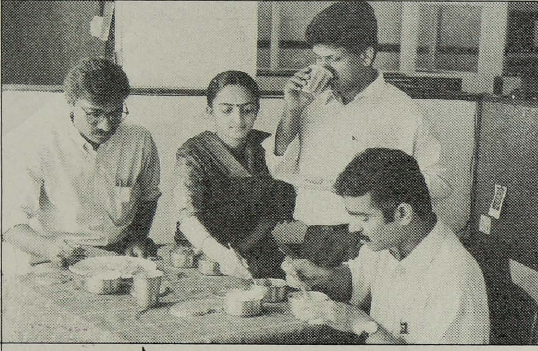


# Tamil Arasu

MAY 1998 Rs.3







**நமது அன்றாட  
பழக்கவழக்கங்களால்,  
எய்ட்ஸ் வராது.  
அதற்கு நீங்களே  
ஒரு உதாரணம்.**

காலையில் எழுந்தது முதல் ராத்திரி படுக்கப் போகும் வரை நீங்கள் எத்தனையோ பேரைச் சந்திக்கிறீர்கள். ஓட்டலுக்குச் செல்கிறீர்கள், சினிமா பார்க்கிறீர்கள், நெரிசலான பஸ்ஸில் பயணம் செய்கிறீர்கள், பலருடன் கை குலுக்குகிறீர்கள்.

இவர்களில் யாருக்காவது எச்ஐவி/ எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்து இருக்கலாம்.

சாதாரண பழக்கவழக்கங்களின் மூலம் எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதாக இருந்தால், உங்களையும் எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

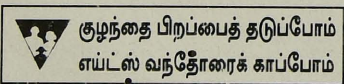
ஆனால் அப்படி இல்லையே...

ஏனெனில், கை குலுக்குவதாலோ, உணவைப் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதாலோ, தொடுவதாலோ, தும்மலினாலோ, கழிப்பிடத்தை அனைவரும் உபயோகிப்பதாலோ, எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதில்லை.

எனவே எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்தவரைக் கண்டு நீங்கள் ஒதுங்க வேண்டியதில்லை. உங்களுக்கு எந்த ஆபத்தும் இல்லை.

அவர்களும் நம்மைப் போன்றவர்கள்தான். அவர்களுக்கு எப்பொழுதும் போல நாம் அன்பும், ஆதரவும் காட்டுவோம்.

**சிறிதளவு ஆதரவு பெருமளவு  
சுமையைக் குறைக்கும்.**



மேலும் விவரங்களுக்கு அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி :  
தமிழ்நாடு எய்ட்ஸ் கட்டுப்பாட்டு அமைப்பு  
417, பாந்தியன் ரோடு, சென்னை - 600 008.  
தொ.பே.: 8255467, 8255261, 8254917.  
24 மணிநேர தொ.பே.: 8256882, 8256864.



# TAMIL ARASU

*Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu*

*Thiruvalluvar Year 2029*

*Chithirai - Vaikasi*

*May - 1998*

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## ***Wrappers***

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IV - The May Day Centenary Pillar

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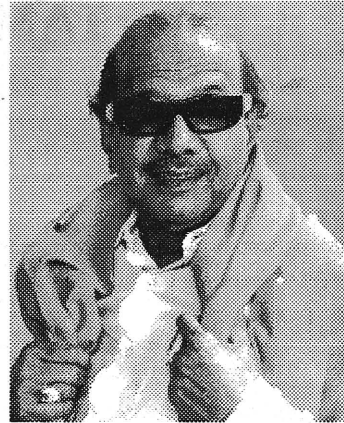
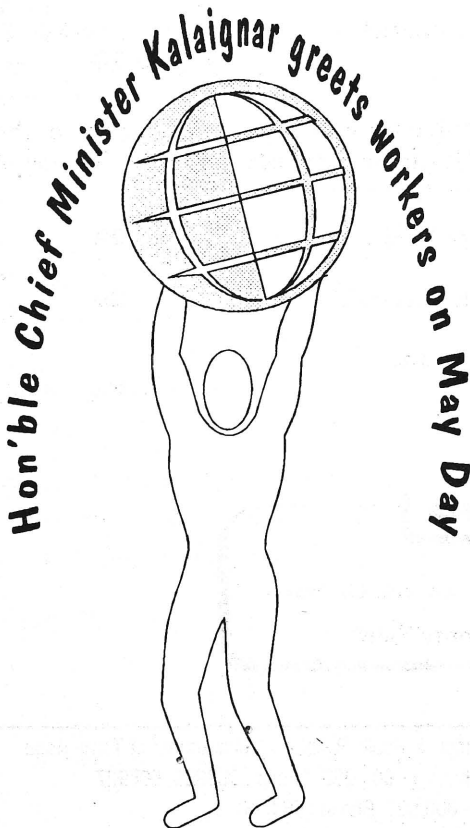
**MAY DAY** - a glorious day celebrated all over the world, is marked as the day of the working class. This festive day inspires the world to honour work and the worker and to think & act on the improvement of the life style of the working class.

May Day is the victorious gift to the sacrifices of innumerable workers of America who shed their blood, lost their lives, underwent physical and mental tortures and faced gallows in order to have 8 hours work a day. On this Day we pay our homage to those martyrs.

Tamil Nadu is the first and foremost state to celebrate the May Day in India.

Tamil Nadu also has the exclusive privilege of starting the first Labour Union in India for the welfare of the working people.

This Government has the reputation of declaring May Day as a paid holiday to enable the working class celebrate this day with great pleasure.



In 1969, a separate ministry was formed by this Government to promote the welfare of the working class.

In addition to these, the Government has taken many welfare measures for the well - being of the working class :

- Setting up of the Labour Welfare Board.
- Gratuity for retiring Labourers.
- Accident relief fund
- Labour Education Centres for the upliftment of the life styles of the labourers.
- A separate Act to protect the welfare of the contract labourers.
- The May Day Centenary Pillar.

A Committee has been constituted by this Government last year to find out solutions to the problems of the 43 kinds of unorganised labourers such as, washermen, pot makers, labourers engaged in cashew hulling, pandal works, coir making, appalam & vadam making etc. The Government has decided and recently made announcements to formulate the 'Unorganised Labourers Welfare Board' so as to benefit 25 lakhs of such labourers by extending insurance facilities during illness, maternity assistance, pension etc.

On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, which evinces keen interest in the welfare of the working class by its epoch - making plans and schemes, I am happy to extend my heart felt greetings to the working class. ★





# TWO YEARS OF GOVERNANCE WITH PROMISES KEPT

- **KALAINAR**

Two years ago we were elected to govern the State with a massive mandate given by the people of Tamil Nadu. Within a few months of assumption of office, this Government fulfilled its poll promise of conducting elections to the local bodies and the co-operatives; it has also delegated substantial powers to the local bodies. We are also planning to involve the elected bodies and the Grama sabhas in the process of plan formulation, implementation and monitoring so that there is genuine local self - Government in Tamil Nadu.

## Policy initiatives

Putting the administrative machinery back on its rails has been our top priority. This Government has ushered in a number of policy initiatives, innovations and procedural changes. To mention a few:

1. The Right to Information Act has been passed to enable every citizen to have access to information available with the Government.
2. The State Human Rights Commission has been constituted.
3. The Citizens Charter concept known to the West is introduced for the first time in the State in our country. In the history of the State, Government departments have brought out citizens charter listing out the services provided, the schemes operated and the standards which each department tries to achieve. These measures have received wide acclaim from the people.
4. The tender procedures have been streamlined. To ensure transparency and fair decisions, a legislation on transparency in tenders is on the anvil.
5. Rule 39 of the Tamil Nadu Minor Minerals (Concession) Rules was deleted to ensure that quarrying rights are decided only through open tenders.
6. A High Level Committee on prevention of corruption was set up and its report containing recommendations for prevention of corruption in the transactions of the Government are under active consideration of the Government.
7. A Commission for streamlining the revenue administration was set up. Its recommendations are under active consideration and decisions will be taken soon.
8. The Sales Tax structure has been rationalised and simplified.
9. Industrial area development authorities for providing single window clearance to entrepreneurs setting up industries in industrial areas are being established.
10. A novel single window system of admission in engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu was introduced by this Government in the last academic year. It has been widely acclaimed and appreciated by students, parents and the public. This is being extended to polytechnics also from this academic year.



These are only illustrative of the earnestness of the Government to fulfil its promises.

Annual Plan outlays were Rs.3,700 Crores for 1996-97 and Rs.4,052 Crores for 1997-98 and in both these years the State has achieved the plan targets in full. Agriculture and Rural Development, Infrastructure and the Social Services Sectors received a fairly even distribution in the plan allocation in these two years.

The State Government has drawn up the Ninth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs.25,000 crores. The thrust of this Plan to ensure cent percent coverage of Basic Minimum Services.

### **Growth rate**

We have been successful in reversing the low growth rate in 1995-96 and have been able to achieve six percent in 1996-97. Our aim is to achieve a growth rate of over seven percent during the Ninth Five Year Plan. There has been all round growth in the last two years in various sectors of the State's economy. Tamil Nadu was able to achieve a high level of foodgrains production of 94.92 lakh tonnes during 1997-98. Tamil Nadu stands third in the country in terms of FIPB approvals for foreign direct investments. There has been considerable growth in services sector as well, especially in areas like software.

### **An investment destination**

We have been successful in making Tamil Nadu an attractive destination for investment in industrial and infrastructural sectors. Tamil Nadu has been ranked as the third most attractive State for investment by the BT-Gallup Survey. Our transparent, fast decision making process with investor friendly policies has created an environment conducive to investment in this State. We are paying focussed attention to the provision of quality infrastructure in industrial areas. We are involving the private sector in the provision of infrastructure in the State. Private

sector participation and accessing resources from the capital market and other extra budgetary sources for investment in infrastructure are major elements of our strategy.

### **Increased food production**

The food production has gone up substantially during 1997-98. This has helped maintain stable price level of rice. Due to extension activities undertaken intensively, the State has been able to achieve a production level of five



tonnes of paddy per hectare on an average. Thanks to the incentive of Rs.35 per quintal over the Government of India fixed support price offered by the Government to farmers as well as taking up parallel procurement all over the State, a record procurement of 18 lakh tonnes of paddy was achieved during the 1997-98, while at the same time giving the freedom to the farmer to sell his paddy at the highest possible price in the open market. We have taken up the long neglected work of desilting irrigation canals and tanks at a cost of about Rs.40 crores. The desilting works taken up last year in the Cauvery system have received wide acclaim from the farmers.

### **Rural Development**

In respect of rural development, this Government has launched two path-breaking initiatives for provision of basic minimum needs in rural areas. These two initiatives are "Anna Marumalarchi Scheme" (Anna Village Renaissance Scheme) and "Namakku Naame



Scheme" (Self Help Scheme). The former will develop villages with all facilities while the latter will promote an attitude of self-help among the people. The public response to these schemes has been over-whelming. With the noble objective of creating a society without caste differences, we are setting up "Samathuvapuram" (abode of equality) in 50 places in the State with all basic amenities where all communities can live in harmony as progressive and prosperous neighbours.

### Shelter for the shelterless

This Government which started the scheme for providing concrete houses for the poor for the first time in the entire country has completed the construction of 1,27,832 houses during the last two years and has taken up 60,000 houses during 1998-99 for construction. We have taken up a massive programme of black topping of rural roads. In the last two years, 12,000 kms of rural roads have been black topped. In addition, availing assistance from NABARD under RIDF we are providing all weather road connectivity to all habitation in the state having a population above 1000. We have set ourselves a target of providing potable water supply of atleast 40 LPCD to all rural habitations in the State which are presently having a coverage of less than 10 LPCD only. 4500 rural habitations have been covered during 1997-98 and balance 5500 habitations will be provided 40 LPCD coverage by the end of 1998-99.

