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CHIEF MINISTER REVIEWS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu chaired the Second Board meeting of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board (TNIDB) held at the Secretariat on 23.09.2014.

The TNID Board reviewed the progress of various infrastructure projects and initiatives undertaken by various departments and agencies of Government of Tamil Nadu including the projects identified in Phase II of the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023. The Board noted that considerable progress has been made on 217 projects/programmes identified under Vision Tamil Nadu 2023, Phase II. 173 projects/programmes are at various stages of preparation and implementation with work having commenced on 64 projects/programmes.

The TNID Board under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu approved the 24×7 Water Supply Project for Coimbatore. The project is to be developed at an approximate cost of Rs.556.57 crore would improve and revamp the present feeder mains and distribution system of Coimbatore. The project would provide 24×7 water supply to 1.5 lakh households in Coimbatore with 100% household coverage. The project would be implemented on a Build-Transfer-Operate basis under the public private partnership mode with an innovative staggered annuity model of financing.



The Board under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu approved setting up of two desalination Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) plants with a capacity of 400 MLD and 150 MLD to be located at Perur and Nemmeli, respectively. The 400 MLD desalination plant at Perur would be built at a cost of about Rs. 4,070 crore while the project cost for the 150 MLD plant at Nemmeli would be about Rs.1,371 crore. Both these projects would be built on Design-Build-Operate (DBO) basis. These projects would enable Chennai to secure the supply of high quality drinking water which would be available even during the dry season. It would also provide an alternative source of water, diversifying the supply and making it less vulnerable to interruptions. Central Government grant financing is being sought for the project.

The Board under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu approved the project structure for the proposed Madurai-Thoothukudi Industrial (MTI) Corridor. Twenty-nine projects spanning the southern districts of the State namely, Madurai, Sivagangai, Virudhunagar,

Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari have been planned along the industrial corridor. The total outlay envisaged for this mega project is about Rs.1,83,819 crore which is 12 % of the total investment envisaged in the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023. The MTI Corridor Project would improve business activity and facilitate economic development in the southern region of the State. The core nodes of development would be spread across 4 Manufacturing and Business Investment Regions (MBIR), 2 Manufacturing and Business Investment Areas (MBIA), 1. Agri Business Investment Region (ABIR), 2. Knowledge Hubs and 3. Special Tourism Investment Zones. In addition, the corridor would have an 800 MW thermal power project at Thoothukudi; a greenfield port in the Manappad region, an entrepreneurship development centre for small and medium enterprises and a world class medi city at Madurai.

The MTI Corridor is envisioned to attract additional industrial investments of about Rs.1,90,000 crore from private sector over a period of 10 years.

The Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 envisages huge investment requirement in various Infrastructure projects to the tune of Rs.15,00,000 crore. New Financing mechanisms are needed to tap into private and institutional financial resources through infrastructure financing

options. Recent regulatory changes enable new and innovative Infrastructure Finance Vehicles (IFVs). The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has pioneered and nurtured many financial initiatives and placed Tamil Nadu in the forefront of setting up financial institutions contemporaneous to the needs of State's development.

Keeping in mind the financing needs of infrastructure projects envisaged under Tamil Nadu Vision 2023, the Board under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu approved the establishment of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Company Limited (TNIFMC). The TNIFMC will be enabled to roll out and manage new Infrastructure Finance Vehicles (IFV) viz., Infrastructure Debt Fund (IDF), Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) and Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) as per SEBI guidelines. This would be a fourth generation financial institution in Tamil Nadu and will be set-up in partnership with Banks, Insurance Companies and reputed Private Financial Institutions. These funds would be used to lend to/invest in public projects, PPPs and private projects. The potential investor groups identified for IFVs are Sovereign Wealth Funds, Banks and Financial Institutions, Multilateral/Bilateral Institutions, Pension Funds, Insurance Funds, Impact Funds,



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Endowments / Foundations, Family Trusts, Foreign Portfolio Investors, High Networth Individuals (HNIs), Overseas Corporate Bodies, Private Equity, Fund of Funds and other investors with KYC compliance.

The Board under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu accepted draft Phase III of the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 Document, which details the policy and administrative action plan for Infrastructure Development in State. The Document was referred to the Executive Committee to consider the specific recommendations for appropriate follow up action.

The Board under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu approved budget of Rs.2,000 crore for the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development

Fund and Rs.200 crore for project preparatory fund (PPF) of TNIDB for the Financial Year 2014-15.

The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Public Works, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Highways and Minor Ports, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries and Labour, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Hon'ble Minister for Health, Government of Tamil Nadu; Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu and Member Secretary, TNIDB; Adviser to Government and other senior officials. ■



***Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare
Thiru.S. Abdul Rahim, seeing off Haj Pilgrims from Tamil Nadu at the
Anna International Airport, Chennai on 15.09.2014.***



'All efforts to increase power generation'

**Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 23.09.2014 (English Translation)**

My Government has been taking constructive steps in the last 3 years continuously ever since I assumed office in 2011, for increasing power generation and streamlining the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

As a result, the power cut imposed in the earlier minority DMK regime was not only totally lifted but uninterrupted power supply was provided to people from June 1 last.

In regard to power generation, 2,793 MW has been added on to the installed capacity in the last 3 years alone; 500 MW power is procured on medium-term basis; 562 MW of power from the 1st unit of the Koodankulam Atomic Power Plant and 224 MW through long-term

agreements are made available to Tamil Nadu. Totally, Tamil Nadu is getting 4,079 MW of power additionally. Before the closing of this financial year, 2,206 MW of power will be made available - 1,430 MW through new schemes and 776 MW through long-term procurement agreements.

The Electricity Board was in a state of disarray in the earlier minority DMK rule. To retrieve the Board from its sorry state, my Government gave Rs. 25,255 crore as financial assistance. In this, Rs. 11,149 crore was towards power tariff subsidy for electricity consumers. Besides, Rs. 10,575 crore has been allotted for 2014-2015.

The Power Tariff Regulatory Rules of 2005 stipulate that the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) should submit an application to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) seeking revision of power tariff every year, taking into account the fuel cost for generation of electricity, interest burden of the Board and the salary of employees. The Rules also mention that the Commission can unilaterally take steps to fix the rates if the application is not submitted. The Electricity Appellate Authority, too, in its judgement dated 11.11.2011, directed the Regulatory Commissions to fix the power rates unilaterally if there is a delay of more than one month in the submission of applications. The Electricity Act of 2003, passed by the BJP Coalition Government, also confers the powers on the State Regulatory Commission to fix the tariff.

In this situation, the TNERC has issued a public notice on 23.09.2014 regarding the

proposed changes in power tariff rates under the Electricity Act of 2003, the Rules of 2005 and the Appellate Authority's order. The proposed rates have taken into account the increased price of indigenously produced coal at Rs. 3,298/- per tonne, the increased price of imported coal at Rs. 6,896/- per tonne, the increased expenditure on salary and pension commitments in the current year at Rs. 4,370 crore and the interest burden on the Board's loans at Rs. 8,463 crore.

After eliciting public opinion on the proposed rates, the TNERC will issue its final notification on tariff rates based on the interests of consumers, TNEB and the future expenditure on new power projects and infrastructure.

In whatever way the TNERC fixes the tariff rates for electricity consumers, I wish to state that my Government will provide the needed additional grant to the TNEB so that the poor and marginalised people are insulated from being affected in any way. ●

Government gets Rs. 3.13 crore from TTDC

Hon'ble Minister for Tourism presented a cheque for Rs. 3.13 crore to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the Secretariat on 23.09.2014, it being the 30 per cent dividend on the net profit of Rs. 12.42 crore earned by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation for the year 2013 – 2014.

The Tamil Nadu Government has invested a share capital of Rs. 10.42 crore in the Corporation.

In 2013, Tamil Nadu was ranked first in the country in attracting inland tourists and got second place in the case of foreign tourists.

While the Corporation earned a net profit of only Rs. 12.99 crore in the 5 years between 2006 and 2011, it earned a net profit of Rs. 42.18 crore in the last 3 years, a 225 per cent increase. ●





Rs. 55 crore plant for power from solid waste

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 23.09.2014, buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 31.60 crore, inaugurated drinking water development schemes costing Rs. 14.41 crore and laid the foundation stone for a Rs. 55 crore plant to generate electricity from solid waste.

All these schemes are implemented across the State. The electricity generation plant is to come up in the Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented cheques to 7 women self-help groups as a

token of disbursing through Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihoods Mission, a revolving fund of Rs. 5.11 crore to 250 women self-help groups belonging to urban local body areas for starting industry / trade.

A web portal set up at a cost of Rs. 33.50 lakh to improve the livelihood status of the urban poor, <http://cma.tn.gov.in/tnulm> was also inaugurated. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also released a quarterly magazine 'Vallamai' brought out to encourage the women SHGs in urban local body areas and help them exchange information. ●



'AMMA CEMENT' as buffer against price rise

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 26.09.2014 (English Translation)

'The poor should prosper; their dreams should come true'. My Government functions with this aim.

By way of making available essential commodities at cheap rates to the poor and the downtrodden, my Government has been implementing several schemes like Amma restaurants, Amma drinking water, Amma salt, Amma seeds and Amma pharmacies. I discussed with officials about providing cement also in this category at low rates to the poor.

I enquired about cement productivity in Tamil Nadu, both in public and private sectors, the present production and cement coming into Tamil Nadu from neighbouring States for commercial use.

It is stated that on an average 17 to 18 lakh tones of cement is consumed in Tamil Nadu in a month; of this, nearly a quarter viz., 4 to 4.5 lakh

tonnes was coming from the erstwhile unified Andhra Pradesh. It is also stated that cement manufacturing establishments in neighbouring states, particularly those in Andhra Pradesh have hiked the cement price by Rs. 80/- to Rs. 100/-per bag and in Andhra Pradesh, the current price of cement is Rs. 310/- per bag. As a result, the arrival into Tamil Nadu from the erstwhile unified Andhra Pradesh has come down by 1.50 lakh tonnes to 3 lakh tonnes per month. The present arrival is just 35 to 60 per cent of previous arrivals. This has created a conducive atmosphere for cement manufacturers in Tamil Nadu to raise the price of cement in Tamil Nadu.

To protect the lower and middle class people from the cement price rise, I have issued orders to implement the 'Amma Cement' scheme of supplying cement at concessional rates. Accordingly:-

- ★ Two lakh tonnes of cement will be procured every month from private cement manufacturers in Tamil Nadu.
- ★ This stock will be kept in the 470 godowns in Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Town Panchayats and Panchayat Unions and sold at the rate of Rs. 190/- per bag.
- ★ Under this plan, house builders can get cement at concessional price at the rate of 50 bags for every 100 sq.ft of construction with a maximum of 750 bags for 1,500 sq.ft.
- ★ Those wishing to benefit under this plan should submit the approved building plan or a certificate from Village Administrative Officer/Revenue Department Officer/ Panchayat Union Supervisor/ Panchayat Union Road Inspector.
- ★ For renovation and repair works in houses, 10 to 100 bags will be sold.
- ★ For implementing the plan, the Tamil Nadu Cement Corporation will act as the agency. The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department will act as agents.
- ★ This stock will be sold through the 220 godowns of the Civil Supplies Corporation and through 250 godowns of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- ★ The Panchayat level federation of Women Self Help Groups, selected by the District Collector will also sell cement through shops belonging to District Supply and Marketing Societies. These shops will have a maximum stock of 400 cement bags at any given time.
- ★ The Senior Zonal/Zonal Manager of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation will continue to act as Agent for the receipt and sale of cement through the godowns of the Rural Development Department. The District Collector will appoint an Assistant Director of the Rural Development Department to be the co-ordinator for the godowns functioning under the department in the Districts.
- ★ The Tamil Nadu Cement Corporation has been making available cement at Rs.220/-per bag for construction of houses under the Green Houses Scheme and the Indira Awas Scheme. Hereafter, the beneficiaries under these schemes too will be given cement under the ‘Amma Cement’ plan. These measures of my Government, I wish to state, will greatly reduce the house building burden of the poor. ■

Squash Champion Congratulated

Letter dated 24.09.2014 addressed by
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Thiru Saurav Ghosal



“I was delighted to learn of one more triumph in your illustrious sporting career, a silver medal in the Squash Men’s singles event at the ongoing 17th Asian Games at Incheon, South Korea. I am very happy to learn that this is the fourth medal you have won at the Asian Games having previously won a singles bronze medal at the 15th Asian Games and singles and team bronze medals at the 16th Asian Games. I wish to convey my heartiest congratulations on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu on this magnificent achievement.

As announced by me in December, 2011, the financial reward for sportspersons winning a silver medal at the Asian Games has been enhanced to Rs.30 lakhs. You will receive this cash incentive from the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

I congratulate you and all those who have contributed to your success and wish you many more such laurels on behalf of the country and Tamil Nadu in future.”

