

Tamil Arasu

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The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J Jayalalithaa has announced two Special Schemes on the occasion of World Coconut Day celebrated on 2.9.2004. One scheme is to benefit the Girl children born in rural areas and the other scheme to benefit Coconut farmers.

Coconut Seedlings for Female Infants

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J Jayalalithaa is committed to empowerment of Women in the State. One of the most effective ways of empowering women is by assuring their education and an assured income. It is therefore proposed to give 2 Coconut seedlings to each girl child born in rural areas under this scheme, free of cost. The beneficiary under the scheme shall be entitled to receive the seedlings within one year of her birth. By the time a child is 5 years old and is of an age to go to school, the coconut trees will start yielding nuts at the rate of 100 per year/ tree. Thereby it will be ensured that the child has an income of Rs.1000/- per annum and

the income will be available to her for her higher education. This will also ensure increase of the area under Coconut cultivation.

Control of Eriophyid Mite in Coconut

In Tamil Nadu, the menace of Eriophyid Mite in Coconut has been noticed. It is an airborne pest affecting coconut trees causing considerable yield reduction and thus adversely affecting the Coconut Growers' income.

In order to control this obnoxious pest, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University has recommended application of 1% Azadirachtin, a Neem based botanical. To help the small farmers with land holdings up to 5 acres, it is programmed to distribute 10 ml. of 1% Azadirachtin/ per tree, for a maximum of 350 trees (5 acres) / **free of cost** at a total cost of Rs.9.50 crores. Under this programme, 1.35 crore eriophyid affected trees in the State can be treated. Further, the Government of India has been requested to sanction Rs.8.32 crores to cover the remaining 1.01 crore affected trees.



INDEPENDENCE DAY Celebrations



Colourful cultural events, mass feeding programmes, distribution of awards for meritorious achievements and aid to the poor marked the celebrations of the nation's 58th Independence Day on 15.8.2004.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa unfurled the National Flag and honoured achievers.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa arrived at the venue close to Fort St. George ramparts at 8.20 a.m. and she was received by the Chief Secretary, Tmt. Lakshmi Pranesh, I.A.S., The

representatives of the Armed Forces, the Director General of Police, the Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) and the Commissioner of Police, Chennai were introduced to her.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister took salute at the guard of honour presented by different contingents of Police and inspected from an open jeep the line of contingents on the Rajaji Salai.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister unfurled the National Flag from a specially erected podium on the Rajaji Salai at 8.30 a.m. with the police band playing the National Anthem.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the Kalpana Chawla Award for bravery and gallantry to Amala Mary of Thengunkudi in Kanniyakumari District, who prevented a major train disaster near her village on the Nagercoil-Tiruvananthapuram section. The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over a cheque for Rs.5 lakhs to her.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed awards to individuals and institutions who have done meritorious services to the disabled. Thiru K. Chellamuthu, District Disabled Rehabilitation Officer, Dindigul District received the 'Best Disabled Rehabilitation Officer' award carrying 22 carat Gold Medal

of 10 grams and a Merit Certificate; the 'Best Doctor' award went to Thiru. Mayil Vahanan Natarajar carrying 22 carat Gold Medal of 10 gms and a Merit Certificate; the 'Best Private Employer' award to M/s.Hindustan Coca-cola Beverages (P) Limited, Thiruvallur District which carried 22 carat Gold Medal of 10 gms and a Merit Certificate; the 'Best

Institution ('Disabled Welfare') award to Cheran Region Christian Society to Disabled Children, Coimbatore carrying 22 carat Gold Medal of 10 gms, a Merit certificate and cash award of Rs.50,000; the 'Best Social Worker' (Disabled Welfare) award to Thiru S. Sankara Raman, Secretary, Amar Seva Sangam, Tirunelveli District; the 'Best Institution' (women's welfare) award to Asha Nivas, Chennai, which carried 22 carat Gold Medal of 10 gms, a Merit Certificate and cash



award of Rs.50,000; and the 'Best Social Worker' (Women's Welfare) award to Thiru/S/ Stephen Vidhyaakar, Udhavum Karangal, Coimbatore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented awards to three of the fifteen village panchayats chosen as the best performing bodies under the State Government's "Clean Village Programme". The recipients of the cash awards of Rs.5 lakhs each were, M. Kala, President of Kooduvancheri Panchayat in Kancheepuram

District, Vijaya Mathivanan, President, Araichi Panchayat in Tiruchi District and Thiru K.P. Pannerselvam, President, Keerapalayam Panchayat in Cuddalore District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed sweet packets to physically-challenged children. Simultaneously, sweet packets were distributed to a total of 1000 disabled children at their respective institutions.

★ ★ ★

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi **J JAYALALITHAA** launches
'Namadhu Gramam' Scheme
for development of villages

Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa launched a novel scheme - 'Namadhu Gramam' with an outlay of Rs.200 crores, for the overall development of villages in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister announced this scheme in her Independence day message on 15.8.2004. This scheme would focus on enrolment of all eligible children in schools and ensuring their retention, preventing dropouts, controlling the infant mortality rate, elimination of female foeticide, alleviation of poverty, rural sanitation and public health and hygiene. The Government would implement projects to provide link roads, inner cement roads, streetlights and protected drinking water to encourage well performing village panchayats with the active participation of the villagers.

This 'Namadhu Gramam' scheme would be implemented in all village panchayats during the current year at an estimated cost of Rs.200 crores.

**Collectors
and
Superintendents of Police
should work hard
for outstanding results
and strive to
attain a new pinnacle
of achievements**



Hon'ble Ministers of the
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Chief Secretary,
Director General of Police,
Development Commissioner,
Secretaries to Government,
Heads of Departments,
Senior Police Officers,
Commissioners of Police,
District Collectors and
Superintendents
of Police.

I am glad to inaugurate this
Annual Conference of District
Collectors and Superintendents of
Police. I had planned to hold this
Conference earlier, but it had to be
rescheduled in view of the
intervening Parliamentary

elections. This Annual Conference is not to be treated as a ritual event, but as an unique opportunity to introspect and innovate so that we can collectively serve the people better.

□ After my Government assumed office in May, 2001, I immediately held the First Conference of Collectors and Police Officers in August, 2001, in which we evolved the strategy for the rapid development of Tamil Nadu, taking stock of the ground realities and the aspirations of the people. Faced with a drought situation, I held a Special Conference of Collectors in July, 2002 to undertake drought relief operations on a war footing and provide relief and succour to the people. In the next Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police held in December, 2002, I placed the focus on the perfect maintenance of law and order, development initiatives and good governance.

□ We can legitimately be proud of the fact that we have overcome the extraordinary obstacles in our path and created the right conditions for establishing Tamil Nadu as the Numero Uno State in the Country. The challenges posed by the successive failure of monsoons and the resultant drought conditions have been handled with utmost care and sensitivity to the needs of the people. The fiscal paralysis bequeathed to this Government by the predecessor Government has been successfully vanquished. These are major accomplishments of this

Government and without the firm and positive action that I have taken, the State would certainly have slumped to the 'also ran' category. I was clear that I would never let this happen and today I have the satisfaction that Tamil Nadu is on the march to take its appointed place as the leader among the States.

□ Our progress is indeed many splendoured. Tamil Nadu is the Number One State in implementing the Rain Water Harvesting Programme, Rural Development Programmes, and Education Programmes. Tamil Nadu is the pioneer in implementing the Free Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme which is now emulated by all other States. Tamil Nadu stands Number One in implementing the Total Sanitation Programme. As per the e-Readiness Report, 2003, Tamil Nadu is ranked among the best performing States. The Tele-justice system connecting Courts and Prisons, covering the entire State, using Video Conferencing is another All India First. I launched the first All Women Police Station in the country in 1992. Today, Tamil Nadu has 188 All Women Police Stations functioning most effectively. 7 more All Women Police Stations will be launched shortly. Tamil Nadu is the first State to create a Company of All Women Commandos and an All Women Police Battalion. Tamil Nadu has made significant strides in Human Development reaching the third rank among all States in the Human Development Index. A record 10,946



Kilometres of roads under the Highways Department have been re-laid and upgraded in the last one year, completely setting right the neglect of the past. It would take a long while to even list out completely our accomplishments in this period of three years. What is most satisfying is that we have marched ahead despite all the hurdles that we have had to confront.

- We cannot rest on our laurels. This is an unique opportunity to review and give shape to new approaches to do even better. No progress can be achieved if we do not guarantee the perfect maintenance of law and order. I have always been totally

uncompromising in ensuring that Tamil Nadu is a haven of peace and tranquillity. There is no question that the maintenance of law and order in Tamil Nadu is perfect. This has not happened by chance. It has been achieved by meticulous planning and the fact that all elements trying to disrupt the peace have been kept at bay. There has virtually been no major incident disturbing communal harmony. Activities of fundamentalists and banned organizations have been completely curbed. There has been a substantial reduction of deaths in Police custody and due to Police firing during the year 2003. The crime rate has gone down in the past year. The morale of the Police Force has

never been better. I personally conducted five Grievance Days and heard as many as 8,395 Police personnel. This example has been followed by Senior Officers of the Police Department who have been conducting similar Grievance Days on a regular basis, taking prompt action on the grievances of the Police personnel. Despite this perfect record, there is a concerted campaign to highlight a few incidents in the media and portray a picture of slackness in maintenance of law and order. The truth will always triumph. We must however be careful to anticipate and tackle the nefarious designs of vested interests who have set themselves some other agenda. The perfect maintenance of law and order is the bedrock on which the magnificent edifice of Tamil Nadu's development can be built, to stand as a resplendent beacon engendering awe and wonderment. In the words of the immortal Thiruvalluvar,

“கலங்காது கண்ட வினைக்கண் துளங்காது
தூக்கங் கடிந்து செயல்” – திருக்குறள்

மனம் கலங்காமல் ஆராய்ந்து, துணிந்து ஏற்ற
பணியைச் சோர்வு கொள்ளாமல் காலந்
தாழ்த்தாமல் செய்து முடிக்க வேண்டும்.

“Resolve upon a deed after deep
consideration; be at it, waver not; doze not;
be wakeful; and fulfil it briskly”.

- *Thirukkural*

□ I would like to draw your attention to the
recent ghastly tragedy at Kumbakonam

where 94 children met a gruesome death
in a horrendous fire. This harrowing
incident has brought to the fore some
fundamental issues relating to safety
measures against fire. My Government
has constituted a Commission of Inquiry
headed by Justice Thiru K. Sampath, to
not only go into the causes of the
Kumbakonam fire tragedy but also to
recommend reforms and preventive
measures that need to be taken. The,
Commission of Inquiry will be assisted by
an Expert Panel. Meanwhile, I have
ordered that all Collectors should ensure
that thatched roofs are removed from all
schools forthwith. I am glad that the
Collectors have taken up this challenge
and ensured that in all the 4503 schools,
the thatched roofs have been removed.
Steps should be taken immediately to
ensure that in respect of Government,
Municipal and Panchayat Union Schools,
permanent school buildings with non-
flammable roofs are constructed
expeditiously. The Kumbakonam fire
tragedy also emphasizes the importance
of proper observance of rules and
guidelines in according clearances and
regular inspections thereafter, with prompt
follow up action. Following a series of
hoax bomb threat calls to Schools in
Chennai City followed by such
reprehensible incidents in Tiruchirappalli
and Coimbatore, I have ordered that all the
Educational Institutions throughout the
State which have telephones, all Hospitals,
Government Offices and Government
Buildings and all Police Stations be
provided with Caller ID equipment

immediately. I have sanctioned an amount of Rs.35.86 lakhs for this purpose. ELCOT will undertake the procurement and supply of the equipment immediately. Collectors and Superintendents of Police will do well to ensure that there is no compromise on safety standards and the specified guidelines are indeed implemented in spirit rather than letter.

Collectors for the extraordinary efforts taken at every step, in ensuring that drought relief operations were carried out successfully with widespread benefit to the poor and needy. The South West Monsoon is still in progress and we have to take stock of the situation. Some districts have received deficient rain and we have to review the ground situation together with the prognosis.

□ Tamil Nadu has had to face two successive droughts in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. My Government has gone all out to support farmers and landless agricultural labourers and give them succour and sustenance in their hour of need. Had it not been for my intervention at every stage, the farmers of Tamil Nadu and the landless agricultural labourers could not have been protected from the debilitating effects of successive droughts. I must compliment the

□ Tamil Nadu has been brought back to the development path from the abyss of fiscal ruin and development inertia which had enveloped the State when my Government assumed office in May, 2001. The Annual Plan Outlay has been stepped up from Rs. 5200 crores in 2001-2002 to Rs. 8001 crores in 2004-2005. This has been made possible only by the resolute action we have taken to put the State back on the road to rapid development. The



larger Plan Outlay that I have envisioned for the State will secure the all round development of Tamil Nadu in all sectors with particular emphasis on Human Development. Thus, there is a clear focus in our Plan Outlay on Health, Nutrition, Education, and Social Welfare, with the objective of attaining the Millennium Development Goals far in advance of any other State.

□ Plans and programmes with large outlays will have real meaning for the people only if tangible benefits reach the people. It is here that Collectors have a vital role to play. The full participation of the people in every development programme has to be ensured. People as major stakeholders should be encouraged to participate in Gram Sabhas and assisted to fashion their destiny. It is here that the entire gamut of good governance practices assumes paramount importance. Even at the last Conference I had placed great emphasis on good governance practices. It is now quite clear that mere allotment of funds or outlays is not enough. It is the way these funds are utilized to provide maximum benefit to the poor that imparts the development momentum that we seek.

□ Collectors have to ensure that every petition reflecting a need is examined carefully and a positive view taken on how to help the beneficiary. It would be very easy to merely count the petitions and give a high disposal percentage. Collectors have to reflect on the fact that behind every petition there is a person in need of

help. It is on the empathy and the verve that the District Administration brings to this mission that the image of the Government itself rests. I attach great importance to the leadership role of the Collectors in bringing zest and enthusiasm to this sacred task of service to the poor.

□ Today we have the benefit of Information Technology to make things happen much faster and grievance redressal more meaningful. This year, I have launched a major e-Governance initiative with an outlay of Rs. 58.10 crores in the Budget, with the specific intention of ensuring that the services provided by 10 Citizen Centric Government Departments are delivered speedily, without transaction hassles. Detailed work is underway in all these Departments and it should be our endeavour to ensure that the benefits reach the people at the earliest. Collectors should get familiar with these initiatives and ensure that they are implemented in the right manner in their Districts. I have dwelt on good governance practices with particular reference to e-Governance initiatives, as this applies to all development initiatives and in fact to the administration in general.

□ I now turn to some key issues which merit serious attention. Food Security is a key goal of this Government. Tamil Nadu today has easily the best Public Distribution System (PDS) in the Country. This has been acknowledged in several studies. We have to ensure that every needy household is covered by the PDS and at

the same time prevent anti-social elements from misusing the system. I have already ordered expansion of the system to include all those needy families who have not been covered under the PDS. It is only in Tamil Nadu that 20 Kg. of rice is given at Rs.3.50 per Kg. every month. This is the lowest price in the entire Country. The process of inclusion of all those needy families who have not yet

“It is now quite clear that mere allotment of funds or outlays is not enough. It is the way these funds are utilized to provide maximum benefit to the poor that imparts the development momentum that we seek.”

been covered, together with the elimination of all bogus cards, should be taken up in right earnest. Collectors should gear up the district machinery to ensure timely supply to all the PDS shops, proper weighment, and good service to the public.

□ A key development issue confronting Tamil Nadu is, how to handle the water stress faced by the State. Tamil Nadu has one of the lowest per capita availability of water in the country. While interlinking of rivers is the ultimate solution, we have to take steps to secure rapid agricultural growth, assimilating the reality of lower water availability. It is for this reason, I have launched a campaign to promote water efficient crops such as Jatropha, Sweet Sorghum and Sugar Beet. Large Industrial Houses have been invited to establish processing plants to produce bio-fuels from these crops. This will be finalized shortly. These Industrial Houses will have to be assisted in contacting farmers to switch over to these water efficient crops. These Industrial Houses will enter into contract farming agreements with the farmers. Collectors should take a proactive role in ensuring that this programme is undertaken and implemented successfully.

□ It is well recognized that irrigation contributes most significantly to increased agricultural production. In a water stressed State such as Tamil Nadu, Rain Water Harvesting becomes most critical. The Rain Water Harvesting Structures which were installed last year, on my instructions, have had tremendous beneficial impact. This movement should now spread to irrigation structures in all rural areas. It should be implemented on a watershed basis. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Rural Development should work together in implementing a massive watershed

based Rain Water Harvesting programme, to enable better irrigation leading to farm prosperity.

□ The Farm Sector has to be reinvigorated after setting aside the debilitating effects of the successive droughts. The farmer has to be provided credit to undertake sowing of a new crop in the current South West Monsoon season. I have recently announced a package of support to Co-operative Credit Institutions to revive them and enable them to extend crop loans to the extent of Rs. 1,037 crores in the ensuing season. Collectors should undertake a detailed review to ensure that farmers are able to obtain fresh credit from Co-operative Credit Institutions or Commercial Banks, so that they can get on with farming operations in the current season.

□ Under my leadership, women in Tamil Nadu have shown that, given the chance, they can better the very best that men can achieve. The Women Self Help Group Movement which I launched in 1992 has flowered and grown into a huge banyan tree, nurturing thousands of new Women Self Help Groups. I am happy that today there are 1,70,802 Self Help Groups with 28,91,267 women in their fold. Their total savings amount to Rs. 469.33 crores and the credit availed of by them is Rs. 767.89 crores. This is a truly fantastic achievement which we can be proud of. We need to build on this sound platform that has been created. The credit linkages have to be improved and the

economic activities have to be tuned to the market. Market access has to be improved. Collectors should address these issues fully in their meetings with Bankers and Development Departments. The search for new opportunities to provide livelihood improvement should be imaginative with a keen sense of marketing.

□ So far, the focus has been on creating Women Self Help Groups. In order to solve the problem of unemployment and prevent social tensions that arise as a result, I would like the Collectors to bestow their attention on the formation of Self Help Groups for unemployed young men, especially in the rural areas.

□ We have a detailed agenda before us. Several important issues are to be discussed. This Government is mandated by the people to improve their quality of life. It is the District Administration which has to assist us in fulfilling the onerous duty cast on us. A mediocre effort will not do. Collectors and Superintendents of Police should look at the best practices which have produced outstanding results and strive to attain a new pinnacle of achievement.