### Social safety net

We are committed to providing a social safety net for weaker sections of the society. Keeping this in mind, this Government is continuously providing substantial amount for social service sector. This year we have provided Rs.6,485 crores for the social service sector.

### Women's development

We are vigorously implementing nutrition programmes for children, pregnant and lactating mothers and the aged poor.

Recently, we have enhanced the monthly pension of all categories of pensioners such as old age pensioners, the physically handicapped and destitute widows from Rs.100 to Rs.150. This will benefit more than 6.3 lakh poor.

We are implementing a Women's Development Programme covering the entire State helping women from self supporting groups to take up income generation activities as well as to inculcate self help through thrift.

### Marriage assistance for the poor

With a view to promoting education of girl children, this Government introduced a scheme called "Moovalur Ramamirtham Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme for the under privileged" in 1989. We have liberalised the scheme by doubling the assistance from Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000 and expanded the coverage to all eligible persons without any ceiling on numbers. Government grant for this scheme has gone up from Rs.10 crores in 1996-97 to Rs.58 crores in 1997-98. We have provided Rs.60 crores in this year's Budget to help

60,000 beneficiaries.

We have also introduced an improved scheme to support poor parents who adopt the small family norm with one or two girl children only and provide them financial support for the children's higher education and marriage through deposits made by the Government in the name of the girl children which will provide them a substantial lumpsum amount when they reach the age of 20.



## Food subsidy

The Government has maintained the increased supply of rice at 20kgs. per month providing a subsidy to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crores per annum in the State budget. In the last two years, 2,000 new fair price shops have been established. The State today has the most efficient PDS delivery system in the whole country.

The Government has introduced a number of measures to keep the prices of essential commodities under control. It is the policy of the Government to reduce the tax burden on commodities used by the poor and middle class. Sales Tax exemptions/concessions have been granted for various items of daily use such as pulses, cooking oil, etc.

This Government is setting up a State level Unorganised Labour Welfare Board for the welfare of 25 lakh workers in 43 unorganised employment like road workers, match industry workers, brick making workers, tailors, workers in private shops and establishments with a view to provide welfare benefits like sickness insurance, maternity grant and pension.

## Rural health

Special care has been taken by this Government to improve the functioning of the health care institutions in the State, particularly the Primary Health Centres and sub-centres and Government Hospitals. The Government has taken up a project to build 652 Primary Health Centres at a cost of over Rs.50 crores in order to ensure that all the 1,408 PHCs in the State function in permanent buildings. The support of the private sector has also been success

fully enlisted by this Government for the upkeep of the PHCs. Select PHCs have been ordered to function on a 24 hour basis to provide continuous medical facility to the rural people. As many as 167 PHCs have also been upgraded as the first referral centres so as to minimise the need to go over to the hospitals at a distance. Modern equipments have been added to the District and Taluk hospitals to upgrade their quality of service.

Annually, over Rs.100 crores are being allotted for the purchase and free supply of medicines by the Government hospitals and dispensaries. In order to mitigate the sufferings of the poor patients who may be required to undergo either heart surgery or kidney transplantation, this Government has introduced a scheme to provide assistance of Rs.25,000 from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The Government has successfully conducted massive pulse polio campaign and attained universal coverage.

## Free eye camp

The scheme to restore eye sight was first introduced by this Government in 1972-73. The slackness in the eye camp programme which had crept in during the intervening period has been removed and eye camp programmes are being implemented now with renewed vigour.

## No hamlet without a school

Universalisation of primary education has been accorded top most priority by this Government. There will be no hamlet in the State without a school by the end of the next year. While 253 new primary schools have been started by the Government this year, 62 primary schools have been upgraded as middle schools. 170 middle





schools have been upgraded into high schools and 161 high schools have been upgraded into higher secondary schools. This Government has stepped up allocation for distribution of uniforms and textbooks to the school children and from the current year all the students from I to V standards studying in Government. Aided and local body schools will be provided free textbooks. Uniforms have been provided to nearly 65 lakh children. More than 20,500 secondary grade teachers have been recruited on the basis of their seniority of registration in employment exchanges, thereby eliminating the scope for corrupt practices.

### Reservations for rural students

For the first time 15 percent reservation in the professional college has been introduced by this Government for the students studying in rural areas. The Government has also undertaken to meet expenses for higher studies in respect of students who secure first three ranks in SSLC and +2 at the district level.

### HRD initiatives

This Government has taken a number of initiatives for the development of human resource in the State and has provided the required focus in the higher education sector as well. Last year this Government set up a Committee headed by Dr. Ananthakrishnan, to streamline the functioning of self-financing colleges. The Government has established a new University named after Periyar in Salem and the Dr. Ambedkar Law University in Chennai. A new Law college has been set up in Tirunelveli. The Chennai Medical College has been given the status of a deemed university. A new medical college named after K.A.P. Viswanatham has been set up in Tiruchi.

### Urban water supply

The Government attaches great importance to providing adequate drinking water supply to urban areas. The Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage (TWAD) which was set up in 1971 by this Government is being strengthened to take up



the increasing responsibilities for providing water supply in rural and urban areas of the State. The Government rejuvenated 228 combined water supply schemes at a cost of Rs.7.1 crores and 249 urban water supply schemes at a cost of Rs.10.2 crores. It completed 11 combined water supply schemes. Six municipal water supply schemes were completed at a cost of Rs.39.02 crores and 29 urban town panchayat water supply schemes at a cost of Rs.2.72 crores. The Tirupur Town Water Supply and Sewerage Disposal Scheme at a cost of Rs.700 crores has been formulated. Work will commence in this year.

This Government successfully brought Krishna water to Chennai in September, 1996. From July to November 1997, 2.09 TMC of Krishna water was received in Chennai. However, with a view to prevent the seepage which occurred in the canal reaches of Andhra Pradesh, the works for strengthening the canal by lining the banks with cement have been taken up by that Government. After completion of this work, the supply of Krishna water to Chennai will commence again from July 1998. This Government has taken up massive projects to lay the distribution network for the augmented water

supply and for sewerage disposal in Chennai Corporation with the assistance of the World Bank and the Overseas Economic Coop. Fund of Japan.

Nearly 4,000 tenements have been constructed by the Slum Clearance Board. About 1,66,115 house site pattas have been granted to Adi Dravidars in the State during the last two years and 44,000 pattas to people of the Backward and Most Backward Classes, who live below the poverty line. The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board was set up in 1970. It has built a large number of tenements for the slum dwellers in this State. As many as 40,000 slum dwellers will be benefited by this decision of the Government to transfer the ownership of tenements of the Slum Clearance Board to those who occupy them. While Rs.58 crores have been allotted by this Government for slum improvement in Chennai in the last two years and Rs.40 crores has been provided for the year 1998-99. Over one lakh slum dwellers were benefitted in the last two years and 45,000 families will be covered during 1998-99.

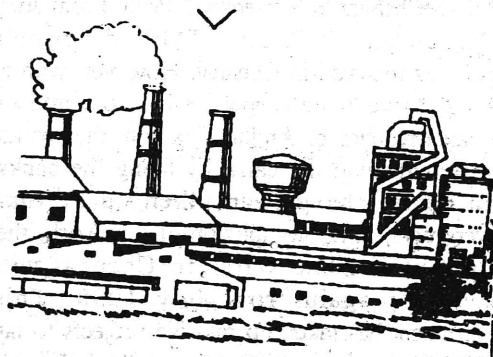
Ensuring social justice and equality is the prime concern of this Government and we have been pursuing various schemes towards that objective with total commitment. This Government has bestowed special attention to the welfare of Adi Dravidars and Tribals and has stepped up allocation for the welfare of Adi Dravidars and Tribals substantially. THADCO which was set up by this Government in 1974

will play an important role in formulating and implementing schemes for the welfare and development of Adi Dravidars in this State.

This Government has ordered the filling up of the backlog of vacancies in respect of posts reserved for SC/ST in an expeditious manner. To monitor the progress in this regard a committee has been set up with the Adi Dravidar Welfare Minister as Chairman. This Government has made arrangements for special training to the Adi Dravidars in teachers training institutions as a large number of vacancies reserved for them could not be filled up in the absence of qualified persons.

We realise the importance of availability of power for the economic growth of the State. Due to our vigorous efforts, Power Purchase Agreements have been signed for generation projects of 5792 MW capacity in the private sector. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) is also working actively for the setting up of an LNG Terminal with a 2000 MW LNG based power project for which we have received very encouraging response from leading companies in the world. The TIDCO is also working on the development of an integrated lignite mining cum power generation project at Jayamkondam.

As soon as we came to power we took the initiative of setting up short gestation liquid fuel power project to the tune of 2000 MW. Since the Government of India allocated only 800 MW of fuel linkage we have been constrained in this regard. One private sector power project with a capacity of 196 MW will be commissioned this year and construction work on 11 projects with a capacity of 2855 MW will commence during this year. We have also announced a captive power policy which encourages industries to set up captive power plants for their own use either individually or as a consortium. We have provided incentives for cogeneration of power. A joint sector company will be set up to install 200 MW of cogeneration capacity in the sugar units





in the cooperative and public sectors. As far as the long term scenario is concerned, the new power projects in the private sector including LNG and lignite-based power projects should be able to meet the demand. In respect of port development, TACID has already commissioned detailed feasibility reports for Cheyyur, Cuddalore and Colachel ports. The private sector will be invited shortly to develop the ports.

In respect of road development, the Government has initiated a number of major projects to provide and maintain a good network of roads throughout the State. A Rs.750 crores World Bank funded road development project will commence during this year. With the assistance of NABARD and HUDCO, we have taken up construction of about 100 bridges in the State at a cost of Rs.360 crores. The road network around Chennai City is being developed at a cost of Rs.212 crores with the assistance of HUDCO.

We have largely succeeded in our crusade against corruption and providing a transparent administration. In the crusade against corruption, signals from the top political leadership are very crucial and we believe that we have sent the right signals to the bureaucracy.

We have been advocating autonomy for the States and federalism at the Centre. Some progress has been achieved but much remains to be done. We will extend our full cooperation to the Union Government in maintaining cordial Centre-State relations.

We are committed to accelerating the pace of development of Tamil Nadu and to provide rapidly improving standards of living to our citizens, especially the poor and the deprived. To achieve this, we have focussed our efforts on infrastructure development, industrial programmes and provision of basic amenities. We shall redouble our efforts in these areas and make Tamil Nadu the foremost among the States of the Union.

*Courtesy : 'The Hindu', dated 13.5.1998*

**Travel concessions are given by the  
Government to  
various categories of people as follows:**

1. *Freedom fighters drawing Central/ State pension or both pensions and those who participated in border/ language stir - 100%*
2. *Cancer patients for their travel to the Hospitals recognised by Government for treatment and back - 75%*
3. *Physically handicapped/Deaf/Blind (except in SETC(TN.Dn.I) & SETC(TN.Dn.II)buses) - 100%*
4. *Mentally retarded and epileptic disease patients - 100%*
5. *Drama artistes - 50%*
6. *Accredited press correspondents-100%*
7. *Members of Legislature and Ex-members of Legislative Assembly & Council - 100%*
8. *Widows and Legal heir of freedom fighters drawing Central pension or State pension or both pensions - 100%*
9. *Wife or husband and minor legal heirs of those who participated in the language stir to protect the Tamil Language who are recipients of financial assistance from Government - 100%*

*The cost towards the above travel concession is reimbursed by the administrative departments concerned.*



# NALADIYAR

வாழ்நாள் சில; அவற்றிலும் நோய்கள் பல; ஆதலால், யாவரும் இன்றியமையாத நூல்களையே கற்க வேண்டும்.

