



December 2017

Rs. 20/-

Vol. : 49 Issue : 6

Tamilarasu

Publication of Information & Public Relations Department



'Generous Tamils should donate liberally for Flag Day Fund'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**
on 06.12.2017 (*English Translation*).

Flag Day is observed on December 7 every year all over the Country to recall the great services rendered by the three wings of the Defence Forces.

Tamil Nadu has the magnificent tradition of sending young men and women to the Indian army in service to the Country. We have to increase the number of our youths joining the defence forces by instilling heroism in them. To help these soldiers do their work with great dedication, it is essential that their families are protected in their absence and means are provided to retired soldiers to spend their days constructively and in peace.

All of us have the duty of helping the heirs of those who have laid down their lives in the war-front, war widows, those disabled in the war, ex-servicemen who have been afflicted with severe diseases and their families. We also have to take up the task of rehabilitating ex-servicemen. It is essential that we, the Tamils, offer our share in these tasks.



The funds raised on the Flag Day are utilized fully in the different welfare schemes implemented by the State Government's Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare, for ex-servicemen, disabled soldiers, war widows and their dependents.

People of Tamil Nadu continue to demonstrate their excellence in charity by collecting funds exceeding the target fixed for Flag Day every year. It is noteworthy that our State tops the Flag Day collection at the National level for the last 13 years continuously, while calculated on population basis. This shows the generous disposition of Tamils for noble causes. Hence, let us liberally donate to this year's Flag Day fund and safeguard the welfare of ex-servicemen.



Tamilarasu

Publication of Information &
Public Relations Department
Thiruvalluvar Year - 2048

December 2017

Vol: 49

Rs.20/-

Issue: 6

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Chennai - 600 113.

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It is only Amma's Government that works for people's welfare. It is the only Government that implements schemes that the people need. I wish to point out that Amma's Government is at present implementing all the schemes that are good for the people.

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** distributed welfare assistance to beneficiaries at the Bharat Ratna Dr. M.G.R. Centenary celebrations at the VOC grounds in Coimbatore on 03.12.2017.

Chief Minister visits Ockhi-hit village, assures fisherfolk of all relief measures



Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami after meeting the representatives of the fishermen communities and the general public affected by Ockhi cyclone, at Thoothoor Village in Kanniyakumari District. The Chief Minister also consoled the family members of fishermen who lost their lives in the cyclone and announced relief measures for the affected fishermen families.

At the outset I convey my heart-felt condolences and sympathy to the families of fishermen who lost their lives in the unfortunate disaster due to Ockhi cyclone. I express my consolation to the family members of the deceased fishermen. Parish

priests here narrated how much agony the fishermen suffered during the Ockhi cyclone. As far as this Government is concerned it took immediate steps after hearing of the disaster. It issued orders directing the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru. R.B.Udayakumar to rush to cyclone-affected Kanniyakumari District and undertake relief and rescue operations immediately. The Hon'ble Minister also rushed to Kanniyakumari from Tiruchi on the same day and stayed there to monitor the rescue and relief operations in the affected areas on behalf of the Government.

As the fishermen who went for fishing in the sea could not return to the shore, I contacted the Hon'ble Prime Minister over telephone



and informed the Prime Minister that those who went for fishing in the sea were affected by the cyclone and they were yet to return. I urged the Hon'ble Prime Minister to deploy necessary ships, aircraft and helicopters to trace the missing fishermen in the sea and bring them back safely to the shore. I also contacted Hon'ble Union Home Minister twice over the telephone and placed a demand that the Central Government should take necessary steps to bring back fishermen stranded in the sea. I placed a similar demand to the Hon'ble Union Minister for Defence. The Central Government also informed the State that 18 ships, helicopters and aircraft were on the job of locating the fishermen stranded in the sea. Meanwhile, we convened a meeting of officials of Coast Guard, Navy and IAF at the Secretariat in Chennai and urged the officials to expedite the measures to trace the missing fishermen. They also assured the Government that they were taking all possible measures to trace the missing fishermen.

These measures apart, the State Government deputed senior I.A.S., officers, most of

whom had earlier worked in Kanniyakumari District as District Collectors, to the affected areas. As these officers are well versed in the topography of the District, I directed them to assess the needs of the affected people and to do the needful immediately for the people. The senior I.A.S., officers also camped in various affected areas in the District and carried out the relief operations. The Principal Secretary to the Agriculture Department was asked by the Government to camp in the District and speed up the rescue operations of stranded fishermen in the sea. The Secretary is camping in the District and carrying out the rescue and relief operations. The Government is continuing the search for fishermen who went for deep sea fishing and those who went in country boats for fishing. I would like to assure you that the search operations will continue till the last missing fisherman is found.

The Parish priest who spoke before me said that life is priceless. One can buy anything in this world but not a life. To save the lives of fishermen is the primary task of this Government. I assure you that this Government



is working in full-swing to do so. People here pointed out fishermen are affected during storms. They demanded that if a helipad was set up in Kanniyakumari District it would be possible to save fishermen who are in the sea for fishing during storms. The State Government has placed a demand to the Central Government for setting up a helicopter base in the District. The Government is ready to provide assistance to those who have lost their houses. On this occasion I assure them that the Government will construct houses under Green House scheme. The neighbouring Kerala State has announced a compensation of Rs. 20 lakh to kin of fishermen who lost their lives due to Ockhi Storm. Fishermen here wanted the Tamil Nadu Government also to increase the quantum of assistance to Rs. 20 lakh to the families of those who lost their lives.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is one that immediately settles the grievances of people. As it is a Government that rushes to the aid of people whenever they are in distress, it has decided to increase the compensation to the families of deceased fishermen to Rs. 20 lakh. Earlier, the Government announced a livelihood compensation of Rs. 2500/- per family as the fishermen could not carry out their work due to cyclone. The Government has decided to increase the livelihood compensation by another Rs.2500/- per family. Fishermen placed a demand that one member of the deceased family should be given job in Government services. As their demand is genuine, one of the family members of the deceased family will be given a job in the Government services depending on the qualification.

Earlier, I announced that the search for missing fishermen will continue till the last lost fisherman is found. There is no change in the Government stand. Fishermen want the Government to enact a law to provide automatic relief to fishermen who are lost due to natural disasters. I assure you that the Government will soon issue an order. For this purpose a committee will be appointed under the chairmanship of

Revenue Administration Commissioner to do the spade work. The Committee has been directed by me to submit the report at the earliest. To enable the families of missing fishermen to get relief at the earliest, I have asked for a reduction of the waiting period for the return of the fishermen considerably so that the families of missing fishermen get the relief. So, the Government will provide relief to the families of missing fishermen within a period of time. I have conceded many of the demands placed by you here.

Farmers have lost their crops, including paddy in many places. The farmers will be suitably compensated for the loss of their crops. Sufficient compensation will be paid to farmers who lost their plantain trees in the cyclone. I have already announced that the Government will compensate the loss of rubber plantations. Relief will be provided to all those who are



affected by cyclone. All the announcements made by me in the dais will be definitely carried out soon by the Government.

Fishermen are of the view that if they are given advance warning about cyclone, it will enable them to return to shore immediately. The Government with the assistance of World Bank will set up 300-foot towers at a cost of Rs.65 crore and distribute 25 w VHS and 5 w VHS sets to fishermen before 31.03.2018. Fishermen also demanded that sufficient compensation should be given for the boats damaged due to cyclone. A committee appointed by the Government will assess the damage and submit a report to the Government. Once the report is submitted, the Government will provide the relief to the damaged boat owners. Once again I assure you that all the demands submitted by you will be acted upon immediately. ■

Tamil Nadu Memorandum to Union Minister addresses State's concerns on Water Resources



Memorandum presented to **Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari**, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 23.11.2017

(i) Formation of Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the Implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

Due to the relentless efforts of our revered leader the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes

Tribunal dated 05.02.2007, was notified by the Government of India on 19.02.2013. The constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee is an integral part of the Final Order of the Tribunal.

Our revered leader **the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** had been urging the

Government of India for the immediate formation of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for effective implementation of the Final Order of the Tribunal. I also reiterated this demand in the Memorandum, I presented to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 27.02.2017 and later on in the Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on 23.04.2017.

The constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee are very essential for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The farmers of the Delta areas of Tamil Nadu who are dependent on Cauvery Water for irrigation are agitated over the long delay in constituting the Cauvery Management Board.

I once again, strongly reiterate **the repeated requests of my Revered Leader the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma that the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee be constituted immediately** in accordance with the Final Order of the Tribunal.

(ii) Inter-linking of Peninsular Rivers

Under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component, our revered leader, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has repeatedly urged the Government of India to implement the inter-linking of the Mahanadhi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery-Vaigai Rivers and further with the Gundar River and also to divert the surplus waters of the west flowing Pamba and Achankovil Rivers to Vaippar in

Tamil Nadu. Based on the Supreme Court Order dated 27.02.2012, and our persistent requests, the Government of India constituted the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers. Though the Special Committee has held 13 meetings so far, not much headway has been made in the matter of inter-linking of rivers.

Further, **our Revered Leader the late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had also repeatedly urged the Government of India to nationalise all inter-State Rivers, so that water resources of the Country can be optimally utilized.** I reiterated this demand to the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the Memorandum I presented on 27.02.2017.

I once again, reiterate the request made by our revered leader, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for the speedy implementation of the Inter-linking of Peninsular Rivers and for Nationalisation of all inter-State rivers.

(iii) Extension of supply of water from Krishna river to Kuppam Mandal in Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu in the River Palar

During the discussions with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh held on 12.01.2017 regarding the release of Krishna water to Chennai City, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh informed that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is linking river Godavari with Krishna and lifting water from the river Krishna for irrigation and drinking water purposes upto Kuppam Tank in Kuppam Mandal of Chittoor District.

The surplus water from Kuppam Tank joins with the river Palar just above the Tamil Nadu border. The distance between Kuppam Tank and Tamil Nadu border is about 20 Kms.

Vellore District in Tamil Nadu is deficient for drinking water supply and irrigation. **If the Krishna water supply upto Kuppam Tank is extended to Tamil Nadu, it will partially meet the drinking water requirements of Vellore District.**

I request that the Government of India may kindly consider the suggestion of the Government of Tamil Nadu in consultation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and extend the supply of Krishna water from Kuppam tank to the Palar river so that dry and drought prone areas of Tamil Nadu are also benefitted.

(iv) Mokedatu Scheme of Karnataka

The Government of Karnataka from time to time issues statements on taking up the Mokedatu Scheme. There had been reports that the Government of Karnataka has decided to implement the Mokedatu Multi-purpose Drinking Water and Power Project at a cost of Rs.5,912 crore, that involves building a balancing reservoir with a capacity of 66 TMC ft.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has constantly urged the Government of India to advise the Government of Karnataka not to take up even the investigation of the Mokedatu Project without the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu and till the Cauvery Management Board becomes functional.

I wrote to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 25.02.2017 requesting to kindly instruct the Ministry of Water Resources and the Central Water Commission not to accord techno economic clearance for the Mokedatu or any other project in the Cauvery Basin of Karnataka till the concurrence of all the co-basin States are

obtained by the Government of Karnataka and after the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee come into force and the judicial references are finally settled. I had reiterated the position of the Government of Tamil Nadu in the Memorandum I presented to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 27.02.2017.

I once again **request you to instruct the Ministry of Water Resources not to accord any clearance to the Mokedatu Project without the concurrence of all the co-Basin States and until the Cauvery Management Board becomes functional.**

(v) Formation of Flood carrier canal from Kannadian Channel

The Government of Tamil Nadu, in anticipation of the funds from the Government of India has been implementing the project of "Formation of Flood carrier canal from Kannadian Channel" to supply water to the drought prone areas of Sathankulam and Thisayanvilai by interlinking Tamiraparani, Karumeniyar and Nambiyar rivers in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.872.45 crore.

On 21.09.2017, Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, **to include this project under the Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) of NABARD on priority basis during the year 2017-2018 and to extend financial support for this link project.**

Our request may kindly be considered favourably and funds provided during this year itself.

Athikadavu – Avinashi Irrigation, Ground Water Recharge and Drinking Water Supply Scheme

The scheme envisages providing irrigation facilities and to improve the ground water recharge in the drought prone areas of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts. To alleviate water scarcity in the area by optimally utilizing flood surplus, a detailed investigation for the formation of a Flood Canal at Athikadavu from Pillur Anaicut across the Bhavani river has been carried out. This scheme is known as the Athikadavu – Avinashi Scheme. The important component of the project is to utilize the flood surplus of Bhavani River to fill 31 Public Works Department Tanks, 40 Panchayat Union Tanks and 538 other ponds in Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts, besides augmenting ground water.

When the project proposal was sent for financial assistance of Rs.3,523 crore, the Government of India requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to suggest alternatives.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has now proposed to implement this scheme at an estimated cost of Rs.1,850 crore (2017-2018 price level) by lifting the surplus water of Bhavani River from the downstream of Kalingarayan Anaicut by pumping about 1.5 TMC ft. annually to feed 74 tanks and 971 ponds in Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts. This scheme, apart from improving drinking water availability in these drought prone areas, will also provide indirect irrigation for about 24,468 acres and improve the ground water recharge.

The Government of Tamil Nadu will be sending the Detailed Project Report seeking

financial assistance of the Government of India shortly.

I request you to consider the scheme favourably and extend financial assistance, as it will be providing facilities to the drought prone areas.

(vi) Improvement and Rehabilitation of Irrigation System in Cauvery Basin – National Project

The Government of India extends financial assistance for Intra-State projects to bridge the gap of irrigation area of more than 2,00,000 hectare for implementation as a National Project.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed to improve, rehabilitate and renovate the irrigating system in the Cauvery Basin at an estimated cost of Rs.14,500 crore at 2016-2017 price level. Since, the State Government would not be able to meet the entire huge cost of the project, the Government of Tamil Nadu on 05.04.2017 has approached the Government of India to grant in-principle acceptance of the proposal as a National Project.

I request that **priority may be given to accept the Rehabilitation, Renovation and Improvement of the Cauvery Basin Irrigation System as a National Project and to provide funds for this project.**

(vii) Rehabilitation and Improvement of Grand Anaicut Canal in Cauvery Basin

The Government of India under Extension, Renovation and Modernisation Project has approved the Detailed Project Report for Rehabilitation and Improvement of the several systems in the Cauvery Basin at an estimated cost of Rs.11,420 crore. This includes Rehabilitation

and Improvement of the Grand Anaicut Canal at an estimated cost of Rs.2,298.75 crore for which investment clearance has also been given by the Government of India in June, 2017.

Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed to implement the Rehabilitation and Improvement of Grand Anaicut Canal as a pilot project.

Government of Tamil Nadu will be approaching the Government of India for funding the project at a cost of Rs.2,298.75 crore. I request the Government of India to sanction the project under NABARD's Long Term Irrigation Fund.

(viii) Rehabilitation and Improvement of tanks to further augment Chennai City Water Supply

The population in Chennai City and the surrounding Metropolitan area is growing rapidly and consequently the drinking water needs increase. At present, the available water resources to meet the drinking water supply of Chennai City is about 12 TMC ft. as against the anticipated demand of about 25 TMC ft. The population is expected to grow further and the drinking water supply will have to keep pace with the requirements of the growing population.

Chennai City and the adjacent Districts receive rainfall during the North-East Monsoon period which is highly sporadic and not dependable. The heavy rainfall that occurs cannot be stored in the tanks situated in and around the Chennai City and its adjacent areas. The Government of Tamil Nadu **in order to store the surplus flood water proposes to integrate the tanks around the City and wherever possible desilt the tanks to increase the storage capacity to meet the drinking**

water supply needs of Chennai City to some extent. This will also be very useful to control floods. The Government of Tamil Nadu will be shortly approaching the Government of India to extend financial assistance of about Rs.300 crore for increasing the storage capacity of tanks of Chennai City and its suburbs.

I seek the co-operation of the Government of India to extend liberal funding to this project so that the drinking water supply problems faced by Chennai City could be mitigated.

(ix) Lining of Canals in Chennai City

There are three major canals viz., Virugambakkam – Arumbakkam, Otteri - Nalla and Central Buckingham Canal flowing within the Chennai City.

Chennai City is served by North-East Monsoon rainfall. During heavy rainfall, the flows in these canals exceed the carrying capacity which causes heavy inundation and damage to the people and public property. Therefore, **there is an imperative need to line these three canals by deepening and providing proper gradient to discharge the entire flood water.** Government of Tamil Nadu will be sending a Detailed Project Report at an estimated cost of about Rs.60 crore at 2017-2018 price level requesting the Government of India to provide funds in the larger interest of the people living in those areas.

I request the Government of India to consider the proposal positively and sanction the requisite funds.

(x) Rehabilitation and Improvement of Dams (Phase II)

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the Dam Rehabilitation and

Improvement Project with the funding assistance from the World Bank within a period of six years from the year 2012.

As a follow on of the project, the Government of India has requested Government of Tamil Nadu to evolve proposals to rehabilitate and improve Dams in Tamil Nadu.

Accordingly, in **November, 2017 the Government of India has been requested to extend financial assistance to rehabilitate and improve 26 Dams at an estimated cost of Rs.303.65 crore. The project period will be 5 years.**

I request that this project may be expeditiously considered and funding made available during the year 2017-2018 itself so as to implement the project speedily.

(xi) Providing Flood Banks to Kosasthalayar river

Kosasthalayar river which originates from the Kaveripakkam Tank surplus course, traverses a length of 156 kms. before confluencing in the Bay of Bengal near Ennore. This river has 5 Anaicuts which feed 12 Tanks in Tiruvallur District. This river caters to irrigation needs, besides providing drinking water supply to Chennai City through Chembarambakkam Tank and Poondi Reservoir.

Due to the unprecedented rainfall in the year 2015, many breaches occurred on embankments along the river course which are to be strengthened. In order to strengthen the breached portions on both banks of the river, the Government of Tamil Nadu, will shortly approach the Government of India to extend financial assistance of Rs.400 crore. I request that this scheme may be favourably considered

by the Government of India and requisite funds provided.

(xii) Formation of Macro Drain in the suburbs of Chennai City

The unprecedented rainfall and flood that occurred in Chennai City and in the suburban areas during the year 2015 had caused damage to the people and properties. In order to avoid recurrence of such eventuality in future, it is proposed to construct drainages so that the flood water recedes quickly.

