

Tamil Arasu

Publication of Information & Public Relations Department



INDIAN CINEMA

Centenary Celebrations

CHENNAI 2013



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The goal in sight - 100 per cent Voluntary Blood Donation

Every year, October 1 is observed as 'National Voluntary Blood Donation Day'. The idea is to create awareness among the people, particularly college students, about the importance of blood donation and to encourage the organisation of voluntary blood donation camps.

As blood sustains life, it is no exaggeration to say that blood donation is an exemplary act which saves a person's life. On its part, the Tamil Nadu Government encourages voluntary blood donors and the organisers of blood donation camps. Every year, it honours voluntary blood donors who donate blood thrice in a year in the case of men and twice in a year in the case of women by presenting them medals and certificates of appreciation. Provision has been made for voluntary blood donors to register themselves in the website www.tngovbloodbank.in and donate blood during emergencies when Government blood banks require their services.

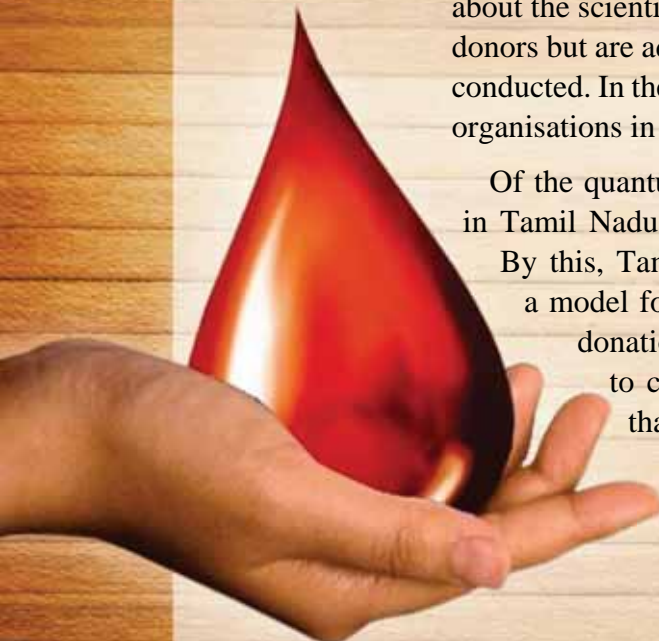
The Tamil Nadu AIDs Control Society and the Tamil Nadu State Blood Transfusion Council are jointly providing special training to service organisations across the State in the current year to create awareness about blood donation, with a view to increasing the number of voluntary blood donation camps held in the State. As part of this training, representatives of these organisations are not only briefed about the scientific data on blood and the methods to motivate blood donors but are advised on how best the blood donation camps can be conducted. In the current year till now, representatives of 536 service organisations in 10 districts have been provided this training.

Of the quantum of blood collected by Government blood banks in Tamil Nadu, 99 per cent comes from voluntary blood donors.

By this, Tamil Nadu has become a pioneer State in India and a model for other States. Among all types of donation, blood donation is the best. Hence, I kindly request the people to come forward in large numbers to donate blood so that Tamil Nadu can realise the goal of 100 per cent voluntary blood donation.

Donate blood!

Foster human feeling!



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The ability of my Government to understand and effectively articulate the just and fair sentiments of the people of the State on critical issues has been one of the important reasons for the proper maintenance of public order in Tamil Nadu.

- Selvi J Jayalalithaa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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I Wrapper

His Excellency, the President of India **Thiru. Pranab Mukherjee** honouring the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** for her contributions to Tamil cinema, by presenting an award at the centenary celebrations of the Indian cinema held at Chennai on 24.9.2013.

IV Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** inaugurating the Centenary celebration of Indian cinema at Chennai on 21.9.2013 by lighting a 'Kuthuvilakku'.



Chief Minister lauds Indian Cinema's
Glorious hundred



‘Tamil film industry freed, slew of measures announced for growth’

**The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa’s
inaugural speech at the centenary celebration of Indian Cinema
in Chennai on 21.9.2013 (English Translation)**

Thiru. C. Kalyan, President of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce who delivered the welcome address in this pleasant function, dignitaries of the film world, my dear siblings of the film world, Hon’ble Ministers, Members of the Parliament and Legislature, Representatives of Local Bodies, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu Government, who offered felicitations, Thiru. L. Suresh, Honorary Secretary of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce who is

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to propose a vote of thanks, executives of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce, Presidents and Executives of the unions in the cine industry, Awardees, Respected Elders, Ladies, the gods who sustain me, my siblings who are Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar MGR’s blood unto blood and who are dearer to me than my own life,

At the outset, I offer my affectionate respects to all of you.

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This pleasant evening, I am extremely happy to inaugurate the centenary celebrations of Indian cinema by lighting a 'kuthuvilakku' and to address you all who belong to the film world which gave me an identity in life. I am also happy to present awards and honour 59 persons who have left their imprint on cinema.

Though Lumiere Brothers of France invented moving pictures, the honour of producing and releasing a silent movie for the first time in India goes to Dadasaheb Phalke, affectionately called the 'Father of Indian Cinema'. 'Raja Harishchandra', the film he produced, was released in the year 1913. It is on that basis, that we are now celebrating the centenary of Indian cinema.

Following this, another silent movie, "Keechaka Vadham" was produced by Thiru. Nataraja Mudaliar and released in 1916. Later,

"Alam Ara," the first Indian talkie in Hindi, was produced and screened. The first talkie in Tamil, "Kalidas" was screened later in 1931. The film medium started with silent pictures and evolved into talkies, colour films and has now grown to the acclaim of many.

In the days when I acted in films, it was considered a great success and an achievement if a film ran for 100 days. A function would be organised after the successful run of 100 days of a film and mementos and shields would be distributed to actors, actresses, technicians and all others who had worked in the production of that film.

When a 100-day run of a film is considered an achievement, it is a stupendous and marvellous achievement for Indian cinema that it has completed hundred years. We are all immensely happy over this.



Countless people have contributed greatly to the growth of Indian Cinema. Among them are popular cinema producers-cum-studio owners Dadasaheb Phalke, A.V. Meiyappa Chettiar, Nagi Reddy, Chakrapani, S.S. Vasam, Sriramulu Naidu, M.M.A. Chinnappa Thevar, Modern Theatres Sundaram, L.V. Prasad, B.R. Panthulu, V. Shantharam;

❖ Famous film directors Satyajit Ray, Bimal Roy, Vedantam Raghavaiah, A. Bhimsingh, K. Shankar, Vittalacharya, P. Neelakantan, A.C. Tirulokachandar, Krishnan-Panchu, Yoganand, P. Pullaiah and A.P. Nagarajan;

❖ Perarignar Anna who brought about a renaissance in Tamil Nadu through his stories;

❖ Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. who spread beneficial ideas among people through films and carved out for himself a permanent niche in the hearts of the people;

❖ Famous actors Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, P.U. Chinnappa, Kalaivanar N.S. Krishnan, Nadigar Thilakam Sivaji Ganesan, Gemini Ganesan, N.T. Rama Rao, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, Udayakumar, Rajkumar, Prem Nazir,

Sathyan, K.A. Thangavelu, Chandra Babu, Nagesh, Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, P.S. Veerappa, M.N. Nambiar, Pran, S.V. Subbiah, S.V. Ranga Rao, Relangi, Gummidi Venkateswara Rao;

❖ Famous stage actors T.K.S. Brothers, Viswanatha Das, S.V. Sahasranamam;

❖ Popular actresses Kannamba, P. Bhanumathi, T.A. Mathuram, T.R. Rajakumari, Pandari Bai, Nargis, Suraiyya, Madhubala, Padmini, Savithri, Devika, Vyjayanthimala, Jamuna, Saroja Devi, Anjali Devi, Sowcar Janaki, Krishna Kumari, Suryakantham, T.P. Muthulakhshmi;

❖ Famous cinematographers Maruthi Rao, Prasad, Marcus Bartley, A. Ramamoorthy, Vincent, Sundaram, Varma;

❖ Famous 'still' photographers Nagaraja Rao, 'still' Sarathy;

❖ Famous dance directors K.N. Dhandayuthapani Pillai, B. Sohanlal, Heeralal, A.K. Chopra, Thangappan, Chinni Sampath, Gopalakrishnan, Pasumarthi, Krishnamoorthy, Vempati Sathyam;

❖ Famous music directors G. Ramanathan, Naushad, Shankar-Jaikishan, K.V. Mahadevan, Viswanathan-Ramamoorthy, Ilaiyaraja,

Hemant Kumar, C. Ramachandra, Madan Mohan, Lakshmikanth Pyarelal, Adi Narayana Rao;

❖ Famous lyricists Pattukottai Kalyanasundaram, Kannadasan, Marudakasi, Vali;

❖ Famous playback singers (men) – T.M. Sounderarajan, Sirkazhi Govindarajan, P.B. Srinivas, Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar,

literature, painting, dance and drama were used to entertain, ennoble and strengthen the minds of people. Along with these art forms, cinema uses modern scientific techniques and arts. That is why cinema has the strength, more than any other art form, to attract people easily.

In short, cinema can be said to occupy an important place in man's life today. The honour of acquainting people with Puranic stories, the history of the freedom struggle and of the rationalist thoughts, goes to the cinema industry alone.



Ghantasala, A.M. Raja; and female playback singers P. Leela, Jikki, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Geetha Dutt, P. Suseela, S. Janaki, Jamuna Rani, and L.R. Eswari.

Though cinema plays an important role in politics, public life and in acquainting the people about the various regional dialects and the changes that occur in the spoken tongue, it is Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. who comes to the fore in our minds when we think about the domination of politics on films.

It is no exaggeration to say that cinema is man's loftiest expression of art. Before the invention of cinema, several arts like music,

Cinema brings to one's own place, the world's wonders that cannot be seen even after long travel. It provides employment to many. It helps the growth of students' education in several fields. It helps greatly in disseminating information about Government events, and constructive programmes and welfare schemes.

I feel proud when I think that I too, have worked in such an essential field like cinema.

In this context, I would like to convey my desire that cinema should influence people to take the path of righteousness alone.

Whenever I have assumed office as Chief Minister, I have extended several concessions to the film industry.

Several schemes have been implemented during my rule like increasing the subsidy amount for low-budget films by way of encouraging small producers and relaxing the ceiling on the number of films for getting the subsidy, introducing the 'single window' system for granting permission to shoot films with a view to reduce the difficulties of producers, institution of 'Sivaji Ganesan

engaged in video piracy under the Goondas Act and more such things.

Also, the Government provided a subsidy of Rs. 50 lakh last year for the Chennai International Film Festival. I allotted Rs. 9.50 crore for starting a new course – Animation and Visual Effects – from 2013-2014 academic year at the MGR Government Film and Television Training Institute and for the creation of 41 posts for the course. The Preview Theatre at the Institute is being renovated at a cost of Rs. 99 lakh. More members have been



Award', introduction of cash assistance scheme to the families of cine workers who die in harness and to workers who become handicapped while working, institution of a Government award to films that have a storyline which depicts women in an exalted way, introduction of a scheme for presenting awards to the best 'make-up artiste' and the best "costume designer, award for dubbing artistes, new awards for the best woman comedian, best character actor and actress, creation of a separate 'video piracy prevention wing' and facilitating the booking of culprits

enrolled in the Cine Workers Welfare Board and welfare assistance under various heads are being distributed. Over and above all these things, the film world is functioning freely under my rule in the last two years.

Tamil Nadu is a haven for people from different regions. Even today, actors, actresses, playback singers and music directors hailing from different linguistic states, are in the forefront in the Tamil cine industry. Live and let live is the thought that sways the people in the Tamil cine industry.



It is not necessary that I should enlighten you on the conditions that prevailed in the Tamil Film industry two years ago.

There are two sorts of people in this world. The selfish people consider their welfare alone. And there are others who want to live and let others live too.

The selfish people seek to destroy not only those who are a hurdle in their growth but others whom they consider as rivals.

There was a person in a town. As he engaged in many misdeeds, he fell into a well called hell's abyss. There were other sinners also in the well. They raised a hue and cry. The man who fell last added significantly to the noise.

There was a saint by the side of the well. As the person who fell into the well raised a racket the saint peeped into it.

On seeing the saint, he cried out, "Swamy! Save me".

The saint's divine vision enabled him to see all the harm the person had done to humanity. Still, he pondered on ways to save him. He checked if the man had done any meritorious deed in his past.

It was revealed to the saint that the person had once inadvertently jumped over a spider and thus saved it from being trampled upon by him.

The saint considered whether the person could be pulled out of the well on account of this meritorious act. Immediately, a spider appeared in his hand and it spared a thread which extended to the very depth of the well.

"Catch hold of the thread and come up", the saint told the person.

"Will the thread bear my weight", he asked.

"It will; come up", the saint said.

The person tested the strength of the thread. It was strong.

He started to climb up holding the thread. Half way through, he heard some sounds beneath him. He looked down and saw some more persons climbing up holding the thread.

He became angry. He severed the thread below his feet with the knife he had in his hip. He thought that after this he alone could climb up.

But what happened?

The whole length of the thread snapped and the person too crashed down. Again, he started shouting. A good action he had inadvertently done in the past had lent strength to the thread. But the sin he committed by severing the thread robbed it of its strength.

If the person had allowed others too to climb up, he would have made it. But he did not think and act that way. Hence, he fell into the abyss.

Those who wanted to exploit the film industry for their own prosperity and for that of their families are in a similar situation today.

Cinema is a tool that brings out the artistic talent and creativity of different artistes. But I would request film producers to produce films that avoid violence and obscenity. They should take good and progressive ideas to the younger generation in a manner that does not hurt the caste and religious sentiments of people. My Government will extend all help needed by the film industry.

I offer my greetings for the greater growth of the Indian film industry and wish all prosperity to cine workers.

Anna Naamam Vazhga!

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Naamam Vazhga!

With these words I take leave of you. Nandri, Vanakkam.



‘My Government has always stood by Tamil Cinema’



**Speech delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Tamil Nadu at the valedictory of the Indian Cinema Centenary Celebrations
held at Chennai on 24.9.2013**



“I am extremely delighted to be here this evening at this grand event. This is a moment of pristine pride for us as we celebrate a 100 glorious years of existence of Indian Cinema and I deem it a privilege to host this event, as the film industry moves on, towards its next centenary. The enchantment and spell of CINEMA is undisputed. Through the years, Cinema in India has charted its own course, created history, and touched milestones.

The global community is aware of and accepts the influence and impact of Cinema

on Society. Films have a powerful ubiquity within human culture, and have become an indispensable vehicle for culture, education, leisure and propaganda.

Cinema has become the most powerful Mass Medium since the day it was introduced to the world. The Lumiere Brothers who invented the ‘Cinematograph’ declared that the cinema is an invention without a future. But they have been proved wrong and here we are, celebrating the centenary of the Indian celluloid and looking forward to a promising



future. It is indeed amazing to witness the overpowering influence of Cinema which has catapulted it to its current stature with such powerful attributes. To Indians, Cinema is a bond that opens the world that is similar to their own implicitly, but different explicitly.

Indian Cinema has an identity that is very unique. Despite all its peculiarities, Indian Cinema has been a reflection of the socio-economic, political and cultural changes that took place in the Country. The phenomenon of using music as an inescapable, magnetic, charming draw is unique to Indian Cinema. The Indian film industry witnessed the era of the silent cinema with a number of movies produced by filmmakers in Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai. By 1920, film making transformed into a regular industry and the number of films produced increased to 207 in 1931. It was at this time that commercial cinema started gaining popularity among the

masses, cutting across economic divides. After the success of the film 'Raja Harishchandra', several filmmakers in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras began making silent films. By the mid 1920s, Chennai became the epicentre for all film related activities. The 1930's saw sweeping technical and stylistic changes and it was also a decade of social protests. Bombay, Calcutta and Madras were the fountainheads of cinema. The 1940s and 50s saw a vibrancy imbued in song and dance, and playback singing became embedded as a permanent factor in Indian movies. Between 1970 to 1990, these two decades witnessed an unprecedented rise in Commercial Cinema. Along with an array of successful regional block-busters, many exemplary movie makers gifted several classics to Indian movie goers. Indian cinema swayed not only this Country but also influenced world cinema. It is believed that V. Shantharam's 'Do Aankhen



Barah Haath' in 1957 inspired the Hollywood movie 'The Dirty Dozen' that was released in 1967, and Bimal Roy's 'Madhumathi' in 1958 popularized the theme of reincarnation in the West.

