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'Contribute liberally on Flag Day, express gratitude to armed forces'

*Message of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
on the occasion of Flag Day -
06.12.2018 (English Translation)*



To glorify the services and sacrifices rendered by our Armed Forces, who are doing the sacred duty of protecting the borders of our motherland, Flag Day is observed every year on December 7.

Apart from protecting round-the-clock our borders which extend from the Himalayas to Kanniyakumari, the Armed Force also come to the rescue of the people of the Country during natural disasters such as cyclones and floods. So it is the bounden duty of the community to take care of the welfare of the families of the Armed Forces and Ex-servicemen.

To safeguard the welfare of our soldiers, who give their lives for the motherland and for the economic uplift of their families, the Tamil Nadu Government, which is treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many welfare schemes.

Increased grants for the legal heirs of soldiers who lose their lives in action and jobs for them on compassionate grounds, educational assistance for the wards of ex-servicemen for their graduation and post graduation studies, higher medical allowance for ex-servicemen and their family members and providing them employment through the Ex-servicemen Welfare Board are some of the welfare schemes successfully implemented by the Hon'ble Amma Government.

The funds collected through the sale of Flags are utilized for the welfare of the families of jawans and for the rehabilitation of soldiers handicapped in action. To continue these welfare measures in an excellent manner and to show our patriotism and generosity, I appeal to the people of Tamil Nadu to donate liberally for Flag Day.



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All of us have the common duty of protecting and safeguarding the basic rights of the people of Tamil Nadu and the livelihood of delta farmers.

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

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First Wrapper

In an award-giving function held on behalf of the India Today group in the evening of 22.11.2018 in New Delhi, Hon'ble Vice President of India **Shri Venkaiah Naidu** presented to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, four awards won by Tamil Nadu from among the big States, for all-round performance, maintenance of law and order, achieving the best improvement in the law and order situation in the shortest possible time, and excellence in tourism development.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens advanced Cardiac Operation Theatre, ICU in Children's Hospital



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated at the Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, Egmore, Chennai on 14.11.2018, an arch for the Advanced Cardiac Centre, an Advanced Cardiac Operation Theatre and Intensive Care Unit, a modern audio-visual theatre for seating parents and relatives of children coming for treatment, a genetic and molecular laboratory for children and a section for treatment of rare genetic disorders, all costing Rs.35.46 crore. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also launched a Rs.1 crore scheme for thyroid screening of newborn babies and released the golden jubilee commemoration stamp of the Government Hospital for Children.

The Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is implementing many innovative schemes for providing medical treatment of global standards to the people of Tamil Nadu. The schemes include strengthening the health infrastructure, round-the-clock service for mother-child care in Primary Health Centres, starting upgraded Primary Health Centres with bed strength of 30 each in every taluk, creating blood banks as per needs, strengthening the "108" Emergency Ambulance Service, "104" Medical Information Service Scheme, Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Scheme with enhanced financial



assistance, Amma Baby Care Kit, Amma Maternity Sanjeevi, Amma Master Health Checkup and Breast Milk Bank.

Started with 250 beds in 1968, the Government Hospital for Children, Egmore is now functioning as the biggest hospital for children in South Asia with a bed strength of 837. The hospital offers M.D. (Pediatrics), M.C.H., D.M. (Neonatology) and D.C.H. and every year 69 students graduate in them. Children from neighbouring states too get treated in this hospital besides ones from Tamil Nadu. The Japan International Co-operation Agency supplied medical equipment to this hospital and constructed a modern out-patient ward, costing Rs.90.09 crore last year.

The cardiac Department of this hospital functions as a pioneering Department. This is the first Department in Tamil Nadu to have a cardiac video endoscopic laboratory. Every year, about 12,000 children get treated in the out-patient ward of this hospital. Each of the two wards of the Cardiac Department has a

bed strength of 20. More than 250 children are getting treated here. The video endoscopy system started in 2016 and through it, treatment has been given to 180 children without recourse to surgery.

The arch to this modern cardiac treatment centre has been constructed at a cost of Rs.6 lakh. The advanced cardiac operation theatre and intensive care unit have come up at a cost of Rs.25 crore. The modern audio-visual theatre (Rs.40 lakh) is designed to accommodate 250 persons – parents and relatives of children coming for treatment – and will be utilized to hold useful events for children, entertain them with cartoon films and screen short skits to build their character. The genetic and molecular laboratory and the Department of rare genetic disorder treatment have been set up at a cost of Rs.10 crore. All these additional facilities have totally cost Rs.35.46 crore. The Rs.1crore Thyroid testing scheme is to assist early detection of DNA and chromosomal disorders in the newborn.



Under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, cardiac surgery has been performed on 25,285 children with congenital heart deformity at a cost of Rs.191 crore of the insurance cover. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Apollo Hospitals under this scheme and cardiac surgeries have been successfully performed on children with complicated heart deformities. By way of appreciation, Hon'ble Chief Minister presented mementoes to Apollo Hospitals' cardiac surgeons.

Children who are leading a healthy life after undergoing cardiac surgery in the

Government Hospital for Children presented flower bouquets to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and expressed their gratitude. The Hon'ble Chief Minister gave them presents.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said: Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Minister for Health, Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly and Parliament, former members of the Assembly and Parliament, former Ministers, Board Presidents, Doctors from the different hospitals who are gracing this function, Doctors, Nurses and employees of this hospital, elders, ladies, children who had undergone surgeries





here and are healthy at present, parents of these children, media and newspaper friends -- at the outset I offer my respects to you all.

Today is Children's Day. On this good day, we have inaugurated additional facilities in this hospital. This is a happy event. Hon'ble Minister for Health spoke about the greatness of this hospital. As he is a doctor, he could speak elaborately. We are not doctors. Since, he is in the medical field, we sent a medical team abroad with him to study the modern treatment given there for replicating the same in this hospital. We have implemented all that here today. So, this is a special event. We have now got, in our State, a high class hospital where heart surgeries can be performed on the newborn. This hospital has a bed strength of 837. So, we have created facilities for the babies delivered here by poor mothers to undergo cardiac surgery if needed. Only a mother knows how

dear her child is. Her heart will break if her child becomes sick immediately after birth. So, Amma's Government allotted the needed funds and created conditions for children delivered by women from poor families to lead a healthy life even if surgical interventions with modern equipment are needed. My good wishes to this hospital: May it develop more and more and become a premier hospital, not only in Tamil Nadu but in the whole of India. Likewise, my heartfelt thanks to the doctors of Apollo and Malar hospitals who extended a hand of friendship to this hospital and worked jointly with the doctors here. I take leave of you, expressing my great sense of appreciation to the doctors, nurses and the medical staff who serve with dedication.

Nandri! Vanakkam!





Hon'ble Chief Minister lauds hard work of Press, media

Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 'National Press Day'
- 15.11.2018 (*English Translation*) .

The Press is lauded as the fourth pillar of democracy as it performs the great task of enlightening the people on events impartially. To honour the services of such an important sector, 'National Press Day' is celebrated every year on November 16. On this day, I extend my hearty greetings to all Press and media friends.

The Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, increased the pension of journalists from Rs.8,000 to Rs.10,000, their family pension from Rs.4,750 to Rs.5,000, the ceiling on gratuity and the annual income while in service for eligibility to get pension from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.3 lakh and the assistance to journalists from the Journalists' Welfare Fund for treatment in case of severe illness while in service, from Rs.50,000 to Rs.1 lakh. By implementing many such welfare schemes for journalists who work round-the-clock, the Tamil Nadu Government shines as the custodian of the Press and media sector.

Appreciating on this pleasant day the Press and media for their excellent work of conveying to people details about the welfare programmes being implemented by the Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for the progress of the poor, I once again happily extend National Press Day greetings to all the Press and media friends. ■

'Tamil Nadu is at the forefront because of Amma's vision, continued good governance'



Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**,
in the India Today Awards Function, Delhi 22nd November, 2018

Hon'ble Chief Ministers

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker

Hon'ble Ministers

Mr. Raj Chengappa of India Today and his
team

Friends from the Press and Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon

It is a matter of great pride to receive the “**India Today**” awards. It is fitting that Tamil Nadu is being recognized as the best performing State in the categories of “**Overall Performance**”, “**Maintenance of Law & Order**” and “**Tourism**” by an important group of the National Media.

2. I am proud to say - I come from a farmer family and thanks to the training I received for 33 years from my mentor Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I have reached this level.

3. In the past 3 decades, Tamil Nadu's economy has registered the strongest and sustained economic growth among all States. It has become the **second largest State economy in India, contributing 8.4 per cent to India's GDP**. Tamil Nadu is one of the few States to reduce poverty at a rate faster than the All India average. This was possible because of the vision far-sighted policy making and an effective implementation record.

4. **The State's Human Development Index (HDI)** is the second highest among large States and much higher than the national average because of the consistent level of social sector expenditure in the areas of Health, Education, Nutrition, Welfare of Women and Children, Welfare of the Differently Aabled, Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and Social Security. We have today, one of the best educated and skilled work force in the country. The **Composite Education Development Index** places Tamil Nadu at the **Number One position**. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education in Tamil Nadu is the highest at 8.60 per cent.

5. With a population of 7.2 crore of which 80% are literate and nearly 50% urbanised, Tamil Nadu is an innovation based economy with a strong performance in manufacturing and services.

6. Tamil Nadu has ensured consistent investments in infrastructure. Investments

in the electricity sector by our revered leader **Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, ensured that the State which had a huge power deficit in 2011, became a power surplus State by 2016. Major investments have also been made in the Road, Urban Development, Transport and related sectors.

High quality skilled human resources and infrastructure have made Tamil Nadu a very attractive investment destination. Tamil Nadu attracts the **third highest Foreign Direct Investment** in the country. Recently, the International consultancy firm "**Frost and Sullivan**" and **NCAER** have ranked **Tamil Nadu as a leading State in investment potential**.

7. Tamil Nadu has the largest number of factories and largest employment in Industry. Tamil Nadu's industrial base is diversified and holds the leading position in – **Textiles, Leather, Automobiles and Auto Components, Heavy and Light Engineering, Electronics Manufacture, Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services and Health Care**.

8. The share of services sector in the economy is one of the highest in India. We are the leaders in renewable energy. Our effort will be to make a breakthrough in emerging and sunrise sectors. We aim to lead in bio-technology, information and communication technology and the most modern techniques of manufacture.

9. Recently, we have formulated a new **Environment Policy, an e-Governance Policy an Eco-Tourism Policy, an Information**

Communication Technology Policy, State Forest Policy, Youth Policy and Food Processing Policy. Policies in other critical sectors will also be announced to provide clarity and guidance to investors.

10. The Tamil Nadu **Business Facilitation Act 2018** has ensured that business enterprises are given mandatory clearances within 30 days, failing which deemed clearances are accorded. Following upon the success of the Global Investors' Meet held in 2015, the next Global Investors' meet is to be held on **23rd and 24th January, 2019 in Chennai.**

11. Tamil Nadu has a rare model of development which is business friendly even as it ensures that adequate attention and funding is provided for welfare.

12. The State's health indicators are amongst the **best in the Country** and is ranked amongst the top three States in the "**Healthy State Progressive India**" Report of the **NITI Aayog**. Tamil Nadu is the most sought after health care destination in India.

13. Some believe, that Tamil Nadu's welfare schemes are populist in nature. In reality these schemes are popular. They are oriented towards the welfare of the people. These schemes serve a specific need. The laptop scheme has reduced the '**digital divide**'. Many schemes pioneered in Tamil Nadu like the "**Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Noon Meal Scheme**" the **Maternity Benefit Scheme**, etc., have been adopted as National model schemes. They have been appreciated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Government of India and International agencies. All these are visionary

and multi-dimensional schemes having direct impact on the decrease in poverty level.

14. Tamil Nadu has thus created its own inclusive Growth Model which "**offers everything for everyone**" as promised by my mentor Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

15. **Firmness** in maintaining **law and order** has made Tamil Nadu a **haven of peace**. Tamil Nadu Police is a professionally competent and well equipped force with high levels of morale and motivation. This has kept communal tension, left wing extremism, religious fundamentalism and labour unrest at bay.

16. Tamil Nadu has been at the forefront of adopting technology for law enforcement. The CCTNS was effectively implemented.

CCTV cameras installed in many Police Stations and public places are helpful in deterring and detecting crime more effectively. Technology has been adopted in many other ways also. A **mobile app** called "**Kavalan – SOS**" has enhanced the safety and security of women and children in particular. Due to these efforts Chennai has been declared as the **safest Metro City** and Coimbatore the **safest Big City for women in India** as per the National Crime Record Bureau Report.

17. A "**Police well-being Programme**" has been introduced in association with "**NIMHANS**" Bengaluru to relieve the mental and physical stress of the Police force and their families.

18. Tamil Nadu has always attracted the largest number of domestic and foreign tourists

amongst all States. Tamil Nadu is endowed with cultural tourist sites like ancient temples and heritage centres and places of natural beauty and adventure. Good infrastructure a culture of hospitality and safe environment for visitors under the brand “**Enchanting Tamil Nadu**” makes the State a **very attractive tourist destination**.

19. Tamil Nadu’s work has been recognized by a number of awards. The **Krishi’ Karman Award** in Agriculture, various **performance awards** for implementation of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Best Practice Award** for the Computerisation of the **Public Distribution System** awards for Renewable Energy, recognition of **high quality health services**, including best performance in **Organ Transplantation** and performance standard awards for the **State Transport Corporations and for many Urban Local Bodies** stand testimony to effective performance. This was

evident, when the **State obtained second rank for good governance** in the Public Affairs Index, created by the Public Affairs Centre, Bengaluru.

20. These awards are the result of the vision of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and of the hard work put in by my Government, including my colleagues in the cabinet MPs, MLAs and the team of civil servants.

21. Our Revered Leader **Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** did not believe in resting on her laurels. Nor will we. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma’s Vision Tamil Nadu 2023, remains our blue print for action. We will strive for achieving the aspirational goals ‘**Peace, Prosperity & Progress**’ she had set for us.

22. Tamil Nadu is a strong and silent performer and it is no surprise that it has bagged these “**India Today awards**”. I once again, thank the “**India Today Team**” for this recognition.

Nandri! Vanakkam! ■



Science City has released the proposal form, application form, minimum qualification and other rules for the Tamil Nadu Junior Scientist Award, Senior Scientist Award and Lifetime Science Achiever Award for the year 2017 in its website. Interested scientists who want to apply for these awards, can download these forms from the website www.sciencecitychennai.in

The completed proposal form and application form should be delivered at Science City before 5.30 p.m. on 18.01.2019, either in person or by post. ■

**'Tamil Nadu Government met Gaja cyclone face on,
reduced scale of devastation'**

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for Tiruchengode Combined Water Supply Scheme



Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after laying the foundation for a Combined Water Supply Scheme at Tiruchengode, Namakkal District on 16.11.2018 (*English Translation*).

The Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board is implementing 55 water supply schemes to benefit 102.66 lakh people. Though the Central Government has reduced the allotment for the National Rural Water Supply Scheme, the State Government continues to implement water supply schemes for rural areas in an excellent manner with financial assistance from NABARD bank.

At the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Centenary Function at Namakkal District on 17.09.2017, I announced that the Tiruchengode Combined Water Supply Scheme would be taken

up for implementation. Amma's Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Amma, immediately allotted Rs.399.46 crore for this scheme on 05.03.2018 and gave administrative sanction in accordance with its pledge that 'we will do what we say'. After finalizing fund resources and tenders, work order was issued on 16.08.2018. The scheme has as its drinking water resource, water on the western side of Urachikottai barrage in Cauvery river. After purification at the Treatment Plant at Pallakkapalayam, protected water will be supplied through 741 overhead tanks. Through this scheme, 13.96 million litres of protected



water is proposed to be supplied per day to 2,52,963 persons in 345 villages under 26 Panchayats in the Tiruchengode Union; 5.57 million litres of protected water per day to 2,94,375 persons in 324 villages under 15 Panchayats of Pallipalayam Union; 4.54 million litres of protected water to 50,420 persons in Aalampalayam Town Panchayat; 1.35 million litres of protected water per day to 15,028 persons in Padaveedu Town Panchayat and 4.35 million litres of protected water per day to 48,363 persons in Sankagiri Town Panchayat. When the scheme is completed, 32.65 million litres of protected water per day will be supplied to a total of 6,61,000 persons. Administrative sanction was given on 23.08.2018 for the implementation of a development scheme for Tiruchengode Municipality for supply of drinking water upto 18.12 million litres per day to cater to a population of 1.50 lakh. I am extremely happy to have laid the foundation today for 2 projects costing Rs.486 crore for supply of drinking water up to 50.77 million litres for a population of 7.11 lakh people. These schemes will be expedited.

In the last 7 years - 2011 to 2018 - 6 water supply schemes, benefiting 2.2 lakh people in Namakkal District and one Paalaar underground drainage scheme, costing altogether Rs.58.64 crore have been implemented through the Water and Drainage Board. Two other schemes – a development scheme for supply of drinking water for Namakkal Municipality costing Rs.185.24 crore and an underground drainage scheme for Rasipuram Municipality, costing Rs.55.42 crore – are under implementation. Besides the Water Supply and Drainage Board, Hon'ble Amma's Government is executing protected water schemes through the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. It is no exaggeration to say that Hon'ble Amma's Government, impelled by the lofty ideal of Hon'ble Amma that no one in Tamil Nadu should suffer from paucity of drinking water, is implementing water supply schemes and is providing protected water to people.