The Government of Tamil Nadu proposes to construct 26 Macro Drains linking several tanks in Kovalam and Adyar Sub-Basins. Apart from this, a straight cut channel from Pallikaranai Swamp area for the water to flow into the Bay of Bengal is also proposed to be undertaken as a permanent flood relief measure. The total estimated cost for the Macro Drains and straight cut channel is about Rs.1,200 crore at the 2017-2018 price level.

I request the Government of India to sanction the project and provide funds.

(xiii) Providing Flood Banks to Adyar river

Adyar river originates in Athanur Village in Kancheepuram District. The surplus courses of Manimangalam Tank, Nandhivaram Tank and Chembarampakkam Tank join the river. The river Adyar traverses to a length of 40 kms. before confluencing into the Bay of Bengal near Adyar. The surplus water of 222 tanks in Kancheepuram District infall into Adyar river.

Due to the unprecedented rainfall in 2015, breaches occurred along the river course which are to be strengthened. In order to strengthen the breached parts in both the banks of the river, Government of Tamil Nadu, will shortly

approach the Government of India to extend financial assistance of Rs.300 crore. I request that this scheme may be favourably considered by the Government of India and funds provided.

(xiv) Dam Safety Bill, 2016

The Government of India has proposed to enact a Legislation on Dam Safety and sought the views of the State Governments on 09.08.2016. The Bill has several lacunae and will also have adverse impact on the rights of a State which owns dams located in the territory of another State under binding agreements.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is of the firm view that any Legislation to regulate dam safety must ensure that the functions and rights of the State Governments within our Constitutional

Scheme are not abrogated or trampled upon in any manner.

This area is governed by Entry 17 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Hence, our Revered Leader the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had on 11.09.2016 requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation not to proceed with the Bill in haste, without discussing the issues raised by Tamil Nadu threadbare.

I reiterate the request that the legislation on Dam Safety need not be brought before the Parliament without consensus amongst all the stake holders including States and Union Territories.

NEWS IN PICTURE



On the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Italian Tamil Scholar Veeramamunivar on 08.11.2017, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P.Benjamin, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, South Chennai M.P. Thiru. J.Jayavardhan, Secretary of the Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. R.Venkatesan I.A.S., and Director of Information and Public Relations Thiru. P.Sankar I.A.S., paid respects to the portrait of Veeramamunivar by offering flowers placed near his statue on Kamaraj Salai in Chennai.

Announcing new schemes for Karur, Chief Minister declares that Amma's Government will prevail



Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the M.G.R. centenary celebration function held at Karur on 04.10.2017 (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. Dhanapal, who delivered the presidential address in the centenary celebration function of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru .O.Panneerselvam who has delivered an inspiring speech, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. Thambidurai - so far 15 M.G.R. Centenary celebration meetings have been held and the 16th meeting is being held in Karur.

Son of the soil Hon'ble Transport Minister Thiru. M.R.Vijayabhaskar who is responsible

for organizing the function in a grand manner, Secretary of the Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. R.Venkatesan, who welcomed the gathering, Perambalur MP, Thiru. R.P.Maruthurajaa, who gave a felicitation address, Krishnarayapuram MLA Tmt. Geetha, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Thiru. Pollachi Jayaraman, Government Whip Thiru. Rajendran, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation, Tmt.B.Valarmathi, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board Thiru. P.K.



Vairamuthu, Karur District Collector Thiru. G.Govindaraj, who is to propose the vote of thanks, Hon'ble MPs and MLAs, who have graced the function by their presence, office-bearers of the party headquarters, former Ministers and former MPs, representatives of co-operative bodies, former representatives of local bodies, party cadres who are the aerial roots of the party, Government staff, print and visual media friends, elders and ladies, youth, students and welfare beneficiaries – at the outset I offer my respects to all of you.

Karur is a beautiful trade City situated on the banks of River Amaravathi. According to a Hindu belief that Lord Brahma began the creation of human beings from here and hence it is called Karuvur. Over 100 Greek poets in their poems had referred to Karuvur as the best trade centre and mentioned it as Karuvuraa. Karur was also involved in export of gold jewels. In

archaeological excavations Roman coins were found here. Gold jewel works and diamond polishing works flourished here successfully in the past.

Karur was also the capital of Chera Kings and in the culverts in Arunattar hills near here the names of Chera kings are found.

Tamil classic Silapathikaram mentions that King Cheran Senguttuvan ruled with Vanchi Maanagaram as his capital and it is believed that Vanchi Maanagaram is Karur.

Karur was under the rule of Chozha, Pandiya, and Sangam period Kings, Vijayanagara Naickers, Mysore Kings and British Rule.

Venmadam near Karur was ruled by King Irumporai.

Many poets belonging to Sangam Age lived in Karur.



Poets like Kannampalanar, Karuvur Kathappillai Sathanar, Karur Kizhar, and poets belonging to King dynasty Karuvur Cheraman Santhan, Karuvur Nanmarbanar, Karuvur Pavuthirananar, Karur Poothanchathanar and Karur Perum Sathakathu Puthanar also wrote songs in Agananuru, Purananuru, Natrinai and Kurunthogai of Sangam classics.

Karuvur also turned a big trader of Kalinga Nadu (Odisha) in third century BC into a poet. After knowing the greatness of Karuvur poets, he came down to Karuvur, learnt Tamil and became a great poet. He was known as Karuvur Kalingathar and wrote the 183th song of Agananuru. Pasupathi Temple in Karur Town is one among the seven shrines sung in Thevaram.

Karuvur Thevar, who was the spiritual guru of Chozha king Rajaraja and installed the Lingam in Thanjavur Big temple and wrote Thiruvisaippa, was born in Karur.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. inaugurated at Pugalur in the District in 1984, the TNPL plant which is one of the biggest paper plants in Asia. In the same plant a cement factory

at a cost of Rs.100 crore was declared open by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in 2013. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi was instrumental in the creation of Karur District and announced the formation of the Karur District in 1995.

Today, Karur is known as an industrial city as it has many industries. It is mostly known for lorry and bus body building construction. Similarly, there are hundreds of mosquito net manufacturing units and the annual production of nets is worth Rs.1,800 crore. Karur Mosquito nets are famous not only in India but also abroad.

Similarly, the District is known for the production of bedsheets and it is the biggest bedsheet export centre in the Country. Annually, bedsheets worth Rs 3,000 crore are being exported from here. This District is a combination of agriculture, industries and textile units.

Farmers in Aravankuruchi in the District are cultivating drumstick plants in large numbers and it is one of the biggest drumstick cultivating centres. The drumsticks from here are being exported.



Karur is also known for production of powerloom and handloom fabrics.

I am happy to organize the M.G.R. centenary celebration function in this glorious old Town.

Our intention is to make Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. popularity known to posterity as he lives in the hearts of people. Our attempt has proved successful with increasing presence of people in successive M.G.R. centenary functions.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. achieved phenomenal success both in political and cine field. But one should know that he encountered lot of difficulties before achieving success. At the beginning of his film career, Puratchi Thalaivar was not confident of becoming a successful hero as in those days only singers could become heroes in films. But Puratchi Thalaivar became confident after seeing the success of actors like M.R.Radha and Ranjan who were not singers.

Similarly, he studied how successful heroes declined over the years in their career. He found that individual virtue was most important and saw to it that his characters in films did not

affect the individual's virtues. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar abhorred bad habits which he considered evil practices. That was the reason that M.G.R. lived in the hearts of people and became a people's leader.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar showed equal concern for animals and birds. He set up a big dairy in his farm in the midst of his bungalow in Ramavaram Gardens at the outskirts of Chennai City.

Puratchi Thalaivar was also careful in selecting titles for his films. One of his dialogue writers Thiru. M.Lakshmanan named one of his films as 'Nallathukku Kalamillai' (No future for good deeds). M.G.R.did not accept the title as he felt that this would create negative reaction among the people. Puratchi Thalaivar said that one should propagate that good would triumph and bad would get defeated. M.G.R. renamed the film as 'Thirudathe' (Don't steal).

Apart from earning a place in the hearts of the people through his good deeds, Puratchi Thalaivar was popular among the mass by his distinctive appearance. Nobody was equal



for the Country”. So people were confident that Puratchi Thalaivar would definitely do good for the people. His last film was ‘Madurai Meetta Sundara Pandiyan’. Before the completion of the film, M.G.R. became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. While leaving the dubbing theatre after completing the film schedule at Studio Vauhini,

to Puratchi Thalaivar in maintaining his appearance.

In 1968 Puratchi Thalaivar went to Jaipur for shooting of his film ‘Adimai Penn’ along with his wife Mrs. Janaki Ramachandran. The then Chief Minister of Rajasthan Mohanlal Sukhadia hosted a party for M.G.R. and at the end of the party he presented M.G.R. a white fur cap. M.G.R. with the cap looked beautiful. Mrs. Janaki gave a cooling glass to M.G.R. and asked M.G.R. to wear the glass also. She told M.G.R. that people would appreciate his appearance if he wore the cap and the glass together. From that day onwards the glass and cap became a symbol of M.G.R.

After creating a revolution in cine field Puratchi Thalaivar entered political field. He was wholeheartedly welcomed by the people because Puratchi Thalaivar words and deeds are the same.

Puratchi Thalaivar in one of his films sang: “Before asking what the Country had done for you, one should ask yourself what you have done

Puratchi Thalaivar kissed the floor of the studio. Hundreds of people waited outside to receive M.G.R. At that time Puratchi Thalaivar said that he was forced to enter into the cine field but had been successful in his film career. Puratchi Thalaivar told them that he was always their M.G.R. even if he became the Chief Minister. As per the wishes of the people, Puratchi Thalaivar ruled the State like a seasoned administrator and solved major issues admirably.

I would like to point out here how Puratchi Thalaivar solved a major issue years back that confronted Tamil Nadu and Karnataka States. A Kannada leader launched a stir in his State against Tamil films and prevented the screening of Tamil films in the State. M.G.R. wanted to meet the leader in person. Many advised M.G.R. not to meet the Karnataka leader as he was known for his short temper.

But M.G.R. met the leader and asked him the reason for his opposition to Tamil films. The leader said that while Tamil films are running successfully in Karnataka, it was not so in the case

of Kannada films. To this Puratchi Thalaivar said if the Tamil films were prevented from screening in Karnataka, the loss was only to Karnataka. Most of the technicians associated with the Tamil films were Kannadigas. Director B.R. Panthulu, and Sunder rao Nadkarni, belonged to Kannada and were studio owners there. Actor Saroja Devi belonged to Kannada State. The birthplace of Kannada hero Rajkumar was in Tamil Nadu. VIPs belonging to Karnataka owned big bungalows in Tamil Nadu. Similarly, Tamilians had houses in Karnataka. Chunk produced in Thoothukudi was used by people in Karnataka for feeding milk to their children. If he wanted to still oppose Tamil films, Puratchi Thalaivar said that he would advice his producers not to sell rights of films in Kannada. The rebel leader got convinced and assured Puratchi Thalaivar that he would himself put banners and cutouts for M.G.R. films. Such was the Puratchi Thalaivar's strategy to find solutions to complicated issues. Similarly, Puratchi Thalaivar solved many issues not only in the cine industry but also in politics. One could give a number of instances to describe the strategy of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma learnt lessons from Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and that was the reason that she could solve many complicated issues politically.

However, much we serve the people, it has become the routine practice of the Opposition to blame the Government. Finding ways to fulfil genuine demands of the Opposition and ignoring their baseless charges is always the ruling party's approach.

As far as we are concerned we rule for the welfare of the people and whoever comes against this will be taken care of by the people.

All our welfare schemes will continue with the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. The Government is implementing various welfare schemes for the people of Karur District. I will list some of the schemes as some Opposition leader had asked what we had done for people of Karur District to hold the centenary celebration of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

I am listing various schemes implemented by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and also the schemes being implemented by the present Government to counter the Opposition's charges.

37,486 laptops worth Rs. 61.80 crore have been distributed free of costs to 37,000 students in the District. The aim of distribution of laptops at no cost for students, especially to rural students, is to help them study scientifically with modern gadgets on par with their urban counterpart. That was the long term plan of the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. This scheme would also help rural students to go for higher education. But the Opposition parties are purposely reeling out lies every day. The State Government is providing scientific education to the students.

Similarly, 37,694 bicycles, valued a Rs.12.97 crore, have been distributed to students free of cost in the District. The purpose of distributing free cycles to students is to help them commute to the schools quickly without any strain and save time to concentrate their

studies. The scheme is helping rural students to improve their living standards.

Under the Chief Minister's Farmers' Protection Scheme, 25,653 farmers in the District have been provided assistance to the tune of Rs. 15.07 crore. This scheme is meant for the poor and marginal farmers in the State.

For the poor and marginalized people 5,232 green houses with solar power have been constructed. Only in the Amma's Government one could see poor and marginalized people living happily. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma provided houses to the houseless poor and ensured their happiness. Under the Prime Minister's housing scheme 10,654 houses have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 125.03 crore. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma introduced the Thai Scheme in rural areas and improved infrastructure in rural areas, which enabled people to get basic facilities in their Villages. Under the scheme 3,849 works have been completed at a cost of Rs. 65.27 lakh in 157 Village Panchayats. Opposition parties should know that these are all the achievements of the Amma Government.

To improve the roads in rural areas, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma allotted funds under various schemes. In the Rural Development Department, 92 Village roads have been laid at a cost of Rs.50.64 crore under the NABARD scheme.

For the Karur Municipality, an integrated drinking water scheme is implemented at a cost of Rs. 68.40 crore. The scheme was envisaged by Puratchi Thalaivi to provide uninterrupted drinking water supply to the residents of the Municipality.

Under Public Works Department 112 new office buildings have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 43.77 crore.

Construction of school buildings at a cost of Rs.16.20 crore is to begin by the School Education Department. Provision of Rs. 16.63 crore has been made for undertaking drinking and toilet facilities.

275 drinking water supply schemes at a cost of Rs.99.43 crore have been undertaken in the District by the TWARD Board.

To ensure that there is no drinking water problem in the District, the Government has allotted Rs. 99.43 crore for people in the Karur District. 236 drinking water supply schemes under separate power supply scheme at a cost of Rs.17.76 crore.

Under the Tamil Nadu Power Generation and Distribution Corporation 7 new power stations were set up during Amma's regime to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the people.

Under the Highways Department, works for constructing 25 bridge, small bridge and road works have been undertaken at a cost of Rs.22.57 crore. Of these, construction works have been completed for 3 bridges, and work is in progress for three more bridges at a cost of Rs.4.85 crore. Under the Infrastructure and Maintenance Department of the State Highways, 718.50 km length of roads has been upgraded at a cost of Rs.367.20 crore. Bridge work at a cost of Rs.15.03 crore is in progress in Pasupathipalayam.

The Kakkaaliyur-Gandhigram stretch will be converted into four lane road at a cost of

Rs.16.35 crore, and the Gandhigram-Veerakkiyam stretch will be converted into two lane road at a cost of Rs.6.71 crore.

Under the Chief Minister's Extended Medical Insurance Scheme, treatment has been given to 12,680 beneficiaries. They have been given medical treatment to the tune of Rs.23.84 crore.

Under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Scheme Rs.38.03 crore has been distributed to 53,952 pregnant women.

Loans to the tune of Rs. 129.28 crore has been waived for small and marginal farmers by the co-operative banks and due to this 27,939 farmers have been benefited. For 34,058 farmers who were affected by crop failure, inputs worth Rs.14.78 crore have been given as subsidy. Under the Kudimaramathu scheme, 29 works have been taken up at a cost of Rs.1.41 crore. 37 small irrigation tanks have been desilted at a cost of Rs. 6.91 crore.

This Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government takes care of the welfare of farmers. With the active participation of the farmers alluvial sand in various rivers and ponds are being removed under the Kudimaramathu scheme. The sand is given free to farmers to use as base fertilizer in their lands, thereby the fertility of soil is enhanced. By removing the alluvial soil, the depth of the ponds and rivers increases and in turn their capacity also increases. This will help optimum storage of water during rains and recharge ground water levels in surrounding areas.

Under this scheme, 8,03,425 cubic metre of sand has been given to 9,010 farmers.

Today, I am going to declare open 26 buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.15.39 crore, besides distributing welfare assistance worth Rs.88.49 crore to 22,282 beneficiaries on behalf of various departments. The Government has so far inaugurated 34,070 completed works costing Rs.8,435.68 crore and laid foundation for 6,716 works costing Rs. 3,482 crore after coming to power. Totally 40,786 works are being undertaken at a cost of Rs. 11,917 crore.

Our intention is not to just celebrate the centenary of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Through these centenary celebration functions we want to announce the schemes which were conceived by Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma during their rule, also declare open completed schemes and lay foundation stones for new ones.

Without knowing these facts, the Opposition parties are carrying out a false propaganda as if it is wrong to celebrate the Centenary of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. itself and are trying to politicize it.

I am not afraid of anybody or afraid of answering anybody in carrying out welfare measures for the benefit of the people. We consider service to people as service to God. We will not go back from it as we have the support of the people.

Some people are going behind people who are not trustworthy. We like to rescue them and bring them back to the parent organisation.

In this connection a story comes to my mind.

Two persons were standing on the banks of a flooded river. When they were thinking how to cross the river one person saw a bull crossing the river. The man immediately jumped into the river and caught hold of bull's tail and managed to cross the overflowing river along with the bull.

The other man felt that he could also cross the river if he got hold of the tail of an animal. He saw a goat crossing the river. He immediately got hold of the goat's tail and tried to cross the river. But the goat could not carry the weight of the man and it drowned along with the man. In a similar manner some people are going in a wrong direction by holding the tail of a goat.

I hope you realize whom I am referring to.

Puratchi Thalaivar in his song said: 'Podhu Needhikkum Nermaikkum Bayanthuvadu. Nalla Anbukkum Panbukkum Valainthukodu. Indrodu Pogattum Thirundhividu. Un idhayathai nervazhai thiruppi vidu' (Follow the dictates of justice and good conduct. Bow to affection and culture. If you have erred till now, turn a new leaf today and turn your heart towards the right path). This song is apt for these people. I hope you could identify the man I am referring to. The Minister belonging to the District said that the man had betrayed the Government and the party. Yes it is true. We are also partly responsible for it.