Life in India would not be the same without the exuberance of cinema, song and dance, melodrama, relevant messages – Indian films have it all, be it episodes from the freedom struggle or present day issues. Of the countless individuals associated with cinema, some are eternally identifiable. Their image and hallmark style are inimitable and the list of such treasures of the Indian Film Industry is infinite. The contributions of film makers, music composers, writers, directors, cinematographers, musicians, playback singers, allied workers, technicians, choreographers, actresses and actors of Indian cinema are etched in the annals of its history.

The Indian film industry made rapid strides in the South, where Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada films were taking South India by storm. Tamil Nadu prides itself in gifting to Indian cinema the first female director, honoured with the title 'Cinema Rani' T.P. Rajalakshmi. On my directions,

her birth centenary was celebrated as a Government function recently, to honour the pioneer.

The 1950's and 60's gave a great impetus to the Indian film industry and this period is rightly termed the 'Golden Age' of Indian cinema. This decade witnessed the emergence of one of the most memorable actors of all time – 'Makkal Thilagam' 'Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R', who strode the Tamil film world like a colossus and whose charisma is imprinted indelibly in the hearts of the people of the State.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has firmly stood behind the Tamil film industry offering encouragement and guidance. Whenever I have assumed power as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, I have ensured that the Tamil film industry is given all necessary support and impetus.

Without an audience, there can be no cinema! This sounds so simple, and yet it is so true. Over the 100 years of Indian Cinema, the anonymous moviegoer has been giving the film world his or her patronage, encouragement, support and goodwill. But for the moviegoer, the film industry would cease to exist. It is

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therefore necessary and imperative that every person associated with the film industry bears in mind and heart that this anonymous but discerning individual - the moviegoer, is the supreme and ultimate judge of them all.

Today, I exhort all those in the film industry - as you reflect on the past and look with hope to the future, you should dream a dream. The dream of a cinema that entertains, that engages, and that endures - a cinema that leaves its imprint as

much on our hearts and our conscience as on our minds; an imprint that lasts long after the lights come on - for a lifetime. Cinema is a dream - and a reality that, one hundred years on, is as powerful and as valuable as it has ever been. Your duty is to keep it that way.

I wish the Indian Cinema many more centenaries.

Thank you.”

The Ringing Voice of Freedom

Birthday of Tyagi Subramania Siva - October 4



Bharatheeyam is my religion. Its deity is Sri Bharatha Maatha. I am a Sanyasi. My dharma is to propagate Truth – unmindful of the results thereof. Wherever, whenever freedom is crushed, or attempts are made to crush it, it is my dharma to raise my voice against it, with all the strength at my command and help freedom shine. My dharma is to convey the message of justice to all the enslaved people of the world.

- Tyagi Subramania Siva

Fitting tributes to the **MAHATMA**



The 145th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated in a grand manner on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government on 2.10.2013. The Mahatma's statue on the Marina and his portrait placed beneath the statue were tastefully decorated with flowers. His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. K. Rosaiah and Hon'ble Ministers offered floral tributes to the portrait of the Mahatma around 10 a.m.

Earlier, between 7 and 9.30 a.m. a spinning yagna was conducted near the Mahatma's statue.

A cycle rally stressing the messages of national integration, world peace, communal harmony and eradication of untouchability was flagged off by the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Special Programmes Implementation Thiru. K.T. Rajenthra Bhalaji

from Gandhi statue around 10.15 a.m. and it terminated at the Gandhi Mandapam at Guindy. School students in the thousands participated in the rally with enthusiasm.

At Gandhi Mandapam, a bhajan was organised which lasted for over 3 hours till 12 noon.

A photo exhibition on the life of Gandhiji was declared open at 10 a.m. The exhibition was kept open for public view till 4.10.2013 and a large number of people visited the exhibition.

The 145th birth anniversary celebration of Gandhiji organised by the Tamil Nadu Government started at 5 in the evening on 2.10.2013. His Excellency the Governor delivered the presidential address and distributed prizes to school and college students who had won in the competitions held



earlier. Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru. P. Palaniappan and Hon'ble Minister for Information & Special Programmes Implementation Thiru. K.T. Rajenthirabhalaji delivered special addresses. Earlier, Dr. M.Rajaram IAS, Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department welcomed the gathering. Thiru. J. Kumaragurubaran IAS, Director of Information and Public Relations proposed a vote of thanks.

Cultural programmes stressing the Mahatma's messages were presented by students and artistes from the Southern Zonal Cultural Centre. A large number of people participated in the events and paid their respects to the 'Father of the Nation'.

After this programme, a film on Mahatma Gandhi was screened.

Mahatma Gandhi's Golden Words



The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attitude of the strong.



It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err.

One needs to be slow to form convictions, but once formed they must be defended against the heaviest odds.



Chief Minister raps Centre for setting aside detention orders



Speech of **Selvi J Jayalithaa**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
at the Sixteenth Meeting of the National Integration Council
at New Delhi on 23.9.2013 - read out
by **Thiru K.P.Munusamy**,
Minister for Municipal Administration,
Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons.

“Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Hon'ble Union Ministers,
Hon'ble Chief Ministers of other States and
Union Territories and other dignitaries

We have all gathered here today for the 16th Meeting of the National Integration Council, after a gap of nearly two years. For a country that is just 67 years young, which attained independence from the British Raj against the background of the gut wrenching violence of Partition that the departing British bequeathed to us, we have struggled to make our democracy work. Despite the challenges of pluralism, multi-ethnic divides and the schisms of caste, compounded by post Independence dangers namely, extremism, separatism and terrorism, we have largely been successful in holding on to our political freedom and the democratic values enshrined in our Constitution, standing out and being globally recognized as the most successful secular democracy in the non Western world.

Despite this impressive record, a multitude of divisive forces are creating fault lines in the very fabric that binds our Nation and are threatening to abort

her bid to reach the status of a superpower. Inimical external forces and misguided anti-social elements within the Country have always tried to add to our internal troubles. Some of the unrest is also fuelled by socio-economic factors. Unequal distribution of the benefits of economic growth with the perception that many sections of Society have been left behind, marginalized and even unfairly exploited by those who have prospered have sharpened social divisions. The sharp deceleration of economic growth in the recent past and the persistent high inflation caused in substantial measure by the gross macro-economic mismanagement of the UPA Government at the Centre have also no doubt contributed to social tensions.

The need of the hour is to develop an Indian identity that is founded on a scientific temper, social and economic equality, and a melding of our diverse faiths and cultural practices, which will truly integrate our diversity into unity. It seems to me that we must reinforce such Pan Indian values by using a forum like the National Integration Council to effectively scotch the fissiparous forces that seek to create fissures in our democratic edifice.

The first and most vital function of the State is the maintenance of public order and peace in Society and ensuring the protection of its citizens. It is precisely for this reason that I have adopted a growth model for Tamil Nadu that seeks to achieve development through inclusive growth and thereby rid Society of inner tensions that may surface in the form of communal tensions or extremism or some other form of disaffection. The Vision for Tamil Nadu for 2023 is to become India's most prosperous and progressive State with no poverty, where its people enjoy all the

basic services of a modern Society and live in harmonious engagement with the environment and with the rest of the world. Not only are we targeting high growth, but we also seek to exhibit a highly inclusive growth pattern.

The ability of my Government to understand and effectively articulate the just and fair sentiments of the people of the State on critical issues has been one of the important reasons for the proper maintenance of public order in Tamil Nadu. This requires the State Government at the highest level to be in tune with the concerns and aspirations of its people. It also requires the administration at the local level to be sensitive and with an ear to the ground. District Administration in Tamil Nadu is run in this manner, thanks to close supervision and monitoring from above and the positive response to public expectation from below.

My Government in Tamil Nadu has taken several proactive steps to promote communal harmony. Special attention is given to the welfare of Minorities through the Directorate of Minorities Welfare, the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation and the Tamil Nadu Minorities Commission. A number of initiatives on communal harmony are taken amongst the youth by organizing competitions and youth festivals. Community leaders and NGOs are encouraged to participate in the celebration of festivals of other religions and communities. The Government of Tamil Nadu gives assistance for pilgrimages to Mecca, Jerusalem, Manasarovar and Mukthinath. I may state with pride that our record in maintaining communal harmony has been impeccable.

So far as the maintenance of Law and Order is concerned, I am proud to inform this

**‘My Government
has made it clear
that it will not spare
anyone who tries
to whip up
communal passions’**

august gathering that Tamil Nadu has largely been free of communal, left wing extremist, and religious fundamentalist violence. This is largely because I have provided a free hand and uncompromising support to the Police Force in maintaining Law and Order. Tamil Nadu now has a near perfect record of maintenance of law and order and is spoken of nationally as a haven of peace and tranquillity.

My Government has made it clear that it will not spare anyone who tries to whip up communal passions and create caste tensions and the Police have been given a clear mandate to curb such activities with an iron hand. Activities of communal organizations of both communities are kept under close watch by a Special Wing in the State Intelligence. Inflammatory and provocative speeches, pamphlets, audio and video CDs and other reproductions are acted against promptly. Fundamentalist organizations like Al Umma and All India Jihad Committee have been banned in the State. Activities of erstwhile SIMI elements are being carefully monitored. Preventive measures including the setting up of permanent peace committees in sensitive places, adequate precautionary measures during important festivals and for important places of worship and effective use of the security proceedings provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code and Preventive Detention laws have helped the State avoid any serious incidents of

violence. In this context, I wish to state that the use of Preventive Detention laws by the State Government is done, keeping foremost in mind the interest of preserving Public Order. The State has been very judicious in the use of these laws since they deal with the personal liberty of citizens. Of late, there is a noticeable and unwelcome development wherein the Government of India, for ostensibly political considerations, is setting aside orders issued by the State Government. We consider that this is an unnecessary encroachment upon the State’s powers and will seriously compromise the maintenance of Public Order.

The maintenance of Law and Order in the Country is the fundamental responsibility of the State Governments, but it is an exercise that requires functional co-operation and understanding between the Central Government and the State Governments and presupposes a relationship based on equality, namely, that the States are equal partners with the Centre in protecting the Nation from internal strife. However, I note that of late, the Government of India has been increasingly taking unilateral steps and creating top down structures and parallel authorities that encroach upon the constitutional domain of the State Government. This is an ill-advised and counter-productive approach, best illustrated by the ham-handed manner in which the National Counter Terrorism Centre was sought to be established or by the shoddy manner in which the Communal Violence Bill

has been drafted, details regarding which I have already communicated to the Government of India at the relevant time.

In the aftermath of the recent unfortunate incidents of communal violence in some parts of India, there has been a call in some quarters to enact the Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2011. I have already spelt out my strong opposition to the proposed Bill, both on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party. In my view, the proposed Bill will not meet the desired objective of curbing vociferous religiosity or preventing communal and targeted violence. Many provisions of the Bill are vaguely worded and leave themselves open to wide subjective interpretations and hence are liable to be misused. Above all, the Bill is against the constitutional scheme of distribution of powers between the Centre and the States. Clause 20 of the Bill, which gives extensive powers to the Central Government and the proposed National Authority for Communal Harmony, Justice and Reparation, is a direct assault on State autonomy. Hence, it would be extremely unwise to pose the Bill and the National Authority proposed by it as a solution to a complex problem that requires sensitive co-operation between the Centre and the States. In fact, the remedy proposed would end up being worse than the disease itself.

A strong, efficient, well equipped and disciplined Police Force is the only answer to meeting the challenges posed by anti social elements who try to disrupt Law and Order. Realizing the imperative need to improve the staffing, infrastructure, mobility and weaponry of the Police Force, my Government has sanctioned substantially enhanced allocations.

The Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the States are keenly aware of the need for modernization of the Police Force, strengthening the Intelligence machinery and developing Police training infrastructure. All the Hon'ble Chief Ministers would also agree, mainly, it is financial constraints that stand in the way of the efforts of State Governments to modernize and upgrade the Police Force. I request the Union Government to substantially increase the levels of financial assistance for the modernization of the Police Force. I wish to point out that the release of funds by the Government of India under the Police Modernisation Scheme to Tamil Nadu has come down drastically in 2012-13. I am also disappointed to note that the Central share in the scheme of modernization, which was 75%, has been brought down to 60%. I, therefore, urge that the Government of India should come out with a refurbished National plan for the modernization of the State Police Forces and substantially step up the allocation of funds to the States.

‘A strong, efficient, well equipped and disciplined Police Force is the only answer to meeting the challenges posed by anti-social elements.’

‘I think the agenda of this meeting rightly focuses on the issue of safety and security of women.’

Growing crimes and criminality, communalism, the growth of hate propaganda through the use of modern communication and information technology and other threats to the integrity of the Nation, are most effectively met by utilizing modern technology. Facilities which track, in real time, the misuse of information and communication means for intensive hate propaganda and cyber crimes require substantial investments in equipment and training of personnel. While States like Tamil Nadu are investing in this area, the Government of India can no longer shy away from its responsibility and must significantly enhance funding for such purposes.

The proactive use of the social media as an effective means of mass communication and source of correct information also needs to be focused upon. But the risks of using social media including hacking, cyber bullying and capture by anti social elements have to be mitigated through appropriate safeguards and effective monitoring and administration of such sites by trained and empowered personnel.

Gathering timely and relevant intelligence and acting on it is crucial to prevent communal disturbances and to tackle communal situations. Tamil Nadu has a well oiled Intelligence gathering apparatus with a number of specialised wings to look after various types of threats to public order. The Tamil Nadu State Intelligence Wing is an effective

and highly professional body which participates in the Subsidiary Multi Agency Centre by promptly acting on the information received by it and by sharing relevant information with the Central agencies and with other State agencies through this mechanism. The professional capabilities and strengths of the State intelligence Wing have been recognized nationally.

I think the agenda of this meeting rightly focuses on the issue of safety and security of women. I have always been passionate about securing the goal of true gender equity in Tamil Nadu. To help women overcome domestic drudgery and to become more effective participants in the labour force, my Government has taken the pioneering step of providing mixies, fans, grinders and induction stoves free of cost to women. Tamil Nadu also implements a number of schemes such as marriage assistance schemes which promote important social objectives like women's education, widow remarriage and inter-caste marriage; hostels for working women, service homes for destitute women, the Girl Child Protection Scheme, the scheme for distribution of free milch animals and goats; and issue of land rights in the name of women that will improve their economic security and empower women.

As a result of my efforts, Tamil Nadu is undoubtedly today, the leading State in attaining the goal of equality before law for women and has emerged as a State where women

feel safe and secure. I wish to record here that my Government pioneered the setting up of All Women Police Stations in India more than 20 years ago in 1992. Today, there are All Women Police Stations in every Police sub-division in Tamil Nadu. The proportion of women in the Tamil Nadu Police Force at 17.2 per cent is the highest in the country. The punishment in cases of sexual harassment was made more severe and the burden of proof to prove innocence was transferred to the accused in cases of death or suicide resulting from sexual harassment under the amendments to the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislature by my Government in 2002.

Impelled by the need to have an even stronger legal basis to protect women from sexual violence, I have recently announced a fresh set of strong measures for the protection of women, a bold and innovative 'Thirteen Point Plan'. This includes formation of Fast Track Mahila Courts, appointment of women Government Lawyers, amendments to the Goondas Act, 24 hour toll free Helpline for Women - 1091, fixing responsibility on senior Police Officers to monitor such crimes and their investigations, daily hearings in the trial courts, specialized training to aid investigations, medical treatment, rehabilitation at Government cost and surveillance of public places through a strong CCTV network. I believe

that these will go a long way in curbing such heinous offences that are a blot on our collective conscience.

Tamil Nadu is probably the only State in the Country which has ordered the constitution of 42 Mahila Courts to be located in all the 32 districts of the State. These measures, I am confident, will guarantee a safe and secure environment for all women in the State, including women in the workplace.