Inaugural address made by
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Conference of Collectors and
Police Officers held on 9.8.2004
at Secretariat, Chennai.

Police Officers should work hard to make our State, the model for humane, just and efficient policing



Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of
Tamil Nadu, Chief Secretary,
Director General of Police,
Development Commissioner,
Home Secretary,
Senior Police Officers,

I am glad to inaugurate this annual exclusive Conference of Police Officers to review, introspect and chart out new directions, to reach greater heights of excellence in the coming year.

- The record of perfect maintenance of law and order that I have established with your unstinted support is a pinnacle of

achievement, which has enabled Tamil Nadu to be spoken about world wide as a haven of peace and tranquillity in the Indian Sub-Continent. This remarkable achievement has to be protected by careful intelligence, meticulous planning, assiduous implementation and prompt follow-up measures. It should be noted that multiple vested interests, scores of misdirected groups, numerous trouble makers and others would like to see this proud record tarnished. They will stoop to any extent to put through their diabolical plans to destabilise the peaceful situation in the State and foment trouble. The recent incidents in Chennai, Coimbatore and some other places of hoax bomb threats

leading to the mass exodus of school children in panic in several schools, causing severe injuries to a few children, is a typical example of the low depths to which these mischievous elements can descend, in trying to disrupt law and order. Eternal vigilance has to be the watchword. I would like to exhort every Police Officer to be extremely vigilant, especially in tracking every bit of information, as there could be a nefarious design even behind a seemingly innocuous event. I have every confidence that you will continue the good work and put your best foot forward in every aspect of work that you undertake.

- You are all aware that I will not countenance any slackness in dealing with terrorists, extremists and fundamentalists. Terrorist groups and fundamentalist forces have been kept at bay in the State. My Government has banned all the major terrorist organisations and their subsidiary groups. Even the splinter groups have all gone into hibernation. The people of this State are happy and contented that they live in an atmosphere of security and peace, which enables them to pursue their individual lives without fear or distress. There are many sinister and mischievous groups out there, who are plainly envious of this record, and would do anything to besmirch the fair name of this Government.

□ I have strengthened your capability to restrict the ability of terrorist elements to thwart security systems, by inaugurating the Tele - Justice System through Video Conferencing throughout the State on 1.7.2004. This system which connects 11 prisons with 270 Courts, at a cost of Rs.8.61 crores, covers 78 different locations in the State. This facility, which is the first State-wide system in the Country, dispenses with the cumbersome process of escorting and producing prisoners before the Judicial Magistrates in the Courts. This has eliminated even the possibility of chance escape of prisoners during transit, possible smuggling of contraband into the prison premises, and overcrowding in the courts. It has also resulted in savings of Rs. 10.69 crores per annum. Thus, in our war against terrorism, I have ensured that we are always one step ahead. The wide ranging Modernisation of Police Force Programme that I launched in 2002, has also ensured that you have access to the latest technology in this war against terrorism. Let me again stress the simple message that I wish to convey, namely, that I will not brook any slackness in this all out effort to root out and vanquish terrorism, extremism and fundamentalism.

- Tamil Nadu has the distinction of maintaining perfect communal harmony and is clearly a model for other States to emulate. Communal harmony has been



well maintained throughout 2003 and 2004. I wish to repeat my instructions that elements which try to foment communal clashes should be kept under severe check. There have only been a few stray minor instances of communal disturbance. By timely preventive policing, some major caste clashes were averted. Law and order was effectively maintained. I commend all the Police Officers for this effort and want you to keep up the good work.

- On earlier occasions, I have expressed my concern over recurring incidents of custodial violence. I am happy to note that our efforts to sensitize the Police Force in this regard are bearing fruit. There has been a substantial reduction in the number of deaths in Police custody during the year 2003. Human Rights groups should certainly applaud this achievement. We cannot, however, rest on our laurels. The Police Force of this

State must set an example to the rest of the Country by its scrupulous observance of human rights and the elimination of custodial violence.

- You are all aware that I stand firmly committed to the rapid advancement of women in every field. All of you are familiar with the number of initiatives that I have taken such as the commissioning of the first ever 'Company of All Women Commandos', and the launching of an exclusive 'Women Police Battalion', making Tamil Nadu the first State in India to raise such All Women Forces.
- I have sanctioned 40 All Women Police Stations this year and with this, 188 All Women Police Stations are functioning in the State. I have just sanctioned 7 more All Women Police Stations and with this, Tamil Nadu will be the first State in the Country to have an All Women Police

Station in all the operational Police Sub-Divisions.

- On my instructions, one Woman Sub-Inspector of Police and 2 Women Constables are now posted in every Taluk level Police Station. I have also ordered that this arrangement should be extended to each and every Police Station in Tamil Nadu. As soon as the ongoing recruitment is completed, we will have a Women's Wing in every Police Station headed by a Woman Sub-Inspector.
- The Police Force has to be a humane, caring, sympathetic protector, friend in need and counsellor of the people, particularly women. It is to ensure this objective that I have placed so much emphasis on the recruitment of women in the Police Force. Women approach a Police Station seeking immediate redressal and expect that the Police Force would be sensitive to their search for justice. Thus, besides counselling and guidance, women want firm action on their complaints and the culprits nabbed. It is, therefore, imperative that the entire Police Force addresses the all important issue of crimes against women, imbued with this sensitive and responsive attitude.
- It is heartening to note that the crime rate in the State has continuously gone down since my Government assumed office in May, 2001. Yet an orchestrated campaign is sought to be

conducted, blowing up one or two incidents. The facts make it clear that the crime rate in the State has gone down, the detection rate has improved, and the value of the property recovered has increased. In every category, be it 'property crimes', 'violent crimes', 'crimes against women' and 'others', the incidence for the year up to June, 2004, is even lower than for the year up to June, 2003. The percentage of detection of crime up to June, 2004, is 76%, whereas it was 69% during the corresponding period of the previous year. The percentage of recovery up to June, 2004, is 73%, whereas it was 65% during the corresponding period of the last year. The overall crime rate has come down from 266.2 per lakh population for the calendar year 2002, to 248.71 in the calendar year 2003, and has come down even further to 245, on an extrapolated basis, with reference to the

“Let me again stress the simple message that I wish to convey, namely, that I will not brook any slackness in this all out effort to root out and vanquish terrorism, extremism and fundamentalism.”

data for the first six months up to June, 2004, in the current calendar year. The truth is thus incontrovertible.

□ Going beyond the numbers, I wish to reiterate what I had said on earlier occasions. Success in crime control lies in thorough investigation, detection and finally, securing conviction. With the help of information technology tools, it is now possible for a Police Station to analyse the past history of a pattern of incidents and crimes and plan their work with this knowledge. The focus should be on habitual offenders and organized gangsters.

□ I formulated the Highway Patrol Scheme during my first tenure as Chief Minister between 1991-1996. This was subsequently neglected by the successor Government. After assuming office again in May, 2001, I ordered the scheme to be revived. I inaugurated the Emergency

Accident Relief Centres in November, 2002. I ordered the augmentation of the Highway Patrol Scheme and its integration with the Emergency Accident Relief Centres. I launched this new integrated scheme on 22.8.2003. Eighty Accident Prone stretches on the National Highways are now patrolled round-the-clock with 80 new Highway Patrol Vehicles equipped with sophisticated equipment. I am happy to note that the total fatalities in these stretches have decreased by 27% after introduction of this Scheme, and the number of accidents have also come down by 28% for the period ending June, 2004. I am also happy to note that the Emergency Accident Relief Centres, which function in unison with the Highway Patrols, have helped to save the lives of 9395 victims of road accidents during the period from November, 2002, to May, 2004, by timely intervention and medical attention given to the victims of the road accidents. Much more needs to be done



“The Police Force has to be a humane, caring, sympathetic protector, friend in need and counsellor of the people, particularly women. It is to ensure this objective that I have placed so much emphasis on the recruitment of women in the Police Force.”

by the Police by way of awareness creation and impartial enforcement of the law. Stern action should be taken against the twin dangers of drunken driving and reckless speeding.

- Illicit distillation and sale of illicit liquor is a social menace that needs to be put down firmly. There needs to be greater co-ordination between the regular Police Force, the Prohibition Wing and the Revenue Administration, in the collection of intelligence, raids and nabbing of culprits. I am happy to note the tremendous initiative of some Superintendents of Police in stamping out illicit distillation and distribution of spurious liquor. This outstanding

performance should be emulated by all Superintendents of Police. They must launch a drive to see that every Station House Officer is in a position to declare that the territory under his jurisdiction is “illicit liquor free”.

- In view of the spread of illicit trafficking in drugs and the increasing use of banned substances everywhere, it has become necessary to exercise the utmost vigilance in this regard. Similarly, in this era of high tech entertainment, video piracy has assumed colossal proportions. This menace has to be dealt with severely. Our special wings dealing with narcotics and video piracy have, therefore, been strengthened appropriately to deal with the emerging scenario.
- I have always laid emphasis on the need to make our Police Force the most modernized force in the Country in terms of its Weaponry, Equipment and sophisticated Communication facilities. I launched the scheme of Modernization of Police Force with an outlay of Rs.272.4 crores between the years 2001-2003. I have sanctioned schemes with an outlay of Rs.89.14 crores for the year 2003-2004, which are under various stages of implementation.
- I have always worried about the welfare of every Constable on every beat, who ploughs a lonely furrow in ensuring our

security. To ensure that the morale of our Police personnel is kept high, and their dedication to duty and level of motivation in performing the highly demanding job of preserving law and order is kept intact, the utmost attention has to be paid to Grievance Redressal. In order to redress the grievances of the Police personnel, I personally conducted five Grievance days and heard as many as 8395 Police personnel. On my instructions, senior officers of the Police Department have also been conducting similar "Grievance Days" on a regular basis, taking prompt and appropriate action on the grievances brought to them. All such measures to maintain, enhance and boost the morale of our Police personnel must continue, even as the discipline of the Force is to be maintained without any compromise.

- I have been keen on implementing a generous package of welfare measures for the Police personnel. The various measures initiated by me, ranging from provision of medical facilities, Scholarships, Prizes, Ex-gratia Payment and Insurance Schemes, apart from grants from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund, have always enthused every Police Constable on duty to perform his/her task to the best of his/her ability. I have ordered enhancement of the payment of Ex-gratia to Rs. 10 lakhs for Special Task Force personnel who get killed or incapacitated under heroic circumstances. I have also ordered that

all those Police personnel who exhibit courage and die, or are rendered incapacitated under heroic circumstances, will get the benefits available under the Group Insurance Scheme in addition to the Ex-gratia sanctioned to them, in recognition of their bravery. This has given every Police man and woman the confidence that my Government will always take care of his/her interests and the welfare of his/her family.

- The Tamil Nadu Police has an impressive record. The Tamil Nadu Police has always distinguished itself in very trying circumstances, showing exemplary commitment to duty, professionalism and remarkable courage. Leadership is vital in maintaining these high standards. Senior Police Officers should lead by personal example. Your integrity and the fearless and honest discharge of your duty is therefore a sine qua non at all times. Your foremost duty is to empower the weaker sections of our Society, ensure their security and make our State the model for humane, just and efficient policing.

Inaugural address made by
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Conference of
Police Officers held on 10.8.2004
at Secretariat, Chennai.



Police Officers' fearless performance of duty, upholding the rule of law will bring credit to the Government

We have had a meaningful exchange of views on many crucial issues of public importance, both yesterday in the Joint Session, and in today's exclusive Conference of Police Officers. I am glad that this format has enabled every Police Officer to bring out the specific issues relating to his district, besides offering views on better implementation of common approaches.

I have requested the Chief Secretary, the Development Commissioner and the Home Secretary, to carefully take note of all your suggestions, so that follow up action can be taken. I am confident that we will be able to address effectively all the issues that have

been thrown up, work out appropriate solutions, and implement them efficiently.

Based on the deliberations, I wish to set out a charter of action points, to which you have to apply yourself, with renewed dedication and commitment.

- ❖ Strengthen and upgrade your intelligence network to serve as an early warning system.
- ❖ Anticipate and plan your work meticulously. Prevention is always better than cure.
- ❖ Impart to the entire Police Force the commitment and motivation to work

zealously towards the set goals.

- ✧ Impart to all ranks a humane approach in dealing with the problems that people bring forth.
- ✧ Learn and use technology for noticeable improvement in your work.
- ✧ Bring about attitudinal correction in dealing with crimes against women.
- ✧ Create an effective Police - Public Interface.
- ✧ Stamp out illicit liquor and its distribution.
- ✧ Launch an all out war against the big offenders and perpetrators of organized crime.
- ✧ Focus on training and more training to make the Police Force fighting fit.
- ✧ Address the grievances of the Police Force, with empathy and build morale, showing true leadership.

This is the plan of action which you need to follow, to embellish and add glory to the already proud record of the Tamil Nadu Police Force.

As you are aware, I have placed the greatest emphasis on the Modernization of the Police Force, as a means to achieving the goals of improved performance that have been set. I am glad to announce the following initiatives which will further strengthen your ability to combat crimes, and maintain law and order:-

- ✧ During the last Conference of Police Officers, I announced that 1250 Police

Stations in the State would be provided with computers. This effort will be continued and all the Police Stations in the State will be equipped with computers by September, 2004.

- ✧ Fax Machines will be supplied to all Police Stations.
- ✧ A new Police Station will be established at Samalpatti Village in Dharmapuri District.
- ✧ For the Tamil Nadu Special Police Battalion positioned at Pochampalli, construction of administrative and other buildings will be taken up this year, at a cost of Rs.1 crore.
- ✧ 13 Ambulances will be purchased for the use of District Police establishments, Commissionerates, and TSP Battalions, at a cost of Rs.81.18 lakhs.
- ✧ Several Collectors and District Superintendents of Police have requested for additional allotment to the District Rehabilitation Fund in order to enable rehabilitation of erstwhile prohibition offenders. An initial allotment of Rs.2.35 crores was made. A further allotment of Rs.2.5 crores will be made and distributed to the District Collectors, to enable them to continue the good work of rehabilitation, and find a lasting solution to the problem of illicit distillation and distribution of illicit liquor.

- ✧ The Collector and Superintendent of Police, Cuddalore, has made a request for a high speed mechanized boat to take up coastal patrolling, for keeping

- the peace among fishermen groups and to tackle smuggling along the coastline and for patrolling. The Collectors and Superintendents of Police of Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari and other Coastal District Collectors and Superintendents of Police have also made a similar request. Suitable speed boats will be provided. The crew will be outsourced locally using fishermen, with women crew also being promoted.
- ✧ In order to solve the problem of access to burial grounds of Scheduled Castes which often leads to minor clashes, a request has been made by Collectors and Superintendents of Police for an enhanced provision to acquire land and provide such pathways. The provision in the Budget for 2004-2005, namely, Rs.66 lakhs for this purpose will be doubled, to enable Collectors to take up this work in the current year.
 - ✧ A request has been made by Collectors and Superintendents of Police that wireless sets may be provided to Taluk Tahsildars and Revenue Divisional Officers. Under a pilot scheme financed from the Calamity Relief Fund, coastal Taluks have been provided with wireless sets, with a separate radio frequency. The Rural Access to Services through Internet (RASI) Network is to be expanded. This will also provide a dedicated communication facility. A separate group will examine the best way of providing communication facilities to Revenue Divisional Officers and Taluk Tahsildars.
 - ✧ An exclusive Prison for Women will be built at the premises of the Cuddalore Sub-Jail.
 - ✧ Women i.e. Magalir Courts will be established at Cuddalore and Perambalur. The cost per Court is Rs.8 lakhs recurring and Rs.5 lakhs non-recurring.
 - ✧ 105 posts of Home Guards will be redeployed to Dharmapuri District for positioning in 35 villages. Youth from these villages will be taken as Home Guards. These Home Guards will be used as Village Defence Committees.
 - ✧ Replacement vehicles will be provided for the Revenue Divisional Officer, Dharmapuri; Tahsildar, Palacode; and Tahsildar, Pappireddipatti.
 - ✧ The allocation for district development works for Dharmapuri District will be enhanced from Rs.5 crores to Rs.6 crores, and a separate allocation of Rs.3 crores will be made for Krishnagiri District in 2004-2005, which will enable relaying and upgrading of the roads in the Thalli area under the scheme for relaying and upgrading such roads of Panchayat Unions.
 - ✧ In order to curb the menace of trans-border smuggling of illicit and spurious liquor from the adjoining States, 6 mobile check posts each, consisting of 1 Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 1 Head Constable and 4 Constables, with a vehicle, will be sanctioned to enable the District Superintendents of Police of Thiruvallur, Krishnagiri, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Thiruvallur,