The by-election was announced for Aravakurichi when Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was undergoing treatment in hospital. The party headquarters appointed me as the party co-ordinator for Aravakurichi constituency, appointed Annan for Tiruparankundram and

Vaithilingam Annan for Thanjavur by-elections. We all went to the respective constituencies to carry out the election work. When I met the party workers at Aravakurichi, they expressed their dissatisfaction over the selection of the party candidate and appealed to us not to work for his victory. They said that when he was a Minister he did not respect party men. He used to avoid the party workers and refused to meet them even when he was in his house. But we pacified the workers by saying that as disciplined party cadres we should obey the orders of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Not only me, Minister Vijayabhaskar, belonging to the District, various Ministers, Electricity Minister Thangamani, who was then appointed as in-charge of the District by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, MPs, MLAs and party cadres from other Districts worked in co-ordination for the success of the candidate. I camped here for nearly 25 days and toured every nook and corner of the constituency. Over 6,000 people worked for the candidate's victory at the rate of 20 people for every booth. Unfortunately, he did not express his thanks to party cadres after winning the election. Now only we realize what sort of man he is. A man is born, lives and dies. What he does during the intervening period will be remembered after his demise. The man has done great injustice to the party and the Government. However, much he rises in public life, his betrayal will not be forgotten and history will continue to speak of his betrayal. I do not want to speak of these unpleasant things at M.G.R.'s centenary celebration function as M.G.R. is a gift given by God to the people of Tamil Nadu. But, I am forced to mention these details. This

organization was built brick by brick by two great leaders, who also protected the party. When a man tries to destabilize the organization and the Government formed by these two great people how can one remain silent.

Minister Vijayabhaskar, belonging to this District, expressed his regret to me saying that the MLA had betrayed us and the party. He said he was deeply hurt by the MLA's behaviour. He said the MLA brought disrepute to the District. He said he was unable to hide his feelings even on this happy occasion. I comforted the Minister by saying that not one Senthil Balaji, any number of people cannot break the party and bring down the Government as long as we have the support of thousands of disciplined party cadres and the people.

I would like to remind him on this occasion that nobody on the earth could destroy the party. That man is of the view that he can split the party and destabilize Amma's Government. I and Annan Panneerselvam have more number of years of experience than his age. We are sitting on the dais after seeing many people like him in our political career. I am confident it will not be possible for him to break the party through his tricks and betrayals.

Your Minister, Hon'ble MPs and MLAs and MPs of the District have placed requests for the implementation of various schemes to the District. I will definitely concede some of the demands. Other demands will be examined and favourably considered.

I appeal to all party cadres, who have come from different parts of the District, to drive their vehicles carefully and return safely to their houses.

I sincerely thank Hon'ble Transport Minister Thiru. Vijayabhaskar, the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, who co-ordinated with the Minister, Hon'ble MLAs, party workers and the people for making the function a success.

I assure you that this Government will continue to serve you as your servant. I express my thanks for your large presence on this occasion.

Yesterday was ours, today is also ours and tomorrow will also be ours.

Hail to Anna's name. Puratchi Thalaivar's fame will grow. Puratchi Thalaivi's regime will rule on.

Nandri and Vanakkam.

**Important announcements made by
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.**

A new bridge will be constructed across canals which are on the way to Mayanur Kathavanai (Barrage) across the Cauvery. At present there is barrage across River Cauvery with two way roads in Mayanur Village in Krishnarayapuram division of Karur District. Behind the right bank of the River Cauvery there are three canals known as Thenkarai Canal, Krishnarayapuram Canal and Pudukattalai Mettu Canals. Across

these canals there is old one way bridge. Now a two-way bridge 80 metres long will be constructed near the old bridge to provide free movement of traffic.

A review will be conducted to study the possibility of constructing a check dam across Amaravathi River at Periya Thirumangalam in Cudallore Melpakkam Panchayat for the benefit of farmers in Chinna Dharapuram.

Project evaluation has already been completed for an integrated drinking water scheme for 274 new rural habitations in 14 Panchayats in Thanthoni Union. Work for this scheme will commence next year.

A new Police Station will be opened in Thanthoni Hills as the jurisdiction of existing Pasupathi Police Station is vast and is unable to cover the growing population.

A review will be conducted for construction of a road over-bridge near Karur Bus stand to ease the traffic congestion near the bus stand.

A new approach road will be constructed by the Karur Municipality from Karur Railway Junction to Salem-Madurai National Highways as there is heavy traffic from the Kovai Road to By-pass Roundtana.

Construction of a new bus stand will be considered as the existing bus stand is very small and is unable to meet the increasing traffic and commuters.

A high level bridge will be constructed on the four lane road between Km 218/0 to Km 220/0 at the Kovai-Erode National Highways Junction (NH 67) under accident zone management scheme.

Over-bridges for Karur District

A high level road bridge replacing the existing ground level bridge at km 17/6 of the Karur-Eechanatham- Coombur-Vedasandur road.

A new bridge replacing the existing bridge at km 16/6 of the Vairamadaai-Thoppampatti Road.

A high-level bridge at km 0/2 of the Sellivalasu – Vennai Kothur Road.

A bridge at km 27/6 of the Manapparai-Gujiliamparai Road.

Bridges at km 27/6 and km 12/6 of the Palavidhi-Kadavur- Ayyalur Road.

A bridge at km 5/10 of the Inangur Nallur Road.

A new survey will be conducted for constructing a check dam across River Cauvery at Pugalur in Karur Panchayat Union. Based on the technical feasibility report a detailed scheme report will be prepared for further action. The TNPL will contribute Rs. 3 crore for the project.

Chief Minister reviews progress of Ockhi cyclone relief work



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami conducted a review meeting with officials on 07.12.2017 regarding progress of search, rescue and relief operations of fishermen who have been missing due to Ockhi Cyclone in Kanniyakumari District.

The State Government has deputed 11 senior I.A.S. officers to Kanniyakumari District to undertake the rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations and the relief works are taking place on a war footing. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has issued orders for providing financial assistance for purchase of diesel and food to fishermen who are stranded in neighbouring States. Five senior I.A.S. officers have been sent to Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands to bring the stranded fishermen back along with their boats to their native places by co-ordinating with the respective State Governments. The I.A.S. officers concerned are actively involved in

bringing the stranded fishermen safely to their native places. In this connection, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami held detailed discussions on 07.12.2017 with Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms and senior officers about the progress of the rescue and relief operations.

Village-wise enumeration of missing fishermen, stranded fishermen who returned to the shore and damaged boats is being done. Based on the enumeration, a detailed final report on missing fishermen is to be submitted to the Government by a high-level committee headed by the Commissioner of Administrative Reforms. After the committee submits its report, missing fishermen will be considered as dead and be provided necessary relief.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has issued orders sanctioning Rs. 10 lakh each to the families of deceased fishermen including the insurance amount of Rs.2 lakh. Fishermen who

have been severely injured and unable to carry out their avocation will be given Rs. 5 lakh as rehabilitation assistance for their livelihood. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also sanctioned Rs.50,000/- as medical expenses to injured fishermen who are undergoing treatment in hospitals.

As the fishermen are not in a position to carry out their fishing activities due to Ockhi storm, all the fishermen in Kanniyakumari District will be given a livelihood assistance of Rs.2,500/-. Families of missing fishermen will be given a special livelihood assistance of Rs. 5,000/- by the Government.

Already, the State Government sanctioned financial assistance for purchase of diesel and food items by fishermen stranded in neighbouring States. Following the demand from the fishermen, the Chief Minister has increased the financial assistance to power boat owners for purchase of diesel and food items. The fishermen stranded in Gujarat and Lakshadweep will get 1,000 litres of diesel per power boat and Rs. 2,000/- for purchase of food items. For fishermen stranded in Karnataka and Kerala, 750 litres of diesel per boat and Rs.2,000/- will be given. For the owners of country boats, 200 litres of diesel per boat and Rs.2,000/- for purchase of food articles will be given.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced that the wards of deceased fishermen would be given educational allowance and preference in skill development training through educational institutions.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also ordered formation of a high-level committee headed by the Commissioner of Revenue Administration with Principal Secretary for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Principal Secretary for Agriculture and Secretary for Revenue as other members. This committee will assess the actual damage caused to fishermen due to Ockhi Cyclone and suggest suitable amendments in the existing laws to enable fishermen get early relief. The Committee will also suggest suitable changes in the implementation of existing laws for issuing a Government Order for providing immediate relief to the families of missing fishermen. The District Administration has been asked to give wide publicity through the media about the fishermen, who are rescued so that their families are aware of their rescue.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has issued orders that the search and rescue operations will continue in full swing till the last missing fisherman is rescued.

The Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, and Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Chief Secretary Dr.Girija Vaithiyanathan I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary and Secretary for Finance, Thiru K.Shanmugam, I.A.S., Commissioner for Revenue Administration Dr.K.Satyagopal I.A.S., Principal Secretary for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Dr.K.Gopal, I.A.S., and Commissioner for Disaster Management Thiru. Rajendra Ratnoo I.A.S., were among those participated in the meeting.



‘Whether in continuing great schemes or in fighting dengue, Amma’s Government is swift and sure’



Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**
at the M.G.R. centenary function held at Dharmapuri on 07.10.2017 *(English Translation)*.

I bow to our Idaya Deivam Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who was like distilled nectar being Mother Earth in patience, the furious sea when roused, rain clouds in compassion, rocky hill in determination, the celestial tree Kalpataru in philanthropy, a mine-house of great ideas, Thanthai Periyar in courage, Arignar Anna

in wisdom and Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. in consideration for others.

I consider that we are all greatly fortunate to have taken over the responsibility of administration with the blessings of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and to celebrate the centenary of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar



M.G.R. I am happy and proud to participate in the centenary function of Ponmana Chemmal, Makkal Thilagam, Idayakkani of the poor, Engal Thangam Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., at Dharmapuri, known for its abundant charity.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru. Dhanapal who delivered the presidential address, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. Thambidurai who delivered a special address, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru. K.P.Anbazhagan who delivered the 'Munnilai' address, Secretary to the Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. R.Venkatesan who delivered the welcome address, Hon'ble Ministers, District Collector of Dharmapuri Thiru. K.Vivekanandan, MPs, MLAs, Headquarters Executives of the party, former Ministers,

former MPs and MLAs, Representatives of Co-operative Institutions, party cadres who are the aerial roots of the party, Government staff, media friends, respected elders, ladies, youth, beneficiaries of welfare assistance and students who have won prizes – at the outset, I offer my respects to you all.

This scenic sacred soil, Dharmapuri District is known for its heroism, spirituality and charity. This region, ruled by Adhiyaman, one of the last seven 'vallals' (philanthropists) who presented a rare gooseberry given to him, to the Tamil scholar Avvaiyar for the perpetuation of the Tamil language, was called 'Thagadoor Naadu'. In the 8th century AD, it came to be called 'Ganga Naadu' and that has now come to be known as Dharmapuri.

In the 'Purananooru', Avvaiyar has devoted 23 songs to Adhiyaman Nedumaran Anji. This king had ruled with Thagadoor alias



Dharmapuri as his capital. Many had ruled Dharmapuri in different periods – Pallavas, Gangas, Baanars, Nulambers, Cholas, Posalas, Vijayanagar emperors, Marathas, Atthimallars, Mysore kings, local Nayaks and the British.

Sir Thomas Munroe mentions about Dharmapuri as “a pleasant place. Each and every mountain and tree here, gives me pleasure”. A memorial pillar, erected to thank him, adds glory to this District.

Dharmapuri is endowed with spiritual centres like the Kala Bhairavar Temple, Kottai Kovil, Chenraya Perumal temple in the Adhiyaman fort, Hanumantha Theertham in Theertha Malai and Theertha Gireeswarar temple. Ahle Hadees Masjid (‘pallivaasal’), Tawheed Masjid, Jumma Masjid, Mount

Carmel Church in Pallipatti add glory to this District.

The Malai Kovil in Harur Taluk, Dharmapuri, Vaaniyaaru Dam in Paappireddypatti Taluk, Hogenakkal Falls, called Niagara of India, Aintharuvi Falls, the Suspended Bridge, sailing by coracle and oil bath are all tourist attractions in Dharmapuri District.

Another speciality is the prevalence of iron ore in Theerthamalai. The spring water there is found to have iron nutrient. The District has a variety of high class granite stones. Mango is cultivated in a third of the total area of cultivation in the District. The other major crops are tomato and chilli.

The ‘Samadhi’ of Thiru. Subramania Siva who dedicated his entire life for India’s



freedom, is in Pappalapatti. The Tamil Nadu Government has erected a memorial for him there and is maintaining it.

Dharmapuri District was carved out of Salem District in 1965. The Cauvery river which makes Tamil Nadu prosperous, enters into the plains in this District.

I am duty bound to congratulate the party cadre from District, Union, Town Panchayat and Panchayats who have joined the Hon'ble Minister from the District, as well as the Government staff, for arranging such a huge function in Dharmapuri District and conducting the function excellently.

The All India Anna DMK party was started by volunteers and it is led by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. After Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. came out of the DMK, Thanthai Periyar met Puratchi Thalaivar at the Sathya Studio and was holding talks to take him

back to DMK. At that time, Thiru. Musiriputhan of M.G.R. Mandram rushed in, blood flowing from his head and said: "Thalaivare! Our mandram fans are being attacked severely by DMK partymen. No peace talks hereafter. Let us start a new party". So saying, he rushed out of the room.

In this way, M.G.R. Mandram was the cause for the launching of the AIADMK. In other parties, partymen will follow the leader. But in political history, the first leader to toe the line of party volunteers was Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Again it was the party volunteers who announced the party name and designed the flag for it. That is why persons who were the fans when Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was an actor became volunteers when he became the leader. After the demise of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, they turned into his devotees. The world is not going to see such a leader and such volunteers hereafter.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma presented the sceptre to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. only at the conference of M.G.R. Mandrams. The Leader presented the sceptre back to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and thus inaugurated the fourth chapter of the Dravidian Movement. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. respected the volunteers as if they are leaders. I wish to cite an instance.

Govindasamy, a youth from Puducherry fishermen colony was an ardent fan of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. He was adamant that Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. should conduct his marriage. He also conveyed his wish to Puratchi Thalaivar through a letter. That letter did not come to the notice of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. at all.

One day, the parents and relatives of Govindasamy went to the Ramavaram Garden of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., met the leader, standing in the queue of visitors and emotionally requested the leader to perform the marriage

of their son Govindasamy. The delay in the performance of marriage was also affecting his health, they stated. "Shortly I will be visiting Puducherry. As per your wish, we can perform the marriage", assured Puratchi Thalaivar.

After a few days, when he was on a tour of Puducherry, he asked his assistants to fetch the couple to the guest house where he was staying. Thiru. Govindasamy did not agree to go with the assistants. He stuck to his stand and said he would get married only if Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar came to his kuppam and handed over the 'thaali'. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's assistants became angry and asked how Puratchi Thalaivar could walk in the sand and reach the kuppam on the seashore. They explained cars could not be driven in sand. Kuppam people offered to cover the path with plants and creepers.

The information reached M.G.R. "Alright. Let us go there", Puratchi Thalaivar told his



assistants. They tried to dissuade the leader saying it was difficult to walk a distance of 2 km on sand. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. angrily retorted: "I have not even seen that fan of mine. I have not helped him in any way. He is so affectionate towards me. Let us go to the kuppam where Thiru. Govindasamy is".

When Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. reached the fishermen kuppam amidst many difficulties, Thiru. Govindasamy fell at the feet of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, calling 'En Deivame' (O! My God) and cried inconsolably. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar hugged and pacified Thiru. Govindasamy, handed over 'thaali' as per his wish and conducted the marriage and gave the couple presentations and good advice and returned to his place.

We have seen leaders who are adept in flowery talk, harbouring all the time prickly thorns in their hearts. Even now, we are seeing them. But, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was one with the people with an open heart. Party volunteers too should be like that, he taught. He was a very great people's leader who shared the joys and sorrows of party volunteers.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. remembered till his last days not merely his fans but those who had helped him. Our Leader was a person who recollected all the persons who helped him during his days of suffering, searched for them, helped them and paid back his debt of gratitude when he became affluent.

Makkal Thilagam Puratchi Thalaivar could build the unshakable iron fortress of AIADMK because of the strength of volunteers and great support of the people and handed it over to

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Puratchi Thalaivar did not start a new party out of his desire; he was forced into it. Only people and party volunteers made him Chief Minister.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., unexpectedly met in Japan the Editor of 'Kalkandu' magazine Thiru. Tamilvanan while he was there for the 'Ulagam Sutrum Valiban' film shooting. After a long talk, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. told Tamilvanan: "Shortly, I will achieve in politics too". Thiru. Tamilvanan challenged him saying, "At no point of time will this Country be ruled by an actor". "I will achieve it", vowed Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Ultimately Thiru. Tamilvanan lost. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. We got a Chief Minister the likes of whom no other State was destined to get. We got a Chief Minister who was capable of easily managing any problem in the State. I am reminded of an instance that happened in this very Dharmapuri.

This had happened in 1980. The Naxalite Movement was rearing its head in Dharmapuri. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. advised officials to win people's support against the Naxals as an undercover operation. Then only information on Naxals movements could be obtained from people themselves, he reasoned.

When Naxalites killed some of the Police Personnel on duty, the opposition parties severely criticized Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's rule. "There is no law and order; the Government should be dismissed" was the slogan raised then, as it is done today. Without minding this

criticism, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. managed the situation easily. He participated in the funeral procession of an Inspector of Police killed by the Naxals. The procession was conducted with an emotive appeal in the full view of the people on the streets of Tirupattur where Naxals had a considerable hold. This aroused people's feelings against extremism. Also, a handsome amount, that surprised even the opposition parties, was handed over to the family of the deceased Inspector and thus Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar protected the family and also rooted out the Naxal issue.

In 1982, a severe drinking water shortage overtook Chennai. It was managed by bringing water from Neyveli through lorries and Godavari river water from Andhra Pradesh through train. The critical situation was intelligently used for entering into an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Government for conveying Krishna river water to Chennai. Our great leaders have trained us in managing problems. The sacred Mantra ('Tharaka Mantram') that Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma left behind for us is: 'See God in the smile of the Poor'. From the very second in which we took over the responsibility of administration with the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, we are working tirelessly day and night to keep the people of Tamil Nadu happy.

To cite an example - the DMK boasted that during its rule Rs.9,383 crore was disbursed as loan to women's Self Help Groups and the revolving fund was handed over by the then Deputy Chief Minister, standing all the while.

But, during Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule between 2011-2016, a loan assistance of Rs.26,461 crore was given without any fanfare. Where is the comparison between Rs.9,838 crore and Rs.26,461 crore. Also, loan assistance, under this scheme, is given in rotation to Self Help Groups not exceeding 2,25,000 in number, year after year. At the National level, it is a very big achievement.