Tamil Nadu is in the forefront of nurturing inclusive growth and affirmative action. The Tamil Nadu Act 45 of 1994 is a historic legislation providing 69% reservation in education and employment for the disadvantaged sections i.e., Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. On my initiative, it has been placed under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India so as to secure immunity from judicial scrutiny under Article 31B of the Constitution. This has gone a long way in fostering development among the disadvantaged sections.

The Government of Tamil Nadu under my leadership is determined to take all necessary steps to prevent atrocities against Adi Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes and to eliminate the abominable practice of untouchability. A Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Protection Cell headed by an Additional Director General of Police has

'My Government is determined to take all necessary steps to prevent atrocities against Adi Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes.'

‘We must effectively share intelligence, information and resources between the States and by the Centre with the States.’

been formed. Mobile Police squads headed by Inspectors of Police are functioning in each Police District and Commissionerate. The cases registered under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, are monitored by 11 Deputy Superintendents of Police. Careful monitoring of cases filed and a monthly review by the District Superintendents of Police and Police Commissioners and by the Additional DGP ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Act. Periodic reviews of the implementation of the Act at the State and District level are conducted and I personally reviewed the implementation of the SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in a meeting held on 25.6.2013.

There are four Special Courts functioning exclusively for the trial of the cases under this Act and two more Special Courts will be started during the current year. 32 exclusive Special Prosecutors have also been appointed for prosecution of cases. Extensive training and sensitization programmes on the provisions of the Act have been organized for Police Officers with the involvement of NGOs, Public Prosecutors and Senior Officers. Immediate monetary relief and rehabilitation is also being provided to all the victims under the relevant provisions of the Act and the Rules.

To conclude, there is perceptible in modern Indian Society, a telescoping tension and intolerance, which threatens to make it more confrontationist, belligerent and prone to overt acts of violence based on various sectarian and caste identities. These have thrown up major challenges to the State and even to Society at large. We must act resolutely and robustly to put down these malevolent antisocial forces. The Government of India must recognize that the maintenance of Law and Order and Police are State subjects in the Constitutional scheme and that the States should be treated as equal partners in a system where co-operation between the States and the Centre should prevail over narrow political considerations. We must effectively share intelligence, information, and resources between the States and by the Centre with the States, so that the forces of terrorism, fundamentalism, extremism and communalism are put down effectively.

We are a young Nation. By pursuing active, inclusive policies in the areas of health, education, employment and women's empowerment, we can ensure that we inculcate the spirit of communal amity and harmony and pride in our Nation amongst all stakeholders, particularly our youth. Our people, diverse though they may be in colour, language, caste, creed and culture, have been melded into Nationhood, united in terms of a modern, Pan Indian identity that reinforces our national pride and shows to the world the essential idea of One India. ●



‘Reject regressive Rajan panel report on states’

D.O. Letter dated 1.10.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“The Report of the Dr. Raghuram Rajan Committee for Evolving a Composite Development Index of States has been placed in the public domain on 26th September, 2013. I have gone through the report carefully and I am seriously concerned about the callous approach that the Union Ministry of Finance has adopted regarding this extremely sensitive issue in Centre-State financial relations in the Country. The issue of devolution of resources between the Centre and States is constitutionally the function of the Finance Commission. At a time when the Fourteenth Finance Commission has already been constituted, by making an announcement in the Budget Speech of 2013-14 and thereafter in setting up the Expert Committee, the Union Finance Minister has committed a grave constitutional impropriety and has deliberately sown the seeds of confusion in an already well established mechanism of financial transfer from the Centre to the States evolved over the past several years.

The background to the constitution of the Committee was the repeated demand of the Government of Bihar to confer “Special Category Status” on it to enable greater fund flow to the State to address its developmental deficit. Far from limiting itself to the question

of enabling greater fund flow to a backward State based on its demands, the Committee was given terms of reference to evolve criteria for identifying backward States and how the suggested criteria may be reflected in future planning and devolution of funds from the Central Government to the States. Our objection is that the Committee has been asked to examine criteria for devolution of funds from the Centre to the States, a duty laid down under Article 280 of the Constitution for the Finance Commission.

Unfortunately, the discussion around the report already assumes that the criteria recommended by the Committee are to be applied in general to determine allocation of resources from the Union Government to the States. This mistaken impression has been fuelled by Table 2 in the Report which juxtaposes the shares that a State receives through various modes of transfer. Table 2 of the Report is a very crude exercise which does not recognize the nuances and complexities involved in Centre-State transfers in India. The report has failed to take note of some very crucial dimensions of Centre-State financial relations in India.

The Report begins with the assumption that the purpose of transfer of resources from the Centre to the States is primarily to reduce regional disparities. As you are well aware, such an assumption is incorrect and is a very limited interpretation of the constitutional scheme of devolution of resources between the Centre and the States. Under the Indian Constitution, the Central Government, for reasons of administrative convenience and efficiency in collection, has been empowered to levy and collect most of the buoyant sources of tax revenue. On the other hand, most of the resource intensive governmental functions were left with the States, notably Police, maintenance of law and order, administration of justice, health, education, agriculture, provision of amenities including roads, water supply etc. This straightaway

implies that there has to be a vertical transfer of resources from the Centre to the States and more importantly, a significant proportion of this resource transfer from the Centre needs to be for the continued provision of basic public services in all the States and not just in backward States. This very important aspect has been completely missed by the Committee in its report. The Report fails to capture the multiple dimensions that different types of transfer from the Centre to the States attempt to meet. Hence, any attempt to apply the findings of this Committee on a wide scale to cover different types of transfer would be very simplistic and unfair.

The transfer of resources under the Modified Gadgil-Mukherjee formula has

evolved over the years and was adopted by the National Development Council. One element of this transfer is the classification as Special and Non-Special Category States. The Committee report recommends that the categorization of States as Special Category and Non-Special Category States needs to be replaced with a new categorization of “least developed” states. It should be noted that in earlier times, the distinction of Special and Non-Special Category States also determined the proportion of grant financing out of the Plan Assistance that a State would receive which was determined as 30 per cent for Non-

Special Category States and 90 per cent for Special Category States. In due course, the loan component of Central Plan Assistance was replaced with market borrowings that the States themselves

contracted. The grant component alone flowed as Plan Assistance from the Centre to the States. The Committee report completely ignores this historical background in advocating the new mechanism of allocation based on the underdevelopment index. Hence, the report contains within it the danger of a substantial pre-emption of grant resources in favour of a few populous States if applied more generally to Central transfers. Any such far reaching modification would have to be approved by the Union Planning Commission and by the National Development Council. With barely six months remaining for the completion of the UPA Government’s term in office, I do not think this is the appropriate time to undertake such a sensitive and complex exercise.

‘The report contains within it the danger of a substantial pre-emption of grant resources in favour of a few populous States if applied more generally to Central transfers.’

Even under the Plan route, the bulk of the transfer now takes place through various Central Sector, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and newly introduced Additional Central Assistance (ACA) based flagship schemes. The quantum of such transfers is determined by the specific guidelines relating to each scheme and not by an across the board measure. This is because the allocation has to be determined based on the specific needs that the scheme seeks to cater to. The Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) is one such Central Plan Scheme. Hence, if the recommendations of the Committee are to be used at all, it ought to be restricted to determining allocations under the BRGF.

The index of underdevelopment constructed by the Committee rates Tamil Nadu as a relatively developed State ranking 3rd amongst the 28 States in the country. While such a ranking for the State is a matter of gratification and is a recognition of the sustained developmental efforts taken in the State, there are a number of issues with the index. The attempt to treat this index as a reflection of the “need” of the States for resources is simplistic and flawed, since funds flow is not the only factor relevant to correct under development.

Further, the components and indicators based on which the index has been constructed do not adequately recognize funding needs of the States and tend to understate the developmental deficits in certain key areas even in the so called relatively developed States. On the Income component, one

of the Committee members himself has objected to the use of monthly per capita consumption expenditure based on National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) surveys as against the per capita income statistics generated by the Ministry of Statistics. In the area of Health, only Infant Mortality Rate has been chosen as an indicator and indicators which capture other dimensions of the health status including nutrition levels, anaemia and morbidity data should have also been included. As far as household amenities index is concerned, the material used for the construction of the houses is also a relevant

‘The components and indicators based on which the index has been constructed do not adequately recognize funding needs of the States’

indicator which has not been considered. Poverty ratio has been selected as an indicator which has already proved to be an extremely controversial measure as we lack a comprehensive, effective and

accurate methodology. Further this new poverty ratio has not been used even for determining eligibility under the National Food Security Act. Hence, using the poverty ratio ought to have been avoided. Female literacy rate has been used as a stand alone measure, whereas it would have been more appropriate to also take note of the gender gap between male and female literacy rates in different States. The proportion of SC/ST population in a State has been taken as a measure of backwardness, which is incomplete. The proportion of a State’s SC/ST population out of the country’s SC/ST population is also a relevant indicator and should have been taken note of. Urbanisation rate has been taken as a positive development indicator whereas rapid urbanisation brings its



own share of issues and therefore generates a greater need for resources. The proportion of slum population in the State and as proportion of the national slum population should have also been included as indicators within the Urbanization component or as a stand alone measure.

Some important dimensions of development have been excluded in the ten components identified by the Committee. An important aspect of resource endowment, the per capita availability of water for both drinking and irrigation ought to have been a component in the index. Investment that water stressed States need to make to provide water for domestic consumption and for sustainable irrigation is very substantial and has been ignored in the index. Similarly, environmental status

and need to invest resources to counter air and water pollution ought to have been captured in the index. The index also does not capture intra-State disparities which also require attention.

While the under-development index may still benefit with some improvements and has a chance of redemption, the performance indicator developed by the Committee is irredeemably flawed. The gap between the base and current year for measuring performance varies between 2 years in some cases to ten years at the most. Choosing such a short period to measure performance is problematic on two counts. Firstly, many of the States which are identified as relatively developed have recorded their improvement through consistent

performance over at least two or three decades. Therefore, the base period for measuring performance needs to be substantially longer to more accurately reflect strong performance. Secondly, the relatively more developed States had recorded substantial improvement in many of the indicators early on, and for them to show even further improvement is difficult, whereas States starting from a lower base can record seemingly more substantial improvement and appear to perform better. Hence, because of the way the performance indicator has been structured, it does not meet the primary objective of incentivizing sustained

'Some important dimensions of development have been excluded in the ten components identified by the Committee.'

strong performance over a number of years. How skewed the performance measure is, is amply reflected by the fact that the State which registers the highest share in the need based indicator also

gets the largest share under the performance based indicator.

The Committee further recommends that two factors be introduced in the formula for allocation – i.e. share of population of State and share of area of State. The Report does not explicitly state which year's population is taken as the base. Presumably it is the 2011 Census. A number of States including Tamil Nadu which have contributed significantly to achieving the national goal of a reduced birth rate and fertility rate have consistently maintained that the 1971 population is the appropriate base for allocation of resources on the basis of population. Using any later population measure penalizes these States which have assiduously worked towards national goals and rewards those who did not.

The allocation formula is further skewed by the proposal to square the underdevelopment index so that the least developed States will get disproportionately more resources. This is a highly unfair mechanism. Using mathematical jugglery to disproportionately increase resource allocation to a selected group of States is invidious and an attempt to rob Peter to pay Paul.

The completely skewed allocation formula which the Committee has recommended severely penalizes States which have consistently worked towards national goals of development and welfare. It pushes resource allocation to populous States which have historically underperformed. Smaller States, regardless of their status of development, are protected because of the fixed 0.3 per cent share recommended for all States regardless of size. The States which suffer the most in the proposed formula are the relatively large States which over the last several decades have consistently performed well because of their own efforts. Over the decades, the share of such States in Central transfers has declined. But the States have somehow managed to sustain their performance, by raising resources through their own tax efforts and by providing good governance. Such States are now being penalized even further and the allocation mechanism proposed by the Committee leads to very perverse outcomes. If the recommendations of the Committee are applied, Tamil Nadu will receive on a per capita basis, less than half of what will be transferred by the Centre on an average per capita basis and one-fifth

of the highest per capita allocation for a Non-Special Category State. This is a regressive, unfair and completely perverse outcome. The Committee itself recognizes that allocation of resources is not the only factor in achieving improved developmental outcomes. But, in the end, the Committee errs gravely by only recommending further reduced allocations to the better performing States. This is truly a travesty of fairplay and justice.

It is quite apparent that this hurriedly drafted report is a thinly disguised attempt to provide an intellectual justification to deliver resources to a potential political ally and meet

'This hurriedly drafted report is a thinly disguised attempt to provide an intellectual justification to deliver resources to a potential political ally and meet the political objective of the mentor of the report.'

the political objective of the mentor of the report. The bulk of the transfer of funds from the Centre to the States needs to take place based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission

which is constituted every five years. A Committee set up by the Union Finance Minister under an executive order can never substitute the constitutionally mandated process of the Finance Commission. Hence, I strongly urge that the Report of the Expert Committee ought to be rejected and not used in any form. The Fourteenth Finance Commission needs to be allowed to function freely without such attempts at deliberate tutoring and misleading inputs from the Government of India masquerading as intellectual attempts at redressing backwardness. I strongly decry the attempt of the Union Finance Minister and the Ministry of Finance to prejudice and undermine the work of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.” ■



Mineral mining put on hold



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa's**
statement issued on 17.09.2013 (*English Translation*)

Minerals play an important role in the industrial and economic growth of a country and in securing revenue for the Government.

None should engage in mining these essential minerals without proper permission of the Government or in excess of the permitted quantity. I consulted officials after receiving reports that illegal mining of beach minerals-garnet, ilmenite and rutile- was

going on in Thoothukudi District. I set up a Special Committee under the chairmanship of Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Revenue Secretary and comprising officials of the departments of Revenue, Environment and Forest, and Geology and Mines to investigate whether any irregularities had taken place and directed the Committee to submit its report to Government within a month.

I also directed the Thoothukudi District Collector to suspend mining operations and the Deputy Director of Minerals Department in that district to stop issue of transport permits, till the Special Committee completed its task.

The Special Committee, on my direction, undertook a detailed study in Thoothukudi District, involving the powers conferred on the State Government under Section 24 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The Senior District Revenue Officer, Joint Director, Land Survey, Joint Director, Geology and Mining Department and the Additional Chief Engineer, Environment in the Special Committee undertook their inspection in a co-ordinated way. Six Sub-Committees that included Senior Deputy Collector, Deputy Director, Land Survey, Land Survey Inspector and officials, Deputy Director/Deputy Geologist, Department of Geology and Mines and Zonal Environment Engineer of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, were setup and they were also engaged in the inspection work.

These Committees inspected the mineral segregation factories in three phases-the first on the 12th, 13th and 14.08.2013, the second on

19th and 20.08.2013 and the third on 29th and 30.08.2013.

On the basis of the findings of this Special Committee and Sub-Committees, Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, the Revenue Secretary presented a report to me today (17.09.2013) at the Secretariat.

After receiving the report, I directed the Special Committee to inspect the 71 remaining major mineral quarries run by private lessees in the districts of Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari, Tiruchirapalli and Madurai to see whether any irregularities have been committed by the lessees of the rare earth mines and submit a factual report to the Government. The Special Committee will work under Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi.

I have also directed that appropriate orders be issued to stop mining operations in the major mineral quarries of garnet, ilmenite and rutile and the issue of transport permits till the inspection work is completed.

I wish to inform that a policy decision will be taken in respect of major mineral quarries after receipt of this inspection report. ■

More benefits under girl child scheme



Beneficiaries under the 'Girl Child Protection' scheme will hereafter be eligible for Marriage Assistance also. They can also claim the maturity amount of the fixed deposit created in their names on completion of 18 years of age, instead of waiting for the completion of 20 years.

These two schemes were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalithaa at the Secretariat on 17.9.2013 by making a token distribution of the benefits.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed modern sewing machines to 27,900 members of the Women Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Societies and enhanced pension amount to

the anganwadi and Nutritious Meals Scheme workers by making a token distribution.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced in the Legislative Assembly on 17.4.2013 that the Marriage Assistance Scheme would be extended to the beneficiaries of the 'Girl Child Protection' Scheme as they were not covered by that scheme so far, and that the maturity amount they received from their fixed deposits was low. The age relaxation by two years for claiming the F.D. maturity amount was to enable them to continue their higher education. The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed marriage assistance to 2 beneficiaries and the foreclosed F.D. amount to one to mark the inauguration of the two schemes.

