

# Tamil Arasu

DECEMBER, 1988 Re. 1







**Elder Statesman RAJAJI**  
**Born 10-12-1878 Died 25-12-1972**



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# TAMIL ARASU

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## **Prompt and appropriate action on Petitions presented to Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi**

The Government of Tamil Nadu has initiated prompt action on several representations received by Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi during his tour of different districts of Tamil Nadu in recent months. The number of petitions and the nature of representations received by the Prime Minister and the action taken on them are given below:

The total number of petitions so far received by the Prime Minister in all his tours were 2,052, and the oral representations regarding individual grievances numbered 112. The Government has initiated action on 266 memoranda and settled the grievances of 65 persons.

The Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi has visited Tamil Nadu this year on April 22, June 18, August 4, October 2, October 24 and November 10. He visited most of the districts in Tamil Nadu during his visits which lasted 2 to 3 days. A number of new schemes and projects were launched during his tours. The Prime Minister halted at a number of villages and talked to people who had gathered there in huge numbers to see him. He put

several questions to the villagers to know the living conditions of rural people. The villagers voiced their grievances to the Prime Minister who at once directed the officials to take immediate action. Out of the 2,052 memoranda received by the Prime Minister action has been taken on 266 issues. In Thanjavur district, Adidravidas residing in Kakkan colony sought renovation of their houses. The District Collector of Thanjavur has been instructed to do this work in 1989 and complete the same in one year. Drinking water facilities, medical facilities and a veterinary hospital have been provided in Sikkal Panchayat following representations.

Similarly, water was released from Mettur reservoir following a plea from delta farmers of Bhavani. Most of the memoranda were in the nature of seeking provision of better civic amenities, medical facilities, irrigation, power, pension benefits, land pattas and waiving of loans and farm tax etc. The Government is examining the demands put forth in those memoranda, particularly the economic conditions of those who presented them.



Decisions are being taken on a priority basis to settle them.

### Medical Aid

A number of persons are given free medical assistance and monetary aid for treatment of thier serious ailments from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

In Tirunelveli district, one Thiru Mohideen of Sankaran koil was given Rs. 15,000 for the treatment of his son who suffered a paralytic stroke. Similarly, in Ambasamudram Rs. 15,000 was given to Bakhir Mehta for fixing artificial limbs for his child. Arrangements have been made for providing a wheel-chair and tri-cycle to

### Pension and Land Patta

Old age pension has been granted to Tmt Kannimanga of Salem, Tmt. Rahoormath Bevi of Tiruchi district and Tmt. Ramayee, a blind woman of Pasumpon Muthuramalingam District. House patta and loan facilities have been provided to Tmt. Siniamma of Anna district and land patta for 5 hectare has been given to Tmt. P. Janaki of Pasumpon district.

The Adi Dravida Welfare Department has assured help to one Thiru M. Sadasivam of Mettupalayam, Salem district, to appear for the I.A.S. examination. From the Prime Minister's Relief Fund a sum of Rs. 2,000 has



Kothandan, a 13year old boy studying in Tirupattur High School and Kadirbhasha of Madurantakam. In Madurai district, Thiru Pandi, a handicapped person has been given a tri-cycle and free bus pass. Free eye operation was conducted on a blind girl in Salem and her eye sight was restored. Thiru. Shanmugam, a cancer patient who suffered a stroke, Thiru Periasamy, the children of Thangam, Tmt. Pavaí of Salem district have received free medical treatment.

been granted to Thiru Sangili Karuppan of Madurai for educating his child.

### Ration cards To Narikorava Families

In Pudukottai a little girl Christie Rosalin voiced her family's grievances to the Prime Minister and sought a job for her mother Tmt. Shantha. On humanitarian grounds, Tmt. Shantha, was appointed as a junior Assistant in the Police department. Thiru Duraisamy of Salem and Thiru Sakkan of Dharmapuri District were granted loans under the self-employment schemes. 146 Narikorava families of Asoor village in Tiruchi have been given ration cards.

Land has also been allotted in Maraimalai nagar on the out-skirts of the Madras city for the construction of a bus-stand, a departmental store and a children's park following representations of people.

"I feel that you have been given a challenge as well as offered a tribute; and it is the challenge that will transmute and transfigure all your noblest qualities into dynamic force, courage and vision and wisdom. I have no fear in my faith."

— Sarojini Naidu

(In 1929, when she wrote to Mr Nehru on his election as Congress president.)





## Five Day Celebration for Nehru Centenary

The Tamil Nadu Government celebrated the birth centenary of Jawaharlal Nehru for five days from 14th November to 18th November 1988. His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. P.C. Alexander inaugurated the celebrations on 14th November '88 at Kalaivanar Arangam. He also opened a Photo Exhibition, organised by the Information Department. A meeting, was later addressed by Thiru M.P. Sivagnanam, Chairman of the High Level Committee for Tamil Development and others.

In the morning the Governor Dr. P.C. Alexander, the Adviser to the Governor Thiru G.V. Ramakrishna, I.A.S., and the Chief Secretary to Government Thiru M.M. Rajendran, I.A.S. garlanded the statue of Jawaharlal Nehru at Kathipara Junction near Air-port, Madras. The Chief Secretary inaugurated a "Children's Film Festival" at Kalaivanar Arangam. Seminars and public meetings were also held on 14th November '88 in all District Head-quarters to mark the inauguration of the year long-centenary of the Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. At a function held on 14th November '88 in Madras, to mark the commencement of the birth centenary of the Late Prime Minister, the Governor recalled the contribution of Jawaharlal Nehru towards building a modern India.

He said one of the lasting images of the late Prime Minister was that the utmost respect he had for the views of everyone in his party and also outside. Nehru always paid attention to the opinion of others.

**Nehru—a great intellectual and a versatile genius**

The people of his generation carried an indelible impression of Nehru, who had hurried himself into the freedom struggle without bothering the consequences. He was imbued with fiery nationalism and fierce patriotism. He had the courage to challenge even the mighty empire.

The Governor described Nehru as a great intellectual, who combined the best of ancient cultural heritage with modern education and refinement, a great orator whose two speeches—One, his Independence Day speech and the other, when Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated would go down in history as two of the greatest speeches ever. Nehru's books had become classics in English Literature which prompted Mr. John Gunther to rank Nehru as one among the best six writers of his generation. He handled the foreign relations in a masterly manner he was the only person in South Block, New Delhi, who knew all the nuances of foreign policy. He was a man of impeccable integrity and a perfect gentlemen, who knew no intrigue. The Governor said "We should be thankful that a person of his eminence, integrity and character was at the helm of affairs at the most crucial period of our Country." Nehru was one among those persons in history who were vested with the responsibility of making a nation. Nehru was one of the most successful administrators.

Thiru M. P. Sivagnanam, Chairman of the High Level Com-

mittee for Tamil Development said it was Nehru, who started the Ceylon Indian Congress and the Malay Indian Congress for the Welfare of Tamils in Sri Lanka and Malaysia. Dr. H.V. Hande, former Minister said "if we are breathing fresh air of democracy in India, we are indebted to Nehru." Thiru T. Chengalvarayan, Ex-M.P. Thiru O. V. Alagesan, former Union Minister, Thiru K. Sankar (BJP), Thiru S.K. Tamilarasan (RPI), Thiru A.K.A. Abdul Samad (IUMI) also spoke on the occasion.

Thiru C.N. Ramdoss, I.A.S., Special Commissioner and Secretary, Information and Tourism Department who welcomed the gathering earlier, described Nehru as a visionary and a humanist.

Thiru C. N. Krishnabharathi, I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations proposed a vote of thanks.

### Children's Film Festival

Five short films—one in Tamil 'Engalaiyum Vazhavidungal' produced by the Tamilnadu Films Division and four Soviet films—were shown to children of various schools. The Chief Secretary, who inaugurated it on 14th November at Kalaivanar Arangam, said that despite increase in the number of films produced, Children's films were very few now. He said cinema, being a powerful medium, films with good themes and also reflecting the culture and tradition of Tamil Nadu should be produced to enrich the knowledge of the children and to mould their character.

Dr. H.B.N.Shetty, I.A.S., Education Secretary presided over the function. He said films exerted a great influence on children. As such there was need to produce films with social themes. Thiru K. Nachimuthu, Director of Primary School Education Thiru K. Gopalan Director of School Education and Thiru S. Subramaniam Director of Collegiate Education participated in the function.

#### Colourful rally by Children

A mass rally by students at the University indoor Stadium at Chetput was held on 15th November. The Governor Dr. P.C. Alexander inaugurated the rally and Tmt. Ackamma Alexander gave away the prizes to winners in the various competitions held in connection with the Centenary. The children demonstrated their skill and co-ordination while executing various kinds of drills.

Among those who witnessed the rally were the Special Officer of the Madras Corporation Thiru L.M. Menezes, I.A.S., the Corporation Commissioner Thiru R. Varadarajulu I.A.S., the City Police Commissioner Thiru P. Dorai, I.P.S., and the Collector of Madras Thiru Jorsingh Syiem, I.A.S.,

A seminar on "Nehru, an embodiment of matchless traits" was held on November 16th and 17th. The sacrifices made by Pandit Nehru for the country were quoted by participants. On 16th November, Thiru Rathnavelpandian, Officiating Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, who presided said that his patriotism, humanism, vital role in the freedom movement, passion to Champion the cause of international peace, and finally his desire to modernise our country had no parallel.

Dr. Devendrakumar Gupta, Vice-Chancellor of Gandhigram University said that Nehru was very keen to remove economic inequalities and infact he wanted to build a new society. Nehru also had shown keen interest on using science and technology.

Tmt. Lalitha Kameswaran, Vice-Chancellor of the M.G.R. Medical University in her inaugural address, said that Nehru was a true architect of India and laid strong emphasis on economic freedom.

Thiru V. Sundaram, I.A.S. Rural Development Secretary said that Nehru was a statesman, man of compassion, a democrat, an orator, a writer and an historian. He had

left his imprints practically on all walks of life in India. Dr. S. Vijayalakshmi, said that Nehru was a multifaceted personality and laid the foundation for the twenty first Century.

Thiru D. Anjaneyalu, President of the Madras Press Club said that Nehru was a leader of world stature and further described him as a great nation builder.

At a seminar held on 17th November 1988 Professor P. Sivalingam, Dr.A.Gnanam, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, Dr.Rajammal Devadoss, Vice-Chancellor, Avinashilingam Home Science College, Coimbatore, Dr.Subramaniam Director of Collegiate Education and Professor Hamsa Priya participated.

The last day-18th November '88, the Nehru birthday celebration was celebrated as Women's Day. Tmt. Sheela Rani Sunkath, I.A.S. Director of Social Welfare welcomed the gathering. Tmt.Maragatham Chandrasekar made the inaugural address and Tmt.Sarojini Varadappan presided over the function. At the end of the function, Tmt. Girija Vaidyanathan Additional Director of Social Welfare proposed a vote of thanks.