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- to effectively control the smuggling of spurious IMFS from the neighbouring States.
- ✧ Presently, the Highway Patrol Scheme covers the National Highways in 80 stretches. This will be further expanded. The next stage of this Scheme will be to cover State Highways with high-density traffic. 40 new Highway Patrol vehicles will be introduced on State Highways. This will also cover the East Coast Road.
 - ✧ To enable the Superintendents of Police to take up traffic engineering works in association with the Highways Department, funds will be provided to each Superintendent of Police.
 - ✧ Very often, illicit liquor is sold in districts like Kanniyakumari under the guise of Arishtams. In order to control this practice, while issuing the production licence, the Director, Drugs Control, will also obtain NOC from the Police.
 - ✧ A new Police Station will be established in Karur Town, by bifurcating the existing Karur Town Police Station.
 - ✧ A new District Police Office Complex, located in the District Master Plan Complex, will be built at Namakkal, at a cost of Rs.3 crores, under the Scheme of Modernisation of Police Force.
 - ✧ A Traffic Unit is sanctioned for, Thiruchengode in Namakkal District.
 - ✧ A new District Police Office Complex, located in the District Master Plan Complex, will be built at Perambalur, at a cost of Rs.3 crores, under the Scheme of Modernisation of Police Force.
 - ✧ Two platoons of Armed Reserve Police will be positioned in Perambalur District.
 - ✧ The Armed Reserve Complex at Erode will be established at a new site, which will be acquired at a cost of Rs.45 lakhs. This new Complex will be built before December, 2004.
 - ✧ A Training Fund will be provided to each District, to undertake short-term training for field officers, on subjects such as conflict resolution.
 - ✧ Sanction will be given for establishing a new Fire Station at Karambakudi in Pudukottai District.
 - ✧ A Community Hall will be constructed at the Armed Reserve Complex in Pudukottai, at a cost of Rs.45 lakhs, by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation.
 - ✧ Repairs to the Jetty at Thondi, and at Rameswaram will be taken up, at a cost of Rs.48.31 lakhs.
 - ✧ A Marine Training Centre for training the Police Force in sea-patrols and other sea-faring skills, will be established at Mandapam.
 - ✧ An additional water tanker of 9000 litres capacity for fire fighting operations, will be provided for Thanjavur District.
 - ✧ A Wrecker / Recovery Van will be provided immediately to the Nilgiris District.
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- ✧ A dormitory / barracks for accommodating Police personnel who come on duty to the Nilgiris District, will be built at a cost of Rs.75 lakhs.
 - ✧ In the Court Complex coming up at Theni, a facility for safe custody of criminals during trial will be established. Adequate space with necessary facilities will also be provided for Police personnel attending the Court on duty to attend to their work and hold discussions with the Legal Officers.
 - ✧ These facilities will also be provided in all other Court Complexes.
 - ✧ An exclusive Police Station is sanctioned for the SIPCOT Complex at Thoothukudi which has several large industries with a substantial work force.
 - ✧ One Mobile Court will be sanctioned for each district to deal with petty cases registered under the Motor Vehicles Act. The logistics of covering high density traffic corridors will be gone into.
 - ✧ 8 new Crime Inspectors with supporting Police personnel will be sanctioned for Tiruchi City Police. This will consist of 24 Sub Inspectors, 48 Head Constables and 120 Police Constables.
 - ✧ A new City Police Office for the Tiruchirapalli Commissioner of Police will be built.
 - ✧ A separate Intelligence Wing with an Assistant Commissioner will be given for the Tiruchi City Police.
 - ✧ Manikandam Outpost in Trichy City will be upgraded as a regular Police Station.
 - ✧ A new Office for the Range DIG of Tiruchirapalli Range will be built.
 - ✧ A Shorthand Bureau and a Finger Print Bureau and a Photo and Video Section will be sanctioned for the Tiruchirapalli Commissionerate.
 - ✧ Awareness campaigns to educate the people about the evils and danger of illicit liquor will be conducted by all District Collectors and SPs in all Districts, involving Self Help Groups, NGOs and local bodies. A sum of Rs. 30 lakhs at the rate of Rs.1 lakh for every district will be sanctioned to the Collector for this purpose.
 - ✧ A new District Police Office will be constructed for Tirunelveli District.
 - ✧ The maintenance of the Police Commissionerate at Tirunelveli will be taken over by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation.
 - ✧ Tiruvannamalai City will be sanctioned one more Police Station (Tiruvannamalai East Police Station).
 - ✧ Two more Traffic Police Stations are sanctioned for Tiruvannamalai District at Tiruvannamalai and Arni.
 - ✧ A new Police Station is sanctioned for Anaicut in Vellore District.
 - ✧ Two Mobile Counselling Vans are sanctioned for Villupuram District.
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- ✧ The land adjoining the AR Ground in Villupuram belonging to the Agriculture Department will be made available to the Police for establishing a Parade Ground.
- ✧ The District Hospital at Villupuram will be equipped to handle accident trauma cases and adequate Specialists will be posted.
- ✧ Simple Gym Equipment will be provided to all Police Stations to keep the Police personnel fighting fit at all times. Stress Management Training and Group Therapy will be imparted to Police personnel to improve their health status.
- ✧ Traffic Police Stations for Kallakurichi, Villupuram and Tindivanam are sanctioned.
- ✧ Two Traffic Police Stations will be sanctioned for Virudhunagar District - one at Rajapalayam and the other at Srivilliputhur.
- ✧ Aruppukottai Sub Division will be bifurcated as Aruppukottai and Tiruchuzhi.
- ✧ The proposal of operating the Highway Patrol Scheme on a 3 shift basis will be examined by a working group headed by the DGP.
- ✧ The Deputy Commissioners and the Joint Commissioners in Chennai City will be provided with Cell Phones.
- ✧ The Joint Commissioners in Chennai City will also be provided with Lap Top Computers.
- ✧ The Police Training College Library will be refurbished.
- ✧ A special recruitment of buglers will be taken up for the Police band.
- ✧ A special recruitment of drivers will be taken up for the Tamil Nadu Special Police.
- ✧ 100 Police Stations in sensitive areas will be strengthened with additional complement over the normal scale.
- ✧ CB-CID Units will be provided with photo copiers, faxes and telephones and cell phones.
- ✧ A new building will be constructed for the Office of the Commissioner of Police at Salem.
- ✧ Two Highway Patrol Vehicles, one for the East Coast Road and another to cover Villupuram Thirukoilur and Eraiyur stretch will be sanctioned.
- ✧ The post of one Deputy Commissioner of Police, Madurai City is sanctioned to look after traffic regulation.
- ✧ 77 Vehicles will be replaced in South Zone to enable the City Police to function effectively.
- ✧ Cell Phones will be provided to all Zonal I.Gs.
- ✧ An amount of Rs. 55 lakhs will be sanctioned to modernize the Wireless Communication Systems of the Fire & Rescue Services Department.
- ✧ 3 new units for the Narcotics Intelligence Bureau will be sanctioned at

Kanniyakumari, Kancheepuram and Sivagangai.

- ✧ Eight Vehicles of the Narcotics Intelligence Bureau which are in a condemned state will be replaced.
- ✧ All Zonal I.Gs who do not have buildings of their own will be given funds for construction of office buildings.
- ✧ In view of the population and commercial turnover, the existing Tiruppur Sub Division will be bifurcated as Tiruppur North and Tiruppur South Sub Divisions. Also, two more Police Stations will be sanctioned and all the Police Stations in Tiruppur will be upgraded as 'A' type Police Stations.
- ✧ One Deputy Commissioner of Police, 3 Assistant Commissioners of Police and 5 Inspectors will be sanctioned to strengthen the Chennai City Traffic Wing of the Joint Commissioner, South (Traffic).
- ✧ Power to sanction assistance from Victim Assistance Fund will be delegated to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic).
- ✧ The amount allocated for Rewards at Rs. 60 lakhs will be increased to Rs. 130 lakhs.
- ✧ All condemned vehicles including cars will be replaced.
- ✧ The Superintendent of Police, Cuddalore will be provided with a new vehicle and all the condemned vehicles in his jurisdiction will be replaced.

✧ The Number of Video Piracy Units will be doubled.

✧ A Community Hall will be sanctioned for Villupuram District.

These are the announcements that I have made today. There were many more other good suggestions and proposals. These require orders to be obtained after files are circulated. So, those announcements will be made after following the due procedure; that is why, I am not able to make those announcements now. I am sure, all of you must be quite happy with the numerous announcements that I have made.

The fruitful deliberations that we have had here, together with the charter of action that I have set out today, must be translated into superlative performance, with attention to every detail, earning all round appreciation. I am sure you are conscious of both the strengths and the short-comings in your work. It is never too late to learn and improve. Please remember at all times that your fearless performance of duty, upholding the rule of law, marshalling the Police Force at your command into a fighting fit force, will bring credit to the Government in upholding law and order, even in trying times. I wish you all the very best in your endeavour, imbued with this spirit of achieving a new pinnacle of excellence.

Valedictory Address made by
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Police Officers Conference
held on 10.8.2004 at
Secretariat, Chennai.



Our main development goal is “Growth for All”

We have now come to the final Session of this Conference, after detailed deliberations over the last three days on various aspects of governance, with a special emphasis on taking up new initiatives and approaches, for better service to the people. Our mandate is to provide a responsive, efficient, just and caring administration and Collectors have to be at the vanguard of this effort.

Good governance is possible only with the assurance of peace and tranquillity. While I do not endorse a minimalist approach, there is no gainsaying the fact that without an assurance on law and order, the development agenda cannot even be

undertaken. Yesterday, in the Conference of Police Officers, I have set out a Plan of Action for achieving even better performance. I would like to exhort Collectors to co-ordinate their efforts with the Superintendents of Police, in gathering intelligence, anticipating events, finding tactful and just solutions, and being firm in upholding the rule of law. Collectors have a key role in anticipating the potential of even small issues getting blown up, due to apathy. By effective advance action, you can nip in the bud any such incipient conflagration. Along with the Superintendents of Police, you have to keep vigil on the activities of terrorists, extremists and fundamentalists.

Let me turn to the development agenda. What is it that we seek to achieve? We have to empower people to attain a better quality of life. We have to facilitate this process. The growth of the economy is a result of this process. We seek a higher growth rate of 8 per cent this year, getting over the debilitating effects of successive droughts and fiscal ruin. It has taken us a massive effort to provide a new launching pad; for the rapid growth of the economy. I am confident that, with the better agricultural prospects this year, Tamil Nadu will make rapid advance to the attainment of all round prosperity.

We are in the middle of the South West Monsoon, and except for a few Districts, the rainfall has been satisfactory so far. We still have to watch the situation. The prognosis is good, leading to optimism. You have to concentrate on the Farm Sector, enabling farmers to get a good crop this season. All arrangements for ensuring this have been made. Please see that you hold the Agriculturists' Grievance Day regularly and address all the issues raised, proactively.

Our main development goal is "Growth for All". A special focus has to be placed on the empowerment of the poor. It is for this reason that we have several programmes under Rural Development, Social Welfare, Health and so on. The approach should be to realize the Millennium Development Goals at the fastest. This includes higher female literacy, -100% school enrolment,

reduction of infant mortality, reduction of poverty, access to safe water, and reduction of child malnutrition. Tamil Nadu is well on the way to achieving the goals set, faster than most other States. We should go even faster. The realization of these goals cannot be constrained by departmental rigidities. Collectors as co-ordinators should play a very active role, in ensuring the convergence of all the programmes, so that the synergistic benefit can be realised. Several innovative approaches in securing people's participation, and programme success are possible. I rely on the dynamism of the Collectors to provide the spark, for a truly imaginative and incandescent effort. I wish to lay stress on the leadership qualities of the Collectors, in marshalling available resources, and getting the best results. Collectors should be the binding force in this multi departmental team effort.

In my inaugural speech, I had spelt out in detail, the importance of good governance practices and grievance redressal. A Government's image very much depends on the empathy and caring shown, at the cutting edge. I would like you to take special efforts, to ensure that service is rendered promptly, effectively and with a smile. Let there not be anyone turned away from a Government office, without a solution to his / her grievance.

This year, with the prospect of a better monsoon, programmes such as the Comprehensive Wasteland Development

Programme, New Anna Marumalarchi Thittam, and the Special Initiative to promote Bio-fuel Plants, should be given a major thrust, and should be dovetailed together. This will give the best results. Collectors should take special efforts to achieve the objectives of these programmes. I shall be looking for innovation and excellence, in the implementation of these programmes.

I am glad that the Rain Water Harvesting Programme that I launched, has been an enormous success, greatly welcomed by the people. This has now to be broad based, to cover every watershed. I have decided to launch a State-wide watershed based Rain Water Harvesting and Soil Management Programme. The Secretary, Agriculture, the Secretary, Rural Development, and the Departments concerned should take action to finalise the details of this programme, so that it can be implemented immediately.

Even in the last Collectors Conference, I had placed special emphasis on Solid Waste Disposal, and keeping the environment clean. I find that the Clean Village Campaign has been received well. I would like the Collectors to make this even more popular, by getting all villages to participate in a friendly competitive spirit. The utilization of village waste as non-conventional energy sources, should be given a fillip. People will welcome the removal of waste plastic bags, which foul the environment and pose a health hazard.

The technology to use this plastic waste as useful binding material in road laying, should be utilized.

In response to the numerous requests made by all the Collectors, I will now make a series of new announcements:-

1. The Park in Vaigai Dam which is a major tourist attraction will be developed at a cost of Rs. 5 crores. An Amusement Park with water rides, musical fountains and other facilities will be set up.
2. A Primary Health Centre will be sanctioned for Varusanadu, K. Mayiladumparai Panchayat Union in Theni District.
3. A new building will be sanctioned with adequate staff for the T. Subbulapuram Primary Health Centre in Andipatti Panchayat Union, Theni District,
4. All Taluk Offices will be provided with an exclusive telephone facility to access internet for E-mail purposes.
5. A post of Personal Assistant to deal with Land matters, given that it is adjoining Chennai and rapidly urbanizing will be sanctioned for Thiruvallur District.
6. A common space will be provided in the Secretariat Complex to enable

Collectors to display and market the products of Self Help Groups of their Districts.

7. A new 48 bed ward will be constructed at Mannargudi Taluk Hospital in view of higher inpatient strength.
8. Additional upgraded Primary Health Centres will be established in Thiruvavur District.
9. Special arrangements are being made by the Agriculture Department to supply quality seeds to farmers in Cauvery Delta Districts for Samba sowing.
10. Under my directions, credit requirements of farmers of the Cauvery Delta Districts will be met by Co-operative Credit Institutions.
11. The period for submitting applications under the Protection of Girl Child Scheme will be extended from the existing period of 1 year to 3 years from the birth of the girl child.
12. In view of the good response for the Revised Girl Child Protection Scheme, the allocation will be enhanced in 2004-2005 from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 35 crores.
13. X-ray equipment will be provided to the Operation Theatres of Kuzhmani and Vayampatti Primary Health Centres of Trichy District.

14. An Operation Theatre will be established at the Valanadu Primary Health Centre, Marungapuri Union, Trichy District.

15. Rivetment walls will be provided for the supply channel flowing from Reddiapatti Eri to Karikali Eri, Musiri Taluk in Trichy District.
16. A Ladies Hostel and an Examination Centre will be established in the Tirunelveli Medical College premises.
17. An additional building will be constructed for the Tirunelveli District Collectorate.
18. The Hockey Stadium at Tirunelveli will be provided a gallery at a cost of Rs. 30 lakhs. A mini stadium will be established at Tirunelveli.
19. The Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tirunelveli District will be developed at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs.
20. The Courtallam Falls will also be further developed from the Tourism point of view at a cost of Rs. 82 lakhs.
21. A bridge will be constructed in the Tandrapattu to Rayampattu stretch with funds from NABARD. Similarly, a bridge will be constructed in the Tiruvannamalai to Thanipadi stretch with funds from NABARD.

22. The footpaths alongside the road at Arani and Vandavasi in Tiruvannamalai District will be developed at a cost of Rs. 60 lakhs to relieve the congestion on the roads.
23. Uniforms will be supplied to all children studying in Special Schools under the Elimination of Child Labour Project. Funds will be provided by the State Government for this purpose.
24. All Government Officers and staff will be required to wear a name lapel card to identify themselves while attending office.
25. A Juvenile Home will be started at Vellore to accommodate children identified as juvenile offenders.
26. A Juvenile Justice Board will be constituted at Vellore.
27. The Chief Educational Officer's Office will be constructed in the Collectorate Complex, Villupuram at an outlay of Rs. 99 lakhs.
28. The sanctioned strength of Government Tribal Residential School in Kalrayan Hills of Villupuram District will be increased from the existing 1383 to 2177 to accommodate all those in the waiting list,
29. Residential Quarters will be constructed for the Headmaster, Teacher, Cook and Watchman attached to the Government Tribal Residential School at Kalrayan Hills.
30. An office building will be constructed for the Range DIG, Villupuram.
31. A new building for the Villupuram Taluk Office will be built at the Villupuram Master Plan Complex at a cost of Rs.90 lakhs.
32. Posts of Pharmacist, Medical Nursing Assistant and Sweeper will be sanctioned for 7 upgraded Primary Health Centres in Villupuram District.
33. A Qualis vehicle will be sanctioned for the Executive Engineer (Buildings), PWD and the Public Relations Officer, Villupuram.
34. Funds to the extent of Rs.14 crores will be provided for construction of permanent buildings for 43 High and Higher Secondary Schools in Villupuram District.
35. A rubble mound sea protection wall will be constructed at a cost of Rs.1.06 crores in Sothanaikuppam, Nadukuppam and Kottakuppam coastal villages in Villupuram District.

36. An ambulance will be provided for the Sattur Fire Station.
37. A 9000 litres capacity water tanker will be provided for the Rajapalayam Fire Station.
38. The replacement of pipelines of the Virudhunagar Municipality Water Supply Scheme will be taken up at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs. Government will provide a grant of Rs.25 lakhs to the Virudhunagar Municipality.
39. A Taluk supply godown will be constructed at Kariapatti, Virudhunagar District by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation.
40. A Nursing School will be sanctioned for Virudhunagar District.
41. Six additional bus routes will be sanctioned to meet the demand of the travelling public in the Municipal limit of Virudhunagar District.
42. A Combined Water Supply Scheme benefiting 308 coastal and rural habitations of Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar Districts and Virudhunagar and Aruppukkottai Municipalities will be sanctioned at a cost of Rs.68 crores.
43. A book on preparation of Treasury Bills in Tamil prepared by the Virudhunagar District Administration will be published as a Government Publication.
44. To serve the hill areas in Coimbatore District, a mobile dispensary will be sanctioned.
45. 398 Child Welfare Centres will be started to cover unserved areas of Coimbatore District.
46. A Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme will be worked out for Vadakuthu and Maruvai Villages of Cuddalore District.
47. A Project House will be constructed at Chidambaram in Cuddalore District.
48. Two Primary Health Centres, one at Thozhudur and the other at Srimushnam will be upgraded as a 30 bedded hospital with operation and trauma care facilities.
49. Distribution of curry leaf powder and drumstick leaf powder to children in the age group of 3-5 in the Child Welfare Centres will be expanded to cover all the Districts
50. An additional Building with a Conference Hall will be constructed for the Cuddalore Collectorate.
51. A new vehicle will be provided for the Civil Supplies squad of Dharmapuri.

52. Thirty Houses for fishermen will be constructed in Dharmapuri District.

53. 1000 litres of fuel per year will be given as a special fuel reserve to each District Collector for allotment to Revenue Divisional Officers and Taluk Tahsildars for special work.

54. Kariyamangalam and Dharmapuri Hospitals will be given enough equipment and supplies to cope with the prevalence of AIDS in the area.

55. A building will be constructed for the Sathyamangalam Taluk Office.

56. 300 sluices of the Kalingarayan Canal of Erode District will be repaired in two phases.

