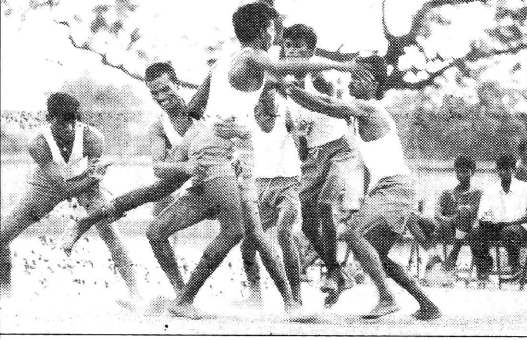


Tamil Arasu





நமது அன்றாட பழக்கவழக்கங்களால், எய்ட்ஸ் வராது. அதற்கு நீங்களே ஒரு உதாரணம்.

காலையில் எழுந்தது முதல ராத்திரி புடுக்கப் போகும் வரை நீங்கள் எத்தனையோ பேரைச் சந்திக்கிறீர்கள். ஓட்டலுக்குச் செல்கிறீர்கள், சினிமா பார்க்கிறீர்கள், நெரிசலான பஸ்ஸில் பயணம் செய்கிறீர்கள், பலருடன் கை குலுக்குகிறீர்கள்.

இவர்களில் யாருக்காவது எச்ஐவி/ எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்து இருக்கலாம்.

சாதாரண பழக்கவழக்கங்களின் மூலம் எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதாக இருந்தால், உங்களையும் எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்திருக்க வேண்டும்.


ஆனால் அப்படி இல்லையே...

எனினும், கை குலுக்குவதாலோ, உணவைப் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதாலோ, தொடுவதாலோ, தும்மலினாலோ, கழிப்பிடத்தை அனைவரும் உபயோகிப்பதாலோ, எய்ட்ஸ் பரவுவதில்லை.

எனவே எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்தவரைக் கண்டு நீங்கள் ஒதுங்க வேண்டியதில்லை. உங்களுக்கு எந்த ஆபத்தும் இல்லை.

அவர்களும் நம்மைப் போன்றவர்கள்தான். அவர்களுக்கு எப்பொழுதும் போல நாம் அன்பும், ஆதரவும் காட்டுவோம்.

**சிறிதளவு ஆதரவு பெருமளவு
சுமையைக் குறைக்கும்.**

 குழந்தை பிறப்பைத் தடுப்போம்
எய்ட்ஸ் வந்தோரைக் காப்போம்



மேலும் விவரங்களுக்கு அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி :
தமிழ்நாடு எய்ட்ஸ் கட்டுப்பாட்டு அமைப்பு
417, பாந்தியன் ரோடு, சென்னை - 600 008.
தொ.பே.: 8255467, 8255261, 8254917.
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TAMIL ARASU

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiruvalluvar Year 2029

Aadi-Aavani

August 1998

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The year long celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence came to an end with an extravagant show of colour and splendour at Marina on 11.8.1998.

Runners from different parts of India bearing "freedom torch" were flagged off at War Memorial, to the venue at Seerani Arangam on the Marina, by the worshipful Mayor of Chennai **Thiru M.K.Stalin**.

Aircrafts of Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard flew past the stage with one of them showering flowers on the dais. A replica of the infamous cellular jails of Andamans and the gallows where many martyrs were hanged, with light effect added colour to the function.

The formal function in which, Her Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar participated followed. The whole function was organised by the South Zone Cultural Centre in association with the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The programmes were launched by the traditional drum beat by the Governor of Tamil Nadu Justice **Selvi M.Fathima Beevi**, the Chief Minister **Kalaignar**, the Governor of Karnataka **Thiru Kurshed Alam Khan** and the Lt.Governor of Pondicherry **Tmt.Rajani Rai**.

Chief Minister **Kalaignar** in his address said, he was happy in

announcing that the draft for the Cauvery issue had been approved and notified by the Central Government just half an hour back. He said, he received the information from Delhi and wanted to thank all concerned, particularly, the Prime Minister of India on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu.

the country - for its Independence. The backdrop of this function - the Andaman Cellular Jail, that was home for many of the freedom fighters condemned to utmost sufferings by the British, brings to us memories of a glorious struggle. It is a duty of every citizen of India to be well-aware of the history of our freedom struggle,

GRAND FINALE OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

He said the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's independence had been marked by various social welfare schemes for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Most Backward Sections and honouring and erecting memorials for the freedom fighters.

Her Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Justice **Selvi M.Fathima Beevi** in her address said:

"I deem it an honour to participate in this Grand Finale Celebrations of the Golden Jubilee Year of our Independence which will be embedded for ever in the memory of all of us who are present on this most joyous occasion.

Let us all salute the memory of those brave freedom fighters, who sacrificed every thing they had in possession, for the sake of

History will tell us about one of the most eventful and unique struggles for freedom, staged by one fifth of the human population. It is imperative to look back at our past in order to evaluate the present and plan the future.

The story of our freedom struggle is a saga of fierce patriotism, unmatched courage and countless sacrifices. It was a confluence of many different streams that attained solidarity only at the later stages during which period, Gandhiji led the Movement. Through selfless efforts of the leaders, wholeheartedly supported by millions of our countrymen, Mother India got her rid of the chains of colonial rule, after two hundred years of social and political deprivation and economic exploitation by the British Imperialists. As heralded by Namakkal Kavignar Ramalingam Pillai, it was a war without a sword or blood.