Prime Minister apprised of detained fishermen’s plight

D.O. Letter dated 25.09.2014 addressed by
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I wish to bring to your notice the pathetic plight of 4 fishermen from Tamil Nadu who were arrested and detained by the Iranian Coast Guard on 22nd September, 2014.

It is reported that four fishermen, namely Thiru. Sasikumar (40 yrs) S/o Louis, Thiru. Antony (29 yrs) S/o Soosainayaham, Thiru. Anthony (34 yrs) S/o Samichael and Thiru. Arokiam (30 yrs) S/o Stephen, from Kanniyakumari District of Tamil Nadu were engaged in fishing in Qatar on contract basis. On September 16, 2014, these four fishermen went for fishing in a mechanized fishing boat and in the course of their fishing operations they inadvertently strayed into Iranian waters

on September 22, 2014, and were arrested by the Iran Coast Guard.

The four fishermen from Tamil Nadu, who are languishing in a prison on Kish Island in Iran, are the sole breadwinners of their families and they had gone to Qatar to eke out a humble livelihood. Their prolonged incarceration will severely affect their families and dependents in India.

I request you to kindly intervene personally in the matter and direct the Embassy of India in Teheran to take effective legal steps to secure the immediate release of these poor and innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu.”

Appointment orders to 307 Veterinary Inspectors



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu made at the Secretariat on 22.09.2014, a token presentation of appointment orders to seven Veterinary Inspectors Grade II to mark the appointment of 307 such personnel.

These inspectors were recruited in 2012 – 2013 and appointment orders were issued after completion of training.

In the demand for grants for the Animal Husbandry Department for 2011 – 2012, an announcement was made that the posts of Veterinary Inspectors would be filled up to benefit the farmers in remote villages. In 2011 – 2012, 289 persons were selected for the post and the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the orders to them on 11.09.2013.

With the appointment of these inspectors, veterinary services such as artificial insemination and first aid to cattle are taken to remote villages. Immunization, de-worming and castration services for animals can also be made available in hamlets without delay. ●



Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Thiru. N. Subramanian presided over a review meeting with the heads of Line Departments regarding the supplementary plans for Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes (SCSP & TSP) for 2014 -2015 on 14.10.2014.

Government aid to differently abled Sports achievers



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu presented at the Secretariat on 22.09.2014, cheques to a total value of Rs. 7.63 lakh to seven sportspersons from the State who participated in the International Athletic events for the differently abled, held in Tunisia in June last.

The recipients of this financial assistance are Thiru. S. Gurunathan, Tmt. B.Rasathi, Tmt. C. Poongodi, Thiru. K.J.Anthony, Thiru. K. Santhamuthuvel, Thiru. P. Padaithalaivan, and Thiru. S. Thirumalaikumar.

The extension of the assistance is a sequel to a representation from these Paralympic sportspersons to defray the entire cost of Rs. 1.39 lakh they had each incurred to go to Tunisia in Africa and participate in the events. The Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority had already given them Rs. 30,000/- each.

On a kind consideration of the request, the Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered the disbursement of Rs. 1.09 lakh to each of the Paralympic sportspersons.

The recipients conveyed their heart-felt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing several schemes to make the State foremost in sports and youth development and in enabling the sportspersons in the State to win National and International competitions.

In February 2014, State-level Competitions were held for the first time at Madurai to encourage differently abled sportspersons. The bronze medallist at the Para Asian Wheelchair Fencing Competition held at China in December 2010 was honoured by the Hon'ble Chief Minister with the presentation of an incentive Rs. 10 lakh.



Chief Minister Greet Mangalyaan Scientists

Press Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu - 24.09.2014

It is a matter of great pride for the country that our scientific community was able to successfully place 'Mangalyaan' in orbit around the planet Mars on 24.09.2014. This is a historic achievement for India and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I greet all the Scientists, Engineers and Technologists

associated with this great achievement and extend my heartiest congratulations to them. They have done the Nation proud and India now joins the very select band of countries that have successfully inducted Explorers into outer space. This achievement will undoubtedly inspire and stimulate young minds in India to take up scientific research and development. ●

Gandhi Medal to four police officials



The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the award of Gandhi Adigal Police Medal to (1) Dr. K. Balakrishnan, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Tiruchi City, (2) Thiru. K. Shanmugam, Additional Superintendent of Police, Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Kancheepuram District (3) Tmt. P. Padmavathi, Inspector of Police, Central Investigation Unit, Tiruchi Zone,

Tiruchi, and (4) Thiru. M. Babu, Sub-Inspector of Police, Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Villupuram, Villupuram District for their outstanding work in curbing illicit liquor. The Medals will be given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion of Republic Day, 2015. A cash award of Rs.20,000/- to each of the awardees will also be presented along with the Medal. ●



'Price Stabilization Fund for Green Tea Leaf'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 25.09.2014 (*English Translation*)

The tea industry contributes to the economic development of the Nilgiris District, brings prosperity to the people of the district and earns foreign exchange. My Government has been implementing various schemes to encourage this industry and to promote and protect the interests of workers in it.

The sales promotion of "Ooty tea" started by me in 2001 is doing well now. The computerised tea auction centre, inaugurated by me in 2003 to

eliminate middle men remains a beacon to this day to other auction centres. Through the small Tea Growers Protection Scheme, a subsidy of Rs. 28 crore was distributed when they were hit by a drought in the Nilgiris District in 2005.

In 2011, when I assumed office as Chief Minister for a third time, I gave a subsidy of Rs. 11.20 crore in 2011-2012 to small tea growers by way of offering a support price to green tea leaf and Rs. 6 crore in 2012-2013.

A grant of Rs. 5.46 crore was given to modernize the 15 Industrial Co-operative tea factories in that district. My Government provided a grant of Rs. 50 lakh for distribution of 100 electronic weighing scales for accurate weighment of green tea leaf for procurement. I have also created a fund for Rs. 1 crore for the purchase of 100 more electronic scales and for implementation of the new power saving scheme. In the last 3 years alone, my Government has provided a subsidy of Rs. 24.16 crore for the benefit of 22,000 small tea growers.

My attention has been drawn to the present slump in the international price of tea and how the 22,000 small growers in the Nilgiris District have been affected by this. I discussed the matter with Government officials.

I am happy to inform that I have ordered the creation of a permanent Price Stabilization Fund

for Green Tea Leaf so as to benefit the 22,000 small tea growers who have been affected by the slump.

For this fund, Rs. 12 crore will be made available in the current year – Rs. 8 crore from the Government and Rs. 4 crore from INDCOSERVE, which will also make over every year to this fund 75 per cent of the profit earned through the sale of ‘Ooty tea’. The balance will be borne by the State Government.

Whenever the monthly price fixed by the industrial co-operative tea factories for the green tea leaf dips below the one recommended by the Tea Board, an additional support price not exceeding Rs. 2/- per kilo will be provided to small tea growers from this fund.

Through this, about 22,000 small tea growers will continue to benefit permanently. ●

Strong letter to Centre on 'hardened Sri Lankan stand'

'Give priority to rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen'

D.O. letter dated 11.09.2014 addressed by
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I have written to you on several occasions since you assumed office in May 2014, on the issue of the harsh harassment meted out to Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy when they fish in their traditional fishing waters of the Palk Bay. After a brief lull, Sri Lanka has again resorted to intensive aggressive action against Tamil Nadu fishermen and three further incidents of a large number of fishermen being apprehended have occurred, since I last wrote to you. 6 boats with 30 fishermen from Rameshwaram who set sail on 10th September, 2014, from Rameshwaram fishing base were apprehended late in the night on 10th September, 2014, near Katchatheevu islet and taken to Thalaimannar. In another incident, one boat from Nagapattinam base with 23 fishermen on board was apprehended in mid-sea on the night of 10th September, 2014, and they were taken to Jaffna. In a third incident one boat with 4 fishermen from Thanjavur District was apprehended in the early hours of 11th September, 2014, and they were taken to Kankesanthurai.

I have already acknowledged the proactive and positive manner in which your Government

has approached the issue. Your officers have acted promptly to secure the release of detained fishermen on several occasions in the recent past.

Despite this, the Sri Lankan side's attitude has hardened and they are adopting harsher and more devious tactics to cause permanent and long-standing economic damage to poor and innocent Indian fishermen. In recent letters I have highlighted some of the disturbing trends that are emerging in Sri Lanka's approach. Even as they have released detained Indian fishermen, they have not released any of the 64 boats that have been impounded since 1st June, 2014. They have also started a practice of detaining fishermen and boats that are in distress or engaged in the rescue of distressed boats.

These trends have to be arrested and reversed to protect the livelihood of the poor and innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu who are engaged in their traditional occupation and fish in their traditional waters. **This is possible only if a firm, clear, unequivocal and unambiguous message is sent out by the Government of**

India to the Sri Lankan side that these hostile acts against Indian fishermen would not be tolerated and should cease forthwith. Such a message needs to be delivered to those at the highest level on the Sri Lankan side as the impulse for such a cruel and ruthless strategy against Tamil Nadu fishermen appears to flow from the very top. This is apparent from an interview given to an Indian newspaper by the Sri Lankan President and reported today (11.09.2014) in which he is quoted as saying that the impounded fishing boats from Tamil Nadu would not be released.

I also urge you to urgently take up implementation of the longer term measures to find a permanent solution to the issue. In the Memorandum that I presented to you on 3rd June, 2014, I had outlined some of the measures required for a permanent solution to the problem.

The first and foremost is addressing the issue of the status of Katchatheevu. This is clearly central to the problem as the most recent incident has also occurred close to this islet. I have already indicated to you that Katchatheevu was always a part of Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu. Indian fishermen have enjoyed traditional fishing rights in and around the islet. By the Agreements entered into in 1974 and 1976, Katchatheevu was unconstitutionally and wrongfully ceded to Sri Lanka and **the fishermen of Tamil Nadu have been obstructed from exercising their fishing rights in their traditional fishing areas ever since then.**

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has passed resolutions, right from 1991, seeking the restoration of Katchatheevu Island and the sea

area adjacent to it to India. I have personally filed a Writ Petition (W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008) in this regard in the Supreme Court of India in 2008 and the Government of Tamil Nadu has also impleaded itself in 2011 on the grounds that the ceding of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka without a Constitutional amendment is unlawful and not valid. Hence, I once again strongly urge you to take active steps to abrogate the 1974 and 1976 agreements and retrieve Katchatheevu and restore the traditional fishing rights of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

Another set of permanent measures relate to diversifying the fishing based livelihood of the fishermen in Tamil Nadu. We have already taken some measures including a 50 per cent subsidy scheme to procure new tuna long liners which are ocean going vessels. This is a major endeavour and requires much larger financial and technical support from the Government of India, which is yet to be agreed to. You would recall that I had already requested a Comprehensive Special Package for Diversification of Fisheries at a cost of Rs.1,520 crore and a recurring grant of Rs.10 crore per annum for maintenance dredging as part of the Memorandum presented to you on 3rd June, 2014. This Package includes a provision of Rs. 975 crore to procure new Deep Sea Tuna Long Liners; assistance for a Mid Sea Fish Processing Park, at an approximate cost of Rs.80 crore; a grant of Rs.420 crore for the creation of infrastructural facilities for Deep Sea Fishing in Mookaiyur and Rameswaram Fishing Harbours in Ramanathapuram District, and Ennore Fishing Harbour in Tiruvallur District; and an annual grant of Rs.10 crore for dredging of fishing harbours and bar mouths. In addition, the impractical eligibility criteria

of the boat owners to be in the BPL category and the unrealistic monthly ceiling of 500 litres under the scheme for Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on High Speed Diesel (HSD) for Mechanized Boats should be reviewed and revised. The present annual allocation for the scheme for Motorisation of Traditional Crafts should be raised from the present level of Rs.3 crore to at least Rs.9 crore per year so that, in a period of five years, all the remaining 32,000 traditional craft can be motorized. A further subsidy of Rs.100 crore to convert to gill nets which will enable introduction of sustainable fishing practices in the Palk Bay should also be provided.

Hence, I strongly urge you to direct the concerned Ministries in the Government of India to urgently take up all elements of the strategy to resolve the vexatious fishermen issue with Sri Lanka. **Strong, clear and unambiguous communication to the highest levels of the Sri Lankan Government are needed so that they reverse their harsh and**

cruel tactics in dealing with poor Indian fishermen. The Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Working Groups need to be made a useful mechanism to address such issues and the stonewalling attitude of the Sri Lankan side seen in the recent meeting of the Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Committee on Fisheries held on 29th August, 2014, at New Delhi has to cease. Early action on the permanent solution for the Katchatheevu problem and long term diversification measures must be initiated.

I am sure that, given the emphasis you are placing on resolving issues in the neighbourhood of the country, the plight of Tamil Nadu fishermen will receive the much needed priority attention that it deserves and the Government of India will take necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of our fishermen and secure the immediate release of the detained 78 fishermen and 72 boats. The permanent and long-term measures cannot be placed on the back-burner any longer and must also be actively pursued.” ■

World Food Day - 16th October

World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16 October in honor of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The day is celebrated widely by many other organisations concerned with food security.