57. The discretionary fund with the Collectors will be enhanced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs.

58. Rs.50,000 per annum will be sanctioned to the Forest Department in each district for supply of seedlings free of cost to the public to popularise tree planting.

59. A generator will be provided for the Palayaseevaram Water Supply Scheme in Kancheepuram District by the TWAD Board.

60. To upgrade the tourism potential of Kanniyakumari, new boats will be purchased at a cost of Rs. 1 crore.

61. An annual tourism festival will be conducted in Kanniyakumari.

62. A Fish Industrial Park will be sanctioned for Kanniyakumari.

63. A new Guest House will be sanctioned for Kanniyakumari.

64. A new Primary Health Centre will be sanctioned for Thadikankonam in Kanniyakumari District.

65. A sum of Rs. 20 lakhs will be sanctioned for conducting feasibility studies and consultancy studies for construction of fishing harbour at Muttam and Rajakkamangalam Thurai in Kanniyakumari District.

66. Digital Cameras will be provided for all Public Relation Officers in all Districts.

67. All District Revenue Officers in the District will be provided with Cell Phones.

68. The Headquarters Hospital in Karur will be expanded with additional building and other facilities.

69. A CT Scan facility will be provided to Krishnagiri District Headquarters Hospital.

70. A Water Treatment Plant at a cost of Rs.4 crores will be set up in Krishnagiri by the TWAD Board.

71. An indoor multi purpose stadium will be established in Krishnagiri District.

72. An Horticulture Training Centre will be established at Thally.

73. A 30 bed Hospital will be sanctioned for Thally.

74. An amount of Rs. 1.75 crores will be sanctioned for renovating the supply channels of the Kelavarapalli Water Supply Scheme.

75. A Government Tribal Residential School will be established near Thally.

76. An allotment to hold Grievance Day meetings effectively will be made for all Districts.

77. Rajaji Hospital in Madurai will be provided with additional equipment.

78. New rooms will be added to the existing Circuit House building at Madurai. 2 Cars and a Jeep will be provided to Madurai District to cater to the needs of visiting officials and dignitaries.

79. Rs.30 lakhs for improvements, in Point Calimere tourism infrastructure is sanctioned.

80. The Government Hospitals at Porayar and Sirkazhi will be provided equipment at a cost of Rs. 13 lakhs.

81. Quarters will be provided for the Tahsildar, Ilayangudi, Sivagangai District.

82. 5 Vehicles will be replaced in Sivagangai District.

83. Fax machines will be provided to all Taluk offices. Fax and photo copier will be provided to all Revenue Divisional Offices.

84. A new building will be constructed for the Collectorate of Salem.

85. The Primary Health Centre at Erwadi at Ramanathapuram will be upgraded as a 30 bedded hospital.

86. Primary Health Centre at T. Pallur, Perambalur District will be upgraded as a 30 bedded Hospital.

87. Power Supply will be enhanced to 20 hours from the existing 16 hours in the CMP area of Pudukottai.

88. A separate post of Project Officer, DRDA will be sanctioned for the Nilgiris District.

89. A new vehicle will be sanctioned for the Collector, Nilgiris District.

I have instructed all Collectors to take action under the Pre Conception and Pre-

Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, which is a Central Act to put down the practice of foeticide. Under this amended Act, Amniocentesis has also been included under the definition of "sex selection" and "diagnostic technique". Section 4 (1) of the Act prohibits use of diagnostic technique for sex selection. Any violation under the Act is punishable with imprisonment upto 3 years and it is a cognizable offence. The Joint Director of Health Services is the appropriate authority at the District Level and there are Advisory Committees at the District and Taluk levels to oversee the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Collectors should take firm action under the provisions of this Act to put down the barbaric practice of female foeticide.

There were numerous other requests put forth by all the Collectors. Whatever could be decided on the spot and announced on the spot, I have done so already. This does not mean that your other requests are rejected. All your requests are for the development of your respective Districts and that is what the Government also has in mind that is what the Government desires. So all your requests will be examined favourably. Wherever possible we will try to initiate action on your requests in this financial year itself. If that is not possible for big budget proposals, I give you an assurance, that all these

requests will be included in the next year's Budget.

Many of the Collectors attending this Conference, are doing so for the first time. They should very quickly get fully familiar, with every aspect of administration, in their Districts. Many Collectors have gone to a different District. A few Collectors are continuing in the same Districts. Each one has a distinct advantage. The fresher will bring in his own innovative approach, the person who has gone to another district will bring in his rich experience, and the person continuing in the same district will ensure completion of the goals he has set. I would like all of you to bring new enthusiasm to the realization of the goals that I have set. I want you to embody the spirit of the Olympic Games commencing at Athens this week - "Citius, Altius, Fortius", meaning "Faster, Higher, Stronger". You should combine the thrust and fire of the 100 meters sprinter, and the strength and prowess of the long distance runner. I congratulate and compliment the Collectors who have won awards in various developmental programmes today, and I would like to exhort the new Collectors to give them a hard time in retaining their awards.

Valedictory Address made by

Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Conference of District Collectors
held on 11.8.2004 at
Secretariat, Chennai



Announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister

ELECTRICITY TARIFF REDUCED

In the interest of the Public the Government have decided to reduce the electricity tariff for domestic consumers as detailed below:-

Monthly Electricity consumption (Units)	Present rate fixed by the TNERC (Rs. per Unit)	Revised rate (Rs. per Units)
0-25	1.10	0.75 (65)
26-50	1.30	0.85 (75)
51-100	2.60	1.50
101-300	3.50	2.20
301 and above	4.75	3.05

The Government will pay an amount of Rs.910 crores for a full year towards subsidy for reduced tariff rates, benefitting 1,16,57000 families directly. ★

PROCUREMENT PRICE OF MILK INCREASED

Most of the rural people especially women, eke out their livelihood by rearing milch animals and supplying milk to the Milk Co-operatives. Keeping this in view and to improve the rural economy and enhance the personal income of the stake holders in rural areas, Government directed the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers Unions to raise the procurement price of the cow's milk from Rs.9.50 to Rs.10.50 per litre and buffalo's milk from Rs.11.44 to Rs.12.50 per liter with effect from 1.6.2004 and that the milk cost as per the revised procurement price should be disbursed to the Milk Producers without any delay. While increasing the procurement price of the milk, it is assured that there would not be any increase in the selling price to the consumers. ★

NO PARKING FEES FOR TWO WHEELERS AND THREE WHEELERS

Based on the representations about unreasonable and high rates of parking fee collected by many local bodies in the State, the Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders regulating the fee for parking the vehicles in designated places coming under the jurisdiction of local bodies. The Chief Minister stated that in many cases general public are made to pay even for parking cycles and two-wheelers and when people visit many places within a short time they are made to pay a fee at every place of parking and cumulatively they are forced to shell out a large sum.

The parking fee paid in one place entitles the person to park his vehicle in any number of places upto the time prescribed. All the local bodies are advised not to charge parking fees more than the rates fixed. If certain local bodies are charging less than these rates they are advised to continue the old rates without any revision.

As per the revised rates, bi-cycle, two-wheelers and three-wheeler riders need not pay any fee for parking their vehicles in designated places coming under the jurisdiction of local bodies.

For private cars including tourist cars Rs.5 would be charged for six hours while the rate for whole day would be Rs.20.

For Tempo Vans, the parking fee would be Rs.15 for 12 hours and Rs.30 for a day while for lorries, the charges would be Rs.25 for 12 hours and Rs.50 for whole day. ★

NO FOOTWEAR CHARGES IN TEMPLES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has issued orders cancelling the charges collected from the devotees for chappals at temples, which came into force from 1.7.2004. The devotees visiting the temples need not pay any charge for keeping their footwear outside the temples. The administration of all temples coming under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department would make arrangements for keeping the footwears of devotees without any payment.

AGE LIMIT LIFTED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF SECONDARY GRADE TEACHERS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS AND SPECIAL TEACHERS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister lifted the age limit of 35 which stood as a block in many getting the job. A large number of youths who had completed their teacher training course were not in a position to get appointment as most of them had crossed the age of 35. Though they have got the required educational qualifications and seniority they have been rendered ineligible for appointment just because they are above 35 years.

By this announcement, people above the age of 35 can be appointed as secondary grade teachers, physical education teachers and special teachers in elementary schools in Panchayat Unions, middle schools, high schools and higher secondary schools. Thousands of people, who have completed teacher training courses and have crossed the age of 35, would be benefitted.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister as soon as she assumed office in May 2001 had ordered admission of thousands of youths who had completed teacher training courses in various private institutes which were de-recognised and provision of two years of proper training for them. The move then came as a window of opportunity for those whose future was in the balance.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister lifted the age limit of 35 for graduates and post graduate teachers also in Government high schools and higher secondary schools on 12.10.2001. ★

NEW INSURANCE SCHEME FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15.6.2004 announced a new insurance scheme to provide social security to handloom weavers and their families.

The Self-Insurance Scheme currently in vogue now, was being restructured as Bunkar Bima Yojana to provide more benefits to handloom weavers.

Under the new scheme which would be implemented by the State Government in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the Central Government, the Centre would contribute Rs.150 as its share for a weaver and the LIC Rs.100. The Weaver's contribution of Rs.130 as premium for the scheme would be borne by the State Government.

The Tamil Nadu Government will pay the entire yearly premium of Rs.98.23 lakhs for

75,565 weavers who are members of the savings and security scheme of the Co-operative Societies. The weavers need not spend any amount for payment of premium.

In the event of natural death of the policy holder before the age of 60, the legal heir would be entitled to a compensation of Rs.50,000 and Rs.80,000 for accidental death. Those who suffer total impairment due to accident would get Rs.50,000 and the partially-impaired Rs.25,000.

Apart from this, wards of handloom weavers studying from classes IX to Plus Two would be given Rs.300 for each quarterly for four years as educational assistance.

The new insurance scheme would be implemented from the current financial year (2004-2005).

★ ★ ★

NO ENTRY FEE IN GH

The Hon'ble Chief Minister in consideration with the representations received from poor people who visit hospitals cancelled the entry fee of Rs.5 from visitors of the inpatients in Government General Hospitals and Rs.5 as admission fee for outpatients in speciality clinics.

So far, the amount collected through the fees had been used for maintaining the hospitals and to provide facilities for the patients besides carrying out minor repairs and maintaining the records of the patients. Hereafter, the funds required for these purposes will be provided by the Government. ★

FREE BICYCLE SCHEME EXTENDED TO BC, MBC AND DENOTIFIED COMMUNITIES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 16.6.2004 extended the scheme of providing free bicycles to girl students belonging to BC, MBC and denotified communities studying in Higher Secondary courses as the scheme helps girl students to continue their studies, besides giving encouragement and self-confidence to them.

The Scheme, the first of its kind in India had been introduced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15.9.2001. During the last three years 1,54,410 girl students belonging to SC and ST Communities were benefitted at a cost of Rs.22.52 crores. For the current year (2004-2005) Rs.8 crores has been allotted to provide free bicycles to 50,500 girl students belonging to SC and ST communities.

As per the present announcement 2.96 lakh girl students from BC, MBC and denotified communities studying in plus 1 and plus two classes in the Government and Government aided schools throughout the State would be provided free bicycles, at a cost of Rs.47.36 lakhs. ★

ALL STUDENTS WILL BE PROMOTED UPTO FIFTH STANDARD

The State Government is according priority to achieve the objective of 'education for all'. A decision to this effect was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 17.6.2004. Children should learn their lessons without any fear

psychosis about the examination so that they can enjoy the learning. It can be achieved only when all students of standards one to five are prevented from dropping out.

Considering these issues the Cabinet decided to promote all students till fifth standard without detaining them while ensuring that the standard of education is maintained.

Based on this decision, all elementary school students, studying in schools coming under the Panchayat Unions and Municipalities, Government and Government aided schools will be promoted continuously if they have a minimum of 75 percent attendance in the academic year. This scheme would be implemented from the current academic year (2004-2005). ★

THE PRICE OF LORRY LOAD OF SAND REDUCED

The Government took over the sales of river sand for construction purposes to prevent sand quarrying in an uncontrollable manner in river beds and to maintain the necessary amount of sand in rivers and the Public Works Departments has been running the sand quarries from 2.10.2003. From then on, the price of one lorry load of sand was fixed at Rs.1000.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had received several representations from the public appealing to bring down the Price of sand so that construction costs could be brought down. Considering the plea, the cabinet on 17.6.2004 decided to reduce the price per lorry load of sand from Rs.1000 to Rs.600. The reduction of price came into force from 19.6.2004. ★

Urgent intervention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister requested to ensure better supplies of coal to Tamil Nadu

*Text of the D.O. Letter dated 27.8.2004 addressed to
Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
by **Selvi J JAYALALITHAA, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.***

I wish to bring to your notice an issue of considerable concern to Tamil Nadu. This is regarding the inadequate supply of coal by Coal Companies of the Government of India to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is operating four Thermal Power Stations with an installed capacity of 2970 MW. The coal required for these Thermal Power Stations is transported by Rail-cum-Sea-cum-Rail link from the mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited, West Bengal and Mahanadhi Coalfields Limited, Orissa, to the Thermal Stations.

The requirement of coal of these Thermal Stations is about 14.5 Million Tonnes per annum and this quantity is allotted by the Standing Linkage Committee of the Government of India, consisting of members from the Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Power on a quarterly basis. As the coal from these mines is transported to the Thermal Power Stations in Tamil Nadu by a long Rail-cum-Sea-cum-Rail link and it is necessary to cover for any unforeseen delay in coal supply by the mines and unanticipated transportation bottlenecks, atleast a stock of 21 days requirement of coal has to be maintained in each Thermal Power Station to keep up the generation by these stations to the required level.

During the last six months, the supply from the Coal companies has been less than the linkage. As against the linkage of 82.95 lakh tonnes, only 70 lakh tonnes have been supplied for the period from January 2004 to June 2004. Further, the allotment during this quarter July-September 2004, has also been reduced to 11.55 lakh tonnes for July 2004 and later increased to 12.55 lakh tonnes for August and September. However, the actual receipt in July was only 10.31 lakh tonnes and in August only 9.20 lakh tonnes were received until 25.8.2004.

This reduced supply has resulted in the stock drastically coming down to 16 days requirement in the Thermal Power Stations. The stock available was enough for 17 days requirement in January 2004. This is a serious decline in the supply of coal and it has now become a hand to mouth situation. A stock out situation is now looming and the Thermal Stations cannot be operated to generate power to meet the demand if this happens.



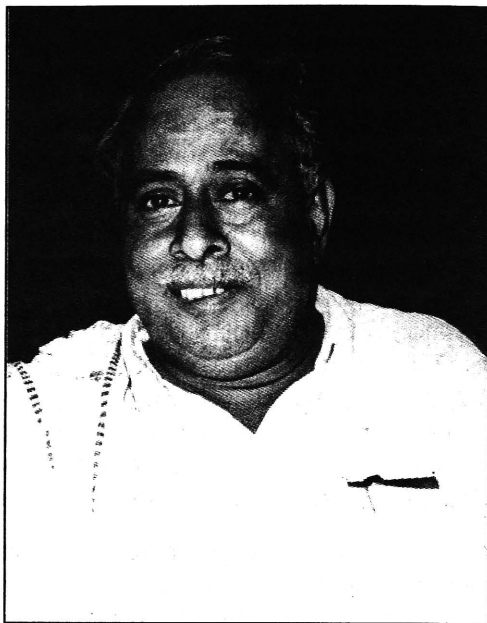
As the Thermal Stations cater to the base load in the Tamil Nadu grid, there will be a major breakdown if the Thermal Stations shut down for want of coal.

As the coal supply situation has become critical, may I request you to intervene so that the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board gets adequate coal to operate its Thermal Stations without any breakdown? The allotment and supply should be atleast 14.5 lakh tonnes per month as against barely 10 lakh tonnes being received now. The coal availability at the pit head has to be improved significantly. The production performance needs to be stepped up. Unless there is immediate improvement the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board will be faced with a stock out situation, forcing it to shut down its Thermal Stations leading to a grid breakdown. May I therefore request your urgent intervention to ensure better supplies of coal, so that the coal stock in each Thermal Station, operated by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is again built up to 21 days requirement? □

Born on September 15, 1909, in a lower middle class family Kancheepuram Natarajan Annadurai endearingly called by the masses as Anna is by any test the darling of the masses.

He took his early education at Kancheepuram. After taking Master of Arts Degree at Pachaiyappa's college, Madras, he plunged headlong into Justice Party politics. While in college he took leading part in college debates and evinced keen interest in politics. Dr. Annadurai first met Periyar Ramaswamy in 1934. By slow degrees and relentless efforts, Periyar and Dr. Annadurai provided a mass base for the aristocratic Justice Party. Their efforts were crowned with success at Salem in 1944. Dr. Annadurai's resolution renaming the Justice party as the Dravida Kazhagam was adopted at the Conference.

Though a follower of Periyar, Dr. Annadurai did not hesitate to differ from his leader when occasion demanded. Periyar in his own way declared in 1947, that August, 15 the Independence Day was a day of mourning. Dr. Annadurai did not agree. The parting of ways came in 1949. Dr. Annadurai came out of the Dravida Kazhagam and founded the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on September 15, 1949. Under his guidance the party has grown from strength to strength and has become a powerful force in Tamil Nadu. The party contested the 1957 General Elections for the first time and secured fifteen seats. Dr. Annadurai, who was the leader of the D.M.K. legislature party represented the Kancheepuram Assembly Constituency. In 1962 he was elected to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) where he proved himself a great parliamentarian. In 1967 General Elections the D.M.K. won an absolute majority with 139 seats in a House of 234.

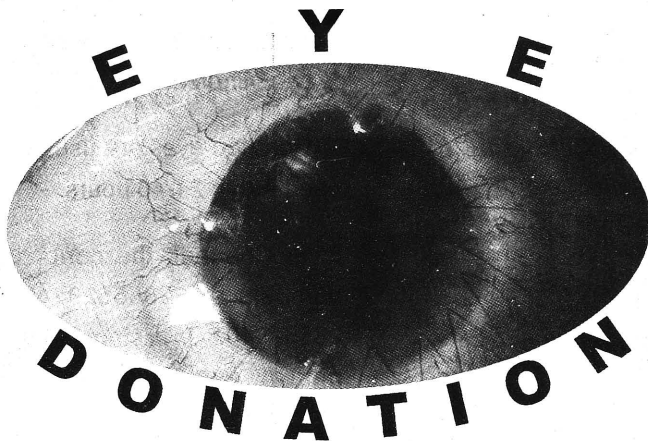


Anna

A life Sketch

Dr. C. N. Annadurai who was responsible for this "big change" in the political life of Tamil Nadu has been in office as Chief Minister hardly for two years. Yet within the short period he proved himself an able administrator and statesman.