கல்வி கரையில், கற்பவர் நாள்சில,  
மெல்ல நினைக்கிற பிணிபல;-தெள்ளிதின்  
ஆராய்ந் தமைவுடைய கற்பவே,-நீர்ஒழியப்  
பால்உண் குருகிற றெரிந்து!

## Discriminating study

Learning hath no bounds, the learner's days are few. If you think calmly diseases many wait around! With clear discrimination learn what is meet for you, like the swan that leaving the water drinks the milk.

★ ★ ★

கல்வி சுற்றவனுடைய வருணத்தை நினைக்க வேண்டாம்

தோணி இயக்குவான் றெல்லை வருணத்துக்  
காணிற் கடைப்பட்டான் என்றிகழார்,-காணாய்!  
அவன் றுணையா ஆறு போயற்றே, நூல்கற்ற  
மகன்றுணையா நல்ல கொளல்!

Never mind the boatman's caste if he take you over!

As none condemn the ferryman, by old caste rule to lowest rank assigned, but cross the stream by help he lends; so take thou teachings good and wise by help of him who is the learned man.

★ ★ ★

சுற்றிவருபாய்பலர் கூடி இருந்து அடையும் இன்பத்தினும்  
மறுலோகத்தின்பஞ் சிறந்ததன்று.

தவலருந் தொல்கேள்வித் தன்மை யுடையார்  
இகலிலர் எஃகுடையார் தம்முட் குழிஇ  
நகலின் இனிதாயிற் காண்பாம் - அகல்வானத்  
தும்பர் உறைவார் பதி.

The supreme enjoyment of the society of learned and amiable men.

★ ★ ★

சுற்றார், கல்லாதவர் கொள்ளும் நட்பின் இயல்பு

கனைகடற் றண்சேர்ப்பு! சுற்றறிந்தார் கேண்மை  
நுனியிற் கரும்பு தின்றற்றே; - நுனிநீக்கித்  
தூரிற்றின் றன்ன தகைத்தரோ பண்பிலா  
ஈரம் இலாள் தொடர்பு.

The friendship of the learned ever grows sweeter, that of the unlearned ever diminishes in sweetness.

Lord of the cool shore of the resounding sea! intimacy with learned people is like eating sugar-cane from the (tender, juicy) tip; association with graceless, sapless men is like leaving the (tender) tip and eating it from the (hard,dry) root.

★ ★ ★

சுற்றவரின் சாவகாசம்

கல்லாளே ஆயினுங் சுற்றோரைச் சேர்ந்தொழுகின்  
நல்லறிவு நாளுந் தலைப்படுவர்; - தொல்சிறப்பின்  
ஒண்ணிறப் பாதிநிப்புச் சேர்தலாற் புத்தோடு  
தண்ணீர்க்குத் தான்பயந் தாங்கு

The benefits of association with the learned. The pot impregnated with odour.

Though themselves unlearned, if men live in association with the learned they advance daily in excellent knowledge. The new vessel, by contact with the Padri - flower of old renown and lustrous hue, imparts fragrance to the cold water it contains.

★ ★ ★



# We do what we say! We say what we do!!

## ★ Two years of good governance

### ★ Fulfilling every promise made

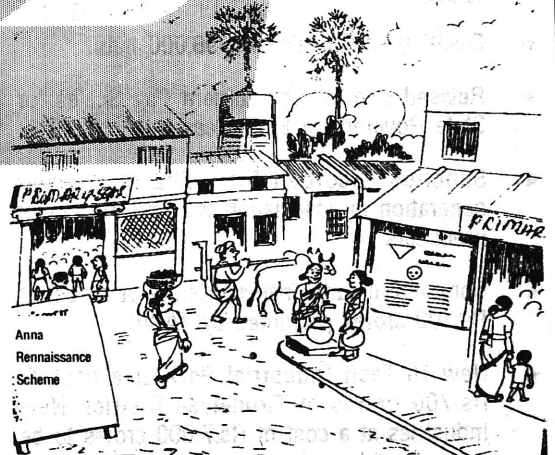
- ★ Rs.44 crores of Land Revenue waived this year for agriculturists. Penal interest on Co-operative loans for Rs.50 crores waived.
- ★ Free Electricity for agriculturists to be continued.
- ★ Electricity connection for 77,901 agricultural pumpsets.

### Procurement Price for Paddy per quintal

	1995-96	1997-98
Coarse Variety	Rs.360	Rs.415
Fine Variety	Rs.375	Rs.445
Transportation & incidental charges	Rs.5	Rs.35
Procured Quantity	1.43	18
	Lakh tons	Lakh tons

- ★ 1,27,832 free concrete houses constructed for Adi-Dravidars - Weaker Sections in 2 years (1996-98). 60,000 houses this year. Between 1991-96 during five years 1,20,700 houses constructed.
- ★ Monthly Pension given based on age for weaker section:  
Rs.100 during 1995 - ceiling on number of beneficiaries.  
Rs.150 during 1998 - no ceiling on number of beneficiaries.
- ★ Social Safety net for downtrodden at a cost of Rs.6485 crores - for providing food, clothing and shelter.

- ★ Free distribution of sarees and dhoties to 1 crore and 40 lakh poor people.
- ★ Marriage Grant for brides from poor families.  
1989 - Rs.5,000  
1996 - Rs.10,000  
Between 1996-98 - Rs.68 crores marriage grants disbursed.  
During the current year Rs.60 crores will be disbursed to benefit 60,000.
- ★ Ground Rent waived. Arrear dues also waived.
- ★ Stamp Duty and Registration Fee waived for property not exceeding Rs.3,000.
- ★ 20 kgs. rice per family comprising 3 members.
- ★ 2,000 new Fair Price Shops - complaint book at all fair price shops.
- ★ 2 colour new ration cards.
- ★ Local Body Elections and Election to Co-operatives held to upkeep Democratic Traditions.
- ★ A model village per Legislative Assembly Constituency every year under "Anna Marumalarchi Thittam". 33,282 works undertaken at a cost of Rs.224 crores.
- ★ Rs.15 crores fund allocated to "Namakku Naame Thittam".



- ★ Rs.35 lakhs for each constituency under 'M.L.A. Constituency Development Scheme'.
- ★ Monthly pension of Rs.150 to members of Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies who have completed 60 years of age.
- ★ 20% rebate throughout the year to remove the misery of Handloom Weavers'. 30% special rebate for three months for clearance of unsold stocks.
- ★ Rs.43 crores of rebate not paid for four years, being paid to Weavers' Co-operative Societies.
- ★ 25,860 Teachers appointed on seniority basis.
- ★ 10,302 Policemen including 2,600 Women Constables appointed.
- ★ 1,100 Sub-Inspectors appointed.
- ★ 8,000 road workers appointed.
- ★ 13,000 'Makkal Nala Paniyalargal' re-appointed.
- ★ 12,000 kms. of roads black topped.
- ★ New rural roads for a length of 10,000 kms.
- ★ Water supply increased for 7,227 rural habitations at a cost of Rs.285 crores.
- ★ 1,10,000 new street lights.
- ★ Electricity connection for 4000 over head tanks.
- ★ Electricity connection for 98,000 huts.
- ★ Revised Central Government Pay Scales for State Government Employees from 1.1.1996.
- ★ Sanction accorded for 5,792 MW power generation in association with private power producers.
- ★ Commercial-cum-Financial Centre at a cost of Rs.100 crores promoted by TACID.
- ★ New Hi-Tech Industrial Park at a cost of Rs.700 crores in Tirunelveli District. New Industries at a cost of Rs.7,000 crores to be set up in this park.



- ★ No hamlet without a school.
- ★ Free bus pass for students upto 12th standard.
- ★ 15% reservation in Professional Colleges for students from rural area schools.
- ★ Egg along with Nutritious Meal once a week for school students.
- ★ State Level Labour Welfare Board set up to benefit 25 lakh labourers in unorganised sector.
- ★ 8,000 free houses for fishermen at a cost of Rs.26 crores. 4,000 houses this year.
- ★ Link roads for all the villages with a population of more than 1000 at a cost of Rs.186 crores.
- ★ Periyar University at Salem, Dr.Ambedkar Law University at Chennai, K.A.P.Viswanatham Medical College at Tiruchirappalli, Law College at Nellai.
- ★ 167 Primary Health Centres to function round-the-clock.
- ★ 652 Primary Health Centre buildings at a cost of Rs.50 crores.
- ★ "Samathuvapuram" at 50 places to facilitate members of various communities live in harmony.



# **WELFARE OF POLICE PERSONNEL**

## **BEING PROTECTED**

### **IN KALAINAR'S REGIME**

#### **Modernisation of Police Department**

In order to strengthen, to improve and to modernise the Police Department by providing vehicles, equipment and computers and by establishing coastal guard check posts, new police squads the Government have incurred an amount of Rs.47 crores in the past two years. In 1998-99 Rs.10 crores has been allocated. Apart from this an amount of Rs.10 crores is expected from the Central Government.

A Government order has been issued sanctioning Rs.20 crores to establish a "Police Academy" so as to give training to all the Police officials and newly recruited personnel of uniformed service. This Academy will function as a Head Quarter by integrating the district level trainings. To improve the training it has been proposed to utilise the grant of the Central Government. An area of 133 acres of land located at Vandalur, near Chennai, has to be transferred to Police department for the establishment of Police Academy. The Director General of Police is preparing an estimate to establish this Academy. This Academy will function at an early date with necessary infrastructure.

#### **Three permanent Police Training Centres**

As a first phase it has been proposed to establish three permanent Police Training Centres to give basic training to police personnel. For which at an estimated cost of Rs.1.80 crores, three hostels are to be constructed.

It is proposed to construct new buildings for 25 police stations at a cost of Rs.1 crore as a first phase, which are now functioning at private

buildings. An additional floor is to be constructed with an estimated cost of Rs.20 lakhs at Marudham Complex where the head quarters of Tamil Nadu Rapid Action Force is functioning.

An A/c.Conference Hall will be constructed at a cost of Rs.25 lakhs at the 2nd floor of the officers' canteen at commissionerate complex at Egmore, Chennai.

A new residential building is to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.16 lakhs for the Superintendent of Police of Virudhunagar District. A water supply scheme for Forensic and Science Department at a cost of Rs.1 lakh will be executed. A/c facilities will be provided at a cost of Rs.1.68 lakhs for anthropology, explosives, record sections of the Forensic and Science Department. The posts of Scientific Assistant Grade - I & Grade - II are to be upgraded as Scientific Officers, incurring an expenditure of Rs.2.75 lakhs. One Density Measuring Meter at a cost of Rs.5.50 lakhs will be purchased. D.L.C. Scannar at a cost of Rs.15 lakhs for Tirunelveli Range Forensic and Science Laboratory will be purchased. A total of Rs.3.76 crores will be spent for the above schemes during this financial year.

#### **Workshops on 'Human Rights and Humanity'**

To improve the image of Police among general public, it has been proposed to convene workshops on "human rights and humanity" every month through the District Superintendents of Police and Police Commissioners of respective districts and corporations with the participation of general public and police. This workshop will create an awareness among public as well as police personnel about human rights and humanity. It has been decided that these workshops should be conducted at least once in three months. As a first phase, Rs.10 lakhs has been allocated for this purpose.