This year the theme for World Food Day is ‘Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition’. The day is also about raising awareness and calling for changes to our agriculture and food supply systems.

It is not just about donating food to the world’s hungry and undernourished peoples. It is about doing something to help them help themselves. “If I was hungry and someone gave me a plough to farm my land I would be far more grateful than if they gave me a sack of potatoes. If I had a plough I could be self-sufficient and produce my own food”. This is what the day is trying to encourage ■



'Hindi order does not bind Tamil Nadu Universities'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 18.09.2014 (English Translation)

Thiru. T.K.S. Elangovan of DMK, Thiru. Vaiko, General Secretary of MDMK and Dr. Ramadoss, PMK leader have accused the Central Government of imposing Hindi by citing a circular issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in Hindi and have demanded the withdrawal of the circular. The Anna and Alagappa Universities alone received this circular on 16.09.2014.

A reading of the circular reveals that the UGC sought from universities, details of the steps taken by them in respect of the minutes of the 30th meeting of the Kendriya Hindi Samiti, implementing agency of the Parliament's

Committee on Official Languages. The meeting was held on 28.07.2011 under the chairmanship of the then Prime Minister of India. As per the minutes, the Samiti sought the introduction of Hindi as a prime course of study along with English in Degree courses and wanted Hindi to be made compulsory for students of Law and Commerce Degrees as has been done for English.

The 28.07.2011 meeting noted that the option given to students in the university-affiliated colleges in Gujarat to study either in English or Hindi would not endow them with the necessary translation skills to work in Central Government offices. It wanted the UGC

to ensure that students in Gujarat studied both English and Hindi. It also took a decision that Hindi, like English should be made compulsory for students of Law and Commerce degrees courses as advised by the UGC.

From this, it is clear that the basic reason for the imposition of Hindi is the decision of the Samiti at its meeting held on 28.07.2011. The Congress Coalition Government was in power at the Centre at that time. DMK was a coalition partner in that Government. When the earlier Central Government took such a decision, the DMK President Thiru. Karunanidhi was silent. Now, he has shown token opposition through Thiru. Elangovan. He was silent, then, as he was afraid that any remark about Hindi would hinder Kanimozhi's release on bail. Today, if he opposes it, it only shows the double standards of the DMK. It also exposes how Thiru. Karunanidhi had pledged "Tamil" for the sake of Kanimozhi.

As for AIADMK, it is firm that Hindi should not be imposed on non-Hindi speaking people and on defeating any steps taken towards any such imposition.

The 1963 Official Languages Act is categorical that Hindi should not be imposed on non-Hindi States. Section 3 of this Act clearly states that communication between the Centre and the States that don't have Hindi as official language should be in English.

As per the Official Languages Rules (Central Government office use) framed under

this Act in 1976, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab States and the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli have been classified as "Zone B", and Tamil Nadu and some other States as "Zone C". Ordinarily, communication between the Centre and "Zone B" States and Union Territories, it has been mentioned, should be in Hindi and if it is in English, a Hindi translation should accompany such a communication. But with States coming under "Zone C", it is mentioned, exchange of letters should only be in English.

Hence, the UGC circular does not apply to Universities in Tamil Nadu.

At a time when I am pressing the Centre to declare Tamil as an union official language and as the court language in Madras High Court, it is not only incompatible but against law for the UGC to ask Universities in Tamil Nadu to introduce Hindi as a prime course of study along with English and make Hindi a compulsory subject as in the case of English for the Law and Commerce courses.

I have directed the Chief Secretary to Government to advise the Universities under Government control to inform the UGC that the Kendriya Hindi Samiti's decisions taken at its meeting on 28.07.2011 will not bind them and that universities in Tamil Nadu will continue to have Tamil/other languages as Part I, English as Part II and concerned subject as Part III course of study. ●

'Old crop insurance scheme to stay for 2014'

**Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 20.09.2014 (English Translation)**

My Government has been taking effective steps to increase agricultural production and improve farmers' standard of living through several schemes of assistance like issuing crop loans and supplying seeds and fertilizers at subsidized rates as also agricultural implements.

Crop insurance is a scheme that protects the livelihood of farmers who largely depend on rain for their cultivation. A crop insurance scheme in the name of National Agro-Insurance Scheme was implemented in Tamil Nadu to save farmers when natural calamities struck and destroyed their crops.

As per this scheme, the premium to be paid ranged between 2 and 3.5 per cent of the insurance cover according to the crop raised and the season. The premium was shared equally by the Tamil Nadu Government and the farmers. In the event of payment of compensation for crop loss, the insurance companies settled the amount by themselves if it was within the premium amount collected. In the case of higher payments, the excess amount was to be shared equally by the Central and State Governments and the compensation disbursed through the

insurance company. Though this scheme could not be considered as a full-fledged insurance scheme, it served as a useful scheme to farmers with Central and State Government participation.

However, this scheme was abruptly scrapped by the earlier Central coalition Government in November 2013 without consulting the State Governments. In its place a National Crop Insurance Scheme was introduced. The new scheme has two components – the amended National Agro-Insurance Scheme and weather based crop insurance scheme. Under the amended National Agro-Insurance Scheme, the insurance cover and the premium are determined on the basis of crop damage sustained in earlier years. For example, the insurance cover for samba paddy crop in Tiruvarur district is fixed at Rs.6,440/- per hectare. The premium for this cover is Rs. 3,349/-. The share of Central and State Governments is Rs. 1,256/- each. Farmers have to pay the balance amount of Rs. 837/-. The insurance company will pay the compensation in full in the event of crop loss. The earlier Central Coalition Government

introduced such a useless insurance scheme just to reduce its share of the amount to be paid in times of crop loss.

I realized that this scheme has been designed on the principle of 'lower compensation; higher (premium) fee'. I immediately wrote a letter to the then Prime Minister on 05.01.2014 informing him that the new scheme would impose additional burden on the farmers, already suffering from natural calamities; that it would severely affect the agricultural industry and that it was doubtful that the farmers would come forward to insure under the new scheme. I suggested that the Centre and the State, instead, could equally share the premium if it exceeded 2 per cent, without imposing the burden on the farmers. But the earlier Central Government rejected this proposal.

Representatives of Tamil Nadu farmers made a request to me that the earlier National agro-insurance scheme could be implemented instead of the new insurance scheme that had been designed on the basis of 'lower compensation; higher fee'.

My Government had again sent a proposal to the Central Government in this regard. The Central Government has agreed to execute the old crop insurance scheme for the current year alone.

Hence, I am happy to announce that my Government has decided to implement the old National agro-insurance scheme instead of the new National crop insurance scheme for the paddy crop raised in the Samba, Thaladi and Pishanam seasons in 2014 and to other crops raised in the Rabi season. ●

International Girl Child Day - October 11

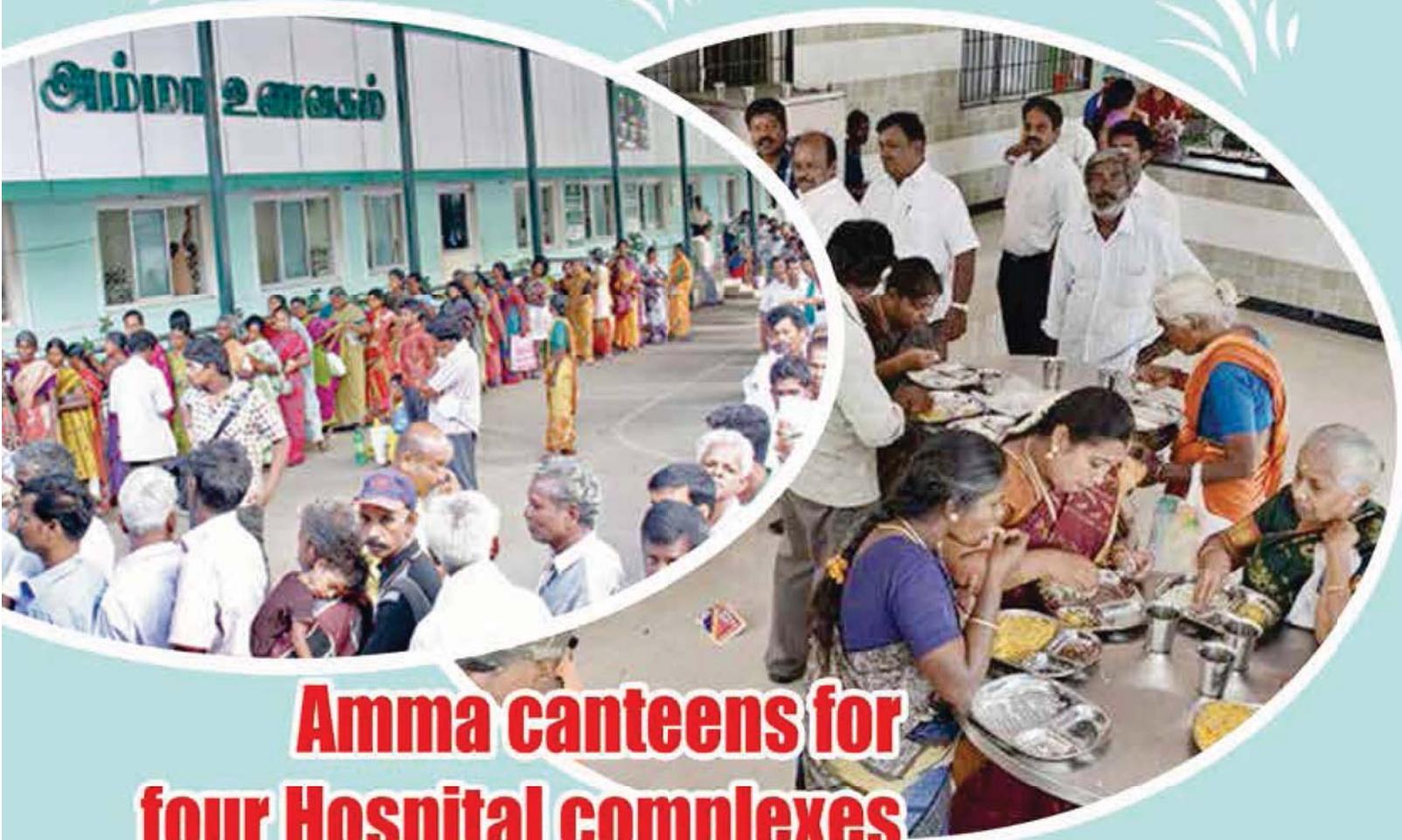
Celebrating the Girl Child Day



'International Day of the Girl Child' is an international observance day declared by the United Nations. October 11, 2011, was the first Day of the Girl Child.

The observation supports more opportunities for girls and increases awareness of gender inequality faced by girls all over the world. This inequality includes areas such as right to education and access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, and protection from discrimination, violence and child marriage.

This year, the theme is "Empowering adolescent girls: Ending the cycle of violence". ●



Amma canteens for four Hospital complexes in Chennai

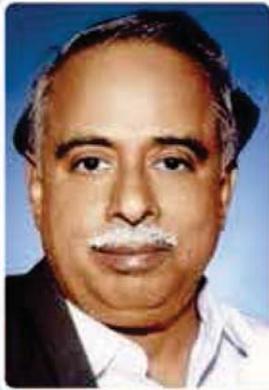
The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu declared open on 22.09.2014, the newly set up Amma canteen at the Government Kasturba Gandhi Hospital for Women and Children at Triplicane, Chennai by lighting a kuthuvilakku.

The budget restaurant is run by the Corporation of Chennai.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, also declared open at the function three more Amma canteens, one each at the Royapettah Government

Hospital, Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, and Government R.S.R.M Maternity Hospital Complexes, Chennai.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister tasted the items served to confirm their quality and advised the women self-help group engaged in work there to prepare the items neatly and hygienically as they were served to out-patients coming to the hospital and to attendants of the in-patients.



Chief Minister's medal for 100 Police personnel

Hon'ble Chief Minister awards Anna Medals to 127 Officers/Men in Police & other Uniformed Services on the occasion of Dr. Anna's Birthday

In recognition of the Outstanding Devotion to Duty of the Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Prison Service, Home Guards and Finger Print Science personnel in the State and also to encourage them, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Medals are announced and awarded on the occasion of Dr. Anna's Birthday on 15th September, every year.

Accordingly, this year 100 Police personnel from the rank of Additional Superintendent of Police to the rank of Head Constables, 10 Fire and Rescue Service personnel from the rank of Deputy Director to Fireman, 10 Prison Service personnel from the rank of Deputy Jailor to Grade I Warder, 5 Home Guards personnel in

the ranks of Company Commander, Platoon Commander and Deputy Area Commander and also in Police Finger Print Science two Deputy Superintendents of Police for their excellence service, totally 127 personnel have been awarded the "Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Anna Medal" in recognition of their outstanding devotion to duty. The recipients of the above Medal are eligible for a bronze medal and a lumpsum grant according to the ranks as specified in the Medal Rules.