Dr. C. N. Annadurai was a many sided personality. He was a politician, a statesman, a social reformer, a powerful speaker, a journalist, a dramatist, an actor and above all a man of the masses. Rightly has he been affectionately called as "PERARIGNAR ANNA". □



National fortnight on eye donation is observed all over the country from 25th August to 8th September with a view to intensify educational and motivational effort among the public to pledge their eyes for donation after death.

Eye donation denotes pledging by people to donate their eyes after death to be used for corneal grafting operations.

There are 1 million blind persons in the country who require corneal grafting. Majority of them are within 20 years of age. Only 7-8 thousand corneal grafting operations are done every year. But about fifteen to twenty thousand new victims of corneal blindness are added to each year to the already waiting list of 1 million blind persons.

Eye bank is an organization which deals with the collection, storage and distribution of donor eyes for the purpose of corneal grafting. First corneal transplantation in India was done by Dr. R.E.S. Muthiah of Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai. He also started first eye bank in India in the year 1948.

Cornea is the bright transparent bulging watch glass like cover situated on the front most part in the eye. Cornea becomes hazy

and opaque mostly due to ulcers and injuries. It is also affected in vitamin A and protein deficiency. The other conditions affecting the cornea are congenital anomalies, measles, chicken pox and toxic traditional medications.

In corneal grafting, the diseased and opaque cornea is replaced by a healthy transparent cornea taken from a donor. The success rate in corneal grafting is about 75%.

Risk of rejection is low because cornea is devoid of blood vessels.

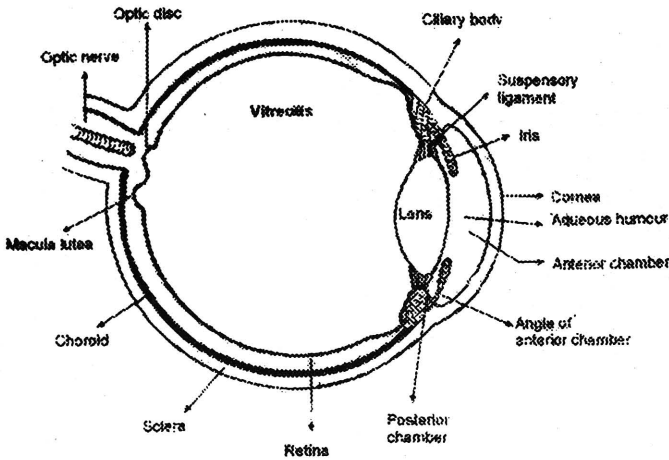
Practically anybody from the age of one year can be an eye donor. There is no maximum age limit. Eyes pledge forms are given to people who are willing to donate their eyes after death.

Eye donation pledge cards are given to those who submit their pledge form. The most important thing they have to do is to inform their close relatives and friends about their intention of eye donation. Then only it is fruitful. Eyes of deceased persons can also be donated by their next kin by contacting the eye bank after the death in the family, even if they have not pledged their eyes.

Let us see how to preserve the eyes of dead person before it is removed. Eyes of deceased person are to be kept closed and covered with moist cotton. Raise the head end of the body by one or two pillows.

Some of the basic facts about eye donation which we should know are:

Dr. K. MOHAN RAJ, M.S.,D.O.,
PROJECT DIRECTOR,
TAMIL NADU STATE BLINDNESS
CONTROL SOCIETY,
CHENNAI



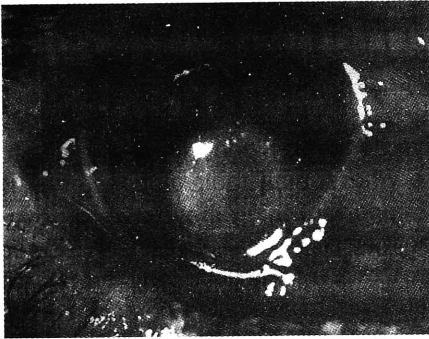
1. Almost anyone of any age can donate eyes even if the donor wears the glass or has cataract.

6. Your donation gives sight to two blind persons.

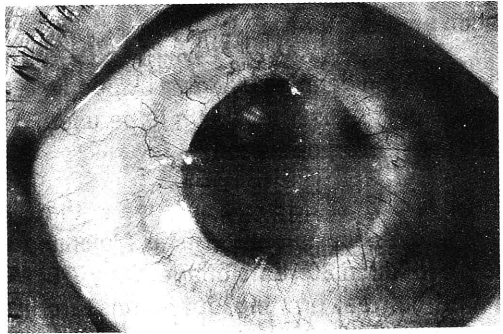
7. Donated eyes are usually used within 24-48 hours.

8. In Chennai, the contact numbers are 28555281 and 28553840. In districts, any nearby eye bank can be contacted.

9. In Government Hospitals, Corneal transplantation operations are done entirely free of cost



Before surgery



After surgery

2. Whole eye ball cannot be transplanted, only corneas are transplanted.
3. The eyes have to be removed within 6 hours of death.
4. The eye bank itself will make arrangements to send a team with a doctor to your home on receiving the call regarding eye donation.
5. Removal of eyes takes only 15-20 minutes and does not leave any scar or disfigurement

In Tamil Nadu in the year 2002-2003, 3320 eyes were collected. In 2003-2004, 4754 eyes were collected. There has been tendency of increasing awareness of eye donation. But this is insufficient. We are unable to match the demand. Let us join the eye donation movement and let more people be benefited by this.

***"Donate your eyes
Light two lives"***



PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN TAMIL NADU IS THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

Hon'ble Prime Minister
Dr. Manmohan Singh,

Hon'ble Union Ministers,

Hon'ble Chief Ministers of States,

Senior Officers of the
Union and State Governments,

I am glad that this conference on
"Poverty Alleviation and Rural
Prosperity" has been organised by the

Ministry of Rural Development,
Government of India. The theme of the
conference itself conveys the need for a
broad based strategy, not just to address
the question of providing better incomes
for the rural poor, but also to enable all
round rural prosperity. Our strategy has
to be inclusive and all encompassing,
not just with a focus on material
deprivation but also covering vulnerability
and exposure to risk. It has to be our
common task to remove the fetters and
provide each individual with what Prof.

Amartya Sen describes as "the capabilities that a person has, that is, the substantive freedoms he or she enjoys, to lead the kind of life he or she values". Our poverty alleviation strategy has to be based on this deeper understanding. The strategy should incorporate the four basic principles of promoting opportunity, facilitating empowerment, enhancing social security and good governance. Only by drawing on the synergy between these complementary strategies can we make rural prosperity a reality.

What we are now confronted with today is a completely different and complex scenario. Growth in the Agriculture Sector had started declining by the end of the Nineties. From the year 2001 Tamil Nadu has been seriously affected because of successive failure of monsoons. Tamil Nadu, already with the lowest per capita water availability in the country, is thus facing severe water stress. This has been compounded by the refusal to release our legitimate share of Cauvery water by Karnataka. This has had major adverse implications on the prospects for agricultural growth and consequently, rural prosperity. The effects of successive monsoon failure, together with a major drought in 2002-2003, followed by yet another drought in 2003-2004 has brought to the fore the new vulnerability of Tamil Nadu's rural economy. It is for this reason that I have placed the greatest emphasis on the Interlinking of Major Rivers as the only genuine means of attaining rural prosperity in a water starved State such as Tamil Nadu. I do hope the Hon'ble Prime Minister will take early steps to put the focus back on this key programme, which has the

potential to ensure genuine economic progress in our rural areas.

While rapid economic growth alone cannot be the panacea for reducing poverty, the robust growth of the economy does constitute a proper launching pad. Our first priority has to be to ensure that new momentum is imparted so that a sustained growth rate of 8% of the economy can indeed be achieved. Our own Tenth Plan target is to attain this annual growth rate of 8%. This implies that the Agriculture Sector has to grow at least at 4% per annum. The focus thus has to be on Agriculture, as it continues to sustain nearly 62% of our population living in rural areas, although its contribution to the State Domestic Product has come down to less than 17%. This has been rendered quite difficult with the successive monsoon failures and drought. The challenge is to bring back the growth momentum to the Agriculture Sector if we are to achieve significant reduction of poverty and revitalise the rural economy. This calls for major new initiatives in rural areas.

While welcoming the recent announcement regarding loans from Commercial Banks to farmers being rescheduled, I would like to emphasise the need for adequate capital support for restructuring and revitalising the Co-operative banking structure. The farm economy has to be revitalised after the successive disastrous droughts and for this a healthy Co-operative credit structure is vital.

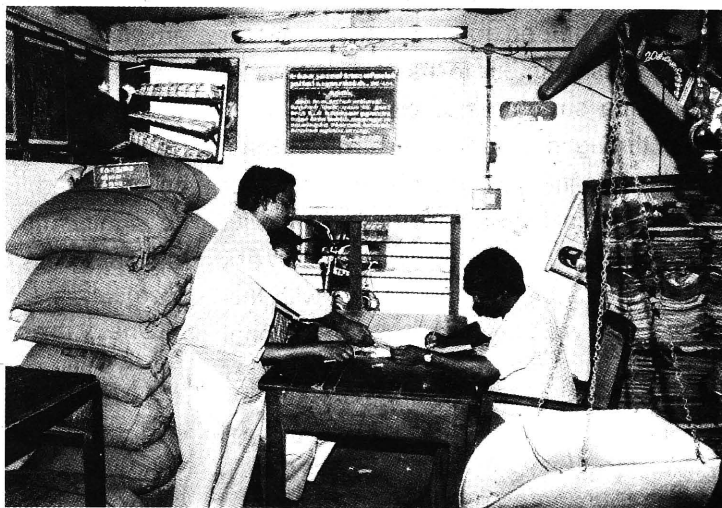
May I therefore request that a comprehensive package of financial support for the co-operative credit institutions be announced?

In Tamil Nadu we have adopted a comprehensive new strategy for agricultural development as a key poverty alleviation intervention in the context of the water stress that the State is confronted with. This includes crop diversification, comprehensive wasteland development based on a watershed approach, encouraging water-use efficiency, precision farming, adoption of new technologies, information technology for quick knowledge dissemination, post harvest technology, access to free markets for best prices, reinvigorating the rural non-farm sector by introducing the New Anna Marumalarchi Thittam and revitalizing the co-operative credit structure. This comprehensive new strategy will necessarily take time to show results, but I am confident that we are on the right track to bring all round rural prosperity. No discussion on poverty alleviation and rural prosperity will be complete without a comprehensive review of our agriculture and water strategy. An integrated view is a must.

We are implementing a comprehensive multi dimensional strategy for accelerated poverty reduction. This involves food security, provision of wage employment, promotion of self-employment, empowerment, assessment and protection against vulnerability and risk, all designed to attain well being as the touchstone of rural prosperity. This is not at all an easy task in the context of continuous

droughts leading to sharp and real decline in incomes. It is only my Government's implementation of this poverty reduction strategy that has rescued the rural poor in Tamil Nadu from the disastrous effects of continuous drought.

The Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu is easily the best in the country as recorded in recent studies conducted by the Union Planning Commission. In Tamil Nadu rice is provided through the Public Distribution System at Rs.3.50 per Kg. which is the lowest in the entire country. All cardholders on a self-selecting basis are eligible for subsidised rice. My Government incurs Rs.775 crores as subsidy from the State Budget, which is the highest in the



country, to ensure food security. Malnutrition free Tamil Nadu is our goal. Further, when the spectre of drought threatened rural Tamil Nadu in 2003, my Government provided 30 Kgs. of rice free of cost every month to nearly 10 lakh rural families most affected by drought. This caring intervention together with the proper implementation

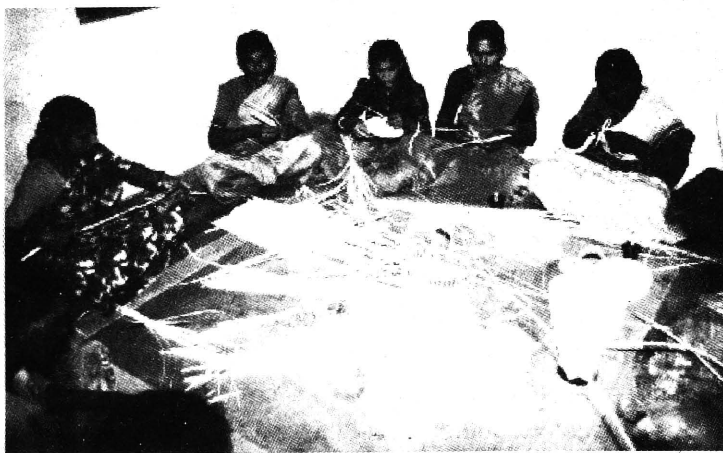
of the Food for Work programme ensured food security.

Providing assured wage employment on a widespread basis has to be the bedrock of our poverty alleviation strategy. Tamil Nadu has done extremely well in utilising the allocation and the rice available under the Food for Work Programme. We have consistently exceeded our allocations and obtained additional allocations reflecting the sound implementation of this programme in Tamil Nadu. Last year, I launched a major Rain Water Harvesting programme throughout Tamil Nadu in the context of the extreme water stress. This was implemented on a mandatory basis in all households. This was a resounding success and even though the monsoon failed the rainwater harvesting structures helped to alleviate the water stress. This year, our focus is on rain water harvesting structures to benefit the farm sector throughout the State in all rural areas. We are also integrating the rejuvenation of traditional drinking water sources along with this programme. The Food for Work programme is being implemented with this focus. I also welcome the idea of a National

Employment Guarantee Act, which will provide adequate work for all able bodied persons. This has to be backed by adequate cash and rice support, which should be provided to enable this guarantee to be implemented without stoppages.

I launched the concept of the Self Help Group (SHG) as a means of empowering women and getting them to participate in the development process in 1992. Today, it has blossomed into a huge movement in Tamil Nadu, with 1.66 lakh Self Help Groups covering 28.23 lakh women. The savings generated by these groups is Rs.469.06 crores and the credit availed of by these Groups amounts to Rs.726.54 crores. The Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) promotes the growth of these Self Help Groups. I find that the allocation of resources to the State under SGSY is going down despite our outstanding performance. May I suggest that this trend be corrected, and the allocations stepped up significantly, if we are to make further rapid progress?

One of the main issues to be tackled is to promote economic activities by these Self Help Groups and to get commercial banks and co-operative credit institutions to extend credit to them in a much bigger way. May I suggest the constitution of a new Working Group to examine how micro credit flow can be improved to the Self Help Groups? Simulta-



neously we have to examine how products produced by Self Help Groups can be marketed effectively. Skill upgradation, new product ideas, market access are all key issues relating to Self Help Groups which have to be addressed to consolidate the gains made already. We have taken several special projects under SGSY to achieve these objectives and I welcome the attention given to such special projects. We plan to take up many more.

I would now like to turn to certain area development programmes which are part of our poverty alleviation strategy. The watershed based approach adopted is right and we need to incorporate new technologies in our programmes to get better results. The Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, the Drought Prone Area Programme are all part of this area development approach. We have, on our own, launched a State-wide Comprehensive Wasteland Development Programme based on a watershed approach in order to bring lands lying fallow and waste under green cover. This programme has so far covered 1.19 lakh acres and it is our intention to ensure coverage of 1.5 lakh acres additionally in 2004-2005. Both horticulture and tree crops are promoted under this programme. Despite the drought conditions we have achieved tremendous success and with a normal monsoon forecast this year, it is our intention to intensify this effort. I agree with the suggestion that there ought to be a perspective plan with time bound targets to ensure rapid coverage of wastelands. Instead of having a multiplicity of schemes with different approaches it would be useful to integrate these into one common

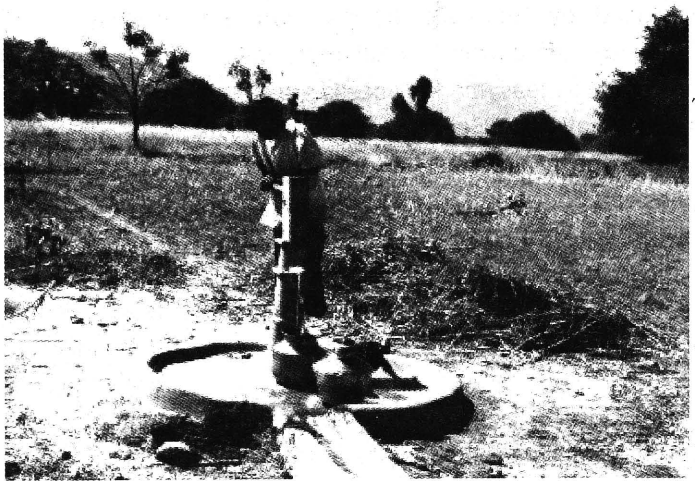
programme with substantial stepped up outlays so that rapid progress can be made. Considerable flexibility to accommodate local conditions has to be considered.

Rural infrastructure is vital to improve the quality of life and nurture genuine well being in rural areas. The Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana Programme (PMGSY) has been welcomed as a major intervention in building rural infrastructure. Upgrading rural roads has to be given priority now and I do hope it will be possible to move forward with a larger upgradation component in the current year. The determination of a core network should be based on a realistic appraisal of the current status of these roads. An expanded Rural Roads Programme will go a long way in improving the quality of life in rural areas. I strongly recommend an enhanced outlay for this programme in 2004-2005.

Another important activity in rural areas, which not only improves the quality of life but also provides productive employment, is rural housing. The Indira Awaas Yojna (IAY) enables the construction of more than 15 lakh houses in the entire country. Unfortunately, the pending demand is huge. In Tamil Nadu, the Census 2001 data indicates that there are 29.34 lakh huts in rural areas and these constitute 35.5% of all houses. The agenda notes point to the fact that the programme size has to be more than doubled. I strongly recommend this.