The contribution of Tamil Nadu, with its unique language, culture and people who are aware and sensitive, to the freedom struggle of India was remarkable with active participation from all quarters and in all stages. The first revolt seeking freedom from the British Imperialism, was the Panchalankurichi Revolt led by Veerapandiya Kattabomman, who symbolized the spirit of freedom inherent in each Indian. Velu Thambi Dalava, Hyder Ali, Tippu Sultan, Kittu Chennamma continued the epic struggle

against the British that attained larger proportion in the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. We must also recall that Allori Seetharama Raju in Andhra Pradesh showed the British what really the people's power could do, by gathering the common folk against them, unlike in the earlier revolts that involved trained soldiers. These freedom fighters of earlier periods should find their deserving place in the history of our freedom struggle.

When the Freedom Movement received a new

dimension after involving number of highly educated persons, V.O. Chidambanar was there to lead from the South. He even ran a shipping service defying the British monopoly. The spirit of freedom among the people of Tamil Nadu was best expressed in the immortal verses by Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar. Each and every individual on this land must have a complete knowledge of our freedom struggle and of the noble deeds of our ancestors.

During the past 50 years of Independence, India slowly

emerged out of economic misery and has become self sufficient in many requirements of a modern State. This incredible achievement has been made possible only through the collective efforts of the commonfolk of the country. In India, the prospects of a better life always lie with the common man.

Ours is a society built upon the virtues of tolerance, mutual understanding and peaceful co-existence. Our system have successfully withstood numerous crises and calamities, even while burdened with social inequalities and economic shortcomings. Our ancient civilizations of a high order and the 5000 year old heritage have stood by our society in good stead. We are bound by the immortal "Indianness", not by any rule of law. We have survived earlier and will do so at any future challenge to our unity and integrity.

When India got her freedom, it was the dawn of a new world ending the era of British Imperialism. We took our first step towards progress alongwith so many counterparts in other parts of the world. As expected, our country took the mantle of leadership among the third world countries and has gracefully played the vital role so far. We have achieved over the past 50 years, a Union of States,

a Secular, Democratic Constitution, providing a successful Parliamentary democracy and have founded the nation on the deeprooted sense of national unity among the people. We have managed this despite the stranglehold of poverty gripping millions in our country. We have repeatedly proved all prophecies of doom wrong. The future looks promising for India in the 21st century to which we have taken the right direction.

We have successfully implemented green revolution; have joined the elite of nuclear technology; have become self-reliant in space and the economic liberalisation has set the country in motion towards a brighter future. We have become a major partner in the International process of change and development. I am confident that our country will, in near future, reach her goals and become a global power in many fields. Let us all unite to work for that future, for the better life of the common man of India.

I congratulate the Government of Tamil Nadu and the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur for having organized this momentous function in a befitting manner.

I once again convey my gratitude to the freedom fighters who toiled, suffered, sacrificed and got us freedom".

Thiru Kurshed Alam Khan and Tmt. Rajani Rai, Governors of Karnataka and Pondicherry recalled the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters and advised the younger generation to realise the dreams of those martyrs to see a strong and vibrant India.

Hon'ble Minister for Education, Prof. K. Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Development and Culture, Thiru M. Thamizhkudimagan and the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru V. Mullaivendan also spoke on the occasion.

Thiru S. Rajarethinam, IAS, Secretary, Information Tourism Department, proposed a vote of thanks.

The function was followed by vocal recital by K.J. Yesudoss. A Bengali dance drama enthralled the audience. It was followed by a play on the Andaman Jail, by the Song and Drama Division of the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry, a play on Viswanatha doss and colourful performances by School Children. This was followed by a daring display of martial arts, folk song recitals, followed by violin concert by Mastero Kunnakudi Vaidhyanathan and patriotic songs turned by Film Musician M. S. Viswanathan. The show ended with a spectacular display of fire works after midnight.

**THIS GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED WITH
PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF NOT ONLY
THE PEOPLE OF TAMIL NADU BUT ALSO
THE ENTIRE COUNTRY**

- Chief Minister Kalaingar



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi unfurled the National Flag and addressed the gathering from the ramparts of Fort. St. George, Chennai on 15th August, 1998 on the 51st anniversary of India's Independence. In his spirited independence day speech, he quoted Anna's writings published in "Dravida Nadu" in 1947. He said he was grateful to the people of Tamil Nadu for electing him to the power to serve the people at the time of celebrating the Silver Jubilee in 1972 as well as Golden Jubilee of India's Independence. He

recalled the Country's progress in the last 50 years. The industrial growth has paved way for more exports and Indian experts in the Computer field have established their talents in various parts of the world.

He recalled various welfare measures taken for the freedom fighters in Tamil Nadu - enhancement of pension, family pension, construction of memorials, free health care and concession to travel free in Government owned transport corporation buses to the legal heirs,

erection of statues etc. Apart from this the Government has also nationalised the books of eminent writers who had induced the patriotic feelings in the readers.

The Chief Minister said that the Government is concerned with protecting the interests of not only the people of Tamil Nadu but also the entire country. He said the Government is striving to promote cordial relations with the neighbouring states. Only by this cordial relations, Krishna water from Andhra Pradesh is let to the capital of Tamil Nadu - Chennai. Ending 30 years of dispute over sharing of Cauvery water. the remedy arrived at the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry in the presence of Prime Minister, to implement the interim order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal which has not been awarded for 7 years, is only due to this cordial relationship. On this basis the begining of the talks between the Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala

with regard to the Mullai Periyar Dam has been satisfactory, he added.