In Hon'ble Amma's rule, we have implemented countless schemes. Amma's Government designed a long-term plan to prevent monsoon rain water from going waste and took up, in the first phase, the wonderful



‘Kudimaramathu’ scheme. It selected 1,519 lakes for implementation and allotted Rs.100 crore. The scheme was a great success. On the request of farmers and the general public for the extension of the ‘Kudimaramathu’ scheme, 1,511 lakes were selected for this year and Rs.328 crore was allotted.

Rain water should be conserved in lakes and tanks across the State. As the lakes were not dredged, the lake beds became sand-cast, resulting in the wastage of rain water. To prevent this, an announcement was made that farmers could desilt the lakes and tanks and remove the dredged mud at no cost. Farmers are now applying the desilted sand as natural fertilizer in their fields. This scheme is executed through agricultural associations with financial assistance from the Government; the ‘Kudimaramathu’ is done by farmers themselves. This work deepens the lakes and tanks and the rain water is conserved fully. I wish to state that only Amma’s Government has brought about this scheme in Tamil Nadu.

Following requests for construction of check dams across Odais and rivers, a 3-year

scheme was drafted and Rs.1,000 crore was allotted. The first phase works have been started this year. Construction of check dams for preventing monsoon rain waters from going waste, raises the ground water level which, in turn, meets the drinking water needs of the people and irrigational needs of farmers. We have undertaken surveys for construction of check dams across rivers. I wish to state that the Government is taking steps for construction of a new check dam in Karur District at a cost of Rs.400 crore. This will help store one t.m.c. ft. of water and it will be of great help to the general public and farmers.

When I was Minister of Highways in Hon’ble Amma’s Ministry between 2011 and 2016, Amma’s Government took steps, on requests made for the widening of all roads here, to lay 4-lane traffic roads between Tiruchengode and Parmathivelur, Tiruchengode and Namakkal, Tiruchengode and Rasipuram, Vallikarai and between Tiruchengode and Omalur. Steps were taken to lay a similar road between Tiruchengode and Erode also. As some people sought court’s intervention, work



on laying a bypass road to Tiruchengode has been suspended. The matter will be rectified through the court and the bypass road work will be resumed. A bypass road has been laid for Rasipuram. Steps are afoot for laying the remaining bypass roads. Amma's Government is taking steps to lay a bypass road to reduce traffic congestion in Namakkal. I am proud to say that Amma's Government is meeting all your demands.

On the request for widening the Namakkal-Tiruchi road, Amma's Government has prepared a plan and obtained Central Government's permission also for its implementation. Amma's Government is also examining the widening of the Namakkal-Thuraiyur road for which a request has been made. As such, Amma's Government is taking up the work of widening all the roads in Namakkal District. I wish to state that Amma's Government is refurbishing and repairing many more roads.

After Amma's Government took over office, a revolution, a renaissance has come about in education. When Hon'ble Amma

assumed office as Chief Minister, the percentage of students who took to higher education was 21. As a result of the revolution brought about by Amma in education and through the assistance extended, this percentage rose to 46.8 in Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule.

In the medical field, we are in the premier place continuously for 3 years at the all-India level in organ transplant surgery. Government hospitals are on par with private hospitals in performing surgeries. Through transplant surgery, a person was restored both his hands in a Government Hospital, a feat not achieved in any other State in the country. We are performing kidney and heart transplant surgeries. After Amma took over the responsibility of administration, infant mortality rate was brought down; Amma's Government continues that trend. Likewise, maternal mortality rate has also been brought down. By way of fulfilling an electoral promise, assistance to pregnant women was increased from Rs.6,000 to Rs.12,000. In 2016, this was further

increased to Rs.18,000. Amma's Government has implemented Amma's announcement that working women would be given two-wheelers to go to their work place and return home in time. I wish to mention on this occasion that Amma's Government is accomplishing what it has been saying.

In agriculture, we have been continuously getting the highest 'Krishi Karman' award for recording highest production of food grain in India. Only Amma's Government could score such a list of achievements. We have opened new colleges and this has considerably raised the percentage of students from poor families joining higher education.

Compared to other States in India, the number of crimes in Tamil Nadu is less due to the excellent maintenance of law and order. We have installed CCTV cameras in all Cities and Municipal Corporation areas. We propose to extend this scheme to all Municipalities. Amma's Government has taken steps to reduce the number of culprits.

While Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing so many schemes for the people, the opposition parties are blind to them. As Hon'ble Ministers for Panchayat Raj and Electricity stated clearly today, Amma's Government held review meetings 5 times on the basis of information obtained from Meteorological Department over the way this cyclone might hit the coast. At these meetings, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Senior Ministers and high officials participated and gave appropriate advice to officials on taking precautionary measures. The District

Collectors implemented them as a result of which the extent of damage due to the cyclone was reduced. The Gaja cyclone crossed the coast yesterday night at a speed of about 111 km and the coastal Districts of Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram were severely affected. To provide immediate relief to the affected people, relief measures were accelerated and the works are continuing.

The cyclone damages are somewhat less because six IAS officers were deputed to coastal Districts even before the storm crossed the coast and precautionary measures were taken. Some 82,000 persons in low-lying and slum areas were moved to 471 camps before the cyclone hit the area and this advance action reduced the extent of damage and people were protected. Uprooted electric posts and trees have been removed. As per the first reports, nearly 27,000 electric posts have fallen; 105 electric sub-stations have been damaged. Amma's Government will restore electricity to the affected people by taking up the works speedily and on a war-footing.

Hon'ble Ministers brother Thangamani (Electricity, Prohibition & Excise), brother Velumani (Municipal Administration, Rural Development & Implementation of Special Programme), brother Dindigul Srinivasan (Forests), brother Udhayakumar (Revenue & Disaster Management) and brother Jayakumar (Fisheries, Personnel & Administrative Reforms) will visit the coastal Districts tomorrow, interact with the affected people and give solace and also undertake relief works. Even before the cyclone hit the coast, the Revenue

Minister and the Health Minister remained in the control room all through the night, collected information from the coastal District Collectors about the situation prevailing in their areas and passed on the information to me every hour. The cyclone hit those areas around 2.30 in the early morning and relief works started at 4 a.m. In which regime has this happened? Before the cyclone hit the State, Hon'ble Ministers were requested to remain in their respective Districts, ready to take up relief works. Thus brother O.S.Manian steered relief operations in Nagapattinam District, brother Kamaraj in Tiruvarur District, Agriculture Minister in Thanjavur District and Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Manikandan in Ramanathapuram District. I wish to state that it is only Amma's

Government that will be able to relieve the people of their sufferings whenever they occur.

We are here to sympathize with the people affected by the Gaja cyclone, console the seriously injured and the bereaved families and provide the needed financial assistance. As for Tamil Nadu, Amma's Government will launch precautionary steps in advance and protect people in the event of natural disasters. Expressing my thanks to Hon'ble Minister brother Thangamani for organizing this function to lay the foundation for this combined water supply scheme in such an excellent and inspiring manner at short notice, and to MLAs of Namakkal District and former MLAs and MPs, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam! ■

December 11: Birth Anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathi

A titanic Tamil poet of all times



Chinnaswami Subramania Bharati, also known as Bharathiyar (11 December 1882 – 11 September 1921) was a Tamil writer, poet and journalist. He was a freedom fighter who suffered exile from British India in Pondicherry, and a social reformer.

Popularly known as “Mahakavi Bharathi”, he was a pioneer of modern Tamil poetry and is considered one of the greatest Tamil literary figures of all time. His numerous works include fiery songs kindling patriotism and nationalism during the Indian Independence movement. Bharathiyar was an effective journalist and eloquent speaker. He was also a polyglot. Apart from Tamil and Sanskrit literature (classical languages of India), he was well-read in English and French literature as well. No wonder, he is called “India's National Poet”. ■

Missive to Hon'ble Prime Minister against shutting down Ooty Potato Research Station

Text of the D.O.letter dated 06.12.2018 of **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

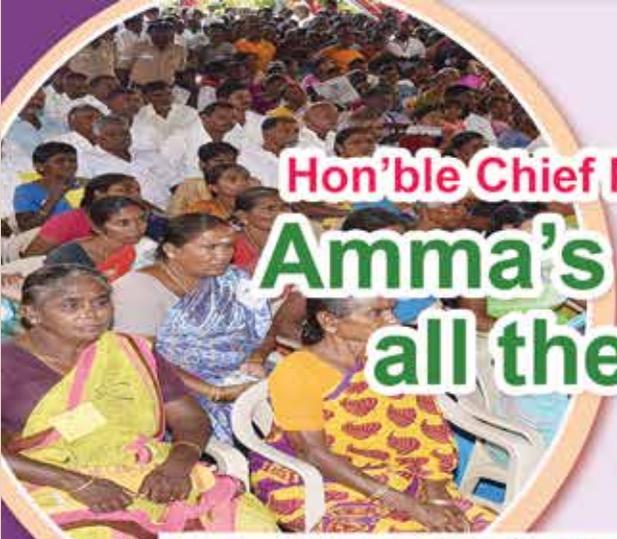
I would like to bring to your kind notice that in the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, potato is grown in hills. Potatoes are mainly grown in hilly Districts of Dindigul, the Nilgiris, Krishnagiri and Erode Districts of Tamil Nadu State covering nearly 5,500 Ha. **It is understood from media reports that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken a decision to shut down the 'Central Potato Research Station' (CPRS), a well known Premier Institute functioning at Muthorai, Ooty in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.**

This Institute was founded in 1957 and has been serving the potato farmers for the past 70 years in co-ordination with the State Government as well as with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU). The Institute is well equipped with a hi-tech laboratory, seed production and multiplication facilities located in an area of 45 acres. This CPRS is the only station in the whole of South India researching on Potato cyst nematode and Potato early blight which are major diseases affecting potato cultivation and help the farmers to keep these maladies in check and grow the potato crop profitably.

CPRS-Ooty released the India's first nematode resistant variety "Kufri Swarna" in the year 1985 and this variety is still predominantly grown in many areas across the Nilgiris. This is one of the two Institutes where Potato farmers are getting disease free seeds. **If this Research station is closed, farmers of Tamil Nadu and other southern states of India, have to depend on the Potato Research Station at Jalandhar, Punjab, which is located far away, to access disease free planting materials, which in turn will increase the cost of cultivation. Moreover, the varieties of North India are not suitable for Southern hills.**

In the above circumstances, the closure of the said Institute "CPRS" at Ooty will have detrimental impact on the interest of the Potato farmers of this State and entire South India.

I therefore request you to direct the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research not to close the CPRS, Ooty in order to safeguard the interests of the Potato farmers of this State as well as farmers in other Southern States of our Country.



Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates slew of services
Amma's Government 'fulfills all the needs of people, stand by it'



Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at a function to distribute Government welfare assistance at Vanavasi, Salem District on 17.11.2018 (English Translation)

Offering my obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

I have already fulfilled the long-standing demand of students of this place (Vanavasi) by declaring open a Polytechnic College, some six months back and created an environment for students of poor families to prosecute higher education.

When I contested for the Legislative Assembly in 2011, you mentioned about the drinking water supply problem and repeated the same in 2016 also. We placed a request to the Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in 2011 for a combined water supply scheme in this area. Hon'ble Amma

summoned the former Local Administration Minister Respected K.P.Munusamy in the term 2011-2016 and asked him to issue orders immediately for the implementation of Brother Edappadi K.Palaniswami's request for a combined water supply scheme for Mecheri-Nangavalli. In accordance with Hon'ble Amma's order, the work started even then. It was started at the time of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Chief Ministership. Even though she has passed away, we are now enjoying the benefits of her schemes. As per Amma's direction, a permanent combined water supply scheme was put in place by allotting about Rs.158 crore and constructing tanks at 698 places to serve 698 habitations. The



scheme covers 6 Town Panchayats including Mettur and Edappadi.

You demanded the widening and repairing of all roads. All the roads have been repaired. At present, repairing of Panchayat roads is going on. Gradually all the Panchayat roads will be repaired. As for your request for transport facility, Amma's Government has provided it to all towns. Likewise, primary health centres have been set up. Amma's Government is making all facilities available.

I am happy to state that I have declared open two Anganwadi buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.17 lakh at Maniakaranpalayam, Dharapuram Panchayat and in Kuttapattu Panchayat under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on behalf of District Rural Development Agency of Rural Development and Panchayat Department, two new Amma Gyms (Rs.40 lakh) and two new Amma Parks (Rs.20 lakh) in Kuttapattu and Kalikkapatti Panchayats, a new Panchayat office building at Kalikkapatti (Rs.15 lakh), a new Health complex (Rs.8.75 lakh) at Koneripatti, Edappadi

Nedunkulam Panchayat, construction of a cement road in six wards of Edappadi Municipality (No.6,8,12,18,19 and 21) and a garbage collection centre (Rs.5 lakh) under the Parliament Constituency Development Scheme, park development works near Edappadi Municipal bus stand (Rs.24 lakh) from the funds of Infrastructure Agency of the Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply, an office building for the newly set up Primary Agriculture Co-operative Credit Society at Kachappalli area on behalf of Co-operation Department (Rs.40 lakh) and a Milk Producers Co-operative Society building, Nadupatti, constructed at a cost of Rs.10 lakh from the Parliament constituency development fund.

Likewise, an upgraded veterinary dispensary at Vellakovil Panchayat and a small co-operative super market at Vellandivalasu have been declared open today on behalf of the Departments of Animal Husbandry and Co-operation respectively. For 6,842 school students, bicycles costing Rs.2.32 crore are to be distributed through this function. Also, other welfare assistance to be distributed through



this function are: Rs.1.82 crore subsidy to 200 beneficiaries – 100 for construction of houses under the Prime Minister’s Housing Scheme and for 100 more persons for construction of toilet in private houses under Swach Bharat movement, Rs.51.65 lakh as financial assistance towards security fund for women’s organizations, differently-abled and indigent persons in 40 Panchayats, benefiting in all 244 persons, Rs.52,62,500 assistance to 345 beneficiaries through the Revenue Department towards free house site patta, patta under Natham land tax scheme, scholarship, assistance for natural death, old age pension, accident relief assistance aged spinsters assistance, marriage assistance, assistance for women deserted by their husbands, assistance for differently-abled persons, pension for widows, millets, bio-fertilizer, micro-nutrients and seeds, costing Rs.49,800 to 51 farmers (Agriculture Department), drip irrigation equipment, canopy farming, subsidy for brinjal, tomato, onion and pulses, worth Rs.14,27,300 to 40 farmers (Horticulture Department, Rs.2,86,600 subsidy for 5 persons for purchase of agriculture machines and implements under the scheme for purchase of agriculture machines (Agriculture

Engineering Department), medium-term loan to 150 persons and loan assistance to women self help groups, all worth Rs.64.90 lakh (Co-operation Department), sewing machines to 10 beneficiaries and boxes for ironing clothes to 5 beneficiaries, all worth Rs.75,000 (Backward Class and Minorities Welfare Department), Rs.1.25 lakh subsidy to a beneficiary for starting an industry under the scheme for creating jobs for educated unemployed youth (District Industries Centre), Rs.4,000 as a third instalment assistance under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance Scheme to a beneficiary (Public Health and Preventive Medicine), a patta at no cost for a house site worth Rs.10,000 to a beneficiary (Adi Dravidar Department) and a marriage assistance of Rs.50,000 and 8 grams gold to a differently-abled person (Differently-abled Welfare Department) – in all Rs.6.03 crore to 7,248 beneficiaries.

In Amma’s rule, many schemes have been implemented in Edappadi constituency. Primary Health Centres have been opened at Savuriyur, Koneripatti, Pakkanadu and Samudram. All these centres have been started in a short time



for the rural poor to get treatment at their own places and people are also getting treated.

Existing primary health centres have been upgraded and made into upgraded primary health centres with more number of doctors. Additional buildings have been built at a cost of Rs.1 crore. We have implemented this scheme at Nangavalli, Konganapuram and Chithoor.

For treatment of livestock, we have constructed veterinary hospitals at 4 places in Edappadi constituency. Goats valued at Rs.5.75 crore have been distributed at no cost to 4,512 beneficiaries.

Under the Rain-fed Area Development Programme, training and subsidy have been given to 144 farmers. For the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, 450 adolescent girls have been selected, incurring a cost of Rs.1.53 crore. So far, community 'valaikappu' (bangle ceremony) has been performed for 2,425 pregnant women.

From 2011 till date, pattas for house sites, valued at Rs.65.11 crore have been issued at no cost to 23,511 persons. Bicycles

have been given at no cost. Rural roads have been renovated. Five new bridges have been constructed and thrown open for public use at Pakkanadu, Dharapuram, Thodamangalam and Nathakaadu. In the years 2016-2018, developmental works on Panchayat roads to a length of 57 k.ms. have been taken up. Three new bridges are under construction at a cost of Rs.5.50 crore in Vadakathikaadu, Vellalapuram, Vadakarai Vaaykaal and Narimedu areas. Construction of 3 new bridges at a cost of Rs.4.80 crore at Edappadi has been completed.