Even with this order of Budget support the coverage will still be inadequate. Commercial bank financing of rural housing has to be given attention. This has not taken off so

far as there are no satisfactory financial intermediaries who can keep in daily contact with the beneficiaries. Now that the Self Help Group movement has gained considerable momentum it should be possible to utilize the Self Help Groups and their federations as financial intermediaries. May I request that a working group be constituted to examine this so that we can enable rapid coverage in rural housing?



up plans and programmes we should be realistic and take note of the present conditions rather than going by dated information? The changing profile of water availability and the new issue of sustainability have altered the scenario adversely and this has to be recognised.

Rural Drinking Water Supply has now assumed critical importance, particularly in the context of the water stress that States like Tamil Nadu are facing. One of the key problems that we are facing is the sustainability of water sources as also water quality. The water stress has been so intense and the depletion of ground water sources so severe that even already fully covered habitations have slipped into the partially covered category, and in many cases into the not covered category also. This situation has to be recognised. I find that the agenda notes indicate that as per an old survey, in Tamil Nadu all the 66,631 habitations are fully covered. We have already reported that this data is completely incorrect. The total number of habitations in Tamil Nadu is 81,787 of which the fully covered habitations are only 29,067 and as many as 11,790 habitations are not covered. The partially covered category includes 40,930 habitations. This data as on 1st April, 2003, has to be the basis for planning. May I suggest that in drawing

Tamil Nadu has made rapid strides in providing drinking water in rural areas. In fact, 26% of the entire country's performance under the Sector Reforms Project has been that of Tamil Nadu. My Government has made a conscious effort to step up the outlay on rural water supply to combat the new problem posed by the extreme water stress faced in the State. We are planning to implement a State wide Tamil Nadu Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project with support from the World Bank and this is at an advanced stage of consideration. Our intention is to find sustainable solutions given the nature of the water crisis in Tamil Nadu. May I appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to ensure full support to Tamil Nadu in this major effort? I also note with some concern that the outlay for the Swajaldhara Scheme in



Panchayat which is able to achieve certain basic standards of personal and environmental sanitation. We are making rapid progress towards the goal of total sanitation and I request the Centre to extend full support to this programme.

I have also been personally pursuing and supporting the cause of promoting energy

2004-2005 is only Rs.211.50 crores with the allocation for Tamil Nadu being just Rs.8.89 crores. We have already gone far ahead and have taken up projects with an outlay of more than Rs.50 crores. May I request that the allotment be stepped up sizeably?

efficiency and utilization of alternate sources of energy in rural areas. Bio-gas Linked Toilets, Solar Powered Street Lights and Water Pumps, Bio-mass Gasifiers for Village Water Treatment Plants, use of Wind Energy for Panchayat energy needs and use of Waste Plastics in Rural Road Construction have been some of the highlights of our achievements in this direction. We must remember that the choice of alternate and renewable energy is an investment in sustainability and environmental protection so vital to the delicate rural eco-systems. We, in Tamil Nadu are working on an integrated project for Waste Land Development through bio-mass Production by Self Help Groups which will meet part or whole of village energy needs. The Government of India should actively propagate and fund a massive programme for the use of Sustainable and Alternate Forms of Energy in rural areas.

I have placed special emphasis on sanitation and hygiene in rural areas as a key intervention to improve the quality of life. The Total Sanitation Campaign is being implemented in all the districts in Tamil Nadu. As a major State programme, my Government is ensuring that community toilets for women are built in all Panchayats of the State. So far 9241 such toilets at a cost of Rs. 191.78 crores have been completed. Self Help Groups are put in charge of the use and maintenance of these toilets so as to keep them functioning. The household toilet programme has also gained tremendous momentum with the availability of low cost solutions. The sanitation coverage has moved up from just 15% in 2001 to 40% today and our goal is to ensure full coverage by 2006. We shall also ensure that toilets are provided in all schools and anganwadis by 2006. I have also announced a Clean Village Award of Rs.5 lakhs to each Village

Another key issue that we have to consider as part of our poverty alleviation strategy is good governance, to ensure that our programmes are implemented effectively resulting in rural prosperity. Are the States not to be trusted as equal partners in

the development process? An attempt has been made to portray the Centre as a champion of local self-governance and the States being ill-disposed towards this. It is the State Governments which are that much closer to the people in their everyday life and it is most invidious and petty to belittle the role of the State Governments in this fashion. The States collectively are themselves keen on ensuring that good governance practices result in the best benefits being realised by the people. It would be tragic if this tendency to tear asunder the basic fabric of our polity is attempted.

I wish to remind this august meeting that the founding fathers of the Constitution clearly visualised local governance to be in the State List. Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution are important new guiding principles to revitalize local self-governance. In actuating these principles many practical issues will arise. This is obviously going through a major evolutionary process. At the same time the Centre should desist from attempts to bypass the States and should not subscribe to the notion that the Centre can directly deal with the local bodies.

I wish to draw specific attention to the meeting of Chief Ministers held on 18th October, 2002, presided over by the former Prime Minister when the fiscal situation of the States was discussed. A consensus was arrived at in this meeting that henceforth all releases under Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be made to the Consolidated Fund of the States and not directly to the project implementing agencies. A condition was also laid down

that the States should pass on these to the end users within the stipulated time of three weeks and inform the Administrative Ministry in the Government of India of having done so. A detailed Office Memorandum dated 13th January, 2003, has been issued by the Finance Ministry, Government of India, communicating this revised procedure. I now find from the agenda notes that a suggestion has been made that releases in respect of items in the XII Schedule of the Constitution be directly credited to the Panchayats by the Central Government. This

“Another key issue that we have to consider as part of our poverty alleviation strategy is good governance, to ensure that our programmes are implemented effectively resulting in rural prosperity.”

suggestion is objectionable both in spirit and content as it seeks to denigrate the role of the States. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned we have a track record of releasing funds to the local bodies in time. Infact, on many occasions, releases have been made anticipating Central releases. I do not see the need for such a take over of the functions of the States by the Centre.

In Tamil Nadu, we have given substance and meaning to Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution by holding elections to all Local Bodies. Infact, the active participation of 1.17 lakh elected representatives ensures that all programmes are properly implemented by these rural local bodies. We have always placed emphasis on the two tier Panchayati Raj system as more appropriate in the Tamil Nadu context. Most importantly, it is only in Tamil Nadu that cheque drawing powers and executive functions have been entrusted to Village Panchayat Presidents; giving real meaning to the concept of decentralization and local self-governance. We have launched a massive capacity building effort involving Panchayat Presidents and other elected representatives. In Tamil Nadu, the convergence of the Self Help Group movement with village panchayats has also brought in new synergy. Self Help Group members participate actively in the Grama Sabha and even get elected as Presidents and Ward Members in Village Panchayats. These processes will surely strengthen our poverty alleviation efforts. In Tamil Nadu, we have constituted State Finance Commissions twice so far and have implemented their recommendations substantially. Untied devolution of funds is being made to all Local Bodies. I have personally ensured that Grama Sabha meetings are held frequently and we are now in the process of reconstituting committees of the village Panchayat to oversee every aspect of rural development. I am also of the view that a political consensus on issues of crucial importance is necessary if we are to make further headway towards the lofty goal of devolving more functions and finances to panchayat raj institutions.

We have learnt that the traditional strategies that foster economic growth are essential, but they have to be supplemented with a greater emphasis on institutional and social foundations of development and on managing the vulnerability of the poor. We are dealing with people here, their fears, voicelessness, vulnerability, hopes and aspirations. Good governance consists of reaching out to them and helping them to live decent lives. Let us not mix politics and polemics in taking demagogic stands, confounding the single minded effort which has to be launched to tackle the new challenges posed in our poverty alleviation programmes. I do hope it will be possible in this forum to introspect and draw up an agenda of action which will enable improved content and good governance of our poverty alleviation programmes.

The underlying message emerging from the agenda notes clearly shows that Tamil Nadu has done extremely well and is well and truly the star performer in the various programmes of poverty alleviation. I am acutely conscious that we cannot rest on our laurels and will have to continue to implement not only the existing programmes effectively but innovate consistently to realise our cherished goal of substantially reducing poverty in Tamil Nadu before the end of the Tenth Plan.

The speech of
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
presented at the Conference of
Chief Ministers on '**Poverty Alleviation and
Rural Prosperity**' held at New Delhi
on 29 & 30 of June, 2004.

POONDI GUDIYAM CAVE

The history of Chennai as most of us know started from the time the British established their trading company here, but astonishingly Chennai (Madras) has been a place of habitation for pre-historic hominids (early man) who had lived here millions of years ago. The chain of explorations started off when Sir Robert Bruce Foote, a British Geologist, accidentally found a stone tool at Pallavaram in May 1863, followed by the discovery of enormous number of artefacts in and around Poondi, near Chennai. This tremendous discovery in the field of pre-historic archaeology pushed back the antiquity of man in Tamil Nadu to more than half a million years ago and placed this region firmly on the world map of pre-historic culture.

Interestingly, the Poondi reservoir, from where our city derives its water supply, and the Korttalaiyar river basin turns out to be significantly important for archaeologists and geologists around the world. The Gudiyam cave, the first of its kind in India, exists near Poondi in Tiruvallur taluk of Tiruvallur district. Reaching there takes some adventurous paths, meandering through the silent forests, which can actually turn out to be a nice expedition for trekkers and nature lovers.

Millions of years ago, man did not live as we live today. He lived in jungles like most of the

A UNIQUE PRE - HISTORIC PICNIC SPOT NEAR CHENNAI

animals. He ate fruits, nuts, berries and sweet roots or plants that were available with him. The animals were stronger than him and so he was afraid of them. He climbed up the trees or hid himself in caves at night. Whenever he could kill an animal with his bare hands, he ate the flesh raw. He did not know how to grow crops. As he could not find his food at one place, he had to move from one place to another in search of fruit and nuts and to kill animals for food.

It was very difficult to dig out roots or to kill animals with bare hands. So he needed a tool. He found that stones and rocks could be shaped to do his job easily. He picked up heavy stones and rocks, sharpened them and tied them to sticks with animal hair or nerves and used them as spears. These were his first tools. Thus he could dig out roots with sharp edged stones, or kill an animal without going very near to it. The first tool that man made were not very good but served his purpose. Some of those tools have been unearthed and are kept in Poondi museum.

Most of the stone implements have so far been collected from the surface, but some from

T.S.Sridhar, I.A.S.,
*Special Commissioner,
Department of Archaeology,
Government of Tamil Nadu.*

the terraces of the rivers. These early stone implements have been discovered at Korttalaiyar River Valley in and around Thiruvallur. Taking into consideration the distinct geographical features and different manufacturing traditions, scholars have divided the stone tools of this Palaeolithic age (old stone age) into two groups. 1. Sohan (Punjab) Industries, 2. Madras Industries. Hand axes and cleavers are the main components of the Madras tools. The most important characterization in the industry of this region is the presence of cores i.e. the stone used for making implements.

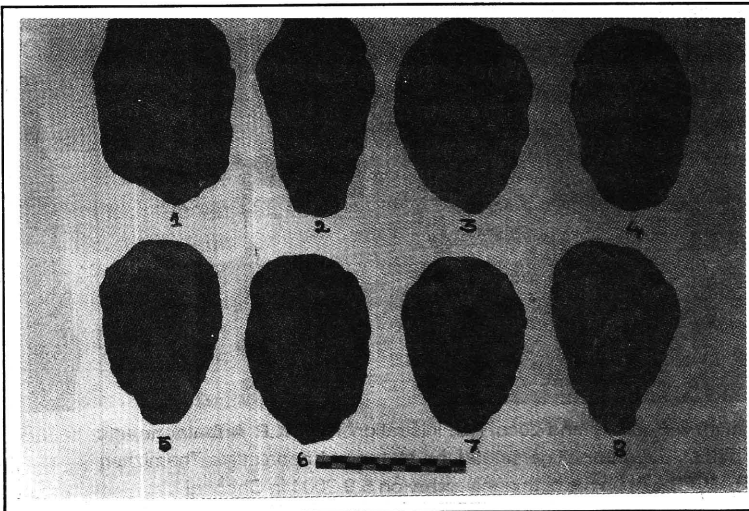
The region is represented by an old laterite plateau with isolated hillock ranges named as Allikulli hill which is formed of quartzite conglomerate rocks. These rocks on weathering have littered the ground with pebbles and boulders. These detrital rocks served as the source for the early man to make implements. Vegetation comprises of semi-evergreen scrub woodland, closed and discontinuous thorny thickets and scattered shrubs.

Gudiyam

Gudiyam is about 10 km from the Poondi reservoir; the actual cave can be reached from the foothills by walking to a distance of 3 km. The huge Gudiyam cave is presently known to the local people as Manachamman cave and the people of the nearby villages visit on Chitrapurnima day to worship the Goddess. The cave is at about 110 feet height and 200 feet breadth; about 200 people can stay here at a time. Similar rock shelters, sixteen in number, were noticed at Gudiyam. Out of them only 6 were inhabited by early man. This rock shelter of the Stone Age man was excavated in the year 1963 by the Archaeological Survey of India. Three trenches were laid, one inside the rock shelter and other two away from the shelter. Some stray tools were collected from this site. The occupational deposit of this place appears to be incidental and not a regular or permanent residence of the early man.

Poondi Museum

The Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu has conducted extensive survey of this area and identified more than 17 villages where pre-historic tools are available in plenty. To understand the pre-history of Tamil Nadu as a whole and the palaeolithic age of this region in particular, the Department has established a small site museum at Poondi in 1985 for the benefit of the public, students and



scholars. Many artefacts such as hand axe, cleaver, hammer stone, discoid and core materials found in and around Poondi are exhibited here. Apart from pre-historic tools, the megalithic burial potteries, fossil remains of wood, snail, and leaf are the other important exhibits of this museum. Four life-sized models of early hominids and a rock portion with pre-historic paintings were also erected in the open space in front of the museum in the year 1993. The site museum at Poondi is the only museum of its kind in India, featuring the pre-historic heritage of the region.

Poondi is also a popular picnic spot which is 60 kilometres from Chennai and situated at a distance of about 12 kilometres north west of Tiruvallur; frequent electric trains (EMU) and buses ply from Chennai.

The museum is open on all working days from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm, except on Friday and Gazetted holidays. The entrance fee for an Indian adult is Rs.5/- and child Rs.3/- and for a foreigner adult Rs.50/-and child Rs.25/-. The Curator of the museum may be contacted for further information and guidance.

A visit to Poondi is an experience worth recounting for the above reasons. It offers several attractions to the casual tourist, serious research student as well as to the ardent archaeologist and geologist, according to their needs. It is the only pre-historic site south of the Vindhyas. The chance discovery of primitive stone tools used by early cave man has advanced our knowledge of pre-history by several millennia. Further research through excavations will help to understand better the life style of the cave man who lived in these parts of our State. ★



Hon'ble Minister for Information & Publicity and Local Administration Thiru **K.P. Anbalagan** and Hon'ble Minister for Law Thiru **D. Jayakumar** garlanded the statue of Kappalottiya Thamizhan **V.O. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI** on his birth anniversary on 5.9.2004 in Chennai.



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

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

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

V.O.C The Beacon Light

Chidambaram was one of the contemporaries of dynamic leaders like Tilak and Bipin Chandrapal. He gave up his legal profession and threw himself in the struggle for swaraj and galvanised the masses by his eloquent speeches and powerful writings. The Government who were watching the activities of V.O.C. with obvious fear and suspicion prosecuted him for sedition.

He was sentenced to 40 years of transportation. On appeal the sentence was reduced to 6 years of rigorous imprisonment.

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

V.O.C. had the sanctifying association of Poet Bharati who was then known widely as the Bard of Freedom. the stirring songs of Freedom began to ring through the words and work of Bharati. V.O.C. was an ardent admirer of Bharati. Bharati became a powerful associate of V.O.C.

V.O.C., Bharati and many others, stirred Tamil Nadu to its depths. The sacrifices they made, the sufferings they endured, the hardships they encountered, the odds they met, the obstacles they crossed, became the watch word and the bye-word of political thoughts and action.

V.O.C. stood out on an eminence of patriotic persons, a scholar who broke stones and drew the oil mill, a labour leader who became the champion for the working class, an intellectual who led the way for freedom struggle, V.O.C. is hallowed by fame and name. His renunciation was great. He showed the path. He gave the philosophy of national service. He was a beacon light. He had left a tradition of scholarship and national service. His voice has become still. But he lives in the minds and hearts of our people and will continue to inspire this generation and succeeding generations for the evangelical mission of serving the cause of the people and of making India good, great and glorious.

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I wish to draw your attention to the letter dated 29.7.2004 which I had written to you on the rain deficit situation in Tamil Nadu. I had pointed out that Tamil Nadu should also be included among the rain Deficit States and assistance should be extended to Tamil Nadu. This was with reference to the current South West Monsoon for the year 2004-2005. I had indicated in this letter that in 11 districts, the deviation from normal was greater than 20% showing a severe deficit in the current season.



Even at that stage we were hopeful of a revival of the South West Monsoon. While the revival of the South West Monsoon has benefited States like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, the situation has worsened in Tamil Nadu. I have recently analysed the rainfall data and I find that the actual rainfall in Tamil Nadu for the period 1.6.2004 to 18.8.2004 is less than normal by 26%. More importantly, the same data indicates that in 18 out of 30 districts the rainfall is below normal by more than 20%. This clearly points to a drought situation which is emerging.

In view of the fact that the South West Monsoon (2004) has not revived in Tamil Nadu and the rainfall situation has taken a turn for the worse, I

“Accord Higher priority to drought relief operations in Tamil Nadu”

(Text of the D.O. Letter dated 28.8.2004
addressed to **Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, New Delhi
by **Selvi J JAYALALITHAA**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu)

enclose a detailed Memorandum setting out the drought situation in Tamil Nadu, together with the assistance package needed. As you are aware, Tamil Nadu has had to face a drought situation in 2002-2003 and again in 2003-2004. The failure of the current

South West Monsoon in the 2004 season is, therefore, a matter of great concern.

I also wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Government of Tamil Nadu presented a detailed Memorandum on 1st February 2004, on

the drought conditions in various districts in Tamil Nadu other than Chennai City, where an extraordinary water scarcity situation had developed, to handle which, a separate Memorandum was submitted on 16.1.2004. We sought an assistance of Rs.1584 crores and 10.8 lakh tonnes of rice for drought relief works in districts other than Chennai. A separate request for Rs.700 crores was made for tackling the acute drinking water scarcity situation in Chennai City which was one of rare severity. The Government of India sanctioned Rs.292.95 crores and 3.04 lakh tonnes of rice for the Food for Work Programme. We have fully utilised the funds for the drought relief operations relating to the year 2003-2004. We have in fact incurred much higher expenditure than the assistance received.

