

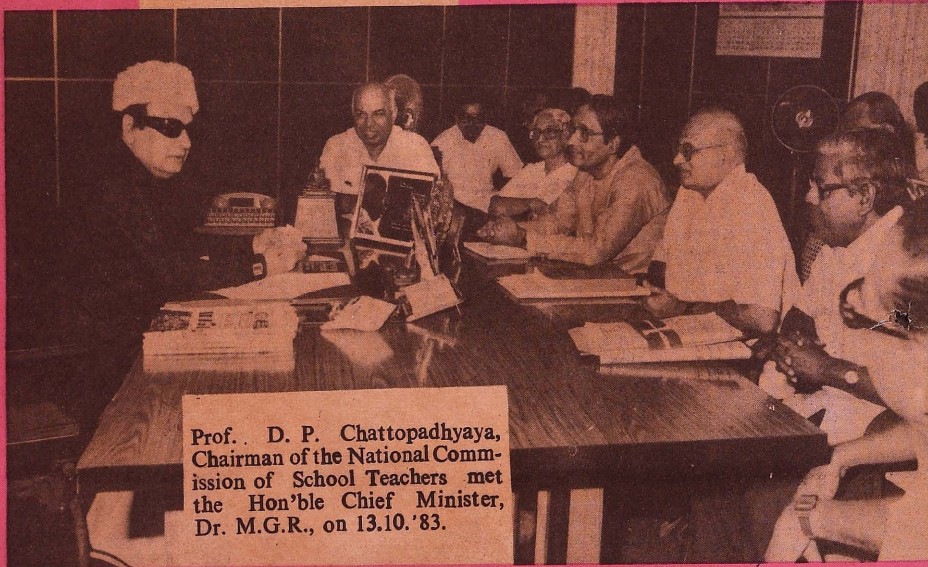


Tamil Arasu

NOVEMBER - 1983 75 P.



At a function held to felicitate the Hon'ble Chief Minister on his getting the degree of Doctor of Laws from Madras University on 30.10.'83, H.E. the Governor, Thiru S. L. Khurana is seen addressing the gathering.



Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya, Chairman of the National Commission of School Teachers met the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. M.G.R., on 13.10.'83.



The Hon'ble Minister for Finance, West Bengal, Dr. Ashok Mitra met the Hon'ble Minister for Finance Dr. V. R. Nedunchezhiyan on 27.10.'83.

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V.O.C.



Nobel Prize Winner



Khadi

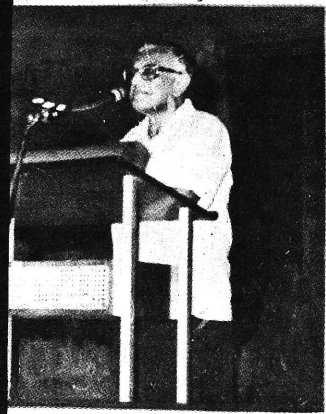
Tamil Arasu

NOVEMBER 1983 VOL: XIV NO: 5

GANDHI

Jayanthi

CELEBRATIONS



Mahatma Gandhi's birthday was celebrated at Gandhi Mantap, Guindy, on 2-10-'83, in a grand manner. Kavignar Subbu Arumugham's party entertained the audience by a Villupattu Programme on the life of Gandhi.

Thiru C.N. Krishna Bharathy, I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations in his welcome speech said: "Tamilnadu has been associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi at various stages. We should remember that we have been following Mahatma Gandhi's ideals not only in the past but even today. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been in the forefront in implementing several programmes of Gandhiji

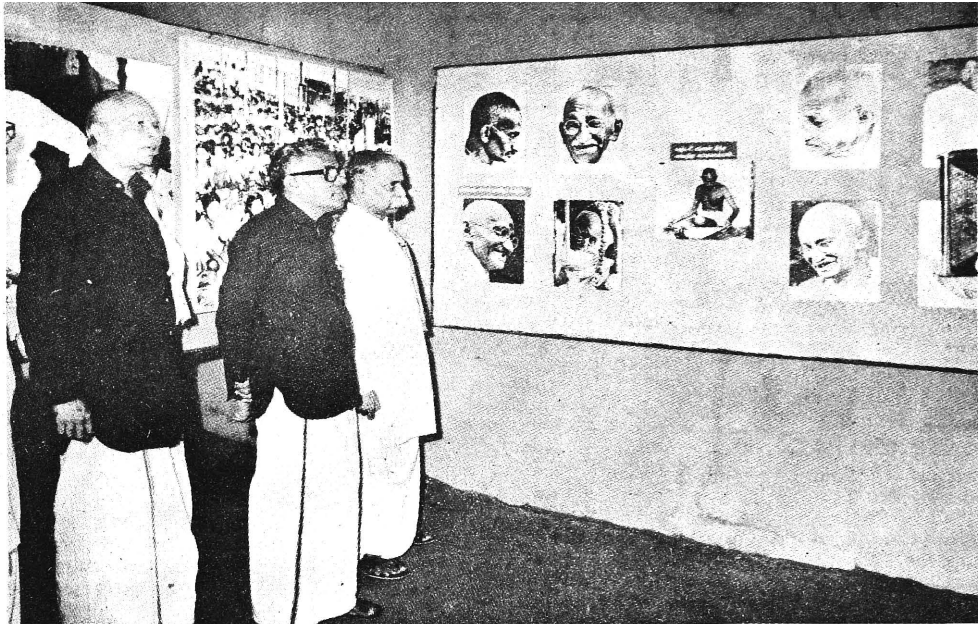
whether it is the upliftment of the backward classes, the poor and the downtrodden or the welfare of the Adi-Dravidars or in providing meals for the poor children and that too nutritious meals so that they become healthy citizens. We will pledge ourselves that we will always follow the ideals of Gandhiji".

His Excellency the Governor of Tamilnadu Thiru S.L.Khurana presiding over the function said: "We have gathered here to pay our respects to the outstanding son of India. Those who spoke here have referred extensively to Gandhiji's social ideals, constructive programmes, his services in the freedom struggle etc., therefore I would merely like to express a few ideas.

Gandhiji had a magic power. He conducted experiments with truth. He followed truth in politics. He aroused millions of people. He pointed out the degradation and evils which flourished under the foreign rule. He prepared thousands of people to participate in the freedom struggle. He prepared the people to sacrifice their homes and court imprisonment and to face bullets and attacks.

He instilled courage in the people to oppose the British imperialism in whose empire the 'sun never set'. He conducted his life in a new path in the path of Dharma, in the path of non-cooperation. Thus he was able to face the enemies. He was





able to get freedom for India during his lifetime itself following the path of Dharma. He also guided the people suffering under the yoke of colonial rule. He showed the people under colonial rule the way to get freedom. Today we recall this great person. A few days ago, while speaking at the U.N. our Hon'ble Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi referred to Mahatma Gandhi and his high ideals. Today, when the world is facing a crisis, when it is on the brink of war, this great leader is our guide. To save ourselves from destruction we have to follow his path, she said.

We should follow Gandhiji's path of love and truth. Forgetting the differences amongst us we should behave with a fraternal spirit. We see that a new generation has come up after the death of Gandhiji. When Gandhiji went on a tour, people gathered in thousands to listen to his speeches which would arouse them. Today it is very essential to give importance to his ideals. His philosophies and ideologies should be taught in schools and colleges.

The Government of Tamil Nadu in its appeal to the Government of India has requested that a film on Gandhiji's life should be produced in all languages.

We would not have paid our debts, to Gandhiji by celebrating his birthday alone. We should follow

his philosophy and ideologies. Only then would we have shown our gratitude. We should take efforts to create love and unity among the people. Only when we follow his teachings would we have discharged our debts to him."

The function was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chairman of the Legislative Council Dr. M. P. Sivagnanam. In his inaugural speech he said: "Though Gandhi is called the 'Father of the Nation', if one recalls his ideals, life and achievements, he has been the Father of entire humanity; which he continues to be."

He fought against British and their imperialism and brought about its downfall. It is but ironical that it is a Bristisher, Sir Richard Attenborough, who produced a film on the life of Gandhiji which is screened all over the world and we are witnesses to its greatness. We also find people the world over is marvelling at the achievements of historic importance portrayed in the film.

We have witnessed his programmes; some of us have participated in them; some of us have heard him; we had accepted his principles. We have seen him in our midst. We have also witnessed his tragic end.

In spite of all this, it is highly doubtful whether we would have been affected in the same manner as

the people in America, Britain or Africa would have been affected.

Because Gandhi lived amongst us and worked for us, I wonder whether we understand his life and philosophy in the same manner as the foreigners would.

From his ideals we realize that he was not only the Father of our Nation, but of entire humanity.

We Tamils are bound to pay him respects in a number of ways.

Gandhiji has said that he has greatest respect for Tamilians. In the Gandhi Illam at Government Estate, Madras, the following has been engraved: "If I am closest with any race through culture, it is the Tamilians".

In Moscow there is no place without a statue of Lenin or an engraving of his golden words. Let us follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R.M. Veerappan declared open an exhibition of photographs on the life of Mahatma Gandhi. In his speech he said:

"This function is a proof that the people of Tamilnadu have not forgotten Mahatma Gandhi. Tamilnadu can be proud of the fact that the

name of the brave woman Tillayadi Valliammai is remembered next to that of Gandhiji in the South African movement.

Those who knew Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna well will realize that Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna had differences in a few matters with Gandhiji but they never disputed the fact that Mahatma Gandhi was a great leader who deserved the praise and homage of the entire nation.

When, the news of Gandhiji's death reached Thanthai Periyar who had been moved to tears said that India should be named "Gandhi Land". When Perarignar Anna spoke over the All India Radio he called him the "apostle of the world". After assuming the office of the Chief Minister Perarignar Anna continued to propagate several ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

Similarly, the present Hon'ble Chief Minister, is implementing the programmes of Mahatma Gandhi, the programmes which will benefit the people in the villages. We can understand that the Hon'ble Chief Minister's programmes are aimed at the villages, which constitute the "heart" of India.

It was Mahatma Gandhi who gave us the fundamentals of the plans that we discuss today. We are now making efforts to propagate vocational education. During the freedom movement Gandhiji was experimenting with construction programmes. He felt that the then educational system would turn the people into a "nation of clerks". Therefore he instituted vocational education, so that they could earn a living.

Gandhiji had introduced the Khadi scheme. The Government of Tamilnadu has introduced further innovative methods to increase production enormously, thus instilling awareness of Khadi into the people. The turnover has increased by several crores resulting in job opportunities for thousands of people in the villages.

The greatest economists have realized that plans drawn should have villages as their base and can not be drawn anyhow, as far as the country is concerned. These basic principles have been evolved by Mahatma Gandhi, who has taught us that we have to live as human beings in whatever noble ideals we follow; whether it is social reform, economic equality, eradication of casteism or untouchability.

All the 68 crores people of the country should always accept him as the Father of the Nation who guides us and remember him as the leader. We should take a pledge accordingly. As far as Gandhiji is concerned there should be no differences of opinion or ideological differences. Debate on him is a closed chapter. To be above debate and act as a guide for the betterment of the nation, if the poor should get a better life, if caste, and religion should go, if equality should be maintained, if the people of the villages are able to speak for themselves, we should have Gandhiji as our guide. We should formulate plans according to his ideals.

Today the Government of India should not only implement its plans in his footsteps. It should not merely recall his birthday once every year, it should be seen that steps are taken to remember him every day.