In Edappadi constituency, roads have been rectified to a length of 236 k.ms. at a cost of Rs.140 crore in five years through the Highways Department. Upgrading roads to a length of 83 k.ms. in this District has been taken up at a cost of Rs.93 crore. From the Edappadi MLA Constituency Development Fund, the works taken up and completed are: construction of buildings for 13 Anganwadis, bus shelters at 13 places, 19 concrete roads, compound walls for 18 schools, bicycle parking lots for school children at 16 places, 8 drainage canals, 4

library buildings, 7 multi-purpose buildings, sinking of 60 deep borewells at several places to solve the drinking water problem, buildings for 42 fair price shops, gas stove and gas connection to 90 per cent of Anganwadis, 11 public hygiene complexes and 16 overhead tanks.

As for Salem District, Amma's Government is implementing different schemes like construction of 2,168 green houses, green houses for 272 weavers and 1,149 apartments.



Seven middle-level schools have been upgraded as high schools and high schools into higher secondary schools. A Government Arts and Science College has been opened at Edappadi. At Vanavasi, a Polytechnic College has been opened; a college of technology is to be located at Ettikuttaimedu. For a SIDCO Industrial Estate, lands have been acquired at Ettikuttaimedu and works have started. I am happy to state that Edappadi constituency is turning into a constituency that is seeing good development through these schemes.

On the completion of the combined water supply scheme for the Unions of Edappadi, Konganapuram and Magudanchavadi, Hon'ble Amma declared it open; so too, the combined water supply scheme to Edappadi town. So, it is Amma's Government that has provided permanent protected water supply to all the areas coming under Edappadi Assembly Constituency. I wish to state that all the demands you have placed will be implemented.

Steps will be taken to construct railway over-bridges at the 4 railway crossings on the road from Nangavalli.

Work has started for implementing a Rs.7.7 crore scheme for a big well at Mettur, as requested by Thiru. Semmalai, MLA for laying huge pipelines. For streamlining the road from Mecheri to Thoppur, Rs.9 crore will be allotted. We have spruced up roads from villages to towns in all areas; the Government is examining the taking up of roads in town Panchayats for rectification.

When Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was Chief Minister, she fulfilled all your requests. After her demise, Amma's Government has executed all the schemes announced by Amma and brought Cauvery water to people of this area.

You will know the excellence of this Government only when you compare it with what the earlier rulers had done. Amma's Government is your Government; a Government for the poor; a Government that fulfills what people think. You should be supportive of Amma's Government always.

Nandri; Vanakkam.

Manifold measures to tackle aftermath of Gaja cyclone

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**
on 24.11.2018 (*English Translation*).

The Gaja Cyclone, which crossed the coast near Nagapattinam on 16.11.2018, caused heavy damage. Due to precautionary measures taken by the Tamil Nadu Government, loss of lives has been reduced considerably. As the impact of cyclone was very heavy, boats, trees, crops, drinking water and power infrastructure were heavily affected.

Power infrastructure is being restored on a war-footing by deputing 24,941 employees. Removal of fallen trees is being carried out expeditely. To safeguard the health of the public, special medical camps are being conducted in affected areas.

Garbage, rainwater, sludge and mud accumulated due to intrusion of sea water in low-lying areas because of the cyclone and heavy rains, are being removed. To expedite this work, I have ordered formation of cleaning teams

under the leadership of Assistant Directors of various Districts. For the team members to visit the affected villages and undertake cleaning work, I have also ordered formation of teams, each consisting of 100 conservancy staff drawn from other Districts.

I have directed the team members, to visit the affected areas with lorries, electrical saws, spade and other equipment and safety gadgets and remove the garbage, sludge and mud in the low-lying areas. The local District Collectors should make necessary arrangements for the food and stay of these conservancy workers.

The Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of Hon'ble Amma during disaster time will work round-the-clock on a war-footing to protect the life and property of people and their livelihood.



Cyclone Gaja met with full preparedness, speedy steps to restore normalcy, give relief

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on 18.11.2018 (*English Translation*).

Following the Indian Meteorological Department's warning that the Gaja cyclone will cross the coast on 15.11.2018 near Nagapattinam, the Tamil Nadu Government took various precautionary measures. Due to these measures, loss of lives of people in large numbers has been averted.

But the impact of the cyclone was very heavy. When the cyclone crossed the coast at a speed of 110 km, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Dindigul, Tiruchirappalli, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Karur and Cuddalore Districts witnessed heavy rains and strong winds resulting in heavy damage.

The Government stepped in immediately and has been taking relief measures on a war footing. A total of 2,49,083 people living in low-lying areas have been evacuated and accommodated in 493 relief camps. They were provided necessary items such as food, drinking water, mat and shawl. In addition, 10 kg of rice, one dhoti, one saree and one litre of kerosene were given.

I am pained to hear that so far 45 people have lost their lives due to Cyclone Gaja and

the subsequent rains. I have ordered a relief of Rs.10 lakh to each of the deceased families. In addition, I have sanctioned Rs.1 lakh each to those who suffered serious injuries and Rs.25,000 each to those who suffered minor injuries.

Due to the cyclone, 102 heads of cattle and 633 goats perished. For every head of cattle which perished, Rs.30,000, and for every goat that died, Rs.3,000 will be sanctioned.

Thatched houses numbering 56,942 have been completely damaged and 30,404 thatched houses have been partially damaged. Also, 30,328 tiled houses have been affected. Sufficient relief will be given to the owners of the affected houses.

The Gaja cyclone severely damaged various crops, including plantains, coconut trees and paddy, causing heavy economic loss to farmers. I have ordered the Revenue and Agriculture Departments Officials to assess the damage. Necessary relief will be provided based on the damage assessment.

Hon'ble Ministers, Senior Police Officials and Superintending Officials are now camping

in the affected Districts and monitoring the relief operations. Along with them, Senior I.A.S. Officers Thiru.Sunil Paliwal in Pudukkottai District, Tmt.Amudha in Tiruvarur District, and Thiru. Radhakrishnan in Nagapattinam have been additionally appointed for the relief work.

A total number of 1,70,454 trees have been uprooted due to Gaja cyclone in Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Dindigul, and Karur Districts. The trees which were blocking the roads, were removed with the help of electric saws on a war-footing to enable normal flow of vehicular traffic.

Due to Gaja Cyclone, 347 transformers in various Districts were damaged, 39,938 electric poles uprooted, and electric lines to a length of 3,559 km damaged resulting in disruption of power supply. Transformers and electric poles damaged due to falling trees, are being restored on a war-footing. A total of 12,532 Electricity Board employees have been pressed into

service to restore the damaged transformers and electric poles.

To prevent the spread of diseases among the public, 372 medical camps have been set up and another 1,014 mobile medical camps have been pressed into service. So far, 84,326 people have benefited through these medical camps. Adequate medicines and insecticides are in stock and the Health Department has been taking multi-pronged measures.

I have ordered the Fisheries Department to file a report after assessing the damages to fishing boats due to Gaja cyclone. After the receipt of the report, sufficient relief will be provided to the affected fishermen.

The Tamil Nadu Government, which is treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing relief measures on a war-footing and I appeal to the public to co-operate with the Government in restoring normalcy in the affected areas. ■



Rs. 5 crore for renovating Madras University buildings,
starting Dr. M.G.R. Research Centre

Hon'ble Chief Minister exhorts students to eschew violence, use college years for growth



*Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
at the valedictory function of the Madras University's post centenary
Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on 07.09.2018.(English Translation).*

Bowing to Goddess Idaya Deivam
Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Thiru. O.Panneerselvam who delivered a
special address in this pleasant function,
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education
Respected Brother Thiru.K.P.Anbalagan, who
delivered the felicitation address, Hon'ble
Minister for Information Technology Respected
Dr. M.Manikandan, Hon'ble Minister for
Youth Welfare and Sports Development
Thiru.Balakrishna Reddy, Respected

Chief Secretary to Government, Member
of Parliament Thiru. Vijayakumar, Member
of Legislative Assembly Respected former
DGP Dr. Nataraj, Member of Legislative
Assembly Thiru.Sathyanarayanan, Member
of Legislative Assembly Thiru. Balaraman,
Principal Secretary to the Department of Higher
Education, Vice Chancellor of the University
Prof.P. Duraisamy, Registrar of the University,
Members of the Governing Council, Professors
of the University, Students, Newspaper and
Media friends, Elders, Ladies and all those who

have assembled here – at the outset I offer my grateful respects to all of you.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma participated and delivered a special address at the 155th convocation of this University. A follower of Amma, I too am proud of participating in this University's post centenary diamond jubilee function.

I wish to recall on this occasion that it was Madras University which honoured Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma with an honorary doctorate degree.

Deiva Pulavar Thiruvalluvar has extolled education thus: '*Orumaikann Thaan Katra Kalvi Oruvarkku Ezhumaiyum Yemaappudaitthu*' (The learning that a person has acquired in one birth, will stand by the person in seven births). Moodhurai says: 'The King's glory is confined to his Country; the learned person is respected wherever he goes'. Hence, following in the path of Hon'ble Amma, Hon'ble Amma's Government too gives due importance to education. In accordance with Socrates' saying that 'education is like kindling the flame, not filling up the vessel', it acts as a powerful tool for mankind's development and shows the way to social thought. True education stresses human resources development. Besides giving importance to traditional values, it promotes significant and essential development also.

A Chinese proverb says: "Sow paddy if you plan for a year; plant trees if you plan for 10 years; if you are planning for a 100 years, educate the people." Hon'ble Amma's Government does all these three things in Hon'ble Amma's way.

Tamil Nadu is one of the outstanding, pioneering States in higher education in India. As per the recent census report of the Department of Human Resources Development on 'All India Higher Education', the enrolment rate of students at the National level is 25.8 per cent. In Tamil Nadu, I am proud to say, it is 49.1 per cent. Likewise, enrolment of women students is 48.2 per cent. So, I am happy to state that Tamil Nadu is the premier State in the enrolment of students in higher education. As for enrolment of Adi Dravidars in higher education, it is 38.3 per cent in Tamil Nadu against the national figure of 21.1 per cent; as for scheduled tribes, the enrolment in Tamil Nadu is 36 per cent against the National level of 15.4 per cent and thus, the State continues to occupy a special place in ranking. I wish to mention a few of the extraordinary schemes implemented by Hon'ble Amma's Government, prior to achieving this record.

- ★ Setting up greater number of Government and Government-aided educational institutions in higher education
- ★ Tamil Nadu got the premier place in enrolment of students in higher education as institutions have been set up in distant and backward areas.
- ★ Such enrolment became possible due to the implementation of pioneering schemes like fee concession for first-generation graduate students, scholarship for post-metric education, distribution of laptops at no cost, educational incentives for backward class students, bus pass at

no cost and free education up to post-graduate course in Government Arts and Science Colleges.

I wish to point out on this occasion that Madras University got the honour of being one of the first three universities set up in the Presidencies of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta in British India. This University was set up on September 5, 1857. Started as an examination centre for graduate courses, a legislation was passed in 1923 – The Madras University Act - for its functioning with faculties, Research and Learning activities and the works were integrated.

“Modern changes along with the continuity of tradition” is the motto of this University. Hence, the contemporary branches of knowledge like insurance evaluation, defence, criminal jurisprudence, nano science and technology, bio-informatics, women/gender studies and econometrics go hand in hand in this University with the traditional branches of humanities, sociology, linguistics, religious studies, history, philosophy, music, psychology and economics.

In education, this University is transparently secular and functions with the goal of absorbing all schools of thought. It helps ordinary people also to get education. This University has the history of being fostered by great intellectuals.

This University’s alumni Sir C.V.Raman and Dr.Chandrasekhar were Nobel Laureates. Perarignar Anna, one of the pioneers of the Dravidian Movement, Sarvepalli Dr. Radhakrishnan and Missile Man Dr. Abdul

Kalam studied in this University. Besides these persons, I wish to mention here, that countless others who have studied in this University are working in important fields within the Country and abroad.

It was Madras University that conferred autonomy to colleges for the first time in 1978-1979 during the rule of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar. This University functions with 57 teachers in 87 faculties and centres. One hundred and thirty-three colleges inclusive of 23 autonomous colleges and 53 institutions are affiliated to this University. I am happy to know that 2.78 lakh students are studying in them. Besides, this University started a Distance Education wing and produced many graduates and post-graduates among students who could not continue their regular education.

As per the 2018 list of the National Institutional Ranking Framework, 7 of the 13 universities in Tamil Nadu are in the first 100 places. The Madras University is ranked 18 in this. I hope this University will capture the first place in the coming years.

The University Grants Commission’s conferment of high ranking autonomy on this University in March, 2018 is testimony to its service in the field of higher education. This University has been encouraging research scholars in a big way.

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. created a revolution in higher education by giving permission to the starting of new self-financing colleges in accordance with the growing population. I wish to mention a few achievements of Hon’ble Amma and Hon’ble

Amma's Governments in the field of higher education.

- ★ Hon'ble Amma and Amma's Government started 76 Government Arts and Science Colleges in many Districts, particularly in backward areas in Tamil Nadu.
- ★ Permission was granted to set up high class private Universities, inclusive of Sai University to encourage education,

colleges to learning in foreign countries, Rs.4.50 crore has been allotted at the rate of Rs.15 lakh each for 25 students and 5 professors to go to England and study in various universities there.

- ★ Soft skill centres have been set up in 5 universities and 30 Government Arts and Science Colleges for teaching students 60 types of basic soft skills like



medical practice and research in private sector.

- ★ At the cost of Rs.16.50 crore, the following facilities have been set up in 10 universities: classrooms with video facility to develop application skills, entrepreneurial and skill development centres to improve students' language skills in foreign languages like English, Mandarin, French and German and prepare them for global competitions and centres to bring in famous professors from abroad as visiting professors and for development of course syllabi.
- ★ Under the scheme to expose both men and women students in Government

governance, public speaking and team work for employment.

- ★ Hon'ble Amma had announced that students of Government Engineering colleges would be sent abroad to get a 15-day training for vocational skill development in Universities and Colleges there, as was done by private Engineering Colleges. Accordingly, 99 students were sent to countries like Australia, Germany and Japan.
- ★ Rs.25 crore is proposed to be given to universities as Research Fund.
- ★ Best Science Teacher Award with a cash prize of Rs.25,000 is proposed to



be given to teachers in the disciplines like mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and natural science from the year 2018-2019.

- ★ A Rural Innovation Award with a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh is proposed to be given from the year 2018-2019 for two rural innovators by way of encouraging the intellectual acumen of rural people and bringing out many useful inventions.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many such schemes for students' educational development.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar had defined how students should conduct themselves and perform their social duties in detail through songs '*Nalla Perai Vangavendum Pillaigale; Namnaadu Ennum Thottathile Naalai Malarum Mullaigale*' ("Children! The flower buds ready to blossom in the garden called our Country, You should earn a good name") and '*Manithanaaga Vazhndhida Vendum Manadhil Vaiyada, Thambi Manadhil Vaiyada, Valarndhuvarum Ulagathirke Nee Valadhu Kaiyyada-Nee Valadhu Kaiyyada, Thani Udamai Kodumaigal Theera Thondu Seyyada – Nee Thondu Seyyada*' ("Younger Brother! Keep in mind that

you should live like a human being; you are the right hand of the developing world; you should work for the removal of the iniquities of private ownership").

The future of the Country is in the hands of students. Many social issues confront us. They should be approached rationally, not emotionally. Students should concentrate only on their studies. It is very sad that some hands that should carry books carry weapons. Students should totally desist from indulging in violence.

About the future of students, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "You have a social responsibility; one that cannot be easily by-passed. You should develop the quality of contributing your share to the institution that fostered you, to your state and to your Country. Nation-building starts from there. I will be watching how you develop into ambassadors of change".

Students should interact among themselves with fraternal feeling. Our goal is to study in the best possible way and then to that education for the good of the Country.

Teachers should acquaint the students, even while conducting lessons, with the problems

they may face in life, the moral values to be employed to solve them, and with patriotism and honesty. The teacher, student and parent form a triangle. The important role in this is of teachers. At the same time, parents should never think that they are absolved of their duty by just sending their wards to school or college.

While kindling the hunger for learning, parents should be supportive of them and foster their growth. They should not impose a particular course of study on them. If the students are allowed their choice of study, their success is guaranteed. Opportunities are aplenty in all fields of study. Hence, I wish to

us. We should face the problems and succeed. Perseverance is necessary. Above all, our character should be good. You should have the determination that you will be a good member of the family, Country and the World. You should all be responsible persons in society. Text-book education alone is not enough for life. Along with it, one should have common sense and pragmatism to really succeed. It is necessary to adapt the education one has gained to come up in life.

Epic poems provide inspiration; mathematics sharpens one's mind; philosophical knowledge brings profundity of thought; study



emphasize that a good future awaits students whatever be their course of study.

Our former President of India Dr. Abdul Kalam once told students: "For every one of us, a page is reserved in the book of history. It is in our hands to make the world read it."