The distribution of modern sewing machines is a sequel to an announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the Legislative Assembly on 14.5.2012.

The Tamil Nadu Government issued orders for distribution of 54,000 modern sewing machines costing Rs. 54 crore to members of the Women Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Societies functioning under the Director of Social Welfare Department and the 10 per cent margin money of Rs. 5.40 crore.

In the first phase, 27,900 modern sewing machines were purchased for distribution to as

many persons and the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the machines to 2 beneficiaries to mark the inauguration of the scheme.

Anganwadi workers who have completed 25 years of service are receiving a monthly pension of Rs. 500 to Rs. 700. They had represented that their monthly pension be raised to Rs. 1000/- on par with the beneficiaries under the Social Security Schemes. The Hon'ble Chief Minister considered their request kindly and enhanced their monthly pension to Rs. 1000/- effective from 1.4.2013. To mark the operation of the increased pension, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed the special pension to 2 beneficiaries.



Death Anniversary of Marudu Pandiar :
October 24

Marudu Brothers - they began the Freedom Struggle

Among the freedom fighters of South India, the Marudu Brothers were the first to mobilise the people and wage a war against the British. Theirs was not a foolhardy struggle without knowing the strength of the enemy. They formed a large coalition of Poligars (Palayakarars) after winning the support of the French, Tipu Sultan and the Marathas. They waged war by acquiring modern weaponry and the unanimous support of the

downtrodden, but they were defeated as the Britishers blocked assistance from reaching them at the crucial moment. There is no doubt that Indian history would have been different had the expected military assistance reached them in time. The struggle and sacrifice of the Marudu Brothers became the subject of folk songs in Sivagangai and sowed the seeds of patriotism among the people. (*Tamil Nadu in the Freedom Struggle*)



The Queen of Cinema T.P. Rajalakshmi

In the Tamil Cinema World, T.P. Rajalakshmi was hailed as the 'Queen of Cinema' on account of her glittering achievements. 'Kalidas' was the first talkie (1931) of South Indian Cinema and Rajalakshmi was its heroine. She was born at Saliamangalam village near Tiruvaiyaru in Thanjavur District in an orthodox family to Karnam Panchapakesa Sashtri and Meenakshi

chance for her young daughter to act. On the recommendation of Sankaradas Swamigal, the 'Father of Tamil Drama', Rajalakshmi was inducted into the drama troupe. On learning of this, her husband Muthumani's family became furious and severed all relations with the family.

The first drama Rajalakshmi acted was 'Pavalakodi'. Then she joined Arya Gaana



Ammal on the 13th day of the Tamil month of Aippasi in 1911. She had 2 brothers. When she was 7 years old, she was married to one Muthumani. Even as a child, she had the talent to grasp songs she had heard and render them.

After the demise of her father, her mother, on account of poverty, took her to V.S. Samanna Iyer's drama company that had then camped at Tiruchirapalli and sought a

K.S. Chellappa's Drama Company and K.P. Mohideen's drama troupe. She was the first woman artiste to perform in the Kanniah drama troupe. She donned the role of Seetha in that company. Her fame as a good female drama artiste spread. This catapulted her to the status of a renowned artiste who took part in 'special' dramas.

At the pinnacle of her fame as a drama artiste, cinema chances too came her way. In



those days, only silent movies were produced. She acted in the silent film 'Kovalan'. She acted in important roles in the silent pictures 'Usha Sundari' and 'Rajeswari' in 1931. It was the famous Raja Sandow who directed her in 'Rajeswari'.

By this time, the Imperial Film Company of Bombay, had decided to produce the first 'talkie' in South India. Thiru. K. Subramanian, the leading film Director of those days was consulted and he recommended Rajalakshmi for the heroine's role. In this way, T.P. Rajalakshmi became the heroine of the first talkie in South India, 'Kalidas'. In that film she rendered 2 Carnatic songs, 2 patriotic songs and gave a dance performance as 'Kurathi'.

Following this, she acted in important films like Ramayanam (1932), and Sathyavan Savitri (1933). Her performance in 'Valli Thirumanam', produced by S. Vincent in

1933, fetched her the title 'Queen of Cinema', and catapulted her to stardom. She fell in love with T.V. Sundaram who played the role of Narada in that film and married him.

She went to Kolkatta, stayed there and acted in the pictures 'Kovalan', 'Draupadi Vasthraapaharanam', 'Harichandra', 'Gulebagavali' and 'Lalithaangi'. Her journey continued and totally she acted in 23 films.

Starting her career in the field of drama at the age of 7, Rajalakshmi glittered as a star in the film world and marched on to become a multi-faceted personality. She started a film company "Sri Rajam Talkies" and produced a film "Ms. Kamala" in 1936, taking on herself the responsibilities of writing the story, screenplay, direction and editing. Thus she etched her name indelibly in the cine world as the first woman film producer, first woman story writer and first woman director.

‘Madurai Veeran’ picture produced by her in 1939 had a successful run. With the picture “Idaya Geetham” directed by Joseph Thaliath and released in 1950, Rajalakshmi bid adieu to acting.

Rajalakshmi left her imprint in the literary field also. Her novel “Kamalavalli or Dr. Chandrasekaran” written in 1931 held a mirror to the murky happenings in society in those days. It was this novel that was made into a film in 1936 under the title “Miss Kamala”. She recorded her firm views on women’s re-marriage and freedom to choose her husband in that novel.

She had lashed out at male chauvinism with the observation: “The world of men will see sense only when men are tonsured after the demise of their wives and made to sit in a corner”. Rajalakshmi also penned the novels ‘Vimala’, ‘Mallika’, ‘Sundari’, ‘Vaasanthika’ and ‘Uraiyin Vaal’.

Rajalakshmi was conferred the “Kalaimaamani” award in 1961. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. organised a felicitation meeting for Rajalakshmi with Kalaivanar N.S. Krishnan presiding, and honoured her. Rajalakshmi passed away in 1964 after an illness.

By way of appreciating Rajalakshmi’s contribution to the field of art, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa ordered that T.P. Rajalakshmi’s centenary be celebrated on behalf of the State Government. Accordingly, the centenary was celebrated on 19.09.2013 at the Museum Auditorium, Egmore, Chennai.

Hon’ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. P. Dhanapal,



Centenary of actress T.P. Rajalakshmi

unveiled a portrait of Rajalakshmi and delivered his presidential address. Hon’ble Minister for Information and Special Programmes Implementation Thiru. K.T. Rajenthra Bhalaji delivered an address. Dr. M. Rajaram, IAS, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information welcomed the gathering. Thiru. R. Sarathkumar, MLA, President of South Indian Film Actors’ Association, film actor Thiru. R. Sivakumar, film director R.V. Udhayakumar and Thiru. Deva, President of the Tamil Nadu Iyal, Isai, Nadaka Manram participated and offered their felicitations. Thiru. J. Kumaragurubaran, IAS, Director, Information and Public Relations Department proposed a vote of thanks. A photo exhibition consisting of the film clippings of T.P. Rajalakshmi was also got up. ■

Proactive steps to give differently abled their due



**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa's statement
issued on 30.09.2013 (English Translation)**

My Government is functioning with the focussed aim that the differently abled should excel in every field with equal rights and that they should be in a position to exercise their rights properly.

After I assumed office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the first time, I created a separate Directorate for the Differently Abled so as to implement the welfare programmes intended for them in an excellent way. An exhaustive State policy was also promulgated for them.

Again, after I became Chief Minister in 2011, innumerable concessions were extended to the differently abled like doubling the monthly allowance to Rs.1000/- for the mentally ill, severely handicapped and those affected with muscular atrophy, increasing the food allowance to Rs. 650/- from Rs.450/- to resident students in Government and

Government-aided special schools, doubling the assistance to differently abled students from the first standard to post graduation and professional courses and increasing the allowance to the scribes helping the visually handicapped to write examinations to Rs. 250/- from Rs. 100/-.

Recently, I announced several concessions like extending free bus pass facility in Government buses to the spouse of the differently abled, abolishing the 14.5 value added tax(VAT) on 3-wheeler motor vehicles, distributing high-power hearing aids costing Rs. 10,000/- each, renovating the school for the blind at Poonamallee, distributing magnifying glasses, setting up primary training institutes for visually handicapped children below 6 years, reducing the percentage of handicap to 45 from 60 for claiming maintenance allowance and the Government itself discharging the interest liability on the loans extended by the



Central Co-operative banks to the differently abled.

The differently abled have been agitating for the last few days over a charter of demands that include preferential treatment in the appointment of graduate teachers and the filling up of the vacant teachers' posts in the special schools for the visually handicapped soon, with the visually handicapped personnel. On learning of this, I directed the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and high ranking Government officials to hold talks with them. They held three rounds of talks.

In this situation, a review meeting was held today (30.9.2013) at the Secretariat. I presided. Hon'ble Minister for Finance Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Thiru. Natham R. Viswanathan, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons, Thiru. K.P. Munusamy, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development Thiru. R. Vaithilingam, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Tmt. P. Valarmathi, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare and Tamil Development Thiru. P. Palaniappan, Chief Secretary to Government Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance Department Thiru. K. Shanmugam, IAS, Secretary, Welfare of Differently Abled persons Department Thiru.

Sivasankaran IAS, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department Thiru. Apurva Varma IAS, State Commissioner for Differently Abled Thiru. V.K. Jayakodi IAS, Principal Secretary, School Education Department Tmt. D. Sabitha IAS and other high officials participated. The demands of the visually handicapped college students and graduates' association were discussed in detail. After the discussions, I directed the officials to take the following steps in the interest of the differently abled:-

1. The Teacher Recruitment Board should conduct a special Teacher Eligibility Test so as to facilitate the differently abled unemployed B.Ed graduates to get jobs easily. The B.Ed. graduates who clear this test will be posted to fill the backlog vacancies and to the future vacancies that may arise.

2. The School Education Department will take steps to provide special coaching to the visually handicapped applicants for this test through the District Teacher Training Institutes in all districts.

3. The School Education Department will also take steps to provide special coaching to the scribes who help the visually handicapped to write their examinations.

4. 200 visually handicapped post graduates will be posted to the backlog vacancies and to future vacancies if they clear the post-graduate teacher eligibility test.

5. The Teacher Recruitment Board will take steps to appoint 100 visually handicapped post graduates who have cleared the National Eligibility test/State level Eligibility test in the existing backlog vacancies of Assistant Professor in Colleges and future vacancies that may arise.

These steps of my Government, I wish to state, will bring about a renaissance in the lives of the differently abled and infuse self confidence in them. ■

CHIEF MINISTER DISTRIBUTES CYCLES, CASH AWARDS



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa made on 13.9.2013 a token presentation of bicycles to 7 students to mark the distribution in the current academic year of bicycles at no cost to 6,43,867 higher secondary students.

The total cost of the bicycles is Rs. 212.43 crore and the break-up of the beneficiaries is 2,86,328 boy students and 3,57,539 girl students.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presented cash awards to 7 students to mark the handing over of awards to 80 backward, most backward, de-notified and minority community students who have secured the first three ranks in Government public examinations held for 10th & 12th standard students in 2013. The cash awards totalled Rs. 14.05 lakh.



Pre-school education in anganwadis



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs. 1.20 crore for imparting pre-school education to children in 10,000 anganwadi centres.

Quality pre-school education should be given to children to prepare them mentally for going to school. This is sought to be done by printing 8 moral stories in multi-colour and fixing them in foam boards that will be hung on the walls of the anganwadi centres. This is the first phase of the programme and will benefit 2.50 lakh children.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also sanctioned Rs. 7,11,89,000/- for purchase of weighing machines for monitoring the weight of babies/children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through the anganwadi centres. The amount will be spent for purchase of 54,439 weighing machines for weighing babies, 11,333 machines for children and 16,988 machines for monitoring the weight of mothers and adolescent girls.

More colleges in rural areas a godsend for students



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 13.09.2013 inaugurated through video conferencing at the Secretariat, 12 Government Arts and Science Colleges and 2 University constituent Arts and Science Colleges as a further step in the Government's endeavour to take higher education to rural students without requiring them to go to cities.

The 12 Government colleges are located at Karambakudi (Pudukottai District), Peraavurani (Thanjavur), Kangeyam (Tiruppur), Kumarapalayam (Namakkal), Karimangalam (Dharmapuri- Women's College), Hosur (Krishnagiri), Uthiramerur (Kancheepuram), Kovilpatti (Thoothukudi), Kadaladi, Thiruvaadanai and Mudukalathur (Ramanathapuram) and Sivakasi (Virudhunagar).

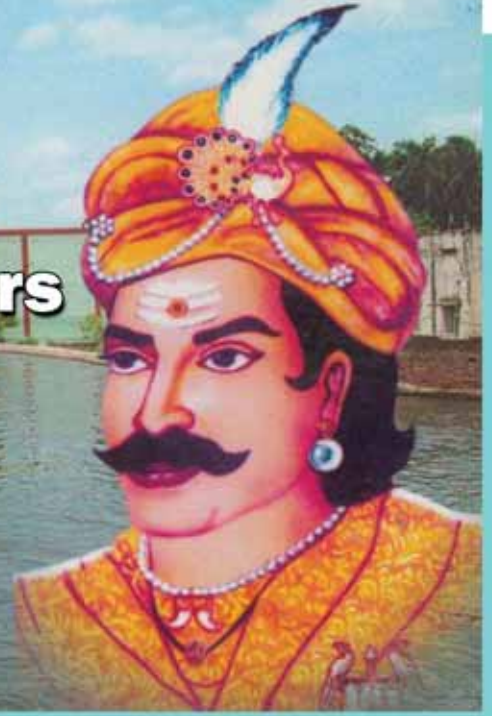
Of the 2 University constituent colleges, one is for women and it is located at Vepur in Perambalur District and will be a constituent of the Bharathidasan University; the other is at Thittakudi in Cuddalore District and will function as a constituent of the Tiruvalluvar University.

For these 14 colleges, 210 teaching and 238 non-teaching posts have been created. Towards staff and office expenses and for procurement of computers, furniture, books, equipment etc., Rs. 17,09,94,000/- has been allotted. Administrative sanction has been accorded for Rs. 105.85 crore for construction of permanent buildings for these colleges.

In the first phase, 5 courses of study- B.A.(English), B.A.(Tamil), B.Com, B.Sc (Maths) and B.Sc (Computer Science)- will be offered in these colleges.

Thanking the Hon'ble Chief Minister on behalf of the students newly admitted in these colleges, Selvi. S. Padmavathi, a student of the Kumarapalayam Government college said, "I am a poor student and cannot dream of going to a college after the plus 2 course. But due to the blessings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Amma, I have joined the B.A.(English) course in this college inaugurated on 13.09.2013. I feel this college has been opened for my sake. This college is a Temple of knowledge for several poor students like me. When we lost all hopes of continuing our education, like God, Amma has come and helped us. On behalf of all students, I offer our humble thanks to Amma".

Statue, memorial for Kalingarayan, pioneer in linking rivers



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Selvi J Jayalalithaa's statement issued on 19.9.2013 (English Translation)

By way of honouring the memory of the great persons who built dams for irrigation, my Government has been building Manimandapams for them. My Government has constructed a mandapam in memory of Colonel Pennicuick who built the Mullai Periyar Dam. Another Manimandapam is being set up for Karikal Peruvalathan who had constructed the Grand Anicut across the Coleroon river.

Kalingarayan was instrumental in getting many areas in Erode District irrigation facilities. Kalingarayan Canal is the ornament of Erode District.

Though the Bhavani and Noyyal rivers could be connected by digging a canal for 32 miles, this canal was elongated to 56 miles with a view to bring in more lands under irrigation, provide assured irrigation and avert

damage to embankments by reducing the speed of the water flow. The canal has earned the name “Kaarai Vaaikal” and “Kona Vaaikkal” as its two sides are lined with mortar and as it winds its way like a snake. At present, the canal irrigates 15,743 acres of land in Erode District.

Kalingarayan was a pioneer in linking river waters. He had served the people with several charitable acts. People in that region have requested me to install a statue of Kalingarayan and turn the Kalingarayan Dam site into a tourist spot.