I assure that the Government of Tamil Nadu is prepared to carry it out under the able leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. I also express my gratitude on behalf of the people of Tamilnadu to His Excellency the Governor, who has taken great interest in conducting this celebration.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru K. Rajaram in his speech said:

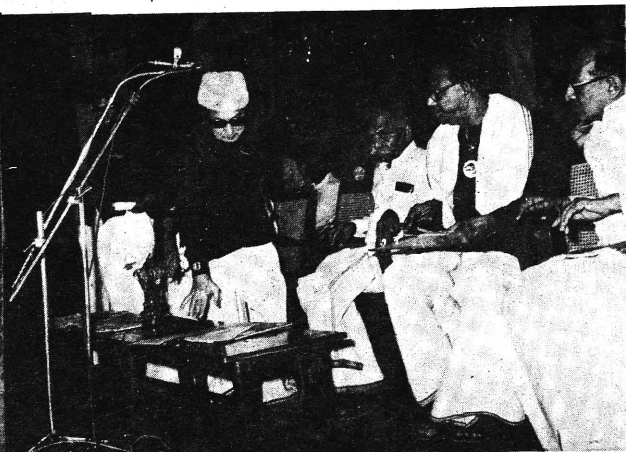
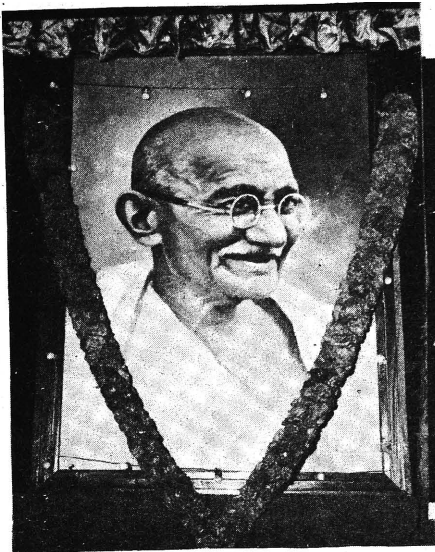
"Sir Richard Attenborough has released a film on the life of Mahatma Gandhi whose production costs exceeds several crores. The film is not a comprehensive portrayal of Gandhiji's life. There is a grievance that several historical events have not been included. It is not possible to include the freedom movement and the racial struggles in a film running only for three hours. Therefore it would be better if a documentary or a feature film on Gandhi is taken which depicts his association with Tamilnadu and the Tamilians in a novel way which could be understood by the younger generation.

It is the Tamilians who first introduced Gandhiji to the world. Gandhiji has referred to Tillayadi Valliammai frequently in South Africa. The Tamil Traders supported his struggles against racial discrimination. These historical facts should be made known to the younger generation. It was only after seeing the agriculturists during his tour of Tamilnadu that Gandhiji adapted the loincloth, after seeing the half clad farmers in Tamilnadu. He continued to wear it till the end of his life. Even when he participated in the Round Table Conference in London he wore his famous "loincloth". The younger generation should be made aware of such historical events. General U. Thant who visited Madras in 1968 pointed out that a number of Gandhiji's ideals have been adopted in the Atlantic Treaty. I would like to make an appeal that all the publications of Gandhiji should be brought out in all the languages all over the country atleast on 2nd of October every year.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Thiru K. Arunachalam M.L.C., Thiru N. Mahalingam, Industrialist and Tmt. Soundara Kailasam.

Deputy Director for Exhibition, Information and Public Relations Department, Thiru R.K. Krishnamoorthy proposed a vote of thanks.





Gandhiji's birthday was celebrated at Kalaivanar Arangam by the State Government in Madras on 8.10.83. At the commencement of the function a Villupattu programme by Kavignar Subbu Arumigam and Party was held. Through Villupattu he brought before the audience the life history of Gandhi. He also dealt with the welfare schemes of the Government and Nutritious Meal Programme, which was appreciated by the audience.

A symposium on the life and message of Gandhiji was held in the morning session under the Presidentship of Thiru Srigal, Commissioner of Police.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G. Ramachandran unveiled a portrait of Gandhiji and delivered a speech.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister in his speech said:

"On this occasion when I have been given an opportunity to speak during the birthday celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, I wish to express my gratitude to Perarignar Anna.

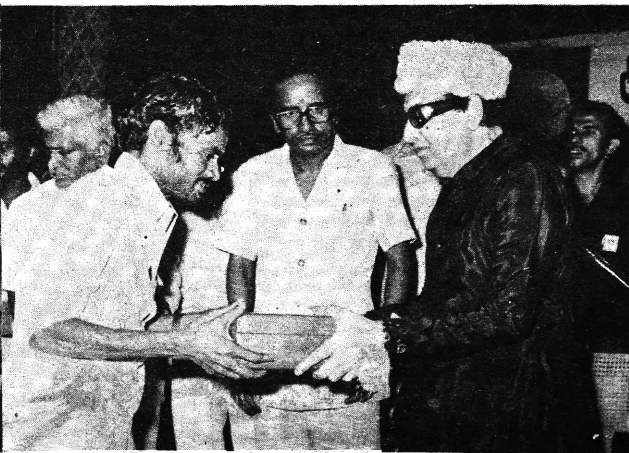
The word 'Mahatma' should be considered a philosophy. Nothing further should be added. The Gandhian philosophy should be used to teach people of what we know

and what we have forgotten to tell them and to draw up future programmes. It is my wish that nothing further is added to it.

While paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi I have also been paid tribute as Chief Minister.

Today, we are feeding 67 lakhs children, under the nutritious meal schemes. At present the children aged 5 and 6 who get nutritious meals will be 21 years old, fifteen years hence.

It is the duty of who ever is in power to do the needful to the people. It is the order of the day.



Whoever is in power will help to implement the programmes. We have to formulate schemes today to problems which may arise 15 years hence.

We do not want to burden those who come after us. We are going to introduce vocational education which will provide career for the future. Students in schools should have 4 days of study, 2 days of vocational training, and have rest for a day. With this training they will get a certificate which will be useful in getting employment.

The Government and workshops providing training, should have statistics of the students trained. The students should be induced to learn a number of vocations of their choice. Vocational education should be linked with the village economy. This scheme would need Rs. 1,000 crores per annum.

The daily necessities of the people should be produced so that there is no unemployment in the villages. This will raise the economic standard of the country. It is only our State that implements such non-plan schemes. When the noon-meal scheme was introduced people were wondering where the State would find the finance for it.

People were wondering whether the scheme could be implemented with only a nominal allocation in the budget. But today the scheme is not only being implemented but would be continued in the future also. We are also taking steps to give vocational training to students. They need a guarantee for securing a job as soon as they complete their training. In this regard, I had a discussion with a few industrialists, who assured me that they would render all possible assistance. Thus, I expect assistance to come from all over Tamilnadu.

Tomorrow the student should not be faced with any uncertainty regarding job opportunity. A man will not get the desire to hoard money if he is assured that he would get employment. It is the Government which should take up the responsibility.

This is the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. It is the self-sufficiency in village economy. We see that undesirable habits are growing in a society in the guise of modern trends. We must understand the Gandhian philosophy to put an end to these unhealthy trends. That is



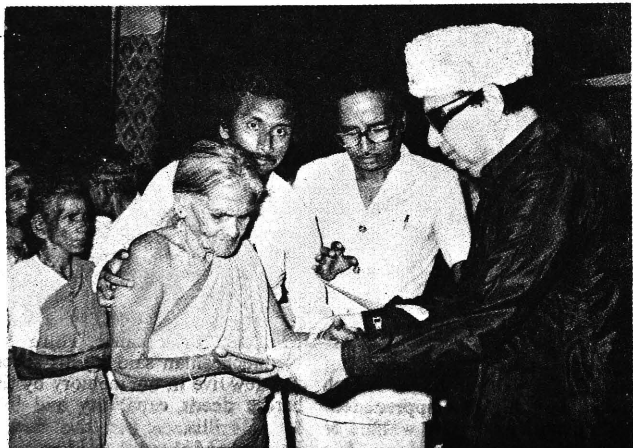
the reason to hold this function.

I felt that while Gandhi Jayanthi is celebrated, symposia and discussions should be held in which learned persons should be made to participate.

Some one who spoke this morning about the film on Gandhi said that a documentary should be produced in which events involving those associated with Gandhi should be shown.

There is a great error in the Gandhi film. In the scene where Mahatma Gandhi is shot, Gandhi is shown exclaiming, "Oh God". But Gandhi's last words were "Hare Ram".

As a great theist he uttered the word Rama. This film has won 8 awards, given by Americans. Had we been the judges, we would have deliberated by and finally awarded





the prize after changing the last words.

I want the people to learn the truth by reading and research.

That is the reason why the AIADMK has decided that research should be done on Anna.

The relaxation on prohibition fetches Rs. 150 crores revenue. This income was reaching the coffers of private capitalists.

The income will be Rs. 200 crores this year, which will be used for welfare schemes.

We do not need this money, if the people decide not to drink. The leaders should help the people to come to a decision not to drink.

A change could not be brought about in a day in a country. There should be a change in the atmosphere to bring about a change of heart.

The Chief Minister also distributed old age pension to 300 Muslim widows, tools to Adi Dravidars, Physically handicapped and weaker sections besides distributing loans.

Tirukkural Thiru V. Munusamy in his inaugural speech said "Gandhiji led a life of high moral standards. It was Gandhiji who got freedom for India. Every Indian should ask himself whether he has the right to live in a Free India and everyone should think whether we have contributed any good to the country. We should live not for ourselves but live for the sake of the mother land and try to follow atleast to some extent the way shown by him."

The Police Commissioner Thiru Sripal, IPS in his speech said "It is but fitting that the Government of Tamilnadu is celebrating Gandhiji Jayanthi which should be highly appreciated. Gandhiji worked for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden. He

achieved greatness through his hard selfless service. He followed the path of truth and Ahimsa. Nehruji said, though Gandhi is dead he is still living amongst us. Let us take a pledge to follow the path of Gandhiji."

In the symposium in which Dr. Balachandrar spoke on Equality, Prof. Sathiaselvan on Spirituality, Thiru Ramalingam on Socialism, Thiru R. Krishna moorthy on Freedom, Selvi T. S. Prema on Politics, and Selvi. S. Premila on Culture.

Earlier, Thiru C. N. Krishna Bharathy I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations, welcomed the gathering. Thiru R. Krishnamoorthy, Deputy Director, Information and Public Relations Department proposed a vote of thanks.

The evening function began with a Villupattu on "Gandhi Mahan Kathai" by Thiru Kothamangalam Visu, son of Kavignar Kothamangalam Subbu.

Thiru A. P. Muthuswamy, Secretary to Government, Information, Tourism and (Tamil) Culture Department, welcomed the gathering.

Dr. M.P. Sivagnanam, Chairman of the Legislative Council presided over the function. In his speech he said "We are proud to have lived during the time of Gandhiji. This function organised by the Government of Tamilnadu in which people belonging to various religions participated goes to prove that it is truly a "National function".

Inaugurating the function, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Thiru V.R. Nedunchezian said in his speech: "A few live in our memory by their heroic deeds, capability and intellectual brilliance. But the Buddha, Prophet Mohamed, Jesus and

Valluvar all have found a special place in our hearts. The birth of greatmen make the birth of their date significant. Similarly October 2 has become important because Mahatma Gandhi was born on that date. Those men with humanism and culture found a place in the hearts of the people. Gandhiji is one among those leaders. The people in the West who knew Gandhi only through books would learn more about his life through the "Gandhi" film produced by Attenborough.

I could feel that the Gandhi film has created an enthusiasm among the people in the West, when I had been to participate in the world peace conference. Today, the world pays tributes to Gandhi because he



was able to capture the people's hearts.

While paying tributes to Gandhi, Bharati in his song has said that he had elevated the status of India which was once weak.

Gandhi was India's genius; Gandhi was India's heart. When asked for a message to the people Gandhi said "My life is my message". Gandhi worked for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden.

He upheld truth and morality, was untiring, affectionate, courageous in his stand. We should follow the footsteps of such a greatman."

Others, who spoke on the occasion were former Chief Justice Thiru M.M. Ismail, Justice S. Swamikannu, Archbishop Thiru Arulappa, Thavathiru Ooranadigal, Vice Chancellor of Annamalai University, Thiru S.V. Chittibabu, Thiru T. Chengalvarayan, Thirumathi Illampirai Manimaran, Thirumathi Nirmala Suresh.

Thiru K. Sundaramoorthy, I.A.S., Collector of Madras proposed a vote of thanks.

A drama 'Pathachoru' by Thiru V.S. Raghavan and troupe produced by Thiru S.V. Sahasranamam was performed.



Sri Lankan Tamils- Government

Resolution

The Hon'ble Dr. M. G. RAMACHANDRAN,
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu moved the official
resolution

(a) This House expresses grave shock and concern at the atrocities like genocide, looting, arson, rape, etc. perpetrated continuously since July last against the Tamils living in Sri Lanka namely the Eelam Tamils, the Tamils of Indian origin and India-based Tamils.