To attain that position, we should first have a fixed goal. We should search and acquire the required knowledge to achieve it. For that we should work hard. Problems should not frighten

of science makes one a scientist; ethical works confer character; works of logic produce great debaters. But self-realization alone makes one a human being. I stress and request teachers to kindle independent thinking in students.

Amma's Government is firm on implementing reforms in education that will be talked about even by future generations. Stating that it is the goal of Hon'ble Amma's Government to produce outstanding

educationists by encouraging human resources development through quality educational institutions and making Tamil Nadu, an International centre for education, I happily make the following two announcements.

1. Anna Centre for Public Affairs, Dravidian Research Centre and Centre for Cyber Forensics and Information Security were instituted in Madras University with the Tamil Nadu Government's financial assistance. Similarly, I am happy to announce that Dr. M.G.R. Centenary Social Development Research Centre will be instituted at a cost of Rs.5 crore to mark this University's post-centenary diamond jubilee function and

complex – library building, clock tower building and the building for oriental education – while preserving their heritage.

The student community of today is the one that is going to rule India and Tamil Nadu tomorrow. Youth is a period when you can achieve anything. You have to give shape your life now. You have to work hard if you want your life to be glorious later. If you take your studies lightly now, darkness will surround your life later. College life is a rare period. College life brings about a transformation. When students from different sections of society study at one place, you get the friendship of many – their knowledge and culture too. I am proud to say



Dr. M.G.R. centenary function. This centre will take up teaching, research and extension activities in respect of Dr.M.G.R's pioneering schemes of nutritious meals and those related to education, health and women's development.

2. I am happy to announce that the Tamil Nadu Government will provide Rs.5 crore for repairing and renovating the historic buildings in Chennai University

that college is the centre where one gets all these things. Every human being should have college education. Only such an education elevates life and brings prosperity.

Vaazhga Anna Namam! Valarga Puratchi Thalaivarin Pugazh! Thodarga Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Arasu!.

Nandri; Vanakkam

'Kutty Cops', a laudable feature of NGO initiative

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates 'Uyir' for an accident-free Coimbatore



Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the inauguration of 'Uyir', an NGO to create an accident-free Coimbatore City (*English Translation*).

I bow to Goddess Hon'ble Amma.

Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Special Programmes Implementation Thiru.S.P.Velumani, Coimbatore District Collector Thiru. Hariharan, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. Vijay Karthikeyan and City Police Commissioner Thiru.Smith John, organizers of the NGO 'Uyir' Dr.Balasubramaniam, Dr.Shanmuganathan, Dr. Karthikeyan, Thiru. Sanjay Jayavardhana Velu and Dr. Rajasekaran, Members of this organisation, newspaper and media friends,

respected Elders, Ladies, Youth, Students – at the outset I offer my respects to all of you.

That grand old lady of Tamil, Avvaiyar has extolled the greatness of human birth by stating: "It is very very rare to get a human birth; rarer still it is to get a body without disabilities". All should ponder whether such valuable lives should be carelessly lost through accidents. I am happy to inaugurate the NGO 'Uyir', set up to educate the people, especially the youth, about the value of life and work jointly with the Government to make Coimbatore an accident free city. The organisation created to bring



about awareness among people to avert loss of life and disability through road accidents, is has the name 'Uyir'.

Seventy per cent of accidents in Coimbatore are attributed by statistic to defiance of traffic rules by drivers, excessive speeding and driving vehicles under the influence of liquor. Many accidents occur because even basic safety measures like wearing helmet, fastening seat belts and avoiding cell phone calls while driving are ignored by vehicle owners/drivers. Changes will certainly happen only if vehicle drivers realize their responsibility. 'Uyir' has been established with the goal of creating an accident-free Coimbatore by turning road safety rules, road responsibility and operation of traffic into a people's movement. I understand this NGO has designed a novel plan to avert road accidents. To create road awareness, it seems, there is a plan to form 'Kutty Cops' in educational institutions. Under

this scheme, I understand, school children will act as monitors in their houses and emphasize the need to follow traffic rules whenever their parents, relatives and friends flout traffic rules. I believe that through this a change can be easily brought about.

Hon'ble Amma who dedicated her entire life in the service of people with the motto 'I am what I am because of the people and I am for the people', implemented many schemes to protect their lives. I wish to mention a few of them here:

- Hon'ble Amma started the 'Highway Patrolling' practice. Of the National and State highways, 272 highways are monitored by patrol vehicles. Besides taking precautionary measures to prevent accidents, these vehicles save lives in the event of accidents by swiftly admitting the affected people in nearby hospitals. So far, they have saved the lives of 15,757 injured persons.



- These vehicles are fitted with GPS equipment (Geographical Positioning System) and are monitored by the respective District Police control rooms.

- ‘108’ ambulance service at no cost is successfully operating in Tamil Nadu. All over Tamil Nadu, 926 emergency ambulance vehicles are offering round-the-clock service. In every ambulance, there is a fully trained Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). He treats the affected person before admitting him/her in hospital. Medicines are administered by the EMT on the advice of the doctor in the ‘108’ Call Centre. Such treatment has saved the lives of 4,68,485 persons in the last 10 years.

- The Emergency 108 service at no cost is designed to serve 7.21 crore people.

- On an average, an emergency ambulance vehicle serves 3.9 persons per day.

Hon’ble Amma’s Government has taken the following steps, on the path of Hon’ble Amma, for providing immediate treatment to accident victims.

The following measures are being implemented to rush emergency ambulance vehicles to the accident spot or the place where emergency treatment is needed:

- GPS equipment is fitted in all emergency ambulance vehicles.

- When people seek the services of ‘108’ through the mobile App (Avasaram 108 Mobile App) in emergencies, details about the caller can be clearly seen in the Central Control Room and the Officer there will immediately dispatch the ‘108’ emergency vehicle in the vicinity of the caller, by identifying it through the GPS equipment.

- A ‘108’ Emergency Driver App has been introduced and ambulance drivers have been supplied with android mobiles.

- The first one hour after injury in a road accident is called ‘golden minutes’. The chances of survival and mitigation of the seriousness of wounds are more if proper first-aid is given to the injured person in that first hour. That is why the Tamil Nadu Accident and Emergency care Initiative pays attention to

the “Golden Minutes” principle and gives utmost importance for reducing the time of commencing the treatment.

- As a result of these steps, the response time has been reduced on an average in the last one year to 13 minutes in urban areas, 17 minutes in rural areas and to 13 minutes in incidents of road accidents.

Emergency Treatment Centres have been set up to keep accident victims in a proper condition by giving them immediate treatment before shifting them to hospitals in distant places. These centres have been set up in Primary Health Centres/Government Hospitals with bed strength of 3 to 6 and trained doctors and medical staff. Life-saving gadgets like ventilators are available in these centres. Hon’ble Amma set up these centres at Tambaram Government Hospital, Padiyanallur Primary Health Centre and Injambakkam Government Hospital. The lives of 23,949 persons were saved by these centres between 2013 and 2018. Steps are being taken to set up these centres in 10 more Government Hospitals.

Through the process of ‘Advance Information to Hospital’, ‘108’ ambulance workers pass on the details of accident victims in advance to the Emergency Treatment Centre. This has reduced the mortality rate.

In the high quality hospitals of Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, Chennai, Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai, Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Kanniyakumari Medical College Hospital,

Salem Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital and Vellore Medical College Hospital, Accident and Trauma Wards have been created. Additionally, Head Injury Centres have been set up in Government District Headquarters Hospitals at Karur, Krishnagiri, Kovilpatti and Dindigul. Accident Treatment Centres have been set up at the Chengalpattu Government Medical College Hospital, Coimbatore Government Medical College Hospital, Kallakurichi and Kumbakonam District Government Headquarters Hospitals, at a cost of Rs.28.30 crore.

Accident Treatment Centres are proposed to be set up at Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur District Government Hospitals also. Works like upgrading and setting up of Accident Treatment Centres are going on in all hospitals across Tamil Nadu.

The above steps taken by the Tamil Nadu Government have reduced the mortality rate due to accidents, in this year, from 8.27 to 4.89 and that of the patients admitted to emergency wards, from 5.51 to 2.72.

Hon’ble Amma’s Government is implementing many schemes, costing Rs.215.35 crore for providing high class treatment to accident victims.

Tamil Nadu, therefore, shines as a model to other States in India, not only in offering high class medical services but also in providing the very best human resources and structural facilities. As a result of the implementation of many such pioneering schemes, Niti Aayog, has

ranked Tamil Nadu as one of the three premier States in its report, “Healthy State, Progressive India”.

From the day of assuming office, Hon’ble Amma’s Government has been setting up safe roads and flyovers. Through this, travel time has been reduced and accidents have been prevented.

To create an accident-free Nation, people should co-operate with the Government. NGOs such as yours should engage in creating awareness in people. On this occasion, I request you to talk to the management of schools, colleges and industrial establishments, hold events for interaction to explain to people there about the necessity of following traffic rules and the damages caused by accidents and bring about an understanding among the people. I firmly believe that loss of life due to accidents can be totally averted if NGOs like yours join hands with the Government in works like screening short skits on accidents, distribution of pamphlets and in rushing affected persons to hospital when an accident occurs.

God has given us this rare human birth to achieve things. We should realize this and act accordingly. In keeping with the English proverb ‘Slow and Steady wins the race’, we can score many victories in life if we act carefully and in a measured way. I request you affectionately to take a pledge to follow this dictum even while travelling in vehicles.

This ‘Uyir’ Trust has been set up to create an accident-free Coimbatore city. Even

while the Trust was being formed, a request was made to me to come and inaugurate the Trust. Our Hon’ble Minister for Municipal Administration also made the request. I am really happy to meet you all and participate in this function because this Trust is a role model to entire India.

Respected Dr. Rajasekaran explained the goal of the Trust and stated that Rs.4.5 crore had been set apart on behalf of the ‘Uyir’ Trust as a first instalment and equipment had been purchased for achieving the goal. Through this, he said, accidents could be averted or reduced. The modern cameras supplied by the Trust can be installed in road junctions. A mobile application has been created for averting accidents through the use of these cameras. Prompt action by police will free the city from accidents. Also, arrangements have been made to create a ‘green corridor’ for ambulance vehicles. This is praiseworthy. As the ambulance vehicle approaches a junction, the installed camera will take a photo of it and immediately activate the traffic signal to green light to clear the way for the ambulance vehicle. Government will support your initiative to make Coimbatore an accident-free city.

More accidents occur in road junctions. Amma’s Government has taken action to construct flyovers at road junctions. Hon’ble Ministers, Hon’ble Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly and social activists have made requests for flyovers and I am happy to state that the Government has taken steps to construct many flyovers. As the

Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration mentioned, Amma's Government will take steps speedily to construct a flyover, nearly up to Uppilipalayam, a distance of 9.5 km. A detailed report is being prepared for that. Once it is completed, work on the flyover will start.

We are about to launch a survey for Aathupaalam also. Only Amma's Government has taken steps to construct a bridge. For Gandhipuram flyover also it was Amma Government's initiative and today, it had been thrown open for public use.

Besides these, Amma's Government is taking steps to lay two by-pass roads – Kovai East and Kovai West - on the requests made by the Hon'ble Minister for Panchayat and Members of Parliament and Legislature to ease traffic congestion caused by the traffic of heavy vehicles and transit vehicles to other places. Land acquisition work has started for these projects.

Respected Dr. Rajasekaran had also mentioned that many roads needed to be widened and gave me a list of them. Amma's Government will examine them all and take action to the extent possible.

After I assumed office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government got Central Government clearance for many schemes. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made me the Minister for Highways in 2011 and I am holding that portfolio for nearly 7 years now. When we sought Central

Government funds for upgrading our roads, they urged the State Government to send our recommendations. Accordingly, 40 roads were identified for upgradation into National Highways and the recommendations for them were sent to the Central Government. Of the roads taken up by the Centre in the first phase, steps have been taken to start work immediately on 12 roads. The Central Government is examining commencement of work in respect of rest of the roads quickly.

Coimbatore bus stand is located at the centre of the city. The movement of buses causes congestion there. To reduce it, we have sought Central Government's sanction to create a Bus Port. The Central Government is examining the request. The Bus Port will be shortly launched. Through this, there is a possibility of reducing the traffic congestion to an extent.

The Central Government sanctioned our request for an 8-lane express way from Chennai to Salem and land survey works in this respect have also been completed. As the matter has gone to court, there is a delay. That road will facilitate travel to Coimbatore also because it cuts short the distance by 77 kms. Moreover, accidents will come down and travel time also will be saved. These are the benefits of this road and Amma's Government is taking steps to complete this project expeditiously. This 'Uyir' Trust is a boon to the people of Coimbatore and the Trust should extend its service to the rest of India also. I take leave of you by thanking you for giving me this opportunity.

Nandri! Vanakkam !

Tamil Nadu resolution against any construction in Mekedatu sent to Hon'ble Prime Minister

Text of the D.O.letter dated 6.12.2018 of **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Due to the untiring efforts of our Revered Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and due to the intervention of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 05.02.2007 was published in the Gazette of India on 19.02.2013. The Hon'ble Supreme Court on 16.02.2018 delivered the judgment on the Civil Appeals filed by the Party States upholding the decisions of the Tribunal with slight modifications.

As per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 18.05.2018, the Government of India notified the Cauvery Management Scheme, 2018 in the Gazette of India on 01.06.2018 to give effect to the decision of the Tribunal as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment has affirmed that the "upper riparian State shall not take any action so as to affect the scheduled deliveries of water to the lower riparian States."

However, the Government of Karnataka much to the consternation of the people of Tamil Nadu has planned to construct a reservoir, with a capacity of 67 TMC ft. at Mekedatu across

Cauvery River and approached the Central Water Commission for preparation of a Detailed Project Report for the Mekedatu project. I am constrained to point out that the Central Water Commission has given permission to the Government of Karnataka to go ahead with the preparation of a Detailed Project Report in blatant violation of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

I have already detailed these facts in my letter dated 27.11.2018 to you and requested you to instruct the Central Water Commission to forthwith withdraw the permission given by it to Karnataka.

The action of Karnataka in proposing a reservoir and that of Central Water Commission in giving permission for preparation of a Detailed Project Report have caused deep anguish and apprehension in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu will be denied its due share of water, which has been given to us by the Supreme Court after a protracted legal battle.

Therefore, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has resolved on 06.12.2018

condemning and opposing the action of the Government of Karnataka, and the Central Water Commission for having given permission to Karnataka on 22.11.2018 to prepare a Detailed Project Report for construction of a reservoir at Mekedatu. Further, the Legislative Assembly has urged that the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India should immediately order the Central Water Commission to withdraw the permission given to Karnataka for preparing the Detailed Project Report.

In addition, the Legislative Assembly has also requested the Government of India to direct the Government of Karnataka or its Agencies not to take up any construction work at Mekedatu or at any other place in the Cauvery basin of Karnataka State, without the consent of the State of Tamil Nadu, in violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

I enclose a copy of the Resolution and its translated version in English and request you to kindly take action on the Resolution immediately.

May I also request you to immediately direct the Ministry of Water Resources to withdraw the permission given by Central Water Commission to the Government of Karnataka for preparation of the Detailed Project Report for Mekedatu project and also direct the Government of Karnataka not to take up any construction activities in the Cauvery basin of Karnataka without the prior consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION

“Under the guidance of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, this August House on 05.12.2014 and 27.03.2015, had resolved unanimously that the Government of Karnataka should not construct a new dam at Mekedatu. Despite the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment, that the upper riparian States should not implement any projects without the consent of the lower riparian States, as well as the Resolutions passed by this August House, the Government of Karnataka has proposed to commence preliminary works to construct a dam at Mekedatu. This August House strongly condemns and opposes this action of the Government of Karnataka and the Central Water Commission for having given permission to Karnataka on 22.11.2018 to prepare a Detailed Project Report.

This August House urges the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India to immediately order the Central Water Commission to withdraw the permission given to Karnataka for preparing the Detailed Project Report.

This August House requests the Government of India to direct the Government of Karnataka not to take up any construction works by it or through its agencies at Mekedatu or at any other place in the Cauvery basin of Karnataka State, without the consent of the State of Tamil Nadu and in violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.”

'Follow Prophet's teachings of love and altruism'

Milud-un-Nabi greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 20.11.2018 (English Translation)

I am happy to convey my hearty Milad-un-Nabi greetings to all Muslims who happily celebrate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.

Prophet Muhammad gave many divine teachings like, 'God is always compassionate to those who help others, to those who control their anger and to those who pardon others', 'Don't let go an opportunity to help others, Deport yourself with others lovingly and supportively; even if you have only water with you, give it to the needy and be happy'. If only people followed such teachings, love, righteousness and peace will flourish in the world.

The Tamil Nadu Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is implementing many welfare schemes for the well-being of the Muslim community. To cite an example, it issued an order to provide a subsidy totalling Rs. 6 crore every year for Muslims who undertake Hajj pilgrimage and is implementing it.