These Medals will be presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to the recipients in a Ceremonial Medal Parade to be held in due course. ■



The Tamil Nadu Government dispatched electrical equipment to Andhra Pradesh immediately on 13.10.2014 for rectification of the electrical installations affected by the recent 'Hudhud' cyclone in that State.



College buildings built at Rs. 26.42 crore opened

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 23.09.2014 the commencement of classes in the newly established Government Arts and Science Co-ed College at Manalmedu in Nagapattinam District. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open college buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 26.42 crore, laid the foundation for a variety of buildings to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 63.79 crore and inaugurated skill development facilities connected with technical education costing Rs. 1.19 crore.

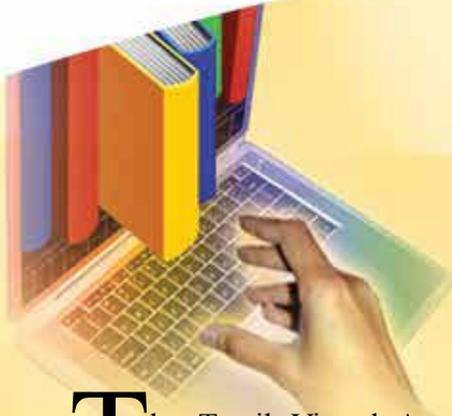
The buildings declared open are: a constituent arts and science college of Periyar University at Thithioppanahalli in Dharmapuri District, a management educational institution in the same university, an educational science and administration and a girls' hostel at Annai Theresa Women's University, Kodaikanal; class rooms at the Bharathidasan Technology Training Complex of Anna University, Tiruchirappalli, a women's hostel at the Coimbatore Government College of Technology, a computer centre and a rain harvesting structure at Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, a Women's Hostel at

Government College of Educational Science, Orathanad, Thanjavur District, a students' hostel at the Kumbakonam Government Arts College, a Women's Hostel at the Coimbatore Government Arts College and a Women's Hostel at the Periyar Government Arts College, Cuddalore.

The buildings for which foundation stones were laid are: 10 classes and a seminar hall at the Kumbakonam Government Women's College, Thanjavur District, Administrative and Educational Science block at the Government Arts and Science College at Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi District, 8 class rooms in H.H. the Rajah's Government Arts College, Pudukkottai, an Arts and Science College at Harur, Dharmapuri District – a constituent College of Periyar University, an Arts and Science College at Thirumangalam, Madurai District – a constituent College of Madurai Kamarajar University, an Arts and Science College at Kanniyakumari – a constituent College of Manonmaniyam Sundaranar University, an Arts and Science College at Aranthangi, Pudukkottai District – a constituent College of Bharathidasan University, an Arts

and Science College at Thiruvannainallur, Villupuram District – a constituent College of Tiruvalluvar University, an Arts and Science College at Nemmeli, Kancheepuram District – a constituent College of Madras University, an Arts and Science College at Vedasandur, Madurai District- a constituent College of Madurai Kamarajar University, a Geology complex building at the Coimbatore Government College of Technology, and a students' hostel at the Government Polytechnic College, Tiruchirapalli.

The skill development facilities inaugurated are: video conferencing centres in 20 polytechnics and 10 Engineering Colleges, 'E-yantra' robotics labs in 10 Government/aided Polytechnics and 6 Government Engineering Colleges, a consolidated beneficiary programme for job seekers, prepared by the British Council with animated pictures in 350 Engineering Colleges and bi-lingual textbooks and video-audio discs suited to local conditions in 140 polytechnics.



Improved facilities at Tamil Virtual Academy

The Tamil Virtual Academy has set up a lab for Tamil computing, an auditorium, and an incubation centre for Tamil software, all at a cost of Rs. 82 lakh. These facilities, as well as a studio with a light and sound control room at its premises were opened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the Secretariat on 22.09.2014.

The Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister wants to spread Tamil language through Internet by utilizing the advancements in Information Technology. For this, it wants to develop a Tamil software through the Information Technology Department. Towards

this end, and also to take up fundamental research on Tamil language, it has been implementing several schemes.

The lab for Tamil computing, located on 1,085 sq.ft has 24 modular work stations with A/c facility, computing equipment and Internet facility (Rs. 20 lakh); the Incubation Centre on 1,682 sq.ft has a library, 14 A/c rooms including a service room, modern computing equipment with Internet facility (Rs. 45 lakh); and the auditorium has a seating capacity of 150 (Rs. 17 lakh) for conducting educational meetings, regular monthly meetings and education programmes connected with Tamil.

Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrated with feeling

The Tamil Nadu Government celebrated the 146th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Chennai on 02.10.2014. Gandhiji's statue on the Marina and his portrait placed below were tastefully decorated with flowers.

Around 10 a.m., His Excellency the Governor, Dr.K.Rosaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Ministers offered floral tributes to the portrait.

Earlier, between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., spinning was performed and prayers were offered near Gandhiji's Statue.

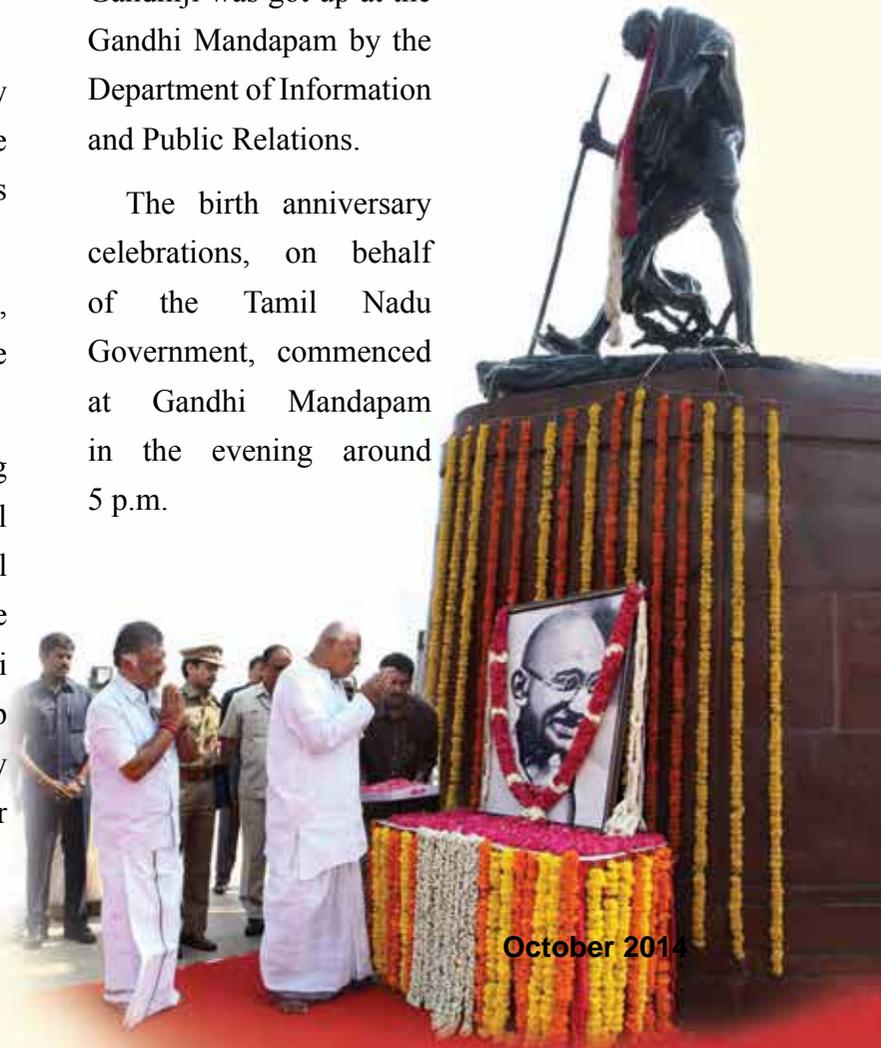
At 8.15 a.m. a bicycle rally stressing untouchability eradication, national integration, world peace and communal harmony, took off from Gandhiji's statue point on the Marina and reached Gandhi Mandapam at Guindy. The rally made up of thousands of school children in the city was flagged off by the Hon'ble Minister

for Information and Special Programmes Implementation, Thiru. K. T. Rajenthbrabhalaji.

Spinning was performed at Guindy Gandhi Mandapam also between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

A 3-day photo exhibition on the life of Gandhiji was got up at the Gandhi Mandapam by the Department of Information and Public Relations.

The birth anniversary celebrations, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, commenced at Gandhi Mandapam in the evening around 5 p.m.





His Excellency the Governor, Dr. K. Rosaiah delivered the Presidential Address and distributed prizes to winners in the competitions held earlier for school and college students. Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Thiru. P. Palaniappan and Hon'ble Ministers for Information and Special Programmes Implementation, Thiru. K.T. Rajenthirabhalaji spoke. Dr. M. Rajaram, Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department, earlier welcomed the gathering. Thiru.S.P.Ezhilazhagan,

Additional Director, Information and Public Relations Department proposed a vote of thanks. Cultural events stressing untouchability eradication, national integration, world peace and communal harmony were performed by students. A large number of people turned up at the celebrations and paid their respects to the Father of Nation.

A film on Gandhiji was screened in the evening on all three days of the celebrations from 02.10.2014 to 04.10.2014. ■





**Chief Minister appeals for calm,
support for growth goals**

**Opposition charge of
breakdown of law
and order pooh-pooed**

**Statement of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on
07.10.2014 (English Translation)**

Though Tamil Nadu is well set on the path of growth in tune with Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's dictum of 'Peace, Prosperity and Progress', some persons who are day-dreaming to make political gains by casting a slur on the Tamil Nadu Government, are mischievously propagating the untruth in the past few days that law and order in the State has deteriorated.

A review meeting was held on 07.10.2014 at the Secretariat on the law and order situation and on development schemes. Hon'ble Ministers for Electricity, Housing, Highways, Chief Secretary to Government, Advisor to Tamil Nadu Government, Director General of Police and other Officials participated.

The meeting was informed that law and order in the State was on an even keel and under control, normalcy was not disturbed and no untoward incidents had taken place.

It is unacceptable to link the Tamil Nadu Government with the voluntary, emotional

and peaceful agitations conducted by people and some organizations out of their love and affection for Hon'ble Amma.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was firm that development schemes should reach the people speedily and demonstrated it through implementation in the last 40 months. In the path shown by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the development schemes are reaching the people; the schemes are being executed speedily. In sum, Tamil Nadu shines as a haven of Peace.

Still, in the circumstances that prevail now, I appeal to the people as well as organizations and associations to involve themselves completely in the means of realising the targets of Hon'ble Amma's Vision 2023 Plan that aims to take Tamil Nadu in the path of growth and of the 2014 Industrial Policy and not get trapped in the opposition parties' web of delusion.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma will not want any action that will hinder the general public. Hence, I request that no one engages in any action like hartal and strike. This alone will demonstrate our love, support, unflinching loyalty and affection to Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

VALIANT MARUDHU BROTHERS



Remembrance Day of Marudhu Pandiyar - 24th October

The Marudhu brothers were two warrior chieftains, Periya Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu, who ruled Sivagangai towards the end of the 18th century.

Also called Marudhu Pandiyar, the valiant brothers raised the banner of revolt against British (company) rule on June 10, 1801, more than half a century before the 'First War of Independence' (1857).

Men of great honour and fighting spirit, the Marudhu brothers were patrons of art and literature. They gave asylum to Kattabomman's brother Oomathurai and invited the wrath of the British. They were ardent devotees of Siva and gave lavishly to Siva temples.

Many long ballads have been written on their life and exploits, Sivagangai Ammanai and Sivagangai Kummi being notable works. The Tamil Nadu Government organized a function in October 2004 to release a commemorative stamp on them. Kannadasan, the great Tamil lyricist, made a film titled 'Sivagangai Seemai' (1959) on their life. ■

Subramania Siva Birth Day - 4th October

Many persons who lived during the time of Bharathiar, did great service to the Tamil language. Important among them is Subramania Siva. Popularly known as Siva and Sivam among the patriots during his days, he had an unlimited love and respect for his mother tongue, Tamil. He was of the view that, ideologically, the love of Tamil was not in any way opposed to love of one's country. In his magazine, (Gnanabanu, November 1915) he lays emphasis on the love of Tamil. "Remember that the life of a society lies in its language. If the Tamil tongue is destroyed, the Tamil people themselves will lose their name and fame. Let your tongue speak only Tamil. Let your heart long for only Tamil. Tamil will mercifully protect you from any danger."