Out of 386 Police Stations functioning in private buildings, financial allocations were made last year to construct new buildings for 79 such police stations. The construction work is in progress.

This year, the Government have decided to construct buildings for 40 police stations, which are in possession of sufficient land for which Rs.60 lakhs will be allocated in addition to Rs.1 crore already allotted.

They are :

Kancheepuram District :

1. Kelambakkam
2. Maraimalai Nagar
3. Soonambedu

Cuddalore District :

4. Naduveerapatti

Villupuram District :

5. Thiruvennai Nallur
6. Kachirappalayam

Thiruvannamalai District :

7. Melachengam
8. Brahmadeesam
9. Vadavanakurupatti

Vellore District :

10. K.V. Kupam
11. Vellore (Crimes-North)
12. Vellore (North) Women

Erode District :

13. Kangeyam
14. Dharapuram
15. Bhavani

Virudhunagar District :

16. Veerasozham

Sivagangai District :

17. Poolankurichi
18. Aaravayal

19. Devakottai

Karur District :

20. Thennilai
21. Pazhaviduthai

Thanjavur District :

22. Adiramapattinam

Madurai District :

23. Appan Tiruppathi
24. Samayanallur

Ramanathapuram District :

25. Ramanathapuram Bazar
26. Abiramam

Dharmapuri District:

27. Kalavoy
28. Singarapettai
29. Maharajakarai
30. Kaveripattinam
31. Adiyaman Kottai
32. Thoppur
33. Bommi
34. Eraiyur

Tuticorin District :

35. Nazareth
36. Koppampatti
37. Pasuvanthanai
38. Kovilpatti
39. Surankudi
40. Sayarpuram

In 1997-98, 320 new vehicles have been purchased at a cost of Rs.9.02 crores. Orders have been issued to purchase 69 new vehicles at a cost of Rs.2.34 crores under the modernisation scheme of police department. In 1998-99 an amount of Rs.10.35 crores have been sanctioned to purchase new vehicles, replacing 227 condemned vehicles. In addition to the allocation of Rs.4 crores of the budgetary allocation, an additional amount of Rs.6.35 crores is being allotted.

## **Additional vehicles for Patrolling**

54 patrolling vehicles will be purchased at a cost of Rs.1.60 crores as follows:

Coimbatore Police Commissionarate 10 vehicles; Coimbatore District 5 vehicles; Chennai Commissionarate 10 vehicles; Chengai East Police District 5 vehicles; Madurai Commissionarate 3 vehicles; Madurai District 3 vehicles; Tirunelveli Commissionarate 3 vehicles; Tirunelveli District 3 vehicles; Salem Commissionarate 3 vehicles; Salem District 3 vehicles; Tiruchi Commissionarate 3 vehicles; Tiruchi District 3 vehicles.

At present there is no sufficient furniture in the Police Stations to accomadate the visiting public as well as the Police Personnel working in the police stations. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that there is no sufficient financial provision to provide such facilities. After considering this, it had been decided by the Government to provide Rs.20,000 to each Police Station for the purchase of chairs for the visiting public - chairs, tables for Police Personnel and almirah for keeping the records. Apart from this, it has been brought to the notice of the Government that there is no provision to meet out the contingency expenses. For the first time it has been decided to allocate Rs.5000 per annum to each police station to meet out the contingency expenses. For this an amount of Rs.69 lakhs will be spent as one-time expenditure. Likewise it has been decided to allocate an amount of Rs.10,000 per year to meet out the contingency expenditure of each of the Armed Reserve Camp.

Nagapattinam District Police Office is functioning in private building since 1971. Hence it has been decided to construct a new building at a cost of Rs.62 lakhs at Nagai - Velippalayam, so as to accomodate all the police offices in one place.

## **Welfare Schemes**

This Government have done much for the welfare of Police Personnel. The amount spent for the welfare of the police personnel in 1991-92 was

Rs.89 lakhs; In 1992-93 Rs.12.80 crores; 1993-94 Rs.16 crores; 1994-95 Rs.20 crores and in 1995-96 it was Rs.14.50 crores.

After this Government assumed office in 1996-97, Rs.52 crores were spent for the welfare of the police personnel. In 1997-98 Rs.99 crores were spent. During the 5 years of the previous regime, only Rs.65 crores had been spent for the welfare of police personnel. Whereas in two years this Government have spent Rs.151 crores.

Food allowances are being sanctioned to the police personnel during emergency duties, while deputing them to control the Law and Order situations in other districts. This food allowance has been enhanced by this Government in 1997 as follows:

In 1997 it has been enhanced from Rs.16 to Rs.25 for Grade-II Police Personnel. For Grade-I Police and Head Constables from Rs.20 to Rs.30. For Sub-Inspector and Inspector Rs.30 to Rs.45. On the requisition made by police personnel to enhance the present rate of food allowance, it has been enhanced from Rs.25 to Rs.35 for Grade-II police and for Grade-I police and Head Constables from Rs.30 to Rs.40.

The police personnel from the ranks of constables to inspectors are being provided 12 kgs. of rice at subsidised rates and 8 kgs. of rice under public distribution system for every month. The Government has decided to provide 20 kgs. of rice at subsidised rate to the police personnel hereafter. 84,000 police personnel are benefitted under this scheme at a cost of Rs.1.50 crores per annum.

## **Uniform allowances**

Three member committee is being constituted with the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru Balakrishnan, Opposition Leader and the Senior Member Tmt.Ponnammal to select the design of the uniform for the women police personnel.



In 1996 after the assumption of office, this government had enhanced the uniform allowance from Rs.25 to Rs.30. At present, the uniform allowance will be enhanced again as follows; for Police Superintendents, Additional Police Superintendents, Deputy Police Superintendents from Rs.40 to Rs.60; For Inspector and Sub-Inspectors from Rs.30 to Rs.50; for Head-Constables and Constables from Rs.30 to Rs.40. This costs the Government exchequer Rs.1.18 crores per annum.

At present the uniforms are supplied as readymades. The Police Personnel are requesting to supply the unstitched uniform clothes instead of the ready-made ones, since the stitched uniforms are not fitted, due to the incorrect measurements which causes re-stitching. Accepting this request, the Government have decided to supply the uniforms either stitched or as clothes. If the uniforms are stitched by the women societies, the stitching charge is enhanced from Rs.65 to Rs.75.

### **Police Housing**

The maintenance of the Police Quarters and Police Department Buildings formerly dealt by Public Works Department is being entrusted to the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation from 1.4.98 for the better maintenance and for renovation works. For this purpose an amount of Rs.5 crores is being allocated for this year and this amount will be distributed to each district. On the basis of the importance, this amount will be spent for the maintenance of the Police Quarters in the Districts.

1500 houses were constructed per year. It was announced to construct 2500 houses from last year onwards and are under construction. Likewise during 1998-99, 2500 houses are permitted to be constructed. In total 5000 houses are being constructed by the efforts of this Government for the police personnel. Rs.85 crores will be spent for this. Of the 28,792 police

quarters in Tamil Nadu, 17,652 quarters are fitted with fans; the Government have decided to allocate an amount of Rs.1 crore to provide fan facilities to the remaining 11,140 quarters.

### **Enhancement of Allowances**

The grant amount given to police personnel under the Tamil Nadu Police Health Fund Scheme has been enhanced from Rs.30 lakhs to Rs.50 lakhs from this year.

The extra time remuneration of Rs.20 being paid to Head-Constables and other Police Constables have been raised to Rs.50. The Government will incur an additional expenditure of Rs.11.16 crores to benefit 77,473 police personnel.

Risk allowances are being paid to Police Personnel as they have to work in dangerous situations. Rs.20 is being paid as risk allowance to police personnel from the rank of Constables to Inspectors and Rs.30 to Deputy Superintendent and Additional Superintendent. Hereafter the risk allowance will be paid as Rs.50 for the police personnel from the rank of Constables to Inspectors and Rs.60 for Deputy Superintendent and Additional Superintendent of Police for which Rs.5.16 crores will be additionally incurred.

### **More promotions**

55 promotions in the cadre of Additional Superintendent of Police have been given. 130 promotions in the Deputy Superintendent of Police cadre; 255 promotions in the Inspector of Police (Taluk); 53 promotions in the Inspector of Police (Armed Reserve); 173 promotions in Sub-Inspector of Police (Taluk); 208 promotions in the Sub-Inspector of Police (Armed Reserve); 1000 promotions in the Head-Constable cadre; 10106 promotions in Grade-I Police Constable; 400 promotions for the Women Head-Constables. In total 20,500 promotions have been given. Actual

strength - 80,322. Percentage of actual strength benefitted through promotion - 25.52%. That is 25.50% promotions have been given. Further 9000 Constables who have put up 15 years of service have been promoted as Head-Constables as announced by this Government last year. In consequence to this, the Head-Constables have requested to promote them as Sub-Inspectors. The Government have considered their requests sympathetically and decided to promote the Head-Constables who have put in 10 years of service as Special Sub-Inspectors and to pay salary on par with regular Sub-Inspectors. Based on this, the Police Personnel who join duty as Grade-II Constables will be promoted as Sub-Inspectors within 25 years of service.

The Ministerial Staff of the Police Department have been requesting for a long time, for creation of new posts, especially in the newly created districts and Armed Reserve Police. The Government will consider their requests and new posts will be created and orders will be issued by the Government after receiving the proposals from the Director General of Police.

### **Redressal of Grievances**

There is a grievance among the Police Personnel for a long time that they are not in a position to express their grievances either to the higher officials or to the Government. The Government decided to introduce a new approach scheme to redress their grievances. Accordingly, the Government issued orders to the Superintendents of Police in all the Districts and Commissioner of Police to act speedily and take appropriate actions on the grievances of police personnel following prescribed procedures.

A separate section has been created at the office of the Director-General of Police, Chennai and Home Department at the Secretariat for redressing the grievances of the Police Personnel.

The prohibition wing was functioning separately. This wing was dissolved and brought under the control of the police department.

### **Fire Stations**

During the previous regime of 5 years, only 29 fire stations were sanctioned. During this regime in the past two years, 47 fire stations have been opened. But during this year the Government will concentrate on providing all basic infrastructure facilities to all these 47 fire stations.