On this holy day of Prophet Muhammad's birth, my good wishes for the prevalence of peace and brotherhood and for the growth of well being and prosperity in the world. Once again, I extend my pleasant Milad-un-Nabi greetings to all Muslim brothers and sisters. ■

December 22: Birth Anniversary of Ramanujan



The man who knew Infinity

Srinivasa Ramanujan was a self-taught mathematician who made extraordinary contributions to Number theory, Infinite Series, Continued Fractions and Mathematical Analysis. Lauded as a natural genius by the foremost mathematicians of his time, he developed his own mathematical researches in isolation. He then became a Fellow of Royal Society (FRS) and Cambridge's Trinity College. He died at

the age of 32 because of liver infection caused by malnutrition due to the lack of nutritious vegetarian food when he was in England during the first world war. His Birth Anniversary (December 22nd) is celebrated as National Mathematics Day all over India. In Tamil Nadu, which is the home State of the mathematical genius, the day is celebrated as 'State IT Day'. ■

With hiked sub quota in Government jobs, cash incentives and infrastructure...

Hon'ble Chief Minister vows to take Tamil Nadu to first position in sports achievements



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami's speech at a function organized by Sports Associations and held in the Nehru indoor stadium, Chennai on 16.10.2018 to congratulate him for announcing reservation up to 2 per cent in government jobs for sportspersons and presentation of cheques to successful students in the National Sports competitions for school students (English Translation).

Paying obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Elder Brother Thiru.O.Panneerselvam who has delivered a special address at this pleasant function, Hon'ble Minister for School Education Respected Thiru.K.A.Sengottaiyan, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Elder Brother Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Elder Brother

Thiru. K.P.Anbalagan, Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development brother Thiru. P.Balakrishna Reddy, who has delivered the Presidential Address, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Government Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan, I.A.S., Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Hon'ble Members of Legislature, former MPs and MLAs, Principal Secretary to the Department of Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar who delivered the Welcome Address, Member-Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Sports Development

Commission Tmt.Reeta Harish Thakkar who is to propose a vote of thanks, President of the Tamil Nadu Olympic Association Thiru. N.Ramachandran who offered felicitations, President of Tamil Nadu Athletics Association Thiru.W.I.Devaram, Executive of Tamil Nadu Basket Ball Association Thiru. Raj Sathyan, Chief Adviser to Tamil Nadu Silambattam Association Thiru. M. Amanullah, President of Association of Tamil Nadu Taekwondo Thiru. Ishari Ganesh, Chess Grand Master Respected Thiru. Viswanathan Anand, Olympic Hockey Player Respected Thiru. Baskaran, participant executives of all Sports Associations, sports persons who have participated in Olympic competitions and brought glory to India, coaches who shape the best sportspersons, Arjuna Award winners, sports persons who have won prizes, the future stars who have assembled here in large numbers, youth, elders, ladies, newspaper and media friends – at the outset I offer my respects to all of you.

I am extremely happy to participate in this function, organized to express thanks on behalf of all Tamil Nadu Sports Associations for the sub quota up to 2 per cent made for sportspersons, men and women, to select posts in Tamil Nadu Government or in its public sector units on merit basis and to present cheques to successful students in the National school games competitions.

For the youth, if education is one eye, sports is another. Students should realize that sports, besides strengthening the body, develops determination and intelligence even

as education develops the intellect. That is why students should bestow attention both on education and games. This will promote an intelligent and healthy community of youth. So, the youth should avoid computer games and mobile app games and focus on sports events that require physical activity. Besides making for camaraderie, unity and discipline, sports helps develop qualities of leadership and result-oriented endeavour.

To encourage sports, ‘Sports Day’ is celebrated every year in all schools – private, Government and Government-aided – and colleges. Winners in these competitions are encouraged by giving them prizes. This gives them an impetus to participate in the next level of competition.

Hon’ble Amma’s Government, following Hon’ble Amma is giving equal importance to sports and education as it feels that safeguarding the physical and mental well-being of the younger generation is as necessary as promoting its intellectual growth. The Tamil Nadu Government is implementing many schemes for the youth of Tamil Nadu to improve their skills so as to compete in National and International events. I wish to mention a few of the steps taken by Hon’ble Amma to develop sports.

- ❖ By integrating the Department of Youth and Sports with the Tamil Nadu State Sports Development Board, Hon’ble Amma created the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority in 1992, on the lines of the Sports Authority of India.
- ❖ In Hon’ble Amma’s rule in 1995, the South Asian Games were held in an excellent



manner. As a result of this, various structural facilities like Nehru Indoor Stadium, Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium, Swimming Pool complex and Tennis Stadium were created in Chennai. All these have now been improved with modern facilities.

- ❖ In 2005, Hon'ble Amma inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University at Melakottaiyur in Kancheepuram District. Infrastructure facilities costing Rs.16 crore were created for this unique and pioneering University.
- ❖ Due to the efforts of Hon'ble Amma, the World Chess Championship competition was held in Tamil Nadu in 2013.
- ❖ Hon'ble Amma issued orders for the grant of high incentives to honour Tamil Nadu sportspersons who won medals in Olympic, Asian, Commonwealth and South Asian Games competitions and National-level sports events.
- ❖ Hon'ble Amma's Government has been giving special incentives to medallists in sports events, other than Olympic but inclusive of para Olympic games.
- ❖ To further encourage sports personnel, Hon'ble Amma issued orders in 2012,

increasing the quota for them in admission to engineering college by counseling, from 100 to 500.

- ❖ Hon'ble Amma issued orders for implementing a 'scholarship for elite sportspersons' scheme to develop outstanding skilled sportspersons, capable of winning medals in Olympic and International competitions. Under this scheme, Rs.25 lakh is given to each sportsperson as incentive, subject to a maximum of 12 persons each year.
- ❖ Hon'ble Amma issued orders increasing the scholarship amount for school students from Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000 and for college students from Rs.6,500 to Rs.13,000 for those who had won medals in national-level sports events by way of encouraging greater participation of students in games.
- ❖ To encourage athletes, a prize amount of Rs.1 lakh, Rs.75,000 and Rs.25,000 is given respectively to first, second and third prize winners in 20 types of State-level competitions held for Chief Minister's Trophy.
- ❖ To encourage Village sports, 31 Villages are selected at the rate of one in each District, barring Chennai and financial assistance is given to create playgrounds that conform

to the popular sport of those Villages and to purchase sports accessories and train the youth.

- ❖ Hon'ble Amma issued orders for the conduct of Beach Football, Beach Volleyball and Beach Kabbadi competitions in the 10 Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ To encourage basketball and volleyball games, orders have been issued to set up courts for them in Tiruchi, Tiruvannamalai and Tirunelveli with overhead roof with artificial 'galvalume' sheets.

God has endowed each person with a talent. Some are good in education; some in sports and some others in fine arts. Hence, it is the duty of the Government to identify the talents in each person and provide appropriate training to develop skills in them. In that way, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing the following:

- ❖ World Beaters Talent Spotting Scheme is being implemented. Under this scheme, highly talented sports persons are identified and trained to win in International competitions.
- ❖ Hon'ble Amma's Government is acting vigorously to create the infrastructure facilities of a sports stadium, an indoor stadium and a swimming pool in every district headquarters in the state.
- ❖ 27 Sports Hostels are functioning in Tamil Nadu to give intensive training to sports persons.
- ❖ Canoeing and Kayaking are popular water sports all over the world. They find

a place in Olympic games. Taking this and the presence of skilled shuttle cock sportspersons in Tamil Nadu, capable of winning medals at International sports events into account, steps are being taken to set up a premier sports centre for the canoeing and kayaking at a cost of Rs.2.58 crore near the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University complex at Melakottaiyur and a Shuttle Cock Academy at a cost of Rs.10 crore.

All these activities demonstrate Hon'ble Amma Government's interest in sportspersons.

As a result of these steps of Hon'ble Amma's Government, more sportspersons have won medals in competitions, held at the Global, National and State-levels. For instance, I am happy to inform that Thiru. Arokia Rajiv of Vazhathiyur Village near Lalgudi in Tiruchi District has won two silver medals in the track events in Asian Games held in Indonesia last month. This is due to his hard work and the relentless training he underwent and the Tamil Nadu Government's high incentive of Rs.60 lakh. In this very same Asian Games, I am happy to state, 31 sportspersons (men and women) participated from Tamil Nadu and 16 of them won 5 silver and 9 bronze medals and established a record. They brought honour to Tamil Nadu by occupying the third rank in the list of Asian Games medallists in India. By way of appreciating them and encouraging them, I am happy to state that Hon'ble Amma's Government has presented a total of Rs.5.98 crore to the medallists and their coaches as high incentives.

Likewise, the 7 medallists in the 21st Commonwealth Games, held in Gold Coast, Australia and their coaches were presented a total of Rs.4.83 crore as high incentives. The School Games Federation of India is holding National-level competitions in different sports in 3 categories – for those below 14 years of age, below 17 years and 19 years of age. Hon’ble Amma’s Government has issued orders for the grant of Rs.2 lakh to gold medal winners from Tamil Nadu, Rs.1.50 lakh to silver medallists and Rs.1 lakh to bronze medal holders in these competitions, a pioneering gesture in the whole of India to encourage school students and

I have narrated the steps taken to develop outstanding sportspersons, men and women, in the sports field. Howsoever big schemes are implemented by the Government to create sportspersons, they and their families have a grievance that their merit does not get due recognition in the filling up of posts in Government and private establishments.

Hon’ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma once said: “My thoughts are more on whether we are with the people than on whether the people are on our side; I am constantly thinking about the different ways in which



help them set records in International sports competitions. Accordingly, I wish to state that I am proud to have presented in this function a cheque for Rs.8,21,50,000 for 465 students, boys and girls, who had participated on behalf of Tamil Nadu in various competitions held by this Federation in 2017-2018 and won medals. Three sports persons from Tamil Nadu were given Arjun Award in 2017. In 2018, Thiru. Sathan from Tamil Nadu, a table-tennis player was given the Arjun Award and his coach Thiru. Srinivasa Rao, the Dhronachariar Award.

I can do good to people who place faith in me”.

By way of implementing Hon’ble Amma’s wish and respecting the sportspersons’ feelings, I announced in my Independence Day speech that a sub quota upto 2 per cent will be made for sportspersons in Tamil Nadu Government and its Public Sector Establishments in select posts on the basis of merit. Necessary action is being taken to implement that announcement. As a first step towards this, I am happy to state that a Government order has been issued for the setting up of a high-level committee under the

leadership of the Chief Secretary to Government. This committee will frame detailed guidelines and implement this sub quota. It will not be an exaggeration to say that this announcement will induce the youth to take to sports in a greater measure. Also, I am happy to state that games like kabaddi and volleyball will be promoted through the Departments of School Education and Higher Education in Government Schools and colleges. I hope this will help the youth of Tamil Nadu to participate in a larger measure in the competitions held at the International, National and State levels. I firmly believe that sports personnel will get the full co-operation and involvement of their families.

Contestants in sports events should follow some guidelines. These are signified by an acronym called SMART which stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound. I am reminded of an event when I say this.

On July 4, 1952, Florence Chadwick was struggling to become the first woman to swim across the Catalina channel in the USA. She had already earned a name for successfully crossing the English channel. The whole world was watching her feat with great expectations. Florence faced thick fog and extreme cold and fought with sharks many a time while engaged in her task. Despite her great efforts, what she saw through her goggles was only thick fog. She gave up her attempt as she could not sight the shoreline. "I don't want to offer a lame excuse; if only I had seen the shoreline, I would have reached my target", she said. She became dejected when she learnt that she had been just half a mile away from the shore. She had

given up her effort not because she could not swim, but because she could not see the target at a reachable distance anywhere. Nothing else deterred her.

Two months later, she crossed the Catalina channel. As she had a mental vision of the target, she not only crossed the channel despite bad weather but also cut short the time by two hours and beat the men's record. Hence, the youth should clearly fix the target and move towards it till they succeed.

Sports is always related to the well-being of youth; youth contribute to sports development. Sports and youth welfare are inter-twined.

The missile man, late President of India Hon'ble Dr. Abdul Kalam placed great faith in the youth and wanted India to become a developed country by 2020. I wish to point out his advice to the youth here: "The determination which generates new ideas has flowered in me today. I will chalk out a new path for myself and travel in it. I have developed the mental strength to say that something is "possible" when all others say "not possible". The determination that I can make scientific inventions always wells up in my mind. Mental strength is the younger generation's foundation. I take a pledge that as a member of the younger generation of this Country, I will make my Country a prosperous nation through my hard work and determination, defeating defeat as it were".

He stressed that with the younger generation's participation alone we can achieve the goal of making India a developed Country by 2020. I am duty-bound to say on this occasion that Tamil Nadu will contribute its share in



preparing the intellectual youth for taking the country in the path of progress in all fields.

The Directorate of Youth Welfare has been set up to implement and monitor schemes that will contribute to the overall well-being of youth and development of their personality. They should join the National and State development schemes, implemented through this Directorate. By way of recognizing the services of youth in the cause of social welfare, the Chief Minister's State Youth Award is presented to three men and women every year on Independence Day. I request the youth to do social work well and get this award.

The National Cadet Corps was formed in schools and colleges so that the youth imbibe good qualities, friendliness, discipline, leadership, freedom from religious partisanship, courage, capacity to do things and an attitude of selfless service. School and college students should join the NCC in more numbers and come forward to serve the Nation. The youth should also join in more numbers the National Service Scheme that was started with the motto "Not Me But You" and engage themselves in National welfare works.

Hon'ble Amma launched the Rain Harvesting Scheme for improving the ground-water table. To demonstrate the benefits of this scheme and its success, youngsters should not only implement it in their own houses as a model but educate the people in their localities and help in furthering the scheme.

Youngsters in villages should impress upon the people the necessity to have a toilet in each house, highlight the benefits that flow from it and create awareness about it by setting up one in their own houses. Dengue fever spreads through mosquitoes that breed in stagnant rain water during the rainy season. The youth should create awareness among people about this and also help by making service-minded youngsters prevent such breeding of mosquitoes.

From January 1, 2019 the use of 'single-use' plastic articles is totally banned. In the just-concluded session of the Legislative Assembly, I had announced that we would gift the future generation a plastic-free Tamil Nadu. The wholesome success of this scheme is in the hands of the youth. You, the youngsters should create an awareness among people about the

effects of using plastic articles; you are the future guides of India and as a model for others, you should avoid the use of plastic articles in toto. Through this, we can create a plastic-free Tamil Nadu.

School and college students should use the laptops given to them and develop their technological skills. They should tap useful information through their computers and use it for the welfare of the people.

You, the youngsters, should not succumb to the evil designs of some people and go in the wrong path; if you engage yourselves in the different tasks I have outlined, you can elevate yourself as good citizens interested in the welfare of the Nation.

Sportsmen, sportswomen and youngsters! Play to win, not to avert defeat; learn from mistakes; think constantly with long-term perspective. Assess your strength and plan accordingly. Take decisions with a broad visionary outlook. Don't give up honesty at any time.

Speakers here placed many demands. I went through them and wish to make an announcement in respect of one of them. I am happy to state that the existing 2 per cent sub quota (for sportspersons) in (Government and PSU) jobs will be increased to 3 per cent. Executives of different associations who spoke prior to me mentioned the query of parents about the benefits their children would get if they took to sports. Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Thiru. P. Balakrishna

Reddy told me that this question was raised even with the Government headed by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and requested me to make an announcement of a 2 per cent sub quota on behalf of Government for encouraging sports in Tamil Nadu. We made that announcement. At this on-going function, executives of many associations made a request to the Sports Minister. Acceding to their request, I am happy to state that Government will take steps to increase the 2 per cent quota to 3 per cent.

Each and every one should play games. Happiness derived from playing games is in no way less than that got through other avenues. In fact, I wish to state that the happiness one gets by playing games is better than that of holding posts. Participation in sports promotes concentration. While playing, the game alone looms large in one's mind; everything else disappears. Sports Minister dear brother Balakrishna Reddy spoke about encouraging sports in Tamil Nadu and said that our sportspersons had won gold in various competitions held at the International level. He said we had advanced to the third place from the eighth place. I would like to inform you all that Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government will extend help to sportspersons in a variety of ways to bring the State to the premier position from the third place. Thanking all the organizations that made excellent arrangements for this function, I conclude my speech.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

'Direct CWC to withdraw permission to Karnataka for Mekedatu project DPR'

Text of the D.O.letter dated 27.11.2018 of **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“I am constrained to bring to your kind notice that the Central Water Commission in November, 2018 has conveyed its decision to the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd., Karnataka to go ahead for preparation of the Detailed Project Report for the proposed Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir-cum-Drinking Water Project.

You may recall that in my letter dated 04.09.2018, I requested you to instruct the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to direct the Central Water Commission to stop forthwith further processing of the Feasibility Report of the Government of Karnataka to construct a Balancing Reservoir at Mekedatu across the river Cauvery and not to give any consent to any projects in the river Cauvery without obtaining the prior concurrence of Tamil Nadu and other co-basin States. I also reiterated the same in the Memorandum presented to you on 08.10.2018.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has already conveyed its decision to the Government of India that the Feasibility Report of Karnataka for constructing a Balancing Reservoir at Mekedatu across the river Cauvery is not acceptable and also furnished detailed comments to the Feasibility Report. The proposal for reservoir is not just for drinking

water alone as claimed by Karnataka, but to increase the extent of irrigation which is in clear violation of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal Award as affirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Central Water Commission without considering the genuine and justifiable objections of Tamil Nadu has given permission to Karnataka to prepare the Detailed Project Report for the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir-cum-Drinking Water Project.