(b) This House vehemently condemns the Sinhalese Extremists for their incessant atrocities against the Tamils and also the Sri Lankan Army and the Police Force who abet the Extremists in committing such atrocities and the Government of Sri Lanka headed by President Jayawardane which extends support to them.

(c) This House expresses its appreciation to the members of the public, to all political parties and Organisations who have unanimously raised their voice against the uncivilized, barbaric, undemocratic and inhuman atrocities committed against Sri Lanka Tamils by taking out peaceful processions, observing Bandhs and Hartals and organising peaceful demonstrations within the ambit of law and order.

(d) This House welcomes and places on record its appreciation of the several measures taken by our Hon'ble Chief Minister with the support of the leaders of all political parties in order to redress by all means the grievances of the Sri Lankan Tamils and to give effect to the sentiments expressed in one voice by the people of Tamil Nadu. This House also expresses its gratitude to the Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India, who by respecting the feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu and by securing the support and goodwill of the Sri Lanka Tamils came forward to take all possible and constructive steps to solve this problem.

(e) This House requests the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to pay heed to the reasonable grievances of Sri Lanka Tamils and take all possible steps without delay, since all the Sri Lanka Tamils strongly feel that, only through the efforts and influence and steps taken by the Government of India, they will be able to get permanent citizenship rights and protection of Sri Lanka. Further, this House requests the Government of India to accelerate the process of negotiations with the Sri Lanka Government on this issue, in order to halt the committal of incessant atrocities on the Sri Lanka Tamils.

(f) Since, India and Sri Lanka possess from time immemorial closer bonds in the matter of race, language, history, civilization, culture, relation ship, links, etc., since the basic human rights of the minorities in Sri Lanka are being trampled much to the concern and dismay of all the Nations in the world and since the people of India, the Indian Embassy, the Indian Banks and the Indian tourists have been brutally attacked, this House stresses the need for the Government of India taking over the responsibility to find a solution to this problem and take necessary and intensive action therefor.

(g) This House urges the U.N.O. to use its good offices and full powers immediately to find a solution to the plight of the Tamils of Sri Lanka, and to render them justice as the U.N.O. has taken over the responsibility of safeguarding the welfare of the minorities throughout the world and to afford them permanent rehabilitation and protection of their fundamental rights. This House appeals to the Government of India to take up this issue in the U.N.O. as India is an important member of the U.N.O.

(h) This House expresses its concern and shock that the Government of the U.S.A. is preparing to supply arms to the Government of Sri Lanka which is concentrating on the extermination of the Tamilian race in Sri Lanka by use of force, repression and violence; that the Government of the U.S.A. aims at making Trincomalee its Naval Base and that the Defence Secretary of the U.S.A. Ven Berger is having secret negotiations with the Government of Sri Lanka in this regard. This House strongly condemns the attitude of the U.S.A. whose prime duty is to give life to the Tamils of Sri Lanka but which, instead of protecting the Tamilians, has come forward to supply arms for the annihilation of the Tamil race; This House also avers that the Government of the U.S.A. should give up its unjust activities like the supply of arms to Sri Lanka and the construction of a Naval Base in Sri Lanka.

(i) This House appeals to the Government of India to do the needful through the good offices of U.N.O. or the International Red Cross Organisation or the Indian Embassy in Sri Lanka, for the proper distribution of food-stuffs, garments, medicines, etc. collected and sent by the Government of

Tamil Nadu and the Government of India for the welfare of the affected Tamils in Sri Lanka.

(j) This House strongly condemns the barbarous legislation introduced by the Government of Sri Lanka to deprive entirely the Tamils in Sri Lanka of their right of citizenship, right of voting, right of carrying on business and their right of living. This House stresses that the said legislation should be withdrawn.

(k) This House appeals to the Government of Sri Lanka to give an opportunity to the Tamils of Sri Lanka to participate in the Round Table Conference and to express their thoughts, feelings and sentiments without any restraint; This House also requests the Government of Sri Lanka to conduct negotiations in a cordial atmosphere according to democratic traditions and to find a solution to this problem to make the people live in peace and confidence.

(l) This House reiterates that the Government of Sri Lanka should compensate the loss sustained by the families who have lost their kith and kin in the ethnic violence perpetrated on the Tamils in Sri Lanka, who have received grievous injuries and also suffered by loss of their properties. Further this House requests the Government of India to take necessary steps immediately to that effect.

(m) This House appreciates the Government of India in having selected and sponsored Hon'ble Minister for Electricity of the Tamil Nadu Government as a Member of the Indian Delegation in

whom the Tamil people have reposed full confidence and who has been given an opportunity to put forth, the mental agonies and pangs of the people of Tamil Nadu as a whole and also places on record its appreciation for the way in which our Hon'ble Minister for Electricity who has made known the feelings of the fifty million people of Tamil Nadu to the comity of Nations in the United Nations General Assembly.

(n) This House welcomes Sri Lanka's decision to invite once again G. Parthasarathy to Colombo to continue his dialogue and requests the Sri Lanka President to agree without further delay to unconditional talks with the TULF in a Round Table Conference to hammer out a durable political solution to the Tamil ethnic problem.

(o) This House extends its full support to the Sri Lanka Tamils who have been conducting non-violent struggle for securing permanent citizenship rights and protection and also expresses its desire, that all their legitimate and reasonable demands should be achieved successfully.

(p) Through this Resolution this House requests the Tamil Nadu Government to take earnest endeavours to see that the above -said demands are acceded and given effect to by the Government of India.

(The official resolution on Sri Lanka Tamils was moved by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 25.10.83)

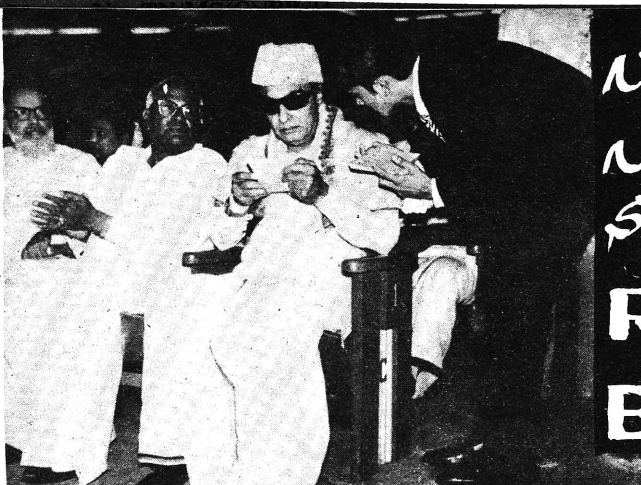
Monthly Allowance for Kuttimani's widow

The Tamil Nadu Government has sanctioned a monthly allowance of Rs. 1,000/- on humanitarian grounds to the widow of Sri Lanka Tamil freedom fighter, Kuttimani, who was killed in the Colombo Welikkade prison massacre on July, 25.

In response to a request from Tmt. Rajaruparani Kuttimani for help, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has also ordered provision of a house in Madras at Government expense

immediately for the Kuttimani family to stay in. In recognition of his martyrdom the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered State help for the family.

Thiru A. Chelliah, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, handed over the key to the house allotted to Kuttimani's sister in Lloyds Colony. A house has been allotted to Kuttimani's sister also on the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.



Nutritious Noon-Meal Scheme

ROOTS and BRANCHES

J. C. D. Prabhakaran, M. L. A.

In the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi and revered Anna, our beloved Puratchi Thalaivar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of the Government of Tamilnadu, has been formulating schemes and presenting projects, with the grand objective of eliminating the twin evils, viz., hunger and illiteracy.

After his historic assumption to power, first in 1977 and later in 1980 all his steps, as Anna once declared in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly are measured ones. The direction and orientation of the governmental measures have been aimed at improving the standards of living of all peoples irrespective of their caste, community or creed.

Of all his projects, the epoch making one is his conception of the nutritious noon-meal scheme which after its implementation in the year 1982 is now catering to the needs of about 65 lakhs students of school-going age. With the introduction of the Nutritious Noon-Meal Scheme in the year 1982, our beloved Puratchi Thalaivar the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Government of Tamilnadu has eliminated the twin monsters, viz., starvation and illiteracy endangering the lives of our people at one stroke.

"Starvation is both a disease and a sin" so denounces "Manimekalai" one of the five famous Tamil Epics of ancient times. Pavender Bharathidasan, the rebel poet of our times, proclaims that real enjoyment lies in poor feeding. As a matter of fact, his vast experience and wide reading as well as his own harrowing experience in his early life, have moulded Puratchi Thalaivar's conception of the unique noon meal scheme. "Show mercy to the hungry; and, concretise your idea of help". This has been his guiding principle.

In 1982, the infants were the beneficiaries of the welfare scheme that is now being implemented all over the State. But even a decade ago, he had been instrumental in providing a few collegians of the Madras Loyola College with nutritious noon-meal. Way back in 1973, J.C.D. Prabhakaran, the author of this write-up was the General Secretary of the Loyola College Students' Union. During

his tenure as the General Secretary, his co-students would meet him with a variety of demands which in turn be taken up with the Principal. On one such occasion, two students approached him diffidently and after much persuasion came out with the request of providing them with free noon-meals since they could not afford it. Their request made him think deeply about the appalling conditions of a few more students who were similarly placed. A notice was duly put up in the college notice board calling for petitions from poor students who would like to have a free noon-meal. The petitions thus received were submitted to the college Principal. But no help was forthcoming from him, saying that the college could not afford free meals. Then the College Union Council decided to organise a benefit show styled as Star-Nite in connection with which we had a meeting with the office-bearers of the South Indian Film Artists Association. They agreed to participate in the Star-Nite Function



on condition that we agree to contribute Rs. 1000- as donation to their building Fund. The resultant dismay disappeared only after our meeting later with the beloved Puratchi Thalaivar who was then nursing his new born revolutionary political organisation, and hence actively engaged in meeting the challenges thrown in his way. The Secretary of the College Student Union, J.C.D. Prabhakaran explained to him the outlines of the Scheme. "We have got a proposal to provide free noon-meal to the poor co-students who hail from economically backward families. A fund raising campaign in the form of a Star-Nite programme would be held wherein the well-known and popular Cine Artistes would be participating and displaying their histrionic talents to the delight of the audience." Spontaneous was his gesture when he declared that he would donate Rs. 10,000/- towards the noon-meal programme. The demand of the South Indian Film Artistes Association was then conveyed to him. He exhorted us to carry on with our work with more vigour and not to worry about the demand.

It was October 22, 1973, and the venue was the University Centenary Auditorium, Madras. Before the function started the amount of Rs. 1000- was handedover to the South Indian Film Artistes Association. The Auditorium was jam packed with students, teachers, the general public and the leading artistes of those days. As Puratchi Thalaivar entered the hall, it was 6.30 p.m. sharp. He was received inside the hall with a standing ovation. So much was the enthusiasm!

The cultural programme was in progress. It was in the intermission that Puratchi Thalaivar addressed the huge gathering to the accompaniment of continuous claps here and approving applauses there. At the outset he congratulated our lofty efforts. He said that man created money and not vice-versa. Hence, man should never become its slave. As he becomes its slave the consequences would be grave for the entire humanity. Everyone should realise this fundamental fact of life and start doing constructive work to uplift the poor from starvation. It was highly commendable on the part of Loyola Students to engage themselves in collecting funds for feeding the poor students. Puratchi Thalaivar felt that it would not be a good gesture on the part of the South Indian Film Artistes Association to receive Rs. 1000/- for the building Fund from the students. Therefore he announced that he was giving Rs. 1000/- to the Noon-meal Fund. The overawed audience responded to this fine gesture with a thunderous ovation. So his contribution alone rose to Rs. 11,000-. The exultation of the students was great. In all, our collection stood at Rs. 30,000/- which was duly handed over to the Principal who in turn deposited the amount in a Bank. Even today, about 15 students are getting the free Noon-Meal at the Loyola College, Madras.

Our beloved Puratchi Thalaivar's concern for the poor and the needy is legendary and not something sudden and new. This nutritious noon-meal scheme is unique in that it is aimed at dispelling at one stroke the humiliating darkness of illiteracy and wiping out the haunting spectre of starvation.