Between 1908 and 1922, Siva was condemned to imprisonment four times and suffered a lot. During all those times, he wrote a number of books in simple and sweet Tamil. Stories like 'Netaji' and 'Veera Ratnabaji Prabhu' and plays like 'Vira Sivaji' and 'Senji Desingu' inspire patriotic fervour. He has also translated into Tamil some works of Swami Vivekananda. Though he did not write any book explaining the greatness and beauty of the Tamil language, he did his best to do away with the dearth of books in the religious field in Tamil. ■

A GREAT PATRIOT AND A GREAT LOVER OF TAMIL



Centre urged to take positive steps on detained fishermen



D.O. letter dated 30.09.2014 addressed by
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“Due to the untiring and relentless efforts of our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, 76 Indian fishermen languishing in Sri Lankan jails were released by the Sri Lankan court today (30.09.2014). Out of these 76 fishermen, 72 are from Tamil Nadu. No boats have been released. I appreciate the efforts of the Government of India under your leadership in securing the release of fishermen who were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy but unfortunately 71 fishing boats of these fishermen have not yet been released by the Sri Lankan Government and are falling apart from disuse there itself. The impending advent of the North East Monsoon

mandates their immediate release to prevent further damage and deterioration.

I would like to bring to your notice yet another incident, wherein 4 fishermen in a mechanised fishing boat who set sail for fishing from Rameswaram fishing base of Ramanathapuram District on 27.09.2014, were drifted due to a technical snag and were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 28.09.2014 and taken to Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka. The 4 fishermen were produced before the Magistrate's Court, Kayts on 29.09.2014 and have been remanded till 10.10.2014.

In another incident on 29.09.2014, 4 fishing boats from Kottaipattinam fishing base, Pudukkottai District with 16 fishermen ventured into the sea for fishing. While fishing, they were apprehended in the early hours of 30.09.2014 by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken to Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka.

The traditional rights of fishermen from Tamil Nadu to fish in the waters of Palk Bay is continuously being infringed upon by the Sri Lankan Navy. The IMBL itself is a matter that is sub judice in the Supreme Court of India wherein the Government of Tamil Nadu and our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in her personal capacity as General Secretary of AIADMK has challenged the unconstitutional

ceding away of Katchatheevu by the 1974 and 1976 Agreements.

The Government of Tamil Nadu strongly reiterates the need to restore the traditional rights of our fishermen by annulling the ill-advised Indo-Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976 urgently. I am confident that your Government will find suitable mechanisms to resolve this long pending fishing dispute between India and Sri Lanka by retrieving Katchatheevu and restoring the traditional fishing rights of our fishermen.

I request the Government of India to take positive and concrete steps to secure the immediate release of 20 fishermen and 75 boats still in custody of the Sri Lankan authorities.” ■

Massive search for missing fishermen

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.O.Panneerselvam has directed officials to take steps on a war-footing to trace 5 fishermen who went missing while fishing.

Thiruvallur Thangaraj, Ramalingam, Dharmabalan, Jagan and Vishnu of Tharangambadi and Vaanavanmaadevi villages, Nagapattinam District set sail on 03.10.2014

for deep sea fishing in the fishing boat with the registration number IND-TN-06-MO- 1202. They should have returned on 07.10.2014 but did not.

The Fisheries Department, Tamil Nadu coastal security group and Indian Coast Guard have launched air and sea search operations. ■



Urgent steps sought for release of 24 fishermen by Sri Lanka

D.O. letter dated 08.10.2014 addressed by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“This is to bring to your notice, one more incident, wherein 4 fishermen in a fishing boat bearing registration No. IND-TN-10-MM-468 who set sail from Rameswaram fishing base of Ramanathapuram District on 06.10.2014 have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. The boat drifted to Delft Island, Sri Lanka and was grounded due to an engine snag following which the 4 fishermen were arrested and handed over to Delft Island Police, by the Sri Lankan Navy.

This new trend of apprehending fishermen in boats that develop mechanical snag by the Sri Lankan Navy is a matter of concern for my Government. An immediate intervention at the highest level is sought to arrest this new trend.

I would like to remind you that 20 fishermen and 75 boats of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu continue to be in Sri Lankan custody. The Sri Lankan strategy of not releasing the boats of our fishermen is causing great frustration amongst the fishermen of Tamil Nadu. Without

their livelihood base, these fishermen are in a state of despondency. I urge you to take this up with the highest authorities of the Sri Lankan Government and ensure the immediate release of the precariously berthed boats as the impending monsoon poses grave danger to them.

Nearly 10 lakh fisherfolk in Tamil Nadu depend on marine fishing as their only source of livelihood. As our leader, Puratchi Thalaim Amma had indicated earlier, the Government of Tamil Nadu under her leadership had taken a number of steps towards diversification of their avocation to minimize the pressure on the marine ecosystem. A two pronged approach is necessary at this juncture to solve this chronic problem. One is the financial package that our Leader had requested from the Central Government, which would go a long way in improving the socio economic status of the fishermen. The second is the abrogation of the



1974 and 1976 agreements and restoration of the traditional and historical fishing grounds of the Palk Bay and Katchatheevu which has been challenged on extremely valid and legal grounds by our Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in her personal capacity and also by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Denying our fishermen, the right to peaceful fishing in their traditional waters of the Palk Bay to which they have a historical claim is causing considerable angst amongst

the fisherfolk of Tamil Nadu. I request your personal intervention to immediately resolve this long pending issue by retrieving Katchatheevu and restoring the traditional fishing rights of our fishermen as has been demanded by our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

May I request you to instruct the concerned Ministry to take urgent steps to secure the immediate release of 24 fishermen who are languishing in Sri Lankan jails and the release of 75 boats in Sri Lankan custody?" ■



Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries and Labour Welfare Thiru.P.Mohan inaugurated on 10.10.2014, a special exhibition 'Deepangal Thiruvizha' and sales at Poompuhar, the sales outlet of the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation on Anna Salai, Chennai.

United Kingdom team calls on Chief Minister



Rt.Hon'ble Mr.Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, United King dom, called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 15.10.2014. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills was accompanied by Ms.Emily Hamblin, Senior Private Secretary, Mr.Bharat Suresh Joshi, British Deputy High Commissioner and Ms. Mei-Kwei Barker, Director, British Council Division, Chennai.

The Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu welcomed the Rt.Hon'ble Mr. Vince Cable and recalled the long years of association between Tamil Nadu and the United Kingdom. He indicated that the areas of skill development and innovation were accorded the highest priority in the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 Document.

The Rt.Hon'ble Mr.Vince Cable highlighted that the investment of United Kingdom in India was higher than United Kingdom's investment in United States of America and Japan combined. He also mentioned that the United Kingdom companies had created one lakh jobs in Tamil Nadu, including 30,000 jobs in Chennai city. In the course of discussions, greater investment from United Kingdom companies in the manufacturing sector in Tamil Nadu was discussed.

The success of the recent initiative of sending five teachers and 25 students from Government Arts and Science Colleges to Universities in

the United Kingdom was discussed. Further intensifying the engagement in the area of teacher training was discussed.

Developing a Financial Services Centre in Chennai, greater technical co-operation and exchange of information and best practices in the area of Public Private Partnerships for infrastructure, development of non-conventional energy sources and medical tourism were also discussed. U.K. was also invited to participate in the Global Investors Meet proposed to be held in Chennai in 2015.

The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. P. Thangamani, Chief Secretary Thiru. Mohan Verghese Chunkath, I.A.S., Adviser to Government Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, I.A.S., (Rtd.) Principal Secretary, Industries Thiru. C.V. Sankar, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Finance Thiru. K. Shanmugam, I.A.S., and Principal Secretary, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Thiru. S.Krishnan, I.A.S. ■



SPECIAL BUS SERVICES FOR DEEPAVALI



**Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 11.10.2014 (English Translation)**

The Tamil Nadu State Government Transport Undertakings will operate a total of 9,088 special bus services between 17.10.2014 and 21.10.2014 for the Deepavali festival.

From Chennai Koyambedu Mofussil Bus Terminus 4,753 special bus services will be operated to District Headquarters and important towns – 501 services on 17.10.2014, 501 on 18.10.2014, 699 on 19.10.2014, 1,400 on 20.10.2014 and 1,652 on 21.10.2014.

From places other than Chennai 4,335 special services will be operated – 499 on 17.10.2014, 601 on 18.10.2014, 700 on 19.10.2014, 1,234 on 20.10.2014 and 1,301 on 21.10.2014.

A similar number of services will be operated between 22.10.2014 and 26.10.2014 to enable people to return to their places after the Deepavali festival.

Besides, the Chennai Metropolitan Transport Corporation will operate 200 special buses on the above mentioned dates.

As in previous years, online reservation facility will be provided for the special buses also for travel beyond 300 kms. Twenty-five special reservation counters have been opened at the Koyambedu bus Terminus.

To curb the fleecing of passengers by omni bus operators during the festival season, arrangements have been made for the public to lodge complaints with the State Express Transport Corporation office at Koyambedu.

The decision to operate the special bus services for Deepavali as in previous years was taken at a review meeting held at the Secretariat on 11.10.2014, on a direction from the Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu presided. ■

Tamil Nadu extends helping hand to Hudhud-hit Visakhapatnam

**Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 13.10.2014 (English Translation)**

It is no exaggeration to say that Tamil Nadu shows the way to the rest of the States in extending assistance – financial, rescue works and supply of goods – to States affected by natural calamities.

Recently, when Jammu and Kashmir State was severely affected by unprecedented floods and landslides, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, without waiting for any formal request, extended a relief assistance of Rs.5 crore for the people of that State.

Yesterday, when the 'Hudhud' storm crossed the coast near Visakhapatnam, in Andhra Pradesh, thousands of trees as well as power and telephone poles were uprooted by the heavy gales and normalcy was greatly affected.

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Thiru. N. Chandrababu Naidu contacted me over phone and requested for electrical equipment.

A review meeting was held on 13.10.2014 to consider the ways in which the Tamil Nadu Government that follows in the footsteps of the generous and ready-to-help Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, can help the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Hon'ble Ministers for Electricity, Housing, Highways, Municipal Administration, Health and top officials participated.

After detailed discussions, it was decided to extend the following assistance:-

1. As an expression of solidarity with the people of Andhra Pradesh affected by the Hudhud cyclone and the Andhra Pradesh Government and as a goodwill gesture, a financial assistance of Rs. 5 crore will be provided to Andhra Pradesh Government from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

2. For streamlining the electrical structures in Andhra Pradesh, 100 transformers, 5,000 electrical posts, 10,000 insulators and other electrical equipment will be despatched immediately.

3. A rescue team from the Highways Department consisting of an engineer, road inspectors and mazdoors will be sent in the first phase to rectify the damages caused by the cyclone. This team will proceed to Andhra Pradesh with electrically operated saws, generator and other ancillary equipment and engage in removing the fallen trees.

These measures of the Tamil Nadu Government that functions in the footsteps of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, will help in restoring normally in the affected areas speedily. ■



Chief Minister applauds Nobel winner Satyarthi

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 13.10.2014 (English Translation)

It is a matter of great joy that the Nobel Prize for Peace for 2014 has gone to Kailash Satyarthi of India for his fight, over 30 years, against child oppression and for children's right to education. This day is the victory day for children, the future pillars of the nation.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma wishes to see children, the future pillars, get the necessary education so that the country becomes a super-power, its fame reaches all corners of the world, and its economy thrives. Hence free education is implemented in the State and all accessories to facilitate the learning like laptops, bi-cycles, books, notebooks, school uniforms, school bags and foot wears are given to all school children at no cost through Hon'ble Amma's efforts for the establishment of a knowledge society.

Thiru. Kailash Satyarthi gave up his job and dedicated his entire life to children.

Starting his public life as general secretary of an organization – Freedom for Bonded Labour – Thiru. Satyarthi started a child protection movement, 'Bachban Bachao Andolan' and retrieved many child labourers. His work is great, laudable, praiseworthy.

Many countries have given high awards in appreciation of Thiru. Satyarthi's work. To top them all, this year's Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to him. This has brought glory to India.

Thiru. Satyarthi toils with the conviction that today's school-going children are tomorrow's leaders and protectors of the country. His work should continue. It should flourish. India should be free of child labour. My heartfelt wishes for the development of such a situation.

I extend my hearty congratulations on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu to the Nobel Prize winner and champion of children's rights, Thiru. Kailash Satyarthi.

Bonus, ex-gratia brighten festive season of PSU employees

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 13.10.2014 (English Translation)

“One who lives by his work deserves respect and praise. Any harm to the worker will affect the well-being of society itself,” said Perarignar Anna. In line with this golden saying, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had extended, by way of encouraging workers, several concessions like pay rise, bonus, ex-gratia and incentives.

In previous years, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma enthused the workers of the Tamil Nadu Government's Public Sector undertakings during the Deepavali Festival with the grant of bonus and ex-gratia payments.

The Tamil Nadu Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has decided to grant bonus and ex-gratia to PSU employees for 2013-2014 as in the previous years.