The action of the Central Water Commission has caused great alarm and apprehension among the people of Tamil Nadu as it will affect the livelihood of lakhs of farmers who depend on Cauvery water.

In the circumstances, I request you to kindly direct the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, to instruct the Central Water Commission to forthwith withdraw the permission given to Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. of Karnataka for preparation of the Detailed Project Report for Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir-cum-Drinking Water Project.

I look forward to your immediate positive reply.”

TN-SMART, web-based GIS on disaster management launched

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates e-Adangal for welfare of farmers



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 26.10.2018, inaugurated an e-Adangal Scheme on behalf of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department and TN-SMART, which standardizes the multi-hazard early warning of various disasters through web-based GIS, in co-ordination with RIMES (Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Asia) of Thailand, at a cost of Rs.1.02 crore.

Adangal is a basic revenue record that contains details such as seasonal crops cultivated by farmers in every Village and irrigation sources for those crops. At present the record is written by Village Administrative Officers (VAO) manually and G-Statement is prepared by integrating these records.

Adangal plays an important role in calculating agricultural production in a Village. The Tamil Nadu Government, which is treading the path laid down by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, announced in the 2017-2018 budget demand of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, that for the benefit of farmers, the manually written Adangal document will be converted into an e-Document and the same will be implemented soon.

Based on this announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the scheme for converting the manually written Adangal into e-Adangal for the welfare of farmers.

The e-Adangal Scheme will simplify the job of the VAO and has been designed to help farmers. In the e-Adangal scheme, apart from VAOs registering details regarding cultivation

of crops, the farmers themselves register the crops they had grown in their lands. If there is a mismatch between the entries made by the Village Administrative Officer and a farmer, provisions have been made for automatic reference of the entry to a superior officer, including Revenue Inspector, for making corrections if any.

Under the e-Adangal scheme, 9 other connected documents also can be downloaded. It is also possible to finalize the G>Returns easily. The farmers can freely view and download authenticated Adangal entries anytime, anywhere, subject to the payment of a prescribed fee after finalization of the monthly G>Returns prepared by officers to assess the fertility and water availability of the land in a specific area.

As the Revenue Department, Agriculture Department, Horticulture Department and Statistics Department have their own Login ID, these Departments also can register the details they had collected during their field visit in the e-Adangal. It will be useful as any policy decision taken by the Tamil Nadu Government can be implemented at an appropriate time expeditiously. Any damage to crops especially during disasters such as floods and drought can be calculated accurately to provide relief to the farmers.

The Revenue Department, Disaster Management and Audit Department, in co-ordination with the RIMES in Thailand, has set up TN-SMART, a web-based GIS, which standardizes the multi-hazard early warning of various disasters at a cost of Rs. 1.02 crore and the same was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

Through this modern technique, prior warning of disasters can be undertaken. Details regarding mitigation of disaster can be got in advance. It also helps in documentation, implementation and taking the information to the people.

Through this system, advance warning about rains, details regarding rainfall data during previous monsoons, possible flood dangers based on the levels of various reservoirs in the State can be predicted. Not only floods, but also cyclones and impact of disasters such as Tsunami, can be predicted in advance. Through the collected data, the Revenue and Disaster Management Department can take advance measures and prevent possible loss of lives and mitigate disasters. This system was implemented during the North East Monsoon, 2018. Details regarding the system can be seen in the website www.tnsdma.tn.gov.

As a follow up, an app called TN-SMART has also been developed. Through this app, details regarding disasters, advance warnings and rainfall data can be accessed by registered users. This app will help know location-based possible rainfall, forewarning about floods and Dos and Don'ts to be adopted during floods. Even if the cell phone is kept in the silent mode, warning regarding tsunami and cyclone will be intimated through a warning ring, which stops only after the activation of the cell.

This web-based system, apart from warning the public will also register urgent help required by them, and send the same to the Departments concerned to help officials take necessary action. Through this, the Revenue and Disaster Management Department can monitor the various activities connected with the disaster. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for Dr. Sivanthi Adithanar manimandapam



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 26.10.2018, laid the foundation stone through video conferencing, for a Manimandapam to be constructed at a cost of Rs.1.34 crore and 28,000 for Dr.B.Sivanthi Adithanar, along with his life-size statue.

It has been the practice of the Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, to honour and commemorate great personalities who brought glory to Tamil Nadu, Tamil savants who dedicated their life for the development of the Tamil language and freedom fighters who made sacrifices, by constructing memorials and Manimandapams and erecting statues for them.

Dr. Sivanthi Adithanar, following the footsteps of his father Dr.S.B.Adithanar took over the administration of Daily Thanthi in the year 1959. The Madurai Kamaraj University, Annamalai University, Manonmaniyam

Sundaranar University and Madras University, in recognition of his services to the newspaper industry, sports and education awarded him doctorate degrees. Dr. Sivanthi Adithanar was the Sheriff of Madras twice and President of the Indian Olympics Association. In recognition of his services to literature and education, the Government of India honoured him by awarding Padma Sri.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the M.G.R. Centenary Celebrations in Thoothukudi on 22.11.2017 announced that a Manimandapam would be set up in honour of Dr. Sivanthi Adithanar in Tiruchendur in Thoothukudi District and the work would commence during 2018-2019.

As per the announcement, Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Manimandapam to highlight Dr. Sivanthi Adithanar's services. ●

Stone laid for Puratchi Thalaivi Amma School complex in Delhi by Hon'ble Chief Minister



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, laid the foundation stone through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 26.10.2018, for the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma School Building Complex, to be built at a cost of Rs.5 crore at the Mayur Vihar School, New Delhi, on behalf of the Delhi Tamil Education Association.

For the past 90 years, the Delhi Tamil Education Association has been running higher secondary schools in 7 places for the students of minority languages in the National capital, Delhi. In these schools, Tamil is compulsory from Standard 1 to Standard 8 and an optional subject in Standard 9 and Standard 10.

Eighty-five per cent of the students in the school are Tamil students. Every year, the Tamil Nadu Government and the Tamil Nadu Textbook Society and Educational Services Corporation supply Tamil books free of cost to these schools.

More than 15 lakh Tamils are living in and around Delhi. Taking into consideration the expanding population of Tamil people, the Delhi Development Council allotted 2.5 acres of land for the Mayur Vihar School for constructing additional school buildings. The Delhi Tamil Education Association requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister for funds for constructing the additional school buildings and to name one of the buildings after Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister favourably considered the Association's demand and sanctioned Rs.5 crore as Tamil Nadu's contribution for the buildings to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 13.79 crore for the Mayur Vihar School complex by issuing a Government Order. The Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation through video conferencing, for the Puratchi Thalaivi Building complex to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 5 crore at the Mayur Vihar School Complex on a 6,515 sq.metre area with ground plus four floors. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister's appeal has donations pouring in for relief work in Gaja-battered areas

Gaja Cyclone has battered Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Sivagangai, Karur and Tiruchirappali Districts and caused unprecedented and extended damage. To help the affected people who lost their livelihood and to undertake relief and rehabilitation works in the cyclone Gaja-affected areas, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Edappadi K.Palaniswami appealed to people through the media on 19.11.2018, to donate liberally for the Chief Minister's General Relief Fund.

Following is the list of donors, who donated for the Chief Minister's General Relief Fund for the relief and rescue operations in Gaja Cyclone-affected areas, responding to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami's appeal

A Cheque for Rs.25 lakh by Thiru. H.Vasanthakumar, Nanguneri MLA, on 19.11.2018;

20.11.2018:

A cheque for Rs.2 crore by the Chairman of the TVS Motors, Thiru. Venu Srinivasan;

Bank draft for Rs.1 crore by the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the City Union Bank, Dr.N.Kamakodi;

A cheque for Rs.1 crore by the Managing Director of the Sakthi Masala Group, Thiru. P.C.Duraisami and Director Tmt. Santhi Duraisamy;

21.11.2018:

A cheque for Rs.1 crore on behalf of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam by its Treasurer, Thiru. Durai Murugan.

A cheque for Rs.1.1 crore by the Lyca Group;

A cheque for Rs.20 lakh on behalf of the Dr.M.G.R. Education and Research Institute by its Chancellor, Thiru. A.C.Shanmugham; and

A cheque for Rs.15 lakh on behalf of film actor Thiru. Ajith Kumar.

The following handed over donations to the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Secretariat on 23.11.2018.

Chairman of the Velammal Education Trust Thiru. M.G.Muthuramalingam – a cheque for Rs.1 crore;

On behalf of the S.R.M.Group, a cheque for Rs.1 crore by the Chancellor of the S.R.M. University, Thiru. T.R.Pachamuthu ;

Chairman of the South Indian Sugar Mills Association and Chairman of the Dharani Sugars and Chemicals, Dr.G.Palanisami, Chairman and Managing Director of the Thiru. Arooran Sugar Mills, Dr.Ram V.Ravichandran, Erode-Ponni Sugars Managing Director Thiru. N.Ramanathan, Director of the Sakthi Sugars, Thiru. M.Hari Hara Sudhan, Chairman of the Rajsree Sugars and Chemicals, Thiru.G.Sathyamurthi, Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Sugars Pvt. Ltd. and on behalf of the Members of the South

Indian Sugar Mills Association- A cheque for Rs.1 crore;

Chairman of the Ramco Group Thiru. P.R.Venkatrama Raja and Chief Executive Officer Thiru. A.V.Dharmakrishnan, a cheque for Rs.1 crore;

Chairman of the Legend Saravana Stores, Thiru. Legend Saravanan – a cheque for Rs.1 crore;

Thiru. V.V.Rajan Chellappa , MLA, on behalf of the Madurai I District (rural) All-India AnnaDravidaMunnetraKazhagam -a cheque for Rs.10 lakh.

Chairman of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, Thiru. Thol Tirumavalavan – a cheque for Rs.10 lakh;

Film Actor Thiru.Vivek – a cheque for Rs.5 lakh and

GRT Group Managing Directors Thiru. G.R. Anandapadmanabhan, and G.R.Radhakrishnan (24.11.2018) - a cheque for Rs.50 lakh;

Apart from the above donors, people both directly and through online contributed for the relief fund. So far a sum of Rs.13.33 crore has been collected. ■

98th Birth Anniversary of Kavignar Surada



In connection with the 98th Birth Anniversary of Kavignar Surada, Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. D.Jayakumar (Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms), Thiru. K. Pandiarajan (Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture), Tmt. B.Valarmathi, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation, Thiru. J.Jayavardhan MP, Thiru. R.Venkatesan I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information, Dr. P.Sankar I.A.S., Director, Department of Information and Public Relations and Dr. K. Vijayaraghavan, Director, Department of Tamil Development, on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government, paid floral tribute to his portrait, kept near his statue in Ashok Nagar, Chennai on 23.11.2018.

Housing, buildings for Police, Fire Service Personnel at a cost of Rs. 38.23 crore



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat on 31.10.2018, declared open 26 Police tenements, constructed at a cost of Rs.3.34 crore at Cheranmadevi in Tirunelveli District through video conferencing, on behalf of the Home Department. In addition, 144 Police tenements, 2 Police Stations, 2 Police Department buildings, 34 tenements for Fire and Rescue Service Department Personnel, and 2 Fire and Rescue Service buildings, totally costing Rs.34.90 crore were opened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Police have been performing important duties, such as maintenance of law and order, establishing peace in the State, preventing crimes and apprehending criminals and getting them proper punishment. To improve their quality of service, the Tamil Nadu Government, following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi

Thalaivi Amma has been providing various facilities to the police force, which includes construction of new Police Stations, tenements for personnel, and improving the infrastructure of the Police Department Offices.

As a part of this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami, declared the tenements for Police at Cheranmadevi. The tenements have ground floor plus two floors and each flat measures 650 sq.ft.

The other constructions opened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister are as follows:

15 tenements in Thelur in Ariyalur District, 56 flats in Kadalkudi and Thattarmadam in Thoothukudi District, 34 in Orathanadu in Thanjavur District and 43 for Railway Police personnel in Thanjavur, all 148 flats constructed at a cost of Rs.17.95 crore; Two Police Stations, one each at Velachery in

Chennai and Ariyamangalam in Tiruchirapalli, costing Rs.1.60 crore; Buildings for sniffer dogs section at Sathyamangalam Special Task force and for Sathyamangalam Special Task force in Erode District, constructed at a cost of Rs. 9.64 crore; 17 tenements each in Pugalur in Karur District and Alangudi in Pudukkottai District, built at a total cost of Rs.4.42 crore for Fire Service and Rescue Personnel and

2 Fire Service and Rescue Stations, one each at Bargur in Krishnagiri District, and Pernambut in Vellore District at a cost of Rs.1.29 crore.

Totally buildings for the Police Department and Fire Service and Rescue Department, constructed at a cost of Rs.38.24 crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

December 12: Birth Anniversary of C. Rajagopalachariar

A multi-faceted statesman and thinker



Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, informally called Rajaji or C.R., was born in Thorapalli, in December 1878. He was an Indian statesman, freedom fighter, lawyer and writer. The last Governor-General of India, he was one of the first recipients of Bharat Ratna.

While serving as premier of Madras Presidency from 1937-1939, he brought many reforms to alleviate the suffering of the masses. He introduced Prohibition, issued the Temple Entry Act 1939, under which restrictions on Dalits entering temples were removed and passed the agricultural debt relief Act to ease the sufferings of debt-ridden peasants. He held many other positions like Governor of West

Bengal, Minister of Home Affairs of the Indian Union and Chief Minister of Madras State.

He challenged the dominant Socialistic economic philosophy of the initial decades of Independent India and coined the term 'License quota-permit raj' to describe it. Due to his advocacy of economic liberalism, he is regarded by some historians as the harbinger of India's Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation reform in 1991. On his part, Rajaji considered his easily accessible translations in Tamil and English of the Ramayana and the Mahabharatha to be one of his greatest contributions to India.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens 14 new sub-stations to ensure efficient power at right voltage



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Secretariat on 31.10.2018, inaugurated through video conferencing, a 110/11 KW sub-station, set up at a cost of Rs.16.16 crore at Sogathur in Dharmapuri District on behalf of the Energy Department. The Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion also opened 13 sub-stations set up in 10 Districts in the State at a cost of Rs.185.99 crore.

It is imperative to set up additional power sub-stations to reduce power loss during power transit, besides reducing maintenance cost and ensuring optimum power supply to consumers at the right voltage.

In this connection, Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, inaugurated 110/11 KW power sub-station at Sogathur

in Dharmapuri District, set up at a cost of Rs.16.16 crore.

The other sub-stations opened are: 400/110 KW Sub-station at Thappukundu in Theni District costing Rs.93.11 crore; 230/110 KW sub-station at Kancheepuram – Rs.43.90 crore; 110/33 KW sub-station at Thisaiyenvilai in Tirunelveli – Rs.11.30 crore; 33/11 KW sub-stations, totally costing Rs.37.68 crore, one each at Musiri Patchur and Thiruvalam in Vellore District; Kuppuchipalayam in Karur District; T.Krishnapuram in Madurai District; Nannai in Perambalur District; Udayarpalayaam in Ariyalur District; A.Thulukkapatti in Virudhunagar District and Vallipuram and Kurichi in Erode District. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami declared open totally 14 sub-stations costing Rs.202.15 crore. ■

Union Home Minister briefed about havoc wrought by Gaja

H o n ' b l e Union Home Minister Thiru. Rajnath Singh enquired and obtained details of the extent of damage caused by the Gaja cyclone in Tamil Nadu from the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 16.11.2018.

Hon'ble Chief Minister explained in detail the steps taken by the State Government in connection with the Gaja cyclone, the

damages caused by the cyclone and about the relief measures being taken on a war footing. Hon'ble Chief Minister also briefed the Union Minister about the shifting of 82,000 persons to 471 camps as a precautionary measure and providing them facilities including food, clothes and medicine.

A detailed report about the havoc caused by Gaja cyclone in Tamil Nadu will be sent shortly to the Union Home Ministry. ■

Pensioners note

Some of the Tamil Nadu Government pensioners were receiving their pension from public sector banks till last year. To reduce their difficulties and protect their interests, the Tamil Nadu Government has shifted such pensioners, numbering about 70,000 to the scheme of payment of pension through the department of Treasuries from this year. At present, they are receiving their pension through the District treasury, sub-treasury and

the Pension Office Chennai. As all the records of these pensioners have been transferred to the Pension Office, Chennai and District treasuries/ sub-treasuries from where they receive their pension, they are advised to submit their life certificates to these offices in the period 01.04.2019 to 30.06.2019, instead of the public sector banks which they used to do till last year. ■

Steps sought for release and defense of fishermen being held in Sri Lanka

Text of the D.O. letter dated 17.10.2018 of **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I am writing this letter with deep concern regarding a new development in which a Sri Lankan Court has imposed fine on our fishermen who were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy, while eking out their humble livelihood in the Gulf of Mannar. It is reported that eight Indian fishermen from Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on 21.08.2018 along with their boat. They were convicted by a Sri Lankan Court under the provisions of Fisheries (Regulation of Foreign Fishing Boats) Act, purportedly for illegally fishing in Sri Lankan waters and imposed a fine of LKR 60 lakh per head (approx INR 26 lakh per head). The Court has also ordered that if in case the fine is not paid, they will have to serve a term of 3 months imprisonment.