Impartial observers all over the country, nay, the world over, are calling the noon-meal scheme



unprecedented, historic and revolutionary. The unique Noon-Meal Scheme has placed him in the galaxy of great men who are known all over the world for their courage of conviction, noble deeds of philanthropy and lofty principles.

For independent India preserving its democratic framework was as essential as economic progress and development. What it meant to the country's leadership was that the man at the helm had to be not only of strong convictions and modern outlook; he had to be able to understand the social, cultural and political realities of the country. Pandit Nehru filled the bill better than the others. Gandhi's choice of Nehru as his political successor was but a natural one.

Nehru was profoundly influenced by socialist schools of thought ranging from Fabian Socialism to Marxian experiments. He was also a firm believer in modern day science and technology. Yet he could appreciate and understand Indian realities which Gandhi, more than all, brought into focus.

Once when asked if it was not a fact that he and Nehru spoke different political languages Gandhi is said to have answered, that language was no barrier to a union of hearts and that when he was gone, Nehru would speak his language. Another time Gandhi wrote of Nehru: "He is undoubtedly an extremist, thinking far ahead of his surroundings. But he is humble and practical enough not to force the pace to the breaking point. The nation is safe in his hands"

Nehru's unrivalled following among the masses is common knowledge. He always identified himself with the simple peasantry who form the bulk of the population. Sardar Patel who was a close contender for the number one post along with Nehru once remarked at a massive meeting of farmers "I will never turn them to, my side. They have come here to see Jawaharlal"

Nehru's stewardship of the nation for seventeen long eventful years more than vindicated the judgement of Gandhi and the trust of the people. The rich legacy of thoughts and deeds he left behind to the country and the world bear ample testimony to this fact.

If India today can boast of being the eighth largest industrial nation in the world or having the third largest scientific and technical manpower or having attained self-sufficiency in food grains-all in a matter of just three decades-it was largely due to the firm economic base laid by Pandit Nehru. In a recent interview W.W. Roston, the famous development economist said, India was now on a "drive to technological maturity", that is "the ability to absorb new technology and put it to productive use". This is indeed a tribute to the foresight of Nehru, who believed in creating what he called a "scientific temper" among the people for sustained progress.

Detractors may point to the fact that industrial progress in the country has not been accompanied by the much needed social change with the result the country's basic problems of poverty, unemployment and inequality have, by and large, remained hardly mitigated. But this does not in anyway belittle our achievements so far. It only highlights the complexity and stupendity of our problems.



NEHRU THE STATESMAN

DR. B. NATARAJAN

Chairman

Institute for Techno - Economic
Studies.

What would have been the result if we had followed a development path different from one Nehru laid can only be a hypothetical question. A more realistic way of assessing Nehru's economic policies would be by comparing our achievements with fellow developing countries which started on an independent development path about the time we did.

What we witness on the international economic scene now is the general dependence of developing countries on the developed ones. Fluctuations in the fortunes of the latter affect the former far more



severely. The developing countries which are in a relatively happier position are the ones which had made self-reliance an integral part of their development policies and they are not many. It is in this context that we remember with gratitude the sagacity of Nehru who advocated and acted on the principle that development should be primarily an indigenous process.

The socialist in Nehru wanted the public sector to be all powerful and in due course reach the "commanding heights" of the economy. Yet he never underestimated the role of the private sector, which he well understood, had an equally important place in the Indian context. Nehru's vision of a "Mixed Economy" where private and public interests will march hand in hand towards common progress is now suggested by renowned Economists as a way out of the ills facing some of the Western economies including America.

Nehru viewed India's independence as part of a general struggle for decolonisation in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Accordingly he shaped independent India's foreign policy on the basis of self-reliance, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. The Pancha Shila principles which he enunciated in 1955—namely mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence—was acclaimed by nations of the world regardless of their differing ideologies. These canons of international relations are indeed timeless. Nehru put his principles to effective use when occasions arose. The Indonesian freedom (1948), the hostilities in Indo-China (1954), the Korean war (1955), the Suez crisis (1956) are some

of the occasions when India led by Nehru played a key role in diffusing and resolving the problem.

The greatest contribution of Nehru to World Peace, of course, was his major role in founding the Non-aligned movement which he nurtured from strength to strength till his end. Perhaps the best tribute to India's foreign policy conceived and shaped by Nehru came from the noted Gandhian Dr. Gene Sharp. He said "There is no doubt that our world would have been a far more dangerous place in the past years except for the role which India played in the international scene. She by world or example helped to stop and reverse the tendency for the world to be polarised into two nuclear-armed power blocks. That condition of extreme polarisation, with the increased tension and rigidity which would probably have accompanied it, would have been in all likelihood more conducive to an outbreak of major nuclear war than is the less polarised and more diversified international scene today. India's Foreign policy and her policy of non-alignment made, therefore, a positive contribution to international relations in the past two decades, helping to prevent war and to ensure the survival of mankind."

Nehru was a man without fear. He did what he thought was right. He, as Winston Churchill once said "had overcome two of the greatest failings in human nature; he knew neither fear nor hatred". Indeed Nehru was a born Statesman. In the murky international scene of today what sorely needs is leaders of the stature and wisdom of Jawaharlal Nehru who could see beyond their noses on to a society based on peace, prosperity, freedom and justice.

IMPACT INDIA

I am happy to be here today with you all and to inaugurate the project 'Impact'. I am glad to observe that the Leeds Castle Seminar held in England on November 12, 1981, has not turned out to be an end in itself. I would offer my felicitations to the organisers of the seminar for taking an important practical step forward, from the Leeds Castle declaration, in the direction of formulating practical programmes of action and policy guidelines for disability prevention for incorporating in National and International Health Programmes.

When one looks at the staggering number of disabled people in the world today of which about 80 per cent live in developing countries and the frightening prospect that the number of disabled persons would be doubled by the end of the century, the problem of tackling disabilities may appear to defy any possible solution. The consequences of physical and mental disability in terms of the suffering and frustration are tragic both in its nature as well as its magnitude. Disablement among children and the working age group of population results in less of economic activity and productivity and disability among the aged results in physical and psychological suffering. Fortunately, however, modern scientific advances in the field of health and medical sciences all over the world have made available to us low cost practical strategies by the use of which, at appropriate timings and in a planned manner, the problem of disabilities can be tackled and reduced to manageable proportions in a reasonably short span of time. For example, a vastly expanded programme of immunization of mothers and children can help in reducing the number of disabled persons to a considerable extent. I feel that a more systematic effort is requiring to be made by all nations particularly of the developing world, in collaboration with the international organisations working in the sphere of health, to plan and put into action appropriate measures of

prevention focussed particularly on these disabilities against which there exists an appropriate and cost effective potential for control. It is in the fitness of things that many international organisations have joined hands in taking an initiative in this direction.

The Government of India firmly committed to the cause of the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden sections of society particularly the disabled persons, who happened to be most neglected people of the community and need maximum support and sympathy. We have been able to develop a number of practical and low cost technologies in India for prevention and cure of disabilities of various kinds and these are being applied in the country with considerable success. However, there is need for a well coordinated plan of action and concerted effort to ensure better application of these technologies all over the country.

It is indeed heartening to note that Project 'Impact' is being launched on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. Mahatma Gandhi's services to the cause of the physically handicapped, the lepers, the blind are well known. Gandhi's ideals will provide the necessary strength and encouragement to all those who are involved in this Herculean task of providing light to those who cannot see, speech to those who cannot hear and movement to those who are deprived of performing normal human activities.

I do hope that this distinguished gathering of eminent experts from India and abroad who are authorities in various fields of disabilities and most of whom have spent their life-times working in these areas, will be able to evolve concrete plans of action for disability prevention for incorporation in the national health plans in order to secure a progressive reduction in the scale of disabilities prevalent in various countries.

[Excerpts from H. E. the President of India's speech on the occasion of the inauguration of project 'Impact' on 2nd October 1983.]

The Hon'ble Prime Minister's message on the inauguration of Project "Impact India"

"Many disabilities and diseases are avoidable. Growing economic prosperity and higher educational standards should bring higher health consciousness. Our development programmes emphasise safety and prevention.

Gandhiji's contribution to the rehabilitation of leprosy patients has been an inspiration for our extensive programmes for the rehabilitation of the disabled. It has been long recognised that disability causes anguish to those affected and to their families. With assistance and training, the disabled can become useful citizens and lead fulfilling lives.

India has pioneered the application of highly effective low cost technologies particularly in artificial limbs, spectacles and simple hearing aids. The new international initiative against avoidable disablement will synchronize this technology with the facilities available in our established health infrastructure.

I send my good wishes for the inauguration of Impact".

(Courtesy:P.I.B)

I am fond of children

I like being with children and even more, playing with them. For a moment I forget that I am terribly old and that it is a very long time ago since I was a child. Old people have a habit of delivering sermons and giving good advice to the young. I remember that I disliked this very much long ago when I was a boy. Nothing saddens me so much as the sight of children who are denied education, sometimes denied even food and clothing. If our children to-day are denied education what is our India of to-morrow going to be? It is the duty of the State to provide education for every child in the country. And I would add that it is the duty of the State to provide free education to every child in the country. Unfortunately, we cannot do all these things quickly and suddenly, because of our lack of resources and lack of teachers. But we have to get going.

—Nehru

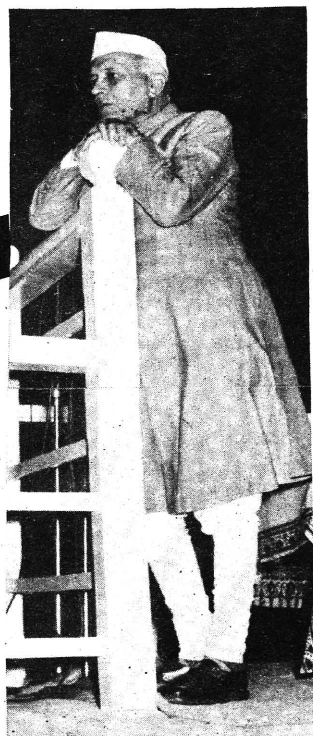


AMONG THE GALAXY OF WORLD LEADERS

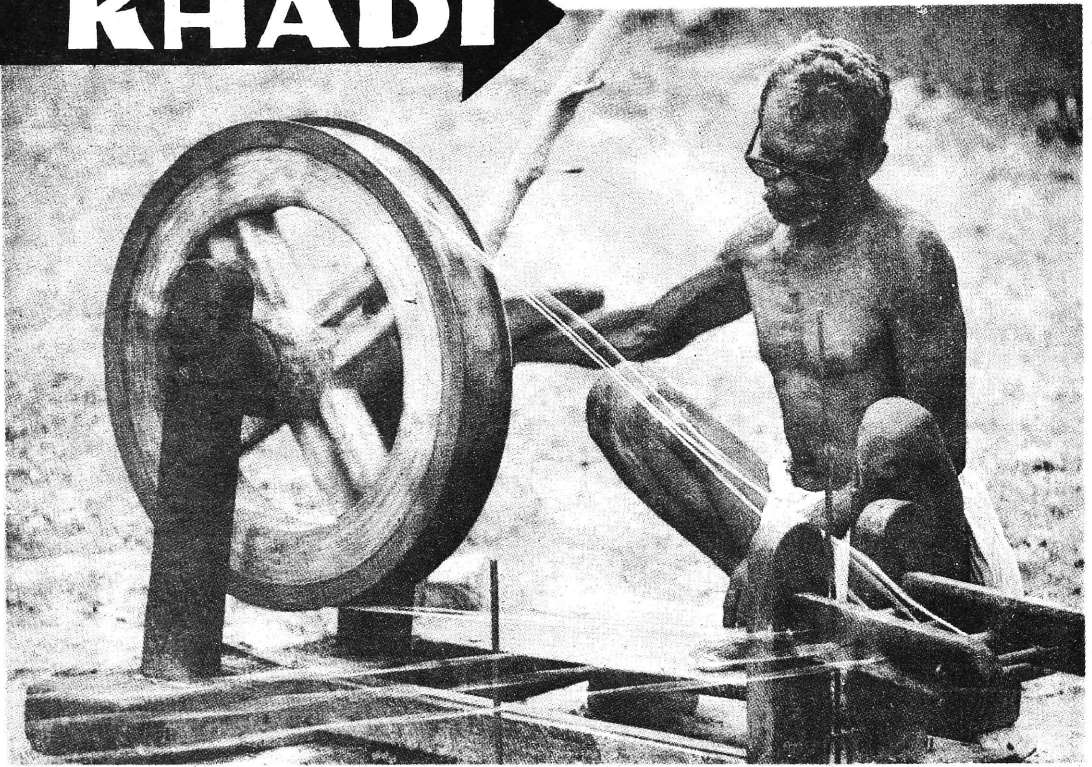
Among the galaxy of world leaders, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had secured a place of honour for the Indian subcontinent among the comity of nations. He had saved the country from going to ruins through internal squabbles and divisionism and prevented it from economic deterioration.