People gave you the golden opportunity (to rule) five times. But you frittered them away. If only you had used your rule during those five times for the welfare of the people, Tamil Nadu would have changed into a prosperous State. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had lashed out at this failure through his song – "Makkal nalam makkal nalam endre solvaar/ thum makkal nalam ondrae than manathil kolvaar" ("they pay lip service to people's welfare but what they have in mind is the welfare of their own kith and kin").

You were not able to solve any of the pending problems or you did not have the mind or time to solve them. That was why Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took upon the task on herself and brought about improvement in many fields and became the star that heralds the early dawn. There is no point in enacting laws favourable to us; schemes should be drafted to benefit people. With this viewpoint our two great leaders designed people-centric plans and schemes for improving the standard of living of the poor and the marginalized. From their barracks, we have come, trained in politics and governance. After deep thought, we are

preparing welfare schemes for the happiness of the people.

From the day we took over the administration to till date, we have visited 17 Districts, ascertained people's needs, framed schemes to fulfill those needs and have speeded up the Ministers and Government staff, connected with those Departments for the implementation of the schemes.

Before this meeting, the centenary of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. has been celebrated in 17 Districts. Dharmapuri is the 18th District to organize the celebrations. The purpose of these functions is more to fulfill the desires of this great leader by announcing welfare measures and distributing welfare assistance. In continuation of this, we have come prepared with many schemes for Dharmapuri District.

Due to constraint of time, I shall state them briefly. Many schemes have been implemented in Dharmapuri District alone in the last six years. Today, opposition parties are deriding us. The leader of the opposition is querying what is happening under this rule; what are the schemes that have been implemented; and whether people have benefited at all. His interviews in TV channels are also in the same vein. That is why we are mentioning the schemes we are implementing for the people. Schemes that had been prepared in the golden rule of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma have been implemented today and people have benefited. We are mentioning those schemes with statistics.

The PWD has rejuvenated 37 lakes, 79 anaicuts, 6 dams and canals to a length of 122 km

and has constructed two check dams – all these things were done in Amma's rule and whatever is left behind, Amma's Government has been carrying out; for the benefit of Pennagaram region farmers, a new reservoir has been set up near Mathalapallam and supply channels and branch channels have been dug, all at a cost of Rs.14.15 crore to provide irrigation facility to 1,100 acres; under the 'kudimaramathu' scheme 21 lakes have been repaired at a cost of Rs.1.56 crore; 16.92 lakh cubic metre sediments have been supplied so far to 28,224 farmers for developing their fields; in the Pennagaram Taluk, restoration works on 7 lakes are to be taken up at a cost of Rs.2.76 crore; for the supply of protected drinking water to the people of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts, the Hogenakkal Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project is implemented at a cost of Rs.1,928 crore; this project was inaugurated by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on 29.05.2013; through this scheme, 3,313 residential quarters in Dharmapuri Municipality, 10 Town Panchayats, 8 Panchayat Unions and 251 Panchayats are supplied 120 million litre drinking water per day; an effluent plant has been set up to prevent pollution of the Cauvery river; under the free distribution of laptop scheme, 69,076 laptops costing Rs.101.56 crore have been distributed; this scheme is not an ordinary scheme. With a visionary outlook, to provide science education to poor and marginalized students residing in huts in Dharmapuri District to develop their skills and intelligence, Amma has given Rs.101 crore to this District; under the free bicycle scheme, 1,07,340 cycles, valued at

Rs.136.92 crore have been distributed at no cost; a Government Polytechnic College has been set up at Kadathur at a cost of Rs.30 crore;

Farmers' crop loan to the tune of Rs.138.87 crore has been waived benefiting 27,924 farmers.

Under the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Green House Programme, 9,135 green houses with solar panels have been constructed at a cost of Rs.153.52 crore and distributed to poor families; 623 more houses are being constructed at an estimate of Rs.11.21 crore.

Under the THAI programme, 13,844 works have been taken up in hamlets in 8 Village Panchayats at a cost of Rs.96.24 crore; in the current year, 816 works have been taken up at a cost of Rs.53.64 crore. Under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, 10,783 houses have been constructed at a cost of Rs.118.20 crore; works on 4,275 houses, taken up at an estimate of Rs.72.67 crore are at various stages of execution.

In the last 6 years, Rs.1,735 crore bank loan have been arranged for 54,670 Self Help Groups.

As drought relief, Rs.19.14 crore has been disbursed to farmers whose crop yield has been affected benefiting 74,670 farmers. Under the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme, 12,523 farmers have benefited to the tune of Rs.15.03 crore for losses in an extent of 7,436 acres of land.

The Highways Department has taken up road works to a length of 816.74 km at an estimate of Rs.295.30 crore. Seven bridges, culverts and

overbridges have been constructed at a cost of Rs.879 crore.

Under the marriage assistance scheme for educated women, Rs.63.50 crore cash assistance and 110.54 kilo gold have been distributed; under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme, 81,582 pregnant women have been given Rs.82.74 crore; under the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance scheme, 41,935 beneficiaries have been given treatment worth Rs.92.34 crore.

I have today inaugurated 33 works of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Transmission Corporation costing Rs.1,044.87 crore inclusive of a power sub-station (Rs.981.85 crore) at Palavadi.

I have laid the foundation for 20 works of 4 Departments including the School Education Department costing Rs.29.44 crore.

Also, I will be distributing welfare assistance on behalf of various Departments to 25,596 beneficiaries to the extent of Rs.182.99 crore.

From the inception of this Government on 16.02.2017, I have inaugurated 34,096 schemes completed across the State at an estimate of Rs.8,451.07 crore and laid foundation to 6,716 works to be executed at a cost of Rs.3,482.05 crore. Totally, 40,812 works are under implementation at a cost of Rs.11,933.12 crore.

At every function, I have been announcing briefly such welfare schemes. Without any political distinction, people are benefiting from these schemes. They all appreciate Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule. But some

avaricious people have made it a habit to criticize the Government even while enjoying the benefits of Government schemes. Even God cannot satisfy them. When I say this, I am reminded of a story.

In a village there was a tree with thick foliage and flowers. While the leaves blew a gentle breeze to people there, the flowers spread fragrance, enticing the people. The villagers enjoyed the shade, breeze and the fragrance spread by the tree.

A flower in the tree however developed conceit and thought that the credit for people's happiness should go to it. At that time, the breeze told the flower: "You are very beautiful. The tree gets the credit only because of you. If you are not here, the tree cannot give this gentle and scented breeze. If you, with such capabilities, come out with me discarding this small circle, the whole world will come to know of your greatness".

On hearing the words of the breeze, the flower became very proud and thought that if it went with the breeze, the whole world would come to know of its beauty and greatness. And so it went with the breeze.

The breeze however cannot blow evenly at all times. When its speed diminished, the flower fell down and in a short while, it dried up in the sun and later found itself in the garbage heap. The tree does not suffer if a flower gets separated from it; if one flower goes away, another will flower. New flowers will continue to blossom on the tree, however many flowers get detached from the tree. The flower commands respect as long as it is on the

tree. Once it falls down, it will only reach the garbage heap.

Likewise, this Movement, like the tree, will continue to flower, irrespective of the desertions by any number of persons. Those who betray and desert the Movement will meet the fate of the fallen flower.

Two persons in Dharmapuri District have gone astray. What if they leave. The overflowing auditorium here testifies that party executives and volunteers and the general public, function as a fortress to protect Amma's Government.

Nowadays, opposition parties blame the Government pointing out some defects or the other. The burden of song for the Leader of the Opposition is that the Government should be dismissed. Despite their intense search with microscope they are not able to find any fault. Their tactics is to raise an issue, launch an agitation over it, pressure the Government and sully the Government's reputation. But Amma's Government executes all plans efficiently. The people who have gathered here are proof that they are with Amma's Government.

Due to climate change, dengue fever is spreading here and there now. The Government has taken many steps on a war footing to control the fever. To intensify these efforts, the Tamil Nadu Government has decided to observe every Thursday as "Dengue Prevention Day" and activate sanitary works, dengue prevention works and awareness spreading works and started implementing them from 05.10.2017. I earnestly request you to co-operate with the Government on its dengue prevention action.

For the eradication of dengue, Hon'ble Amma's Government has purchased 837 'cell counter' appliances at a cost of Rs.23.50 crore and distributed them to Government Hospitals. These appliances will detect just in 40 seconds whether dengue virus has infiltrated blood cells and help the Doctor to start treatment immediately if the test is positive. Hence, I wish to appeal to the people to report immediately to a Doctor if there is fever and with a timely diagnosis of the type of fever it could be treated and eliminated completely.

As for as the Government is concerned, it is taking all steps to control the dengue fever. Sufficient funds have been allotted. For the complete eradication of dengue fever, 15,000 more mazdoors have been pressed into service taking the total to 40,000. Anti-mosquito sprays are also deployed on a large scale. 'Nila Vembu' juice is given to the members of public wherever they congregate in large numbers like bus stands, railway station, Government Hospital and school.

The mosquito responsible for dengue fever generates in pure water. Hence, all such water containers should be kept closed. Likewise, the water in bathrooms should be kept in a closed container. After the bath also, the water should not be allowed to stagnate. These are the common areas where dengue mosquito flourishes and by vigilance the dengue menace can be controlled. This mosquito lives for 21 days, can fly up to 500 metres and every mosquito lays 1,500 larvae, giving an idea how fast it spreads. An awareness should be created by party executives and volunteers. However,

pure the water is, it should be in a closed container. On trips to other places, the water should be emptied or kept tightly sealed.

We have appointed 10,516 nurses. For controlling dengue fever, we proposed to appoint 2,000 more nurses. After Amma's Government took up administration, 1,113 Doctors, 650 Specialist Doctors have been appointed. We proposed to appoint 744 more Specialist Doctors. These appointments have facilitated immediate treatment at Government Hospitals whether one is affected with dengue fever or any other viral fever.

There is a deliberate wrong campaign about dengue fever. As far as the Government is concerned, it is taking all steps to control this fever. I appeal to media friends also to produce documentaries to create awareness about dengue fever. All are watching TV and you should also be helpful to the Government to control this fever.

Your District Minister Hon'ble Thiru. Anbalagan has placed many demands. Citing the backwardness of this District, he has requested that all needed steps should be taken for the District. Amma's Government will bestow special attention for backward Districts and do all the needful. Government will implement many of the demands he has put forth.

I lovingly urge that party cadre and members of public to safely reach your places. My hearty congratulations to all the good hearts who have made excellent arrangements for this function. Stating that this Government will continue to work for you as a servant, I take leave of you.

Yesterday was ours; Today is ours; Tomorrow also will be ours.

Vaazhga Anna Namam; Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh; Thodarga Hon'ble Amma's rule.

Nandri; Vanakkam.

**Important announcements made by
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**

1. Formation of a new canal from Ennekol dam to 36 tanks.

As already announced by me at the Krishnagiri function, a supply canal will be formed from Ennekol dam across River Thenpennai in Krishnagiri District to supply water to 10 tanks in Dharmapuri District, including Kethanahalli tank, Mudalipatti tank, Bommanahalli tank and Mukkulam tank and Thumbalahalli tank. Due to this 1,103 acres will get irrigation facility.

2. A new canal to take water to Thoolchetti tank in Dharmapuri District.

As already announced by me at the Krishnagiri function, steps will be taken to take water from Aliyalam dam across Thenpennai River into Thoolchetti Tank by forming a new main canal. This facility will benefit 495 acres with irrigation facility.

3. A new canal from Jerthalav Canal to benefit 14 tanks in the District.

At present the surplus water from Chinnaru Dam in Anjapalli in Palacode in Dharmapuri District is being released through Jerthalav

Canal for irrigation facility. A detailed review will be undertaken to form a new canal at 5,000 metres along the canal to provide water to 14 tanks in the lower reach of the canal. Based on the survey further steps will be taken.

4. Nagasamudram Canal Scheme.

The right bank canal extension now takes surplus water of Thindal tank to Nagasamudram dam. Survey will be conducted for the feasibility of forming a new canal from the Nagasamudram dam to provide water 30 tanks in Morappur area.

5. Mariamman Koil Pallam Dam in Palayampudur Village in Nallampali division in Dharmapuri District will be renovated.

6. A new bus stand for Dharmapuri District.

At present two bus stands are situated close to each other in Dharmapuri town. On a day, 532 buses are frequenting the bus stands. Due to population increase, the existing bus stands are finding it difficult to meet the increasing traffic. A new bus stand will be formed at A.Reddihalli village in Sogathur Panchayat near Dharmapuri Town on a nine acre land donated by local people. Steps will be taken to construct a new bus stand under private public participation.

7. A new Police sub-division will be formed with Palacode as headquarters with the Dy.SP office. The new sub-division will include Palacode, Marandahalli, Mahendramangalam, Panjapalli and Karimangalam Police Stations.

8. The newly completed bus stand at

Papparapatti will be named as Bharat Ratna Dr.M.G.R. Bus Stand.

9. The newly formed Palacode Government Arts and Science College will be named as Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. Government College.

10. The newly formed Primary Health Centre at Nallampalli and the upgraded Primary Health Centre at Karimangalam will be upgraded as Government taluk hospitals.

11. Dharmapuri Municipality, now a selection grade Municipality will be upgraded as Special grade Municipality.

12. The Polytechnic College now functioning under the control of Dharmapuri Co-operative Sugar Mills in Palacode will be taken over and run by the Government.

13. A new educational District will be formed in Dharmapuri District for administrative convenience as the existing educational District is managing 287 Government schools.

14. The 3 km road stretch in from Panchapalli to the border of Dharmapuri District in Palacode Assembly Constituency, which is now under the control of PWD will be transferred to Highways Department for the transport convenience of the public.

15. Bridges and over-bridges for Dharmapuri District.

Two new road over-bridges replacing the railway gate no 36 and gate no 41 between Sivadi and Dharmapuri railway stations.

A small bridge at Km12/4 on the Billparuthi - Kurubarahalli road.

A high level bridge at Km 4/6 on the Hanuman Theertham - Poyyapatti road.

A high level bridge at Km 4/6 on the Navalai - Peramandanpatti road.

The existing ground-level bridge at 0/4 km on the Bommidi R.S.-Thoppaiyaru Dam will be replaced by a new bridge.

A new bridge at Km 2/10 on the Mallasamudram- Anumandapuram road.

16. Additional land for Avvaiyar Government Higher Secondary School.

At present the Government Higher Secondary School in Dharmapuri town is functioning in different places. Considering the convenience of students and for providing additional class rooms, laboratory, and play ground facilities, steps will be taken to transfer land belonging to Forest Department to the school.

17. The existing Office of the Joint Director of College Education now functioning at the Dharmapuri Government Arts College complex will be shifted to a new own building with all facilities to be constructed at a cost of Rs.1.69 crore. ■

Green Awards presented for environmental protection



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami honoured the District Collectors of Dharmapuri, Theni, Coimbatore, Erode, Nilgiris, Karur, Namakkal and Tiruvannamalai by presenting them, at the Secretariat on 11.10.2017, Green Awards for their excellent work in protecting environment in their respective Districts. The awards pertained to the years 2014, 2015 and 2016. Institutions that excelled in environmental protection in the years 2015 and 2016 were also honoured with Green Awards.

Under Article 48 of the Indian Constitution, the State Government is responsible for the protection and development of environment and protection and maintenance of Country's resources. Taking this into account, the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the

lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, gives priority to maintenance and protection of the environment that sustains the ecosystem.

In that way, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, selects three District Collectors and three industrial establishments, every year, and presents Green Awards for enthusing the District heads for their excellent work for environmental protection in their respective Districts and by way of appreciation of the industries that have put in their best efforts in preventing pollution and safeguarding the environment.

Accordingly, the awards for the year 2014 were presented to the Dharmapuri District Collector Thiru. K.Vivekanandan I.A.S., former Theni District Collector Dr. K.S.Palanisamy I.A.S. and former Coimbatore District Collector

Tmt. Archana Patnaik I.A.S.; for the year 2015 to Erode District Collector Dr. S.Prabhakar I.A.S., former Nilgiris District Collector Dr. P. Sankar I.A.S., former Karur District Collector Tmt. Jayanthi I.A.S.; for the year 2016 to Namakkal District Collector Tmt. M. Asia Mariam I.A.S., Theni District Collector Dr. N. Venkatachalam I.A.S. and to Tiruvannamalai District Collector Thiru. A. Gnanasekaran I.A.S.;

For industries – for the year 2015, the awards were presented to Ramco Cements Ltd, Koodangulam Atomic Power Station, Michelin India (P) Ltd., Lanco Thanjavur Power Co. Ltd., and for the year 2016 to Coastal Energen Pvt. Ltd., Hyundai Motors India Ltd. and Dalmia Cements (Bharath) Ltd.

Detailed project report approved on linking Village Panchayats through optical fibre

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made the following announcement in the Legislative Assembly on 14.09.2015, under Rule 110: "The Central Government has announced a scheme – BharatNet – to link all the Village Panchayats in all the States and provide Government services to the people through the Internet. On my insistence that the scheme should be implemented in Tamil Nadu only through the Tamil Nadu Government, the Central Government consented to the implementation of the scheme by the State Government. Accordingly, the scheme will be implemented by linking all the 12,524 Village Panchayats through optical fibre and people can get the different services of the Government in their own Villages through the internet. The scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.3,000 crore with Central Government's participation. A separate organization – Tamil Nadu Fibre Net Corporation – will be created for the implementation of the scheme".

In accordance with the announcement, a G.O. has been issued for the creation of Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation and Rs.50 lakh allotted as

Government's share capital. Preliminary works to register this institution are under way.

A memorandum of Understanding was signed in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Secretariat on 25.04.2017 among the Central Government's Department of Telecommunications, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) and the Tamil Nadu Government for the implementation of the scheme.

The Tamil Nadu Cable TV Corporation has prepared a detailed project report for linking all the Village Panchayats in Tamil Nadu through optical fibre (OFC) and submitted it to the Government on 31.08.2017. The Central Government's Department of Telecommunications gave its approval to the detailed project report and made an allocation of Rs.1,230.90 crore.

Various services like the State Government's internet services, cable TV services and e-governance services will be commissioned shortly and villagers can get them in their own places.



When MGR opened his heart on coping with struggles and fame

- Vamanan

In the February of 1948, as MGR went through the letter he had received from a hazy acquaintance, asking for his help to enter films as an actor; his mind raced through his own celluloid career. He had been bereft of singing talent at a time when it was the single great criterion for an actor; and was not endowed with any extraordinary acting talent either. He had to depend on the goodwill of influential people in the film world for acting opportunities. In the 12 years since he had first acted in front of the camera, he had journeyed through a dark tunnel and had just about begun to see light.