Accordingly :

(1) Eligible employees in Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporations, Electricity Board, Civil Supplies Corporation, Rubber Corporation, Horticulture Corporation, Tea Estates Corporation, Tamil Nadu Co-operative

Milk producers and District Milk Producers' Co-operative Unions/Federation, and Co-operative and PSU sugar mill will be given 20 per cent bonus – 8.33 per cent bonus and 11.67 per cent ex-gratia;

(2) Eligible workers in the State Warehousing Corporation have already been given a bonus of 8.33 per cent and an ex-gratia of 1.67 percent. Now, an additional ex-gratia of 10 per cent will be given;

(3) Workers in Co-operative societies that have earned profit with surplus funds that can be allocated will be given 20 per cent bonus (8.33 and 11.67 ex-gratia); workers in Apex Co-operative Societies and District Co-operative Societies, not covered by the Bonus Act will be given Rs. 1,500/- and those in Primary Co-operative Societies Rs. 1,200/-. Workers with all eligibility in Co-operative Societies that have not earned profit with allotable surplus fund will be given 10 per cent bonus (8.33 and 1.67 ex-gratia);

(4) 'C' and 'D' workers in Tamil Nadu Housing Board and Chennai Water Supply and

Sewerage Board will be given 10 per cent bonus (8.33 and 1.67 ex-gratia);

(5) 'C' and 'D' workers in Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board will be given 8.33 per cent bonus;

(6) Contract workers in Electricity Board, Rs. 2,000/- and temporary workers in Civil Supplies Corporation Rs. 1,500/-.

(7) 'C' and 'D' workers in the Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation 20 per cent bonus;

(8) 'C' and 'D' workers in the Tamil Nadu Poompuhar Shipping Corporation – 20 per cent bonus;

(9) Totally Rs. 221.75 crore will be distributed as bonus to about 3 lakh workers in Tamil Nadu PSUs.

These measures of Tamil Nadu Government that is administering the State in the footsteps of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma will help the PSU employees to celebrate Deepavali festival with eclat. ■

.....

“I extend my heartfelt greetings to all Muslims who celebrate Bakrid Festival by way of recalling the spirit of sacrifice of prophet Ibrahim. The prophet had dared to sacrifice his own son at the command of God.”

“The purpose of Bakrid celebrations is to remember the sacrifices made by God's Messenger and follow his footsteps”.

“To completely root out unrighteousness, injustice, plotting and hatred that hinder the country's growth and the community's improvement and to make good thoughts and righteousness succeed, countless sacrifices and a sense commitment are required. Let us remember the sacrifices of the Prophet and take a pledge on this Bakrid Day to work with a sense of dedication for humanism to flourish”.

“Let unselfishness, charity, communal harmony and humanism thrive. I once again offer my Bakrid Greetings to all Muslims”.

■



**'Bakrid, a time to recall
spirit of sacrifice'**

Message of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on Bakrid on 05.10.2014
(English Translation)



I & PR officers exhorted to publicise welfare schemes among the public

The Information and Public Relations officers should work with one-pointedness to take the schemes of the Government to the people, Thiru. K.T. Rajenthralhalaji, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Special Programmes Implementation has said.

Speaking at a review meeting of District Information and Public Relations Officers at the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board auditorium on 15.10.2014, the Hon'ble Minister drew a distinction between the work executed by the I & PR Officers and that of other departments. The work of PROs was a noble one, done in the service of the people and in a spirit of sacrifice. People approaching the

Information and Public Relations Officers to know and understand the Government schemes and benefit from them, should be guided properly and helped in an exemplary way.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has formulated and implemented innumerable schemes for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden. The Information and Public Relations Officers should take up publicity works in an effective way to disseminate fully the details of these schemes and the benefits that flow from them.

The PROs should work as a bridge between the Government and people. The good name of the Government depended on the work turned

out by the Information and Public Relations Officers. They should maintain good relations with newspaper offices and journalists. Press releases should be prepared and dispatched immediately after the conclusion of events and functions. Government's achievements and the views of beneficiaries should be turned into 'Success Stories' and cause to be published.

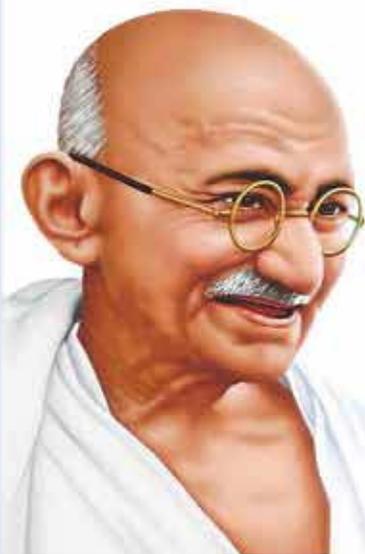
Other points made by the Hon'ble Minister included: photo exhibitions explaining Government's achievements and schemes should be organized at Government functions, important festivals and at events where people gather in large numbers; Memorials in the districts should be maintained properly; video footage explaining Government's achievements should be screened in villages without fail; exhibition of Government newsreels in cinema theatres should be monitored and departmental action should be taken against erring theatre owners; local TV channels should be used to

project Government's schemes, achievements and district news; popular schemes launched by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi like Amma Restaurant, Amma Water, Amma Salt and Amma Pharmacy should be effectively publicised; there should be daily monitoring on whether the films on Government's schemes and achievements are screened without any hindrance in the LED TV placed in District Collectorates.

The Hon'ble Minister reviewed in detail the works undertaken in the 3 months between June 2014 and August 2014, pertaining to the number of press releases issued, tours arranged for journalists, welfare of media persons, their pension, video films, cable TV, inspection of cinema theatres, subscription for Tamil Arasu, Success Stories, small photo exhibitions, memorials, vacancies, departmental and State Accountant-General Audits, Court cases, pending files and vehicles. ■

Gandhiji Birth Day - 2nd October

Golden Rules of Mahatma Gandhiji



- ★ Non-violence and cowardice are contradictory terms. Non-violence is the greatest virtue, cowardice the greatest vice. Non-violence springs from love, cowardice from hate. Non-violence always suffers, cowardice would always inflict suffering. Perfect non-violence is the highest bravery. Non-violent conduct is never demoralising; cowardice always is.
- ★ Woman in the companion of man, gifted with equal mental capacities. She has the right to participate in the minutest details in the activities of man, and she has equal right to liberty of freedom and liberty with him.
- ★ Truth quenches untruth, love quenches anger, self-suffering quenches violence. This eternal rule is a rule not for saints only but for all.
- ★ To forgive is not to forget. The merit lies in loving in spite of the vivid knowledge that the one that must be loved is not a friend. There is no merit in loving an enemy when you forget him for a friend. ■



'Allow working of Naphtha-based fertilizer units'

D.O. letter dated 11.10.2014 addressed by
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“You may recall that based on our respected Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma’s letter to you dated 9th June, 2014, regarding the continuance of subsidy for the two Naphtha based Fertilizer plants located in Tamil Nadu, namely SPIC, Tuticorin and Madras Fertilizers Limited, Manali till such time that gas connectivity is provided to these two plants, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the extension of the subsidy to SPIC, MFL and Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited till 30th September, 2014. I am thankful to you for the action taken.

The extension period has now expired and both SPIC, Tuticorin and Madras Fertilizers Limited, Manali have closed their operations from 01.10.2014, adversely affecting the livelihood of hundreds of workers. I understand that while the two plants have made necessary investments for gas conversion, in the absence of availability of gas and the infrastructure for delivering gas to these two plants, it is impossible for these plants to change over to gas as feedstock. Unfortunately the connectivity is yet to materialize.

I understand that the Department of Fertilizers has allotted mostly imported urea to Tamil Nadu State for this season. The measure to import one million tonnes of urea additionally this year will not achieve the objective of reducing subsidies by closure of Naphtha based plants. Further, the State will also face a loss of revenue by way of VAT paid by SPIC and MFL to the extent of about Rs.220 crore per year. The stoppage of production of these two plants will also have spillover effect on the State’s economy.

I am informed that the cost differential between gas and Naphtha would be practically nil, if the oil marketing companies could supply at Export Parity Prices instead of charging the Import Parity Prices along with their margin. In view of these factors, I strongly urge you to direct the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to allow the functioning of the Naphtha based fertilizer plants with the subsidies continued till such time gas connectivity is provided to these units.” ■

NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr. C. Vijayabaskar made a surprise inspection at the Government General Hospital, Chennai on 08.10.2014.



The Governing Body meeting of Thanjavur Maharaja Sarabhoji 'Saraswathi Mahal' Library was held on 13.10.2014 under the president-ship of the Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru. K. C Veeramani.



A review meeting on developing fishing harbours and fisheries infrastructure facilities was held at the Secretariat on 16.10.2014 with the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Thiru.K.A.Jayapal presiding.



Hon'ble Minister for Forests Thiru.M.S.M. Anandan presided over a consultative meeting with his top officials at the Secretariat on 09.10.2014.

Pat for Squash Team for winning Gold at Incheon



Congratulatory letter dated 09.10.2014, addressed by
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Thiru. Saurav Ghosal,
Thiru. Harinder Pal Singh and Thiru. Kush Kumar, who won Gold Medal
in the Men's Squash Team at the 17th Asian Games, 2014
held at Incheon, South Korea

“I am glad to know that you have won the first ever Gold Medal in Men's Squash Team event at the 17th Asian Games 2014 held at Incheon, South Korea. I convey my heartiest congratulations to you on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu on your splendid achievement.

As you are aware, Our Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had in December, 2011, enhanced the Cash Incentive for the

sportspersons winning Gold Medals at the Asian Games to Rs.50 lakhs. Hence you are now eligible to receive the enhanced Cash Incentive of Rs.50 lakhs.

On behalf of Government of Tamil Nadu, I congratulate you and all those who have contributed towards your achievement and wish that you win many more such laurels for the country and the State in future.” ■

Congrats for Hockey Gold



Congratulatory letter dated 09.10.2014 addressed by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Thiru. Sreejesh Parattu Ravindran, who won Gold Medal in the Indian Men's Hockey Team at the 17th Asian Games, 2014 held at Incheon, South Korea

“I am glad to know that the Indian Men's Hockey Team, of which you were also an important member, has won the Gold Medal at the 17th Asian Games 2014 held at Incheon, South Korea. I convey my heartiest congratulations to you on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu on your splendid achievement.

As you are aware, Our Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had in December, 2011, enhanced the Cash Incentive for the

sportspersons winning Gold Medals at the Asian Games to Rs. 50 lakhs. Hence you are now eligible to receive the enhanced Cash Incentive of Rs.50 lakhs.

On behalf of Government of Tamil Nadu, I congratulate you and all those who have contributed towards your achievement and wish that you win many more such laurels for the country and the State in future.” ■



Appreciation sent to athlete

Congratulatory letter dated 09.10.2014 addressed by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Thiru. Rajiv Arokia, who won Bronze Medal in Men's 400 mts. race at the 17th Asian Games, 2014 held at Incheon, South Korea

“I am glad to know that you have won Bronze Medal in Men's 400 mts race at the 17th Asian Games 2014 held at Incheon, South Korea. I convey my heartiest congratulations to you on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu on your splendid achievement.

As you are aware, Our Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had in December, 2011, enhanced the Cash Incentive for the

sportspersons winning Bronze Medals at the Asian Games to Rs.20 lakhs. Hence you are now eligible to receive the enhanced Cash Incentive of Rs.20 lakhs.

On behalf of Government of Tamil Nadu, I congratulate you and all those who have contributed towards your achievement and wish that you win many more such laurels for the country and the State in future.” ■

Squash team lauded for Silver Medal



17th Asian Games
INCHEON 2014



Congratulatory letter dated 09.10.2014, addressed by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Miss. Dipika Pallikal, Miss. Joshana Chinappa, Miss. Anaka Alankamony and Miss. Aparajitha Balamurukan, who won Silver Medal in the Indian Women's Squash Team at the 17th Asian Games, 2014 held at Incheon, South Korea

“I am glad to know that the Indian Women's Squash Team comprising four players from Tamil Nadu including yourself, has won Silver Medal at the 17th Asian Games 2014 held at Incheon, South Korea. I convey my heartiest congratulations to you on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu on your splendid achievement.

As you are aware, Our Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had in December, 2011, enhanced the Cash Incentive for the

sportspersons winning Silver Medals at the Asian Games to Rs. 30 lakhs. Hence you are now eligible to receive the enhanced Cash Incentive of Rs.30 lakhs.

On behalf of Government of Tamil Nadu, I congratulate you and all those who have contributed towards your achievement and wish that you win many more such laurels for the country and the State in future.” ●



Sailing team greeted for winning Bronze

Congratulatory letters dated 09.10.2014, addressed by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Miss. Aishwarya Nedunchezian and Miss. Varsha Gautham, who won Bronze Medal for the Indian Women's Sailing Team at the 17th Asian Games, 2014 held at Incheon, South Korea

“I am glad to know that the Indian Women's Sailing Team comprising two players from Tamil Nadu including yourself, has won the first ever medal in sailing-a Bronze Medal in 29er – Two Person Dinghy event at the 17th Asian Games 2014 held at Incheon, South Korea. I convey my heartiest congratulations to you on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu on your splendid achievement.

As you are aware, Our Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had in December, 2011, enhanced the Cash Incentive for the sportspersons winning Bronze Medals at the Asian Games to Rs.20 lakhs. Hence you are now eligible to receive the enhanced Cash Incentive of Rs.20 lakhs.