We are now confronted once again with a drought situation for the year 2004-2005, based on the progress of the South West Monsoon in this season starting from 1.6.2004. As pointed out we have already utilised the funds and the rice released in the context of the drought in 2003-2004. We have to now gear up to tackle the new situation posed by the failure of the ongoing South West Monsoon in large parts of the State. May I, therefore, request your full

support for undertaking necessary relief operations in the context of the current drought (2004-2005).

I would also like to draw your specific attention to the problem faced in Chennai City. You are no doubt aware of the acute water scarcity in Chennai City. The rainfall in Chennai in the current South West Monsoon has been deficient by 52%. In neighbouring Kancheepuram District, the rainfall deficit is 64% and in the adjoining Thiruvallur District the deficiency is 51%. Thus Chennai and its neighbourhoods have again not received satisfactory rainfall in the current South West Monsoon period. This has exacerbated an already difficult situation. We have to incur an extra expenditure of more than Rs.27 crores each month to keep a minimum water supply going. The ground water availability has also been declining sharply. We are consequently required to undertake transportation of water from very long distances to keep up the supply of drinking water. It is a situation of rare severity requiring maximum assistance from the Government of India.

The detailed Memorandum that I have enclosed sets out the extent of deficit rainfall in the current South West Monsoon period. In several districts, the rainfall has been scanty. In a

large number of districts, the rainfall has been deficient by more than 40%. This points to a serious deficit in the current South West Monsoon. As I have already explained, Chennai City has been greatly affected. We are managing the situation by supplying water through lorries as the City's three storage reservoirs have gone completely dry. Overall, it is an extremely difficult situation that confronts Tamil Nadu.

The detailed Memorandum enclosed sets out the relief measures necessary to tide over the situation caused by the failure of the current South West Monsoon. The financial assistance requested is Rs.1,680 crores. Apart from the financial requirement, we have also made a request for additional food grains support of 5.4 lakh tonnes for employment generation works. As Tamil Nadu is facing the third successive drought year, a Central team may be deputed to assess the situation. Based on this assessment, financial assistance and food grains support may be extended to Tamil Nadu as in the case of other rain deficit States.

May I request that the highest priority be accorded to my request for assistance to Tamil Nadu for drought relief operations?



A long term and permanent solution should be found to the burning issue of violence against poor fishermen

*Text of D.O. letter dt. 10.8.2004 addressed to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, New Delhi,
by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu*

I am writing this letter to bring to your notice a matter of grave importance concerning the incidents of indiscriminate violence against Tamil Nadu fishermen taking place in the Palk Bay region where the Island of Kachatheevu is located. I am distressed to learn that the Sri Lankan Navy opened fire at our fishermen engaged in fishing in Indian territorial waters near Kachatheevu around 7.30 P.M. on 9.8.2004, resulting in the death of Thiru Ramu, S/O. Chokkalingam, aged 40, hailing from Rameswaram. Further, I would also like to bring to your notice that 19 fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu, who left for fishing from the Nagapattinam Port Base on 3.8.2004 in 4 boats were taken into custody while at sea by the Sri Lankan Navy on 4.8.2004.

You are aware that the fishermen of Tamil Nadu depend essentially on fishing in the waters around Kachatheevu for their livelihood. I have been repeatedly drawing the attention of the Government of India to the incidents of violence against Indian fishermen in the Palk Bay around Kachatheevu Island. I have already taken up this burning issue with the Government of India, urging that the traditional rights and privileges of the Indian fishermen to carry on their normal occupation of fishing in these waters will have to be recognised early and a suitable working arrangement devised.

The fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been repeatedly prevented from fishing in the waters around Kachatheevu by Sri Lankan fishermen who, with the help of the Sri Lankan Navy, have been taking the law into their own hands, capturing our Tamil Nadu fishermen and indulging in violent incidents. Such repeated instances of Indian fishermen being attacked and taken into

captivity have led to great anguish among the fishermen living in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. As on date, 29 Tamil Nadu fishermen and 87 boats are under the custody of Sri Lankan authorities.

I therefore, request your personal and immediate intervention in the matter to immediately take up the issue with the Ministry of External Affairs and direct the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka to intervene in the matter and take urgent steps to obtain the release of our fishermen who have been apprehended and ensure that their boats are repatriated.

I also request you to take up the issue of the indiscriminate killing of a poor fisherman belonging to Tamil Nadu on the high seas, with the Government of Sri Lanka and register a strong protest against this inhuman act perpetrated by the Sri Lankan Navy.

I have time and again suggested to the Government of India that a long term and permanent solution should be found to this burning issue of violence against, poor fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu taking place in the Palk Bay region. You will agree that shooting and killing of fishermen who venture into the seas in search of their livelihood violates all canons of natural justice. The Government of India has to find a long term and permanent solution to this problem as it involves the question of the traditional rights of our Tamil Nadu fishermen. I had on several earlier occasions suggested that a long term and permanent solution to this problem would be to take Kachatheevu on Lease in Perpetuity. With the increasing frequency of such incidents the time has come to ensure that a finality is reached on this issue by the Government of India without further delay.

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Fire accident at Kumbakonam

Hon'ble Chief Minister's solace to the parents and students



The gruesome fire accident which took place in an aided private school at Kumbakonam in Thanjavur District on 16.7.2004 took a heavy toll of the precious lives of 94 young children. Hon'ble Chief Minister rushed to Kumbakonam and inspected the site of the fire accident. She ordered criminal prosecution against the school Management. She also ordered the school to be closed immediately and instructed the officials to facilitate students who have survived the tragedy, transfer to other schools immediately. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also ordered the suspension of the Assistant Elementary Educational Officer, the District Elementary

Educational Officer, the District Educational Officer and the Chief Educational Officer who were found guilty of dereliction of duty.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister offered her deepest heart-felt condolences to the parents and relatives of the dead children. She prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured children.

She sanctioned an ex-gratia payment of Rs.1 lakh to the families of each of the children who died in the gruesome tragedy, from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. She also sanctioned Rs.25,000 to each of the grievously injured and Rs.10,000 for those with minor injuries.



The Chief Minister also ordered the School Education Department to take up an intensive inspection of all schools throughout the State immediately to ascertain and ensure the maintenance of safety standards.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered all District Collectors to inspect all schools in their jurisdiction and ensure that the thatched structures in schools are replaced with non-flammable material.

The Tamil Nadu Cabinet met on 19.7.2004 and paid homage to the unfortunate children. The Cabinet passed a resolution expressing deep grief and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the family members of the children whose precious lives were tragically lost in the fire. The Cabinet resolved that steps will be taken on a war-footing to ensure safety and security of all school buildings throughout Tamil Nadu so that such a ghastly incident does not occur ever again in future.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, headed by a retired Judge of the High Court. The Commission will inquire into the circumstances and the causes leading to this fire accident. The Commission will also go into all reform measures needed to ensure that such incidents do not recur. An Expert Panel will assist the Commission of Inquiry in going into all aspects of reform needed to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also said that in order to alleviate the congestion and prevent overcrowding in class rooms, a shift system will be permitted. Accordingly, children can attend school in different batches so that overcrowding would be avoided. Suitable time schedules will be worked out locally in consultation with the Parent-Teachers Association.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister also ordered that all noon-meal kitchen sheds having thatched roofs be provided with non-flammable roofing immediately. She also ordered that Fire and Rescue Services Department should inspect all schools for fire safety. Provision for entry, exit and emergency exit in all schools will be ensured.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also issued orders that Fire Drill should be carried out twice a year under the supervision of the Fire and Rescue Services Department through local Fire Stations in every school.

The Fire and Rescue Services Department will organise a crash-training course for teachers on how to handle any fire emergency and also to undertake fire safety drills.

The Education Department, while according recognition and approvals, is required to go into all aspects to ensure the proper functioning of the schools. This includes Structural Stability Certificate from the Public Works Department/Chartered Engineers, Public Building Licence

under the Tamil Nadu Public Buildings (Licensing) Act 1965, from the local Tahsildar and Sanitary and Hygiene certificate by the local Health Authorities. The Education Department officials and other Departmental officials have been directed to ensure strict observance of these mandatory provisions.

Selvi A. Kausalya D/o. Thiru Arivazhagan and Tmt.Jothi of Paalakkurai, Kumbakonam and Selvan B. Vijay S/o.Thiru Balasivaraman and Tmt. Rajalakshmi of Koranaathukkaruppur Natham Village who were seriously injured were admitted in the Apollo Hospital in Chennai for specialised treatment as instructed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Selvi A. Kausalya and Selvan B. Vijay who underwent intensive treatment for burns including plastic surgery were discharged on 18.8.2004. They met the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Secretariat along with their parents and thanked her for arranging treatment for them at the Multi-speciality hospital. The Hon'ble Chief Minister conveyed her best wishes, gave them chocolates and bid them farewell. ❖



Eradication of Child Labour

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had announced a 15 point programme for making Tamil Nadu the best State in the Country in every sphere. Eradication of Child Labour is one of the points. To achieve the above goal an **"Action Plan"** has been launched to eradicate child labour in all hazardous occupations by 2005 and in non-hazardous occupations by 2007. **A State Child Labour Rehabilitation Cum Welfare Society** has been formed in the Office of the Commissioner of Labour to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan. This would be achieved by convergence of services of various Departments of the State and Non-Governmental organizations, Employers, Trade Unions etc. for the release and rehabilitation of children working both in hazardous and non-hazardous occupations. The children have to be withdrawn from labour force and they should be encouraged to enter into education. Already the **National Child Labour Project (NCLP)** funded by the Government of India is in operation in 12 districts of Tamil Nadu.

It is in this context that a Project named **INDUS Child Labour Project** for eradication of Child Labour, jointly funded by the

Government of India and United States Department of Labour is being launched in Tamil Nadu. The International Labour Organization will be the executing agency for this project. The project is to be implemented in five Districts of Tamil Nadu viz., Kancheepuram, Namakkal, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai and Virudhunagar.

Survey conducted by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2003

In **Kancheepuram District**, 3417 child labourers were identified. Out of this 1806 are boys and 1611 are girls. 429 of the child labourers are aged less than 9 years. 262 children are engaged in hazardous occupation. Among the child labourers found in hazardous occupations most of them (125) are working in weaving.

In **Namakkal District**, 3229 child labourers were identified. Of these, 1735 are boys and 1494 are girls. 259 child labourers are aged less than 9 years. 1617 children are found employed in hazardous occupations. Among them 120 are working in Cotton ginning and 66 are working in Automobile workshops.

In **Tiruvallur District**, 1153 child labourers were identified. Of these, 571 are boys and 582 are girls. 281 are aged less than 9 years. 454 child labourers are found employed in hazardous occupations. Among them, the most prominents are weaving (156), Brick Kiln and Roof tiles (122), and Construction industries (55).

In **Tiruvannamalai District**, the survey identified 1427 child labourers. 795 boys and 632 girls. 60 of them are aged less than 9 years. Out of 423 children employing in hazardous occupations in this district 308 are found in weaving.

In **Virudhunagar district**, substantial number of child labourers (6838) was identified. Of this 3094 are boys and 3744 girls; 648 are aged less than 9. The number of child labourers found in hazardous occupations is 1640. Among them manufacture of matches occupies first place (1054) followed by fire works (144) and cotton ginning (126).

INDUS Project Structure

The project structure is organized at three levels national, state and district levels. The

project management team at the national level is located at the ILO Area Office, New Delhi, which provides institutional support and basic infrastructure to the central project team. There is close interface with the Ministry of Labour and Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, in the Central Government, as well as with the US Department of Labour. The project is supervised by the National Steering Committee, which is chaired by the Secretary, MOL, and has representatives from government agencies, NGOs, employers' and workers' organizations.

State Project Steering Committees (SPSCs) has been set up at the state level. A **State-level Resource Cell (SRC)** at the **State Child Labour Rehabilitation cum Welfare Society** will be established to assist the SPSC in its functioning. The Additional Commissioner of Labour (Child Labour Monitoring Cell), in the cadre of an I.A.S. Officer will function as the State Coordinator of SRC. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) society will be responsible for the implementation of the education component of the project in the state.

SSA Survey 2003 - Abstract

Sl.No.	District	Child Labour						
		Boys	Girls	5-9	9-14	Hazardous	Non-Hazardous	Total
1	Tiruvallur	571	582	281	872	454	699	1153
2	Tiruvannamalai	795	632	60	1367	423	1004	1427
3	Kancheepuram	1806	1611	429	2988	263	3154	3417
4	Namakkal	1735	1494	259	2970	1617	1612	3229
5	Virudhunagar	3094	3744	648	6190	1640	5198	6838
	Total	8001	8063	1677	14387	4397	11667	16064



The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Society, headed by the Collector, will be responsible for project implementation at the district level. The NCLP society will be assisted by the District Project Team. The SSA's District Project Implementation Unit will be responsible for implementing the public education component.

Package of services

In each of the selected district there are three groups of direct beneficiaries:

1. 1000 younger children (5-8 years) who will be directly enrolled in regular schools and support services
2. 2000 older children (9-13 years), who will be provided with transitional education and support services
3. 1000 adolescents (14-17 years) who will be provided with vocational training.

In the target districts, the project will mobilize and strengthen the capacity of agencies in the private and public sphere

against child labour, enabling them to provide a multi-sectoral package of services. These services include:

- Identifying children working in hazardous and non hazardous occupations;
- withdrawing children and young persons from these hazardous and non-hazardous situations;
- placing the withdrawn children in meaningful and quality education or vocational education/training;
- providing viable income generating opportunities to the families of child workers;
- strengthening public education infrastructure in the target areas; and
- creating a positive environment for prevention of hazardous and non-hazardous child labour through public awareness-raising and through involvement of the community in monitoring child labour.

COMPONENTS OF INDUS PROJECT

Component : 1

Identification of children at risk

This component will involve a database on child workers in all hazardous sectors for each target district by;

- conducting surveys in the designated districts and targeted sectors to identify working children;

- developing profiles, by sector, of child workers, their families, their workplace and working conditions;
- developing a compendium of government and other agencies' programmes in the target areas; and
- establishing detailed and quantifiable indicators of achievement.

The survey agency selected by the State Government will conduct the survey.

Component : 2

Withdrawal and provision of transitional education

Children in the age group of 9-13 years will be withdrawn from hazardous work in the target districts and enrolled in transitional schools and services. Transitional education in special schools will be a bridge to formal schools or vocational training. This component will involve:

- identification of suitable agencies to run the transitional schools in consultation with the community;
- training instructors/teachers through governmental or NGO institutions;
- development/adaptation of appropriate teaching material;
- enrolment of identified children in transitional schools;
- provision of teaching material, textbooks, notebooks, stationery and play

material, as well as provision of cooked mid-day meals, to enrolled children;

- provision of appropriate health care to enrolled children;
- mainstreaming of children into formal schools within a period of 12 to 18 months;
- follow-up of children mainstreamed into formal school; and
- equip the transitional schools with play and reading material for use by children after school hours.

Component : 3

Vocational training for adolescents

Older children (14-17 years) from the child labour families will be provided vocational training in locally employable and marketable skills. This will involve:

- assessment of labour market to identify entry level skills for boys and girls to make them employable or self-employed;
- establishment of vocational training centres by local trade/industry associations, employers' and workers' organizations and NGOs;
- development or adaptation of existing material and resources for skill training in each locality;
- provision of life skill, language and numeracy education;
- provision of trained vocational training instructors;

- provision of training through attachments system and production-cum-training centres wherever appropriate and feasible;
- enrolment of identified adolescents for the vocational training courses;
- provision of monthly stipend to the enrolled adolescents;
- trade certification to students on completion of the course; and
- linking the centres to job placement services or to job opportunities.
- assistance to mothers to take up economically viable activities linked to the school, such as running TECs, mid-day meals, etc.;
- market linkages; and
- mentor services.

The NCLP society will oversee the programme. National/State level agencies specializing in income generating activities and micro enterprise development will be identified to act as technical resource agencies to the NCLPs.

Component : 4

Income generating alternatives for families

Adult members of families of the target children will be provided opportunities to increase income and the possibility of self-employment. This will involve:

- formation of self-help groups (SHGs) of 15 mothers each;
- saving of Rs.30-50/- per month by each mother;
- matching grant to be given after six months;
- loan facility after a period of six months;
- training on various income-generation activities, micro-enterprise development, micro-credit, skill development, etc., for the mothers/parents;

Component : 5

Strengthening public education of childworkers

The project recognizes the need to strengthen the public education system, with a special focus on children at risk. It seeks to work through existing government programmes, foremost amongst them being the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). This will require the project to :



- invest in improvements in infrastructure, the quality of education, development of community monitoring systems to complement and feed into existing systems, and provide access to education to all children in the target areas;
- support activities, including community mobilization, to ensure enrolment, attendance and retention by extending incentives such as free textbooks and notebooks to all children studying in the target areas;
- support and improve educational institutional reforms, including the development and effective implementation of District Elementary Educational Plans; and
- strengthen both non-formal (transitional) and formal education through joint workshops and training activities.

SSA societies will oversee the activities under this component.

Component : 6

Monitoring and tracking

An independent and credible monitoring system is to be put in place to follow the progress of child workers and their families who are participating in the project. The monitoring system will see that the following objectives are achieved:

- Child workers are phased out from hazardous work and provided with education, vocational training, etc.
- Families of child labourers are benefiting from the activities envisaged.
- There is adequate follow-up and support after children are going to school.
- Measurable progress is being made towards the prevention and elimination of child labour in the identified sectors in the target areas.

The monitoring will be done by recognized institutions, with the agreement and involvement of the community. The monitoring system will be designed by technical specialists from the ILO and the Government of India. The selected institutions will gather information from the children, community, and NCLP, SSA and participating implementing agencies.

Component : 7

Social mobilization

Alongside the project activities, a continuous awareness raising campaign is essential to keep children away from work and prevent child labour in future. This will involve:

- advocacy and awareness campaigns to make parents, children, employers, social partners, and communities aware of the importance of education, negative consequences of child labour, as well as the legal provisions related to this, particularly the 1986 Act;
- identification of target groups at various levels, and preparation of advocacy materials in various media formats,

organizing forums for discussion, and networking; and

- mobilizing employers' and workers' organizations, civil society organizations, families and communities to undertake joint and separate action against child labour.