His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr. P.C. Alexander addressing the audience in the National Integration Week Celebrations held at Kalai-varan Arangam on 19-11-88 to mark the birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi. Dr. M.P. Sivagnanam, Chairman of the High Level Committee for Tamil Development, Thiru M.M. Rajendran I.A.S., the Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. Vyjayanthimala Bali M.P., Thiru T. Chengalvaroyan Ex. M.P., Thiru R. Gandhi President High Court Advocate's Association participated in the function



# National Integration Pledge

I solemnly pledge to work with dedication to preserve and strengthen the freedom and integrity of the nation.

I further affirm that I shall never resort to violence and that I will continue to endeavour towards settlement of all differences and disputes relating to religion, language, region or other political or economic grievances by peaceful and constitutional means.



His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. P. C. Alexander administered the Pledge. Advisers to the Governor, the Chief Secretary to Government, and Secretariat officials took National Integration Pledge on 18th November '88 Friday evening at 5.15 p.m. at Fort St. George, Military Grounds, Madras on the eve of the National Integration Day, celebrated on 19th November '88, the birthday of Late Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi.





## Prime Minister Launches Perspective Plan for Women

Addressing a seminar on "Perspective Plan for Women" held at Kancheepuram on 12th November 1988 the Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi said had the Government delayed its implementation, it would have led to endless debates and postponement indefinitely. He said that in all welfare schemes the implementation process was very important.

He said that the Government was very keen to implement the programme for the development of women and therefore added this plan should be quickly undertaken for the uplift and welfare of women. Not much time therefore be wasted, the Prime Minister, dwelt at length, otherwise our culture would be threatened and the country would not be able to move ahead".

The Prime Minister said that women were the weakest among the weaker sections and discriminated in upper classes too. Necessary support and assistance therefore must be given to this group.

The core group which has been set up by the Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resources

Development on the national perspective plan for women, has recommended that all political parties must be urged to ensure that atleast 30 percent of the candidates fielded for elections were women. It has also examined the several aspects of women development like employment and training, education, health and family welfare, political participation and decision making.

A group under the auspices of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, discussed various issues raised in the plan and gave its recommendations. When the Government brought out the plan there was a controversy among some groups. Therefore, the Prime Minister asserted that we came out to show it to you' so that we can start implementing it quickly.

The report also wanted a large number of women to be appointed to the judiciary, besides a large number of women for police stations.

Further for implementation of this new policy, it said, there should be a women's unit in the planning commission to re-define categories of data collection

for women, and identify the gaps in the data collection, to give directions.

It also recommended the setting up of a national resources centre for women for translating the national development needs of women into a systematic grid of programmes and schemes.

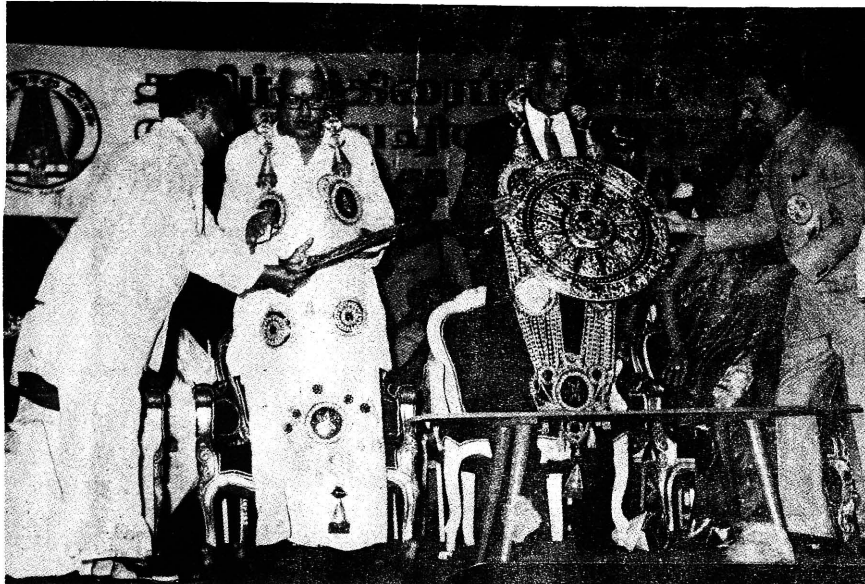
The significance of the above report was under scored by the Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi, when he said that this was the first time that a document like this has been produced and he also remarked that this is only the beginning.

The Prime Minister also said that the plan would be placed before the Cabinet and laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament during the current session.

He said that the Government was ready to accept suggestions, new ideas and Corrections to the national perspective plan for women (1988-2000 AD)

The union Minister of State for sports Tmt. Margaret Alva also addressed the seminar.

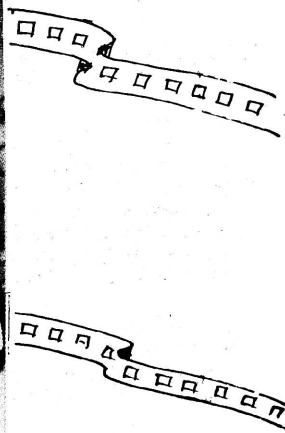


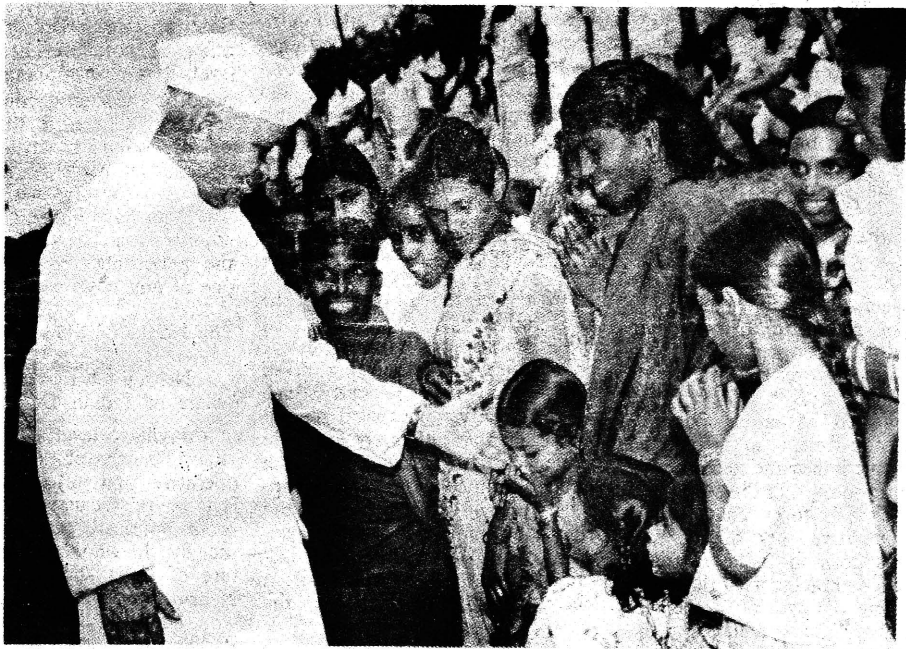


*Tamil  
Film Festival  
Function  
at  
Trivandrum*

**FIRST COVER**

The Tamil Film Festival at Trivandrum was inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. P. C. Alexander on 13-11-88. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Thiru E. K. Nayanar presided over the function. Tmt. Akkamma Alexander, wife of the Governor lighted a Kuthuvilakku. The Film Festival was held at Trivandrum from 13th to 19th of November 1988. A special brochure was brought out to commemorate the occasion. 32 Tamil films were screened in various cinema theatres at Trivandrum.





# NEHRUJI *ON* *Co-operative Movement*

"By whatever way we look at this problem, we are driven to the conclusion that our future lies in a co-operative approach. The essential characteristic of a co-operative is its close contact, social cohesion and mutual obligation. That is very vital to the structure in our rural societies".

So said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who had been much attracted towards the co-operative movement, which he wanted to become a people's movement. He was mainly drawn towards the philosophy and the social purpose underlining this movement. India in those days had been completely absorbed in the political freedom through freedom movement and Nehruji's whole concern was to find out ways and means to sustain a country and its people as large as India with its huge population dimension. Nehruji's vision was that a political freedom alone is not enough but a

Tmt. Jaya Arunachalam

few follow up with movements with social content, aiming to achieve a full economic freedom as well, are needed to sustain the hard earned freedom.

#### **Safeguard—Democratic Values :**

To Nehru, therefore, co-operative ideology was the only development ideology having tendencies to bring about equality of opportunities among people, reducing the tremendous disparities and the resultant tensions that existed among the various groups of people then. Also, he envisaged that movements have to have the intervention of State too but with less curbs on the individual freedom, democratic values being the major incentives and major components in such social movements.

To him, the co-operative movement is a method of approach,

aiming at a social pattern to maintain a balance between preserving individual freedom, despite State control.

#### **The birth of an Ideology :**

Besides this, during the freedom struggle, many of our founding fathers of freedom also have been attracted towards this idea as an ideology for their future democracy, but it took a long time for them to conceptualize the same. Formulated then as feeble idea with a flimsy concept, it had many inadequacies to be put in the four corners of a definition immediately and therefore took both time and effort to formulate into action although it had all the social contents to satisfy the urges of our national leaders. This philosophy was solely sought as a social advancement towards social equality and equal opportunities for the exploited people.



ple of India, especially removing the caste and class distinctions which came in the way of such noble ideologies. At the same time, efforts were also made to achieve all these by peaceful action in terms of what is described in Gandhiji's words "by non-violent means."

### Co-operatives for Peace :

While many other countries have developed various other philosophies of action to their freedom struggles, India opted a peaceful path of action even to achieve its revolutionary ends. Not only we have followed Mahatma Gandhi's vision of non-violence in the political struggle but it became necessary to follow him so even in the social and economic fields too. That is how the co-operative way of life and work was born in India too as a movement embracing itself the entire country and the lives of the people. This ideology had its mention in the Draft Constitution of India too as a policy for our various activities.

### Co-operatives and Modern Technologies :

While there is a need for big industries and large-scale industrialisation, Nehruji felt, it is equally necessary to have small basic industries to make our backward section of communities to reap the full benefits of modern science. Nehruji thought that these thoughts and actions became imperative and essential without which Indian people would remain backward for ever. If a country of poorer people had to escape from large scale ownership by a few individuals or groups, there is no other way than to adopt this co-operative ideology and system thus filling the gap between small and big modern technologies.

### Co-operatives and the State Control:

As a live and dynamic movement, Nehruji felt that co-operative system has its own problems and weaknesses, the exception being that it becomes in some places as units run by government officials. Such attempts fail to promote leadership or community participation. Nehruji felt that such a situation does more infinite harm to the society in the

sense as it provides very little opportunity for the people to learn things by doing for themselves or to develop the spirit of self-reliance and self-dependence. He felt in this connection it is even better to make mistakes if they want to make mistakes and learn from the hard lessons.