Acceding to their request, I am happy to announce that a statue for Thiru. Kalingarayan will be erected at the Nasuvampalayam area in Erode District by way of honouring his services to the community and the Kalingarayan Dam site will be converted into a tourist spot. ■

Scavengers for clean villages



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has passed orders for the creation of 16,726 additional scavenger posts for keeping villages clean.

The additional posts will be at the rate of one each for 8,469 village panchayats that have a

population of less than 3,000; two each for 3,908 village panchayats that have a population between 3,001 and 10,000; and 3 each for 147 village panchayats that have a population of more than 10,000.

Those recruited to these posts will get a monthly consolidated pay of Rs. 2,000/- and a dearness allowance of Rs. 40/-. The annual cost of this will be Rs. 41,81,50,000/-.

**Damaged
TNSCB
tenements
to be replaced**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered the replacement of damaged Slum Clearance Board's multi-storeyed buildings housing tenements with new ones.

Accordingly, in the first phase 3,500 tenements are to be demolished this year and new ones are to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 280 crores. The tenements to be replaced are in Ranganathapuram in Dr.Radhakrishnan

Nagar area, Parthasarathy Nagar, Sathyavanimuthu Nagar, Nehru Park (P.H. Road) in Egmore area, Pillaryar Kovil Street, Lock Nagar(Navalur Nagar) in Chepauk area, Ayodhya Kuppam, Kotturpuram, Aandimanyam Thottam area in Mylapore and Pallakkumanyam (all in Chennai district), Aaduthotti in Coimbatore district, Peechankulam in Tiruchi District and Nagai Basket Weavers' Colony in Nagapattinam district.

AMMA Thittam camps on Fridays on public demand



The District Collectors have been advised to hold the AMMA (Assured Maximum Service to Marginal People in All Villages) Thittam camps on Friday instead of Tuesday every week.

This follows a direction from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa following representations from representatives of local bodies.

Under the AMMA Scheme, a team of Revenue officials, under the leadership of Tahsildar visits every Revenue village, hears the grievances of the people, collects petitions and passes orders on them immediately. Up to September 20, 2013, of the 32,69,952 petitions received, 26,78,140 have been disposed of. ■

250 subsidised dry fodder sales centres



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has sanctioned Rs. 25.88 crore to the Animal Husbandry Department towards implementation of new schemes.

Of this allotment, Rs. 12.50 crore will be spent in setting up 250 subsidised dry fodder sales centres for selling dry fodder to farmers.

For the good maintenance of livestock, 100 Veterinary sub-centres in villages will be upgraded into veterinary dispensaries with modern facilities. This will cost Rs. 6.93 crore.

For improving the infrastructure facilities at the frozen semen production station at Udthagamandalam, Rs. 6.45 lakh has been allotted. This is expected to increase and strengthen the production of frozen semen. ■

New buildings opened for RDOs



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 17.9.2013 inaugurated at the Secretariat through video conferencing the newly created Revenue Divisional Office at Srirangam in Tiruchirapalli District and declared open new buildings constructed across the State for the Revenue Department, costing Rs. 7.58 crore.

New Revenue divisions are being created for administrative convenience and in the interests of people by dividing the existing revenue divisions on the basis of population, extent and the number of revenue villages. On this basis, the Hon'ble Chief Minister passed orders on 3.6.2013 for the bifurcation of the Tiruchirapalli Revenue Division into two, one going by the same name and consisting of the Taluks of Tiruchirapalli East, Tiruchirapalli West and Tiruverambur and the other by the name Srirangam Revenue Division comprising the Taluks of Srirangam, Manaparai and Marungapuri.



The new buildings declared open are:- one for the Tirupathur Taluk office in Sivagangai District (Rs. 1.68 crore); Tenkasi Taluk office in Tirunelveli District (Rs. 1.97 crore); residential quarters for the Arur Revenue Divisional officer in Dharmapuri District and for the staff of the Pudukottai Revenue Divisional office (Rs. 76 lakh); residential quarters for 2 deputy collectors in Perambalur District (Rs. 75 lakh) and residence cum office buildings for two firka Revenue Inspectors at Chettikulam and Pasampalur (Rs. 20 lakh); an additional building in the Pudukottai District Collectorate campus (Rs. 1.50 crore) and vehicle parking lots for the Alangudi, Aavudayarkovil and Kulathur Taluk offices (Rs. 19.50 lakh); and the Registration Room in the Tirunelveli District Collectorate (Rs. 52.50 lakh).

Dwellings, Buildings Worth Rs. 103.70 crore for POLICE, FIRE SERVICE



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open on 17.9.2013 residential, police station and office buildings for the Police and Fire Service and Rescue Department costing totally Rs.103.70 crore.

They are 1,152 dwelling units for the Police Department at Salem Armed Reserve Complex and at Mallur (Salem District), Velacheri (Chennai), Ariyalur (Ariyalur District), Andhiyur (Erode), Oonamancheri (Kancheepuram), South Thamaraikulam (Kanniyakumari), Kovai Pudur (Coimbatore), Villur and Madurai Armed Reserve Complex (Madurai), S.V. Mangalam (Sivagangai), Peravoorani (Thanjavur), Chinnamanoor (Theni), Jail Hill (Nilgiris district), Pallipattu (Tiruvallur), Mannargudi and Peralam

(Tiruvarur), Kaadalkudi (Thoothukudi), Tirunelveli Metro Armed Reserve Complex and Panangudi (Tirunelveli) and M. Reddiapatti (Virudhunagar) – all costing Rs. 72,19,17,000/-; 49 Police Stations respectively at Sembiam and Muthialpet (Chennai District), Cuddalore O.T. (Cuddalore), Vendasandur (Dindigul), Bhavani and Malayampalayam (Erode), Acharapakkam, Guduvancheri and Orathi (Kancheepuram), Nesamani Nagar, Kulasekaram and Colachel (Kanniyakumari), Vengamedu (Karur), Thittacheri (Nagapattinam), Mangalamedu and Perambalur (Perambalur), Gandarvakottai, Adhanakottai and Thiruppunavasal (Pudukkottai), Athur (Salem), Thiruvaiyaru and Kumbakonam (Thanjavur), Devadhanapatti, Odaipatti and Kurangani (Theni), Sathanur Dam (Tiruvannamalai),

Kottur, Thiruthuraipoondi and Mannargudi (Tiruvallur), Tiruvengadam and Alwarkurichi (Tirunelveli), Kudimangalam (Tiruppur), Uraiyur (Tiruchirapalli), Ranipettai (2 police stations), Kandili, Aalangayam, Sholingar, Veppankuppam, Ambalur, Thakkolam and Vaniyambadi (4 police stations), (all in Vellore District), Tirunavalur and Kanai (Villupuram),

and Rajapalayam (South) and A. Mukkulam in Virudhunagar District all costing Rs. 19.82 crore;

2 all women police stations at Andipatti (Theni), and Pudukottai (Thoothukudi) costing Rs. 56.88 lakh;

9 buildings – police station for Special Intelligence Bureau at Erode, office building for the D.N.A section of the Forensic Science Laboratory at Madurai, Anti-corruption and Vigilance Department station, additional facilities for the police training school at Peravoorani and a check-post at Punnakayal (Thoothukudi), office buildings for the Deputy Superintendents of Police and dwelling units at Cheranmadevi (Tirunelveli), and at Ulundurpet and Tindivanam (Villupuram) and Directorate building for the 11th Battalion of Tamil Nadu Special Police at Rajapalayam (Virudhunagar) – all costing Rs. 6,88,82,000/-;

4 fire service and rescue operation stations at Koothanallur (Tiruvallur), Pallipattu (Tiruvallur), Sirkali (Nagapattinam) and Tiruppur (South) in Tiruppur District, costing totally Rs. 1.40 crore; 38 dwelling units for the personnel of Fire Service and Rescue Operation Department – 25 at Ulundurpet (Villupuram District), and 13 at Thiruperumbudur (Tiruvallur) costing totally Rs. 2,83,14,000/-.

Besides, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for the Directorate buildings of Fire Services and Rescue Operation Department at Egmore and for the Anti-corruption and Vigilance Department at Alandur (both at Chennai), estimated to cost Rs. 13.82 crore.



Houses to withstand tsunamis, roads for speedy evacuation



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 17.9.2013 houses constructed at Kadaladi, Ramanathapuram District to mark the completion of the second phase of construction of 5,674 houses under the Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction project in the coastal districts.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also commissioned roads to a length of 41 kms to facilitate easy and safe evacuation of coastal people during emergencies. The roads, costing Rs. 23 crore, will benefit the people in 115 coastal villages in the 12 districts of Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari.

The 5,674 houses were constructed at a cost of Rs. 209 crore. Each house measures 325 sq. ft and costs Rs. 3.75 lakh. All these houses have been built in such a way as to withstand natural calamities and have been

insured for 10 years against natural calamities. During the period of construction, the house owners were given a one-time allowance of Rs. 1,000/- each to help them to move to an alternative place and Rs. 500/- for 18 months towards rent.

The Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Scheme was prepared in 2005 with the World Bank aid after thousands of houses in coastal areas were devastated by the December 25, 2004 tsunami. Under the scheme 14,364 houses in 444 coastal villages in 11 districts were indentified as vulnerable to Nature's fury. The Tamil Nadu Government decided to restructure and reconstruct them. In the first phase, 8,251 houses were constructed and declared open on 27.3.2012.

The district wise break-up of the number of houses constructed in the second phase is: Villupuram – 361; Cuddalore – 34; Nagapattinam – 1,346; Thanjavur – 295; Pudukottai – 460; Ramanathapuram – 2,000; Tirunelveli – 517; Kanniyakumari – 171; and again Pudukottai – 490.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open 382 new buildings and bridges constructed on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Department at a cost of Rs. 21.76 crore.

The buildings declared open are: Panchayat office buildings at Thottiyam in Tiruchi District and at Kuttalam in Nagapattinam District (Rs. 2.93 crore); 55 Panchayat office buildings in the districts of Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Kancheepuram,

Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Tiruvannamalai, Thoothukudi, Tiruppur, Villupuram and Virudhunagar (Rs. 4.45 crore); 134 sanitary complexes for men and women in 21 district (Rs. 5.60 crore) and buildings for school, Public Distribution Shops, Anganwadi Centres, Kitchens for Women Self-Help Groups, Community halls, auditorium, Taluk Statistics Inspectors offices and bridges. ■



‘Don’t Torture the People, Scrap Diesel Price Hike’

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalithaa's** statement issued on 1.10.2013

Without taking any curative measure for the myriad issues that have been confronting the Indian people for the last few months, like ‘sky-rocketing price, ‘uncontrolled inflation’ and ‘economic slow-down’, the Central Government has raised the diesel price by 50 paise a litre from today (1.10.2013) as it has been doing in a routine manner every month. This is sheer torture of the poor and the marginalised people and I condemn this, at the outset, very strongly.

The Central Government oil companies cited the price rise internationally and the fall of the Indian rupee against the US dollar when they increased the price of petroleum products last month. I strongly protested against that price rise, stating that increasing the price of petroleum products continuously without taking steps to control inflation and the Indian rupee's slide, will ruin the country's economy

and pave the way for a price rise in essential commodities.

But now the international price of crude oil has come down. The Indian rupee value against US dollar has improved. To raise the diesel price even in these circumstances is unjustified.

This price rise will aggravate inflation further, the prices of essential commodities will shoot up uncontrollably and the transport charges for the poor and downtrodden will go up.

Hence, I urge the Central Government to roll back the diesel price rise, taking into account India's present situation, the declining price of crude oil internationally and the recovery of the Indian rupee against the US dollar. I also request the Central Government to rescind the powers given to the oil companies to increase the diesel price every month. ■

New Reservoir to Augment Chennai Water Sources



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa laid the foundation stone through video conferencing at the Secretariat on September 11, for a new reservoir by linking two lakes in Kannankottai and Thervaikandigai Villages in Gummudipoondi Taluk in Tiruvallur district.

The State Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa has taken up streamlining works to store more water in lakes. It is also setting up new reservoirs to ensure protected water supply and to fully meet the water needs of the growing population of Tamil Nadu.

One such move is to link two lakes at Gummudipoondi taluk and set up a reservoir at a cost of Rs. 330 crore. This was announced by Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa in 2012. In the proposed reservoir about 1,000 mcft of water can be stored by filling it up twice in a year with Krishna waters and rain water. This will improve the drinking water sources for Chennai Corporation and surrounding areas.



Chief Minister lays stone for Poompuhar fishing harbour



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J Jayalalithaa, laid the foundation stone for a fishing harbour at Poompuhar in Nagapattinam District through video conferencing at the Secretariat on September 11.

At present, due to rough sea in the area, it is difficult for the fishermen to offload their catches from their mechanized boats and also for loading diesel, ice slabs, and other materials necessary for mechanised boats.

The local fishermen have for a long time been demanding a fishing harbour at Poompuhar to tide over these difficulties. By way of fulfilling their demand, the Chief Minister announced in 1995 that a fishing harbour would be set up in Poompuhar. During the previous tenure of the Chief Minister, a Rs. 40 crore plan estimate was prepared which was cleared by the Central Archaeological Department. Following this, the Chief Minister issued orders sanctioning the estimate.

In continuation of this, the Chief Minister has now laid the foundation stone for a Rs. 78.50 crore harbour. The fishing harbour will have facilities such as breakwaters, fish auction centre, ramp roads, concrete flooring, electricity, drinking water, drainage and communication. The harbour will have wharf facilities for 350 mechanised and 350 country fishing boats, which will help fishermen undertake safe fishing operations. Over 30,000 fisherfolk in 17 fishing villages in the area will benefit by the proposed harbour.

The Chief Minister also presented appointments orders to 289 Livestock Inspectors Grade II on the occasion. These inspectors were selected and given training during 2011-2012. They will provide ground level support to poor people in rural areas to prevent livestock diseases. ■

BOLERO JEEPS FOR FOREST OFFICIALS



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J. Jayalalithaa on 13.09.2013 presented 113 Bolero jeeps purchased at a cost of Rs. 7.28 crore for the official use of Forest officials.

The mobility these vehicles provide will help the Assistant Conservator of Forests and Forest Rangers in quickly attending to tasks connected with conservation and development of forests. ■



Coimbatore to Benefit by Bridge Across Noyyal

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J. Jayalalithaa has ordered the construction of a high-level bridge across Noyyal river near Sundakkamuthur road within Coimbatore Municipal Corporation limits. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also directed that the approach roads to this bridge

running to a total length of 7.9 KMS -- Perur-Selvapuram by-pass road, Palakad Main Road and Kovai-Pudur roads -- be developed and has sanctioned Rs. 15 crore towards all these works. The bridge will considerably decongest the Palakkad National Highway and ensure smooth traffic in Coimbatore Corporation area. ■



HIGHER SUPPORT PRICE FOR PADDY

**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa's
statement issued on 26.9.2013
(English Translation)**

Even while fighting price rise through the implementation of several schemes like rice at no cost distributed through the Public Distribution System, foodgrains at subsidised rates, Amma Restaurants and Amma Mineral water, my Government has been giving a higher procurement price to ensure a good price for farm produce, whenever the Central Government announces the minimum support price for crops like paddy and sugarcane.

For the current Kharif season, the Central Government has announced a minimum support price of Rs. 1,310/- per quintal for ordinary variety of paddy and Rs. 1,345/- per quintal for fine variety.

Following this, I held a meeting at the Secretariat today (26.9.2013) for fixing the

support price for paddy. Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Thiru. Natham R. Viswanathan, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development, and Law, Courts and Prisons, Thiru. K.P. Munusamy, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development Thiru. R. Vaithilingam, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. S. Damodharan, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation Thiru. Sellur K. Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru. R. Kamaraj, Chief Secretary to Government Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance Department Thiru. R. Shanmugam IAS, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department Thiru. Sandeep Saxena IAS, Secretary, Co-operation, Food

and Consumer Protection Department Tmt. M.P. Nirmala IAS and other high ranking officials participated.

After detailed discussion, I ordered in the interest of farmers an additional payment on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government of Rs. 50/- for ordinary variety of paddy and Rs.70 for fine variety of paddy over and above the price fixed by the Central Government. Accordingly the ordinary variety of paddy will be procured at Rs. 1,360/- per quintal and fine variety at Rs. 1,415/- per quintal from 1.10.2013.