Before concluding his speech, the Chief Minister called upon the people to pledge themselves to the welfare of the poor and common man, as also to the freedom fighters who had brought unity in linguistic, caste and communal diversity.

Having delivered the speech, the Chief Minister gave away the cash prize of Rs.5 lakhs each to the families of 11 eminent writers whose works have been nationalised. Later he honoured 50 renowned freedom fighters with shawls. He also distributed sweets to physically handicapped children.

Chief Justice of the Chennai High Court, Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Government officials and public in large number attended the function. ●

The Worshipful Mayor of Chennai, Thiru. M.K.Stalin flagged off the runners from various parts of India bearing "freedom torch" at War Memorial, to the venue of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, at Seerani Arangam on the Marina, on 11.8.1998.



KALAIIGNAR'S Investor - Friendly Industrial Policies to provide a healthy and productive environment for foreign investments

Hon'ble Chief Minister, **Kalaignar** unveiled the plaque to Mark the foundation stone laying ceremony for TIDEL Park (Information Technology Park) at an estimated cost of Rs. 280 crores, at Taramani, Chennai on 21.8.1998.

The Hon'ble former Union Minister for Industries and Member of the Parliament, Thiru. Murasoli Maran, presided over the function.

Chairman, Public Enterprises Selection Board and Chairman, TANITEC, Thiru. N. Vittal and Executive Director, NASSCOM, Thiru. D. Dewang Mehta delivered special address. Thiru. T.R. Baalu, Member of the Parliament, Thiru. M.A. Vaithialingam, MLA and Thiru. M.S. Srinivasan, I.A.S. Secretary to Government, Industries Department, felicitated.



The Chief Minister, in his address :

"**W**e are in the dawn of the information age. Information Technology is poised to become the technology of the future. The development of "Information Super Highways" based optical fibres, VSAT Networks, Cable TV Networks, the integrated voice, data and video links has made the world a global village. The output of global electronics is expected to reach about US \$ 1300 Billion by the year 2000. With the value addition growing at 6% annually, the Indian Electronic Industry is expected to reach the production level of US \$ 20 Billion by the year 2000.

In recent years, Tamil Nadu has emerged as a major recipient of investments and become one of the most favoured investment destinations particularly for Foreign Direct Investment. Several multinationals such as Ford Motors of USA, "Hyundai of Korea, Mitsubishi of Japan and Saint Gobain of France are setting up their base in Tamil Nadu. This is because of the State Government's investor - friendly industrial policies which have been able to provide a healthy productive environment for foreign investments. Tamil Nadu's other advantages such as good infrastructure facilities, excellent corporate culture, highly skilled affordable manpower and cordial

industrial relations make it an important destination for Information Technology industries.

Out of the 23,000 engineers who graduate every year from Tamil Nadu. 13,000 are from Information Technology - related disciplines, coming from institutions of excellence such as IIT, Anna University, PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, etc. Software exports from Tamil Nadu have increased from a mere Rs.36 crores in 1994-95 to a phenomenal Rs.400 crores in 1997-98 and continues to grow at a CAGR of over 70%. The hardware exports in the year 1997-98 are in excess of Rs.700 crores. With over 15,000 professionals presently working in Tamil Nadu, we have one of the largest pools of software professionals in the country.

Realising the importance of Information Technology as a key to rapid industrialisation of the State, my Government has recently introduced an innovative and industry - friendly Information Technology Policy. Infrastructure Development has always been on top of our agenda in Tamil Nadu and the new Information Technology Policy addresses this concern by encouraging the setting up of State - of - the art hi-tech parks. These parks will be equipped with full fledged facilities with adequate provision for software development as well as space for non-polluting hardware units, commercial and residential areas, schools, convention and business centres as well as the connectivity required for global communications. To this end, ELCOT and TIDCO have floated a new company called Tidel Park Limited to develop 1.00 million Sq.ft. of space for IT industries in the heart of Chennai at Taramani at a cost of Rs.280 crores.

Taking note of the need for skilled manpower for IT, my Government has taken a major initiative in setting up the Tamil Nadu Institute of Information Technology (TANITEC) as an Institute of Excellence for producing high quality manpower, TANITEC has been set up as a company to facilitate participation of private IT companies in its management. We are very keen that major IT players participate in this innovative

Institution so that Tamil Nadu can be in the forefront in developing the skills required for this important sector.

VSNL is in an advanced stage of implementing augmentation facilities from Chennai. For this purpose, they are installing another Standard - A earth station at Ambattur. Also under installation is a Standard -B antenna which will provide both data and video uplinking facilities. These facilities costing about Rs.60 crores are to become operational by early next year. DOE have also come forward to set up an earth station in Chennai. I am sure that these initiatives would go a long way in strengthening our telecommunication infrastructure so essential for this industry. We are indeed very happy that the National Task Force of the Information Technology has selected Chennai as one of the 5 centres for setting up of a hi-tech habitat in rural hinterlands with modern telecom and communication infrastructure for a flourishing IT manufacturing base in the country.