We are bound to pay our respects to this great man through our words, deeds, integrity and morality.

—Perarignar Anna.



KHADI

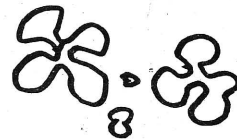
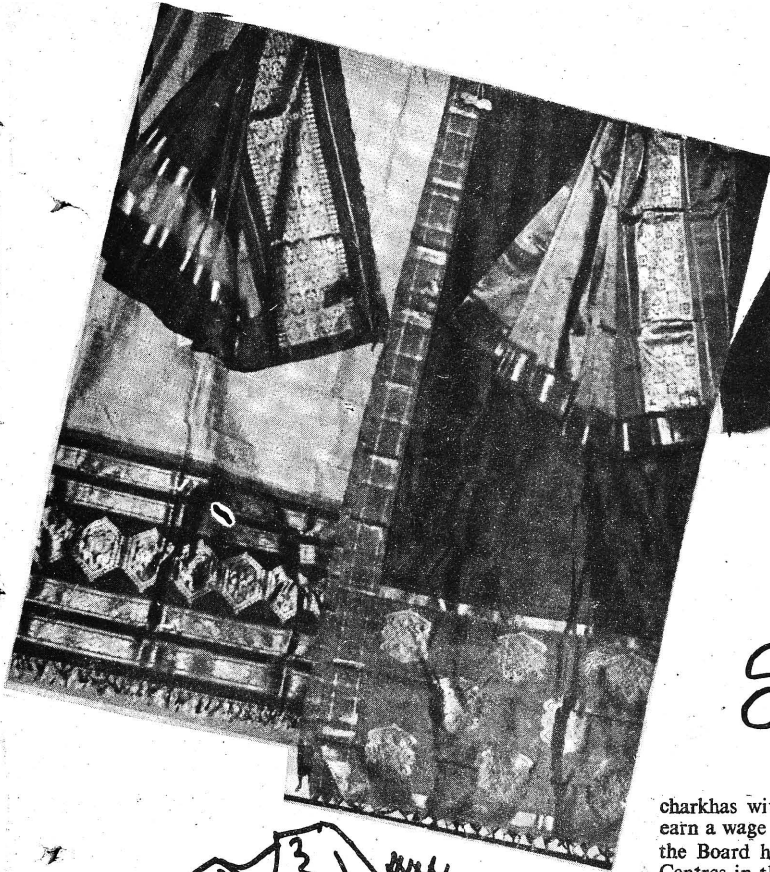


Thiru M. Venkatachalam, I. A. S.
Chief Executive Officer,
Khadi and Village Industries Board.

"Khadi is not merely a cloth, it is a philosophy, it is a movement" said Gandhiji. Gandhiji revived the Charkha as the symbol of political and economic freedom and integrated it with rural economy by making it as a means of providing employment to millions in the thousands of villages in India.

Khadi is hand-spun and hand woven cloth and it includes cotton, silk and woollen. The ancient twin crafts of hand spinning and hand weaving have survived in India to this day inspite of heavy odds and Khadi stands as the symbol of the peerless textile tradition created over a number of centuries.





The activity of handspinning of cotton and weaving of handspun yarn perhaps enjoys a universality unequalled by any other industry except agriculture. It is due to this characteristic that the cotton khadi programme stands on a different footing altogether, when compared with other employment programmes. Besides this, no other industry except again perhaps agriculture can claim to provide more employment opportunities to the women folk of this land on a massive scale as the cotton khadi programme.

The Khadi spinning was carried on in the earlier days through traditional charkhas. In order to make spinning as a self sufficient one, research led to the introduction of six spindle charkhas hand operated and twelve spindle pedal operated

charkhas with which a spinner will be able to earn a wage of Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per day. Promptly, the Board has so far opened 479 Rural Textile Centres in the villages and thereby provides employment to nearly 15,000 persons. Another 3000 persons would be provided with employment through spinning during the course of this year.

In order to improve the weaving capacity to commensurate with the increased spindleage, the Board has contemplated to introduce new model looms, in which nearly 50 persons can be provided with employment to non-traditional sector who can be inducted to undertake weaving. By this the Board proposed to generate employment to another 1900 persons during the course of the year. The Board is providing financial assistance to the weavers to construct their own houses with a subsidy of Rs. 1000/- sanctioned by the Government.

Effective measures have been taken to introduce the polyvastra spinning and weaving in Tamilnadu which would be a boon for the unemployed.

The Board has drawn an ambitious programme to increase the production of silk from the present level of Rs. 2.75 crores to 5 crores within the next 2 years. Attempt made by the Board to export its silk proved to be a success. Consequently the Board has diversified its silk production to meet the foreign market.

V.O.C

THE BEACON LIGHT

T. Chengalvarayan, M.A.B.L.
Ex - M. P.

Tamil Nadu had its own pioneering part in the movement of freedom for India. The first call for Indian Nationalism was made by the early leaders of Tamil Nadu both in the Press and on the platform. It was then an intellectual protest to the foreign rule and not a passionate call for the freedom of the motherland. It was a forceful assertion of the legitimate rights of Indians to positions of power and prestige.

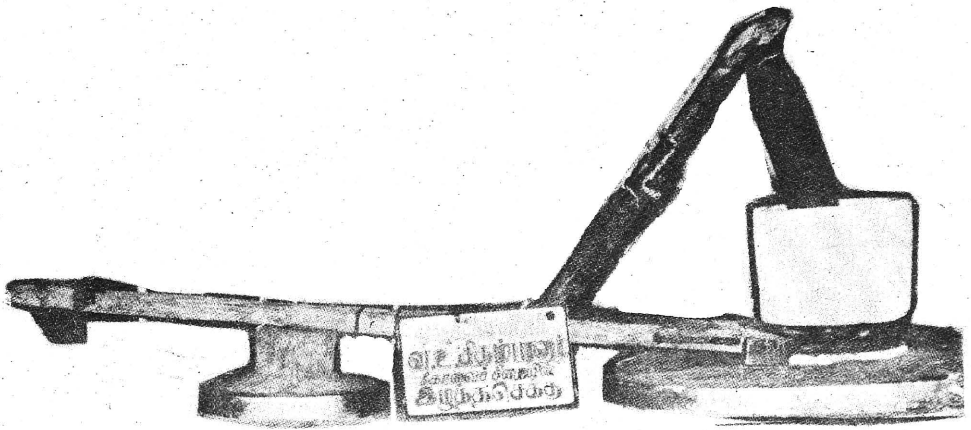
The Second stage of the rise of Indian Nationalism was indeed a tumultuous transition from moderate liberalism to militant extremists. Bala Gangadara Tilak, gave the clarion call for Swaraj when he said "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it". Lala Lajapat Rai of former Punjab and Bepin Chandra Pal of Bengal brought the rear. These three great leaders formed the political trinity of the Indian National Congress. The message of Freedom for India began to spread throughout the length and breadth of India and the people became involved.

From pious resolutions, the Congress began to usher revolutions. Instead of the theoretical protests there began mass propaganda. In such tidal times of agitational national politics, Tamil Nadu gave an outstanding leader for the new phase of the movement of Swaraj. A scholar of great learning, a lawyer of lucrative practice, a person of feeling for the poor and oppressed rose, and that was V.O.Chidambaram Pillai, affectionately called V.O.C.

The times of Tilak witnessed the onslaught of ruthless repression directed against congress leaders. Tilak Maharaj was sentenced to six years imprisonment and was deported to Mandalay Jail in Burma. Today, that dark dungeon, that lonely cell, with no air, with no light is kept up as our national monument. Lala Lajpat Rai the lion of Punjab was deported to America. Bepin Chandra Pal, the trumpet voice of Congress was under arrest. VOC was also condemned to imprisonment with hard labour.

The prison life of VOC has acquired not only a historical value, it has got a lustre, inspiring





generations by such dedication to the national cause. VOC was made to draw the wooden oil mill round and round and the bullock he was forced to replace, shed tears to express sorrow that such a noble soul was forced to do what the creator had designed it to do. VOC with cheer and courage with faith and fortitude, did that job. His foot became swollen. His palm became reddish. His forehead streamed with perspiration. He drew that mill with "Vande Mataram" on his parched lips. We have that very oil mill now preserved for posterity as a monument to the suffering, which Congress leaders like VOC had undergone for the freedom of India.

VOC had plunged into the thick of the freedom struggle, taking the lead in every aspect of the movement. Tilak Maharaj gave a call for Swadeshi and boycott of foreign cloth. VOC organised mass demonstrations. He addressed mammoth meetings urging the people to become swadeshi in thought, word and deed, people got the message. VOC held several rallies of workers and the people spontaneously organised bon-fire of foreign cloth. The clothes were shed and became a very high pile and the fire was symbolic of the new fire of the freedom urge. Even a washerman who was taking the soiled foreign clothes of his customers, threw the whole lot into the fire. Such was the popular upheaval of the Swadeshi spirit under the inspiring leadership of VOC.

That was also the time when the working class was slowly becoming aware of their rights, but they lacked enlightened and dedicated leadership. VOC soon assumed the leadership, of the working class and began to champion their cause. His leadership of Labour attracted the authorities who began to employ all the energies of repression. VOC organised the working class as an adjunct to the movement of freedom, thus welding the two in a formidable freedom's front.

The working class became militant and began to strike at the very root of foreign capitalism.

The Swadeshi spirit took a magnificent turn at the instance of VOC. The British came to India as traders and through trade they set up an empire. VOC thought that if that imperialist channel is sluiced up by Swadeshi competition the empire would vanish. He proceeded to promote a swadeshi steamship Company. It was not a sea hulk. It was the dedication of the Swadeshi spirit. It was not only a venture. It became an adventure. VOC had to face odds and obstacles. He endured distress and disappointment. He bore suffering and sacrifice. He set the sail of the first Indian ship on the seas. VOC is now hailed as pioneer in initiating steam ship trade and that too from Tamil Nadu.

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

VOC, Bharathi, 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.

VOC 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, VOC 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.



A RURAL CHANGE AGENT

Institutionalisation of co-operative concept for helping farmers and middleclass tide over their economic difficulties in INDIA dates back to 1904 when statutory efforts were launched to organise and develop co-operative societies. Since then, a sea change had taken place both in thought and action. 'Co-operative Principles' are being periodically reviewed to make them suitable to modern requirements for collective economic activity. Regarding its application there is hardly any human action to which the principle has not been applied, whether it is in farm or factory.

Tamil Nadu, which is one of the front line states in the field of co-operation is continuously playing a positive and largely expanded role in revitalising the economy of the farming community through a large net work of co-operatives. The major emphasis continues to be on weaker sections. To serve the people in the diverse economic activities different types of cooperatives have been organised. They help the people by providing adequate and timely credit for agricultural operations, market their produces; the chain of consumer cooperative stores protect the interest of the consumers acting as price settler.

The welfare of the farmers are taken care of by nearly 4,742 village agricultural service cooperative societies; at the rate of one cooperative for about three villages; the 183 primary cooperative land development banks functioning at taluk, block levels are looking after the long term development needs of the farmers. In fact, eighty one percent of

agricultural families in the state are under the co-operative umbrella. Particular attention is being paid for the economic progress of scheduled caste and weaker sections. 60,000 scheduled caste agricultural families have been brought to the cooperative fold during the last two years, enrolling one person each of such family in the agricultural service cooperative societies. The Tamil Nadu Government subsidises their share capital with Rs. 100 each to the person so admitted. The programme for the future is admission of 20,000 members every year till 1984-85

T. M. Arumugam, I.A.S.
Registrar of Co-operative
Societies.

In 1982-83 short term loans to the tune of Rs. 67.18 crores and medium term loans of Rs. 15.97 crores were provided for agricultural purposes. It is gratifying to note that ninety five percent of the medium term loans issued during 1982-83 went to the weaker sections. Another important feature is the crash programme in Thanjavur District for sinking 5000 filter point tube wells to tide over the water scarcity. Tamilnadu Government provided a loan of Rs. 7.50 crores to be routed through primary land development banks to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 15,000 per well.