I had, in my letter dated 07.07.2017 and subsequent letters, brought to your notice about the amendments made in the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, 1996 and Fisheries (Regulation of Foreign Fishing Boats) Act by the Government of Sri Lanka and its impact

on our Indian fishermen, especially from Tamil Nadu.

The latest move by the Government of Sri Lanka to enforce the amendments made in their Act against the Indian Fishermen from Tamil Nadu at this crucial juncture when the Government of Tamil Nadu ably supported by Government of India has taken proactive steps for transition towards a permanent solution, is nothing but a mockery of the diplomatic efforts being undertaken by the Government of India to sort out the sensitive issue. This has created a sense of panic in the minds of fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

Hence I urge you to direct the Ministry of External Affairs to register our strong protest at the highest level in Sri Lanka and organize an effective defense in the Sri Lankan Courts and to secure the release of our fishermen without imposing any fine or jail term. I also request you to ensure that immediate action is taken to secure the release of the all 16 Indian fishermen who are languishing in Sri Lankan jails. May I request your immediate intervention in this matter?

More infrastructure facilities at three children's homes



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami, declared open a reception building at Royapuram Government Children's Home in Chennai on 31.10.2018 from the Secretariat through video conferencing. The building, with bedrooms, toilets and bathrooms has been constructed at a cost of Rs.1 crore.

In addition, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation for new buildings for Annai Sathya Government Children's Home in Madurai and Government Children's Home in Panchapalli in Dharmapuri District, to be constructed at a cost of Rs.8.65 crore.

In the Government Children's Home in Royapuram in Chennai, temporary maintenance

reception home is functioning. In this reception home, along with children from Chennai, kids from other States, who had run away from their homes, children who are found loitering in the beach, railway stations and bus stands, child workers, children who are saved from bonded labour are kept. In this home, the children are given food, clothing and provided other basic amenities. Besides, they are given counselling by psychologists and imparted non-formal education and technology-based training.

In the 2016-2017 budget demand for the Social Welfare and Nutritious Noon Meal Programme Department, it was announced that the damaged reception building of the Royapuram Government's Home would be renovated. As per the announcement, the

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the renovated reception building of the Royapuram Government Children Home with additional infrastructure facilities such as bedrooms, toilets and bathrooms.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on 13.06.2018 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 announced that the heavily damaged buildings of the Annai Sathya Government Children's Home in

Madurai and the Government's Children's Home Panjappalli in Dhamapuri District would be replaced with new buildings with additional infrastructure facilities. As per the announcement, Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, laid the foundation stone for renovated buildings to be constructed at a cost of Rs.5 crore for the Annai Sathya Government Children's Home in Madurai and the Government Children's Home at Panchappalli at a cost of Rs. 3.65 crore. ■



Another chance for unemployed graduates to renew registration

The Tamil Nadu Government has issued an order giving an opportunity to unemployed candidates who had registered in various employment exchanges in the State during the years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 but failed to renew their lapsed registration, as per the G.O. (T) No. 612 Labour and Employment (T2), dated 25.10.2018.

As per the G.O., candidates should avail themselves of this facility and renew their registration within three months from the date of issue of G.O. that is before 24.01.2019,

either online or by directly approaching the employment exchanges where they had originally registered.

Those who are not able to be present in person, may apply through registered post and renew their registration. Those who want to renew their lapsed registration online, should use the Employment and Training Department's site <http://tnvelaivaaiippu.gov> and renew their registration before 24.01.2019. ■

Pay hike announced for employees of Co-operative Credit Institutions

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 03.11.2018 (English Translation).

Besides offering credit and banking services to people at reasonable interest rates for achieving inclusive growth, co-operative credit institutions in Tamil Nadu play a great role in improving agricultural production by giving the needed crop loan, investment loan and farm inputs to agriculturists and in the distribution of essential commodities to people through the Public Distribution System.

The 113-year old Tamil Nadu Co-operative Institutions – from the primary to State-level societies - have won many awards in the last 7 years at the National level for their excellent work at all levels and in all respects. As a result of the steps taken by the Government to improve the services of co-operative credit institutions, co-operative banks and societies have been computerized with modern infrastructure facilities enabling the staff to give the best service and win the goodwill of the people. This, in turn, has improved the receipt of fixed deposits – from Rs.26,245.17 crore in 31.03.2011 to Rs.53,313.08 crore in 30.09.2018 – and loan disbursement from Rs.1,03,371.27 crore to 3,03,432.27 crore.

The staff of these co-operative credit institutions requested pay revision as the agreement for it has expired. Acceding to their request, orders were issued for the setting up of committees comprising officers of the Department of Co-operation for recommending the new scales of pay. They have now given their recommendations. Moreover, the Managing Directors of the Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank and Tamil Nadu Co-operative State Agriculture and Rural Development Bank have recommended new scales of pay for the employees of these banks. On the basis of these recommendations, orders have been issued for pay increase to the employees of the following co-operative credit institutions: (Categorizations respectively are Institution, Date from which arrears will be given, Number of Benefiting employees, Minimum/Maximum benefit per month, Percentage of maximum pay hike and Additional expenditure in a year (in crore).

1. Primary Agriculture Co-operative Credit Societies – From 01.04.2018; 13,140; 988/4,613; 20 % ; 61.72.

2. Central Co-operative Banks – 01.01.2016; 4,767; 1,114/16,963; 20%; 53.00.

3. Urban Co-operative Banks – 01.01.2017; 1,286; 455/16,485; 20%; 5.40.

4. Employees Co-operative Credit and Thrift Societies – 01.07.2018; 1,378; 3,200/12,500; 2,57 times pay hike; 9.00.

5. Urban Co-operative Credit Societies – 01.07.2018; 462; 2,500/18,000; 2.70 times pay hike; 0.42.

6. Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks – 01.01.2016; 485; 1,189/7,815; 20%; 1.86.

7. Tamil Nadu Co-operative State Agriculture and Rural Development

Bank - 01.01.2017; 117; 2,521/15,526; 15%; 2.32.

8. Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank – 01.01.2016; 413; 3,456/28,017; 21%; 10.00.

This pay increase will be given to employees in all co-operative credit societies and banks as per legal procedures. It benefits 22,048 employees in the co-operative institutions. Additional expenditure due to this pay hike in a year is Rs.143.72 crore.

These measures of Tamil Nadu Government will help employees of co-operatives improve their living standards. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister seeks freight waiver for relief materials

Text of the D.O. letter dated 23.11.2018 of **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to **Shri Piyush Goyal**, Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Coal.

Dear Shri Piyush Goyalji,

You may be aware about the recent Severe Cyclonic Storm (SCS) 'GAJA' which struck the twelve Districts of Tamil Nadu, completely devastated the four coastal Districts and severely damaged the other Districts. More than 60 persons have lost their lives. People have lost their home, livestock, plantations and livelihood. Seeing the plight of the hapless

victims, relief materials are being mobilised from all over the country.

I request the Railways to waive the freight charges collected from Donors for the relief materials sent to the stations in disaster affected areas addressed to the District Collectors, as has been done in the case of recent Kerala floods. An early direction in this regard will be highly appreciated.

Centre requested not to grant terms of reference to Kerala proposal for new dam

Text of the D.O. letter dated 24.10.2018 of **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I am constrained to bring to your kind notice, that the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydro Electric Projects functioning under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in its 18th meeting held on 27.09.2018 recommended for grant of Terms of Reference of Kerala's proposal to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the construction of a New Dam instead of the existing Mullai Periyar Dam. This has caused great apprehension and consternation among the people of Tamil Nadu.

The actions of the Government of Kerala in having approached the Government of India and the Government of India having entertained the proposal of Kerala are in gross violation of the decree of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 07.05.2014 in O.S.No.3 of 2006, which is extracted below:-

“213. In this view of the matter for the construction of new dam, there has to be agreement of both the parties. The offer made by Kerala cannot be thrust upon Tamil Nadu. Issue No.9, therefore, has to be decided against Kerala and it is so held.”

Earlier when the Government of Kerala stealthily obtained clearance in August, 2014

without either informing or consulting and obtaining the concurrence of Tamil Nadu for Environmental Impact Assessment Study for construction of New Dam in utter defiance of the decree of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government of Tamil Nadu had to issue a contempt notice, against the Member-Secretary of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life and Wild Life Preservation Officer on 16.05.2015.

You may kindly recall that my revered leader Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on 10.06.2015 wrote to you seeking your intervention to instruct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Agencies to desist from entertaining and considering the proposal of the Government of Kerala in future and also to negate the proposal as it is a violation of the decree of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Following this, the Government of India delisted the proposal of Kerala in July, 2015.

Under the circumstances, I seek your immediate personal intervention and request you to direct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to forthwith withdraw the recommendations to grant Terms of Reference for Environmental Impact Assessment study

for the construction of a new Dam by Kerala at Mullai Periyar.

I also request you to advise the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Agencies to desist from entertaining and

considering any proposal of the Government of Kerala on new Mullai Periyar Dam in future and also to negate the proposals which are in violation of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. ■

70 students awarded for having Thirukkural at their fingertips



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat, presented 70 students on behalf of the Tamil Development Department, a total sum of Rs.7 lakh and a commendation certificate for reciting all the 1,330 couplets in the Thirukkural under the 'Thirukkural Recitation Appreciation Prize' scheme.

The Tamil Development Department initiated Thirukkural Recitation Appreciation Prize scheme in 2011-2012. Under the scheme, every year students who recite all the 1,330 couplets of Thirukkural are selected and given

Rs.10,000 each and a Commendation Certificate.

Thirty-six students received the prize during 2011-2012, which was increased to 50 students from the year 2015-2016, and in the year 2017-2018 it has been further increased to 70 students. So far, 329 students have received this prize.

For 2018-2019, 70 students were selected for reciting the 1,330 Thirukkural couplets and each student was given a cheque for Rs.10,000 and an appreciation certificate. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister dedicates upgraded road, four bridges for public use



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open through video conferencing from the Secretariat on 31.10.2018, the Malliyakkarai - Rasipuram - Tiruchengode - Erode upgraded road, developed at a cost of Rs.295.10 crore. In addition, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open three road over-bridges and one river bridge for public use in Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Villupuram and Dindigul Districts, all built at a cost of Rs.93.50 crore.

As the road infrastructure plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of the State, the State Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is keen on increasing the capacity of roads to keep pace with the increasing traffic and lays roads of quality, constructs new bridges wherever necessary and maintains the roads and bridges well.

In this connection, to avoid traffic congestion in Namakkal District, Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated the upgraded the Malliyakkarai - Rasipuram - Tiruchengode - Erode Road.

A road over-bridge, replacing a railway level crossing at Karamadai in Coimbatore District, built at a cost of Rs.41.40 crore; a road over-bridge replacing a railway level crossing at Thindivanam Town in Villupuram District, costing Rs.24.50 crore; a road over-bridge at Dindigul Town in Dindigul District, constructed at a cost of Rs.20.35 crore and a bridge across Vaniyaru in Pappireddipatti in Dharmapuri District, costing Rs.7.25 crore were also dedicated by him for public use.

Totally three road over-bridges and one river bridge and an upgraded road, all built at a total cost of Rs.388.60 crore were declared open for public use by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens buildings, more facilities to raise State to first place in Higher Education



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 10.10.2018 declared open through video conferencing additional buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.10.69 crore, for the Government Polytechnic at Appanaickenpatti in Uthangarai Division in Krishnagiri District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion also declared open buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.43.56 crore for the Higher Education Department in Villupuram, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore and Chennai Districts.

The aim of the State Government, which is following the path laid down by the

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is to raise Tamil Nadu to the position of Numero Uno State in intellectual and technical education and to enable students from rural areas have access to higher education without any difficulty and without moving to towns.

For this, in the last 7 years, the Government has opened 56 Government / University Constituent Arts and Science Colleges, 4 Government Engineering Colleges and 19 Polytechnic Colleges, besides introducing 264 new courses during the academic year 2018-2019 to increase employment potential.

It has also improved the infrastructure of Government Colleges by constructing more buildings and adding more facilities. Due to

these efforts, the State has attained 48.6 per cent in enrollment of students in higher education, the highest in the Country.

To improve the infrastructure of Universities and Government Colleges under the Higher Education Department, additional buildings such as classrooms, hostel building, technical shed and toilets were constructed for the Government Polytechnic at Appanaickenpatti Village and declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The other buildings opened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister are as follows:

Additional buildings for the Government Polytechnics at Sethurapatti in Srirangam Division in Tiruchirapalli District, at Kattuvannanjur Village in Sankarapuram Division in Villupuram District and

Checkkanurani in Madurai District, all constructed at a cost of Rs.10.69 crore;

Educational buildings, exercise hall and water tank, all costing Rs.8.14 crore in Palkalai Nagar in Bharathidasan University in Tiruchirappalli District;

Mess hall, kitchen and toilets, constructed at a cost of Rs.2.65 crore in Bharathiar University in Coimbatore District and additional classrooms in Government Arts and Science College, Nandanam in Chennai at a cost of Rs.70 lakh.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open, buildings, built at a total cost of Rs.54.25 crore for the Higher Education Department. ■



Hon'ble Prime Minister enquires about havoc caused by Gaja cyclone

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Thiru. Narendra Modi, enquired about the damage caused by Gaja Cyclone with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami through telephone on 16.11.2018.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister enquired in detail about the precautionary measures taken

in view of the Gaja Cyclone, steps taken after the cyclone and damages caused by the cyclone.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister also made the assurance that the Central Government would provide all necessary assistance to those affected by the cyclone. ■

'Relief, rehabilitation measures on war footing in Gaja-affected areas'



Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on 19.11.2018
(English Translation)

The Indian Meteorological Department issued a warning on 11.11.2018 that the Gaja Cyclone will cross the Tamil Nadu coast. Following this, I convened a review meeting with the Chief Secretary and High Government Officials on 12.12.2018 and directed the Officials to co-ordinate among various Departments while executing advance measures to combat the cyclone.

On my instructions, Hon'ble Ministers, Government Officials and District Collectors

took immediate advance measures to meet the impact of cyclone and heavy rains. Due to their action, the loss of lives was averted to a great extent.

When the Gaja Cyclone crossed the coast on 16.11.2018 at a speed of 110 kmph, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Dindigul, Tiruchirapalli, Sivagangai, Cuddalore, Karur, Ramanathapuram and Theni suffered heavy damages due to strong winds and heavy rains.

Hon'ble Ministers, I.A.S., Officers, and Police Officers, have been nominated to

co-ordinate the rescue, relief and rehabilitation activities in the cyclone-affected Districts. Relief and rehabilitation works have been going on in full swing.

To take stock of the damages caused due to Gaja Cyclone, I conducted a review meeting under my chairmanship on 19.11.2018 with the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Law Thiru. C.Ve.Shanmugham, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru. R.B.Udhayakumar, the Chief Secretary, Government Department Secretaries, Commissioner of Revenue Administration, Department heads and other High Officials.

A total of 2,51,674 people, affected by the Gaja Cyclone and heavy rains, have been accommodated in 514 protection camps set up in Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Dindigul Districts. The administration has been providing the required food and protected drinking water for them. For every family, 10 kg of rice, one dhoti, one saree and one litre of kerosene have been supplied. Apart from the above provisions, those who are staying in the camps are given an additional dhoti and saree. I have also ordered an additional 4 litres of kerosene .

For the families of those who are staying in the camps, those who have lost their houses, and fishermen families who have been affected due to damages caused to their fishing gadgets, Vallam and Kattumarams, for their immediate requirements I have ordered payment of Rs. 5,000 per family and Rs.3,000 per family for purchase of cloth and utensils. For the elders, women and children, I have ordered supply of milk through Aavin.

To protect people from various diseases, 420 medical camps have been set up besides 1,249 mobile medical camps which are in service. So far 97,825 people have benefited through these camps. Adequate stock of medicines and insecticides are available and the Family Welfare Department in co-ordination with the local bodies is taking manifold steps to prevent possible diseases.

I express my heartfelt condolences to the families of 46 people who lost their lives due to Gaja cyclone and heavy rains. For their families, I have ordered a relief of Rs.10 lakh each. For those, who have been seriously injured, Rs.1 lakh will be given and those who have suffered simple injuries, Rs.25,000.

I have also directed payment of Rs.30,000 each for the death of 231 cows, Rs.25,000 each for the death of 20 bulls, Rs.15,000 each for the death of 19 calves and Rs.3,000 each for the death of 1,181 goats and Rs.100 each for 14,986 poultry birds.