Another major initiative taken by us is the setting up of Tamil Nadu Venture Capital Fund to provide Venture Capital Support to fledgeling software companies which would give a special impetus to the growth industries in Tamil Nadu. We hope that this Venture Capital Fund is utilised by IT players planning to set up their operation in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is as of now the third most industrialised State in India. Not content with this, we have initiated a series of policy measures aimed at enhancing our competitive edge through requisite interventions. We are revamping our industrial policy with the sole objective of moving up further and reaching the top slot as expeditiously as possible. At the same time, in conscious recognition of the critical role that the sunrise sectors, viz., biotechnology and information technology are going to play in the coming decades, we are providing a facilitating environment to orderly and speedy growth of these two domains which will help us claim our rightful place into the 21st century. The growth of these sectors will usher in an era of prosperity for the whole State of Tamil Nadu apart from benefiting the investors in industry in Tamil Nadu. ●

The untiring efforts, cordial approach and political diplomacy of Kalaingar proved success in Cauvery water dispute



The problem in sharing of Cauvery waters started in 1968. More or less thirty years from now, 31 rounds of discussions held in the span of 30 years but without success.

□ The Chief Minister Kalaingar having decided that no further talks would be fruitful, put forth the idea of setting up a tribunal on behalf of the Government in 1971. Thiru Renganathan, Secretary of the Farmers' Association of that region filed a case with the Supreme Court demanding for a tribunal. The Government of Tamil Nadu also aligned itself with that case.

□ The Government passed a resolution in the Assembly, "there is no use for further talks, Tribunal is essential, we insist the Central Government to form a tribunal" and was immediately sent to the Prime Minister. This was suggested to the Supreme Court by the Central Government which ordered the setting up of the tribunal.

□ The Tribunal inquired and passed an interim order on 25.6.1991. The interim order:

□ The Karnataka Government should provide 205 tmc of water from its reservoir to Mettur Dam from June to May (a period of 12 months as below).

June - 10.16 tmc, July - 42.76 tmc, August - 54.72 tmc, September - 29.36 tmc, October - 30.17 tmc, November - 16.05 tmc, December - 10.37 tmc, January - 2.51 tmc, February - 2.17 tmc, March - 2.40 tmc, April - 2.32 tmc, May - 2.01 tmc

□ A total of 205 tmc ft., of water to be let into Mettur Dam during the period of one year. Tamil Nadu has to

provide 6 tmc of water to Pondicherry. As on May 1991 the irrigated area in Karnataka State - 11 lakh 9 thousand acres should not be increased. Karnataka said it could not go by the interim order of the Cauvery water dispute tribunal and strongly opposed it.

□ Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Vajpayee convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the concerned States to discuss on the revised draft, as the Supreme Court had asked the Central Government's suggestions, on this matter on 12 of August, this year. So the Chief Minister Kalaingar convened an all party meeting at Secretariat. The following two resolutions were passed at the meeting.

□ The Chief Minister can participate in the meeting convened by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6.8.1998 at New Delhi, since the meeting was in pursuance of the directives of the Supreme Court and also in the context of the efforts to enforce the interim order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and to get the draft scheme notified.

□ The Chief Minister can initiate steps to finalise the draft scheme providing for the constitution of the Cauvery River Authority and its notification.

□ The discussions of the Chief Ministers continued for the second day at New Delhi chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 7.8.1998. The discussions proved fruitful and paved way for the formation of a committee headed by the Prime Minister with four Chief Ministers of the concerned States. A monitoring committee has also been formed and the notification has been published in the Gazette of the Central Government. With this the Karnataka Government has agreed to let 205 tmc of water to Mettur Dam. □

CAUVERY ISSUE (1890-1997)

1890 - Mysore Samasthanam inaugurates new irrigation schemes.

The first agreement was signed between Chennai Presidency and Mysore Samasthanam on Cauvery Issue.

Krishnaraja Sagar dam project to store 39 tmc of water is sent to Chennai Presidency for approval.

1911 - Chennai approves the dam project to store 11 tmc of water - foundation stone is laid.

1921 - Rules regarding the Krishnaraja Sagar Dam is framed. Mysore Samasthanam does not accept the conditions. Talks continue.

1924 - A new agreement is signed between the two administrations.

1931 - The construction of the Krishnaraja Sagar Dam gets completed.

1934 - Mettur Dam to store 93.5 tmc of water is constructed.

1956 - November -1. State boundaries are altered and formed. Kerala State is formed. Kudagu becomes a part of Karnataka State.

1956 - Legislation for river water dispute among States and river board legislation enacted.

1958 - Kabini dam project begins (gets completed in 1975)

1964 - Harangi dam project commences. The Central Government disapproves due to Tamil Nadu's objection.

1965 - Hemavathi dam project commences (gets completed in 1976)

1966 - Tamil Nadu asks for the Kabini and Swarnavathi project details. Karnataka says it

would do so only if Tamil Nadu provides the details of Lower Bhavani and Amaravathi projects. Though Tamil Nadu provides these details, Karnataka refuses to furnish details on its part.

1967 - Swarnavathi dam construction begins (finished in 1973)

1968 - Construction of Harangi dam begins (construction over by 1973)

1968 - August - Thiru Kalaignar, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Government of Tamil Nadu and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Thiru. Veerendra Patil discuss on Cauvery Issue - the first talks on Minister level. Thiru. K.R. Rao, Union Minister of Irrigation presides. Kerala complains for not including her in the discussions.