### Co-operatives and Rural Population:

With reference to the size of the co-operatives, Nehruji always felt that it is not very ideal to encourage large co-operatives shutting down small initiatives. He said "Such big co-operatives may yield temporary results that ultimately end up in permanent harms. Such approach becomes a blockade to the development spirit of self-dependence and self-reliance and the sense to co-operate with one another but, instead, encourage something of a dependency to look up to the



government for everything which is very undesirable for a vast country like India. It is true that government must help co-operatives but such an assistance should be in the form of promotion of self-dependence and self-reliance but not to boss over them, as the attitude of bossing over differs from extending assistance."

### Why did Nehruji argue for small co-operatives ?

The bigger a co-operative becomes, less people know one another within that movement in a given area. Eventually, it ceases to be an organization which needs the support of one another on a one-to-one basis. It may be different and matters very little in an urban situa-

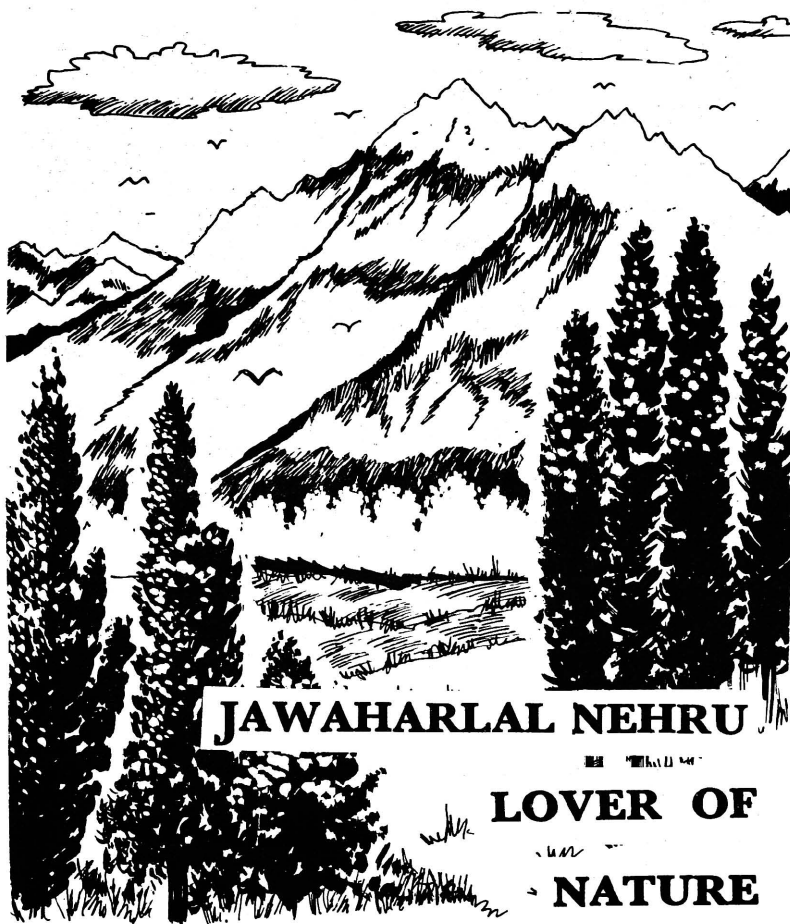
tion whether people know each other or not. But at the village level, it is always a must and it is good to know each other and work together. Therefore, the village co-operatives must be small and conducive and if need be, it can cover even two or three nearby villages. They can have linkages with bigger co-operatives but the basic unit at the grassroots should be a small one at any cost.

### The Pillars of Indian Democracy :

Nehruji felt that the three basic pillars of Indian Democracy right at the village level should be : (a) village panchayat, (b) village co-operative and (c) village school. It is on this structure at the grassroots, politically, economically and socially, the whole democratic structure of India should be built up. Nehruji was averse to the fact that we as elite always think at a level of a Parliament as the only body that controls the destinies of Indian people. But Parliament in a democratic system cannot float in a thin air without strong foundation, which in India inevitably lies in the villages. That is why the *village panchayat*, the *village co-operative* and the *village school* are very important according to Panditji.

### Co-operatives and Concept of Ownership :

In co-operatives, we have to go by policies and not by individuals or groups. Party politics in a co-operative system should not confuse the poor villagers. The door should be open for the fullest co-operation for every individual who believes in the collective survival at the grassroots through collective effort and wisdom. Nehruji observes "Whole concept of ownership changes in favour of benefits in a co-operative system and a genuine society of individuals is always ready to revise their ideas about these forms of ownership. They are never afraid of such radical ideas. They rather welcome it as it helps to achieve many of the objectives that solve the common problem of the country quickly." Co-operatives offer an institutional term for our development, especially to make the people in rural areas self-reliant working together, build the agrarian, economy in our villages.



## JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

### LOVER OF NATURE

Jawaharlal Nehru dominated the Indian political scene for over five decades. His intense political involvement and passionate commitment to the progress of humanity—India's in particular have formed the central theme for his writings. It is redundant to say that he, together with Gandhi and a few others shaped the ideologies of the freedom movement and in no small measure directed the social and political evolution of free India by his speeches and his writings. His overwhelming pre-occupation with politics and statesmanship did not however blunt his aesthetic sense, nor dull his appreciation of nature. We find his writings full of references to the beauty of mountains, lakes, the skies, the seas. Even while describing the stirrings of human beings

Selvi R. RAJALAKSHMI BHARATHI

for a better life, he uses the imagery of the lofty Himalayas and the gushing Ganges. His prose is ever richer in vivid phrases which delight the reader with rapid sketches of the panorama of nature.

His writings contain allusions to nature rich in imagery and style to the extent of being poetic. His rise of imagery and metaphor seem to be illustrative of the subjective than objective type. Natural phenomena appear with this quality even where the metaphor is used.

"The river of life is never still; it flows on and sometimes, as now,



it rushes forward, pitilessly, with a demon energy, ignoring our little wills and desires, making cruel work of our pithy selves, and tossing us around like straws on its turbulent waters, rushing on and on no one knows whether to a great precipice which will shatter it into a thousand bits, on to the vast and inscrutable, stately and calm, ever changing and yet changeless sea." (glimpses of world history—A final look round the world). His strong reactions to the emerging spectacle of an inexorable destiny in the mid-thirties of the century are thus profoundly echoed in this rich imagery of the "river of life."

"Lying there in the open, I watched the skies and the clouds and I realised, better than I had ever done before, how amazingly" beautiful were their changing hues.

"To watch the changing clouds,  
like clime in clime;  
Oh! sweet to lie and bless the  
luxury of time."

In goal there were no sunrise or sunsets to be seen, the horizon was hidden from us, and late in the morning the hot-rayed sun emerged over our guardian walls. There were no colours anywhere, and our eyes hardened and grew dull at seeing always that same drab view of mud-coloured well and barrack. They must have hungered for some light and shade and colouring, and when the monsoon clouds sailed gaily by, assuming fantastic shapes, and playing in a riot of colour, I gasped in surprised delight and watched them almost as if I was in a trance. Sometimes the clouds would break, and one saw through



an opening in them that wonderful monsoon phenomenon, a dark blue of an amazing depth, which seemed to be a portion of infinity.

In the daytime that wall even encroached on the sky and only allowed a glimpse of a narrow-bounded portion. With a wistful eye I looked

"Upon that little tent of blue which prisoners call the sky, And at every drifting cloud that went with sails of silver by."

Prison life sharpened his appreciation of the stars.

"I used to get up very early in the morning, about four, or even half-past three, when it was quite dark. Partly this was due to going to bed early, as the light provided was not good for much reading. I liked to watch the stars, and the position of some well-known constellation would give me the approximate time. From where I lay I could just see the Pole Star peeping over the wall, and as it was always there, I found it extraordinarily comforting. Surrounded by a revolving sky, it seemed to be a symbol of cheerful constancy and perseverance.

Only a prisoner who has been confined for long behind high walls can appreciate the extraordinary psychological value of these outside walks and open views. I loved these outings, and I did not give them up even during the monsoon, when the rain came down for days in torrents and I had to walk in ankle-deep of water. I would have welcomed the outing in any place, but the sight of the towering Himalayas near by was an added joy which went a long way to removing the weariness of prison. It was my good fortune that during the long period when I had no interviews and when for many months I was quite alone, I could gaze at these mountains that I loved. I could not see the mountains from my cell, but my mind was full of them and I was ever conscious of their nearness, and a secret intimacy seemed to grow between us.

"Flocks of birds have flown high  
12



and away;  
A solitary drift of cloud, too, has  
gone, wandering on  
And I sit alone with Ching-thing  
Peak, towering beyond  
We never grow tired of each other,  
the mountain and I."

I am afraid I cannot say with the poet, Li Tai Po, that I never grew weary, even of the mountain; but that was a rare experience, and, as a rule, I found great comfort in its proximity. Its solidity and imperturbability looked down upon me with the wisdom of a million years, and mocked at my varying humours and soothed my fevered mind.

Jawaharlal Nehru, though he frequently turned to nature as if as a

refuge from the maddening world of politics, yet found repeated affirmation of life in the simple process of nature, watching the spring he writes.

"Spring was very pleasant in Dehra, and it was a far longer one than in the plains below. The winter had denuded almost all trees of their leaves, and they stood naked and bare. Even four magnificent peepal trees, which stood in front of the gaol gate, much to my surprise, dropped nearly all their leaves. Gaunt and cheerless they stood there, till the spring air warmed them up again and sent a message of life to their innermost cells. Suddenly there was a stir both in the peepals and the other trees, and an air of mystery surrounded them

**Gandhiji** :—"He is as pure as crystal; he is truthful beyond suspicion. He is a knight sans peur, sans reproche. The nation is safe in his hands." (1929)

**Dr. Rajendra Prasad** :—"Here is a man the like of whom treads this earth but rarely and only in a crisis. He has been born and has lived in a critical period in India's history, and has played his part nobly and well." (October, 1959)

**Sardar Patel** :—"Mahatma Gandhi had chosen Pandit Nehru as his political heir and it is gratifying to see that the choice fell on the right person."

(November, 1948)

as of secret operations going on behind the scenes; and I would be startled to find little bits of green peeping out all over them. It was a gay and cheering sight. And then, very rapidly, the leaves would come out in their millions and glisten in the sunlight and play about in the breeze. How wonderful is the sudden change from bud to leaf."

"I had never noticed before that fresh mango leaves are reddish-brown, russet coloured, remarkably like the autumn tints on the Kashmir hills. But they change colour soon and become green."

Repeatedly Jawaharlal Nehru appears to turn to the mountains which appeal to symbolize the very strength and stability of the nation he loved.

"But the night with its chill and inhospitable message was yet distant as we motored along to Almora. As we neared the end of our journey, a turn in the road and a sudden lifting of the clouds brought a new sight which I saw with a gasp of surprised delight. The snowy peaks of the Himalayas stood glistening in the far distance, high above the wooded mountains that intervene. Calm and inscrutable they seemed, with all the wisdom of past ages, mighty sentinels over the vast Indian plain. The very sight of them cooled the fever in the brain, of the plains and the cities seemed trivial and far away before their eternal ways.