The disappearance of non-institutional credit sources thanks to the debt relief legislation and resultant

credit shrinkage brought new responsibilities to the village credit cooperatives to fill up the credit gap. 1781 cooperative units issued loans on pledge of jewels amounting to Rs. 170.16 crores in 1982-83, benefiting 9.97 lakh beneficiaries.

To Lighten the Debt Burden

In the last three years Tamil Nadu Government has given Rs. 98/- crores to lighten the debt burden of farmers by way of waiver, refund of interest, write off, converted and repheased loans outstanding against small farmers. Besides the Government have provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 80 crores consisting of Rs. 42 crores to the Central Banks for wiping out of deficits / due date defaults and Rs. 38/ crores to State Land Development Bank to meet the commitment resulting from postponement of repayment of long term loan instalments. Government subsidised two percent interest rebate to small farmers paying short term instalments.

To compensate loss to the farmers, Crop Insurance Scheme is implemented which will cover all risks during the insured crop season except war, and allied risks. During the last two years 4582 families have been paid indemnity upto Rs. 6.19 lakhs.

Distribution of Chemical Fertilisers

The Co-operatives continue to distribute chemical fertilisers as kind portion of cultivation loans to members and also for cash to members and non-members through



about 4,675 retail sale points run by them in the State, particularly in villages. As against the target of 100 units under the Action Programme for productivity year 1982, 126 additional fertiliser sale points were opened by Co-operatives. During the current year it has been proposed to open 200 numbers of additional sale points to distribute chemical fertilisers. They distributed during 1982-83 chemical fertilisers to the value of Rs. 38.06 crores, as against Rs. 25.82 crores during 1979-80. With a view to helping farmers, the co-operatives allowed during the last two years, purchase rebate ranging from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per bag on certain varieties of fertilisers sold. During 1981-82, fertilisers worth Rs. 19 crores were thus sold, allowing purchase rebate of Rs. 50 lakhs to the benefit of about 4,50,000 farmers. During 1982-83, fertilisers worth Rs. 12 crores were sold and purchase rebate of Rs. 34 lakhs was allowed to about 2,60,000 farmers. The co-operatives are expected to distribute chemical fertilisers for about Rs. 70 crores during the current year.

Marketing of Agricultural Produce.

160 Co-operative marketing societies in the State continue to assist the farmer members in marketing their agricultural produce and thereby help them in securing a fair and reasonable return. In 1982-83, Rs. 109.15 crores worth of agricul-

tural produce were marketed. Agricultural produce worth Rs. 115 crores are expected to be marketed during the current year. Co-operatives have exported during the last three years, groundnut extractions and cotton worth about Rs. 1.70 crores to Singapore and Soviet Union. In order to provide processing facilities for the produce of the members at a reasonable cost, the co-operatives have set up 89 processing units such as rice mills, groundnut decorticators, cotton ginning units and oil mills. The Government have provided financial assistance during the last three years for installation of a modernised rice mill at Thiruvannamalai, 8 cotton ginning units in the State, 2 cold storage units and a turmeric powder unit at Erode.

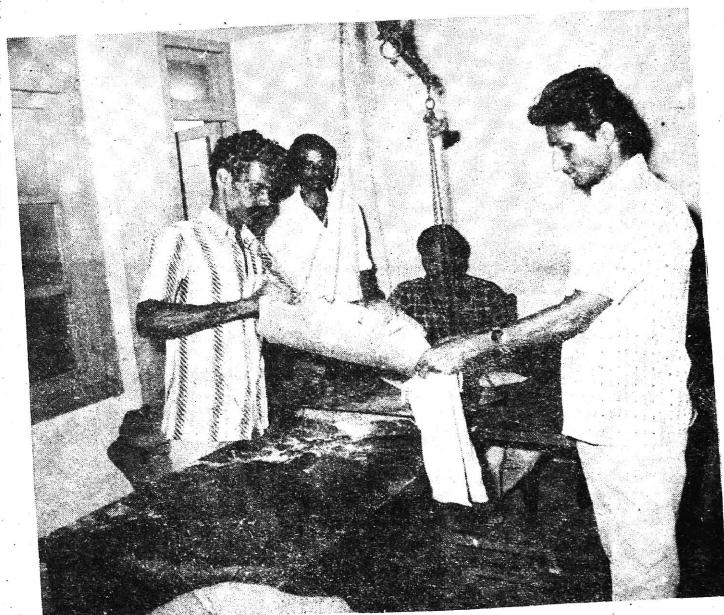
Differential rate of interest for small scale Industries

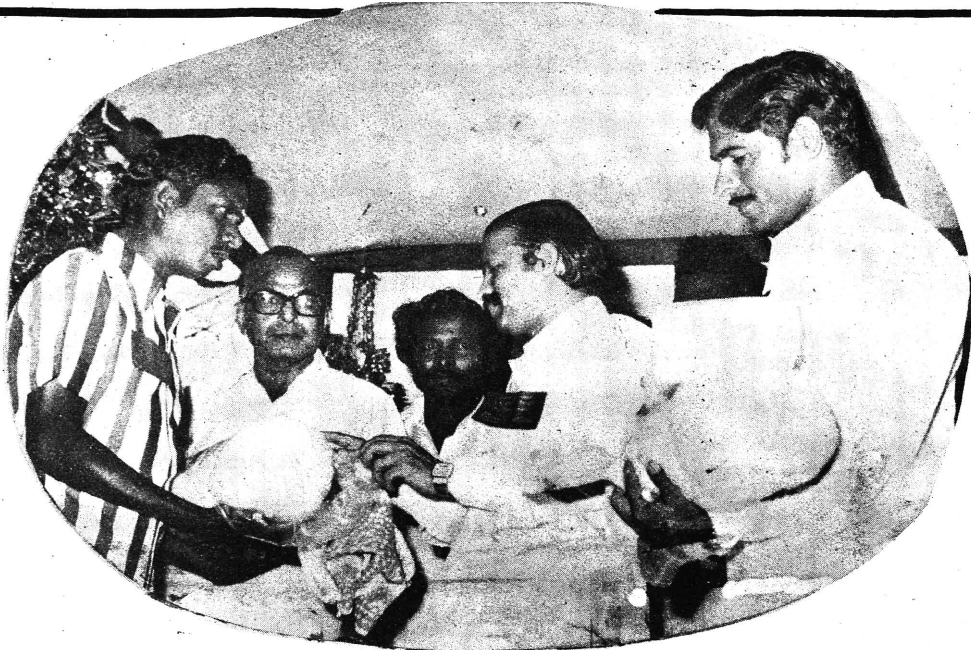
The credit co-operatives in the State are also providing, for the last two years, loans at a concessional rate of four per cent interest per annum to weaker sections for undertaking small scale and cottage industries. These loans are given on

personal surety to those whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 2,500 in rural areas and Rs. 3,000 in semi-urban and urban areas, upto Rs. 7,000 per individual. Such loans were issued to the tune of Rs. 107.80 lakhs during 1982-83.

Protection of the consumers' interest

The Consumers co-operatives spread over the entire State are distributing consumer goods of good quality at reasonable prices. That the consumer movement in Tamil Nadu stands first in the entire country and that the progress in Tamil Nadu is twice the progress in Maharashtra, which is the second in the country are worth mentioning. Under the scheme to run a fair price shop in each revenue village to ensure free availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices, the co-operatives are running 11,159 shops in the villages of the State and are ensuring free availability of essential commodities to the rural masses. In 1982-83 out of total retail sales of Rs. 228 crores, Rs. 90 crores were under Village Shop Programme.





Serving the Weaker Sections of the Community-Service to Hill Tribes:-

With the avowed aim of improving the standard of living of the hill tribes, 13 LAMP co-operative societies help the hill tribes by providing loans for cultivation and other production purposes at a concessional rate of 4 percent interest with Government subsidy, by marketing the agricultural produce and the minor forest produce and by distributing the required agricultural inputs and consumer goods.

In 1982-83, Rs. 44.20 lakhs were issued at 4 per cent; Rs. 13.71 crores worth of forest produce were procured and Rs. 59 lakhs worth of consumer goods were distributed for the hill tribes.

Service to Cycle Rickshaw Drivers

For the cycle rickshaw drivers, a co-operative society was formed at Dindigul distributing 100 cycle rickshaws with Government subsidy and interest free loan to the extent of Rs. 1.38 lakhs. Recently two motorised cycle rickshaw drivers co-operative societies were set up in

Madras to help the cycle rickshaw drivers in energising their rickshaws. These societies provide Government subsidy to the cycle rickshaw drivers upto 25 per cent of the cost of energisation of their cycle rickshaws. Last year Government subsidy of Rs. 1.05 lakhs was given to 109 cycle rickshaw drivers.

Self Employment to Educated Unemployed

A co-operative thrift and credit society of unique type to provide loans for promotion of self employment to educated unemployed youth has been started in Madras. The possibilities of organising similar societies in other districts also are being examined.

Employment to Unemployed Engineering Graduates

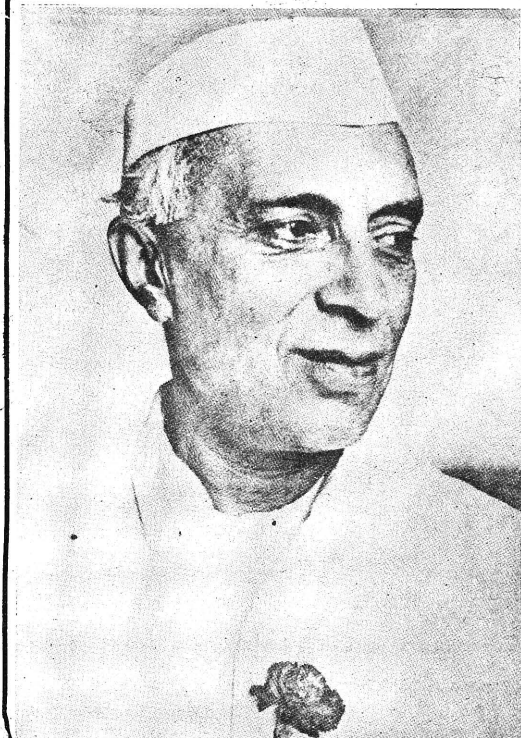
In order to provide employment to unemployed Engineers by eliminating as far as possible private contract system in the execution of works in the Public Works Department, a construction co-operative society of unemployed Engineering graduates and diploma holders has been started

recently at Madras on an experimental basis and is functioning with Government assistance.

Progressive Act.

With a view to achieve the objects of the co-operative movement, a new Co-operative societies Act has been brought out. It provides for representation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, economically weaker sections and women in the boards of important co-operative societies, disposal of various statutory matters such as registration of co-operative societies, registration of amendments to bylaws of co-operative societies and admission of all individuals eligible for membership, completion of enquiry, inspection or investigation, audit of accounts, supersession of the Board and surcharge proceedings, within the time limit prescribed, holding of meetings of the Board and general body of the societies, proper use of the properties and funds of the societies, raising the rate of dividends on shares from out of profits earned by the societies, purchase for resale of standardised goods having AGMARK or I.S.I. mark etc.





JAWAHARLAL

Jawaharlal has undoubted claim to the throne of young India. His is a majestic role. Unflinching is his determination and indomitable his courage, what raises him to lofty heights is his unwavering adherence to moral truth and his intellectual character. He has upheld the standard of purity in the midst of political turmoil where deception, including self-delusion so often destroys integrity. Jawaharlal has never evaded truth when it brought danger in its wake nor has he made alliance with falsehood when it would have been convenient to do so. His brilliant mind has always turned away in outspoken disgust from the path of diplomacy where success is as easy as it is mean. This purity of motive and undeviating pursuit of truth is Jawaharlal's greatest contribution in his fight for freedom.