### **New police stations**

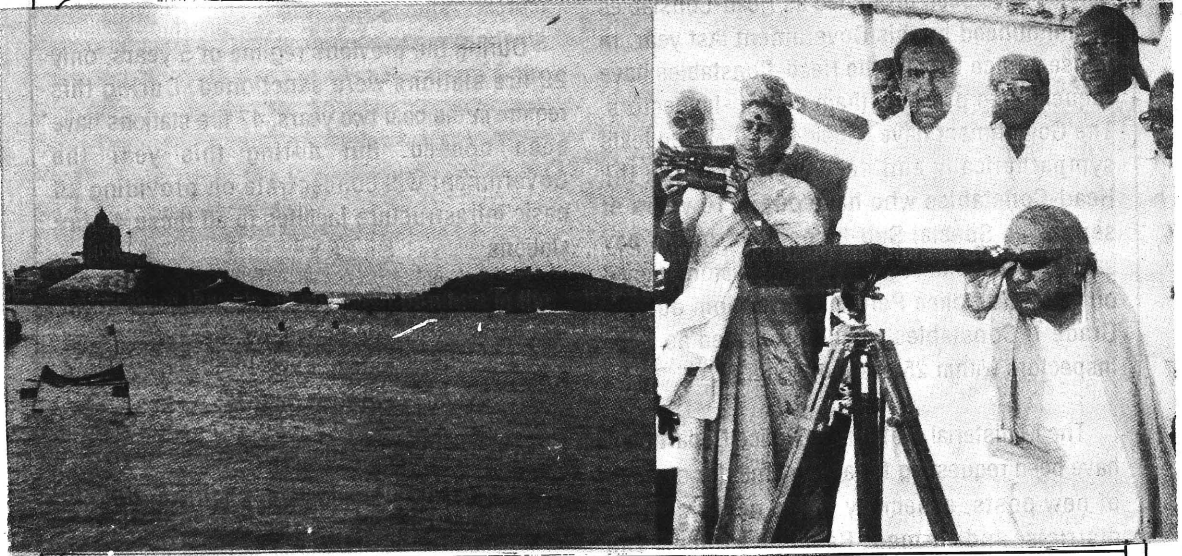
- ★ Venganur, Perambalur District
- ★ Thevur, Namakkal District
- ★ Thalamuthu Nagar, Tuticorin
- ★ Mahendra -mangalam, Dharmapuri
- ★ Kanchikoil, Erode
- ★ Ponnur, Thiruvannamalai
- ★ Appakoodal, Erode
- ★ Traffic Police Station at Viruthachalam
- ★ Karambakudi
- ★ Traffic Police Station at Karur
- ★ Irumbulikulrichi, Andimadam
- ★ Kengavalli
- ★ Kandachipuram, Vizhupuram
- ★ Kuttakoil, Madurai
- ★ Uthanahalli, Dharmapuri
- ★ Palamedu, Madurai
- ★ Thachampatti, Thiruvannamalai
- ★ Malli, Virudhunagar

Works will be initiated from this year onwards to upgrade the outposts into regular Police Stations based on the availability of funds, in stages.

★ ★ ★

# COLOSSAL STATUE FOR THIRUVALLUVAR AT KANNIYAKUMARI

- The efforts of Kalaignar highly commendable



“In the South of Tamil Nadu there is a place after the name of Thiruvalluvanayanar and in the North at Mylapore there is a shrine dedicated to him. Thus the life history of Thiruvalluvanayanar connects the South and North of Tamil Nadu by his birth and death respectively. It is indeed highly commendable that Chief Minister Kalaignar has decided to erect a 133 - foot high statue of the Universal poet on the sea-girt rock at Kanniyakumari. The proposed statue is unique and colossal in size and has no parallel anywhere in the world. The memorial in the mid-sea will definitely enhance the beauty of the holy place and spread the message of the universal poet all over the world through the millions of tourists who throng Kanniyakumari”.

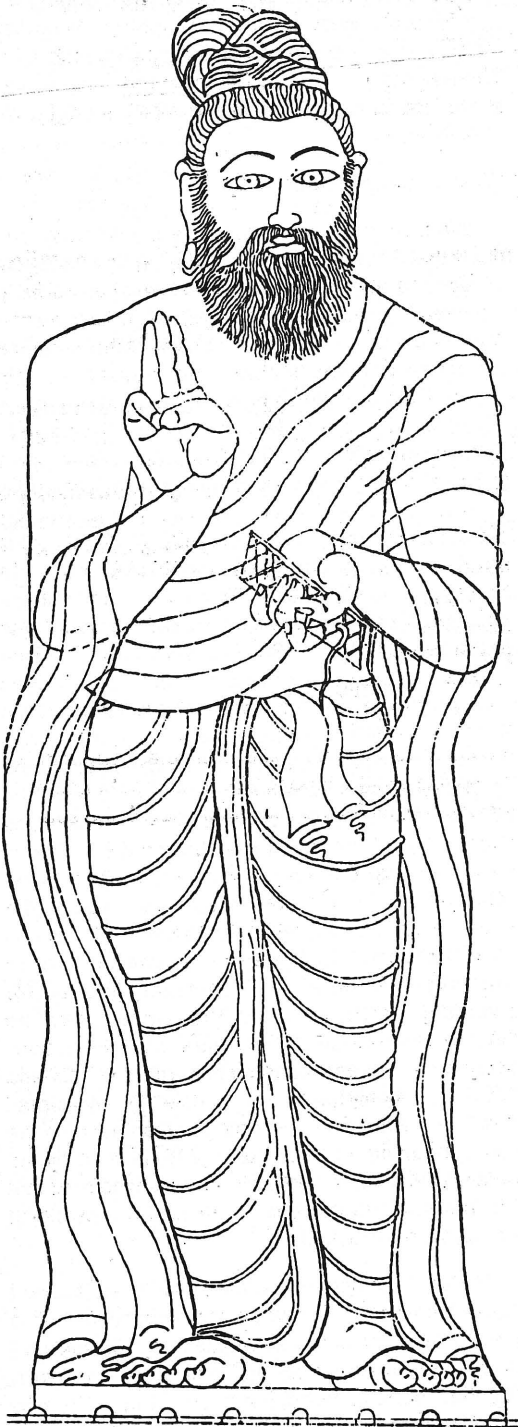
**“Tamil Nadu gave Valluvar to the World;  
And thereby gained everlasting fame”.**

**T**hus glorifies the great Tamil Poet Subramanya Bharathi. Though Thirukkural is a mine of information and instruction it does not give the life history of its author direct. But one can get some glimpses of history about Thiruvalluvar from his immortal work Thirukkural if the text is dispassionately analysed with an absolute degree of objectivity. The words used by Thiruvalluvar in his work Thirukkural, the style of expression followed by him, the examples chosen by him for explaining things and the territorial unit Valluvanadu found in the inscriptions of Kanniyakumari clearly indicate that Thiruvalluvar Nayanar was born at Thirunayanarkurichi in the erstwhile Valluvanadu now in Kanniyakumari district.

Stories are many regarding the birth place and life history of Thiruvalluvar. A Brahmin named Bhagavan and a pulaya woman named Adi are said to be the parents of Thiruvalluvar. The story goes that the Tamil poetess Awaiyar was the sister of Thiruvalluvar and quite interestingly the parents left them alone and they became orphans. According to another legend Vasuki was his wife. Popular imagination has woven several legends around the personal life of Thiruvalluvar and Vasuki. Again, yet another legend has it that Thiruvalluvar was a weaver in profession. But then there are no authentic evidences to substantiate these claims.

- **Dr.S.PADMANABHAN**, General Secretary,  
Kanniyakumari Historical and Research Centre, Nagercoil.





Leaving aside these fairy tales of popular imagination and considering the available linguistic evidences, epigraphic records and study of the local social customs, we can infer that Thiruvalluva Nayanar was born at Thirunayanarkurichi near Muttom of the erstwhile Valluvanadu in the present district of Kanniyakumari. He stayed some years at Madurai, the centre of Tamil culture and finally took eternal rest at Mylapore in the present city of Chennai where a temple was erected in his memory. Thiruvalluvar was neither a weaver nor an orphan but a ruler of Valluvanadu. Here are some available external and internal evidences from different sources to substantiate these claims.

Regarding the birth place of Thiruvalluvar there is one tradition that it was Mylapore which houses a shrine of Thiruvalluvar. Some scholars hold the view on the strength of a verse in Thiruvalluvamalai that Thiruvalluvar's birth place was Madurai. It is the custom in Tamil Nadu to erect a temple in memory of great men at the place where they died. The Thiruvalluvar shrine at Mylapore may at best help us to decide that Thiruvalluvar left this mortal world at Mylapore but it can't be an evidence to its claim of his place of birth.

The supporters of the Madurai theory, in the same vein, quote a verse in Thiruvalluvamalai which means that "Thiruvalluvar is the pivot of Punalkoodal while Krishna is the pivot of North Madurai". Thiruvalluvamalai cannot be considered an authentic record since it is an anthology of mediaeval period and not a contemporary work of Thirukkural. From Thiruvalluvamalai it can be claimed that Valluvar might have stayed in Madurai, which happened to be a centre of Tamil culture during his days. It does not mean that Valluvar was born at Madurai. There is another version that Punalkoodal is attributed to Kanniyakumari since it is the meeting place of land and sea and also the confluence of the three oceans. Madurai can only take credit for the flow of Vaigai river in its terrain but not the confluence of rivers.

#### **Nanjilnadu and Valluvanadu**

Purananuru, an anthology of Sangham period says that Nanjilnadu, the nucleus of the present Kanniyakumari district was ruled by one Nanjil Porunan, praised by the Sangham poets Oru Chirai Periyannar, Maruthan Ilanagannar, Avvaiyar and Karur Kadapillai. The commentators of Purananuru describe Porunan as Nanjil Valluvan. There is little doubt that Nanjil Valluvan and Thiruvalluvar were of the same genealogical line and they were contemporaries. Valluvanadu was adjacent to Nanjilnadu and it was

ruled by a Chieftain called Valluvar, who happened to be a poet of genius.

The Huzur office plate of the Ay King Vikramaditya Varaguna of the 9th century AD mentions "Valluvanattu Merkodu". Merkodu is a village in Kanniyakumari district. One of the inscriptions belonging to the 18th year of the great Chola King Raja Raja I, found in the rock-cut-cave temple at Thirunandikkarai records the capture of the village Muttam in Valluvanadu and the name of the village has been altered to Mummudi Cholanallur by Raja Raja Chola. Another inscription which belongs to the period of 12th century A.D. found in Kailasanatha temple at Karuppukottai also mentions "Valluvanadu". From these epigraphical records we can conclude that Valluvanadu was in existence even in the 12th century A.D. In all probability Thirunayanarkurichi near Muttam which was in Valluvanadu was the birth place of Thiruvalluva Nayanar. The very name of the places Vellimalai near Thirunayanakurichi and Vilavankodu a taluk in Kanyakumari district are said to be derived from Valluvamalai and Valluvankodu respectively. Thus the very name Valluvan is closely associated with Kanniyakumari district.

#### **Valluvar was a King**

Presumably the Chieftain Valluvan like Lord Mahavira and Buddha one day renounced the world and entered the literary field as a sort of penance. The renunciation transformed the royal personage into a spiritual thinker, a great reformer and one of the greatest philosophers that the world has ever known. With the rich experience gained during his royal career he wrote the chapters on Love and Political Economy with a surety of touch and unmatched skill. After completing his triple treatise on Morality, Material Prosperity and Love in 133 Chapters of ten couplets each Thiruvalluvar might have moved to Mylapore, a part of the present Chennai city. And further on his way to Mylapore he might have stayed at Madurai, the seat of Tamil culture for a short spell

**"anganathu luka vamizhdhatra tranganatha  
rallarmut koti kola!"**

- Kural (720)

**"vilakatram barku mirulebot kongan  
muyakatram barkum basapu"**

- Kural (1186)

which had led to a lot of speculations clouding the fact from our view. On the basis of the evidences mentioned above, we can easily conclude then that Thiruvalluvar was born at Thirunayanarkurichi, stayed at Madurai for a short period and left the mortal world at Mylapore.