1970 - Further, 5 rounds of discussions. Kerala also participates. (Pondicherry participates from 1978 onwards)

1970 - February. Tamil Nadu insists the Central Government to form a Tribunal, having decided that nothing could be achieved by discussions. Kerala also stress the same in August.

1971 - The Government of Tamil Nadu files a writ petition in the Supreme Court to order the Central Government to form a Tribunal. The agriculturists of Thanjavur also does the same. Kerala also goes to the Court.

1972 - Hon'ble Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi - suggests the Chief Ministers of concerned States to meet and discuss. The Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala - Thiru. Kalaignar, Thiru. Devaraj Urs and Thiru. Atchutha Menon meet on May 29.

1972 - June - The Central Government forms a Cauvery fact finding committee. The first report of the committee is submitted in

December. Chief Ministers request the details to be reconsidered. Tamil Nadu withdraws its writ petition from the Supreme Court.

1974 - November - The Central Government places the draft agreement.

1975 - February - Discussions on the draft agreement among the States. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka refuses to accept this.

1976 - August - The Central Government putforth the corrected draft agreement. Hon'ble Union Minister for Irrigation Thiru. Jagajeevanram announced in the Parliament on August 27 that a committee will be formed to formulate plans regarding the distribution of water and formation of Cauvery Valley Commission.

1978 - August - Meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss the Cauvery Issue Pondicherry also participates. Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.G.R. rejects the 1976 draft agreement.

1978 - September - **1980** December- Four rounds of discussions by the Chief Ministers in the presence of the Union Minister for Irrigation.

1983 - April - Hon'ble Union Minister for Irrigation Thiru. Ram Nivas Mirda presides a meeting.

1986 - June - Another round of discussions in the presence Union Minister Thiru.P.Sankarananth.

1986 - November - Tamil Nadu Cauvery Delta Farmers Welfare Protection Committee, appeals to the Supreme Court to order the Central Government to form a tribunal. Tamil Nadu supports this with a petition.

1987 - The Central Government suggests for discussions on both the sides. Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru M.G.R. refuses, since no headway has been seen by the earlier talks.

1988 - December - The discussions between the Chief Minister of Karnataka and the Governor of Tamil Nadu failed. The Governor of Tamil Nadu insists for the formation of a Tribunal.

1989 - Tamil Nadu once again insists Central Government to form a Tribunal.

1990 - April 24 - Supreme Court orders the Central Government to form a Tribunal since the discussions among the States proved fruitless.

1990 - June 2 - formation of Tribunal.

1990 - August - The Government of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry files a writ petition in the Supreme Court requesting it to order the Tribunal to pass an interim order. The Supreme Court orders the Tribunal to pass an interim order.

1991 June 25 - The tribunal passes an interim order to provide 205 tmc of water to Tamil Nadu.

1991 July 25 - Karnataka passed a legislation to protect 8.49 lakh Ha of irrigation land.

1991 July - September - Karnataka files a writ petition in the Supreme Court objecting the interim order of the Tribunal.

1991 - July 27 - His Excellency the President of India sends Karnataka's legislation to the Supreme Court, asking its suggestion whether the legislation is acceptable. Difference of opinion among the Cabinet Members. Thiru Vazhapadi Ramamoorthy resigns opposing it.

1991 - November 22 - Supreme Court in its judgement says the Karnataka's legislation is against the Indian Penal Code.

1991 - December 11 - The interim order of the Tribunal is published in the gazette of the Central Government; Unrest in Karnataka; call for bandh on December 13. Karnataka

Government orders closure of all educational institutions for 10 days.

1991 - December 12 - Organisation of big procession in Bangalore. Unrest in Mysore (24 and 27.) The Government of Tamil Nadu announces bandh on 27th. Human Rights Commission estimate the loss as Rs. 17 crores due to violence in both the States.

1991 - December 23 - BJP leader Thiru. H.N. Nanje Gowda files a writ petition in the Karnataka High Court opposing the interim order of the tribunal.

1991 - March 28 - A meeting of the representatives of agriculturists of both the States and experts under the Chairmanship of V.R. Krishana Iyer held in Bangalore. The demands of the citizens with regard to Cauvery is released.

1992 - June 5 - Thiru. H.D. Deve Gowda, Member of Parliament appeals to the Karnataka High Court to stop the activities of the Tribunal and to stop the interim order.

1993 - October 4 - The Government of Tamil Nadu files a petition with the Supreme Court to order Karnataka Government to release water as per the interim order.

1995 - August 1 - Tamil Nadu files yet another petition

1995 - November - Tamil Nadu appeals to the Supreme Court to order Karnataka to release 30 tmc of water immediately to protect the standing crops.

1995 - December 14 - Supreme Court takes up this appeal for inquiry. It suggests to discuss this problem in the meeting of the Tribunal conducted on the same day.

1995 - December 19 - The Tribunal discusses the demands of Tamil Nadu. It orders immediate release of additional 11 tmc of water. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu writes letters to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of

Karnataka and Hon'ble Prime Minister stressing to implement this order.

1995 - December - Tamil Nadu files another petition in the Supreme Court. Supreme Court takes up for discussion on 28 and suggests for a meeting of the Chief Ministers within 2 days and arrive at a solution.

1995 - December 30 - Chief Ministers meet in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Narasimha Rao. The meeting proved fruitless.

1996 - January 1 - Prime Minister writes to Karnataka to release 6 tmc of water by releasing 1 tmc per day.

