ROBERT G. INGERSOLL.

The freedom to persuade and suggest is the essence of the democratic process.

—EDWARD L. BERNAYS.

Life is the continuous adjustment of internal relations to external relations.

—HERBERT SPENCER.

I Wrapper:

Swearing in of Dr. P.C.Alexander as the Governor of Tamil Nadu on 17th February, 1988.

IV Wrapper:.

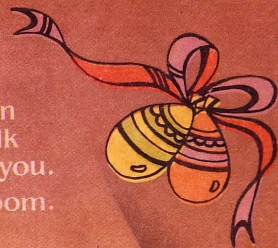
Rameswaram Temple.

Dr. M. G. RAMACHANDRAN **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu** **A Biographical Sketch**

The Biographical sketch that appeared under the above caption in the English edition of Tamil Arasu, January 1988, was the reproduction of the Bio-data approved by Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R, except the last paragraph and changes in the tense.

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Rameswaram Temple