Still, camping in Coimbatore to play the supporting role of Arjuna in Jupiter Pictures' 'Abhimanyu' that year, MGR could pat himself for having survived the winter of discontent. 'Rajakumari', released in the summer of 1947 with MGR in the lead role had been a success. He had seen enough of the film world to be

able to write back to an aspiring actor in the manner of an elder brother giving guidance to an ingenuous sibling.

"Dear brother B G M S", he begins, assuming that the letter writer, whom he really knows little about, hails from a well-to-do family. We almost hear MGR sighing over his own years of penury when he had to wash his single dhoti and shirt every evening for the next day and retire for the night on a hungry stomach.

"What are your motivations for becoming an actor", asks MGR to the addressee in the letter (published in the book 'Kaanak Kidaikkadha Kadithangal', edited by 'Mullai' P L Muthiah). "Money? Fame? Art?" He goes on to give the possibilities of achieving these objectives. What he says in this regard sheds much light on MGR's own career as well.

“It is not proper to think that you can become rich by being an actor, because except for a few, all others are paid paltry sums. I say this from my own experience”, he writes. MGR worked as an actor on a payment of Rs.200/- a month for Rajakumari with the contracted amount being Rs.2,500/-. But as the film’s production dragged on for months beyond a year, his friends had to bale him out.

“As for fame”, MGR goes on, “no new actor achieved instant popularity except in exceptional cases. I have been slogging it out for years”. With middling results, he might have added. In the letter MGR also rules out the possibility of ‘art’ being an objective for entering cinema as films succeed because of hit songs or exciting stunts or special effects.

The one operative part of the letter highlights the harsh reality faced by actors in MGR’s time. “If you have people who have the money to make a film with you, I can help you make it a success by choosing the right story for you and making you perform”, he writes. A decade hence, MGR would prove with his dream film, ‘Nadodi Mannan’, which he produced, directed and acted in a double role, that his claim of having some hold on filmmaking was no empty boast.

The other letter MGR wrote was from Mysore, where he was shooting for ‘Maruda Naattu Ilavarasi’ in February 1949. It was ostensibly written to the singer-actor M M Mariappa, MGR’s playback in ‘Rajakumari’.



There is a sense of urgency in MGR’s letter, which ends with, “you must surely sing for me”.

Though Mariappa did sing for him in the film, the MGR - Mariappa tryst was short lived. Later MGR chose T. M. Sounderarajan as his playback in ‘Malaikallan’(1954). The combination proved to be a resounding hit in over a hundred films. It lasted up to MGR’s last film. ‘Maduraiyai Meetta Sundara Pandian’. One of the songs of the film had a line that goes, “Our flag should fly over the Fort”. When it echoed in the cinemas, MGR was already the Chief Minister.

(The author is a Tamil film music historian and author of books on Tamil cinema)



M.G.R. Centenary functions 'highlight efficiency with which Amma's Government functions'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the M.G.R. centenary function held at Pudukkottai on 14.10.2017 (*English Translation*).

I bow to Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. Dhanapal who has delivered the presidential address for Dr. M.G.R.'s centenary function, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam who has given excellent ideas in his speech earlier in this function, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. Thambidurai who has given a special address, the son of this District, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr.

C.Vijayabaskar who is conducting this public meeting for the centenary function as a State conference of the party, the Chairman of the Housing Board Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu who is standing by the Health Minister, Secretary of the Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. R. Venkatesan who has delivered the welcome address, Tiruchirappalli MP Thiru. P.Kumar, Ramanathapuram MP Thiru. A. Anwar Raja, Sivagangai MP Thiru. P.R. Senthilnathan, Gandharvakottai MLA Thiru. B.Arumugam, Hon'ble Ministers,



Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru. Pollachi V. Jayaraman, Government Chief Whip Thiru. Rajendran, Tamil Nadu Government's Special Representative at New Delhi Thiru. N.Thalavai Sundram, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Books and Education Services Corporation Tmt. B.Valarmathi, the District Collector of Pudukkottai Thiru. S.Ganesh who is to propose a vote of thanks, MPs, MLAs, Executives of Party Headquarters, former Ministers, former MPs and MLAs, Representatives of Co-operative Institutions, former representatives of Local Bodies, party cadre who are the aerial roots of the party, Government staff, media friends, students who have won prizes, respected Elders, Ladies, Youth and Beneficiaries of Welfare Assistance –I pay my respects to you all at the outset.

Your District Minister Thiru. Vijayabaskar sang a beautiful song here. The Leader of

the Opposition Thiru. M.K.Stalin will always raise some issue or the other and it will invariably centre around Thiru. Vijayabaskar. The song rendered here is a fitting reply to him.

N.S.Krishnan would raise the question: which is the deadliest weapon in the world? And Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. would reply: "The duplicitous tongue of unworthy people" ('Nilaiкетта manithargalin nayavanjaka naakku'). You draw your own conclusion as to whom the remark fits. So, Thiru. Vijayabaskar has sung a beautiful song for the person to whom it should apply.

Pudukkottai District abounds in forts and ramparts, spiritual centres and tourist spots. The name reminds us of the Pudukkottai Samasthanam and Thondaiman lineage.

A section of people from 'Anbil' Village in Tiruchirappalli District migrated and settled in places around Alangudi, here, and their bravery and hard work helped them join the army of Nayak Kings who were ruling that region then. In due course, they became Chieftains of the Karambakudi area, expanded their area of rule and rose to become Thondaimans to rule with



Pudukkottai as their capital. This became the Pudukkottai Samasthanam.

In the closing years of 17th century, a new fort was built by Thondaiman Ragunatha, named it Pudukkottai which later became the name of this District itself.

Well known dynasties like Chola, Pandiya, Pallava, Nayaks, Mutharaiyar, Velir and Thondaiman ruled this soil. Kalasamangalam known as “Pallavarayan Seemai” was the seat of Pallavas reign. Pudukkottai Thondaiman Kings issued their own coins, called “Pudukkottai Amman Kaasu” with the figure of their family deity Amman on one side.

The earliest man lived in this place. It is a very hoary District with cave temples in large numbers, thousands of stone inscriptions and archaeologically ancient monuments. The District’s historical background is confirmed by the findings of Roman coins.

Sangam Age poets like Perunchathan, Bootha Pandian, Aavoor Kizhaar, Aavoor Mulam Kizhaar and Mathuraikumaranaar hailed from this place. Cotton, silk and gingelly oil were exported in large quantities from here. Notes from foreign travellers Ptolemy and Pliny

mention that Pudukkottai was a commercial centre.

This District has many historic spiritual and tourist centres like Viralimalai, Avudaiyar Kovil, Thirumayam, Naarthamalai, Kudimiyanmalai, Thirugokarnam, Kalyana Prasanna Venkateswar Aalayam, Venugopala Swamy Aalayam and Peraiyur Pallivasal. Chithannavasal, known for its murals and one of the 38 heritage sites declared by Tamil Nadu Government is located in this District.

Pudukkottai District is created by annexing some parts of the Districts of Tiruchi and Thanjavur in 1974. Pudukkottai Municipality was formed even in 1912.

Cashew and summer crops are grown here more. That the first woman legislator of Tamil Nadu Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy and freedom fighter Dheerar Sathyamurthi were born in this District, is an added glory of this District.

Understanding the condition of Pudukkottai District, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma implemented many schemes and turned the District into an excellent District. Hon’ble Amma left the task of making this District as

a fort of AIADMK to us. Hence, we are taking great interest in the development of Pudukkottai District.

When I came here last on 09.06.2017 to declare open the new Government Medical College, as announced by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma under Rule 110 of the Assembly rules on 25.08.2015 and directed, a huge crowd had gathered here. Now, exactly four months later, I have come here for the centenary celebration of the party founder leader Makkal Thilagam Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. The gathering that has turned up now is not a wee bit less than the crowd that had collected then; in fact it is more. Seeing this, we can feel the confidence you repose on us. I am happy to say that we look at it as your recognition of our rule. And I wish to state that our Government will continue to function on the lines of Hon'ble Amma showing great concern for the downtrodden and the middle class.

This Medical College Hospital is a boon to this District. It benefits not only this District but the people of surrounding areas also. In medical service, Tamil Nadu is a model to other States. An exclusive recruitment board for medical services was set up for the first time in the Country, only in Tamil Nadu. Till date, I am proud to say, this Board has recruited 10,093 Doctors and 9,190 Nurses.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took great care in women's health. Hon'ble Amma introduced the 'Amma Child Care Prize Kit' scheme and so far 11,06,000 neo-natal infants have benefited. Likewise, the 'Amma Maternity Sanjeevi Thittam', 'Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme and

Amma Full Body Scan' scheme are all intended to provide medical service to the poor and the marginalized sections. For creating a clean environment, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma inaugurated the 'Clean Village Movement' scheme. To make it succeed, we should keep our Villages and Cities clean.

Today, we are fighting the dengue fever through the hard work of all Departments. Hon'ble Amma's Government is acting quickly to prevent the spread of dengue fever. Government Doctors, medical officials, workers and nurses are working round-the-clock. The Government has taken the dengue fever as a challenge and is controlling it. Officials from all Departments jointly do inspections in all parts of the State. In Government Hospitals, additional Doctors, Nurses and workers have been appointed. Besides, the bed-strength has been increased and additional appliances have been purchased. Are these efforts and labour of the Government enough? I will say no. People's co-operation alone will give additional strength. Then only dengue fever can be eradicated quickly.

An awareness about hygiene and mosquito eradication should be created in the common people. Knowledgeable people should explain to the ignorant about the steps to be taken to prevent mosquito proliferation. If there is need, youth and NGOs should work in co-ordination with Government medical teams. Then dengue mosquito could be eradicated completely.

It is no surprise that those who politicize everything and seek gains, politicize dengue fever also. Our only goal is service to people and we are acting speedily without wasting

time by replying to them. Problems faced by Government can be categorized in two ways. One is caused by Nature all on a sudden like storm, floods, earthquake and epidemics. The second is artificial hurdles caused through political animosity and anti-people acts. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had taught us the skills to deal with these two types of problems and rule, safeguarding the people from any misery.

Out of political malice, some level accusations against us after a great deal of search. They have forgotten that opposition parties too have a duty and responsibility to solve a problem, if it confronts the people. They can suggest ideas to the administrators to relieve the people from those problems. Instead, to spread rumours and create confusion and panic amidst people, is greatly wrong.

People will understand such persons. When the DMK was holding the reins of administration both at the Centre and in the State, they acquiesced to all the orders of the Central Government without a visionary outlook and concern for people's welfare and signed the files that came to them, resulting in the present day problems. People are watching how they ignite these problems into agitations, join the ranks of protestors and falsely shout slogans. I wish to say one thing firmly to those who cheat the people and raise the slogans: when an occasion arises, Pudukkottai people will not only silence your rhetoric but your actions also. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., in one of his songs, has lashed at persons indulging in anti-people acts. "Poium Purattum Thunaiyaai Kondu Pizhaithavarellam

Ponaanga; moolaikku moolai thookki erinjome; thalaikunivaga aanaanga" ("those who eked out their livelihood with falsity as their companion have all gone away; we threw them out to all corners; they became shame-faced"). Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had understood well even then how to manage opposition parties' anarchist ways. We, his followers, have also been taught about this.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's presence of mind in the political arena has brought the AIADMK to this level. I wish to recall once instance in this connection.

When Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was expelled from the DMK, his fans and volunteers throughout Tamil Nadu were greatly agitated. Without waiting for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's announcement, the cadres in Madurai, out of over enthusiasm, hoisted a flag and announced it as the flag of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s party. This was copied in many other places in Tamil Nadu. This provoked the other party who tore the flags, and pulled down the flag posts. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was greatly distressed. He wanted to put an end to this issue. The reason behind his confident declaration that no one would tear the flag of his new party came to light only when the party flag was introduced. At the centre of the flag, the figure of Perarignar Anna was embossed. None dared to tear that flag when it was hoisted throughout Tamil Nadu. Like this, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar knew very well how to resolve an issue.

After 30 years of his demise, if Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. is reigning in the

hearts of people, it is due to his love towards his fans, volunteers and the people and the care he took of them. If Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had fans not only in India but all over the world, it was because he could satisfy them. At times, inflicting sufferings on himself, he had kept his fans happy. This is the reason for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's success.

As Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., once went to the United States of America. Train travel was arranged for him to go to New York from his place of stay, Baltimore. When Hon'ble Makkal Thilagam M.G.R. reached the railway station to entrain, a woman with a baby in her arms swiftly came towards the leader. Greeting M.G.R., the woman said: "I came to know that you are travelling by train. To see you, I have come from a long distance, driving my car speedily for three hours. I have seen you. I am very happy".

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar calmed her, spoke to her affectionately, pampered the child, took a photo with the woman and instructed the photographer to send a copy of that photo to the woman's address. He also blessed the woman.

By that time, the train for New York had departed from the station. "We have missed the train as you had talked to that woman for a long time" said the person who had accompanied the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar.

Smiling Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. told him: "There are any number of trains. To see me, that woman with her child in arms, has come from a long distance driving her car all alone for three hours. She would have been greatly disappointed if I had ignored her and

left by the train. See now; how much happiness is there in her face. What a great thing that I could keep a person happy after coming to America". We are the descendants of that great leader. Whoever raises whatsoever issue and blows it out of proportion, we will change them all into stepping stones and devote ourselves in people's work more and more.

We don't want to waste our time replying to those who level unsubstantiated charges against us. We are able to announce many schemes for each District and implement them as we have minimized our talk and bestowed greater attention on action. I wish to mention one thing to those who are speechless at the number of files I have signed till date from the day of assuming office.

Even today, hundreds of schemes are waiting in the queue. When they take shape shortly, you will understand how strong this Government functioning with the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is. In the last six years, the achievements of Hon'ble Amma's Government are numerous. I wish to mention only a few of them. This is to answer in detail the query raised by the leaders of opposition parties and their members about what this Government has done to the District concerned where you are celebrating the centenary of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

1. Amma's Government distributed at no cost laptops worth Rs.105.30 crore to 78,028 students;

2. Free bi-cycles to 1,00,740 students;

3. Under the Marriage Assistance scheme, Rs.84,12,00,000/- cash assistance and 99.47 kg

of gold has been distributed. The scheme is to facilitate marriage to women in poor families to get married at the appropriate time;

4. Under Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance scheme, Rs.9.76 crore has been given to 6,218 beneficiaries;

5. Under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance scheme, 54,495 pregnant women have been given Rs.67.33 crore;

6. To 30,046 women Self Help Groups, bank loan to the tune of Rs.612.37 crore has been arranged;

7. A new Government Arts and Science College at Karambakudi and a new Polytechnic College at Gandharvakottai have been started;

8. 411 water supply works have been taken by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board at a cost of Rs. 44.55 crore;

9. New power schemes have been implemented by the Tamil Nadu Electricity General and Distribution Corporation at 16 places at a cost of Rs.76.60 crore; schemes for setting up new power sub-stations at 5 places at a cost of Rs.918.91 crore have been approved;

10. Under the Highways-NABARD and Rural Roads scheme, 21 bridges, road works, culvert works and many other programmes have been implemented;

11. The Highways Department (Construction and Maintenance) has upgraded 252 km long roads at a cost of Rs.79.75 crore;

12. Under the Chief Minister's Green House Programme, 10,298 green houses with solar panels have been constructed at a cost of Rs.173 crore and distributed to poor families;

13. Under the THAI scheme, 9,396 works have been taken up in 4,087 hamlets in 497 Panchayats at an estimate of Rs.161.65 crore;

14. Drought relief of Rs.81.40 crore have been distributed to 89,423 farmers;

15. Under the Prime Minister Crop Insurance scheme, 1,67,082 acres of land owned by 82,525 farmers have been insured;

16. So far, an insurance cover of Rs.138.04 crore has been distributed to 57,793 affected farmers;

17. Besides, a crop loan of Rs.105 crore, issued through the Pudukkottai Central Co-operative Bank has been waived, benefiting 34,904 farmers;

18. Under the 'kudimaramathu' scheme, 113 schemes have been implemented at a cost of Rs.3.37 crore; in the current year, it is programmed to take up works costing Rs.10 crore;

19. Under the scheme of free distribution of water bodies' sediments, 12,80,205 cubic metres of sand have been distributed benefiting 11,260 farmers;

20. Under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, 11,675 houses have been constructed at a cost of Rs.128.48 crore;

21. Under the school integrated infrastructure development scheme, 2,503 works have been undertaken at a cost of Rs.20.19 crore; also construction works costing Rs.33.55 crore have been taken up.

Why I am narrating these things in detail with statistics is to counter the opposition parties which have been criticizing our

Government. I am happy to say through the Ponmana Chemmal M.G.R.'s centenary function that so many people have benefited in Pudukkottai District alone. This can be quoted anywhere to anyone. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma fulfilled Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s dream; this is the proof that Amma's Government is implementing the schemes brought forth by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Today I have inaugurated in your District 70 works costing Rs.646.26 crore including water supply schemes of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, worth Rs.616.57 crore. When these works are completed, Pudukkottai District's water supply problem would have been solved.

I have laid the foundation today for 24 new schemes of the Departments of Co-operation and Agriculture Engineering, worth Rs.4.64 crore .

I will be distributing welfare assistance of various Departments worth Rs.189.22 crore to 31,918 beneficiaries.

From the date of taking over the responsibility of administration till date, I have inaugurated 34,710 scheme works, completed at a cost of Rs.9,802.27 crore across the State and laid foundation for 6,736 works to be executed at an estimate of Rs.3,511.49 crore. Totally 41,446 works are under implementation at a cost of Rs.13,313.76 crore .

Though thousands of schemes costing several thousand crore rupees are prepared, Government staff play an important role in taking the benefits of those schemes to people. Taking their interest also into account, the

Tamil Nadu Government has taken a decision to implement the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission to about 12 lakh Government staff and teachers by way of bringing parity with Central Government staff.

Also, a new scheme, 'Regularisation of Unauthorized House Site Partitions and Plots' has been brought into effect to regularize unauthorized house plots, purchased by the poor from their hard earnings. The regularization charges for them, have also been reduced greatly. There is no doubt that this will relieve the anxiety of the poor.

The opposition parties have created an illusion that their main task is to politicize every move of the Government and blame it. If opposition parties perceive even constructive plans and actions as bad, then the defect is in their eyes or in the party they belong to. Those who blame the ruling party for anything and everything, should realize that their mistakes while they were in the seat of power, have become myopic glasses now and show them even good things as dirty. The moss should first be located and then cleansed. When I say this, I am reminded of a story.