Nehru was a lover of nature, of its beauties, of its even changing facets in every season and every mood. But the rich imagery which lent such force to his style emerged mostly from his personal observation—a finely honed aesthetic sense, rather than a unified version of nature. The descriptive passages in his writings give overwhelming evidence of the man's appreciation of the forces of nature, of nature's overpresent affirmations of life but not that of a mystic who sees life and nature as a whole. The green pastures, snow covered peaks, turbulent seas, the ganges starting as a small stream containing as a dancing ebullient river and coming down torrentially to the plains in all



majesty, the monsoon affirming life time and again, all these appear to be the backdrop, so to speak for humanity. To quote from his autobiography 'Not for most of us, unhappily to sense the mysterious life of nature, to bear her whisper close to our ears, to thrill and quiver at her touch. Those days are gone. But though we may not see the sublime in Nature as we used to we have sought to find it in the glory and tragedy of humanity, in its mighty dreams and inner tempests, its pangs and failures, its conflicts and misery, and over all this, its faith in a great destiny and realization of those dreams.

However, his growing disillusionment with the world of politics, and the problems of modern age appears to have intensified his search for a secure base for mankind and diverted him to nature with her peace and sublimity. This is how he wrote, "We cannot go back to the old pantheistic outlook and yet perhaps we may still sense the mystery of nature, listen to its songs of life and beauty and draw vitality from her. That song is not sung in the chosen spots only, and we can hear it, if we have the ears for it; almost everywhere."

Jawaharlal Nehru's vision of India for the endless facets of nature, her manifestation of beauty, roughness; the Himalayas, the plains, the deserts and the oasis, the rivers and the seas, the eternal seasons of the rains, winter and spring of this

country—show glimpses of creative artistry.

To Nehru, the cities and villages, the people and the lands comprising India had to be appreciated in the context of this scenic beauty and splendours that nature provided not apart from it. Nehru's wonder and esteem of the Himalayas and the Ganges were not always for their scenic beauty; there was a deeper symbolic significance. In them he repeatedly endeavours to find 1. the ancient history and heritage of India 2. the rapidly flowing current of life, ever changing and ever the same in this great land.

His outpourings on the Ganga would support this.

"Smiling and dancing in the morning sunlight, and dark and gloomy and full of mystery as the evening shadows fall; a narrow, slow and graceful stream in winter, and a vast roaring thing during the monsoon, broad—bosomed almost as the sea, and with something of the sea's powers to destroy, the Ganga has been to me a symbol and a memory of the past of India, running into the present, and flowing on to the great ocean of the future."

Thus, the great son of India used this imagery to convey his desire to see the stream of India's life to surge forward to greet its great destiny.



## Dr. S. RADHAKRISHNAN The Philosopher and The President

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Prof. K. HARIHARAN, M.A.  
M. Phil. Dip. PR., D.H. Ed.,

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From the Class Room to the  
Rashtrapathi Bhavan

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was one of the great interpreters of the east to the west. He was not merely the political head of the Indian Union for over 15 years, five years as President and ten years as Vice-President, but also an erudite scholar and statesman. His rule as Vice President for ten years was a splendid era in parliamentary education. Strange it might seem, there was no walk-out when he was President of the Rajya Sabha, not even on a

single day. His election to the Chairman was unanimous. His rule as a parliamentarian is unmatched, quiet, enlightening and splendid.

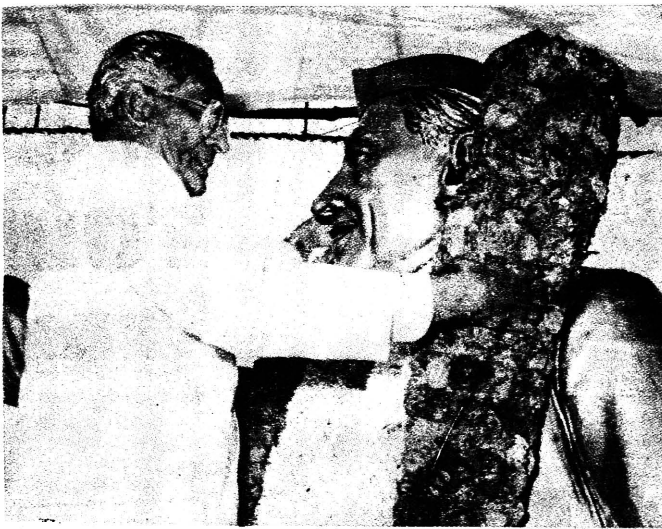
His undying title for fame is his cultural and educational work. He authored more than 40 volumes. His two volumes on 'Indian Philosophy' are the most liberal interpretation of the Indian thought. Even to this day, it is unsurpassed. He has given us lucid translations of the three important basic texts of Vedanta, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and the Brahma-Sutras. He is our modern Acharya. He has so interpreted the texts as to encompass the good and the permanent features of the Hindu religion for the practice to all men and women. He

adorned for the first time the world platform of culture, University of Oxford as the Professor of Ethics and Eastern Religion there. In his Oxford Lectures "Eastern Religions and Western Thought", he has pointed out the great influence continuously Indian thought has had on western thinkers. He pleaded for the cause all his life pointing out the example of Gandhiji contrasting it to that of our national poet Rabindranath Tagore (on whom he had his first book) for a global spiritual outlook as a Humanist. He held that if a man merely subscribes to all the tenets of a creed and did all the rituals scrupulously and if he is consistently selfish and unfriendly to humanity and intolerant of other religions, his religion is sham and farce. Dr. Radhakrishnan dedicated his Gita translations to Gandhiji. He was admired Professor, Philosopher of our great nationalist Jawaharlal Nehru, who asked him not to go away from Delhi without becoming the President.

His classical works candidly indicate his exceptional grasp of philosophical insight, deep and sensitive scholarship on Eastern and Western philosophy, an astonishing wealth of learning and an absolute command over English language. He writes with force and authority, grace and magic. Every word which he utters reveals his scholarship and learning. He was an eloquent orator apart from being a good author.

In short, Radhakrishnan's message is that we should live together and fight for an integral India. His message is neither old nor new but eternal. It is the voice of India speaking through Gandhiji and Nehru. It is an intellectual account of India's patriotism and world religion. He was a firm believer in the transformation of humanity. According to him, man makes history and ideas make men. As a true humanitarian, he professed Democracy throughout the world so that all nations, strong or weak may have equal opportunities for self expression. Hence, it is worth remembering his words "Live in the world of time, have the perspective of the eternal, discipline yourself so that in every act you do, you do it as a dedication to the eternal".



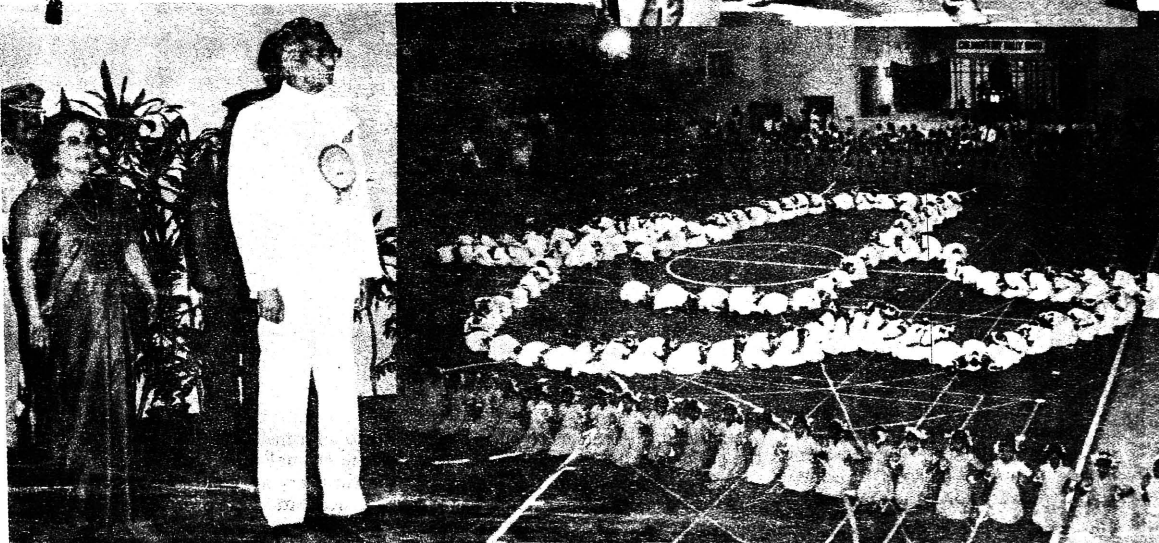


# NEWS IN PICTURES

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr.P.C.Alexander garlanding the Statue of Nehru at Kathipara junction in Madras in connection with Nehru centenary.

The Governor General of Mauritius, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, on arrival at Madras Airport on 19th November 1988, was received by His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr.P.C. Alexander, Adviser to the Governor Thiru G.V. Ramakrishna, I.A.S., and the Chief Secretary to Government Thiru M.M. Rajendran I.A.S.,

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. P.C. Alexander and his wife Tmt. Akkamma Alexander looking at the March Past - Cultural Programme of school children held on 15th November '88 at Madras inconnection with Nehru Centenary.





Airport Reception.

# PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR IN TAMILNADU



With Groundnut Farmer (Chingleput)

The Prime Minister is seen launching a drinking water scheme at the Adidravida colony in Sri-perumbudur.



Prime Minister laying the foundation stone for the Naval Air Station in Arakonam.



Inauguration of Sugar Mill  
at Vandavasi



**PALMGUR INDUSTRY** is an age-old traditional industry. The manufacture of palmgur is still continuing as a cottage industry in the huts and hamlets of tapper communities. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation identified the dynamic potentialities of Palmgur Industry and stressed the need to revitalise the activities of Palmgur Industry. He included Palmgur Industry under the purview of the All India Village Industries Association, Wardha, in 1936.

With the advent of freedom, palmgur industry was brought into

In Tamil Nadu there are about 5.19 crores of Palmyrah trees and 5.06 lakhs of Palmgur and Palm products artisans. Each and every part of Palmyrah tree is used as raw material in villages for producing multifarious products to cater to the needs of the rural community. This industry is naturally interlinked with other rural artisans such as potters, lime workers, blacksmiths, carpenters etc., providing them part time employment. Palmgur and Palm products artisans annually produce products worth Rs. 44.00 crores contributing their share in building better rural economy.

There are about 1615 primary palmgur and palm products co-operative societies in village level

ment under various schemes for implementing developmental activities.

Tamil Nadu State Palmgur Federation is an apex co-operative organisation registered on 21-10-57 and started its functioning on 16-1-58 under Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board engaged in exporting Palmyrah fibre. During 1986-87, it exported fibre worth Rs. 113.68 lakhs.