#### **Words used in Kural**

We have seen so far the external evidences to show that Thiruvalluvar hails from Valluvanadu, the present Kanniyakumari district. Now let us come to the internal evidences, several words that appear in Thirukkural are used as such only in Kanniyakumari district even today. In other places they are not in vogue. A few are quoted here. The word atram (Kural 1186) which means "last" is in current usage in Kanniyakumari district. The word orthu which is used in Kural (357) and Ormai (remember) are very common in Kanniyakumari. The word Ankanam (water outlet inside the house) referred to in Kural 720 is used as such only in Kanniyakumari. In Kanniyakumari the word "Sirappu" means special poojas in a temple. Thiruvalluvar used the word in the same sense in Kural 180. The word "Chevi" which means ear is commonly used only in Kanniyakumari district. Valluvar used this word in different places. The word "madi" which means laziness in Kanniyakumari is used as such in Thirukkural in ten verses under the chapter Madi-inmai which means not being lazy. The people of Nanjilnadu usually call their children as "Makka (1)". Thiruvalluvar used this word in the same sense in eight places in his work. The word "Cheruthu" which denotes "to block" used by the people of Kanniyakumari district appear in Thirukkural as "Cheruppa" in the same sense (1318). In Kanyakumari the word "Veyarthai" is used for sweating. Valluvar used the same word as "Veyarppa" in Kural (1328). The word "Thinnuthal" which means to eat appeared in Kural (252, 254 and 256) is commonly used by the people of Kanyakumari district while the word "Pasiattai" which denotes the same meaning found in Kural (225) is used by the people of Kalkulam taluk. It is interesting to note that Thirunayanarkurichi is in Kalkulam taluk of Kanniyakumari district.

In Kanniyakumari district the bullock cart is called "Chakkadavandi". Thiruvalluvar also used the same word in the same sense as Chakadam in Thirukkural (475). In other districts of Tamil Nadu the word "Vellam" denotes flood. But only in Kanniyakumari district vellam denotes ordinary water. Valluvar also used the same word in the same sense (595).

**"idhanai yidhana livanmudiku mendrain  
thadhanai yavangan vidal"**

**- Kural (517)**

The tender coconut is called "Karukku" in Kanniyakumari district but it is known as llaneer in other parts of Tamil Nadu. Valluvar used the word "Karukkal" in the same sense in one of the verses in Thirukkural (1306). The word "Kolalakum" which means "acceptable" and good appeared in Thirukkural (134) is used as "Kollam" in Kanniyakumari district. The word okkum which denotes matching and possible appeared in Kural (972,1112) is used in the same sense by the people of Kanniyakumari.

The word "oppuravu" means an active social cooperation and the spirit of helpfulness behind it. One may quite commonly come across in the villages of Kanniyakumari district the usage of "oppuravu ozhugaventtam" which is obviously used to mean "Don't pretend to help". Thiruvalluvar used the same word "oppuravu" in the same sense in 5 verses (213,218,220,480,983). He also allotted one chapter (23) under the title "oppuravarithal" (complaisance). These are only a few among the several words which are still in vogue in the same sense exclusively in Kanniyakumari district. We cannot find these words in other parts of Tamil Nadu.

Normally the Tamil structure demands that an animate subject shall entail an animate predicate. But in Nanjilnadu Tamil although the subject is animate the ending may be non-animate or neuter gender. For instance Appa Varum instead of Appa Varuvanko (Father will come), Amma Pesum instead of Amma pesuvanko (Mother will speak), Mama mudikkum instead of Mama mudippanko (uncle will do). Thiruvalluvar used this typical expression in his Thirukkural which reads. "Ithanai Ithanai ivan mudikkum" (517) instead of "Ithanai ithanai ivan mudippan".

#### **He was not a weaver**

In fact, Thiruvalluvar was not a weaver. If he was a weaver he would have mentioned weaving in his work. It is surprising to note that there is no single word about weaving in Thirukkural. On the other hand Thiruvalluvar gave much importance to Agriculture

(1031-1040). No other occupation was given as much importance as farming in Thirukkural. He used the word ulavu (ploughing) in 6 places and Aer (ploughshare) in 3 places. He made reference direct or indirect to several occupations like medical, (941-950) military (761-780), teaching (395), trade and commerce (113,118,496) ministry (631-640) etc. The occupation of capturing wild elephant and domesticating it was also mentioned in one Kural (678). From the very words udai (939,1012) udukkai (788) which denote dress and the word uduppathu (166,1079) which means dressing appeared in Thirukkural clearly indicate that weaving was prevalent in Tamil Nadu during the days of Thiruvalluvar. But he has not mentioned anywhere in Thirukkural about weaving. If Thiruvalluvar did the occupation of weaving certainly he would have mentioned it in Thirukkural directly. The very fact that he had not mentioned the trade weaving in his work clearly shows that he had not being a weaver in profession.

#### **Agriculture in Nanjilnadu**

The main occupation of Nanjilnadu from Sangham age to the present day has been Agriculture. The very word Nanjil denotes Aer (Ploughshare). Thiruvalluvar was an expert on agriculture and he knew the ins and outs of agricultural activities including the typical method of farming followed by the farmers of Nanjilnadu. The peculiar type of farming known as "Podivithaippu" or "Pozhuthivithaippu" (paddy cultivation in the dry soil expecting the summer rain during the Tamil month of Chithirai) which is in vogue only in Nanjilnadu was mentioned by Thiruvalluvar. The same word "Thodipuzhuthi" is used in Thirukkural (1231). The word "Unankal" which means to make dry appeared in the same Kural is used as such by the people of Kanniyakumari even today. In Kanniyakumari district the peculiar custom of dressing particularly among the farmers is folding the dhoti above the knees. One can identify a person of Kanniyakumari from the model of wearing and folding his dhoti. This practice of folding the dhoti is also found in one Kural (1023).

#### **Neithal (maritime) region**

Thiruvalluvar used the word "Kadal" (sea) in 11 places. In one Kural he used the word "Kadal" in two places (496). He also mentioned various types of country boats and also some local technology of fishing in his Thirukkural. The fishermen in the Muttom area during fishing use the glittering golden lace in their hook to catch fish. The great poet



Thiruvalluvar mentioned this system as "Thoondil pon meen vilungiatru"(991). Even if one gets success he should not indulge in gambling. A gambler is compared to a fish attracted by the golden lace in the fishing hook and fall a prey to it. Now as the golden lace has increased its value the fishermen use glittering fibre thread locally known as "mins". This practice could not be found anywhere among the fishermen in Tamil Nadu. The very fact that Thiruvalluvar used the comparison of golden lace in the fishing hook is an ample evidence that he was a domicile of Thirunayanarkurichi near the coastal area of Muttom. Under these circumstances we can say that the profession of Thiruvalluvar was not Neithal (weaving) but he lived on the land of Neithal (maritime region). Tholkappiyam, the earliest available literary work in Tamil divided the land into five types namely Kurunchi (hilly region), Mullai (forest tracts), Marutham (irrigated areas), Neithal (maritime region) and Palai (parched up dry tracts). Valluvar lived on the land of Neithal combined with Marutham. That is why he gave much importance to agricultural and maritime activities.

### Nayanar means King

In the Muttom area when children cry, parents will say "Ponnu Nayane Karaiyathe" meaning "O King; don't cry". In the dramas staged in the coastal area of Muttom the citizens submitted their grievance by saying "Ponnu Nayane oru sankadam" (O King; there is a grievance). Here the meaning of the word Nayanar is king or leader. Hence the place of birth of Thiruvalluvar Nayanar come to be known as Thirunayanarkurichi. Similarly the temple of Thiruvalluvar Nayanar at Mylapore where he was laid to rest was also called Nayanarkoil in the temple records. In his article "Nayanar temple" Jeevabandhu T.S.Sripal writes that "Thiruvalluvar temple in Mylapore is well known to many. Although the temple is now called Thiruvalluvar temple about 20 years ago it was known as Nayanar temple. It is also learnt that the images of Thiruvalluvar and Vasuki were erected only 500 years ago. (Gnanasambandam published by Dharmapuram Adheenam 56/8 page-308).

### Embracing a corpse

The strong evidence of the theory that Thiruvalluvar was born at Thirunayanarkurichi in Kanniyakumari is the fare social custom of embracing a corpse, which was in vogue among the Nambudiris of the erstwhile Travancore state.

"The false embrace of whores is like That of a damned corpse in the dark (Kural 913)

It is a Kural under the head 'Prostitutes'. The prostitute pretends love when she embraces her customer; but in her heart she feels even as one who has touched a stranger's dead body in a dark room. This evil custom of embracing a dead body was in vogue among the Nambudiris of old Malainadu or Travancore near Nanjilnadu. If any virgin of this caste died then her body was left smeared with sandal paste and placed in a dark room. A person there was engaged to embrace the body of the corpse in return for a nominal amount paid to him as fee. The act of embrace is confirmed by the sandal paste seen on the body of the man, once the rite is over.

Thiruvalluvar knew well of this monstrous custom because he hailed from Kanniyakumari, adjoining to the country of Cheras. This peculiar custom was practically unknown to the rest of Tamil Nadu. The French author Abbe J.A.Dubois of the 18th century A.D. confirms the presence of this evil custom among the Nambudiris of old Travancore and mentioned it in his famous book "Hindu manners, customs and ceremonies". (Page 17) This social custom has also appeared in Edgar Thurston's Caste and Tribes of Southern India. (Volume V page 197) Here mention should necessarily be made of the fact that the present Kanniyakumari district was a part of the old Travancore state till 1956.

Thiruvalluvar in his work aptly refers to this evil and strange custom in the chapter on prostitutes. He compares a prostitute who embraces her customer for mere money, to a man who embraces the dead body of an unknown girl for monetary returns. This is another strong evidence to establish the fact that Thiruvalluvar was born and brought up in Kanniyakumari area. If Thiruvalluvar had been born at Mylapore or Madurai he would not have known this strange custom of embracing the corpse confined to a section of people in Malainadu adjacent to Nanchilnadu and there would not have been any special reference to this strange practice.

Thus the literary, epigraphic, linguistic and sociological studies confirm the view that Thiruvalluvar was born at Thirunayanarkurichi in the erstwhile Valluvanadu which is now in the district of Kanniyakumari and he was a King-turned-Philosopher-cum-Poet. ★



# Thirukkural

The code of conduct for the mankind



விசம்பின் துளிவீழின் அல்லால் மற்றுஆங்கே  
பசும்புல் தலைகாண்பு அரிது.

*visumbin thulivizhin allal matrango  
pasumbul thalaikanbu arithu.*

'If no rain-drops fall from the clouds it is difficult to see the shooting of the green grass on the earth'.

## COMMENTARY

Here it is pointed out that not only will agricultural operations be impossible without rain but no grass or herb will sprout in the world of nature without rain. Without rain nature would be merely the dead expanse of parched earth. No rain, no life on earth.

நெடும்கடலும் தன்றீர்மை குன்றும் தடிந்துஎழிலி  
தான்நல்காது ஆகி விடின்.

*nedungadalam dhananirmai kundrum dhodinduezhili  
thannalathu ahi vidin.*

'If the clouds do not shower their gifts of rain, even the wide ocean would get deteriorated in its nature'.

சிறப்பொடு பூசனை செல்லாது வானம்  
வறக்குமேல் வானோர்க்கும் ஈண்டு.

*sirapodu pusanai selladhu vanam  
varakumel vanorkum indu.*

'If the sky gets clearly free of clouds then there will be no more festivals and religious offerings for the divine being here on earth'.

## COMMENTARY

Here is an indication of the religious practices that were followed in the Tamil land in ancient India. Evidently there were temples and temple

worship. Temple worship always implies festivals and offerings to the God in the temple. A starving population cannot afford to carry on these religious offerings and festivities. Hence the author wants to point out that not only will ordinary economic conditions break down in a society which is denied rainfall but even the spiritual life of man will have to disappear resulting in complete collapse of man's higher aspirations characteristic of culture and civilisation.