A newly wedded couple settled in a City. The next morning when they were sipping tea in a room, they could see through the window a woman in the next door washing and drying clothes. Seeing this, the wife told her husband: "See there; that lady does not know how to wash the clothes. All the clothes are dirty and full of black dots". The husband looked through the window but did not say anything to his wife. This scene and the wife blaming the woman in the neighbouring house continued for many

days. One day, the wife, in a surprised tone said: “See here; only now the woman next door has come to know how to wash the clothes. She has washed the clothes neatly without even a single dot and has put them for drying”. The husband replied: “That is nothing; only this morning I had cleaned the glass doors of our windows”. Like this, many are dubbing the cleanliness in the neighbouring house as dirt without cleansing their own dirty glass. Black glasses will reveal things only as black; red glasses red; colourless transparent glass alone will reveal things as they are. I hope the critics will understand this well.

Nowadays, the Leader of the Opposition criticizes us often. Today, he described our rule as, “Dengue Rule”. Hon’ble Minister Thiru. O.S.Manian has replied to him suitably. He beautifully described what sort of a rule they had provided. I don’t wish to repeat that here. I think the Leader of the Opposition is expressing such views to cast a slur on this administration. As for Hon’ble Amma’s Government, it is engaging itself with one-pointedness in executing tasks for the people.

The Dengue mosquito that causes the dengue fever, breeds in pure water – quite contrary to the common belief that mosquitoes do so only in sewage water. So people should keep the good water in their houses in closed containers. The dengue mosquitoes lay eggs in the waters of open containers or in the rain water that stagnates in surroundings that are not kept clean by people. From these eggs ATS larvae come out and dengue mosquitoes

generate from them. Each mosquito lays 1,500 eggs. From this, its proliferation can be gauged. So, people’s co-operation is a must to eradicate dengue mosquitoes. The Government machinery is in full swing. Hon’ble Health Minister is visiting all Districts, he meets officials there and works in co-ordination with the District Administration. Instructions have been issued to treat all types of fevers. Once fever occurs, nearby doctors should be accessed to identify the type of fever through a blood test and if appropriate treatment is taken, the dengue fever could be controlled completely. Amma’s Government is taking several steps to control dengue fever. Anti-mosquito solutions are sprayed. An awareness is being created to keep the environment clean. ‘Nila Vembu’ kashayam is given free to people where they congregate in large numbers like hospitals, schools, bus stands and railway stations and the fever is found to be cured. Hence, I wish to point out that as far as Government is concerned, all steps are taken to eradicate dengue fever. This type of fever occurs due to climate change. With people’s co-operation, Amma’s Government will eradicate the dengue causing mosquito. Many want to politicize this as they have no other issue. I wish to state that Amma’s Government is providing appropriate treatment to the dengue-affected.

At present, a good monsoon has set in, in Amma’s rule. After 25 years, water flows in Palar; farmers throughout the State are happy. Water level in Mettur dam has touched 98 ft.; I am told, the inflow is of the order of 24,000

cubic feet; and the dam will fill up if the flow continues to be of the same order for the next four or five days. As for Amma's Government, I wish to State, that all of farmers' problems are resolved completely.

Needed crop loans are issued to farmers; seeds and fertilizers are supplied; all facilities are made available at the needed hour. We have issued orders that farmers can remove, free of cost, the sediments from lakes and tanks in their places under the 'kudimaramathu' scheme; this has helped them to apply the dredged sediments as fertilizer in their fields. Dredging has deepened the tanks and we are able to see more storage of water in them due to the outbreak of the monsoon.

This Pudukkottai District is full of valorous youth. Jallikattu is the most popular sport in this District. Hon'ble Minister Dr. Vijaya Baskar mentioned that Jallikattu was conducted in 80 places in this District. The sport has concluded in Chithannavasal, Thirumayam Fort and in many popular areas along the coast.

We visited all the 23 pavilions set up here. The pavilions are a reply to the opposition parties who put the question what achievements you have recorded. These pavilions exhibit Amma Government's achievements Department-wise. More than a lakh people have assembled here. You can see Amma Government's achievements through them. Hence, what the opposition parties say are utter lies. Amma's Government alone is people-oriented; it gives schemes needed for the people; it implements

plans that prove beneficial to people. When I went round with your District Minister, I saw the bull owned by Pudukkottai Baskaran. It is a sturdy bull. The Minister said it commands a special respect during the conduct of jallikattu sport. Jallikattu sport will remain forever in this soil. My good wishes to heroes who participate in this sport.

Hon'ble Minister Vijaya Baskar, your District secretary, Chairman of the Housing Board, MLA and MP have placed many demands. The Government will implement some of them.

Finally - the centenary of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. is conducted in an excellent way. So far 18 such meetings have been concluded; the 19th meeting is on.

After the conclusion of the function, volunteers, women and youths should return to their places safely; I affectionately urge those going by vehicles to be careful.

I convey my appreciation to all the good hearts who made excellent arrangements for this function. I congratulate the District Collector also. Stating that this Government will function as your servant, I take leave of you all.

Yesterday was Ours! Today is Ours! Tomorrow will be Ours!

Vazhga Anna Naamam; Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh; Thodarga Hon'ble Amma's Aatchi!

Nandri; Vanakkam.

Tamil Nadu asks Centre not to go ahead with Bill for Permanent Water Disputes Tribunal

D.O. letter dated 28.11.2017 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Nitin Gadkari**, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

“Kindly refer to your predecessor's letter dated 03.05.2017 regarding Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

I have examined the matter in detail and once again reiterate the decision of the Government of Tamil Nadu that there is no need to constitute a Permanent Water Disputes Tribunal to adjudicate the Inter-State River Water Disputes amongst the States. Without prejudice to the above decision of ours, I would like to bring to your kind notice the following view points which have far reaching implications, if the present Act, 1956 is amended as proposed by the Government of India:-

(i) Each and every water dispute amongst the States is unique in character and the water disputes that would arise are complex in their mode unlike the usual civil and criminal cases normally dealt with by the Courts;

(ii) The river basins differ widely in the total availability, utilisation and nature of use of water in them, besides the socio-economic conditions and other parameters that require to be examined in allocating the resources;

(iii) The present Act of 1956 does not speak about the tenure of appointment of a Chairman and two other members nominated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India from among persons who at the time of such nomination are judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court or of a High Court. However, under the proviso in clause (4), an upper age limit has been prescribed if the proposed legislation is enacted and comes into force. In so far as the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is concerned, the Members appointed are hearing the dispute right from the year 1991 and they have already crossed 70 years of age. The Government of India has also notified the appointment of a Chairman to the Tribunal very recently. The new Chairman has not yet commenced hearing the pending 5(3) Applications along with the Members because of the I.A.s filed by Tamil Nadu with regard to seeking an order for the Tribunal to proceed with these Applications pending disposal of the Civil Appeals filed by Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. If this draft Bill is enacted by the Parliament and comes into force, the two members will cease to hold office as members of the Tribunal because of the age constraint and so also the Chairman.

(iv) The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has been constituted by the Government of India based on the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P.No.13347 of 1983 on 04.05.1990. Therefore, the Transfer of the pending 5(3) Applications to the Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal under clause (4) of the draft Bill on its enactment, shall not be done without the leave of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(v) The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has rendered its final decision on 05.02.2007. This decision has also been notified by the Government of India with reference to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court on 09.12.2016 has held that the appeals filed by the Governments of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu against the final decision of the Tribunal dated 05.02.2007 are maintainable. So, in respect of Cauvery Water Dispute only 5(3) Applications are pending for the Tribunal to forward a further report to the Central Government. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal will be in a better position in terms of continuity and institutional memory to dispose of 5(3) Applications. In these circumstances, there is no need to transfer the 5(3) matters pending before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal to the Permanent Water Disputes Tribunal for adjudication in the event of the proposed amendments to the Act of 1956 coming into force.

(vi) As regards clause 9A of the draft Bill, relating to maintenance of data bank and information, the Government of Tamil Nadu in

D.O. No.10669 / ISW2 / 2001-7, dated 31.07.2001 informed the Government of India that the data supplied by the State Government need not be verified by the Central Government and the amendment would not be necessary. The Government of Tamil Nadu reiterates this view again.

In the circumstances, the Government of Tamil Nadu firmly believes that the provisions in the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 as amended upto 2002 (Act No.14 of 2002) would suffice to adjudicate the Inter-State River Water Disputes amongst the States and therefore, there is no need to make amendments to the provisions of the Act as envisaged by the Government of India in the draft Bill of 2017. Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu conveys its decision that the functioning of the existing Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal should not be hampered in the pretext of transfer of the pending applications to the proposed constitution of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal.

I, therefore, urge you to kindly not process or proceed further on the Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha, among others, that envisages the constitution of a Permanent Water Disputes Tribunal to adjudicate River Water Disputes amongst the States”.



At Virudhunagar famous for its political legacy...
Chief Minister asserts
that the Banyan M.G.R.
nurtured will stand like
a rock

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the M.G.R. centenary
 function held at Virudhunagar on 23.10.2017 *(English Translation)*.

Offering my respects to Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Goddess Amma, I am extremely happy and feel honoured to participate in the Dr. M.G.R. centenary function and meet you all.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. Dhanapal who delivered the presidential address, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam

who delivered a special address, Hon'ble Minister for Dairy Development Thiru. K.T.Rajenthira Bhalaji who delivered the 'Munnilai' address, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. R.Venkatesan who welcomed the gathering, Members of Parliament Thiru. T. Radhakrishnan, Thiru. A. Anwar Raja and Tmt. M. Vasanthi, Member of the Legislative Assembly Tmt. M. Chandrababha, Hon'ble



Ministers, Virudhunagar District Collector Thiru. A.Sivagnanam who is to propose a vote of thanks, MPs, MLAs, Executives of Party Headquarters, former Ministers, former MPs, Representatives of Co-operative Institutions, former representatives of Local Bodies, Party Cadre who are the aerial roots of the Party, Government Staff, Media friends, Respected Elders, Ladies, Youths, Beneficiaries of Welfare Assistance – at the outset I pay my respects to you all.

I am very happy in participating in the centenary function of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar Ponmana Chemmal Dr. M.G.R. held at Sivakasi City, called 'City of Workers' and 'Little Japan'. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar greatly applauded workers' progress, not merely in his films but in real life too. Sivakasi is full of workers and its name immediately brings to our mind, fire crackers. I appreciate our worker-friends who labour round-the-year tirelessly so that our Countrymen can celebrate Deepavali festival happily. Workers in Sivakasai are aware of the health hazards they face and possible loss of life in unexpected accidents and yet they produce the fire crackers throughout the year and feel happy when children all over the Country burst the fire crackers.

Sivakasi also kindles us the thought of calendars and diaries. By introducing

innovations in printing industry, Sivakasi City meets all our needs whether it be day-calendars, colourful monthly calendars, diaries to suit different purses, election-time colour posters and commercial posters. Our Sivakasi workers introduced the novel technology of offset printing and recorded several achievements. On this occasion, I express my regard and thanks to workers in this District, particularly in Sivakasi, who are engaged in the manufacture of fire crackers and in the printing trade.

If Sivakasi is 'City of Workers', Virudhunagar is 'Commercial City'. It is stated that a hamlet by name 'Virudhupatti' which was a centre of business and a place of stay for merchants from other Towns, became Virudhunagar Town in the 18th century. In 2015, Virudhunagar Municipality celebrated its centenary. When Virudhunagar was an export market for agricultural produce for the rest of India and Countries abroad and was a trade capital, trade was brisk in all kinds of merchandise—cotton, areca nut, tobacco, coffee, tea, cardamom, chicory, chillies, coriander, oil seeds and foodgrain varieties. This honour continues till date even though a century has passed by. Virudhunagar merchants have earned a name for their honesty. In his song in the film 'Makkalai Petra Maharaasi' - starting with the lines 'Manappaarai Maadu Katti/



Maayavaram yerupooti' ('Yoke the bullock of Manappaarai to the plough of Mayavaram'), Kavignar Marudakasi would have testified to the honesty of Virudhunagar traders with these lines: 'Podhiya aetthi vandiylae/ Pollachi Santhayilae/Virudhunagar Vyabaarikku Chellakannu/ Nee Vitthu Pottu Panatthai Ennu Chellakannu' ('Dear Sweetie! Load the bundles in the cart/Effect the sale in Pollachi mart/ To Virudhunagar merchants/ And count the money').

In Virudhunagar District, agriculture and industries like fire cracker manufacture, match box, printing, spinning and power loom flourish well.

Virudhunagar District combines in itself the glory of heritage, sacredness of spirituality and a history of politics. Poets who had adorned all the three Tamizh Sangams –Mudakoranar, Porkollan Vennakanar and Aadhireyan – were said to have been born in Thiruthangal in Virudhunagar. Bhagawan Sri Ramana Maharishi's place of advent – Thiruchuzhi – is in Virudhunagar. It is Virudhunagar District that gave to the world Perunthalaivar Kamaraj, hailed as 'King Maker' by installing many Prime Ministers in India and Thyagi

Sankaralinganar who died observing fast over the demand to name the State as Tamil Nadu.

Srivilliputhur Andal temple, Thiruchuzhi Thirumeninadhar temple, Sathur Irukkankudi Mariamman temple, Rajapalayam Ayyanar temple, Thiruthangal Nindra Narayana Perumal temple and the like, and Saveriar Church and the like which stress communal harmony lend an aura of sacredness to Virudhunagar. It has tourist spots like Pilavakkal dam, Sathuragiri Sanjeevi Malai, Shenbagathoppu wild squirrel sanctuary, Devadhanam Anaicut and Ayyanar Falls. The Theppakulam in Virudhunagar adds glory to the District by its perennial water even though other reservoirs in the State may get dried up. The general expectation is that all people in the Town should put in their effort and pull the temple chariot. But this Theppakulam (temple tank) was dug by the entire populace of the Town, one from each household, contributing his labour.

I am very happy and feel honoured to celebrate the centenary function of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. in this glorious soil of Virudhunagar and participate in it. I feel it will be proper to share some views



with you in this Town that has a political legacy and a history of sacrifice.

Of late, many people show their face and lend their voice in TV channels and newspapers, trying to project themselves as influential ones by blaming the ruling party in a generally dismissive way. We never conduct ourselves in a way as to be blamed by these people. We anticipate and fulfill the needs of the people in advance. You know to give interviews only. People know that you cannot come to the field and work. People consider your interviews as a pastime. They laugh at you, recalling your past.

Only those who do not know the history of AIADMK party indulge in bravado talk like, “We will dismiss the Government! Tomorrow we will pack them off; AIADMK rule has come to an end”, whenever they get a chance to speak on the mike. Our movement is not like mushroom that has sprouted in yesterday’s rain to be uprooted by you and packed off. It is a banyan tree that cannot be shaken even by a storm; as aerial roots, one and a half crore party cadres are there to support it. Understand, that it is a tree hardened like a steel after facing hazards and threats repeatedly. The tree has grown on the fertilizer of the blood and lives of countless volunteers. Till the AIADMK captured power

in 1977, partymen could not be sure even of the safety of their life. Many sacrificed their lives; many others their limbs – eyes, hands and legs – and thus nurtured this Movement. Like men of steel, those youth bore the hostility of the opponents and losses. They stood behind Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and protected this party. Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar had these ideas in his song, “Neenga Nalla Irukkonum naadu munnera/ Indha Naattil ulla ezhaigalin vaazhvu munnera! Endrum nallavanga ellaarum unga pinnalae- Neenga nenachathellam nadakkum unga kannu munnalae! (‘you should be well, for the Country to progress; for the poor in the Country to progress. All good people are behind you; before your very eyes what all you had wished for, will materialise’). Our youth/ party volunteers brought to fruition Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar’s wishes. Those heroic youth have not disappeared. They have taken another incarnation and are serving the party. All the Ministers seated here, including me, have come up like that. Not all on a sudden. We have brought up the party, taking Puratchi Thalaivar’s song: ‘Uzhaikkum thozhargalae ondru koodungal/ Ulagam namadhu endru sindhu paadungal/ Medu pallam illaadha samudhayam kaana/ Enna vazhi endru enni paarungal! Anna sonna vazhi kandu nanmai



thedungal! ('Workers come together; sing – the world is ours. Think what is the way to establish a society without high and low; seek good through the path laid by Anna'), as the command.

Where are the people who derided Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s party as just capable of running only for 100 days as his films did? Many of them are nowhere today. The same fate will overtake our critics also. Hon'ble Amma's estimate that this Movement will remain for hundred years even after her demise, will not go wrong; your calculations will not triumph; will not pass muster.

The opposition parties could not even dream of capturing power till December 25, 1987 when Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. shed his mortal coil. To that extent, he was popular. After Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's demise, they harped back again on the theme that the AIADMK party had come to a close. Their wish was shattered. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over the leadership of the party and brought it up with greater vigour. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma provided a golden rule, uplifting the poor and the downtrodden,

establishing the rule of law in a way that terrorism and separatism could not rear their heads and protecting Tamil Nadu from natural disasters like drought, cyclone and massive rains. Those who wrote an epitaph for this Movement after Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma died, remain speechless today. We have been brought up by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and we will protect this party by sacrificing anything. Your dream that "we will dismiss this Government; we will send them back home" will never materialize. It will continue to be a dream.

Once, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was staying, as Chief Minister, in the Government Guest House at Ooty. Officials there refused permission for a film shoot at a Government park nearby, citing the Chief Minister's stay. On hearing this, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. directed the officials to permit the film shooting there and also came to see it in person. During that film shooting, two technicians avoided seeing Puratchi Thalaivar. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. noted it, enquired about them, learnt that they belonged to the DMK party and got their names also. Later, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

provided lunch, at his own expense, to the entire film shooting team and attended on them. These two technicians were taking their meals in a corner. They had reservations in partaking the lunch provided by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. they could not avoid it either. With embarrassment, they were taking their meals with bowed heads. When Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. neared them, they shrank back further. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar called them loudly by their names. They were shocked and looked at Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. smiling, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. patted them, advised them to eat well and served some dishes, saying that they would be tasty. They became emotional at seeing a Chief Minister serving them so lovingly. Next day, both these technicians joined the AIADMK party. Such an approach gave an unique identity to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. in the political history of Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had helped in a number of ways, the film world and the artistes who were instrumental for his proximity to the people. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. lifted the sales tax burden of theatre owners and introduced the system of compounding tax which provided collection of a fixed tax for every show.

From child to the aged, everyone loved Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar. Women particularly considered him as a member of their household. I wish to cite an instance for that.