Families in villages affected due to Gaja Cyclone will get their December quota of kerosene in November itself and an order to this effect has been issued by me to the fair price shops concerned through the Food and Civil Supplies Department. I have ordered a compensation of Rs. 10,000 each for completely damaged thatched huts and Rs.4,000 each to partially damaged huts. Adequate funds will be given to the eligible families whose huts and houses have been fully damaged due to Gaja cyclone for constructing new houses.

I have also directed payment of Rs.25 crore to Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Departments, Rs.25 crore for Highways

Department, Rs.10 crore for PWD, Rs.2 crore for Family Welfare Department, Rs.5 crore for TWAD Board, Rs.5 crore for the Municipal Administration Department, Rs.5 crore for the Directorate of Panchayats, Rs.5 crore each for Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, and Pudukkottai District Administrations, Rs.2.5 crore for Dindigul District Administration and Rs.1 crore each for Sivagangai, Karur, Tiruchirapalli and Theni District Administrations.

Farmers, who are the heartbeat of Tamil Nadu, have suffered heavy damages due to Gaja Cyclone. As per the details collected so far, 88,102 hectares of farm and horticulture lands in 12 Districts have been affected. I have issued instructions to the District Administration and Horticulture Department Officials to speed up collection of details of affected farm and horticulture lands.

So far, 32,706 hectares of lands under paddy, 30,100 hectares under coconut trees, 7,638 hectares of land under maize, 4,747 hectares under plantain, and 4,000 hectares under coffee, millets, cotton, cashew and jackfruit trees and 3,253 hectares under cashew trees, 500 hectares under sugarcane, 945 hectares under mango trees, and 2,707 hectares under vegetables have been affected due to Gaja Cyclone in the above Districts.

I have issued orders to pay Rs.1,100 per coconut tree, including Rs.500 for the trees affected and Rs.600 for cutting and removing the uprooted trees. Rs.1,92,500 will be given as relief to uprooted coconut trees planted in 1 hectare. For replanting, coconut farmers will be given Rs.72,100 per hectare. Coconut farmers will be given Rs.2,64,600 per hectare as

relief and replanting coconut trees. In addition, 100 per cent subsidy will be given to small and marginal farmers for drip irrigation and 75 per cent for others.

For damaged paddy crops Rs.13,500 will be given per hectare. For irrigation crops, such as sugarcane, plantain, vegetables and flowers, Rs.13,500 will be given as relief amount per hectare. For taking up cultivation of these crops again, 40 to 50 per cent subsidy will be given. For cashew trees, Rs.18,000 will be given as relief for damaged trees. To cut these damaged trees and remove them Rs.500 will be given per tree. For replanting, 40 to 50 per cent subsidy will be given. Small and marginal farmers will be given Rs.100 per cent subsidy up to a maximum of Rs.1 lakh for drip irrigation and for others 75 per cent subsidy up to a maximum of Rs.75,000 per hectare.

I have issued orders for distributing milk to people in affected Districts through Aavin and co-operative fair price shops.

As for as the distribution of drinking water is concerned, supply has been restored in the 98 town areas out of the affected 184 areas, 252 town panchayat wards out of 270 wards, and in 1,266 rural areas out of 7,248 areas. Where there is no power supply, I have ordered uninterrupted supply of water with the help of generators and through tanker lorries.

In the above Districts, 86,702 electric poles, 841 transformers and 201 sub-stations were damaged due to Gaja Cyclone. To restore power supply, I have directed that additional electric posts should be rushed to the affected Districts from other Districts in Tamil Nadu. Steps are being taken to move 77,000 electric

poles from the neighbouring States also. A total of 21,461 employees of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board are working round-the-clock to restore power supply in the affected Districts. Apart from these workers, locally available employees and workers from other Districts have also been deployed. Though it will take a considerable time to restore power supply due to heavy damage to power infrastructure, steps are being taken to restore power supply in all places which have been affected due to Gaja Cyclone at the earliest due to consistent efforts of my Government. For the Electricity Board to complete these works at the earliest, the Government has sanctioned Rs.200 crore in the first phase.

As per the first assessment, in the Gaja Cyclone, 4,844 fishing boats, such as FRP Boats and Power Boats, 5,550 fishing nets, and 5,727 boat engines were damaged in the Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Cudallore and Ramanathapuram Districts . As a relief measure to the affected fishermen, they will be given Rs.42,000 for the fully damaged catamarans with fishing nets, Rs.20,000 for the partly damaged catamarans with fishing nets, Rs.85,000 for the fully damaged FRP boats and fishing nets, Rs.30,000 for the partially damaged FRP boats and fishing nets, Rs.5 lakh for the fully damaged power boats, Rs.3 lakh for partly damaged power boats, Rs.10,000 if fishing nets alone were damaged and Rs.5,000 for repairing faulty motors.

About 2,000 workers are involved in removing the trees that have fallen on the roads in the above Districts due to Gaja cyclone and 600 JCBs, 141 electric saws, 60 lorries and

65 tractors have been pressed into service to remove the uprooted trees. Following this, trees that had fallen on important roads such as Highway roads and District roads were removed and traffic was restored. This Amma Government, which treads on the path shown by Hon'ble Amma has been engaged in rescue and relief operations on a war footing. As financial resources are necessary for these works, I have issued orders for sanctioning Rs.1,000 crore.

Gaja Cyclone has caused large-scale and heavy damages. Lakhs of trees, electric poles, coconut trees, agriculture crops, drinking water schemes, houses and public buildings have suffered damages to a great extent. The Tamil Nadu Government will stress on the Central Government to sanction funds under the National Disaster Fund for the relief and rescue operations taking into consideration the magnitude of the great disaster.

I am undertaking a personal visit to the Gaja-affected areas on 20.11.2018 to distribute relief in person. Hon'ble Ministers, who are staying in their allotted Districts, will continue stay in the Districts and distribute relief.

The Tamil Nadu Government, which follows the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has got great concern for the farmers, fishermen and the poor people. The general public, institutions, non-Government organizations and philanthropists interested in the welfare of the people, are requested to come forward to support the Government in its effort to provide adequate relief to the affected people, by their liberal donation. They are also requested to support the Government on its relief and rescue operations. ■



‘Tamil Nadu a garden of peace due to selfless work of Police Department’

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at a function organized to release the book ‘Tamil Nadu Police Gallant Heroes’ and present appointment orders to 6,119 personnel of Uniformed Services at Kalaivanar Arangam on 23.11.2018
(English Translation)

Bowing to Goddess Hon’ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

I am extremely happy to preside over this function to present appointment orders to Police constables and to release the book ‘Tamil Nadu Police Gallant Heroes’. This colourful book has been brought out in recognition of the sacrifices of the personnel of the police, Prison and Fire and Rescue Service Departments, who had laid down their lives for the sake of Tamil Nadu and the welfare of Tamil Nadu people and narrates their heroic acts. I am very happy to participate in this function of releasing this book, presenting appointment orders to 6,119 personnel and to meet you all.

Hon’ble Minister for Fisheries Brother Jayakumar, Respected Members of Legislative

Assembly, Members of Parliament, Chief Secretary to Government, Additional Chief Secretary to the Department of Home, Prohibition and Excise, Director General of Police, Director, Department of Fire and Rescue Service, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board, Additional Director General of Police, Department of Prisons, former Directors General of Police, High Officials of the Police Department, Police constables, personnel who are to join the Departments of Police, Prison and Fire and Rescue Service after receiving the appointment orders, members of the proud families of personnel of Police, Prison and Fire and Rescue Service Departments who courted heroic death while in service, newspaper and

media friends – at the outset I offer my grateful respects to all of you.

Wise men have advised: in times of failure, persevere with your efforts; in times of difficulties, be resolutely brave; when positions come seeking you, remain humble; when poverty embraces you, remain honest; when anger envelops you, maintain caution; when wealth surrounds you, lead a simple life. These words of advice will greatly help you in performing your work efficiently.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma used to compare the work of the Police with that of the army and would say while the latter protected the Country from external enemies, the former protected the people from internal enemies of society.

“The human body has many organs. Of them all, the best is the tongue. That is, there is no parallel to the tongue in functioning efficiently, brilliantly and effectively. Just consider its situation. Around it are 32 teeth. All the 32 teeth are strong enough to bite the tongue and reduce it into pieces. But this brilliant tongue functions effectively amidst the 32 teeth all through its life and spends its time. How many works this tongue does amidst great uncertainty to its life? It is strict when it is to talk strictly; gives commands when commands are required; it showers sweet words when it has to speak tenderly; it threatens some where threaten it must and delivers to this body tasty and nutritious food. This tongue performs a variety of duties and works very effectively; that too from amidst its enemies! Like this tongue, you too should work brilliantly and complete the task given to you.” You should work, keeping these nectarine words of Hon'ble Amma in mind.

Physical fitness is very essential for uniformed personnel to put in excellent work.

Daily exercise and meditation will keep the body and mind in a fit condition.

The Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board was created in November 1991 with the idea of appointing eligible subordinate staff in the Departments of Police, Prison and Fire and Rescue Service. Saint Valluvar stated that health, wealth, bounteous produce, happiness and security are the ornaments for a Country (Kural 738). In tune with this saying and as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Amma's 'taraka mantra' – peace, prosperity and progress – Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking many steps for the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu Police Department's work is compared to the world renowned Scotland Yard. Also, it is only in Tamil Nadu that more All-Women Police Stations are set up to prevent crimes against women. You have got a chance now to work in such a glorious Tamil Nadu Police Department.

Likewise, the Prison Department is implementing many good and rare schemes for the rehabilitation of prisoners besides carrying out the punishment given to them and undertaking steps to reform them.

The personnel of the Department of Fire and Rescue Service stake their lives to protect the general public and their belongings during times of natural disasters and fire and other accidents.

These three divisions work in co-ordination and serve the people of Tamil Nadu. You should be proud to join Departments like these that have won many laurels. We are also proud of them.

Last year, the Board selected 15,621 persons and I presented the appointment orders to them on 16.10.2017. While speaking on that



occasion, I announced that the Board would shortly fill up more than thousand posts. In accordance with Hon'ble Amma's saying that "We speak what we do; we carry out what we say; in addition we will do what we have not mentioned also", appointment orders are to be distributed today to 6,119 persons selected by the Uniformed Services Recruitment Board. Of them, 5,531 persons will be assigned to the Police Department, 351 to the Prison Department and 237 to the Fire and Rescue Service Department. As of now, less than 5 per cent of posts alone in Police Department remain vacant. Steps will be taken to fill up even these posts.

From the year 2011 till date, the Tamil Nadu Government has recruited 1,112 sub-inspectors, 32,905 Grade-II constables. Also, as per Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puatchi Thalaivi Amma's orders, 9,140 persons were appointed to Tamil Nadu Special Police Youth Brigade in 2014; of them, 8,569 persons were made regular Grade-II constables in 2016-17.

Puratchi Thalaivar sang: *Moondrezhuthil en moochirukkum, adhu mudintha pinnalum paechirukkum; ullam endroru oor irukkum, andha oorukkul enakkoru paer irukkum; kadamai, adhu kadamai* ('My breath is intertwined with a three letter word, even after

my life ceases I will still be talked about; there is a place called the heart, my name will be etched there; that word is duty, duty (kadamai)'; *Anbe un Annai, Arive un Thanthai, Ulage un kovil, Ondre un Devan* ('Love is your Mother, Knowledge is your father, the world is your temple, you have only one God'); *Vaazhai malar pola bhoomi mugam paarkkum, kozhai gunam maatru thozhaa, naalai uyir pogum indru ponaalum, kolgai niraivetru thozhaa* ('Friend! Cast away that quality of cowardice that makes you look to the ground like the plantain flower; life will ebb out tomorrow; if it goes even today, fulfill your principles, friend'). I request you to uphold the good name of Tamil Nadu Police by working in consonance with Puratchi Thalaivar's songs.

In the election manifesto for the 2016 Assembly election, Hon'ble Amma had announced that steps would be taken to maintain Tamil Nadu as a garden of peace and to continue to reduce crimes. As per that announcement, Tamil Nadu continues to be a garden of peace. Likewise, incidents of crime have also come down. Data about these have been mentioned in the recently published report of the National Crime Records Bureau. Also, Chennai, among Metros and Coimbatore, among big cities have been announced as safe places for women to live. All these, I wish to

state on this occasion, are due to the selfless work of the Police Department and you should be proud of it.

Yesterday, the India Today magazine presented an award to Tamil Nadu at New Delhi for the best maintenance of law and order, after it surveyed the growth of States at the National level on the basis of a variety of factors. I wish to proudly say that this award marks the success of your work.

I wish to share with you an experience of former President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam when he visited the army divisions located along the border of Pakistan. Thiru. Abdul Kalam posed the question: “Thirty year service awaits you in the army; as an Officer, what will you hold as the special goal to achieve in service?” When many senior Officers were silent, a young Officer replied: “Sir, I have a dream. I wish to retrieve every inch of my motherland occupied by foreigners”. The entire assembly rose up spiritedly and applauded the young officer vociferously. I kindly request you to fix your goal clearly like that young military officer did and do your work.

Hon’ble Amma and following her Hon’ble Amma’s Government have been extending to the uniformed services personnel, countless concessions every year. I wish to mention a few of them.

The Police Department has been totally modernized due to the steps taken by Hon’ble Amma and in her footsteps, Hon’ble Amma’s Government. An exclusive Housing Board has been set up for the Police Department. This Board has been constructing apartments for constables and own houses under the ‘own your house’ scheme throughout Tamil Nadu. Police Stations are constructed a new and those in existence are renovated. Recently I inaugurated a Wellness Training Scheme,

prepared by Hon’ble Amma’s Government, for preserving the psychological and family well-being of Police personnel. This is a training given to Tamil Nadu Police personnel and their families by the Tamil Nadu Government jointly with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru. Police constables working in all Districts, divisions and special divisions as also their family members are given this training. It is noteworthy that such a training has not been given even in the army or in the auxiliary forces in India so far. I am happy to state that Rs.10 crore has been allotted for this training.

I am extremely happy to release the book “Tamil Nadu Police Gallant Heroes” that recalls the events where uniformed personnel heroically laid down their lives while discharging their duty for the sake of the Country and the welfare of the people. The book tells in detail the services of 146 such heroic thyagis in the Departments of Police, Prison and Fire and Rescue Service who had sacrificed their lives, dating back to the year 1960, while discharging their duty. Of them, 118 are from the Police Department, 23 from the Fire and Rescue Service Department and 5 from the Department of Prisons. Unmindful of their personal safety, with no consideration for their families, holding uppermost in mind the interest of society and people and for our present wellbeing, they sacrificed their lives. They are highly praiseworthy. Particularly, we can never forget the services of the Police personnel who died heroically while engaged in quelling elements that were a great threat to peace, naxalites, extremists - inland and from neighbouring Countries – and anti-social elements.

The services of the personnel of the Department of Fire and Rescue Service who

died while engaged in rescuing people during the times of disasters, are laudable.

The excellent services of the Prison Department personnel who met heroic deaths while engaged in the work of reforming convicted criminals, are the foundation of our peaceful life.

These heroic thyagis are not with us today; but their priceless sacrifices will be in our memory for ever. Accordingly, I offer, on this occasion my salutations to them by bowing my head. For these thyagis, their families were supportive in the discharge of their duties. Hence, I convey to all their family members appreciation on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, of the people of Tamil Nadu and on my own behalf. When I think of the gallant acts of Police constables who died in the cause of maintaining law and order in Tamil Nadu, I am reminded of a world record set up by a young woman in France. I wish to share it with you.

The young lady was Joan of Arc. In the 15th century, a fierce war broke out between England and France. England seized many parts of France. The King of France, Charles VII became a dummy without any powers.

Joan was born in a small village in France in a simple farmer's family. She had learnt from her father about her motherland France's subjugation by England. She had a desire to liberate her motherland from foreign domination. This desire grew intensely in her as the days passed by. She conveyed this to her parents but they advised her to marry and settle down.

But she was determined to liberate her motherland. With the support of some, she met the King of France, Charles VII. She humbly told the King that she had come to liberate

France from England's domination. She also requested the King to send the French army under her leadership to retrieve an important city. After great hesitation, the King conceded her request.

Joan, wearing armour, set off on a horse with drawn sword in one hand and a white flag with the figures of lily flowers on the other and accompanied by 5,000 soldiers. This happened in April 1429. She was 18 years old then. Initially, the British army laughed at the French army led by a woman. But the forts of the city fell one after another, unable to withstand the French army's onslaught under the inspiring leadership of Joan who was seized by the spirit of independence. Though injured in the fight, she captured the city after a severe battle. She engaged the British in many such battles and drove them to the Northern corner of France. Following this, Charles VII anointed himself as the King of France.

Joan who accomplished so much, lived just for 19 years. The courage of this heroine is cherished in France even today.

What does this historic truth convey? Everyone is born to accomplish. Everyone is naturally endowed with the talent and strength to demonstrate that. It is our duty to realize that and act.

My hearty good wishes to you, who are to assume office today, to excel as talented persons capable of winning many medals in the future.

Anna Naamam Vazhaga! Valarga
Puratchi Thalaivar Avargalin Pugazh! Onguha
Maanbumigu Amma Avargalin Pugazh!
Thodarga Maanbumigu Amma Avargalin
Aatchi!

Nandri; Vanakkam.