In Tamil Nadu, there are about 2 crores tappable palmyrahs available for industrial use. The Tamil Nadu Government is formulating suitable strategies to exploit these Palms and thus Palm Complexes are established in some districts.

## PALMGUR INDUSTRY IN TAMIL NADU



lime light and given a fresh impetus through systematic development programmes. The industry entered into a new era of development under the "Grow more food campaign" in 1948, sponsored by the Government of India in the Food and Agriculture Ministry. It was then brought under the purview of the erstwhile All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and then under the control of Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

In the year 1960 the development work was brought under the purview of Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board.

with 3.74 lakhs members and paid up share capital of Rs. 76.17 lakhs.

In addition to these, there are five District Palmgur Co-operative Federations in the middle level and one State Palmgur Co-operative Federation in apex level championing the cause of ex-toddy tappers.

These Co-operatives are mainly engaged in production and marketing of palm products. These co-operative organisations are getting finance from Khadi and Village Industries Commission through the Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board and State Govern-

Due to the introduction of partial prohibition in Tamil Nadu with effect from 1-1-87 the Tamil Nadu Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 3.00 crores as grant and Rs. 3.00 crores as interest free loan for rehabilitating 30,000 ex-toddy tappers.

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has established a Palmyrah Research Centre at Srivilliputhur in Kamarajar District, which is unique of its kind in India. This centre is conducting research pertaining to transplantation of Palmyrah seedlings and increase of neera in quality and quantity. The food science and



Nutrition Research Institute in Madurai is also conducting research on the hygenic collection and preservation of Neera for a longer period, preservation of palm jaggery

from deterioration and preservation of tender palmyrah seed pulp (Nungu) in tins.

TamilNadu is the pioneer State in Palmgur Industry and many

scientific advancements in palmgur industry are in store in her lap. The country will tap them to the benefit of the Indian community as a whole in the near future.

#### Palm Wealth :

- o State Trees of Tamil Nadu ... Palmyrah
- o Varieties of sugar yielding palms in Tamil Nadu .. (A) Palmyrah  
(B) Date Palm  
(C) Coconut Palm.
- o Total No. of Palmyrah palms in India .. 08.59 Crores.
- o Total No. of Palmyrah Palms in Tamil Nadu .. 05.19 Crores
- o No. of Palmyrah Palms under tapping of Neera .. 01.16 Crores
- o No. of Tappable Palmyrahs yet to be utilised .. 02.00 Crores.

#### Countries to which Exported :

- o United States of America.
- o United Kingdom.
- o Belgium
- o France
- o Ireland
- o Finland
- o Holland
- o Italy
- o Australia.

#### Export Sales of Palm Leaf Products :

The Palm Leaf Products Export Wing is producing and procuring export varieties of Palm Leaf Products, and exported through Handicrafts Development Corporation.



#### Employment :

(1987-88)

#### Palm Complexes :

Name of Artisans	No. of Artisans. (Rs. in lakhs)	District	Place	Name of Scheme
1. Neera Tappers ..	02.24	Chingleput	Kumarappa- puram (Madhavaram)	Pioneer Palm Project
2. Gurboiling Women ..	01.69			
3. Neera Vendors ..	00.24	Dharmapuri	Mathur	Drought Prone Area Programme
4. Fibre Artisans				
5. Palm Leaf Artisans	00.89	North Arcot	Mangalam-Ma- Mandur	Special Component Plan
Total	05.06			

South Arcot      Ma-Pudaiyur      Special Component Plan

Pudukottai      Tirukkorkarnakovilpatti      Own Project.

**Establishment of Palm Complexes under Progress :**

Trichy      K. Paramathi      Special Component Plan.

Ramnad      Mandapam      Drought Prone Area Programme

Chidambaram      (a) Inamthapathi      Special Component Plan.

(b) Antoniyarpuram      Special Component Plan

Chingleput      Vedanthangal      C.D. Programme.

**No. of Federations and Societies :**

1. No. State Federation : 1 (ONE)

2. No. of district Federations 5 (Five)

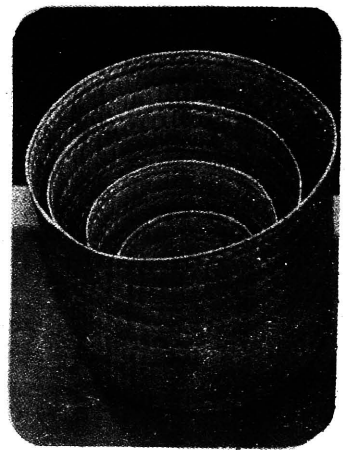
1. Kanyakumari Kuzhithurai
2. Tirunelveli Tuticorin
3. Ramnad—Madurai Ramanathapuram.
4. Salem
5. Coimbatore—Periyar Kunnathur.

**Financial Source :**

- o Khadi & Village Industries Commission Bombay—is financing through Tamil Nadu Khadi & Village Industries Board.
- o The Tamil Nadu Government providing funds under IRDP, DPAP, SCP and Hon'ble Chief Ministers Relief Fund.

**Accident Benefit Scheme :**

Tamil Nadu Government is providing funds from the Hon'ble Chief Ministers Relief Fund to the Tapper artisans who met with accident while claiming palm trees. Upto 1984-85 the families of the tappers who met with fatal accident are provided with Rs. 1000 per head. At present it has been enhanced to Rs. 5000.



## Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board

The Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board was formed on 15-9-1960. Its object is to promote finance, formulate and implement the Khadi and Village Industries Schemes. It aims to provide employment in Rural areas to the unemployed and under employed and to augment their daily income introducing improved tools and techniques. Schemes are implemented through departmental units, Co-operative Societies and individuals. Funds are received from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and the State Government through Plan and non-plan schemes. It provides continuous employment to 6.45 lakhs rural artisans and produces more than Rs. 90 crores worth of Village Industries Products per year and Rs. 11 crores

worth of Khadi. Tamil Nadu is acclaimed as the leading state in the production of village Industries in the country and occupies second place in the production of Khadi.

Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board is the first in the production of village Industries Productions, and second in Khadi Production at All India Level.

It provides continuous employment to several lakhs of Village Artisans.

**Research Work**

Research work is being undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at the instance of Khadi Board for producing dwarf palmyrah and for preservation of Palmgur

and Nungu. Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board has entrusted the work of improving the existing power ghani which provides self employment, to the Anna University, Madras.

The Board implements the following Khadi and Village Industries schemes and special schemes.

Khadi, Silk, Polyester, Palmgur, Village Oil, Carpentry and Blacksmithy, Gur and Khandsari, Bee keeping, Non edible Oil and Soap industry, pottery and Brick, Leather, Fibre, Fruit processing and preservation, Lime, Cane and Bamboo, Processing of Cereals and Pulses Industry, Manmade paper.

**Special Schemes**

Integrated Rural Development Programme, Special Component Plan, Cluster Development Programme, Integrated Tribal Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme, Trysem.

# Warehousing Prospects - Prospectives in TamilNadu

Thiru H.M. PANDEY I.A.S.,  
*Tamil Nadu Ware Housing  
Corporation.*

The concept of public warehousing evolved more than 40 years ago with twin objectives of providing scientific storage for avoidance of waste and expansion of credit through banking in the rural areas for agricultural produce, seeds, fertilizers, etc. the individual farmers/producers were really not in a position to avail off themselves the private warehousing facilities and hence there was a change in the pattern of procurement, storage and marketing of foodgrains and other agricultural commodities in the country by establishing State Warehousing Corporations. This state sponsored warehousing corporation established on 4-12-57 had rendered 3 decades of yeomen service but had not gained that much of awareness among the individual farmers and rural masses despite reorientation of warehousing policy from the old act of agricultural produce and development and warehousing act 1956 into warehousing Corporations Act 1962. The dire need for diversification of warehousing activities has been thought off at the national and state levels and hence there are about 16 State Warehousing Corporations besides a centrally sponsored Central Warehousing Corporation functioning in this country. It is vital to bring forth the importance of warehousing facilities prevailing in the state and services rendered by the TNWC in particular due to the warehousing in the state of Tamil Nadu gained good popularity in the recent past. The

Warehousing Corporation of Tamil Nadu is now making determined efforts to mobilise business from all sources in order to improve its occupancy rates. By and large, during the last 3 decades, the Corporation has succeeded in achieving the object of reducing post harvest losses in foodgrains and assisting the State Government and other Corporations in price support and price control operations as well as in storage and distribution of essential commodities to the public. It has now make it imperative to augment the institutional credit and add to the national wealth through minimisation of wastages.

Inspite of prolonged spells of drought, the state had fairly good harvest of paddy and other commodities in the later part of the year. Consequently this Corporation had improved its business and had substantial deposits of foodgrains, fertilizers and other materials in its godowns during major part of the year. However, there was slight marginal decline in the revenue from 469.91 lakhs in 1986-87 to 466.67 lakhs in 1987-88. Overall volume of stocks handled by the Corporation has considerably increased during the current year. A major reason for the reduced occupancy in latter half of 1987-88 was due to flight of fertilizers to private warehouses and sudden stoppage of fertilizer imports by the Government of India. Remedial measures have been suggested to the Governments

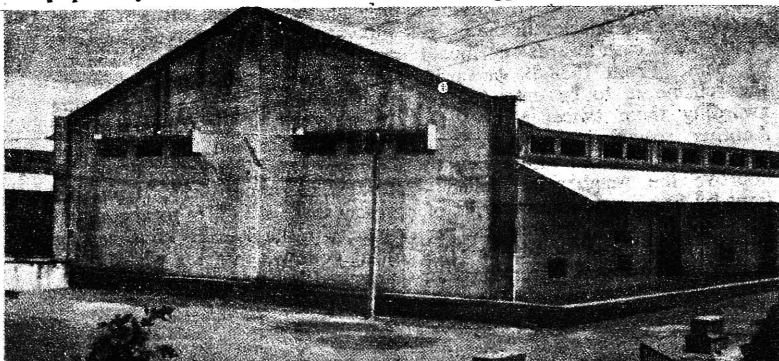
by issuing of 'No Objection Certificate' by the Warehouses to the fertilizer companies which would prompt their going in to the public warehouses to the extent possible and in preference to utilisation of public warehouses over the choice of private godowns. However the Corporation had maintained its physical performance at 80% of overall occupancy and maintained its profitability with a gross profit of Rs. 204.41 lakhs as against Rs. 224.57 lakhs made during the last year and declared a dividend at 6% on the paid-up share capital as having been made from 1982-83 onwards.