I have also directed the respective District Collectors in the Cauvery irrigated areas

to permit the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation to open Direct Procurement Centres as per need. In areas other than the Cauvery irrigated areas, the respective District Collectors have been directed to permit the Civil Supplies Corporation, Co-operative Marketing Committees and Co-operative Credit Societies to open Direct Procurement Centres.

These steps of the Tamil Nadu Government will increase the income of farmers and improve their standard of living. ■

Birthday of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar: October 30

Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar's Golden Words

- ❖ Consider office as an opportunity to serve
- ❖ Protest against unjust acts. Support just deeds.
- ❖ The quality of heroism in you will make your opponent respect you.
- ❖ Truth is always bitter.
- ❖ It is the intellectuals duty to discern what is hidden from the view.
- ❖ Man cannot live without desire. But, life is sweet when desire is within limits.
- ❖ What cannot be retrieved? Honour and life.
- ❖ Till death, desire will linger on.
- ❖ One should have inner beauty and the power to control one's mind.
- ❖ Only the determined attain true wealth.
- ❖ The body should be strong to sustain life.
- ❖ Tell the truth, firmly and to the end.



Chief Minister's efforts pay, power cuts ease



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa, who is toiling to turn the State into a power surplus one, chaired a review meeting on the power situation in the State on 26.9.2013 at the Secretariat.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Thiru. Natham R. Viswanathan, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons Thiru. K.P. Munusamy, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development Thiru. R. Vailthilingam, Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu Government Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan IAS, Tamil Nadu Electricity Generation and Distribution Corporation Chairman Thiru. K. Gnanadesikan IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance Department Thiru. K. Shanmugam IAS, Principal Secretary Home Department Thiru. Niranjani Mardi IAS, Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department Thiru. Phanindra Reddy IAS, Secretary, Energy Department Thiru. Rajesh Lakhoni IAS, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department Thiru. Sandeep Saxena and other high ranking officials participated.

The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board officials informed the meeting that industrial establishments had greatly welcomed the

relaxation of restrictions effected on the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the first time in the last 5 years on the High Tension industries and commercial establishments from 14.8.2013 to 30.9.2013. They also informed that hydel power generation had increased due to the good south west monsoon and that the 600 MW Mettur Thermal Station, the 1,000 MW Vellur Thermal Station, a joint venture of the National Thermal Corporation, and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Generation and Distribution Corporation, and the 1,200 MW North Madras Thermal Station had all started power generation.

Taking into account the present power situation in the State and the growth of industries, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed that the 40 per cent power cut on High Tension industries and commercial establishments during the non-peak demand hours be halved to 20 per cent from 1.10.2013.

However, the ten per cent cap on consumption of grid power during peak hours (6 p.m. to 10 p.m.) on the above two categories of consumers will continue so as to firm up uninterrupted power supply to domestic consumers during that period.

This step will promote industrial growth and create employment opportunities.

1,773 DOCTORS APPOINTED



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa handed over at the Secretariat on 13.9.2013 appointment orders to seven doctors as a token of appointment of 1,698 Assistant Doctors in general and specialist categories and 75 Dentists recruited through the Medical Services Recruitment Board.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced in the Legislative Assembly that a new set up, the first of its kind in the whole of India – Medical Services Recruitment Board – would

be created to select Doctors, Nurses and non-medical professionals for Government service. The Board would select eligible medical professionals and till the rules of Tamil Nadu Public Services Commission were amended appropriately, Doctors on a temporary basis.

Accordingly the Board was set up and the Government gave sanction for recruitment of 2,159 medical professionals in general and specialist categories. In the first phase 1,698 Assistant Doctors in the general and specialist categories and 75 Dentists were selected. ●

Chief Minister's gesture to fishermen saved from Iranian prisons



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa handed over cheques of Rs. one lakh each to 16 fishermen who called on her at the Secretariat on 18.09.2013 to convey their heartfelt gratitude for her firm action in getting them released from Iranian prisons on 16.09.2013.

Even while expressing her immense happiness at their return, the Hon'ble Chief Minister assured them that her Government would provide a grant of Rs. 30 lakh each and arrange for a bank loan of Rs. 30 lakh each so that they could start fishing in Tamil Nadu itself with their own boats. Accordingly, the Government will release a

grant of Rs. 4.80 crore to them and take steps to get them an equal amount as bank loan.

The fishermen -- 10 from the fishing villages of Kaarangadu, Mullimunai, Moreppanai, Thirupalaikududi and Rochmaanagar in Ramanathapuram District, one from Pazhayar village in Nagapattinam District and 5 from Kolachal and Arokiapuram in Kanniyakumari District -- were contract employees of a private fishing firm in Saudi Arabia and were arrested and detained when they strayed into Iranian territorial waters while engaged in fishing in December last. The Iranian Court fined them 5,750 US dollars each and sentenced them to six months imprisonment.



On learning of this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 27.07.2013, pointing out that the Tamil Nadu fishermen had already served the sentence but were still languishing in Iranian jails as they could not pay the fine on account of poverty. The Hon'ble Chief Minister stressed that the Indian Embassy in Iran should take expeditious action to get them released.

Taking into account the indigent conditions of the families of the 16 fishermen, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed the disbursement of Rs. one lakh to each of these families from the Chief Minister Public Relief Fund. On the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Fisheries Minister went to the houses of these families on 1.8.2013, handed over the cheques and consoled them.

On account of the pressure exerted by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the 16 fishermen were released from Iranian prisons on 16.09.2013. The Hon'ble Chief Minister directed the Hon'ble Fisheries Minister to receive them at the Mumbai Airport and send them back to their native villages at Tamil Nadu Government's expense.

The fishermen were brought to Chennai from Mumbai by flight, lodged at the veterinary college hostel and were given all facilities. The State Government also arranged for their return to their villages.

In this situation, the fishermen expressed their desire to meet and personally thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the efforts she had taken to bring them back to their native place from Iranian prisons. Their request was conceded and they met the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 18.09.2013.

At the meeting, the Hon'ble Chief Minister told them about the distress she felt when she learnt about their incarceration in Iran, the steps she had taken to get them released, the disbursement of Rs. one lakh each to their families through the Hon'ble Fisheries Minister and how she felt immensely happy at their release. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also told them that the amount she gave them today was to help them start their lives afresh and conveyed her desire that they should remain in Tamil Nadu and continue their occupation without going abroad for employment.

With tears in their eyes, the fishermen conveyed their gratitude for all the help the Hon'ble Chief Minister had extended them. ●



'Secure release of fishermen along with their boats'

**D.O. Letter dated 13.9.2013 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**

“I wish to bring to your attention yet again, the repeated incidents of attack, harassment and apprehension of innocent fishermen of Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy while fishing in their traditional waters. It is a well known fact that our Tamil Nadu fishermen have been fishing in the Palk Bay since time immemorial to earn their livelihood. I accord the topmost priority to the safety and security of our Tamil Nadu fishermen and to ensuring that their traditional fishing rights which they have continuously enjoyed for a very long period are protected. You would recall that I had written to you on 2.8.2013, 6.8.2013 and 28.8.2013, stressing the urgent imperative to ensure the early release of our innocent fishermen who have been languishing

57 Tamil Arasu

for months together in the Sri Lankan jails.

It was shocking to learn that the remand period of 35 fishermen of Pamban of Ramanathapuram District who were secured by the Sri Lankan Navy on 26.8.2013 along with their 4 mechanised boats has been further extended up to 23.9.2013.

I also wish to point out with concern that 21 fishermen belonging to Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu, who were apprehended on 30.7.2013 along with their 3 boats have, after undergoing trial in Sri Lankan courts, been ordered to be deported. Further, their boats are still in the custody of the Sri Lankan authorities. As a result, the 21 fishermen, after languishing in jail have

October 2013

to further go through the harrowing process of deportation before reaching their homes. This has meant further loss of livelihood for the fishermen and agony for their families who are still awaiting their return home. This harassment of innocent fishermen being deported like criminals could have been averted if the Government of India had taken up their cause effectively through diplomatic channels. The case relating to the release of the boats has now been adjourned for hearing on 26.9.2013. These fishermen are yet to reach their homes.

Further, I wish to point out that the Sri Lankan Government has recently adopted a new strategy by which they release the fishermen after long periods of detention but impound their boats. The Sri Lankan Government has therefore made it very apparent that it is not ready to allow the Tamil Nadu fishermen to earn their livelihood by fishing in their traditional waters. Further, the longer the detention of the fishing boats without maintenance, the more unseaworthy and unusable they become leading to an even greater loss to the poor fishermen. This cold, calculated, unethical attitude of the Sri Lankan Government needs to be condemned in the strongest terms.

As of now, there are still 97 Tamil Nadu fishermen arrested on different dates

languishing in jails in Sri Lanka. 21 fishermen are going through the process of deportation and are yet to return home. 20 boats belonging to Tamil Nadu fishermen have also not been released by the Sri Lankan Government. This harsh and belligerent treatment is directed at denying our fishermen their livelihood and to demoralize them and their dependents.

May I again exhort you to take up the matter with the Sri Lankan Government and arrange for the immediate release of all the 97 fishermen of Tamil Nadu now in Sri Lanka's custody, along with their boats? I wish to reiterate that of these, 5 innocent fishermen with their boat, have been languishing in various jails in Sri Lanka since 29.11.2011 on a fabricated case. As you can well understand the continued imprisonment of our fishermen is causing considerable tension and ill will amongst the fisher folk along the entire coastline of Tamil Nadu. Early decisive action by the Government of India is very essential and cannot be postponed indefinitely. I once again urge you to intervene personally and ensure that the matter is taken up in the most forceful diplomatic manner possible to ensure that the remaining Indian fishermen and their boats are released and a permanent solution is found to this long-simmering issue."



Talks mooted between fishermen of Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka



D.O. letter dated 20.9.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I am writing to you in the context of a proposal to facilitate a dialogue between Fishermen Associations in Tamil Nadu and their counterparts in Sri Lanka, with a view to discussing ways and means to avoid instances of attacks on and arrests of fishermen, particularly from Tamil Nadu, on the high seas while in the pursuit of their livelihood in their traditional fishing grounds in the Palk Bay.

There have been numerous and recurring instances in the past few years when fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu have been attacked or arrested along with their boats while pursuing their normal, peaceful livelihood of fishing in their traditional fishing grounds in the Palk Bay area. The genesis of the entire problem is the ill-advised decision of the Government of India, to recognize the island of Katchatheevu as a part of Sri Lanka under the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of 1974.

This historic blunder of the Government of India has spawned the problems faced by

Indian fishermen in the Palk Bay which remain unresolved even today. As a consequence of this, the fishing rights in the traditional fishing waters of our Indian fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu have been badly compromised. The normal lives and livelihood of the fishermen of five coastal Districts in Tamil Nadu namely, Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Nagapattinam have been severely affected. They now venture out to sea at the mercy of the marauding Sri Lankan Navy and have become the targets and victims of murderous attacks on the high seas in the Palk Bay.

The Government of India appears to have treated this delicate question, which involves the lives and livelihood of hundreds of thousands of fishermen in Tamil Nadu, with appalling insensitivity and scant regard for the sentiments, traditional rights and livelihood issues of an entire community of poor fishermen in Tamil Nadu. They have not only signed away the centuries old traditional rights of fishermen from Tamil Nadu to fish in the Palk Bay, by entering into the ill-advised 1974 Agreement, they have also signed away an integral part of the territory of India,



namely the island of Katchatheevu. What is worse, the Government of India now treats the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) with Sri Lanka as a settled question even though the constitutionality of this Agreement has been challenged on extremely valid and legal grounds by me in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P.(Civil) No. 561/2008. I have also urged the Court to declare the 1974 and 1976 Agreements along with the Executive Order of 1976 as null and void in the absence of the mandatory Constitutional amendment required, and to retrieve Katchatheevu back to India. The stand of the Government of Tamil Nadu is that Katchatheevu has always been a part of India, geographically, culturally and historically and needs to be retrieved, keeping in view the livelihood interests and security of lakhs of Indian fishermen. May I remind you that the matter is still under the consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India?

In such a situation, when the boundary question and the cession of Katchatheevu remain sub judice, the contention of the Government of India that the IMBL issue with Sri Lanka is a closed matter is totally unacceptable. Therefore, based on the flawed premise that the IMBL with Sri Lanka has been settled and that Katchatheevu has been permanently ceded to Sri Lanka, to hold that all fishing activity by Tamil Nadu fishermen near Katchatheevu on the high seas in their traditional fishing

waters constitutes a transgression into Sri Lankan waters, is a dangerous premise that militates against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India over Katchatheevu. The permanent solution to this vexatious issue lies in retrieving Indian sovereignty over Katchatheevu and in recognizing the rights of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu to fish in their traditional fishing grounds.

The response of the Government of India, at both the diplomatic and political levels, to the repeated instances of attacks on Tamil Nadu's fishermen on the high seas, has been disappointingly meek and is being made after repeated and vociferous protests made by me in the form of letters and press statements.

You are aware that during the past two and a half years, in 39 separate incidents, 754 fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. Various institutional mechanisms set up to deal with this issue and to facilitate the expeditious release of our fishermen and their boats, like the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission and the India - Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries (JWG) have all miserably failed to deliver the desired results. 97 Indian (Tamil) fishermen are still languishing in various Sri Lankan Jails for months together. Since May 2011, I have written to you 26 times seeking your personal intervention to secure the early release of our fishermen through diplomatic channels.

Disappointingly, the Government of India has remained a mute spectator all this while, and has done precious little to ease the pain and suffering faced by the Tamil Nadu fishermen. **Even as I am writing this letter to you, information has reached me that the Sri Lankan Navy has, on 19.9.2013 apprehended 19 fishermen from Tamil Nadu along with 5 mechanised boats in the high seas of Palk Bay.**

The Joint Working Group mechanism has, therefore, miserably failed to address the objectives for which it was exclusively created. The dire hardships faced by Indian (Tamil) fishermen have continued and have, in fact, sharply escalated since 2009, when the Sri Lankan regime through its inhumane, genocidal actions brought the ethnic civil war in the country to a brutal end.

The first fishermen level talks of the two countries were held in Chennai in August, 2010, in which 11 fishermen from our side and 15 fishermen from the Sri Lankan side participated. Officials from the Department of Fisheries and the Indian Coast Guard participated in the talks as Observers. A second round of fishermen level talks was held in Colombo on 20th and 21st March, 2011. It appears that seven Tamil Nadu fishermen attended the meeting. It is learnt that some Ministers of the Sri Lankan Government and senior officials had also participated in the dialogue and attempted to browbeat and coerce the Indian fishermen to achieve their own vested interests and political agenda of the Sri Lankan regime. However,

I would like to point out that even the minutes of the second round of talks have not yet been communicated to us, though more than two years have elapsed. I would appreciate it if a copy of the minutes, if any, of the meeting held in March, 2011, at Colombo is communicated to the Government of Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

Despite the two rounds of fishermen level talks and the 3rd Joint Working Group meeting held at New Delhi in March, 2011, in the same year, from May 2011 onwards, 57 incidents of attack were reported in which 36 Tamil (Indian) fishermen were injured. Amidst all this, the Sri Lankan Navy, which has been involved in many of the attacks on Indian fishermen, continues to act with impunity and it is a matter of disappointment that the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Coast Guard continue to be in denial and have also indirectly endorsed the line taken by the Sri Lankan Government. They have taken an inexplicably tolerant stand of the excesses of the Sri Lankan Navy against Indian fishermen and seem to view the attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen, who are pursuing their livelihood in the Palk Bay in their traditional fishing waters, as having been provoked by the poor fishermen themselves. It is a tragedy that the victims of these marauding attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy are, in fact, themselves being blamed, instead of concrete steps being taken by the Government of India to mitigate their problems and to obtain their early release from Sri Lankan custody.