A song sequence for 'Maattukaara Velan' film was shot at the Vaigai Dam. People gathered at the site in thousands to see Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. The crowd was large and there was heavy police bandobust. In her

enthusiasm to see Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., an elderly woman managed to dodge the police security and reached the place where Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was. Though Police Personnel were angry, Ponmana Chemmal talked to the elderly lady solicitously and enquired about her family.

"Do you have children?" he asked. "Yes Sir", the lady replied. "Where are they employed?" was the next question. "One is in the army; another in the cine field", she said. Surprised at the cine connection and wondering who he could have been, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. asked, "What is the name of your son in the cine field?". Shedding tears of joy, the elderly woman said: "You are that son, though I have not begotten you". Makkal Thilagam hugged that lady, shedding copious tears.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's thoughts always revolved around the people. He expressed those thoughts in the form of story, dialogue and song in his films. He conveyed his wish to his partymen that scarcity should be banished, industries should grow and all should live here ("Illaamai neekka vendum; thozhil aakka vendum; ingu ellorum vazha vendum") as a procleration and made them work for the sake of the people.

There was no dichotomy between his film acting and his real life; he acted as a philanthropist as per the story in a film – in real life too, he was a philanthropist; he was a hero in film; in personal life too, he was a hero. That is why, people saw him as a great leader rather than as an actor. To that extent, his personal life won over his film life.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was the first actor who told the people through his films

how his public life would be. The philosophy that would guide his public life, he told in a song, as “Sathiyamthaan – naan padittha puthakamma/ Samathuvamthaan naan arintha thathuvamma” (‘Truth is the book I have studied; equality is my philosophy’).

The credit of turning the entertainment medium of films into a tool to spread awareness among people solely belonged to Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. When he was acting in films, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. introduced himself to strangers as, ‘I am actor Ramachandran’. To that extent, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. respected his profession. After becoming a leader, he considered himself as a servant of the people, representative of the people and protector of the people and functioned in public life. Never did he consider office as a crown; he took it as a command from the people and worked for them.

The seed of AIADMK that he sowed in Tamil Nadu will remain for hundreds of years; no storm, no flood and no force can fell it. This is so, because the soul of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and the soul of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma will guide the AIADMK.

We tread the path of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and we have the blessings of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. We have come to Virudhunagar District today with many schemes worth several crore rupees to prove that we are keen to minimize our speech and implement schemes. The schemes for which foundation has been laid today, the schemes inaugurated and the schemes I am going to announce will be the reply to those who crookedly ask ‘whether the centenary of

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. is to be celebrated?’.

I wish to mention a few of the achievements Amma’s Government has recorded in the last six years in Virudhunagar District. I am mentioning this because opposition leaders, particularly Leader of the Opposition Stalin, are deliberately and in a planned way raise the question: ‘what schemes have been brought about in Hon’ble Amma’s rule and what benefit people have derived from them. By way of replying, I have to State with statistics the schemes implemented in Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma’s rule in Virudhunagar District and how they benefited the people here.

As drought relief, Rs.55.12 crore distributed in Virudhunagar District to benefit 68,981 farmers; co-operative society loans given to 10,466 farmers to the tune of Rs.43.04 crore have been waived; under the free distribution of sediments to farmers, 8,06,928 cubic metres of sand, dug from 390 ‘kanmais’ have been given to benefit 10,626 farmers; under the ‘kudimaramathu’ scheme, inlet channels to 22 ‘kanmais’ in Virudhunagar District and their bunds have been restored at a cost of Rs.2.81 crore, benefiting 3,790 hectares of land; Rs.22.11 crore has been allotted to 85 works in the current year and they are being carried out; 1,93,099 laptops worth Rs.164.10 crore have been distributed to students at no cost; under the free bicycle distribution scheme, bicycles worth Rs.39.02 crore have been distributed to 1,07,424 students in Virudhunagar District alone – are all these things not achievements?; under the marriage assistance scheme for educated women, Rs.78.54 crore have been given to 22,611 women besides 90.44 kg of gold – you know the price of gold; despite the price,

distribution of half a sovereign gold for 'thaali' was doubled to one sovereign gold by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma; under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme, medical treatment, costing Rs.66.84 crore has been given to 38,304 beneficiaries; under the 'Chief Minister Uzhavar Paadhugappu Thittam' Rs.25.74 crore assistance has been given to 39,792 farmers; under the Chief Minister's Green House Scheme, 9,658 green houses with solar panels have been constructed at a cost of Rs.162.30 crore and distributed; steps have been taken to construct 659 green houses in the current year at a cost of Rs.11.86 crore; under the THAI scheme, 6,041 works have been taken up at a cost of Rs.107.82 crore in 1,745 hamlets in 450 Panchayats; administrative sanction has been given for 175 more works in the current year to be executed at a cost of Rs.19.53 crore and steps are taken to take up these works; under the Prime Minister Housing scheme, 8,660 houses have been constructed at a cost of Rs.95.07 crore and distributed; in the current year, steps are being taken to construct 1,902 houses at a cost of Rs.32.33 crore; bank loans to the tune of Rs.529.78 crore have been issued to 22,423 Women Self Help Groups; University Constituent Colleges have been started at Sathur and Aruppukottai; a Government Arts and Science College has been started at Sivakasi; under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance scheme, Rs.96.20 crore has been distributed to 1,670 pregnant women; Rs.32.05 crore has been allotted for school construction works and they are under execution; 15 new power projects have been implemented by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Generation and Distribution Corporation at a cost of Rs.129.33 crore; power sub-stations constructed

at a cost of Rs.47.51 crore at Aruppukottai Taluk and at a cost of Rs.15.75 crore at Sivakasi Taluk have been brought for people's use; also works on erecting power sub-stations and new transformers with additional capacity at various places of the District are under various stages of progress; under the Highways Department-NABARD Rural Roads scheme, 51 bridges, road works to a length of 81.49 kms and culvert works have been taken up at a cost of Rs.96.71 crore; Highways Department (Construction and Maintenance) has upgraded 1,364.71 kms long roads at a cost of Rs.598.07 crore; construction of 6 bridges at a cost of Rs.6.15 crore have been taken up; 34.44 km long roads to fire cracker industries have been upgraded, as per the announcement of Hon'ble Amma in the Legislative Assembly, at a cost of Rs.13.53 crore; 127.63 km long roads have been developed at a cost of Rs.73.20 crore by the National Highways Department; Thyagi Sankaralinganar Manimandapam has been refurbished at a cost of Rs.77 lakh; combined water supply scheme works are on at a cost of Rs.234 crore for 755 rural habitations belonging to the Panchayats of Sivakasi, Vembakottai, Sathur, Virudhunagar; administrative sanction has been given for a combined water supply scheme, costing Rs.543.20 crore with Thamirabarani river as water source for the Municipalities of Rajapalayam, Sivakasi and Thiruthangal in Virudhunagar District and some other Municipalities in Tirunelveli District.

Today, I have inaugurated 146 works completed at a cost of Rs.48.79 crore inclusive of buildings of the Public Works Department constructed at a cost of Rs.35.35 crore. Today, I have laid foundation for 6 works costing Rs.13.38 crore inclusive of buildings to

be constructed by the PWD at a cost of Rs.6.38 crore. I will be disbursing welfare assistance of the various Departments worth Rs.54.87 crore to 21,733 beneficiaries. From the day this Government took over charge till date I have inaugurated 34,780 scheme works costing Rs.10,448.53 crore across the State and laid foundation for 6,760 works costing Rs.3,516.13 crore. Totally, 41,540 works worth Rs.13,964.66 crore are under implementation. All these schemes are provided to people with the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Lazy idlers will speak as they wish against those who live for the sake of people. Time alone will give them the answer. While speaking of this, I am reminded of a story.

When some friends were bathing in a river, there was a sudden surge of water, which dragged away many persons and things kept on the river banks. Friends saved to the extent possible those struggling in the water and their belongings. One in the team, an avaricious person, was however intent on grabbing the bundles that came floating without any claimant, without trying to save the people in distress in the waters. His other friends advised him not to covet other people's belongings and reminded him that avariciousness would land him in great loss. He ignored the advice and he was at his work with one-pointedness. He then saw what seemed to be a woollen bundle, floating in the waters. His attempt to catch hold of the bundle with a hook did not succeed as he could not pull it. He jumped into the river to bring the bundle to the shore. His friends cautioned him. Saying that he would become a very rich man with the contents of the bundle, he jumped into the river and tried to bring it

to the shore by hugging it with both his hands. Even after a long time, he could not come back to the shore and was struggling in the middle of the river.

His friends on the shore shouted at him: "Never mind if you are not able to bring the woollen bundle to the shore; leave it and swim back to the shore". The man replied: "It is quite some that that I have let go; but it is not leaving me because it is not a woollen bundle but a bear cub".

Like this, many people, driven by greed, go to wrong places but are unable to return back. The wrong persons refuse to let them go.

The Leader of the Opposition is catching hold of new and newer things. Unable to confront the AIADMK politically, he has caught hold of (the issue of) dengue fever. Just as the person in the story hugged the whelp, this person has taken up dengue and wants to politicize it. He will never achieve it. It is a seasonal fever breaking out during climate change. Government takes remedial action and it is eradicated. But, he has named this rule as 'dengue rule' Hon'ble Handlooms Minister Brother. O.S.Manian rebutted and described beautifully what sort of a rule he gave to the State. That was the sort of rule, the DMK gave. But AIADMK's rule is people's rule. AIADMK is a Movement that serves the people. You may call our rule by any name, but people will not accept it. Hence, I wish to state that Amma's Government is capable of fulfilling the dream of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and implement the tasks left behind by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

So, whatever conspiracy you may hatch and whatever antics you may indulge in, don't think you can bring about the dismissal of this

Government. Because, the crowd that follows Ponmana Chemmal M.G.R. is a big one. So far, we have conducted Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s centenary function at 20 places and in all those places more than a lakh volunteers and members of the general public participated and supported us as if saying that we are here for your Movement. These people are our masters. They are the judges. These are the people who stand by the Government and the party.

In a similar vein, bundles and bundles of false charges are levelled against us. Whatever be the extent of your lies, you cannot even touch this rule. Because, Amma's rule, Amma's Government has given so many schemes to this Virudhunagar District alone. The people of this District has benefited to that extent.

We have faced a drought of a severity not seen in the last 140 years. Even in such a drought period, we have seen to it that there is no price rise. The drought caused a drinking water supply problem and we have managed that too. There is good rain now, thanks to the Grace of Nature. On our way to this place we saw greenery everywhere; tanks were brimming. I wish to reiterate again and again that Hon'ble Amma's Government is people's Government; one that will do good to the people and will stand by them.

Amma's Government distributed Rs.2,247 crore as drought relief to affected farmers. This is farmers' Government too. Similarly, we have brought about a revolution, a renaissance in the field of education. It is Amma's Government that has made the highest allocation to school education. For the year 2017-2018 alone, Rs.26,932 crore has been allotted. Such a huge allocation is to provide the best education to our students. No other

Department has been allotted such an amount. For providing education to rural students, we have started 227 elementary schools across the State. We have upgraded 116 Elementary Schools into Middle Level Schools, 829 Middle Level Schools into High Schools and 401 High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools.

Today, enrollment of students in schools has increased. At the Primary School Level, enrollment has touched 99.85 per cent; at the Middle Level School stage, the enrollment is 99.20 per cent. By opening schools wherever they are needed in rural and urban areas, the increase in enrollment has been achieved. This is possible only in Amma's rule. In the higher education sector too, enrollment of students has gone up. During the life time of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma herself, 65 Arts and Science Colleges were opened in five years. Through this, Amma's Government created an environment wherein students from the poor and marginalized sections could get higher education at low cost. Amma's Government that follows the footsteps of Amma, has also opened 8 Arts and Science Colleges and 3 University Constituent Colleges in this year. Hence, people laud Amma's rule as the best one in education. I wish to point out that in Amma's rule only various types of colleges like medical, veterinary, agriculture and polytechnic have been opened.

Here too, 21 pavilions have been set up. Let the opposition partymen visit the pavilions to find answers for their queries such as what this Government has achieved, the schemes it has implemented and the benefits it has given to the people.

After the function, members of the general public, volunteers, ladies and youths should

reach their places safely. Particularly, those going by vehicles should be careful.

I convey my appreciation to the good hearts who have arranged this function so excellently. I take leave of you, stating that this Government will continue to work as your servant.

Yesterday was Ours! Today is Ours! Tomorrow also will be Ours! Vazhga Anna Naamam; Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh; Thodarga Hon'ble Amma's rule.

Nandri! Vanakkam!.

Stone laid for diaphragm wall across Malattar



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami laid foundation stones, through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 27.10.2017, for construction of a Diaphragm wall across Malattar river near Masigam Village, Peranambath Taluk, Vellore District at a cost of Rs. 3 crore and for construction works to be taken up across Muktha river near Eduthavainatham Village, Chinnasalem Taluk, Villupuram District, at a cost of Rs.1.90 crore, for artificially recharging ground water.

By way of improving agriculture that forms the substratum for the economic growth of a Country, meeting the drinking water needs of the people and conserving the available water in reservoirs, the Tamil Nadu Government that

follows the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing various irrigational development schemes.

In that way, the foundation for the diaphragm wall was laid. This wall will be constructed to a length of 150 metres at 10 metres depth. When the work is completed, about 377 acres of land will get assured irrigation; the water level in nearby water bodies will go up and the drinking water needs of the people in Ambur, Peranambath, Masigam and Kailasagiri will be met.

When the construction work for artificially re-charging ground water is completed, 124.375 acres of land will get assured irrigation and the water levels in the nearby water bodies will go up.

Chief Minister chairs high-level meeting for disaster preparedness before monsoon



The Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Authority held a meeting under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on 09.10.2017 with high officials of all Departments on the precautionary steps to be taken to face the onset of the North-East Monsoon (*English Translation*).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister gave the following instructions:

1. Preparatory works should be completed by the officials of all Departments even before the onset of the North-East monsoon.

2. It was informed that 121 multi-purpose security centres have been constructed by the Public Works Department in the coastal Districts under the Coastal Area Disaster Mitigation Scheme at a cost of Rs.345 crore and 115 of them are in a state of readiness to accommodate people in case of the occurrence of disaster. The remaining 6 centres should be constructed expeditiously and kept in readiness.

3. Disaster prevention and mitigation steps should be immediately undertaken in identified

vulnerable areas, by way of mitigating the danger during the times of disaster. The cost of these works should be met from the Long Term Disaster Mitigation Fund.

4. The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced in the Legislative Assembly that a 1,000 strong Tamil Nadu Disaster Rescue Force would be set up on the lines of the National Disaster Rescue Force, in the State. Steps should be taken immediately to form this Force soon before the onset of the monsoon.

5. Emergency Control Rooms with modern technology and efficiency improvement should be set up in Revenue Divisional Offices in coastal Districts and hill areas at a cost of Rs.28 lakh.

6. The State Emergency Control Centre should have video conferencing facility with all the District emergency control centres. These facilities should be installed soon.

7. It has been decided to distribute this year Rs.52.40 crore from the State Disaster Relief Fund for purchase of various equipment inclusive of ultra modern water suction and water re-cycling machine, high mast lamps with mobile generators and ultra modern water suckers, for improving the efficiency of the various Departments engaged in rescue works and for improving communication works.

8. As per the orders of the Hon'ble Chief Minister dredging of 33,212 water bodies of various types have been taken up so far, for storing the surplus water during the times of flood, mitigating the danger from flood and to enrich the crop fields; sediments to an extent of 5,51,08,167 cubic metres have been removed and distributed to six lakh farmers free of cost. This dredging will help store about 1.6 tmc ft. of water additionally.

9. The Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation has cleansed storm water drainage to a length of 1,137 km at a cost of Rs.10.60 crore for draining the stagnant water on roadsides during the monsoon periods. Under the Integrated Storm Water Drainage scheme, storm water drains to a length of 294 km have been constructed and connected with link canals for draining the rain water. Also, storm water drains to a length of 376 kms are under construction in Chennai city. These works should be completed soon.

10. In connection with the observance of the "International Day for Disaster Reduction" on October 13, awareness seminars relating

to disaster management should be conducted throughout Tamil Nadu on behalf of District administration and disaster rehearsals should be conducted.

To monitor the North-East monsoon works, the following I.A.S., officers have been appointed at the District level:

Ariyalur – Thiru. K. Phanindra Reddy; Perambalur-Thiru. Apurva Varma; Coimbatore - Thiru. Harmander Singh; Nilgiris – Thiru. Chandrakant B. Kamble; Cuddalore - Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi; Dharmapuri – Dr. J. Radhakrishnan; Dindigul – Thiru. Mangat Ram Sharma; Erode – Thiru. T. Udhayachandran; Kancheepuram–Tmt. Amudha; Kanniyakumari – Thiru. T.K. Ramachandran; Karur – Thiru. P. Annamalai; Tiruchirappalli – Dr. Rajeev Ranjan; Krishnagiri – Thiru. Hans Raj Verma; Madurai- Thiru. Dharmendra Pratap Yadav; Pudukkottai – Thiru. Shambu Kallolikal; Thanjavur- Thiru. Pradeep Yadav; Namakkal- Thiru. Vikram Kapur; Salem – Thiru. Mohammed Nazimuddin; Virudhungan – Thiru. S. Krishnan; Thoothukudi – Thiru. Kumar Jayant; Nagapattinam – Thiru. Sunil Paliwal; Ramanathapuram – Dr. B. Chandra Mohan; Sivagangai –Tmt. B. Jothi Nirmalasamy; Tiruvarur – Dr. K. Manivasan; Theni – Thiru. A. Karthik; Tiruvannamalai – Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar; Tirunelveli – Dr. Rajendra Kumar; Tiruppur – Dr. K. Gopal; Tiruvallur – Thiru. S.K.Prabakar; Vellore – Thiru. P. W.C.Davidar; Villupuram- Thiru. Atulya Misra.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister directed these officers to keenly examine the dengue prevention works also while taking up precautionary measures for the North-East monsoon.

Chief Minister reminds newly appointed doctors of Amma's words

'Serve patients selflessly, their smile will give you the best satisfaction'



Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after distributing appointment orders to Doctors and Ministerial Staff at a function organized by the Department of Public Health and Family Welfare at Kalaivanar Arangam on 21.11.2017 (*English Translation*).