The storage charges and other income earned during second five year plan to seventh five year plan has been on the increase from Rs. 2.55 lakhs to Rs. 1331.57 lakhs, but its expenditure has however been minimised from Rs. 3.93 lakhs to Rs. 718.81 lakhs

The profit before tax earned by the Corporation during the plan periods ranges from 1.34 lakhs to 612.76 lakhs during seventh five year plan

As against 15 warehouses during second five plan, the Corporation has stepped up the number of warehouses to 39 during Vth five year plan, 56 during VIth five year plan and at present 70 warehouses during middle of VIIth five year plan. The owned and hired storage capacity and its occupancy ranges from 0.11 lakh MTs. to 5.86 lakh MTs. Its occupancy during VIth five year plan was at 100% whereas during middle of VIIth five year plan (87-88) it has come down to 53% (average occupancy 80%).

The Corporation owns 49 out of 70 warehouses and a capacity of both hired and owned godowns together stood at 5.96 lakh MTs. It has constructed 22 godowns at 17





centres, the highest ever so far in the current year and created an additional storage capacity of 79600 MTs. The Corporation has approached the Government to permit the Corporation to go in for open market borrowings besides Rs. 100 lakhs loan from the State Government from the year 1988-89 considering the need to plough back the internally generated funds for its construction programme and allied activities and to reduce the dependance on the high cost NABARD loans.

Apart from providing storage facilities, the Corporation has diversified its activities on certain social schemes styled as "Disinfestation Extension Service Scheme" under which pest control operations at the door steps of farmers, agriculturists, traders, public utility places like hotels, cinema theatres, restaurants have been carried out as permitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu which had recognised the Corporation's services in the field by directing all Government departments, archives, libraries, public and private sector undertakings to utilise the Corporation's service.

It has also intensified its efforts to further promote the "Farmers Extension Service Scheme" at the village level by imparting training in post harvest methods of scientific storage and preservation of foodgrains from losses from moisture insects besides supplying them metal bins freely to selected agriculturists. It has taken up already nine programmes benefitting 300 farmers from 112 villages spending Rs. 2.32 lakhs for this purpose. The Director of Evaluation & Applied Research has already taken up the study on the impact of the scheme so as to cover the scheme to larger number of farmers in a phased manner.

To add one more feather to its cap, the Corporation has convened its 30th Annual General Meeting for the year 1987-88 well in time i.e. on 11-8-88, the first among the State Warehousing Corporations. It has also another distinction of having started a training institute first of its kind by a State Warehousing Corporation in South India in order to train the staff members

Read

# Tamil Arasu

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on technical and other aspects relating to storage, preservation and ir management. The inservice training programme has been recognised by the Government of Tamil Nadu and for which the neighbouring state warehousing corporations nominate their staff members, the course being of three weeks' duration. During the year, three training programmes benefitting 66 staff members including 22 members nominated by other state warehousing corporations were conducted. The syllabus has been updated suitably to impart new techniques adding a laboratory and a museum for the benefit of trainees.

The Corporation is keeping a strict vigil in effectively monitoring the quality control aspect and preservation of stocks by giving requisite attention and to minimise the qualitative and quantitative losses in stored foodgrains and avoiding possible damages due to contamination by infestation. Proper care is being taken to effect quality control operations by receiving samples of stocks, analysing and grading them suitably. The stocks are being sprayed and fumigated by giving initial fumigation treatment whenever needed.

An incentive scheme has been in the offing from 1981-82 so as to promote and achieve warehousing awareness among its employees under which the best maintained warehouses are selected in the order of merit and cash awards distributed to them. From 1988-89 onwards, the scheme is to be extended by awarding them twice in a year. Another special incentive scheme has been introduced with a view to improve the weighbridge collections by fixing a minimum target of Rs. 3000 for each weighbridge per month and those achieving the targets are allowed incentives at

various percentages. It has maintained the payment of maximum bonus at 20% to its employees for the last one decade.

The Corporation has proposed to introduce management techniques, starting of quality circles at the level of warehouses to study the quality aspects, identify and analyse the day-to-day problems and make recommendations to improve their efficiency and also ensuring safety in warehousing operations, maintenance works, simplification, training and innovation. The recent Executive Development Programme gained the momentum and the participation of top level executives was expected to increase productivity and efficiency in the functioning and decision making levels.

The Corporation has already undertaken a perspective plan study for the needs of warehousing in the State and a study of optimal locations and godowns in future and other related issues had been entrusted to an independent agency, viz. Rail India Technical and Economic Services. The study report is expected to be accepted by all. It looks to the future with high hopes and confidence to continue the important role played by it by diversifying its warehousing activities on industrial warehousing, cold storage, bonded warehouses, etc. It is an imperative on the part of the Corporation to proceed a marching step to reach atleast third or fourth position in the State Warehousing Corporations of the country in the next few years and to increase the Corporation's market share in storage to about 25% from its present share of 18% of total godown capacity in the State by constructing hiring godowns in areas where there is assured business.

# Twenty Point Programme

## in Madurai District

The war on poverty is the first priority of our Nation. The restructured Twenty Point Programme renews Nation's commitment to eradicate poverty, raising productivity, reducing income inequalities, removing social and economic disparities and improving the quality of life.

Since the financial year of 1987-88 has ended, the achievement for the year has been sent to Government in Planning and Development Department. Out of 21 items pertaining to Madurai District, the annual targets under all points have been exceeded. In 7 items the targets have been exceeded by achieving more than 200% and in 14 items the targets have been exceeded by achieving more than 100%.

### The Target and Achievement for the Financial Year 1987-88 is Given Below :

#### 1. IRDP. (Old families and New families)

Under this Scheme, income generating assets are being provided to those families which are living in rural areas and which are below poverty line. The cost of income generating assets is met partly from Bank loan and partly from Government subsidy. From the financial year 1986-87 onwards, the Government have been giving priority to those families who had received first dose of assistance earlier in the previous fifth plan period but who have not yet crossed the poverty line. Thus 10953 old and 3671 new beneficiaries be covered during the current year, 10972 old and 3672 new beneficiaries have been assisted. The Central and State Government have provided Rs. 241.630 lakhs for

providing subsidy, out of which Rs. 241.45 lakhs have been spent.

#### NREP AND RLEGP

These two schemes have the following twin objectives :

1. To provide employment to persons in rural areas
2. To create durable community assets in rural areas

The funds for these two schemes are given as grants by the Central and State Government.

A sum of Rs. 314.25 lakhs has been provided under NREP with a target to create 16.54 lakhs Mandays. Out of this Rs. 382.40 lakhs have been spent upto 31-3-88, and 20.02 lakhs Mandays have been generated.

Similarly under RLEGP Rs. 209.658 lakhs have been provided with the target to generate 10.29 lakhs Mandays. As against this Rs. 203.03 lakhs has been spent upto 31-3-88 and 11.99 lakhs Mandays have been generated.

#### Small Scale Industries :

776 units have been started during 1987-88 against the target of 350. This works out to 221.7% more than 80% of the SSI are located in and around Madurai City only. The main concentration of SSI Units in Madurai District is engineering and allied Industries, next comes Chemical Industries and Textile Industries.

To get over the hardships and problems of Industries and to expedite local body licences and clearances from Health Department etc. getting power supply, the Govern-

ment have constituted a Committee called "Single Window Concept Committee" under the Chairmanship of the District Collector.

#### 5-A. Surplus Land Distributed

103 acres have been allotted to the landless poor in 87-88 as against the target of 85 acres. This works out to 121.3%

#### 7A. Drinking Water Villages Covered :

Under this programme, providing water supply to identified problem habitations in a phased manner. The problem habitation is one with a population of 100 and above, which does not have adequate potable, public water source for the whole year within a radius of one K.M. The minimum water requirements is taken to be 40 litres per hand per day in rural areas. Under these criteria 110 villages have been covered with the population of 99350 against the target of 100.

#### Immunisation of Children :

The objective of the scheme is achievement of universal immunisation against 7 vaccine preventable diseases.

1. 100% Coverage of  
—Eligible infants with 1 dose of BCG  
—3 doses of D.P.T.  
—3 doses of OPV  
—1 dose of Measles  
—Pregnant women with 2 doses of T.T.

2. Reduce Polio incidence rate to less than 0.33 per 100 in 0-4 years.

Based on this, the Government have fixed a target of 55400 for the year 87-88 and as against the target 79332 children have been benefitted under DPT. This works out to 143%.

Under Polio 78738 children have been benefitted against the target of 55400 and this works out to 142%.

Under B.C.G. 78887 children have been benefitted against the target of 55400 and this works out to 142.3%

## TWO CHILD NORM

### 9. Sterilisation

According to 1981 census the population of Madurai District (after bifurcation) is 29.64 lakhs and according to 1985 enumeration it is 31.65 lakhs. The total number of eligible couples is 4.94 lakhs. Among them nearly 42% of eligible couples have been covered under various Family Welfare Methods. The Birth rate and Death rate of Madurai district for 1986 are 27.1, and 11.8 per thousand as against 27.8 and 11.6 respectively for Tamil Nadu.

Under the leadership of the District Collector, various departments are involved in the implementation of Family Welfare Programme. Panchayat unions, Corporation, Municipalities, Town Panchayats, Family Welfare Department, Public Health, Medical Services and Revenue Department etc. are playing vital role in implementing the programme in Madurai District. In Madurai District 45085 sterilisation have been done against the target of 36500 during the year 87-88.

The Government have fixed a target of 5149 S.C. families to be assisted by way of providing land, allotment, organise and assist special washing programmes to improve educational standards, providing better direction and adequate funds for the special component programmes, etc. Based on these lines so far 51678 S.C. families have been assisted during 87-88 and thus works out to 1003.6%

### 14A. Provision of House Sites

To provide relief to the weaker sections of the rural community, a Scheme for the provision of house-sites to landless agricultural workers was introduced. Based on this, the Government of TamilNadu have fixed a target of 21500 house sites to be given to the landless agricultural workers. So far 40799 house sites have been provided in 87-88 and the achievement works out to 189.7%

### 14B. Construction Assistance

Under this Scheme 5334 families have been provided construction assistance, against the target of 250 families. This works out to 2133.6%

### 14D. E.W.S. Housing

2116 houses have been provided to the economically weaker sections against the target of 367 houses.

### 15. Slum population to be covered

The aim is to provide basic facilities in existing slum areas. Accordingly, 30,000 persons in slum areas have been benefitted as against the target of 13792 and the achievement works out to 217.5%

**Madurai District ranks first in the implementation of 20 Point Programme in Tamil Nadu and the District has exceeded the targets assigned to it under all items during 1987-88.**

### 16. Tree Planting

**Forest :—**The total area under forest coverage in the district is 1,75,000 hectares. The major forest species in this district are 17,760.

**Social Forestry**

During the current year 668 hectares under Block plantation and 36 KMs under Strip plantation have been covered under Social Forestry.



Under treeplanting scheme 106.29 lakhs trees have been planted in 1987-88 in Madurai District against the target of 86.30 lakhs and the achievement works out to 123%

### 19B. Pumpsets energised

The power connection has been provided to 2544 pumpsets in Madurai District for increasing the agricultural production against the target of 1380 pumpsets.