தானம் தவம்இரண்டும் தங்கா, வியன்உலகம்  
வானம் வழங்காது எனின்.

*thanam dhavamirandum dhanga, viyanulham  
vanam vazhangadhu enin.*

'If the clouds deny their boon of rainwater there will be neither charity nor *tapas* in the wide world'.

## COMMENTARY

It is pointed out that the householder cannot continue his ethical duties of offering charity and the ascetic cannot continue his life of renunciation and practice *tapas*. The gifts prescribed for the householder are of four kinds: charitable gift of food, gift of medicine, gift of books and gift of refuge, which are called technically, *aharadhana*, *oushadha dhana*, *sastra dhana* and *abhaya dhana*. The householder is expected to practice these four kinds of gifts and he cannot successfully carry out this duty without agricultural produce in plenty. If the producer of food fails in his occupation he can no more afford these gifts. The great ascetics who do not own anything as their own must obtain periodic sustenance from the householder to engage themselves in spiritual discipline for themselves and devote their time and energy for the spiritual uplift of mankind in general. Hence it is clearly pointed out that neither the householder nor the ascetic could carry out his legitimate duties in a famished land.

நீரின்று அமையாது உலகு; எனில் யார்க்கும்  
வான்றின்று அமையாது ஒழுக்கு.

*nirindru amaiyadhuulagu enil yaryarkum  
vaninindru amaiyadhu ozhuku.*

'It is clear that the world of living beings cannot get on without water. Hence without rain it is impossible for man to discharge his duties according to the ordained ethical code'.

### COMMENTARY

Here the ethical code implies both the householder's duties as well as the duties prescribed for the ascetic. Thus this chapter emphasises the importance of rain for the carrying on of social activities in all its aspects, and failure of rain will mean complete paralysis of social activities in all its aspects.

நிறைமொழி மாந்தர் பெருமை, நிலத்து  
மறைமொழி காட்டி விடும்.

*niraimozhi mandhar perumai, nilathu  
maraimozhi kati vidum.*

'The greatness of those Rishis whose word is truth is well illustrated by the scripture revealed by them for the benefit of the world'.

### COMMENTARY

The great ascetics never indulge in vain talk. They speak only what is useful and true. The greatness of such saints is fully borne out by the works composed by them. The scripture which owes its existence to such great men exhibits the greatness of the author by its own characteristics which conform to the strict criterion of truth which means that they are never in conflict with accepted pramanas or the criterion of truth such as pratyaksha, the concrete world and reality and anumana, the inferential knowledge based upon such perceptual facts.

குணம்என்னும் குன்றாறறி நின்றார் வெகுளி,  
கண்மேயும், காத்தல் அரிது.

*kunamennum gundreri nindrar vehuli  
kanameyum gathal aridhu.*

'In the case of those who have climbed up the hill of excellence and stand firm, their anger cannot endure even for a moment'.

### COMMENTARY

What is intended here is that the emotion of anger does not appear at all in the case of great ascetics who have climbed up the hill of righteousness by the method of strict self-discipline

leading to spiritual development. Occasionally it may appear in their consciousness, but it may flicker away in a moment. The anger which may disturb the ordinary man and influence his conduct deleteriously will just appear in the consciousness of a great ascetic and disappear in the same moment without in any way affecting the peace and harmony of his soul.

சிறப்புநூல் செல்வமும் நூலும் அறத்தின்னங்கு  
ஆக்கம் எவனோ உயிர்க்கு.

*sirapinum selvamum inum arathinungu  
akam evano uyirku.*

'It yields eternal bliss of Moksha. It yields prosperity here. What gain, what benefit greater than virtue can man obtain?'

### COMMENTARY

This emphasises the value and potency of virtue. There is nothing more valuable than this for man. By practising the code of morals ordained for man, he can obtain prosperity and happiness in the world by strictly observing the code of righteousness intended for the ascetic. He can reach the ultimate goal of liberation and self-perfection. Certainly therefore he cannot find anything more valuable than this which can be adopted by man as his guide in life.

ஹத்துஇன்னா செய்தஅக் கண்ணும், மறுத்துஇன்னா  
செய்யாமையு மாசற்றார் கோள்.

*karuthinna seidhaak kannum maruthinna  
seyamai masattrar kol.*

'It is the considered belief of the sages of spotless purity that even when out of malice evil is done to a person he ought not to do in return anything evil'.

எனைத்தானும், எஞ்ஞான்றும், யார்க்கும், மனத்தானும்  
மாணா செய்யாமையு தலை.

*enaitthanum, enzhanrum, yarkum, manathanaam  
mana seiyamai dhalai.*

'Never to cause wilfully any kind of evil to any living being, this is the greatest virtue'.

### COMMENTARY

Here the emphasis is laid on wilfully doing evil. That ought to be avoided. In an unconscious moment or involuntarily injury may be caused to living beings. Such an injury is not done wilfully and hence ought not to be considered as really sinful. The idea of doing evil is considered more important than the real action causing pain. ★



# HEALTH SERVICES

**T**he provision under the Medical and Public Health Demands in Budget Estimate 1998 - 99 is Rs.1045.72 Crores as detailed below.

Directorate of Medical Education Rs.310.89 Crores, Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services (including E.S.I.) Rs.282.83 Crores, Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (including PHCs) Rs.303.05 Crores, Directorate of Family Welfare Rs.62.40 Crores, Directorate of Drugs Control Rs.3.95 Crores, Directorate of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy Rs.29.65 Crores, Danida Health Care Project Directorate Rs.11.54 Crores, Reproductive and Child Health Project Directorate Rs.0.53 Crores, Tamil Nadu State Health Transport Department Rs.6.17 Crores, C.E. (B) (Maintenance and Repair Work for Medical and Public Health Institutions) Rs.23.64 Crores, Others Rs.2.40 Crores, Add Recoveries Rs.8.67, Total Rs. 10455.72 Crores.

Health is a critical investment for human resources development and poverty alleviation. That is the reason as to why the Government have taken upon themselves the responsibility of providing adequate health care facilities to all the residents in Tamil Nadu.

To give concrete shape to the objective of the Government to ensure "health for all by the year 2000" (that is, all the people of Tamil Nadu attain a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life as declared by the World Health Assembly in 1977), many programmes are being implemented by the Government. The most important among them are

- ✦ Education about the prevailing health problems and methods of preventing and controlling them;
- ✦ Immunisation against infectious diseases;
- ✦ Expansion of the hospital network to reduce the travel costs of the patients; and appropriate treatment of common diseases and injuries;
- ✦ Provision of essential drugs
- ✦ Maternal and child health care, including family planning;
- ✦ Prevention and control of endemic diseases;
- ✦ Expansion and upgradation of the facilities in the hospitals; provision of modern equipment and upgrading the skills of medical officers;
- ✦ Upgrading the medical colleges and to improve the standard of medical education; and
- ✦ Encouraging the indigenous systems of medicine

Tamil Nadu has adopted the primary health care approach to provide free creative and preventive health services to a large section of the population. It has made considerable progress in the last several decades in expanding its public health system and in reducing the burden of disease. Smallpox has been eradicated. Prevention of a range of diseases such as measles, poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tuberculosis has greatly reduced childhood mortality. An extensive infrastructure has been developed during the last few years. Tamil Nadu has already achieved the targets set in the National Health Policy for improving the health status of the people. The infant mortality rate has been brought down to 54 per 1000 live births, the crude birth rate has fallen to 19.2 and the crude death rate has come down to 7.8

There is still an important unfinished agenda for addressing childhood and maternal morbidity and mortality, and communicable diseases. The leading sources of mortality and morbidity continue to be maternal and perinatal causes, respiratory infections, diarrhoea diseases and Tuberculosis. In addition, the risks of infection from communicable diseases, such as malaria and leprosy, remain. New health problems such as AIDS and drug resistant forms of several communicable diseases, including malaria and tuberculosis, have emerged. The State must deal with a rising incidence of non - communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases and cancers. For achieving these goals, numerous programmes are being implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

## Primary Health Centres

The provision of minimum basic health facilities for the people especially in the rural areas is one of the main objectives of the Government. The Government have taken several steps to strengthen the services available in the Primary Health Centres. In



keeping with the norms of the Government of India, 1408 Primary Health Centres (including 26 upgraded Primary Health Centres and 37 Community Health Centres) and 8682 Health Sub - Centres have been established in the State. In addition to the basic facilities available in all Primary Health Centres, all the Block Level Primary Health Centres are provided with Ophthalmic equipment for the detection of Cataract cases and correction of refractive errors as well as treatment of minor eye ailments.

After the present Government came to power in 1996, it was decided to provide necessary infra - structure facilities by providing own buildings for all the Primary Health Centres and accordingly in the first phase, the Government sanctioned the construction of new buildings for 300 Primary Health Centres at a total cost of Rs.18.00 cores during 1996 - 97. It is expected that the construction of new

buildings for another 352 Government Primary Health Centres at a total cost of Rs.31.68 crores and the construction is in progress. The Government have also sanctioned the construction of these buildings will be completed soon. During 1997-98, the Government have sanctioned the construction of new buildings for 200 Government Health Sub - Centres at a total cost of Rs.9.00 crores during 1997 - 98.

The Government have issued orders for upgrading 424 Block Level Primary Health Centres as 24 hour Primary Health Centres and additional medical and para medical staff and equipment are being provided to 124 Primary Health Centres in the first phase. During 1997 -98, additional staff, ambulances and laboratory equipment have been sanctioned to 126 more Government Primary Health Centres. Steps are being taken to sanction additional staff and equipment for the remaining Primary Health Centres in a phased manner. This effort has been appreciated by the Union Planning Commission as a novel one.

With a view to avoiding hardship and provide quick and immediate treatment to all Medico - Legal cases, the Government have ordered that all Block Level Primary health Centres will attend to such cases except conducting post - mortem. The medical Officers of Primary Health Centres have been given one day training in handling the Medico - Legal cases.

#### **Strengthening of District Headquarters, Taluk and Non - Taluk Hospitals.**

District and Taluk Hospitals will be strengthened and upgraded in a phased manner, to become referral units to provide

emergency and essential services round the clock. Functioning of Government Hospitals and Dispensaries will be improved by increasing financial allocations and streamlining the procedures.

During 1997 - 98, numerous steps are taken to strengthen the District Headquarters, Taluk and Non - Taluk hospitals.

- 1) 554 beds have been newly sanctioned in 30 District Taluk and Non - Taluk hospitals.
- 2) Accident and Emergency Services have been extended to 11 more hospitals situated in National Highways to treat the road accident cases.
- 3) To provide essential service, five X-ray blocks have been sanctioned.
- 4) To attend Accident and Emergency victims a Neuro - Surgery Block has been sanctioned.
- 5) To give hygienic food to the patients, gas kitchen has been sanctioned in 67 hospitals.
- 6) As a first step to modernise Lab facilities in the hospitals, Semi Auto Analysers have been purchased and supplied to 37 hospitals.
- 7) To give immediate care for various heart diseases, intensive Cardiac care Units in nine hospitals have been sanctioned.
- 8) To streamline the administration and to modernise, 15 Joint Director of Health Services Offices have been supplied with Computer, Modem, Printer and Xerox Machine.

- 9) Mortuary block with cold storage facilities have been sanctioned in 15 hospitals.
- 10) 22 Primary Health Centres have been upgraded as Taluk and Non - Taluk Hospitals.
- 11) 100 posts of Staff Nurses and 19 posts of Radiographers have been newly created.
- 12) The following special clinics have been sanctioned.
  1. Ophthalmic Clinics - 2
  2. Skin Clinics - 2
  3. ENT Clinics - 2
  4. Dental Clinics - 2

Besides the above schemes, to improve the functioning of Government Hospitals and Dispensaries by increasing the financial allocations, the following special schemes have also been sanctioned.