1996 - January 23 - Tamil Nadu appeals to the Supreme Court to order Karnataka to release the balance 5 tmc of water. The inquiry is postponed.

1996 - June - The Chairman of the Tribunal Thiru. Sitadosh Mukherjee resigns.

1996 - July 8 - Tamil Nadu files yet another petition with the Supreme Court to order Karnataka Government to implement the interim order, since the irrigation works have not been started due to lack of water in Tamil Nadu.

1996 - July 31 - The Chief Justice who heard the petition advised both the States to talk and solve the problem.

1996 - September - 1997 January : Five rounds of talks between Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Thiru. Kalaingar and Karnataka Chief Minister Thiru. J.H. Patel. Talks fail. Chief Minister Kalaingar announces that there will not be any more talks.

1996 - December - Supreme Court Justice, Thiru N.P. Singh appointed as the Chairman of the Tribunal.

1997 - January 7 - 10 : Tribunal resumes the discussions. Karnataka participates.

Courtesy: "Dinamani"

LEADERS' APPRECIATION

I felt immensely happy when I learnt that a solution has been arrived at, for the Cauvery river water dispute. You (Chief Minister Kalaignar) have disproved my idea that politicians cannot solve this problem. You have found solution to the problems of lakhs of farmers by this result.

C.Subramaniam
Former Governor

★ ★ ★

A favourable situation has been created by the talks held by the Prime Minister Thiru. Atal Behari Vajpayee with the concerned Chief Ministers, regarding the sharing of the Cauvery River Waters. It is an important mile stone in the efforts of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of Karnataka who were unable to solve the problem for more than 30 years, to have agreed to compromise on some basic matters.

I convey my congratulations on behalf of the TMC to the Prime Minister Thiru. Vajpayee, Chief Minister Thiru. Kalaignar, Chief Minister of Karnataka, J.H.Patel and Chief Ministers of Kerala and Pondicherry who have come down from their stand, overriding political inhibitions to find a solution acceptable by all.

G.K.Mopanar
Tamil Manila Congress

★ ★ ★

The Marxist Party welcomes the agreement, resulted in the discussions by the Chief Ministers of four States in the presence of the

Prime Minister. The Marxist Communist Party feels that this agreement is a very good arrangement.

This agreement in the Cauvery dispute serves as an example to other States that have problems in sharing river water.

According to this agreement, the Karnataka Government has agreed to let 205 tmc of water to Tamil Nadu, as per the interim order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal. This is an important decision. The importance of this agreement will be felt when we think of the resolutions passed by the Karnataka Government twice not to give 205 tmc of Water to Tamil Nadu.

Sankaraiyah
Marxist Communist

★ ★ ★

This welcome agreement is a mile stone in the way of finding a permanent remedy to the Cauvery Water dispute. A hope has been given to the Cauvery Delta farmers who had been fighting continuously for a long time, for the required water. Cauvery River Water authority has been formed to implement the interim order of the Tribunal so as to safeguard the welfare of the farmers of both the States.

The Karnataka Government had been ignoring the interim order of the Tribunal to provide 205 tmc of water to Tamil Nadu including Karaikal. It is gladdening that Karnataka's acceptance of this agreement has assured a good harvest to the farmers of Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister's untiring

efforts, with the welfare of the State in mind taking into consideration, all the feelings of the people, and the responding administration of the Government of Tamil Nadu were the cause of this agreement. The State Working Committee of CPI welcomes this.

CPI

★ ★ ★

An agreement has been arrived at, in the discussions held by the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry in the presence of the Prime Minister Thiru. Vajpayee. Chief Minister Kalaingar has pointed out the plight and feelings of the farmers and people of Tamil Nadu, and have paved way for a favourable decision. The people of Tamil Nadu are obliged and grateful to the Chief Minister.

Abdus Samad
Indian Union Muslim League

★ ★ ★

Cauvery river, apart from supporting the lives of farmers, have been an integral part in the literature and history of Tamil folks. "Ponniyin Selvan" Kalaingar has broken all the efforts that were on to destroy this. The Chief Minister Kalaingar, who has been striving for the cause of the welfare of the Tamils in numerous ways will attain a place in history by this success achieved by his untiring efforts and brilliance.

M. Abdul Latheef
Indian National League

★ ★ ★

It is a gladdening news to Tamil Nadu that an agreement has been arrived at to the long disputed Cauvery Water issue. It is very good

that the remedy has been provided by the order of the Supreme Court. We congratulate the Chief Minister Kalaingar for this.

Thindivanam Ramamoorthy
Tamil Nadu Congress

★ ★ ★

It gives me immense happiness to see a remedy to the long disputed Cauvery Water issue. A scheme to connect the remaining waters of both the States by channels has to be taken up and named "Independence Canal".

Kumari Anandan
Tamil Nadu Congress

★ ★ ★

We congratulate and thank the Prime Minister who ensured Tamil Nadu 205 tmc of water - the interim award of the tribunal. I also thank and congratulate the Chief Minister Kalaingar who got this assurance through the Supreme Court; who also strained hard for the establishment of the Tribunal; The Interim Order and to implement the Interim Order, in his period as the Chief Minister.

RM. Veerapan
M.G.R. Kazhagam

★ ★ ★

Tamil Nadu Janata Dal appreciates the settlement arrived at in the discussions of the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka Pondicherry and Kerala in the presence of the Prime Minister. I congratulate the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for his efforts to achieve this without endangering the welfare of the State and by understanding the feelings of all parties and Tamil Nadu.