### 19C Improved Chulhas

Under this Scheme 12510 Chulhas have been installed during 87-88 against the target of 4000 and the achievement works out to 312.7%

### 19D. Bio-Gas plants

The Government of India had programmed to develop alternative sources of energy, particularly bio-gas. Based on this, the Government of TamilNadu have fixed a target of 1200 bio-gas plants to be set-up and against this target 2243 bio-gas plants have been set up during the financial year 87-88. This works out to 186.9% and the district stands first in the State in this Programme.





## I.R.D.P. A Boon to the Rural Poor

Integrated Rural Development Programme was started in the year 1978-79 in 2300 blocks and subsequently extended to 5,64,000 villages comprised in 5011 blocks throughout the country. IRDP stands in the forefront amongst the anti poverty programmes being implemented in the country today.

The object of the scheme is to remove poverty in rural areas by assisting the rural poor below the poverty line by giving credit linked subsidy for starting new ventures. In order to improve the income of the family, anyone of the schemes in agriculture or its allied sectors like animal husbandry or village and cottage industries can be selected. During the VI plan period, a family with an annual income of Rs. 3,500 and above was considered as having crossed the poverty line. However, this has been raised to Rs. 6,400 during the Seventh Plan period. Since the families below the poverty line are on the increase, 400 families on an average per block will be assisted with loan and

subsidy during 1988-89. A village level survey is conducted and the eligible families are selected by the Block Level Advisory Committee/Task Force Committee and thereafter subsidy/loan is sanctioned to the beneficiaries according to their choice of the trade. By getting such assistance, several lakhs of families have improved their status by purchasing milch animals, plough bullocks, bullock carts and establishing poultry/duck farms, petty trades, etc.

The case of Tmt. Pappu is one of the several success stories in the Integrated Rural Development Programme who have obtained assistance with which they purchased milch animals at a cost of Rs. 2500 each and have been earning a regular livelihood since then. During the year 1986-87, Tmt. Pappu obtained a milch animal under the scheme and was benefitted to a great extent by properly maintaining the asset. Subsequently during 1987-88 she obtained a second milch animal for which she got a subsidy of Rs. 1,660.

By properly maintaining these animals, she got an income of Rs. 25 per day and she has been repaying her loan instalments regularly, since she was getting sufficient income. Banks also do not hesitate to advance loans to persons who promptly repay the dues. The Banks would advance loans to other beneficiaries only if the loanees repay their instalments promptly. In case the milch animals/sheep/goats purchased, the provision has been made to make good the loss sustained through an insurance scheme. By taking advantage of this scheme the beneficiaries can make good the loss sustained by purchasing new assets through the insurance cover.

In order to enable the rural youth to learn new trades and professions, Rural Youth Employment Scheme is being implemented as part of the IRDP. The objective of the scheme is to select rural youth between the age of 18-35 from families below the poverty line and train them in trades of their choice for a period of six months which would generate income on completion of the training. A sum of Rs. 100-250 is given as stipend during the period of training besides tools kit worth about Rs. 500 free of cost, on conclusion of the training. They are also assisted with loan/subsidy to enable them to set up their own self employment ventures. Under this scheme, training in various trades, like wool weaving to computer mechanism and cottage



industries to refrigerator mechanism are conducted in select training institutions. As a result of this training, about two lakh rural youth have been assisted to set up their own self employment ventures or take to wage employment. To quote an example, in the Kallal panchayat union in Pasumpon Muthuramalingam district, training in science laboratory equipments was given to 18 educated unemployed youth. As against the traditional trades of carpentry, blacksmithy, etc. training to suit the modern conditions were given. They were trained in the manufacture of glass jars, measurement jars, etc. by employing modern machines. Technical advice and guidance were given by eminent persons from the Karai-kudi Central Electro Chemical Research Institute. After a period of six month's training, this institution has become a production centre assuring employment to those trained in the institution. The trainees have been provided with tool kits to enable them to produce the re-

quired materials from their own houses. This training, an instant success, goes to prove that training in new trades is becoming increasingly acceptable in rural areas and the fact that such trained youth are able to generate an income of Rs. 20 to 30 per day, raises a new hope in the minds of the rural unemployed youth.

IRDP, which benefits the rural poor is being implemented in Tamil Nadu from 1978 onwards. During the VI Plan period 13.96 lakh families have been rendered assistance in various sectors under this scheme. During 1987-88, about 2 lakh old beneficiaries and 78,000 new beneficiaries have been assisted under IRDP. A sum of Rs. 3962.49 lakhs have been distributed as subsidy under this scheme. During the current year, a sum of Rs. 4492.376 lakhs has been set apart for assistance under this scheme. It is observed through independent evaluation studies that more than half of the beneficiaries have crossed the poverty line.

It is certain that sizeable income can be generated if the asset

created or the animals purchased under IRDP are properly maintained. With the increase in income there is a noticeable improvement in the status of the beneficiary families. Further with a view to disseminate information about the Scheme, provision has been made to form "Beneficiaries Groups" which will meet once in a month at village/block level to discuss and intimate about the shortfalls in the implementation of the scheme to the concerned authorities, so that these could be rectified.

Villages form the backbone of this country and to the rural poor who live in villages, IRDP is a boon. To make the scheme a success, it is essential that the co-operation of the people, officials, bankers and more particularly the beneficiaries is ensured. If this is realised and acted upon, schemes like IRDP will be tremendous success in rural areas and will bring about a sea-change in the economic prosperity of the people in rural areas.



# Atomic Power Plant at Kudankulam

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed on 20th November, 1988 an Agreement between the USSR and India on co-operation in the construction of a nuclear power station in India. This indeed, is a major land mark in the field of science and technology in general and in the field of peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy in particular. The nuclear power station will consist of two units of VVER-1000 MWe reactors and is to be located at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu. These reactors belong to the family of Pressurised Water Reactors (PWR). The first unit is being targeted for completion in 1998 and the second about one and a half year later. The nuclear power station is to be set up on a turn-key basis using services of Indian organisations where required.

The VVER-1000 reactors belongs to the family of pressurised water reactors and has a capacity of 1000 MWe. Today, the PWRs, have the maximum population in the world over with leading West European countries like USA, France and Germany adopting these types of reactors. The VVER 1000 is a standardised nuclear power reactor designed for incorporation in a multi-unit power station. The very first VVER 1000 was commissioned in 1980. This unit adopted two turbo-generators of 500 MWe each. However, from operational conditions, this design has since been modified in the USSR to use one single turbo-generator of 1000 MWe capacity. Multiple unit stations using these reactors are in operation at three sites in the Soviet Union and several are currently under construction. These units are also being exported by the Soviet Union to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, GDR, Poland and Romania.

The VVER 1000 design takes into consideration rigorous safety and reliability requirements and can

be constructed even in areas of high seismicity. The VVER 1000 reactors offered are of an advanced design with automated control systems.

All nuclear power plants to be constructed whether of Indian design or the Soviet need clearance of the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. Discussions have been continuing between Indian and Soviet experts on various matters such as site characteristics, design and safety features, power evacuation, grid stability etc. As different from the Indian PHWRs, the VVER 1000 reactors are light water moderated and cooled and use enriched fuel. The Agreement signed on 20th November 1988 provides for continued supply of the enriched fuel and equipment and spares throughout the life of the station. This station will be under safeguards and spent fuel from these reactors will be shipped back to the Soviet Union.

**The setting up of the Atomic Power Plant at Kudankulam with an installed capacity of 2000 MW will be a boon for Tamil Nadu which will be facing shortage of 4538 MW of power during Ninth Plan (1995-2000). The Government of Tamil Nadu will be extending all assistance for the early and speedy implementation of the Project.**

Since the weights and sizes of the equipment are very large, the station needs to be located on the coast thereby permitting delivery of these equipment by sea directly to the station site. Such an arrangement will also permit shipment of the spent fuel using a similar route.

The Southern Electricity Region today suffers from an acute shortage of power. Being far away from the coal fields, it is well high impossible to set up coal-burning thermal power plants. The present

dependence, in this region, on maximum hydro electric power and some thermal power needs to be optimised by nuclear power. The setting up of 2 VVER 1000 units at Kudankulam will to a great extent assist in optimising the mix of power generation sources in this region and make power generation less dependant on the vagaries of the monsoons.

The Plant will be located near Kudankulam along the coast of gulf of Mannar 25 K. M. North East of Kanniyakumari District in Radhapuram Taluk in Tirunelveli Kattabomman District in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Government have reserved 1994.83 acres of land for this project in Kudankulam and Vijayapathi villages and 406.25 acres of Chittikulam village for the camp site. As requested by the Nuclear Power Corporation, the Government have also issued orders in G.O. Ms. No. 789, P.W.D. dated 11-5-88 restricting expansion of activities other than the agricultural activities in 5 K.M. radius from the plant area.

About 6000 persons may likely to be employed during the construction stage and 1000 persons for the operation and maintenance of the reactor after completion of the plant. Active participation of the local

population will be required for the construction of the project as well as the maintenance of the infrastructure.

This Government have given an assurance that the fresh water requirement of about 10 cusecs will be made available from Pechiparai Dam in Kanniyakumari District.

The clearance from the Committee for the conservation of seashores for locating the various structures of the proposed project within 500 metres from the coast line has been given in Letter (Ms) No. 11, E.C. (A3) Dept., dated 25-2-1988.



The Rs. 840-crore Aromatics Project in Manali marks the entry of Madras Refineries Limited into the ever-widening and important field of petrochemicals. The products of the plant are vital intermediates for the manufacture of synthetic fibres, PET moulded household articles, high quality PET films, electronic parts and plasticisers.

The plant will produce 30,000 TPA (Tonnes Per Annum) of Ortho Xylene, 21,000 TPA of Benzene and 105,000 TPA of Para Xylene. It is proposed to produce 150,000 TPA of Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) captively consuming the aforementioned Para Xylene. The feedstock for the plant is surplus Naphtha now readily available in MRL.

There is a huge demand/supply gap for all these petrochemical products in the country.

#### Uses

PTA is the premier raw material for the production of Polyester Filament Yarn (PFY) and Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF) which find application in the manufacture of polyester fabrics.

## AROMATICS PROJECT

The Aromatics project will promote a large number of downstream industries particularly in Manali area, thereby converting the neighbourhood into petrochemical complex. More than 20,000 people will get direct and indirect job opportunities as a result of the project and downstream and ancillary industries. The project will speed up the industrialisation of Tamil Nadu.

Ortho Xylene is the main raw material for the manufacture of Phthalic Anhydride (PAN) which is an important intermediate both for plasticisers used in flexible PVC processing and paints. Ortho Xylene also finds use as a solvent for several industries like Pharmaceuticals, Paints and Pesticides.

Benzene goes into the production of Linear Alkyl Benzene (LAB),

an intermediate for the manufacture of detergents. Benzene is also a raw material for the production of several other organic chemicals.

#### Special features

The project is a joint venture. 'MRL's co-promoter is expected to be selected very shortly.