I pay my obeisance to Idaya
Deivam Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr. C.Vijaya Baskar, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs and MLAs, Specialist Doctors who are to receive their appointment orders, Typists selected through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission for appointment, Shorthand Typists, Elders, Ladies, Media friends – at the outset I pay my respects to all of you. I am very happy to participate in this pleasant function.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government, not only provides high class medical services but also continuously

creates

very excellent human resources and structural facilities. This has pushed Tamil Nadu to the premier position in India. The Government continues to provide in an excellent way free, easily available quality medical services to all as per the criteria of the World Health Organization. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had very clearly stated: "It is my aim to make available all procedures connected with medical treatment, technology and medical skills to all people in the State without minding their socio-economic background".

Besides, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma fixed targets in the Vision 2023 document to achieve the health indices on par with developed Countries and Tamil Nadu Government is acting firmly to achieve those targets.

With the noble aim that the poor who come to Government Medical Institutions should get uninterrupted medical services and that they should not suffer on account of lack of personnel, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma set up an exclusive Medical Services Recruitment Board, the first of its kind in the whole Country, to recruit personnel to fill up vacancies in those institutions as and when they arise. The Board is working very well. To fill up the vacancies in the Department of Public Health, a time table is prepared on the vacancies likely to arise for the year, examinations are conducted by rotation, Doctors and Nurses are posted and other medical related vacancies are filled up. The Board has so far recruited and appointed 23,466 staff inclusive of 10,858 Doctors and Specialist Doctors, 9,533 Nurses and other para-medical workers.

In continuation of this, 556 Specialist Doctors selected by the Board and 175 Junior Assistants, 49 Typists and 7 Shorthand Typists, selected by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission are to be given appointment orders today. Inclusive of these 556 Specialist Doctors, Idaya Deivam Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has appointed this year alone 2,050 Doctors – 721 Specialist Doctors and 1,329 Doctors.

In Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government, I am happy to state, 96

per cent of posts in the 1,748 Primary Health Centres, Government Hospitals and Medical College Hospitals are manned by Doctors. The balance of 4 per cent vacancies will be filled up shortly.

Also, all vacancies inclusive of nurses, pharmacists and basic services are filled up immediately. On account of this, Tamil Nadu shines as the model State in different kind of health programmes like Mother-Infant Care, Immunization and infectious diseases control.

Many special programmes like Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme, Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme, Amma Baby kit Scheme, Amma Health programme, Amma Maternity Sanjeevi Scheme, Amma Total Body Scan Scheme, Amma Special Total Body Scan Scheme for women, Distribution of free Sanitary Napkin Scheme, Mobile Hospital, Prevention, Control and Treatment of Non-Infectious diseases Scheme, Mother's Milk Bank, lauded all over the world, Extension of Building facilities in high level hospitals, Tamil Nadu Government Multi-Super Speciality Hospital, setting up Super Speciality Hospitals with Trauma wards, '108' Emergency Ambulance Service and '104' Information, Consultation and Complaint Assistance Centre, were started by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and they are functioning in an excellent way. The Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), taking into account the activities of the Department of Public Health and Family Welfare, Tamil Nadu, agreed in 2016 to provide Rs.1,634 crore for the upgradation of Government Hospitals and Government Medical College Hospitals to global standards.

The World Bank also has given the first stage clearance for providing Rs. 2,685 crore to Health Scheme-II of Tamil Nadu.

I heartily congratulate the Department of Public Health and Family Welfare for its speedy action whether it be in dealing with disasters like cyclone and floods or the filling up of vacancies. You have many duties before you – sacrificing for the good of the people, taking a resolve to help people and participating in their joy and sorrow. Your premier duty in the medical field should be offering selfless service and providing medical assistance to the needy. When you fulfill this responsibility, I wish to recall Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi's statement, you will get the best satisfaction in the smile of the patient. I offer my good

wishes that your work be of such an order that it fetches glory to your parents as Deiva Pulavar Thiruvalluvar envisaged and bring good name to the Government.

While I offer my good wishes when you are in the threshold of taking up medical service, I wish to state that Doctors alone enjoy a reputation that no one else can have. When you save a patient struggling for his life, you alone receive the encomium - 'You have saved my life like God' – when he (or she) meets you again. Such an excellent service-oriented work has come to you. I take leave of you, blessing you to work whole heartedly and bring laurels to the Nation and to your home.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

‘Devise ways for differently-abled to lead a life of dignity’

Congratulatory Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 02.12.2017(*English Translation*).

“Every year December 3, is observed as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. On this day, it is our duty to recollect the hurdles the differently-abled persons face and protect their rights.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, has ushered in a new epoch for the development of persons with disabilities. It is the duty of all of us to devise ways for persons with disabilities to lead a life of satisfaction with dignity.

Modern technology has already simplified approachability. New opportunities are springing up all around for persons with disabilities. I request them to make use of these opportunities, paying attention to education and skill development.

On this day of observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, I offer my good wishes to all of them”.

Chief Minister inaugurates project for TB-free Chennai



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** inaugurated at the Secretariat on 09.10.2017 the 'Tuberculosis Free Chennai' Project (*English Translation*).

The Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation, jointly with the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (TB) and the voluntary organization REACH has entered into an agreement with the International Institutions USAID and Stop TB Partnership to intensify the Revised National TB control programme, now in operation in the city. Among the metropolitan cities in the country, Greater Chennai is the first city where the project is implemented. It is proposed to be implemented in four stages.

Speedy detection of TB is the first stage. After such detection, treating the patient for six or eight months and arranging for needed consultations and nutritious food will form the second stage. In the third stage, slum

areas vulnerable to the disease will be visited and tests including X-ray and sputum tests conducted if necessary. Seven vehicles are proposed to be purchased for this task. As the fourth stage, it is proposed to create awareness among people about TB and the need for all-round co-operation without fear of the disease and isolating the patients.

Chennai Corporation has entered into an agreement with the NGO REACH for implementing the project in all private hospitals.

There are nearly 600 private hospitals, 2,000 private laboratories, 2,000 pharmacies and 12,000 Doctors in Chennai. All of them should report to the Government about TB patients. The REACH organization has agreed

to create awareness in all of them about the project, to train them and to make available the CBNAAT (Gene Xpert) test, carried out in Government hospitals free of cost, to patients in private sector hospitals.

The National Institute for Research in TB has agreed to conduct a comparative study of the incidence of TB in Chennai as of now and its status after the implementation of these steps and monitor them. For this, the Institute will be paid Rs.1.5 crore.

Under the agreement, USAID will provide a grant of Rs.26 crore to the Chennai Corporation over a period of 4 years. In the first stage, the Stop TB Partnership has provided to Chennai Corporation 10 numbers of CBNAAT equipment, totally costing Rs.1.50 crore. The needed cartridge has been supplied on a subsidy of Rs.4.5 crore. In private centres, this test is carried at a cost of Rs.3,000/-. In Greater Chennai, this test is conducted free of cost both in Government and private hospitals.

This CBNAAT equipment is capable of detecting TB bacteria more accurately than microscope in two hours. It will also detect MDR –TB, a more virulent form of TB. It will carry out tests simultaneously on four samples. With all this equipment, 120 persons can be tested a day. Microscope can detect the disease only if there are 10,000 bacteria in a sputum



sample. Also, detection depends on the skills of the lab. technician. But CBNAAT will detect the disease even if there are just 100 bacteria. Also, it is a computerized equipment. Hence, it is expected that 650 patients can be identified in a month as TB afflicted in place of 430 now. Through this equipment, tests can be carried out not only on sputum sample but on other body fluids barring blood, faeces and urine. This will help detection of TB at a very early stage in a patient and starting of treatment. Speedy detection will bring down the spreading of TB in the community. Through these steps, the Greater Chennai Corporation has planned to create a “TB Free Chennai”.

By way of implementing this project, the Hon’ble Chief Minister presented the CBNAAT equipment to the Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation Dr. Karthikeyan I.A.S. in the presence of the Secretary of the Central Government Department of Health Research and the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research Dr. Soumya Swaminathan.

TNSC Board's 444 apartments declared open at Thoothukudi



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open at the Secretariat through video conferencing on 11.10.2017, 444 apartments of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board constructed at a cost of Rs.29.15 crore at the Rajiv Gandhi scheme area, Thoothukudi. Also declared open were buildings of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board and the Directorate of Town Planning, constructed at a cost of Rs.574,03,50,000/-.

Taking into account population growth and urban development, the Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many housing schemes to fulfill one of the basic needs of the people-housing - particularly for the poor and the downtrodden. As part of this objective, the apartments which have come up in an area of 5.12 acres, have been declared open. Each apartment measures 341 sq.ft. Facilities like storm water drainage, drainage, water tank, park, anganwadi, rain water harvesting, road and street lights have also been provided in the scheme area.

Other buildings declared open are: 192 apartments of the slum clearance board at Kulavimedu scheme area in Vellore on 1.87 acres of land (Rs.15.90 crore), 1,500 multi-storey apartments of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board on 14.41 acres of land at Sholinganallur, Kancheepuram District (Rs.496.69 crore), 24 apartments on 0.37 acres at Nolambur, Tiruvallur District for the high income group (Rs.7.33 crore), 92 apartments on 1.38 acres at Ambattur, Tiruvallur District for the high income group (Rs.29.63 crore), 14 houses on 0.50 acre at Kadaperi Village, Madurantakam, Kancheepuram District for the low income group (Rs.1.44 crore), 64 apartments on 0.90 acres at Sathuvachari Part - 5 scheme area, Vellore District for high income group (Rs.16.38 crore), 32 apartments at Aanaiyur Madurai North Suburban scheme area - 1 and 2 on 0.27 acres for high income group (Rs.5.62 crore) and an office building on 449.82 sq. meter at the Sivagangai District collectorate complex for the Town Planning Regional Deputy Director (Rs.1,04,50,000/).

Total cost of the buildings declared open is Rs.603,18,50,000/-.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also commissioned a new portal – www.ppacmda.tn.gov.in - at the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority to enable submission of applications online for plan sanction. Along with the application, necessary documents and plan sketches can be submitted online. Receipt for such submission can be obtained at the applicant's Login server. The present status of the application for buildings can also be obtained through the portal.

The facility to directly apply in the portal www.tnrera.in of the Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority was also inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Building Site Developers can send their scheme works through this portal and agents their registrations. Provision has been made in this portal for people to know the present status of the registered construction plans. The portal will also be helpful for people to lodge their complaints about deficiency in construction works.



There
is
no
fear

December 11: Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharathiyar's Birth Anniversary

The people of this world, if against they stand,
There is no fear, there is no fear, nothing like fear.

Although, we are counted cheap and rebuked,
There is no fear, there is no fear, nothing like fear.

If to beg for food, would be a life attained,
There is no fear, there is no fear, nothing like fear.

Lovable possessions if, are lost,
There is no fear, there is no fear, nothing like fear.

If clothed bosomed damsels, cast their eyes
There is no fear, there is no fear, nothing like fear.

Poison in the mouth, if fed by friends
There is no fear, there is no fear, nothing like fear.

Shielded armies, if to attack approach
There is no fear, there is no fear, nothing like fear.

On the acme of my head, if the sky did crash and plummet down
There is no fear, there is no fear, nothing like fear.

- Subramaniya Bharathi

School buildings opened in many Districts



School Education Department buildings, constructed at a cost of Rs.173,84,85,000/- were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Secretariat on 11.10.2017 through video conferencing.

The Tamil Nadu Government, working in the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many schemes in an effective way like providing free education, bus pass, bicycles, school uniforms, text books, note books, laptops, educational implements, footwear, incentives to reduce incidence of drop-outs and construction of new classrooms by way of improving school infrastructure for students' academic excellence and for their rise to high positions in society.

In that way, these buildings were opened. They were: 16 class rooms and a laboratory building at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Erwadi, Tirunelveli District, under the NABARD Loan Scheme

(Rs.2,29,76,000/-); class rooms, laboratory buildings, drinking water and toilet facilities and compound walls in 39 Government High and Higher Secondary Schools in the Districts of Ariyalur, Coimbatore, Dindigul, Kancheepuram, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Nilgiris, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Theni, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore and Villupuram, under NABARD Loan scheme (Rs.54,75,70,000/-); school buildings under the Middle Level Education Scheme, in 68 Government High Schools in the Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Kancheepuram, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Nilgiris, Perambalur, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Tiruvarur, Thoothukudi, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli and Villupuram (Rs.115,17,79,000/-); a school building at A.Kumaramangalam, Villupuram District, under the Directorate of 'Education for All' (Rs.1,05,60,000/-); and a Library building at Melur, Madurai District, under the Directorate of Public Library (Rs.56 lakh). ■

IT buildings opened, upgraded portal of Tamil Virtual Academy inaugurated



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 11.10.2017, Information Technology Department buildings across the State, costing Rs.85.78 crore (*English Translation*).

As per the Vision 2023 Document of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) has established, under Government policy, eight Information Technology (IT) and IT-connected Special Economic Zones (ELCOSEZ) at Chennai and the second grade cities of Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Tirunelveli and Hosur, for fostering IT and IT depended industries.

The buildings declared open were: a disaster rescue centre at a cost of Rs.59.85 crore for the state data centre at the ELCOSEZ's administrative and IT building at Navalpattu,

Tiruchirappalli District for safeguarding the exchangeable data of the Tamil Nadu State Data Centre and a consultation room, guest room and a dining hall costing Rs.1.73 crore; an administrative and IT building for ELCOT at Viswanathapuram Village, Hosur, Krishnagiri District (Rs.21 crore); infrastructure facilities for drinking water supply inclusive of water collection tank, overhead tank and laying of pipes (Rs.1.50 crore) at the ELCOSEZ in Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli District and consultation room, guest room and dining hall (Rs.1.70 crore) for ELCOT at the Administrative and IT building at Elanthaikulam ELCOSEZ in Madurai District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated: the upgraded portal of the Tamil Virtual Academy – www.tamilvu.org – (Rs.12.26 lakh) - it will contain details like the university's educational programmes, library, computer Tamil and Information Directory in respect of information on research and tools for the benefit of students, Tamil Research scholars and Tamil enthusiasts; a 'Software collection for Tamil Internet – II', produced by the Tamil Virtual University (Rs.59 lakh) – this collection contains 5 Tamil software programs for text to speech applications for Tamil Internet, website on information connected with agriculture, Tholkappiam search engine, Tamil learning software and current events search. These can be downloaded free of cost by students and Tamil enthusiasts; an "Information Directory" produced by the University on research resources

in respect of Tamil language and archaeological findings connected with Tamil Nadu, inclusive of copper plates, stone inscriptions, rock paintings, murals, temples, sculptures and coins, documented by it and those documented by the Egmore Museum, Tamil Archaeological Department and Thanjavur Tamil University (Rs.20 lakh); a Tamil e-Library, housing printed books connected with Tamil language, magazines and palm leaves, of the Tamil Virtual University, for the use of students and Tamil scholars and enthusiasts (Rs.1 crore).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister released an e-Newsletter, brought out fortnightly in Tamil and English languages, by e-Governance Agency under the IT Department. It purveys schemes of central and State Governments, current events in the IT sector and technological developments in e-governance. ●

NEWS IN PICTURE



On the occasion of the 139th Birth Anniversary of Mootharignar Rajaji on 10.12.2017, Secretary of the Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. R.Venkatesan I.A.S., Additional Director of Information and Public Relations Thiru. OL.Ravindran and other high officials paid their respects on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government by sprinkling flowers on his portrait placed near his statue in the Chennai High Court Complex.

Prime Minister urged to take up frequent abduction of fishermen with Sri Lanka



D.O. letter dated 27.10.2017 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

“At the outset, I thank you for the Government of India’s concerted efforts in the release of 36 fishing boats belonging to fishermen of Tamil Nadu apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. Out of the 36 fishing boats released, 26 fishing boats were salvaged by our fishermen and 10 fishing boats could not be retrieved as they were severely damaged. In the recent past, there were incidents, in which, a total of 46 fishermen in nine mechanised fishing boats who set sail for fishing from Ramanathapuram and Pudukkottai Districts of Tamil Nadu have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 11.09.2017, 19.09.2017, 05.10.2017, 11.10.2017, 16.10.2017, 20.10.2017 and on 26.10.2017.

The Sri Lankan Navy continues to harass our fishermen who pursue their humble livelihood of fishing in their traditional waters of Palk Bay. In the latest incident, 5 fishermen

in one mechanised fishing boat set sail from Kottaipattinam fishing base of Pudukkottai District of Tamil Nadu on 26.10.2017, have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy and were reportedly taken to Sri Lanka.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is extremely concerned about the continuing instances of apprehension and detention of our fishermen. So far, in 2017, 317 Tamil Nadu fishermen and 62 fishing boats have been apprehended in 59 incidents and 263 of these fishermen have been released after considerable persuasion by the Governments of India and Tamil Nadu.

Even though the fishermen have been released from time to time, their boats and fishing gear, the only means of livelihood of these poor fishermen families are still impounded in Sri Lanka. These fishing boats are deteriorating due to prolonged exposure to the inclement weather and lack of maintenance.

In spite of the commitment to release all these fishing boats, the Government of Sri Lanka released only 36 fishing boats out of 61 fishing boats apprehended in 2015. There are 140 fishing boats including the nine fishing boats apprehended in the recent incidents which are yet to be released. This is fueling unrest among the fisherfolk.

The Government of Tamil Nadu strongly reiterates the need for Government of India to register its strong disapproval against the Sri Lankan Navy's belligerent actions. The constitutional validity of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement of 1974 has been challenged on extremely valid and legal grounds in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008 by our revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in her personal capacity. The Government of Tamil Nadu subsequently impleaded itself in this case. Hence, in our view

the IMBL is not a settled issue. I reassure you that the Government of Tamil Nadu is taking all possible earnest steps with the support of Government of India to diversify away from trawler fishing in the Palk Bay to deep sea fishing as a way forward to put an end to the sufferings of our fishermen in the Palk Bay.

I strongly urge you to personally intervene and take up the issue of the alarming and frequent abduction of our fishermen in their traditional waters with the highest authorities in the Sri Lankan Government so as to ensure the safety and security of Indian fishermen in the Palk Bay from Tamil Nadu.

The Government of India is also requested to secure the immediate release of 54 fishermen and 140 fishing boats including the 46 fishermen and their 9 mechanized fishing boats apprehended recently without any delay". ■

NEWS IN PICTURE



On the occasion of 136th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathiyar on 11.12.2017, Secretary of the Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. R.Venkatesan I.A.S., Director of Information and Public Relations Department Thiru. P.Sankar I.A.S., Director of Tamil Development Thiru. K.Vijayaraghavan, and Information and Public Relations Department high officials paid respects to Poet Bharathi on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government by offering flowers to his portrait placed near his statue on Kamaraj Salai, Chennai.