NCLP society will oversee the activities under this component. Advocacy material will be prepared by a communications agency.

Component : 8

Capacity building of national, state, district and local Institutions

At the state level, activities such as sensitization and training programmes/workshops will be undertaken to encourage coordination and convergence of all services operating for the elimination of child labour. This will involve:

- periodic training, supported by handbooks, guidelines, and other materials, to improve the capacity of labour inspectors to identify and monitor hazardous child labour;
- training to district and state Education Department officials about efficient methods for drawing up District Education Plans, fund utilization, manpower management, etc.;
- training to education officers to adopt participatory monitoring methods to ensure retention of children in conjunction with other stakeholders (e.g. community, village education committee, local self-government bodies);

- orientation to NCLP project directors and project staff, as well as the project staff under SSA about the details of the project and in particular about its objectives, outputs, activities and project management;
- training and sensitization programmes for government agencies, including the officers from rural development, women's development and child welfare, social welfare, policies, etc., on child labour; and
- training and sensitization programmes for employers' and workers' organizations, NGOs and other civil society bodies.

Component : 9

Raising interest towards action on hazardous child labour

Consequent upon a mid-term review of the project, the experiences of the project would be documented. This will involve:

- workshops in each of the four targeted states to document model;
- workshops in six additional states to raise interest; and
- follow-up on any interest raised.

Component : 10

Knowledge management

A national-level institute identified by the National Steering Committee and the GOI, in consultation with the ILO, will assist the NSC in an ongoing review of the project. It will be used as a data bank to store all data

pertaining to the project and provide appropriate technical support as defined by the NSC.

STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT

Stakeholders Workshops

In each of the above five districts Stakeholders Consultative Workshops were held. In order to launch the project, wide range of consultations has been made with key stakeholders. The stakeholders from Government Departments, NGOs, civil society partners, etc. have come with number of ideas and suggestions for designing project intervention on child labour.

At **State Level** the State Child Labour Rehabilitation Cum Welfare Society of Tamil Nadu organized a one day Stakeholders Workshop at Chennai on 18.2.2004. Hon'ble Minister for Labour inaugurated the workshop. The Chief Secretary to Government presided over the function. The involvement of a cross section of stakeholders to generate ideas for interventions by the project and to develop ownership of the Project among stakeholders was the highlight of the workshop. Issues relating to child labour like, rescue, release, enforcement of labour laws, and rehabilitation through education, income generation, vocational training, monitoring and social mobilization were widely discussed. Thus, the implementation of the INDUS Project has been conceived after widespread discussions at different level.

Baseline survey

Open tender was floated through leading newspapers for selecting a professional agency to take up the survey in the five districts. The survey agency will be selected shortly. Detailed questionnaires prepared by ILO have been translated into Tamil.

The INDUS project team based at ILO New Delhi had appointed the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), an NGO based at Madurai to conduct Labour



Market Survey. The survey will assess the demand for skills in the district, keeping in view the likely profile of the adolescents from child labour families. This survey will throw up a list of skills in demand in the area and also approximate number of workers required for each skill.

On 3.2.2004, under the guidance of the INDUS Project Team, ILO New Delhi, a one day workshop to develop a child labour monitoring system was organized. Members from Village Education Committees, Block Resource Coordinators, etc. under SSA, Officials of labour department, Trade Unions, Employers, etc. participated. ★



**Any move to
disturb the
functioning of the
Tribunal is clearly
an attempt
to defy the
rule of law
and the
Supreme Court**

Press Statement of
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
(2.9.2004)

The news item that the Government of Karnataka convened a meeting of Leaders of all Parties on 1.9.2004 to elicit their opinion on filing an Application before the Supreme Court on the issue that Karnataka might not get justice from the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is most shocking. This is clinching proof that the Government of Karnataka which has consistently defied the directions of the Supreme Court, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Cauvery River Authority does not intend to respect the rule of law and will go to any extent to defy even the highest judicial institution, namely, the Supreme Court.

It is reported that at this meeting held at Bangalore on 1.9.2004 opinions have been voiced that the Karnataka Government should seek restructuring of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and its Members and in the event of the Central Government not conceding the demand, the State should boycott the Tribunal's proceedings. The decision at this meeting has been to organize a new Petition to be filed before the Supreme Court regarding the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. This is indeed most shocking as it constitutes open defiance of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal which is at the final stages of reaching its conclusions.

The Supreme Court directed the Government of India on 4.5.1990 to constitute the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. This was duly constituted by the Government of India on 2.6.1990 by their Notification No. 21/1/90-WD dated 2.6.1990. The Chairman and Members of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal are appointed by the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, after due consultation with the Supreme Court. Thus, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is a statutory body

constituted on the specific directions of the Supreme Court, the highest Court of the land and the Chairman and Members are appointed on the advice of the Supreme Court. The reported move of the Karnataka Government under the guise of an All Party Meeting to stall the proceedings before the Tribunal by seeking its restructuring is clearly the worst defiance of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has consistently insisted upon the River Waters Tribunal to complete their work in time. Any move to stall the proceedings of the Tribunal will constitute an open defiance of the Supreme Court. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has already taken 14 years and it is already the longest time taken by any Tribunal in this country. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that the Tribunal completes its work at the earliest more so as it is now at the stage of finalizing its award. At this juncture, any move to disturb the functioning of the Tribunal is

clearly an attempt to defy the rule of law and the Supreme Court. This should never be allowed to happen. My Government will take all the necessary measures to prevent any such move.

At present the Central Government has been constituted by the alliance led by the Congress Party. The Opposition Parties in Tamil Nadu who are part of this alliance are also in the Central Government. All matters relating to the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal are handled by the Government of India. A special responsibility is therefore cast on the Opposition Parties in Tamil Nadu which are part of the ruling alliance at the Centre to prevent any such move by the Karnataka Government which has been formed by a Congress led alliance. If they fail to do so, the farmers of Tamil Nadu will never forgive them for this treachery. □



Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa honoured the winners of the 47th All India Police Duty Meet held at Hyderabad with cash awards amounting Rs. 1.60 lakhs at Secretariat, Chennai on 8.9.2004.



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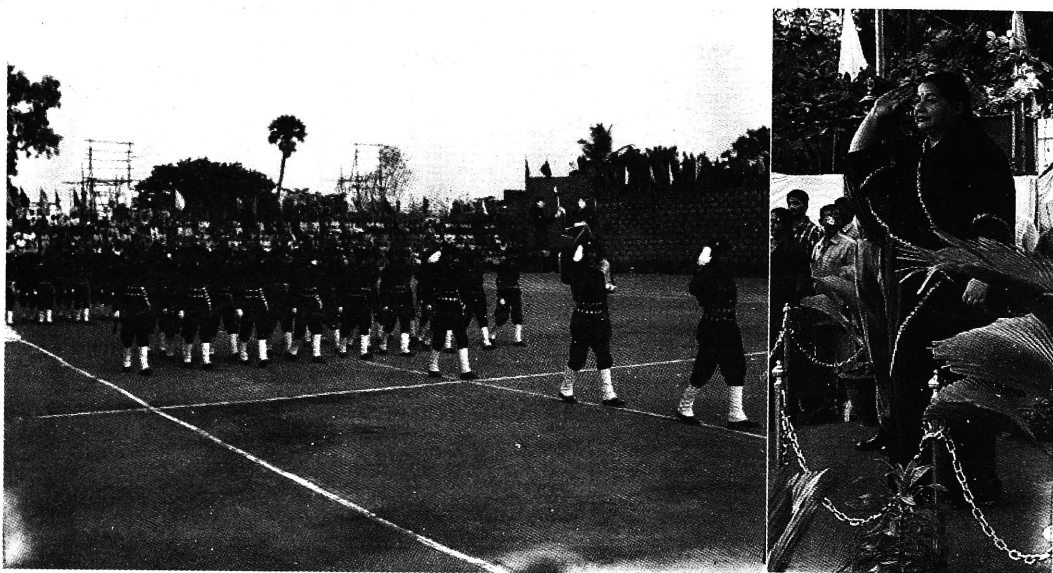
Enhancement of Ex-gratia for **Special Task Force Personnel**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered, enhancement of ex-gratia payment from Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs to the family of the personnel of the Special Task Force (STF) who get killed under heroic circumstances. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa has also ordered sanction of Rs.10 lakhs as ex-gratia to the personnel of the Special Task Force in the event of permanent incapacitation. The Special Task Force (STF) personnel irrespective of their rank are eligible for these ex-gratia payments.

Further, in modification of the existing procedure which restricts the claim to either ex-gratia or Group Insurance Scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered that ex-gratia payment to the Police personnel who get killed /permanently incapacitated under heroic circumstances be made in addition to the payment under Group Insurance Scheme.

Enhancement of ex-gratia payment

At present Rs.5 lakhs is paid as ex-gratia payment to the personnel of STF



who get killed under heroic circumstances. Since it is considered that the existing ex-gratia amount paid is not commensurate with the valour exhibited by the personnel of the STF who risk their lives in the discharge of their duties, and keeping in view the welfare of the families of those who suffer permanent incapacitation, as well as to instil a sense of confidence and security amongst the Police personnel belonging to the STF, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J.Jayalalithaa has ordered payment of an enhanced ex-gratia, amount of Rs.10 lakhs to the STF personnel who get killed or permanently incapacitated under heroic circumstances, irrespective of their rank.

Payment of ex-gratia in addition to Group Insurance benefits

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa introduced a Group Insurance Scheme in the year 1993 to boost the morale of and instil courage and confidence in the minds of personnel belonging to the Special Security Group and Special Task Force.

Subsequently this scheme was merged with the Group Insurance Scheme implemented for other Police personnel. At present, under this scheme, the Police personnel in the STF, Commando Force, Commando School, Special Security Group and Core Cell are sanctioned Rs.10 lakhs in the event of death or permanent incapacitation, and in respect of all other Police personnel depending upon their rank, the benefit varies from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.10 lakhs. Further, a scheme of ex-gratia payment for Police personnel who get killed permanently incapacitated under heroic circumstances is also being implemented.

However, since the existing rules restrict the benefit to the Police personnel either under the ex-gratia scheme or under the Group Insurance Scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered that this restrictive procedure be dispensed with and has ordered that for the Police personnel who get killed / permanently incapacitated the ex-gratia payment be given in addition to the existing benefits under the Group Insurance Scheme, in recognition of the valour and sacrifice of the Police personnel.



The Thoughts of **THANTHAI PERIYAR**

“WHAT IS EDUCATION?”

that such people are illiterates. In another couplet Thiruvalluvar defines that an educated person is one who aspires the entire world to enjoy all things he enjoys. In another couplet he says, that he who does not compare with others and take the good for his own development is merely one amongst the dead.

Now, I would like to ask you as to what you do to evaluate our education on these lines. What are we going to gain by merely tutoring children, that a dog has four legs - a cat has a tail - the blind have no eyes - do not steal - do not beat and so on. All these things the children could learn by themselves, without the help of a teacher. They know that if one beats a person, he would weep and abuse. They know that if one steals he would be caught and beaten black and blue. They know which animal has four legs and a tail, the moment they see the animal. So, I am of the opinion that there is no need to spend so much money and precious time to teach all these things. It is not also necessary to make such a gullible propaganda about primary education.

To start with you must impart to children what self-respect is. You must first teach the children what manly actions are. You must teach things to make them safeguard their dignity, honour and prestige. Teach them to live

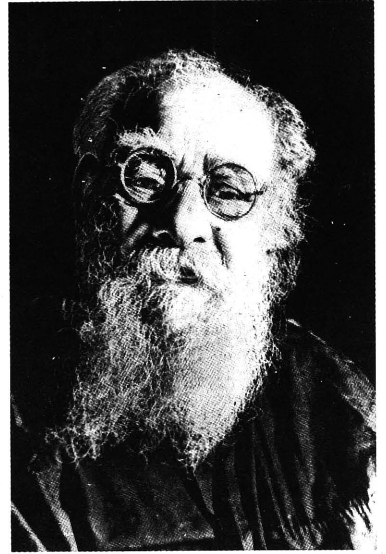
Education is not for mere earning to live! If we sincerely mean that education is for gaining knowledge, it must be for attaining self-respect and freedom. It must make the people live with love towards all and have no hatred towards any one. It must create a sense of unity. No one should think of harming or insulting others. Everyone must be made to feel for others and lead a disciplined and honest life.

Understanding the value of education, Thiruvalluvar had long ago stated that one who declines to suit himself to the world, cannot be considered to be educated at all, even if he be distinguished in the field of education. In short, he says in his couplet curtly

with equality. Teach them to be kind towards all. They must be taught about universal brotherhood. They must be taught to be patriotic.

In the olden days if one fails to repay the loan, a cow and a calf would be tied in the backyard without providing grass, hay, oil cake and water. Realising that it is condemnable to leave the cow and calf without food, the debtor would remove even the 'Tali' from the neck of his wife and sell it to repay the loan. It is only after settling the dues, he would walk in the streets with a raised head. My father told me about all these. If one should do like that in these modern days, the educated lawyer would counsel his client to milch the cow and get the milk to him. He would boldly say that he would face the disgrace. In this sort of way, the lawyer would make his client bold enough to do anything good or bad. That is the reason why we now find so many magistrates, munsif courts, session courts, high courts. Where all these found in the olden days, when people were uneducated? Is not our modern education system that is responsible for the degradation amongst our people? Is not our education responsible for the increasing dishonesty? What is wrong if I say that our modern educational system has ruined the nation and the people.

In the olden days, the teachers had no worry about their life. It was enough if they simply had a small hut. A small 'pandal' in front of the hut was enough for the students to learn. It was enough if there were a few palm leaves and a cartful of sand to learn. Any pointed, thin stick was enough for writing. Teachers had no worry about anything else. If the teacher puts a word to the boys during the harvest season, many baskets full of food grains would come to his doors. It would become very difficult for him to find adequate space to store up the



grains. So, he will have to say 'enough' to the boys. Firewood will be supplied for a month. Vegetables would be gifted to him daily. During festival days, he would get the new clothes needed for his entire family. To meet his other expenses the parents would whole-heartedly give lumpsums, out of gratitude. If anything good or bad takes place in his family, the parents and boys would extend help voluntarily and make the function a grand success. The teachers took up the responsibility to educate the boys entrusted to their care. The parents shouldered the responsibility to look after the teachers welfare.



RADHAKRISHNAN

THE TEACHER

The late 19th century and early 20th century saw the emergence of verily a tribe of giants on the Indian scene, scientists, statesman, religious leaders and finally, philosophers. Sarvepalli Dr. Radhakrishnan was such a giant, a veritable genius, but with such a well-rounded and remarkable personality that he extended his greatness to those around him rather than make them appear wanting. In short, a born teacher, destined to shed light and lustre wherever he was. His life itself, simple but with the richness of intellect and humanism is a lesson in itself.

Born in 1888 at a place near Tirutani, Radhakrishnan received his early education at Tirutani, Tirupathi and Vellore and at the Madras Christian College for his degree course. After a brilliant academic career, he joined the Presidency College at Madras as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy. The young man made his mark immediately; his lofty diction, at choice of words and phrases and clarity of thought kept the students gazing in ever increasing awe and admiration. The abstruse subject, philosophy adorned with gems culled from other branches of learning as well and the dazzle would remain long after the lecture had ended.

It was a common sight to see students from other faculties attending these lectures, such was the magnetic pull of Radhakrishnan's

eloquence. His old students from Madras, Mysore and Calcutta testify to the sonorous voice, choice of words and expression and clarity of thought and the flow of ideas which exerted such an irresistible pull on

the listeners. Soon his fame carried him on to the Mysore University and thence to the Calcutta University. Meanwhile he was invited to give guest lectures in England and the U.S.A. where the audience marvelled at his mastery of



subject and the language and his masterly exposition.

M. Yamunacharya, a former student at Mysore recalls with nostalgia, the thrill and admiration for the man whom he taught. He recollects him as a 'God intoxicated man'. He distinctly remembers his frequent exhortation to the students, not "to lose their foothold on earth while sweeping the skies." His wonderful eloquence, the warmth with which he taught an abstruse subject philosophy won him many

admirers. Radhakrishnan's teachings did not merely end with eloquent lectures. He established tender human relationship with his students and was ever ready with kind words, encouragement and meaningful guidance. Thus he won himself an admiring crowd of followers who installed him in a carriage and dragged the carriage themselves to the railway station, when he left for Calcutta to accept the King George V seat of Philosophy.

Radhakrishnan has the distinction of being made the Vice-Chancellor of the University when he was fifty years. He served as Vice-Chancellor of Andhra and Benares Hindu Universities and both saw the emergence of Radhakrishnan, the administrator. Those were the days of student unrest and violence. While a staunch patriot himself Radhakrishnan maintained a sane balance between the pressures of administration and students' aspirations. He kept the University campus free from the inroads of governmental authority on the one hand and infiltration of political parties as such on the other. While he inspired by his personal conduct and example the love of freedom and a passion for integrity in conduct and academic achievement amongst his juniors and students, he showed in high degree, to put in his own words, "an almost uncanny knack of putting myself en rapport with any individual, high or low, old or young".

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As Fyzee recalls one such incident, while Radhakrishnan was Vice-Chancellor of Benares Hindu University, it appears that there was a sports meet at Benares and some wrong had been done to some one in the team from Bombay. The team from Bombay was highly incensed and decided to give practical shape to the virtuous indignation felt by everybody in the team. Fyzee being a strong man and a martinet, was elected to meet Radhakrishnan. He was asked to see the Chairman and discuss the agenda. "His sunny smile, his gentle laughter, his wisdom and moderation won me over. I protested against the silken web that he was weaving around me, but love and wisdom and moderation are stronger than Krupp's steel. Fyzee went on to become an ardent admirer of Radhakrishnan.

Such then was Radhakrishnan, the teacher, faultless memory avid curiosity, capacity to analyse, clarity of thought and eloquence there were but the means. But the essence of the man lay in his humanity and love for his fellow beings, a dispassionate approach to problems but a compassionate approach to human beings. This was the magic formula which made Radhakrishnan, the great teacher, remembered vividly by his students everywhere.

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மாவட்ட ஆட்சித்தலைவர்கள் காவல் துறை அதிகாரிகள் மாநாடு

9-8-2004, 10-8-2004 மற்றும் 11-8-2004



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