On behalf of Government of Tamil Nadu, I congratulate you and all those who have contributed towards your achievement and wish that you win many more such laurels for the country and the State in future.” ●



STEPS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES TO FP SHOPS



A consultative meeting was held at the Secretariat on 09.10.2014 with the Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru. R. Kamaraj presiding.

The Hon'ble Minister directed that all essential commodities should reach the fair price shops from the godowns before October 15 for the ensuing Deepavali festival.

Other points made by the Hon'ble Minister included:

Complaints about any deficiency in the supply of essential commodities could be made to the office of the Commissioner, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection at 044-2859 2828 and with the e-mail address: schtamilnadu@gmail.com, consumer@tn.gov.in for redressal.

Complaints about paddy procurement and about the stocks of essential commodities in godowns and shops can be lodged by contacting the control room at the Civil Supplies Corporation's headquarters at Chennai, the phone numbers being 94451-90660, 94451-90661 and 94451-90662;

General Managers have been appointed as monitoring officers for supervising the day-to-day movement of commodities;

So far, 8,400 metric tonnes of rice have been sold at Rs. 20/- a kg through 311 Co-operative and Amudham shops under the market intervention scheme to check open market price of rice during festival seasons;

Tamarind continues to be sold in the open market at Rs. 60/- per kg. Quality fresh vegetables are sold at low prices through the 53 farm fresh consumer shops run by the Co-operative and Amudham shops.

To help farmers sell their kuruvai paddy getting harvested now, 189 direct procurement centres have been opened in delta districts and so far 689 metric tonnes of paddy have been procured. With a special State incentive of Rs. 70/- per quintal for fine variety paddy and Rs. 50/- for ordinary variety, the procurement price offered at Government procurement centres is Rs. 1,470/- and Rs. 1,410/- for the two varieties respectively from 01.10.2014. ■



'Good will triumph, deception will be vanquished'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on Ayudha Pooja and Vijaya Dasami
on 01.10.2014 (*English Translation*)

Life prospers when Intelligence, Wealth and Courage combine together. Mother Goddess shines as all three – 'Kalaimagal' the bestower of Intelligence, 'Thirumagal' the bestower of Wealth and 'Malaimagal' the bestower of valour. Navaratri is a festival to cherish and adore Mother Goddess and womanhood. Vijaya Dasami is the day when the Mother Goddess, to remove the sufferings of humanity, vanquished the demon Mahishasuran after a nine-day battle.

As mother Sakthi is worshipped for nine days, the special name 'Navaratri' has been given to it. If we worship the 'Three Devis' sincerely during Navaratri, we can attain courage, wealth and knowledge.

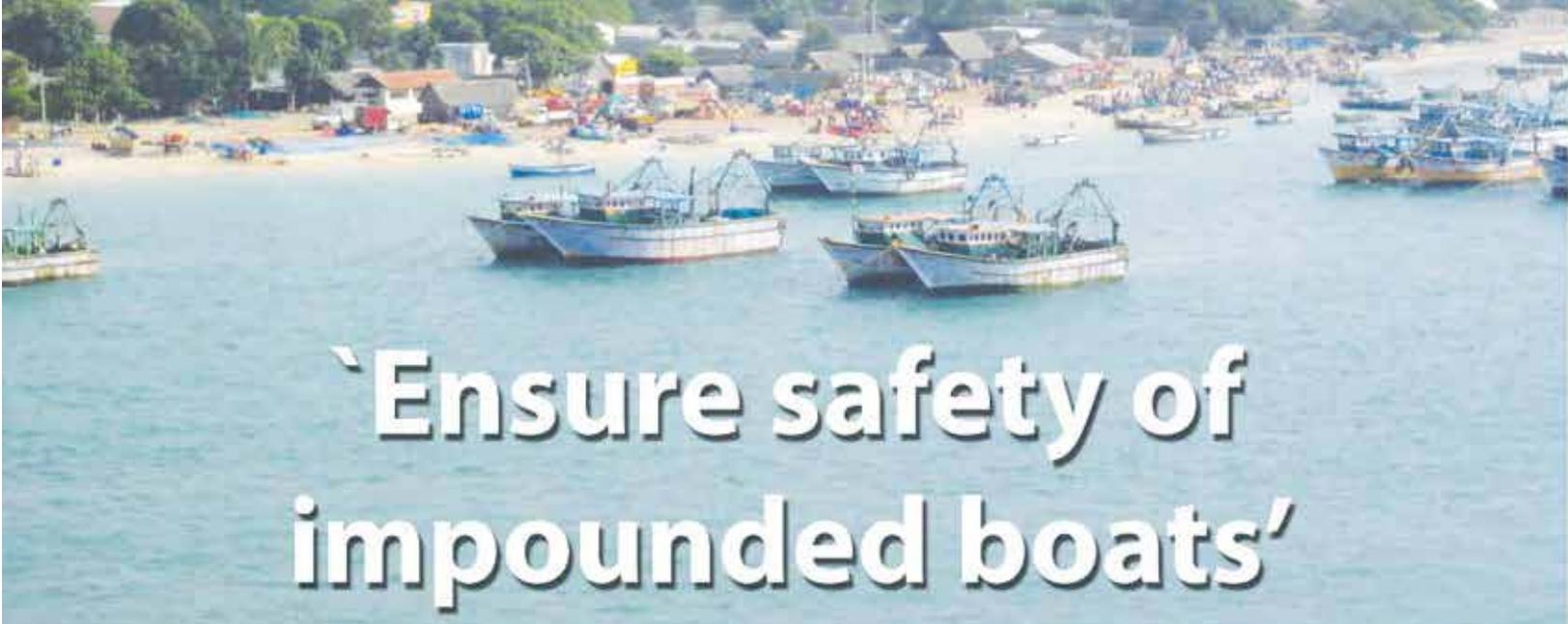
Navaratri is not merely a spiritual festival. It adds glory to the handicraft artisans' skills; it honours the greatness of labour.

Vijaya Dasami is a day that infuses confidence in people on the certainty of success if education, art and industries are started on that day.

On Vijaya Dasami day when Annai Chamundeewari destroyed Mahishasura, let evil subside and good prevail.

Intrigue will try to overshadow righteousness (Dharmam); but righteousness will re-emerge victorious. This is Nature's Law. If we act with the confidence that success is certain, 'adharmic' intrigue can be obliterated and Dharmam re-established.

I pay my obeisance to Annai Parasakthi and invoke her blessings for the people of Tamil Nadu to shine in Knowledge, wealth and valour and for great success in their lives. I offer my Ayudha Pooja and Vijaya Dasami greetings to one and all.



'Ensure safety of impounded boats'

D.O Letter dated 16.10.2014 addressed by
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I write to you to bring to your notice the alarming situation that has been developing over the past few months and is now seriously threatening the livelihood of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu caused by the vindictive and vengeful action of the Sri Lankan Navy. Our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had written to you several times indicating that the Sri Lankan Government has been pursuing a devious and sinister strategy of not releasing the apprehended fishing boats in successive incidents where such boats along with Indian fishermen were harassed and arrested while pursuing their peaceful avocation of fishing in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay.

The Government of Tamil Nadu reiterates its firm commitment to the restoration of the traditional fishing rights of our fishermen in the Palk Bay and the retrieval of Katchatheevu which had been an integral part of India since time immemorial. The Government of India should also not treat the International Maritime

Boundary Line (IMBL) with Sri Lanka as a settled issue as the constitutionality of the 1974 and 1976 agreements have been challenged on extremely valid and legal grounds by the Government of Tamil Nadu and our beloved leader Puratchi Thalavi Amma in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

In my letter dated 08.10.2014, I had requested the release of 24 fishermen from Tamil Nadu apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. They continue to be in Sri Lankan custody. In addition, at present 75 boats belonging to the Tamil Nadu fishermen apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy after May, 2014, continue to languish in Sri Lankan custody. The Sri Lankan side has deliberately and deviously hardened their stance and adopted this harsh approach of not releasing boats.

Fishermen Associations have represented that fishermen families are despondent and in desperate straits due to the non-release of

boats for a prolonged period. Their livelihood is severely affected and the ensuing Deepavali festival may be bleak and cheerless for them. They requested me to take up the matter of non-release of boats with the Government of India urgently and seek an early resolution to the issue. Their well-founded apprehension is that with the North East monsoon due to hit the Sri Lankan and Tamil Nadu coast shortly, their impounded boats which have been precariously berthed in the open, exposed to the elements and with no regular maintenance on the Sri Lankan coast, are likely to suffer irretrievable damage if they are not released at once. Even now, it is reported that disuse and lack of maintenance has led to their deterioration. The high velocity winds expected with the monsoon

will damage these precariously anchored boats beyond redemption. I therefore urge you to immediately instruct the concerned Ministry to take up the matter of the safe berthing of these 75 boats pending release with the Sri Lankan authorities.

In parallel, the immediate release of these boats must also be taken up. Being deprived of their boats which are their essential means of earning their livelihood has led to considerable loss of income and reduced many fishermen families to a stage of penury, poverty and to a state of utter despondency. I implore you to kindly intervene in the matter personally and ensure the immediate release of the 75 Indian fishing boats that are still in Sri Lankan custody.”



Hon'ble Minister for Revenue R.B. Udhaya Kumar explaining to a group of newly appointed Deputy Collectors the importance of the Revenue Department and their duty and responsibilities in the effective implementation of Government's schemes. The meeting was held on 11.10.2014.

'Students enthuse over participation in Young Tamils literary workshop'



The 'Ilanthamizhar Ilakkiya Pattarai' ('Young Tamils Literary Workshop'), sponsored by the Department of Tamil Development, Government of Tamil Nadu took place for a week at Adyar, Chennai between September 9th -15th, 2014. The workshop is the third to be held annually.

The 'Ilakkiya Pattarai' was inaugurated by the Secretary of the Department of Tamil Development and Information, Dr. M. Rajaram by lighting a 'kuttuvilakku'. He also delivered the presidential address and detailed the various schemes implemented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the development of Tamil.

The 'Ilanthamizhar Ilakkiya Pattarai' programme was conceived and implemented on the advice given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister while reviewing the working of the Tamil Development Department in 2011-2012.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister suggested that a week-long multi-discipline training should be given to youngsters by language experts to groom them into efficient anchors both in Tamil and English, excellent propagators of Government schemes and younger generation writers, poets and orators.

In this 'Pattarai', training classes are conducted in Tamil Grammar, Computer Tamil, Cinema Tamil, Science Tamil, Internet Tamil, Oratorical Tamil, Tamil Prose, Spiritual Tamil, Overseas Tamil, Drama Tamil, 'Divine' Tamil, Media Tamil, Tamil in Novels, Poetry, current literature and the art of translation, by experts in their respective fields.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had directed that the creativity in the youth should be brought out by holding competitions at the district level in poetry, essay writing and oratory and the winners honoured with prizes and certificates. Also, special prizes and certificates should be given by selecting a few from among the district-level prize winners by holding

state-level competitions. Accordingly, such competitions were held in the last 2 years and prizes awarded.

The valedictory of this year's 'Pattarai' took place on 15.09.2014. Dr. G. Vijayaraghavan Director, World Tamil Research Institute welcomed the gathering. Dr. K.M. Sekar, Director, Tamil Development delivered an address. Thiru. K. Vaidyanathan, Editor, Dinamani Tamil daily distributed certificates to students who had participated.



Selvi K. Mahalakshmi, a student who participated in the workshop told 'Tamil Arasu':

"The lectures given by Tamil scholars in different fields enhanced

my love for the language. I am doing my third year in geography. My native district is Salem. I came first in last year's competition in poetry at the district level and this gave me an opportunity



to participate in the 'Pattarai'. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for giving such an excellent scheme".

Student Kabadini:

"I am a B.Ed student.

I am from Theni District. I won the second prize in the oratorical competition

at the district level held last year. I can proudly say the lectures on drama, oratory, cultural events, literature and ancient system of



medicine have enhanced students' knowledge. I express my thanks to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for encouraging love for Tamil language through these events".

Student Pazha

Baskaran: "I am

studying for M.Sc. and M.Ed degrees. My native place is Karaikudi in Sivagangai District. I got the first prize in oratorical contests held in the last 3 years at the district level. This year I participated at the state-level competitions and got the first prize. I developed my love for Tamil through participation in the Ilantamizhar Ilakkiya Pattarai, organised by the



Tamil Development Department. By

providing all facilities including boarding and lodging for such events, the Hon'ble Chief Minister is encouraging poor

students like me. We wish to express our gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister".

Student R. Karthik Raja: "I am studying M.Sc. I belong to Tiruvarur. I got the opportunity to participate in the 'Ilakkiya Pattarai' as I came first in the district-level competitions and third in



the state-level competitions. It can be said with certainty that no event has taken place like this one to guide the student community in art and literature. I thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister for bringing out the creativity of college and school students, holding high the motto of 'ushering in a new world' and offering prizes and certificates. Not only this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has given us the 'Ilantamizhar Ilakkiya Pattarai', a forum to listen to the best lectures by eminent scholars from different fields to make students achievers in their respective fields. This is a historic opportunity".