- 1) Two District Headquarters Hospitals have been provided with full body C.T. Scan worth Rs.1 Crore each.
- 2) For the benefit of In Patients 10,000 mattresses and 6,000 cots have been provided at a total cost of Rs. 5 Crores.
- 3) 127 Ambulances have been purchased at a total cost of Rs. 4.5 Crores.
- 4) A sum of Rs.5 Crores has been sanctioned for improvement of T.B. Control Programme.
- 5) A sum of Rs.10 Crores has been announced for improvement of maternal and Child Health activities which covers creation of 684 additional beds in 29

hospitals exclusively for Women and Children, construction of Operation Theatre with Air - conditioner in three hospitals, construction of X - ray Block in two hospitals and construction of O.P. Block in four hospitals.

- 6) A lump sum provision of Rs.2.5 crores has been made under capital outlay which covers creation provision of High Tension Supply to 3 Hospitals, provision of Air Conditioner facilities to the existing operation theatres in 5 hospitals, provision of generators to 5 hospitals, construction of Out Patient Block in 3 hospitals, Operation Theatre with Air conditioner in 2 hospitals and post - mortem block in 2 hospitals.
- 7) Blood bank improvement in 81 Hospitals has been made at a cost of Rs.1.00 crores.
- 8) A sum of Rs.5.00 crores has been sanctioned towards maintenance and Repair of Hospital Buildings.

Besides plan schemes, a sum of Rs.2.04 crores has been allotted towards machinery and equipment purchase, Rs.3.60 crores has been allotted towards Stores & Equipment and Rs.33.68 crores towards purchase of medicines. To make the doctors and other para - medical staff acquainted with sophisticated modern technologies in Health Care, a sum of Rs. 7.50 lakhs has been allotted for training.

The following special clinics have been proposed to be opened during 1998 - 99.

- 1) Orthopaedic Clinic - 2
- 2) Skin Clinic - 2



- 3) ENT Clinic - 3
- 4) Ophthalmic Clinic - 3
- 5) Blood Bank - 5
- 6) Dental Clinic - 10
- 7) Pediatric Clinic - 10
- 8) STD Clinic - 2
- 9) Clinical Laboratories - 18

### Admission to Medical Colleges

The State Government have taken a number of measures to streamline the admission to Under - Graduate and Post - Graduate medical Courses and para - medical courses. The permanent Selection Committee created for this purpose has already borne fruits. The process for Post - Graduate admission has been started. Similarly, the process for M.B.B.S., admission will be started in time. The selection and allotment to the various Colleges will continue to be made on the basis of merit and community reservations and the college allotment will be published in newspapers at the time of announcements of selection to Medical colleges, as was done in the last year.

For the first time 15 percent of seats will be reserved for M.B.B.S. and B.D.S., admission for the students from rural schools. Government will continue to bear the full cost of medical education, (M.B.B.S., B.D.S., and B.S.M.S.,) of the first 20 students in merit list from families which do not have any graduates.

A new medical college after the name of Thiru. K.A.P. Viswanatham has been opened at Trichy with an annual in - take of 100 students for M.B.B.S. course in order to cater the need of students community.

It is felt that there is an urgent need to increase the availability of trained man - power in the field of medicines, as recruitment of doctors, for the rural areas continue to pose a serious problem. The Government of India have therefore been addressed seeking their approval for increase of seats in Government Medical Colleges.

### Provision of Ambulance to Government Hospitals

With a view to providing Ambulance services to the poor people to avail emergent medical treatment in Government Hospitals and Primary Health Centres, it was decided to purchase



Ambulance from the sale proceeds of Air - craft used by the former Chief Minister. In anticipation of Sale of Air - craft, the Government sanctioned an amount of Rs.9.91 crores towards the purchase of Ambulances to Government Hospitals and Primary Health Centres as detailed below

Name of the Department	No. of Ambulances allotted
Medical and Rural Health Services	127
Medical Education	26
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	124
Indian Medicine and Homeopathy	3

Another 100 Ambulances have been sanctioned for the use of 24 hour Primary Health Centres at a cost of Rs. 4 crores.

#### **Adoption and Maintenance of Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals by Industrialists :**

During the meetings held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 1.11.97, many of the Industrialists came forward to adopt and maintain the Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals in the State at their cost. A special cell has been formed in Secretariat to process their requests. The following three models of adoption have been suggested to the Industrialists :

- i) The total adoption by meeting full cost of running Primary Health Centre/Taluk Hospital/District Hospital viz., staff, cost of drugs, purchase of equipment, civil work and maintenance, repairs and construction of staff quarters.
- ii) Partial adoption involving meeting of all cost except staff cost of Primary Health Centre / Taluk Hospital/District Hospital.
- iii) Limited adoption involving provision of civil work, maintenance and repairs and provision of equipment if needed.

Fifteen Industrialists have sent their willingness to maintain 60 primary Health Centres. Others have been reminded.

#### **Externally Aided Projects**

The Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, Egmore, Chennai has been chosen for receiving Rs. 21 crores grant-in-aid from the Government of Japan. The grant-in-aid form of medical equipment and instruments to the various departments of this Hospital.

The Government of India have cleared the Phase - III of the DANIDA Health Care Project at a total cost of Rs.59.10 crores. This project is being implemented in Dharmapuri, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Thiruvavur districts from 1997 - 98.

The Government of India have conveyed their administrative approval for implementation of Reproductive and Child Health sub project in Madurai and Theni districts (including eight Municipalities) with a World Bank aid of Rs.23.14 crores. This sub project will cover a period of five years from 1997 - 98 to 2001 - 2002. it seeks to provide in a comprehensive manner Reproductive and Child health care for Women, infant and child care including management of childhood illness and health support services for women and children during their life span.

#### **Drug Distribution**

Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation Limited has been entrusted with the responsibility of procurement and supply of all essential drugs to all Government Medical Institutions in the State. TNMSC has established Drug Warehouses at 23 District Headquarters for distribution of the drugs to the Medical Institutions through Pass Books given to each Institution. The availability of drugs in all the warehouses is being monitored on a day to day basis through a well - knit computer in order to ensure that all the required medicines are available in all the warehouses. This has helped to avoid the non availability of Drugs in any Warehouses. Apart from this, adequate funds are placed at the disposal of the heads of all medical institutions purchase of medicines locally, when some of the medicines not found in the list of medicines supplied by TNMSC, are urgently required.

In order to maintain high quality, only drugs which conform to the norms prescribed in the

Pharmacopoeia are being purchased and supplied. Samples of each batch of each drug are being tested through reputed laboratories located throughout India at different stages to ensure high quality. Tablets and capsules are being procured in aluminium strips and blister foils. The tablets and capsules are distributed with Government logo on them and the strips also carry the name of the Drug and a message that the item is for "Government of Tamil Nadu supply; Not for sale" print both in English and Tamil. This has received wide appreciation from public and also other State Government officials who have visited TNMSC for study purposes. The system of procurements and distribution in TNMSC has been commended at National level and by World Health Organisation (W.H.O.)



1997 - 98 covering about 65 lakh children in each of the first two rounds and about 67 lakh children in the 3rd round. In each round, children below 5 years were immunised with additional two doses of OPV. This strategy needs to be adopted for one more year as per WHO guidelines. With the successful implementation of Pulse Polio Immunisation, the number of Polio Cases reported in our State has come down.

### Important New Schemes

In order to satisfy the norms for staff pattern prescribed by the Medical Council of India, 80 posts of teaching staff in various categories are proposed to be created at an ultimate cost of Rs. 94.86 lakhs.

With a view to providing Emergency treatment facilities to the accident victims it is proposed to introduce Accident and Emergency Services in 4 Government Hospitals, (Thirumangalam, Kodaikanal, Palladam and Jayamkondam) at a total cost of Rs.277.20 lakhs.

It is proposed to open 6 new Primary Health Centres in the blocks where sufficient number of Primary Health Centres is not available as per the norms prescribed by Government of India as a first phase at a total cost of Rs.64.50 lakhs.

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TNMSC has constructed its modern drug Warehouses at Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruchy and Madurai. The construction of Warehouses at Tirunelveli, Nagercoil, Thanjavur and Kancheepuram is in progress. The Warehouses are provided with cold storage room so as to maintain the potency of some of the drugs, which require storage at low temperatures.

TNMSC has set up C.T. Scan Centres at six places namely Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Salem, Trichy, Chengalpattu and Vellore. Till 28.02.98, 20,570 patients have availed of the facilities at these centres. The C.T. Scan Centres charge a nominal fee which just meets the cost of operation and this facility has received considerable public appreciation. The C.T. Scan centres also provide free services to up to 20% of the patients who are poor.

### National Pulse Polio Immunisation

Under the National Pulse Polio Immunisation programme, Tamil Nadu has successfully conducted three rounds of Pulse Polio Immunisation during 1995 - 96, 1996 - 97 and

# 1300 years old artefacts from excavations

**Thiru Natana Kasinathan**  
Director, Archaeology Department

The Tamil Nādu State Department of Archaeology is conducting excavation at three important historical sites namely pumpuhar in Nagapattinam District. Alagankulam in Ramanathapuram District and Kodumanal in Erode District.

All the three sites have begun to yield excellent artifacts that are the invaluable source material for understanding the cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu.

Alagankulam which usually stands first in supplying the antiquities, has brought to light Sangam age Pandya square copper coin bearing the figure of elephant on the obverse and fish on the reverse, collected out from a well stratified position. These are datable to 3rd Century B.C. Other important artefacts of this site are the weight which seems to be made of a kind of soft stone beads made in different shapes of different semi-precious stones, shell bangle pieces and the black and red ware and rouletted ware shreds with archaic Tamil scripts. Of the beads the barrel type and the amlaka type beads are more fascinating. Among the potshreds which bear the legends one is more worth mentioning as the legend reads as follows:

## TANIY TUVARAIMA (N)

It seems to have been written in archaic style. If the strokes found on vowels are taken only for short vowels except the last but one meaning of the above legend would be the "single or the probable unique Tuvaraman". Tuvaraman means the son of Tuvurai, the Tamilised form of Dwaraka. Hence the individual who possessed that vessel should have been the strong disciple of Lord Krishna.

In addition to the above finds a brick drainage has also been exposed.

Of the next two sites Kodumanal has yielded a considerable number of inscribed shreds, graffiti shreds and bone arrow heads while Pumpuhar has brought to light a few exquisite terraestta images and semi-precious stone heads. The archaic Tamil Character found on the potshreds of Kadumanal appears quite similar to the famous Battiprolu inscription, dated to 2nd century B.C. This makes us to have a deep study of the archaic Tamil inscriptions of Tamil Nadu. Besides, a few terracotta pipes laid in a row have also been exposed in one of the trenches of Kadumanal. It appears that these pipes could have been used to bring fresh drinking water to the habitation area.



Terracotta figurines bearing the engraving in Archaic Tamil and Brahmi Script.

Of the terracotta figurines of Pumpuhar the head of a figure is the most outstanding. Though the head portion only has been found. It seems to be sufficient to imagine how beautiful the full figure could have been when it was produced. The face is so charming as of a solacing mother to a child. The mild smiles, the catching eyes, the elongated nose which is typical to the Late Pallava and early Chola images. Calm and tender all reflect the late Pallava or early Chola idiom. Other notable figures are the heads of a bull and yali.





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