G.A. Vadivelu
Janata Dal

★ ★ ★

A way has been paved for solving the Cauvery Water dispute, which was thought as never ending problem. Chief Minister Kalaignar's diplomacy and the Chief Minister of Karnataka Thiru. Patel's cordial approach have gained success.

We should also be grateful to the Prime Minister Thiru. Vajpayee who was present during the discussions for more than 9 hours, hoping for an amicable settlement.

Tiruvarur Thangarasu

★ ★ ★

We welcome the implementation of the interim award of the tribunal which had taken 8 long years.

S. Thirunavukkarasu

MGR ADMK

★ ★ ★

The working committee of Pattali Makkal Katchi thank and congratulate the Chief Minister Kalaignar for his victory in the discussions held among the Chief Ministers in the presence of the Prime Minister Thiru. Vajpayee on the awarding of 205 tmc of water, the interim order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal, which had not been implemented for the past 7 years. The working committee also congratulate and thank the representatives of all the parties and different farmer's associations who had co-operated with the Chief Minister enabling him to participate in the discussions. The working committee of Pattali Makkal Katchi (2) award the Chief Minister with the title "Kaverikondan"

with great pleasure, for his success in establishing the rights of Tamil Nadu over Cauvery River Water.

Dheeran

PMK (2)

★ ★ ★

The dispute over sharing of Cauvery River Water was solved by the Prime Minister Thiru. Vajpayee. Chief Minister Kalaignar has succeeded. This victory is for Tamil Nadu and this was achieved by the Prime Minister.

L. Ganesan

BJP

★ ★ ★

The favourable remedy arrived at in the Cauvery water dispute is a success to the untiring efforts and cordial approach of the Chief Minister Kalaignar.

Bishop Esra Sargunam

★ ★ ★

The remedy to the Cauvery Water dispute is a gladdening news to the people of Tamil Nadu. It is as though a wonder has happened, to think that the Cauvery water dispute has been solved. Chief Minister Kalaignar is an achiever to the dictum "anything can be achieved by perseverance" Chief Minister's Kalaignar has created a record in the history of Tamil Nadu by finding a solution to the Cauvery water dispute. His efforts with the co-operation of fair minded leaders of various parties have gained great success.

Vai. Balasundaram

Ambedkar Makkal Iyakkam.

★ ★ ★

Tamil Nadu Farmers' Association welcomes the agreement formulated between the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to implement the interim order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal.

The agreement formed in 1924, expired in 1974. The Karnataka Government had been emphasising that Tamil Nadu has not got any rights over cauvery waters. By this recent agreement Tamil Nadu has been assured of that right. This victory was achieved by the silent agitation of the cauvery delta farmers over 25 years.

This agreement will help to form a good relationship among the neighbouring States and for the National Integration. Lakhs of cauvery delta farmers and agricultural labourers will be joyed.

Tamil Nadu Farmers' Association

★ ★ ★

The Tamil Nadu Farmers ' Association express its happiness to the agreement arrived at the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry, chaired by the Prime Minister on 6.8.98 at New Delhi on the implementation of the interim award of the Tribunal of the Cauvery water dispute which had been unsolved for a long time.

The formation of the River Water Authority with the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers of four States to implement 205 tmc of water to Tamil Nadu will safeguard the agriculture in Tamil Nadu. This agreement would foster

goodwill among the States and would pave way for a permanent solution.

V.Ā.Karuppusamy
Farmers' Association

★ ★ ★

The farmers of cauvery delta area and the people of Thanjavur region congratulate the Chief Minister for his victory in the cauvery water dispute and for establishing the rights of Tamil Nadu over cauvery water. With those people, we also take pleasure in congratulating the Chief Minister.

Tamil Manila Muslim League

★ ★ ★

Uzhavar Uzaipalar Katchi on behalf of the farmers of Tamil Nadu, congratulate and thank the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for being the protector of farmers by bringing an end to the Cauvery water dispute by his political maturity.

R.P. Ramasamy

Uzhavar Uzaipalar Katchi

★ ★ ★

We congratulate the Prime Minister Thiru. Vajpayee and the Chief Ministers of four States for their efforts to bring the Cauvery Water dispute to an end, which had not been solved for the past 30 years. The Chief Minister has approached the Cauvery water dispute without aiming for political gains but with an aim of national interest, which shows his political maturity.