—Rabindranath Tagore
(8th March 1936)

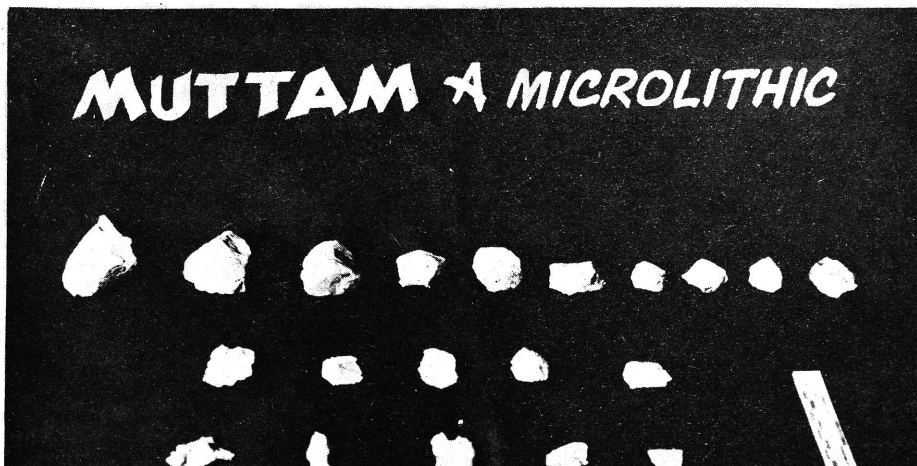
A new Microlithic site was spotted recently in Kanyakumari District by the Curator, Anthropology Section of the Madras Government Museum. This teri (sand dune) site in the coastal village of Muttam, is 12 kilometers away from Nagercoil and comes under Kalkulam taluk. The Curator recently undertook an exploratory tour of the site which is stretched for about 2 to 3 kilometers and collected about 20 Microlithic tools, comprising of flake tools, flakes and cores as surface finds. The site is said to be of the Mesolithic

Age and may be dated to about 4,000 B.C. Hunting and fishing could have existed during this period in this part of Tamil Nadu.

The Microlithic tools (of chert and quartz) thus collected are on display in a diorama case, showing the coastal Muttam Village with teri sand areas. Some gastropod and pelecypod shells found along the coastal line of Muttam are also on display in the diorama case.

This special exhibition will be on view for a month from 24th October '83 in the Museum.

MUTTAM A MICROLITHIC



combinations obtained from foreign countries like Singapore, Japan, Hongkong, Taiwan etc.

Angel pure silk sarees

The ANGEL SILK SAREES are produced out of the pure silk imported from China woven in an array of colours. In order to add more beauty to the product, zari threads are interwoven. The product is produced, keeping the price as prime factor so that it is within the easy reach of people from all walks of life.

Research and Development

Co-optex, is fully alive to the changes in consumer preference. Co-optex, keeping with the changes in fashion in favour of blends, has increasingly shifted to the manufacture of blended and even pure polyester fabrics. Now this account for 20% of Co-optex turnover, constant updating of designs and product mix in keeping with changing tastes and demands are all key elements of Research and Development activity.

As a result of sustained activities of Research and Development, Co-optex has undertaken the trail production of POLYESTER CHIFFON SAREES on Handlooms for the first time. The results of trail production are encouraging. By undertaking this production, Tamil Nadu Handloom weaver has been exposed to a new blend of product technology and thus taken to a new phase of handloom weaving. It is expected that the POLYESTER CHIFFON SAREES will be released for test marketing during Pongal 1984.

Channel Strategy

Co-optex has also over years evolved a very vast and modern marketing network. The entire range of Co-optex products are retailed through a chain of 615 showrooms, thereby making available household handloom textiles to as many as 350 million people. The retail chain of Co-optex is the largest in the co-operative sector. In order to help the consumers more than 200 exhibitions are organised at strategic points throughout the country. This is a distinct trend in channel strategy which Co-optex has innovated recently. The exhibitions are organised in all district headquarters and in important towns.



Wide range of products



Sales

Co-optex is a household name in the handloom textile in the country. The success of Co-optex marketing strategy is proved by the constant and continuous increase in sales. During the Deepavali 1982, Co-optex has achieved a sales of Rs. 38.75 crores as against the Deepavali 1981 sales of Rs. 32.56 crores. In spite of severe drought conditions and glut in the textile market particularly in handloom industry, Co-optex has been able to show an increase by Rs.6.19 crores.

Special Rebate

A special rebate of 20 percent will be allowed on all varieties at all show-

rooms and exhibitions of Co-optex during the festival times.

In addition to rebate of 20% a special offer of additional 20% shall be allowed on select varieties.

New Products for Deepavali

The marketing strength of Co-optex lies in its new product strategy. This year Co-optex is bringing out three new products namely polyester shirting styled as GREAT LOOK SHIRTINGS, polyester sarees styled as PRETTY LOOK SAREES and the pure silk sarees with zari work styled as ANGEL SILK SAREES.

The GREAT LOOK SHIRTINGS and the PRETTY LOOK SAREES are printed in very sophisticated designs and in attractive colour,



An added attraction in Madras city this year, is the handloom exhibition organised in the exhibition grounds of Co-optex at Pantheon Road for the convenience of the public. In addition to this, exhibitions are also organised in Moormarket, Anna Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Ayyanavaram, Perambur, Pallavaram etc.

Credit Sales

Credit is essentially a sales promotional device. A most notable feature is extension of credit sales to salaried employees during festival occasion with rebate facilities. As usual, credit sale is being extended to the employees of State and Central Governments, Universities, Colleges and Schools, Local bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, Reputed public limited Companies, Co-operative Institutions.

Pothigai New Showroom at Trichy

Just like Thillaiyadi Valliammai Maaligai which is the biggest textile

showroom in entire South East Asia with an area of 25,000 S.ft. Co-optex is opening a big prestigious showroom near Trichy junction with an area of 6,000 S.Ft. This will be the biggest textile showroom in the entire Southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

Pothigai would be a Deepavali gift of Co-optex to the customers in Southern districts. With its dazzling introduction, POTHIGAI would offer a complete range of handloom products-Silk, Cotton, Artsilk and Polyester blended sarees, Shirting and Dhothies specially produced for the consumers in and around Trichy.

Cloth supply to Landless Agricultural Labourers

As per the scheme announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Co-optex has so far supplied 15 lakhs Janatha sarees and 14 lakhs Janatha dhoties to the landless agricultural labourers in the state as a relief measure. The distribution is organised by the District Collectors

By this, the agricultural labourers are not only benefitted but it has also helped the weavers to get continuous employment during severe drought in the state.

For the year 1983-1984, Co-optex plans to produce 340 lakhs Sq. Metres of Janatha cloth.

Wide range of products

Co-optex has wide range of handloom textile products which are not produced even by leading textile mills in the country. It has complete range of products made out of cotton, pure silk, artsilk and polyester, viz.

Sarees, Shirts, Dhothies, Bedsheets, Pillowcovers, Lungies, Towels, Dress materials etc.

The Co-optex has offered wide product range with attractive rebates coupled with credit facilities.

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER

The Indian-born American Professor Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar, has won the 1983 Nobel Prize for Physics. He shares the prize with a fellow American, Prof-William Fowler.

The two won it for their research into how stars are born and what these are made of, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Prof. Chandrasekhar of the University of Chicago, won the prize "for his theoretical studies of the physical processes of importance to the structure and evolution of the stars".

"Many scientists have studied these problems, but Prof. Chandrasekhar and Prof. Fowler are the most prominent" the citation said.

The two were chosen from hundreds of candidates for the prize worth 1.5 million Swedish kroner (\$200,000).

Born in Lahore on 19-10-1910, Prof. Chandrasekhar had his early education in Presidency College, Madras, and the Trinity College, Cambridge.

He drew inspiration from his uncle and Nobel Prize winner Dr. C.V. Raman. Prof. Chandrasekhar who became a fellow of Trinity at 24, left for Chicago three years later as research associate at



the Chicago University. He became full professor in 1947.

Although he took up American citizenship in 1953 at the age of 43, he remains one of India's greatest scientists.

After working for his doctorate at Cambridge, Dr. Chandrasekhar went on to Gottingen, Liege, Moscow, Leningrad, Paris and Harvard. In 1936, he was picked by the astronomer, Otto Struve who had been asked by the Chancellor of Chicago University to scout for the best astronomer. Prof. Struve invited Dr. Chandrasekhar to join the Yerkes Observatory and he has remained there since then.

Dr. Chandrasekhar's brilliance can be seen by the fact that his book, "An introduction to the study of stellar structure", complete in 1939 till this day remains a standard text and reference book for all students of astrophysics.

The receipt of many scientific awards, he has authored numerous books and his contributions put India on the science map of the world.

MEGALITHIC SITES


The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered two important megalithic sites dating back to 2000 B.C. one in Kambarmedu in Therazhundur village in Thanjavur district and another in Melasathamangalam near Pondicherry. The discoveries were made by Thiru C. L. Suri, Superintendent and Thiru P. Narayana Rao, Deputy Superintendent of ASI.

Kambarmedu is stated to be the place where the great Tamil poet, Kambar, lived. He is the author of Kamba Ramayanam, the renowned Tamilised version of the great epic. Kamabarmedu is a mound measuring about 30 feet in height and 100 feet long. Excavations near the mound yielded Chola coins and brick structure in the first layer and neolithic tools in the second layer. The third layer contained a large number of megalithic tools

which are about 4000 years old. Hand-made pottery, redware and utensils were also found. The silt formation in the third layer suggested that the area was eroded by some river which has now dried up or has shifted its course.

Excavations at Melasathamangalam, which is 6 km. from Arikamedu near Pondicherry, has for the first time revealed tools of megalithic period near the dried up bank of the Sankarabharani. The first layer contained Roman coins; the second neolithic tools and the third megalithic tools and pottery.

It is significant that while in Arikamedu only Roman coins were found dating back to the first century BC, the megalithic settlements at Melsathamangalam date back 2000 years B.C.



The Government of Tamilnadu is considering a proposal to setup a Research Centre in Mugdanthurai Sanctuary in Ambasamudram taluk in Tirunelveli District. This centre would study the usefulness of wild animals and help to know more about them. This cell would also help to study the medicinal properties of these wild animals like civet. It has been decided to erect a few more watch towers also for the benefit of visitors. The sanctuary, which forms part of the Western Ghat, was originally planned as a tiger sanctuary. A few decades ago tiger and panther along with other carnivores roamed freely in this part of the ghat section. The main reasons that brought down the tiger population were indiscriminate poaching, reckless sporting and pesticide poisoning. The sanctuary was established in the year 1962. The main purpose was to provide the dwindling tiger population an undisturbed home. This atmosphere was provided to them so that they could multiply in large numbers in the vast area. Other wild animals seen in the area are sloth bear, sambar, chital, civet cats, elephants and bison.

Tourists from all walks of life and all over the country and abroad visit the sanctuary round the year. The famous Agasthiyar peak believed to be the abode of Agastia Rishi, the legendary father of Tamil is situated within the sanctuary. The din and bustle caused by the construction of a dam nearly the 20 mw Servalur Hydro-Electric Project had disturbed the peace of the animals. This project was started in the year 1974. Consequently the wild animals had gone deep into the jungles. After the completion of the dam by December 1984, steps would be taken to afford complete peace and protection to these animals.

The population on lion-tailed monkey, popularly known as macaque, which was on the threshold of extinction, is rising steadily in Kalakkad sanctuary in Tirunelveli district. Necessary protection is given to the rare species by the Forest Department. The sanctuary's Macaque population now was around 200. The sanctuary was formed in 1977, in Nanguneri taluk, spread over an area of 250 sq. km. Adequate protection was given to them and that is the reason for the rise in the population of this species. Kalakkad sanctuary is famous for macaque, the Nilgiris langur, sambar, wild boar, Nilgiris tahr, flying squirrel and monitor lizard. The sanctuary was formed with the special objective of conserving the lion-tailed monkey. Availability of water throughout the year in the streams originating in the sanctuary even during worst drought conditions has made it an ideal abode for these rare species. Macaque is found only in a few pockets in the western ghats. The white facial ruff and tuft on the tail tip makes it appear like a lion. While the ruff appears on all youngsters of about five to six months of age

WILD LIFE RESEARCH CENTRE

the tuft appears only in adult males developing with sexual maturity. Adult males are larger than females. Usually the macaques live as a family.