Student R. Kannan: "I am a second year student in M.A (Tamil). My native village is Kattampoondi in Tiruvannamalai district. In the essay competition held last year I came first both at the district and state levels. Participation in competitions in schools and college promotes interest in Tamil. Undergoing training in this Ilantamizhar Ilakkiya Pattarai will improve the

creativity of students several-fold. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for conducting this event".

Student A. Pavithra: "I am a third year B.E. student. My native place is Tiruvallur. This is my first exposure to Ilanthimzhar Ilakkiya Pattarai. I have not seen anywhere else an event conducted by Tamil scholars like this one. I now regret my not choosing Tamil as my medium of study. Interacting with students from all the 32 districts, getting to know each other's speciality and talents and students establishing contact with Government are all a wonder for the student community. On my behalf and on behalf of students of Tamil Nadu I offer our heart-felt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for conducting the Ilakkiya Pattarai so beautifully every year and for bringing out the talent and creativity of students". ■

Meeting reviews steps for mosquito eradication



A meeting to review the steps taken to eradicate mosquitoes causing fever during rainy seasons and to spread awareness among people was held at the Secretariat on 13.10.2014 in the context of the North East Monsoon due to set in shortly. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.O. Panneerselvam presided.

The meeting was informed that concerted steps were being taken to eradicate mosquitoes and awareness programmes were being launched on diseases like dengue, chikungunya and malaria.

It was further stated that fumigation of mosquitoes continued to be taken to reduce their breeding in public places and thereby control the spread of fever; that respective District Collectors were conducting awareness programmes on safeguarding public hygiene and taking precautionary measures to prevent the outbreak of diseases through water and on account of the seasonal change and insects; that high officials of the Departments of Public Health, Municipal Administration, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj were

undertaking District tours and overseeing the steps being taken; that the incidence of fever was keenly watched all over the State and that enough stocks of medicine were being kept in all Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals to tackle all types of fevers.

Also, the cause of fever is ascertained if it is detected in more than three persons in any part of the State and steps taken immediately to eradicate the disease.

Following preventive steps are also taken by the Government to control fever:-

- ❖ Mosquito breeding spots are identified and works taken up to eradicate them; personnel for the work are drawn from the Department of Health, Rural Development and if need be temporary staff recruited in Town Panchayat, Municipality and Municipal Corporations; equipment and medicines are supplied in adequate quantity for this eradication programme;

- ❖ Laboratories to detect dengue fever through 'Eliza' test are functioning at the district level;

- ❖ Indigenous medicines and traditional practices ('Nilavembu' drinking water and consumption of papaya leaf juice) are encouraged and their easy availability in Government hospitals is ensured.

- ❖ Adequate preventive measures are being taken on the basis of the entomology evaluation report.

- ❖ Instruments for testing blood corpuscles, medicines, platelets and blood needed for treatment of fever are kept in sufficient quantity.

- ❖ Through short documentaries and advertisements people are informed about the steps taken by Government to prevent mosquito breeding, people's role in this programme, medical assistance provided by Government and the measures taken by the local bodies with the help of elected representatives to prevent mosquito breeding.

- ❖ Special camps for treating fever are conducted wherever necessary.

- ❖ Special medical teams are dispatched to the Districts most affected by fever.

The general public can convey information about the fever in the affected areas through the helpline "104" or to the mobile phones 9444340496 and 9361482898 or to landline phones 044-24350496 and 044-24334810. On receipt of information, Government will take all necessary action to control the incidence.

Fever-inducing mosquitoes breed in water stagnating in discarded containers in houses and surroundings. Though Government and local bodies are intensive in taking steps to destroy mosquito and their larvae, people in each household should extend total co-operation for fully eradicating the mosquito-breeding places.

'Monsoon preparedness'



Hon'ble Minister for Highways and Minor Ports Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 16.10.2014 directed officials to set up a round-the-clock control room in every division and remain in a state of preparedness to meet any contingency in view of the onset of the North-East monsoon.

At a meeting of department officials, precautionary steps taken in anticipation of the monsoon, including de-silting of canals, flattening sand bars, identifying low-lying areas and setting up flood measuring poles in ground-level bridges were reviewed.

The officials were instructed to take necessary steps to plant saplings in the monsoon

period at required places, taking into account the importance of having roads with greenery.

The Hon'ble Minister directed the officials to expedite pending works under the Road Infrastructure Development scheme and take up the current year's new projects for speedy execution. Of the pending works, 993 km road works and 81 bridge/culvert works have been completed. For 2014-2015, sanction has been accorded for widening of 843 kms of roads, 3,204 kms of road improvement and 746 bridge/culvert works as also to road safety works. Road safety works costing Rs. 250 crore are to be taken up.

Steps being taken on the announcements made in the last 3 years also came under scrutiny.

As for by-pass road schemes, 30 works were taken up, and 11 were completed; three were under execution. Land acquisition is apace for laying 15 by-pass roads. For 7 works, detailed project reports are being prepared.

Of the sanctioned 58 railway overbridge works, 29 are now being executed. One work (Thanjavur) was completed and the overbridge was thrown open for public use on 28.08.2014.

Of the remaining works, three are in the stage of floating tenders, 13 in the stage of preparing estimates and 12 in the stage of designing. Before March 2015, work on 13 railway overbridges will be completed.

The Hon'ble Minister urged the officials to expedite the ongoing works for road, river bridges, ring roads and by-pass roads, and in the event of difficulties in acquisition of land, to take the matter to the notice of the District Collector, and to take appropriate steps and execute them speedily. ●

DA hike for Government Employees

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 10.10.2014 (English Translation)

Hon'ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has extended several concessions to Government Employees and Teachers who are engaged in public service, by way of enthusing them and has protected their livelihood by periodically revising their dearness allowance on par with that of the Central Government employees.

The Tamil Nadu Government, which follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in administering the State, I wish to inform, has decided to effect retrospectively from 01.07.2014 a seven per cent increase in the dearness allowance rate to its employees as has been done by the Central Government to its employees.

This DA increase is applicable to employees of local bodies, Government-aided schools, Teachers, Village Assistants under Revenue Department, Workers in Anganwadis and in Nutritious Meals programme, Panchayat assistants, clerks, Pensioners, family pensioners and others usually getting dearness allowance.

About 18 lakh persons will benefit. The increase, effective from 01.07.2014 will be paid in cash.

On account of effecting this increase, Government will incur an expenditure of Rs. 1,558.97 crore a year. ●

Steps to curb adulteration of Aavin milk



Hon'ble Minister for Dairy Development Thiru. B.V. Ramana has asked officials to consider using new types of monograms in milk tankers and fixing of GPRS devices for preventing adulteration of milk carried by tankers.

At a review meeting held on 15.10.2014 at the office of the Commissioner, Madhavaram Dairy Farm with General Managers of District Unions and Deputy Registrars (dairying), the Hon'ble Minister discussed in detail the steps taken to prevent adulteration in milk tankers. The meeting was informed that surprise checks by inspection teams comprising high officials of Aavin were being undertaken. Milk vans were also checked.

The meeting discussed implementing dairying programmes, procurement of milk and improving the sale of milk products.

The Hon'ble Minister said that the various programmes launched by the State Government to make Tamil Nadu the foremost State in milk

production should be completed in time. To increase milk procurement, steps should be taken to start new milk producers' societies in places where they are absent now and activate non-functional societies. Field workers should disseminate information about the facilities extended by Aavin to the cattle of milk producers enrolled in the co-operative fold like medicare, artificial insemination and fodder supply, and make milk producers supply more milk. He also stressed the importance of disbursing money to milk producers in time.

He said the Aavin milk parlours should be designed attractively to draw more customers and improve the sale of milk products.





Progress on weavers' welfare schemes reviewed

Progress made in the implementation of schemes like distribution of pedal looms free of cost and green houses with solar power, announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under rule 110, was reviewed by the Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms and Textiles, Tmt. S. Gokula Indira at a meeting held on 14.10.2014 at the Directorate of Handlooms and Textiles.

Among the subjects that came for review were production of dhotis and sarees meant for distribution at no cost for Pongal 2015, steps taken to hand over the needed dhotis and sarees to the Revenue Department in toto for the Pongal distribution, distribution of uniforms to school children in the 2015-2016

academic year, and the progress achieved in the implementation of welfare programmes to handloom weavers like medical insurance and old age and family pension.

The Hon'ble Minister instructed officials to take constructive steps for clearing the handloom goods produced by weavers' co-operative societies by entering into agreements with private merchants and thereby ensure continuous work to weavers, for the handloom weavers co-operative societies continue to earn profit and for the weavers to enjoy the benefits of all the schemes of the Government. The Hon'ble Minister also advised the officials on ways to improve Co-optex sales during the Deepavali festival season.



The Importance of Having Friends

Once upon a time, a lonely hawk lived on a tree by the riverside. He was young and handsome but he had no friends.

One day, he saw a beautiful she-hawk sitting on a tree and wanted to marry her but the she-hawk refused to marry him, as he had no friends.

“Will you marry me if I make three friends?” – he asked. She said that she definitely would.

The hawk then went looking for friends. While flying on the other bank of the river, he saw a huge tortoise. The hawk flew down to him and said, “Dear tortoise, will you be my friend and help me in my hour of need?” The tortoise agreed to become his friend and said, “Call me whenever you need me and I shall come to your side.”

The hawk also promised him his help at any time and then flew in search of the second friend. Soon, he came upon an osprey. The hawk went to it and asked her if she would be his friend and help him in time of his need. The osprey very gladly accepted his friendship and offered her help whenever he needed it.

The hawk was glad that he had made two friends.

He went on searching for a third friend. He flew over the jungle and saw a tiger. Fearless

as he was, he went near the tiger and requested him to be his friend. The tiger readily accepted his friendship and said, “From now onwards, I am your friend. Nobody will harm you. If anyone tries to harm you, call me and I will be there to help you.”

The hawk was very happy. He thanked the tiger, flew back to the she-hawk and said, “I have made three friends, a tortoise, an osprey and a tiger. Will you marry me now?”

The she-hawk agreed to marry him. Soon, their marriage took place. The three friends attended the hawk’s marriage.

After some months, the she-hawk gave birth to two baby hawks. The parent hawks were very happy to have cute little babies. They lived happily in their nest.

One day, two hunters came and sat under that tree. They were tired and hungry. They had not been able to hunt any animal. They decided to catch some fish. But, they couldn’t catch even a single fish.

It was getting dark and the hunters decided to spend the night under that tree. To keep themselves warm, they lit a fire. The fire soared high. The hawk-babies on the tree could not bear the heat and the smoke coming out of the fire. They started crying. The Hunters heard their cries. One of them said, “There are birds on this tree. Let us





catch them. We shall roast them on the fire and eat them.” The other one agreed.

The hawks heard them and were really worried about the safety of their babies. The she-hawk suggested that they seek help from their friends. The hawk went to the osprey and told her his problem. The osprey said, “Go home and protect your babies. I shall tackle the hunters.”

The osprey dived into the river and then flew over the fire. The water from her wet feathers fell on the fire. She repeatedly dived into the river and flew over the fire. The water from her feathers put out the fire.

The hunters decided to light the fire again; however, as soon as they lit the fire, again the osprey put it out.

In the meantime, the hawk went to get help from the tortoise. When the tortoise heard about the hawk’s problem, he said to him, “Do not worry dear friend, I will be there in no time and tackle the hunters in my own way. Go and protect your family.”

The hawk flew to the tree and the tortoise reached the tree. He went quite close to where the hunters were sitting and trying to light the fire again. The hunters saw the tortoise and one of them said, “Look there is a huge tortoise. Let’s forget about the hawks and catch this tortoise.”

The other hunter agreed and said, “Let’s tear our shirts and make a rope. We shall tie its one end to the tortoise and other to our waists.

Then we will pull the tortoise with all our strength.” The other hunter liked the idea. Soon, they make a rope out of their shirts. They tied one end of the rope to the tortoise’s legs. Then, tying the other end to their waist, they could not pull the tortoise. The tortoise’s strength was much greater than that of the two hunters together.



The tortoise pulled the two men into the water. Once, inside the water, it was very easy for the tortoise to drag them. With great efforts, they cut the rope that was tied to their waist and swam back to the bank. They were now feeling very cold. They had lost their shirts. They thought of making a fire again.

Seeing them collecting leaves and twigs, the hawk was worried again. He flew to the forest and called his third friend, the tiger. He found the tiger at the edge of the forest. When the tiger heard the hawk’s problem, he immediately rushed towards the river bank.

The hunter had now lit the fire and one of them was preparing to climb the tree to get the hawk babies. Just then, the tiger reached the tree. Seeing the tiger, the hunters ran from there and never came back again.

The hawk thanked all his three friends for their kind and timely help. He also realized that it is very important to have at least a few friends. The female-hawk was very wise in advising the hawk to make friends before marrying him.