While the non-conducive atmosphere created by the actions of the Sri Lankan Government continues, as witnessed by recurrent instances of violent attacks on and abductions of our fishermen on the high seas in the Palk Bay, seizure and destruction of boats and fishing equipment by the Sri Lankan Navy and prolonged detention of scores of poor fishermen from Tamil Nadu in Sri Lankan jails, **our fishermen, in an accommodative frame of mind, are eager to sort out the day to day issues faced by them by engaging in talks with the fishermen from Sri Lanka. Even though the situation is tense in the coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu because of the continued imprisonment of our fishermen, the Fishermen Associations have represented to the State Government to facilitate the bilateral fishermen level talks and they have requested me to fix the venue and time for such a meeting.** In view of the sentiments and desire of the Fishermen Associations of Tamil Nadu to have such talks, and in the interest of keeping a channel of communication open between the fishermen communities of both countries, I propose that arrangements may be made to have the next round of talks between the fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu and their counterparts in Sri Lanka at Chennai.

I wish to make it amply clear that these talks must focus on:

- ★ The commitment made in previous discussions to thoroughly abjure from violent attacks on our fishermen on the high seas and to desist from unfriendly acts like abduction, detention and long periods of incarceration in Sri Lankan jails.

- ★ Reiterate the traditional rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen to fish in their traditional

fishing waters, irrespective of any artificially drawn boundaries.

- ★ Discuss ways and means to speedily and smoothly facilitate the repatriation of Indian fishermen abducted by the Sri Lankan Navy, without subjecting them to prolonged harassment and detention in Sri Lankan jails and repeated remand, as well as to prevent the seizure and confiscation of their boats/fishing equipment by the Sri Lankan authorities.

- ★ **The talks should be without prejudice to, and must not in any way, compromise the stand already taken by me in W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008 regarding India's territorial sovereignty over Katchatheevu.**

- ★ **The resolution passed in the fishermen level talks will be subject to the clearance of the Government of Tamil Nadu.**

Therefore, without prejudice to the case pending in the Supreme Court and in keeping with the requests of our Tamil Nadu fishermen, and with the hope that some meaningful forward movement could take place on practical day to day issues which would, in turn, enable de-escalation of the tension and allow Tamil Nadu fishermen to pursue their traditional livelihood, I am of the view that the fishermen level talks may be facilitated.

I propose that the fishermen level talks may be held at Chennai in the month of December, 2013. I request you to instruct the concerned agencies to accord the necessary clearances for such a meeting and to communicate the list of participants from the Sri Lankan fishermen side in advance so that necessary invitations can be extended to them to visit Chennai for the meeting in December, 2013.” ■



Upgrading Medical Facilities

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs. 5 crore for purchase of modern diagnostic equipment for the General Hospital at Chennai and for the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital.

The Chennai GH will get a 16 slice C.T. scan with Fluoroscopy and Biopsy Robotic Stool (Rs. 3.40 crore) and the Coimbatore College an Extra Corporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy equipment (Rs. 1.60 crore).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs. 16.82 crore for the purchase of equipment for the various departments in Tiruvannamalai Medical College Hospital which was started this year, and for the construction of an Administrative Block and a central Library.

As the bed strength in the Tuticorin Government Hospital has been increased, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the creation of 33 additional posts, costing Rs. 68.13 lakh annually to the Government. ■

AGRICULTURE AWARD FOR TAMIL NADU



"Agriculture Today", a private institution based in New Delhi is engaged in several activities including research in agriculture. It has lauded the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa for implementing several innovative schemes to double food

grain production in the State. Praising Tamil Nadu as the foremost state in agriculture, it has presented an award. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister S. Damodaran received the award from His Excellency the Governor of Uttar Pradesh Thiru. Joshi. ■

PM's nod sought for wind power evacuation projects



D.O. letter dated 15.9.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“As you are aware, Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in harnessing renewable energy with an installed capacity of 7,145 MW in wind power alone. The State plans to increase this capacity by a further 5,000 MW in the next five years. I have also announced a Solar Policy with the aim of installing 3,000 MW of Solar Power in the next three years.

One of the issues facing the State, which prevents us from reaping the full benefit of the installed capacity for wind energy generation, is the lack of adequate power evacuation infrastructure. Generation of wind energy depends on availability of wind, which is essentially infirm in nature – varying widely by season and time of the day. This makes the installation of transmission infrastructure to evacuate the power generated very expensive. I understand that the investment required for creating evacuation capacity for wind and solar power is as high as five times of what is required for conventional thermal power.

Inadequate evacuation capacity has meant that there are situations when the wind turbines have been asked to back down due to lack of transmission capacity – although wind is a clean source of energy and the generation is also very cheap. It is to overcome this situation that my Government has proposed to take up wind power evacuation projects at a total cost of Rs.5,998 crores in two phases through the Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation.

The National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) has been set up by the Government of India and the scheme guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure in Office Memorandum F.No.16(5)/PF-II/2010, dated 18.4.2011 rightly make projects relating to creation of power evacuation infrastructure for renewables eligible for assistance under the Fund. It was on this basis that the Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation submitted these

projects developed in close co-ordination with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, for the creation of power evacuation infrastructure, exclusively for evacuation of wind power generated in the State, at a cost of Rs.5,998 crores. I understand that the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, after consulting the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. and Central Electricity Authority, validated two of the three proposals at a total cost of Rs.3,758 crores and recommended approval of a grant of Rs.1,500 crores



for these projects from the NCEF in accordance with the guidelines which limit assistance from the Fund to 40% of the project cost (Details of the projects are annexed). The third proposal for setting up 400 KV substations with associated transmission lines at Karaikudi and other places in the State is being executed with Tamil Nadu's own resources. The two validated proposals were placed before the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) chaired by the Finance Secretary, Government of India, on 18.5.2013 for appraisal prior to sanction.

I am very disappointed to learn that, despite projects relating to the creation of power evacuation infrastructure for renewables being specifically included in the scheme guidelines, the IMG has taken the stand that transmission schemes for renewable energy cannot be supported from the National Clean Energy Fund. It is distressing to find that the IMG is going against the Government of India's guidelines to deny Tamil Nadu, which is a flagship State in harnessing clean renewable energy, the much needed support for a project which has for long been a felt need. I completely fail to see the justification for the IMG's stand, particularly as the project has the support of the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and of the Union Planning Commission. I understand that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has written again on 19th July, 2013, to the Ministry of Finance to reconsider its stance.

While the Government of India and the State Governments are working on

mainstreaming and up-scaling the use of new and renewable energy in furtherance of the national aim of energy security and energy independence, it must also be understood that such mainstreaming cannot take place without the creation of proper evacuation infrastructure. Being a State endowed with very limited conventional sources of energy, but with a high potential for renewables and an enviable track record of effectively harnessing such energy, Tamil Nadu fully deserves the support of the Government of India to create the intra State 'Green Energy Corridor'. The Union Planning Commission in a meeting on Green Energy Corridors held on 2nd August, 2013, has also decided to

support the favourable reconsideration of Tamil Nadu's request for financing from NCEF.

I request your kind urgent intervention with the Ministry of Finance in particular to ensure that the two projects in Tamil Nadu for Creation of Transmission Infrastructure for Renewable Power (Green Energy Corridor) already cleared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Authority and recommended by the Union Planning Commission are accorded the necessary approvals and that the eligible grant of Rs.1,500 crores from the National Clean Energy Fund is provided at the earliest."

Proposals submitted for funding under NCEF

SL.No.	Name	Amount Rs. crore
1.	Establishment of Renewable power evacuation corridors in first phase, consisting of 400 KV substations along with associated transmission lines at Thapagundu, Anaikadavu, Rasipalayam Kanarpatti and 2 nos. 400 KV bays at Udumalpet PGCIL SS	1,508
2.	Establishment of Renewable power evacuation corridors in second phase, Consisting of 400 KV substations along with associated transmission lines at Thennampatty, Vagarai and 44 nos. 230 KV bay provision at various SS along with augmenting the power transformer capacities.	2,250
Total		3,758



Thirukkural in pictures to take values of life to the people

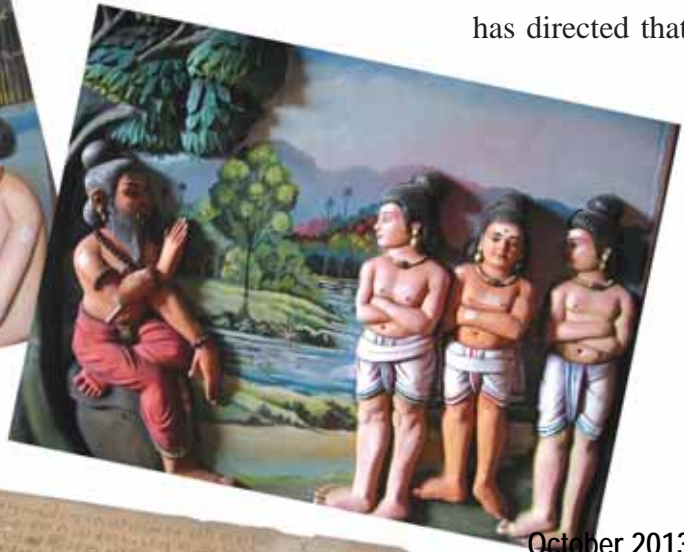
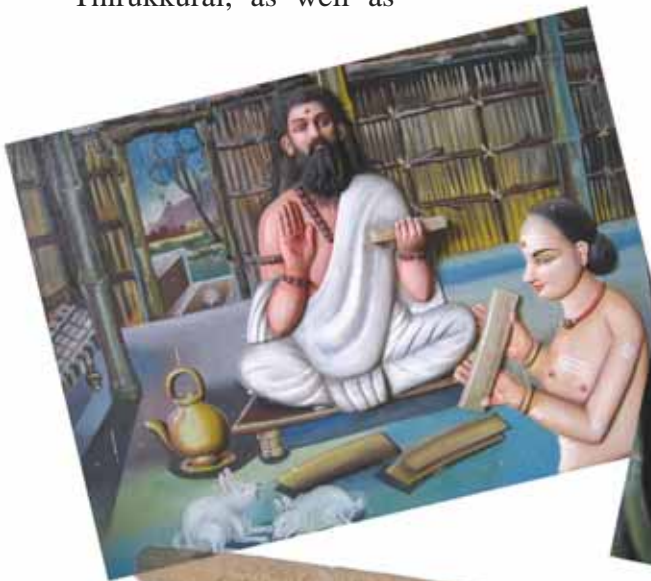
The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered the setting up of a Thirukkural Pictorial Gallery with excellent infrastructure at the World Tamil Research Institute at Taramani, Chennai, at a cost of Rs. 10 lakh. The purpose is to take the great values of life as enshrined in the Thirukkural to the people in a simple way.

Paintings illustrating Thirukkural will be displayed in the gallery. Works that have rendered Thirukkural pictorially and works in prose as well as translations of Thirukkural will be collected and exhibited. Thirukkural written in Vattezhuthu script and in epigraphical scripts will also be collected and exhibited. Besides, film excerpts having to do with Thirukkural, as well as

documentaries and animated films on Thirukkural will be screened at the gallery. The ethical teachings of Thirukkural will be rendered into contemporary paintings at the gallery with the help of the students of the Government College of Arts and other painters.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also ordered the setting up of a World Tamil Cultural Reception cum Information Centre with excellent infrastructure and modern facilities at the World Tamil Research Institute at a cost of Rs. 10 lakh. The Centre will attempt to integrate the cultural roots of the Tamil diaspora, provide connectivity to them and supply all the needed information at one counter whenever they undertake literary and cultural tours.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed that



a chair be instituted in the name of Tolkappiyar at the World Tamil Research Institute and has allotted Rs. 50 lakh for this.

There are many commentaries on Tolkappiyam, a precious work that brought out the greatness of Tamil language and the richness of its grammar. But they are all scattered. To collect and streamline them, to streamline the translated works of Tolkappiyam, to launch a comparative study of this work with the grammar books of other languages, to convey the dos and don'ts of life as contained in Tolkappiyam to the present generation with clarity, and encouraging students to study Tolkappiyam are some of the tasks the chair will perform.

A 2-day National seminar once in 6 months and an International seminar once in a year will be conducted as part of the activities of the Tolkappiyar chair. Also a 10-day training programme will be conducted for students on Tolkappiyam's grammar every year.

A permanent Sangam Tamil Exhibition will be set up at a cost of Rs. 75 lakh at Madurai. It will be housed in a building constructed on a 58-cent plot opposite the Government Museum there. Sangam Tamil songs will be depicted in paintings, video footage, motion pictures and sculptures. They will be exhibited so as to make the present generation feel proud of the ancient Tamils. In the first phase, the frontage of the Exhibition will be decorated with paintings. Inside too, there will be paintings, sculptures in relief and photographs bringing out the greatness and excellence of the ancient Tamils.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the setting up of a Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary to Government, Tamil Development and Information Department to select the literary scenes that can be depicted in paintings, sculptures in relief, sculptures and photographs. The Committee will also decide on the exhibits that are to be displayed. ■

Save Rain Water



**Nature's gift is rain
Let it not go in vain
Even by a drop,
To that man should prop
All structures above
And below the earth
Each household has a duty
To harvest the rain water in plenty
Let no money or time be a hurdle
To this noble task that solves the riddle
Of water scarcity.**



Railway Freight Tariff Hike Slammed

**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa's
statement issued on 28.9.2013 (English Translation)**

When there is a spurt in prices due to the hike in the price of petroleum products, the Central Government has increased railway freight rates on goods also. It is like adding fuel to fire.

For the last few years, the Central Government, in the name of Dynamic Pricing Policy, has categorised the 9 months from October to June as busy season and the 3 months from July to September as lean season and has been levying a higher freight rate for the busy season. The Central Government fixed the hike as 5 per cent for other goods between 1.4.2011 and 30.6.2012, as 10 per cent for foodgrains and chemical fertilizers and 12 per cent for other commodities for the period 1.10.2012 to 30.6.2013.

Now, the Railway Board has fixed the freight hike at 15 per cent for the busy season starting from 1.10.2013. This action of the Central Government will severely affect the poor and the downtrodden. When all months are the same as far as rail transport is concerned, artificially categorising the months

from October to June as busy season and collecting a higher rate is an unjust act.

On account of this freight hike, the prices of all essential commodities and the raw materials for industries like cement, coal and iron will shoot up. This will push up the cost of construction which in turn will increase the debt burden of the poor who are constructing their own houses. Already the price of food articles is going up. The hike in the freight rates for all commodities, in these circumstances, will pave the way for all-round price increase and push up inflation further.

This freight increase by the Central Government will affect the Indian economy and the people further and will not stabilise anything.

I urge the Central Government to take steps to immediately roll back the present freight increase so as to control inflation and price rise after taking into account the people's sufferings over a host of difficulties and the current pitiable state of the Indian economy.



'RETHINK DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER FOR LPG'

D.O. Letter dated 29.9.2013 addressed by
Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“You would recall that, in my letter dated 27th April, 2013, I had registered my strong objections to the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism as proposed to be implemented by the Government of India. In Tamil Nadu, we have already adopted the Direct Cash Transfer through banks for the schemes which involve conditional cash transfers like scholarships, maternity benefits and social security pensions. While the State Government machinery is fully prepared to ensure smooth functioning of direct cash transfer through bank accounts as a result of proper planning and continuous monitoring, the full roll out has not been possible as the Banks are not in a position to deliver the desired level of service at the door steps of the beneficiaries due to inadequate number of Banking Correspondents appointed by the Banks.

There were two primary objections I had voiced against the Direct Benefit Transfer proposed by the Government of India. To begin with, my strong opposition was to any move

to monetize and transfer in cash the subsidy element under the Public Distribution System, fertilizer subsidy, kerosene subsidy etc where not just the quantum of subsidy, but the access to and timely availability of commodities is a critical concern. Further, I had stated that we are equally opposed to the direct transfer of cash to the beneficiaries' bank accounts by the Government of India bypassing the State Governments since this is neither an administratively sound practice nor in keeping with the spirit of federalism and democratic decentralization enshrined in the Constitution. Having the field machinery of the State Government carrying out the entire process of identification and verification, while the releases are done directly by the Government of India, will result in divorcing authority from responsibility and accountability. This violates a basic tenet of sound administration that authority, responsibility and accountability have to be fused together at the same level to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. Hence, mechanisms which

bypass the State Governments will not lead to sound outcomes.

Based on the objections that I had voiced, we understood that the Union Planning Commission had excluded the three districts in Tamil Nadu, Ariyalur, Pudukkottai and Tiruchirapalli from Phase I of the rollout of the Direct Benefit Transfer mechanism.