MRL proposes to finance the project from its own internal resources and extra-budgetary resources (such as Public Deposits and Debentures). The foreign exchange requirement of Rs. 231 crores will be met out of suppliers' credit.

The latest technology will be used in the project and the products will be of high quality, comparable to international standards.

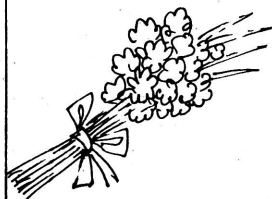
#### Mother industry

MRL is steadily emerging as the mother industry for a number of petrochemical units in Manali. MRL is already supplying Naphtha to a fertilizer plant and Kerosene to a LAB Unit. Likewise Propylene will be supplied to two other units and N-Butane and Isobutylene to 2 more units. Those units are under construction.



### FAREWELL PARTY

A Farewell party was given to Selvi R. Rajalakshmi Bharathi, Assistant Director, Tamil Arasu on 30th November, 1988. She retired on that day after serving for more than 30 years in the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Tamil Nadu. A memento was presented to her on behalf of Tamil Arasu by Thiru C. N. Krishnabharathi, I. A. S., Director of Information and Public Relations.



## New Rays of Hope for Pavement Dwellers



The migration of rural people to urban centres in search of employment and better wages has resulted in increase in population and stress and strain in the urban landscape. Urban agglomeration, rise of irregular and irksome huts on pavements and congestion in the already over-crowded slums. With steady stream of such influx into cities, the urban problem like inadequate water supply and drainage, lack of public convenience and amenities have been threatening the town planners and civic administrators. Madras city is an example of this kind of urbanisation and urban problems that we face in our country.

Madras has long history. Historically, socially and economically Madras occupies a unique place. Madras city is no exception to the urban problem bristling with the other three Indian metropolitan cities namely Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta. In 1901, the city of Madras had a population of about 5,50,000 which, by 1941 had increased to some 8,80,000. The city had a good water supply system in 1941 and most of its area was sewerage. It was still an administrative and commercial centre. Since independence Madras city has grown rapidly and in 1971 covered an area of 129 km with a population of 3.5 million. The MMA which covered about 1,170 km. had a population of 3.5 million in 1971, recording a growth rate of about 5% annually. The present MMDA population is estimated at 4.6 million.

It is said that over 30% of the city population live in slums. The various housing and sites and services schemes have been tried to settle the slum dwellers. Yet, the problem is eluding, with inflow of fresh migrants and unabated swell in existing population.

One of the major problems facing a major urban city like Madras is the resettlement of pavement dwellers and slum dwellers. These people, lacking adequate support for setting up housing facilities have occupied land wherever found vacant. Quite often there are encroachments on the pavements, water courses and water spread areas. The squalid conditions in which they live have posed health hazard not only to dwellers but the surrounding areas also. Encroachments on pavements precariously situated on the road margins create traffic congestion and danger to lives as well.

These people who generally constitute the urban work force have occupied the available areas mainly on account of lack of suitable areas at reasonable cost within their means. As some of these encroachments were objectionable and immediate necessity arose for removal, Government initiated action in this regard. However, on the Court's intervention Government initially agreed to provide alternate sites for those who were in occupation before 1977.

The problem of removal of encroachments has to be reviewed in the light of resettling persons who are being evicted. It is reported that nearly 37,542 families have occupied the areas encroached. Removal of all the encroachments would not be feasible in view of the large extent of land required to resettle them. This process will have to be carried out in a phased manner selecting the encroachments for eviction on a priority basis in terms of objectionable nature. In this regard Slum Clearance Board has identified lands in Velachery, Kodungaiyur, Erukanchery and Sadaya-

kuppam to the extent of 76.90 acres. M.M.D.A. also has areas under development for allotment of home sites for Economically Weaker Sections at Manali and other places. Initially at Velachery and near Manali about 5,300 families can be resettled after providing infra-structural facilities.

The pavement dwellers will be shifted to these areas which will be demarcated by Slum Clearance Board and M.M.D.A. into plots, of about 21 to 30 square metres per family. Title to these plots will be passed on to the allottee by issue of pattas. The concessional price of land will be recovered in easy instalments. The development of the layouts would include provision of access roads, provision of deep bore wells for water supply at the rate of one for every 75 families, provision of common public conveniences, storm water drains and street lights. All these will be provided free of cost. The allottees of house sites could obtain loan from the Nationalised Banks for construction of a house. A type design for a house at a low cost of Rs. 3,500 has also been prepared by the Slum Clearance Board. The allottee could add constructions if he wants, depending upon his capacity and convenience.

In this manner it is possible to cover about 8000 families in the areas identified by the Slum Board and the lands developed by MMDA under Sites and Services Programme.

What we need today, more urgently, is to educate the people, encourage them to seek new spots of better sheltered, hygienic living housing and to contribute their share, whatever the quantitative position, for a cleaner, healthier and more beautiful city of Madras.



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## Ancient and Historic Kanchi

Kancheepuram as its very name implies is the Golden City of Tamil Nadu. It has been a place of high importance right through the ages. The great poet Kalidhasa has rightly spoken about this city as the best among cities. ("Nagaresu Kanchi")

The ancient history of Kancheepuram may be traced back to several centuries before the advent of the Christian era. The place finds its name in Pathanjali's *Mahabashya*, supposed to have been written in the 2nd century B.C. The celebrated Tamil Classic *Manimekalai* carries references on Kancheepuram as it was at the beginning of the Christian era. *Manimekalai* sought salvation at this place through her devoted service to humanity. The great Tamil poetical work *Perumpan - atrupadai* also has many references about Kancheepuram. Thondaiman Ilanthiraiyan, the hero of *Peruppanatrupadai* was ruling over Kancheepuram during the 2nd century A.D.

Kancheepuram was successively the capital of the Pallavas, the Cholas, and the Rayas of Vijayanagar. Under the Pallavas (roughly 4th to 8th century A.D.) it was the Capital of their far-flung Empire.

Aditya Chola, the son of Vijayala Chola, the founder of the later Chola Empire made Kancheepuram

Thiru. DEVA-NATARAJAN

puram his northern Capital. These Cholas were able to rule over the region till the end of 13th century, except for a short period when the Rashtrakutas captured the City. The Chola inscriptions on the walls of the temples in Kancheepuram reveal the importance that was given to the City by the Chola emperors. Later, during the invasion of Malik kafur (1310 A.D.) the City was captured by the Muslims.

Later in the middle of the 14th century A.D., the City was wrested from the Muslims by the Vijayanagar rulers. Nearly for 300 years, Kancheepuram remained under the Vijayanagar rulers. Under them Kancheepuram was an important city of administration and culture. It is said that one of the Vijayanagar rulers took pride in having himself crowned here. Around 1645, it was captured by the Sultan of Golkonda and then 30 years later by the Marattas and still later by Zul-fir-khan, a general of Aurangzeb. It continued under the Muslims till about the middle of the 18th Century, when the British took it.

**Under the British, Kancheepuram was already a District Headquarters :**

During the siege of Madras by the French in the 18th Century, Kancheepuram played a notable role. It is interesting to note that Kancheepuram had been the District Head-quarters even earlier in the 19th Century. Under the British, Kancheepuram, succeeded Karunguli in 1825 as the District Headquarters and remained so until 1830, when it was shifted to Saidapet near the Madras City. The Collector's records and the Treasury however remained here for 30 more years later.

On July 1, 1968, Kancheepuram became again the District Headquarters of the Chengalpattu District.

**An Ancient Centre of Learning and Religion :**

Kancheepuram has not only been an important city of administration but it has also been an important city of learning and religion and the birth place of many famous saints, artists, Tamil scholars, etc., Bodhidharma, the founder of Zen-Buddhism is believed to have been born in this place. Saint Poigaiwar, the first of the three Alvars was born here. Sri Vedhantha Desika



and Parimelazhagar, the celebrated commentator on Thirukural was also born here. Shyama Sastri, the well known musical genius was also born here. Though there is not much evidence, according to a tradition, Chanakya, the great author of *Arthashastra* and the celebrated political leader Annadurai were born here. Kancheepuram has been an important city of Jainism also. Thirupparuthikundram, a suburb of

Kancheepuram is known as *Jaina-Kanchi*. According to a school of thought, Adi-Sankara is believed to have spent his last days at this place. The celebrated Kamakshiamman Temple and Kamakoti Peetam Mutt of Sankaracharya are located here. All the three Celebrated Tamil Saivite Nayanmars—Thirunavukkarasu, Thirugnana-sambandher and Thiru-sundaramoorthi have visited Kancheepuram and glorified the presiding deities here by their sweet devotional hymns—the *Thevarams*. Saint Thyagaraja has also sung at this place. As is well known, Kancheepuram is regarded as one

of the three most important centres of *Vaishnavism*, the other two being Srirangam and Thirupathi. This place is of importance to Islam also. Hazret Hameed Avaliya, one of the two great followers of Ferozpur Fatapir Fakir of Punjab chose this place for devotion and divine service. Hiun Tsang, the great Buddhist Scholar visited this place in the Seventh Century and found it to be a great city.

At Kancheepuram there was a famous ancient University (*Ghatika*) which was comparable to the famous Nalanda University. The site of the Collectorate Building on the banks of the river, *Vegavathi* (correct name is *Vedavathi*) can pride itself of historic associations. It was here that the Ancient University of Kanchi was located. An inscription in a temple in the Karnataka State, ascribed to the Kadamba King Kakusthavarman (425-50 AD) proclaim that the Kadamba King Mayuravarman (345-60 AD) visited the Ghatika (University) along with his guru

Veerasarman to pursue higher studies.

#### An Ancient City of Arts

The influence of Kancheepuram on art and architecture has been tremendous. Successive dynasties of ancient kings have built temples and monuments at Kancheepuram. Kancheepuram is said to have inspired the builders of the rock-temples at Ellora and Badami.

The Kancheepuram Municipality which was established as early as 1865 is located on the northern bank of the river *Vegavathi*, which is about a mile to the north of the river *Palar*. Kancheepuram is very ideally located in the District and is close to important places in the District like Tiruttani, Uttiramerur, Madurantagam, Chengelpattu, Sriparumbudur, Thiruvallur, Mahabalipuram etc.. It is also not far away from the State Capital, the Madras City and it finds an important place in the itinerary of foreign and domestic tourists.



### Thiru R. VAIKUNTAN

Deputy Director

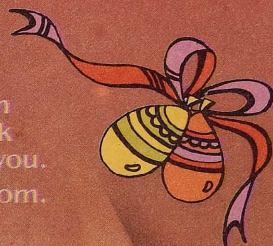
Passes away

Thiru R. Vaikuntan, Deputy Director (Memorials) of the Information and Public Relations Department expired on 10-12-88 at his native place Koljanur near Villupuram due to heart attack. A condolence meeting, in which top officials and staff of the Information Department participated, was held on 12-12-88 at Secretariat to pay homage to late R. Vaikuntan.



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