Major forestry operations and grazing had been completely banned within this sanctuary. The Government of Tamilnadu has declared Kalakkad as a "Sanctuary". After that, developmental activities were initiated with financial assistance from the Central Government. Wild Life tourism is also promoted. Keeping in mind the conservation needs, tourism is confined only to a small, less vulnerable outer zone of the sanctuary.

A large number of water conservation measures had been taken up in the sanctuary under the drought relief programme for improving the availability of water. This had brought beneficial changes in the use-pattern of the sanctuary by wild animals. Modern medicine heavily depended on such rare species. Armadillo, a burrowing animal had been found useful for providing cure to leprosy and its cure. Macaque is being studied in developed countries to know more of human behaviour and psychology to put down the increasing crime rates.

(Courtesy : News Today)



is pure as a crystal, he is truthful beyond suspicion.....The nation is safe in his hands."

Nehru's view on woman and her position in society finds candid expression in his writings and his speeches. In "The Discovery of India"—he records with great thrill and pride the events that brought Indian women into the forefront of India's political scene.

"Most of us menfolk were in prison. And then a remarkable thing happened. Our women came to the front and took charge of the struggle. Women had always been there of course, but now there was an avalanche of them, which took not only the British Government but their own menfolk by surprise. Here were these women, women of the upper or middle classes, leading sheltered lives in their homes, peasant women, working class women, rich women, poor women, pouring out in their tens of thousands in defiance of government order and police lathi. It was not only that display of courage and daring, but what was even more surprising was the organizational power they showed.

Never can I forget the thrill that came to us in Naini Prison when news of this reached us, the enormous pride in the women of India that filled us. We could hardly talk about all this among ourselves for our hearts were full and our eyes were dim with tears.

My father had joined us later in Naini Prison and he told us much that we did not know. He had been functioning outside as the leader of the civil disobedience movement and he had encouraged in no way these aggressive activities of the women all over the country. He disliked, in his paternal and some what old-fashioned way, young-women and old messing about in the streets under the hot sun of summer and coming into conflict with the police. But he realized the temper of the people and did not discourage any one, not even his wife and daughters and daughter-in-law. He told us how he had been agreeably surprised to see the energy, courage and ability displayed by women all over the country. Of the girls of his own household he spoke with affectionate pride.

Nehru believed in the emancipation of women and he made no fuss about giving it unequivocal expression too. In the same book,

NEHRU

ON

WOMEN'S

EMANCIPATION

—Prof. Prema Pandurangan

Nehru mentioned the legal position of women according to Manu.

"The Legal position of women, according to Manu, the earliest exponent of the law, was definitely bad. They were always dependent on somebody—on the father, the husband, or the son. Almost they were treated in law as chattels. And yet from the numerous stories in the epics this law was not applied very rigidly and they held an honoured place in the home and in society. The old law giver, Manu, himself says : 'Where women are honoured, the gods dwell.' There is no mention of women students at Taxila or any of the old universities. But some of them did function as students somewhere for there is repeated mention of learned and scholarly women. In later ages also there were a number of eminent women scholars. Bad as the legal position of women was in ancient India, judged by modern standards, it was far better than in ancient Greece, Rome, early Christianity, the Canon Law of medieval Europe,

Jawaharlal Nehru, the multifaceted personality, is the most fascinating figure of our century in India. He was the co-architect of India's freedom, with Gandhiji. Not only was he the fighter of India's freedom but also the great builder of modern India, on scientific and rational lines. C. Rajagopalachari called him 'the most civilised person among us.' Gandhiji spoke of him in glowing terms : 'In bravery, he is not surpassed, who can excel him in the love of the country ?.... He



and indeed till right up to comparatively modern times at the beginning of the nineteenth century."

There is a deep human commitment in his statements and one discovers the basic humanist in him. He is for a respectable dignified and equal-to-man treatment for women. He does not forget the saying of Manu-Yatra naryastu pujayante tatra ramante Devatah !

Nehru believed with conviction that women have a great role to play in society. Education being the main sustenance for a civilised society, was to be thrown open to women too. In one of his speeches made in Madras, in 1955, he makes it clear that women's education is not a concession, it is theirs by right, contributing to the welfare of society and the country.

"Truly no argument is required in defence of women's education. For my part, I have always been strongly of the opinion that while it may be possible to neglect men's education it is not possible or desirable to neglect women's education. The reasons are obvious. If you educate the women, probably men will also be affected thereby, and in any event children will be affected. For every educationist knows that the formative years of a person's life are the first seven or eight years. We talk about schools, and colleges which are no doubt important, but a person is more or less made in the first ten years of his or her life. Obviously, in that period, it is the mother who counts most of all.

Therefore the mother who has been well trained in various ways becomes essential to education. Most mothers, trained otherwise, I regret to say, are not good mothers. They are too soft. They stuff their children with all kinds of eatables, put too many clothes on them, wrap their necks and heads and ears with all kinds of woollen apparel and make the boy or girl almost an imbecile before he or she grows up. Therefore, it is necessary for women to be educated, if not for themselves, at any rate for their children...."

According to Nehru, the education of women makes for sane children and sober children. The woman who rocks the cradle can also light the lamp of learning. She is not a chattel a kitchen maid; she is the builder of personalities, the bedrock of faith and culture and the Indian tradition.

Talking about women's occupation Nehru felt that the modern woman is capable of taking up certain position in offices. Had he lived on, he would be pleased to see several high offices held efficiently by women in India, the highest being the Prime Ministership, which his esteemed daughter Tmt. Indira Gandhi holds with aplomb and dynamism.

Nehru's views on women and their emancipation are clear and precise. He does not throw overboard tradition nor does he accept orthodoxy blindly. As the sagacious poet Kalidasa wanted, he too desires an admirable amalgamation of the best of the new and the best

of the old. According to him, the Indian woman is not to be in purdah, nor is she to be an unfeminine creature seeking a brash equality with man. For him the Indian women is basically feminine, gentle, tender, sensitive and traditional in the wholesome sense of the term without which she is no woman at all.

" Women in India have played an important part in our social life and in our history. They have played this part in every branch of national activity, from high learning to valour on the battlefield. But it is their unobtrusive work in the household, in the village or in the larger community, that has moulded the nation.

They are essentially feminine, and that is as it should be. But then I have always felt that India, for all her manly qualities, is specially noted for the feminine virtues, gentleness, tenderness, a certain patient resignation and a quiet and sometimes amazing courage of a somewhat passive kind."

Nehru believed that the greatest revolution in a country is the one that affects the status and living conditions of its women. He records with admiration and enthusiasm the impact Gandhiji made on women's life in India.

"It was Gandhiji, that wonderful man and great revolutionary, who brought a dramatic change among our women, when at his bidding they came out in large numbers from the shelter of their homes to take their part in the struggle for India's freedom. Once the old shackles were removed, it was no longer possible to replace them in the same way. Attempts were no doubt made to go back, but they were bound to fail."

Nehru was a sensitive writer, a zealous patriot, a prince by birth, a democrat by conviction, a believer in values, a modernist in attitude, an Indian at heart, a humanist in outlook. He believed that education would affect women in India but not the essential characteristics of India's women.

In conclusion one remembers the Lord in the Gita, remarking about His immanence in feminine qualities.

" Among women, I am fame, prosperity, speech, memory, intelligence, firmness and forgiveness. (X—V. 34).



TREE PLANTING AS INCENTIVE TO MAKE A WANDERING TRIBE SETTLE DOWN

Settling down in one place permanently and raising tree crops for livelihood is unheard of in Narikurava (a nomadic tribal community of Tamil Nadu) families. But it has been faithfully practised by about 27 families inhabiting Nerkundam Village, 25 km. North of Madras in Chingleput District.

Living in this tiny hamlet for more than 25 years, the tribe's passion for growing trees around their homes is reflected in the form of well established and yielding tamarind, neem, jamun, silk cotton and various other useful trees. "These trees give us fruits, fuel, and shade. They shelter the birds, which we hunt for food" said an elderly Narikurava woman.

Many of them are seriously taking up systematic forestry with assistance from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department. Under the SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority) assisted social forestry

scheme, the forest department is involving the Narikuravas in planting trees to meet their immediate needs. Mixed plantations of useful trees have been eagerly planted by these people, according to a forest department personnel.

Some of them have taken to raising eucalyptus in their holdings. (These settlers have been provided with about two acres of land per family for cultivation by the Government). To instil the social forestry concept in the minds of these nomadic people the Forest Department has selected a young woman from their own tribe, and she is doing a good job of popularising tree planting, protecting the seedlings from the mouths of goats and cattle, according to an official.

Important Component

Concentrating on the "Tree Cultivation Incentive Programme", an

important component of the massive forestry project 19 year-old, P. Indira Gandhi who has passed Plus Two, earns Rs. 250 for her role as the village forestry worker. She goes to neighbouring villages on her new bicycle to popularise the scheme and to supervise the plantings. She has a target of raising two lakh seedlings for distribution among villagers, and she also guards an eucalyptus plantation in the vicinity. Above all she maintains her own eucalyptus plantation of two acres.

For the 35 year old N. Thiruneevathan raising tree plantation is a new experience. He has planted many useful tree species in the holding just behind his house, and tends them very carefully. In about 1½ acres of land, a little further away, he has grown eucalyptus. He is very enthusiastic about the new plantations and claims that the large mixed plantation of the Forest Depart-

MULTI-MEDIA PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

Launching of a number of welfare schemes marked the commencement of the seven - day Multi-Media Publicity Campaign at Pudukottai. Inaugurating the Exhibition got up by the State and Central Government Departments, the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R.M. Veerappan, announced that a mini zoo would be set up in the Collectorate compound. He said the Government was considering such a scheme for all the districts also. The Minister planted a variety of trees in the compound of the Collectorate under the scheme 'one family one tree'. The target is a five lakh trees. The Minister also released a few spotted deers in the forest area of the Collectorate declaring it a deer sanctuary. He also distributed milch cows to 80 persons of the weaker sections of the society.

At the Exhibition Ground, The Minister unveiled 13 plaques symbolising the completion of one project for each of the 13 Panchayat Unions in connection with the Multi-Media Campaign. They comprise of six community centres, four section buildings, one rural dispensary, one Panchayat office, one ground level reservoir-all completed at a cost of Rs. 6.5 lakhs. The Minister gave away pattas to 1,000 landless people, loans amounting to Rs. 42.5 lakhs to the Harijans at differential rate of interest, free clothes to agricultural labourers, prizes to the enterprising farmers

and gifts to the Ex-Army personnel of the Pudukottai District.

The District Collector, Thiru R.Karpura Sundara Pandyan, I.A.S., who presided over the function said, more than 400 villages would be covered during the campaign period. He said over 600 families would get the benefit of subsidised loans besides 4,500 persons who would get Rs. 127 lakhs under I.R.D.P. Scheme. He also added, by the end of this year one lakh pattas would be distributed to the landless.

Thiru C.N.Krishnabharathy, I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations, Government of Tamilnadu, explained the aims and objectives of the Multi-Media Publicity Campaign which resumed after a lapse of eight years. He also said this campaign at Pudukottai would be a pace setter for conducting similar campaigns in other districts also.

Members of State Legislative Assembly Thiru Rajkumar, Thiru Vijaya Raghunatha Thondaman, Thiru Thirumaran, Thiru Marimuthu and Thiru Sundarajan also participated in the function.

All the Media Units of the Central and State Government and Development departments and nationalised banks participated in the Campaign.



ment (planted in 1962) gave him the inspiration. He goes there regularly to hunt small games and birds for his livelihood. "Once these trees are grown up, my mother need not go too far" in search of firewood for

cooking, he said, confidently.

The involvement of these wandering people in planting and nurturing seedlings is very revealing. They have planted young seedlings of

fruit and shade trees in their house-fronts and backyards and protect them carefully from goats and cattle by putting up fences using thorned-twigs.

(Courtesy the Hindu.)



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