In this situation, I was rudely shocked to receive a letter from the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas dated 7.9.2013, informing me that the second phase of the Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG (DBTL) scheme is proposed to be implemented in 235 districts in the country including 25 districts in Tamil Nadu, with effect from 1st January, 2014. I would like to place on record my strong opposition to the proposed roll out of Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG.

The proposed Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG scheme would amount to replacing a subsidy on the supply of an essential commodity with a cash transfer which the Government of Tamil Nadu strongly opposes. LPG is an essential commodity that has to be made available to the users in a timely and

need based manner and, in our view, replacing the subsidy with a direct cash transfer is not appropriate.

Further, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas intends to link the Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG scheme with the Aadhaar number of the LPG customers. This is a proposal fraught with a number of practical difficulties. As we are all aware, the pace of assigning Aadhaar numbers is as yet very slow in all States, including Tamil Nadu. An important reason for this is the confusion created between different Ministries in the Government of India, and the parallel schemes of the National Population Register (NPR) based registration, and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) based registration in different States. In Tamil Nadu, National Population Register based registration is being implemented through the Census Commissionerate which is a Central Government agency and the work is proceeding quite slowly due to a number of difficulties with the Central agency and not with the State machinery. Even after National Population Register registration is done, I understand there is considerable delay



in the issue of the Aadhar number due to co-ordination issues with the Unique Identification Authority of India. So far, as against 6.74 crore eligible persons in Tamil Nadu, Aadhar numbers have been issued only to 2.52 crore persons. Linking Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG scheme to the Aadhaar number without preparing the system adequately will only lead to confusion and public inconvenience.

Moreover, the Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG scheme as designed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas envisages that after a grace period of 3 months, no person who is not an Aadhaar enrollee can receive the LPG subsidy. As you are well aware, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has, in a recent judgment, held that Aadhar enrollment has to be voluntary and the Government cannot make it mandatory for rendering any services. Therefore, the Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG scheme may not stand legal scrutiny.

There is an environmental dimension as well. As it is, allotment of kerosene to Tamil Nadu by the Government of India has been arbitrarily reduced by more than 50 per cent and is insufficient. If many people are deprived of access to LPG due to a poorly conceived and clumsily implemented roll out of Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG scheme, many households, especially those in rural and semi-urban areas, will look for alternatives like felling trees for their cooking fuel needs or use electricity, accentuating the energy deficit.

I had already voiced my strong opposition to utilizing State Government machinery for essential steps like beneficiary identification and verification and thereafter bypassing the

State while distributing benefits as violative of the constitutional scheme of distribution of powers. Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG scheme now intends to follow precisely the same approach, which is unacceptable to us. I also wonder why the Government of India is seeking State intervention in LPG subsidy administration where the State has no role to play. In a situation where the preparedness for such a roll out is so poor, on account of the poor performance of Central agencies in issuing Aadhaar numbers and of Banks in delaying the roll out of doorstep service in villages through Banking Correspondents and the prevailing legal uncertainty due to the Supreme Court's recent orders, I think it is highly unfair and inappropriate to expect State agencies to involve themselves in the frontline as it would then mean that the State Government would have to bear the brunt of public unhappiness and resentment that is bound to follow.

I have to reiterate that, in a federal structure like ours where the States are in close and direct contact with the people, the choice of designing and implementing welfare schemes is best left to the States. If the intention of the Central Government is to ensure efficient delivery, then it should consult the States before launching any ambitious scheme. In the circumstances, I strongly urge you to have a complete rethink on the proposed Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG and pending such a rethink, put on hold the proposed Phase II roll out."



CHIEF MINISTER DEMANDS SCRAPPING OF HIKE IN RAILWAY FARE, FREIGHT

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 6.10.2013 (English Translation)

People are reeling under unbearable difficulties caused by rapid price rise, the plummeting economy and inflation. These are a sequel to the monthly increase in the prices of petrol and diesel. In this situation, the Central Government has added fuel to the fire by increasing railway passenger fares and freight rates too. I register my strong protest against this.

Had the loss of several lakh crores of rupees to the country on account of the various kinds of corruption like the Himalayan corruption of '2G spectrum', 'Coalgate', Corruption in Defence department, and in the conduct of the Commonwealth Games been prevented, there would be no need to hike the price of petroleum products. The country's economy too could have been put back on rails. Without doing this and within a few days of announcing the increase in freight rates in the name of 'busy season rates', the Central Government has increased the railway passenger fares by 2 per cent and the freight rates by 1.7 per cent. This reminds me of the Tamil proverb about noting the loss of a mustard seed but being blind to the loss of a pumpkin.

The passenger fares were raised when the railway budget was presented in 2012. Due to the pressure exerted by the opposition parties including the AIADMK, the Central Government rolled back the hike. The then Railway Minister stated at that time in the Lok Sabha that the fare raise was being withdrawn by way of relief to the people who were already reeling under financial burdens. However,

in 2013, the passenger fares were increased with effect from 22.1.2013, even before the presentation of the Railway Budget.

In what way is the present railway fare increase effected once again by the Central Government justified, when the prices of petrol and diesel have gone up, when other prices are shooting up, when inflation is getting aggravated and when the people are already staggering under the burdens imposed by the Central Government? Justifying the passenger fare hike on the basis of the increase in the price of fuel needed by the Railways and the stand that

freight rates and passenger fares will be revised once in six months as per the price of fuel, are unacceptable. The petrol and diesel prices were raised once in six months. But the Central Government now has brought it to once a month. Likewise, the Railway passenger fare is sought to be increased once in six months from once in a few years. This is a betrayal of people.

The financial burden on the people due to this fare increase, is Rs. 1,150 crore in the next six months. The poor, the marginalised and the middle class will be severely affected on account of this.

While strongly condemning this anti-people measure of the Central Government, I urge the Government to roll back the fares immediately. ■





Welfare fund cheques for heirs of deceased advocates

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 11.09.2013 presented at the Secretariat, cheques of Rs. 5.25 lakh each to 7 persons as a token of disbursement of Rs. 3,46,50,000/- to heirs/nominees of 66 deceased advocates who were members of the Tamil Nadu Advocates Welfare Fund.

Financial assistance was disbursed from 1987 to the legal heirs/nominees of advocates who were members of the welfare fund under the Tamil Nadu Advocates Welfare Fund Act in the event of their death. From 2001, this assistance was increased to Rs. 2 lakh. On

a representation from the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Bar Association, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced at the 150th Anniversary celebrations of Madras High Court on 08.09.2012, that the solatium would be further increased to Rs. 5.25 lakh. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also announced that the Tamil Nadu Government would provide an annual grant of Rs. 4 crore to the Advocates Welfare Fund to obviate any hurdle in the disbursement of the assistance and that there would be no discrimination in providing the assistance on the basis of the date of registration of the advocate with the fund. ■

Zoo Ambulance



An Ambulance has been purchased for the use of the Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Vandalur near Chennai, according to the Director of the Zoo. The ambulance has ready-for-use oxygen cylinder, pulse meter, critical care monitor, stretcher, rescue equipment, surgical tools, small-size rescue

cages, tranquillizer shot guns and life-saving drugs for providing immediate treatment. The ambulance is used to transport animals which need prolonged treatment to the wild life hospital and also to transport animals from one place to another in a safe manner. ■

'Take positive steps to stop attacks on fishermen'

**D.O. letter dated 28.9.2013 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**

"Please recall my D.O. letter of 20.9.2013 wherein I had proposed that arrangements may be made for a dialogue between Fishermen Associations in Tamil Nadu and their counterparts in Sri Lanka and that the talks may be held at Chennai in December, 2013. I had made this suggestion even though repeated marauding attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy have continued unabated, largely because of the inexplicably meek and lenient stand of the Government of India towards the excesses of the Sri Lankan Navy in the form of violent attacks on and abduction of our fishermen on the high seas in the Palk Bay, seizure of boats and fishing equipment by the Sri Lankan Navy and prolonged detention of scores of poor fishermen from Tamil Nadu in Sri Lankan jails. In spite of this non-conducive atmosphere, our fishermen in an accommodative frame of mind, are eager to sort out the day to day issues faced by them by engaging in talks with the fishermen from Sri Lanka.

It is for this reason that I had agreed to support their proposal to have Fishermen Associations level talks to sort out day-to-day problems with regard to fishing in international waters. However, I had amply clarified that there should be no more violent attacks on or abduction on the high seas of our fishermen and no more detention for long periods in Sri Lankan jails; and that the traditional rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen to fish in their traditional fishing waters irrespective of any artificially

drawn boundaries should be preserved. I had also categorically stated that the talks should be without prejudice to and must not in anyway compromise the stand already taken by me in W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008 in the Supreme Court regarding India's territorial sovereignty over Katchatheevu and that the resolution passed in the fishermen level talks will be subject to the clearance of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

It is distressing to note that even before the ink on this letter had dried, there has been yet another incident of detention by the Sri Lankan Navy of 20 Indian fishermen of Rameshwaram fishing base in Ramanathapuram District, along with their 4 mechanized fishing boats bearing Registration numbers IND/TN/10/MM/2103, IND/TN/10/MM/468, IND/TN/10/MM/983 and IND/TN/10/MM/1067 on 22.9.2013, while they were fishing in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay. They have been remanded up to 7.10.2013 by the Mannar court and lodged in Vavuniya jail.

This incident comes close on the heels of another incident which took place on 19.9.2013 in which 19 Indian fishermen of Pudukkottai District along with their 5 boats bearing Registration numbers IND/TN/08/MM/395, IND/TN/08/MM/300, IND/TN/08/MM/122, IND/TN/08/MM/035 and IND/TN/06/MM/317 were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. These 19 fishermen have been remanded to a Jaffna prison till 30.9.2013.



This brings the number of fishermen from Tamil Nadu who continue to be in Sri Lankan custody to as many as 136, along with 29 boats. It is reported that 35 fishermen from Pamban fishing base and another batch of 41 fishermen from Rameshwaram fishing base who were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on different dates, were ordered to be deported by the Judicial court and released on 23.9.2013 and 25.9.2013 respectively. They are yet to return home. It is pointed out that their 14 boats have not been released. In spite of the Agreement in the first Joint Working Group (JWG) which was held on 21.4.2005, and reiterated in the second Joint Working Group also, that fishermen and their boats would be released early through an institutionalized mechanism, it is disappointing to note that these fishermen have been ordered to be deported by the Judicial court and released nearly after three months of detention and their boats have not been released.

In such a situation, I am constrained to observe that the stance of the Government of India on this extremely sensitive and delicate question appears to be totally insensitive not only to the sentiments of hundreds of thousands of fishermen in Tamil Nadu but also to their lives and livelihood. The Government of India has virtually abandoned its poor and defenceless fishermen to face an uncertain future caused by the risk of daily attacks and abduction at the hands of the

Sri Lankan Navy. Unless the Government of India displays greater fortitude and firmness and acts with alacrity through diplomatic channels to put pressure on Sri Lanka, there appears to be little chance of securing the prompt release of our fishermen or to avert such instances in future. I also wonder if the Sri Lankan Government is at all serious in engaging with the Government of India to peacefully resolve this question.

You will appreciate the fact that these fishermen belong to the poorest strata of Society, for whom prolonged periods of custody in an alien land means loss of their daily livelihood and distress to their dependents in their homeland. It has a crushing impact on their families who are in mental agony over the prolonged absence caused by their detention. The entire fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is agitated over this issue.

Unless the Government of India takes positive and concrete steps to prevail upon the Sri Lankan Government to rein in their Navy to desist from these hostile attacks and take action to secure the release of these fishermen, there seems to be no scope for the peaceful existence and assured livelihood of Tamil Nadu's fishermen. I, therefore, once again exhort you to take immediate action to secure the release of all the fishermen from Tamil Nadu who are now in Sri Lankan custody and arrange for their immediate repatriation along with their boats."



Fish Landing Centre at Mudasalodai to be expanded

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has given administrative sanction for Rs. 7.78 crore for expanding the fish landing centre at Mudasalodai in Cuddalore District.

The expansion programme envisages creation of facilities for berthing 225-metre-long boats, net-knitting hall, office building etc. The expanded fish landing centre will provide safe berthing of 100 mechanized boats and 400 country boats and facilities for handling fish in a hygienic manner.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered the distribution of SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) equipment with a 75 per cent subsidy to conch divers who at present use artificial breathing apparatus with compressor, which is sometimes life threatening. In the first phase, Rs. 20 lakh has been allotted this year for this. This scheme will be expanded gradually in the coming years.

To develop the skills of the youth belonging to fishermen families and increase their employment opportunities, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed the disbursement of financial assistance to them to encourage them to take to maritime education. Accordingly, an educational assistance of Rs. 50,000/- each will be given to students coming from fishermen families who join the following courses -- diploma course in Nautical Science,

2-year trainee Marine Engineering course, one year Deck Cadets Course leading to B.Sc(Nautical Science), 2-year trainee Marine Engineering Course for Diploma Engineers, one year trainee Marine Engineering Course for Graduate Engineers, and 3-year course of B.Sc. Nautical Science. In the first phase, Rs. 50 lakh has been allotted for disbursement of the assistance to 100 such students.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has given administrative sanction for the revised estimates of Rs. 87.75 crore for the building of a Fishing Harbour at Colachel in Kanniyakumari District. Work on this harbour was stalled due to the wave turbulence. The Central Water and Power Research Station at Pune has been commissioned to undertake studies on protecting the sea wall and the sand-casting of the harbour. On the basis of its report, it is proposed to build a 540-metre-long protective wall to take care of the western waves and a 230-metre-long wall to take care of the waves from the eastern side. Other facilities including a jetty, a fish auction hall, dredging and boat repairing yard will also be provided.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs. 2 crore for the current year for preparing a detailed project report for identifying places for locating fishing harbours and fish landing centres in the State and for appointing technical consultations for the job. ■



Chief Minister Extends Free Bus Pass Facility

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has extended the free bus pass facility, now enjoyed by students of Government and Government-aided colleges to full-time students of the community colleges run by the Tamil Nadu Open University also. An allotment of Rs. 1.68 crore has also been made towards this. About 6,000 students will benefit by this facility.



The open university was started in 2002, during the earlier regime of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. It is running 6 types of community colleges targeting different sections of people from the urban community, rural community women, tribal people, inmates of prisons and AIDS/HIV patients. Diploma courses offered include garment designing, plumbing, domestic electrical services, computer use and repairing of domestic appliances.

Measure to enable Adi Dravidars, STs get bigger loans

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed that the share capital of Adi Dravidar and Tribal members of Urban Co-operative banks be increased to Rs. 2,500/- from Rs. 500/- and that the amount be paid as Government subsidy to enable them to draw higher sums as loans from these banks.

An allotment of Rs. 2.50 crore has also been made to benefit 10,000 such members.

Last year, in a similar gesture, the share capital of such members in Primary Agricultural Societies was increased to Rs. 2,500/- from Rs. 250/- and Rs. 10 crore was allotted to benefit 40,000 members. This had enabled them to draw a maximum loan of Rs. 50,000/- each.

News in Picture



Hon'ble Ministers, Worshipful Mayor of Chennai, Members of Parliament and Legislature, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation and Director of Information and Public Relations offered floral tributes on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government to a decorated portrait of former Mayor Sivaraj placed near his statue on Mint Street, Chennai on 29.9.2013 in connection with his 122nd birth anniversary.

Do You Know?

- The Implementation Division of the Commercial Taxes Department has made a tax collection of Rs. 81 crore in the current year.
- Traders have made good use of the Department's Website and downloaded 11,83,770 'D' forms and 48,941 'F' forms from their own places of commercial activity.
- Traders have collected through the Department's website 3,40,800 monthly "Namoonas" and paid Rs. 2,468.36 crore as tax.
- In the current financial year (2013-2014) till August, Rs. 20,120.91 crore has been collected as tax, registering a 4.42 per cent growth.

News in Picture



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** presented appointment orders at the Secretariat on 11.9.2013 to 289 persons for Livestock Inspector Grade II posts. They were selected to the post in 2011-2012 and completed their training thereafter.



His Excellency Jose Maria Morais, High Commissioner of Mozambique Republic to India paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** at the Secretariat on 7.10.2013.

Tamil Arasu

R.NI. No. 21445/70