Loksakthi

★ ★ ★

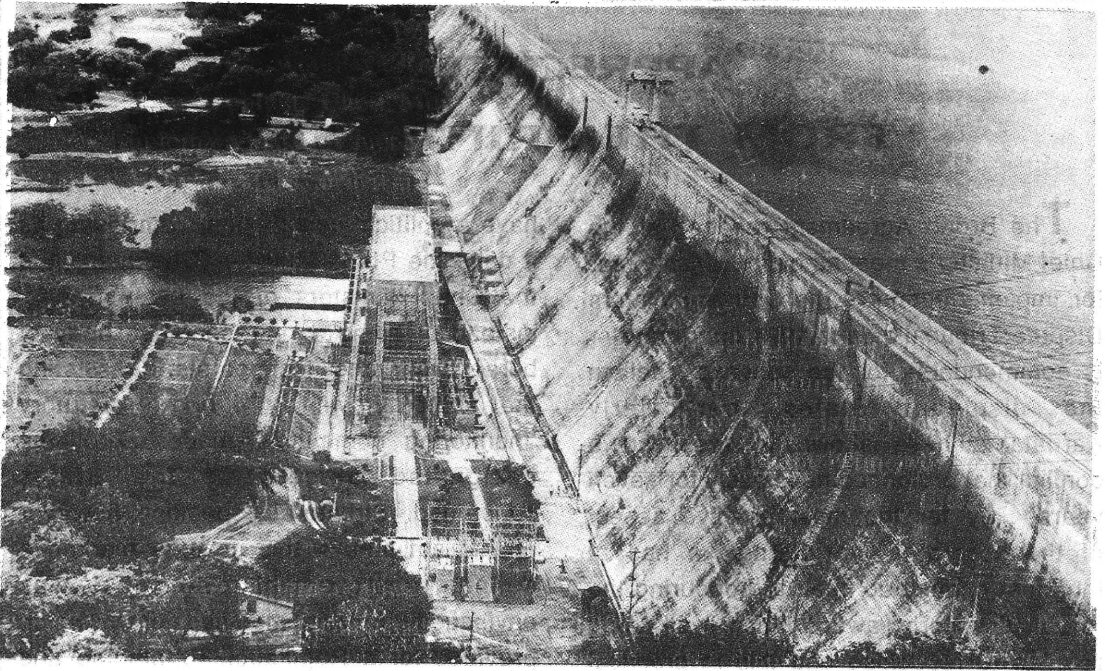
APPRECIATION FROM THE PRINT MEDIA

The Broad Agreement reached at the Chief Minister's meeting over the "scheme" for implementation of the Cauvery Waters Dispute Tribunal's June 1991 interim order is commendable for the sense of realism the disputant States, particularly Karnataka, have shown in resolving a conflict that prolonged needlessly for seven years. By far the most positive aspect of the accord is that Karnataka has at long last committed itself to honouring the Tribunal's interim award which it all along refused to recognise and this in practical terms means its agreeing to release 205 tmcft to Tamil Nadu during a water year - and this is a "gain" from Tamil Nadu's viewpoint. It was just as well that the upper riparian resiled from its patently unacceptable position of total non-compliance with the Tribunal's order - which could well have been seen as a defiance of the adjudicatory authority - and resisted the temptation of stonewalling the creation of any mechanism for ensuring the implementation of that order. If Karnataka had persisted any longer with its obviously negative attitude, there would have been the real prospect of the State landing itself on the wrong side of the judiciary and harming its case in the main dispute now being adjudicated.

The framework agreed upon at the Delhi meeting differs from the modified draft scheme formulated by the Centre in that the Cauvery River Authority would

have a political complexion, comprising as it does the Prime Minister (Chairman) and the Chief Ministers of the basin States, instead of being a representative body of bureaucrats and technocrats. Assisting the Authority will be a non - statutory 'monitoring committee' made up of the designated officers of the States concerned. Structurally speaking, however one is not sure if this scheme marked a definite improvement over what was envisaged by the modified draft which provided for a Regulation Committee and a Review Committee, besides the Authority. Presumably, the monitoring panel now contemplated will be akin to the "regulation committee", in the draft scheme. Whatever the rationale for making the Authority a political body, the arrangement is bound to create practical problems and militate against its effective functioning, given the preoccupations of and pressure the Prime Minister - or for that matter the Chief Ministers - will be working under. It was at the Review Committee stage that the 'draft' brought the political executive into the picture, and that too with the Union Water Resources Minister at the helm.

With both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu agreeing, without much ado, on the nitty - gritty of the monitoring committee's role despite the serious differences perceived in their declared positions, the Centre is all set to fulfil its statutory obligation of



formulating and notifying a 'scheme' for enforcing the Tribunal's interim order. Going by the kind of functions assigned to the monitoring panel - they are confined to such routine areas as data collection and setting up of a well-designed hydro meteorological network in the basin - it is clear that all decision - making and dispute - resolving powers vest with the political executive of the governments represented on the Authority rather than with regimented mechanism. This, together with the fact that the Authority has been left free to evolve its own functional methodology - indications are that its decision would be by consensus - does make for a flexible and non-coercive system. In effect, what has evolved is a scheme that seeks to formalise an initiative which the Prime Ministers of the day are known to have been employing, either on their own or at the behest of the apex court, in an attempt

to settle specific contentious issues. The real test of the Authority, whose scope is restricted to the implementation of the Tribunal's interim order, will come when monsoons fail and it is called upon to apportion the diminished water flows equitably.

- The Hindu (10.8.98)

★ ★ ★

It is good news for the coalition Government at the Centre. The breakthrough reportedly achieved in the Cauvery talks gives the Government a reprieve from the recurrent threat posed by the riparian dispute. With the parties concerned displaying good sense, a political crisis has been averted. The accord enables the Government to meet the deadline fixed by the apex court on the river water dispute. Particularly deserving of commendation is

the political will behind the patient and persevering efforts of the Prime Minister. The personal intervention by Atal Behari Vajpayee has certainly helped rescue the issue from a persistent stalemate spelt by provincial politics. Not to be sneered at is the significance of the exercise that has brought to an end the seven year - old conflict over the basic question about the implementation of an interim award of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal. By agreeing to the setting up of a Cauvery Basin Authority for such implementation, Karnataka has clearly signalled its acceptance in principle of the award at last. Tamil Nadu has, for its part made the CBA possible by dropping its earlier insistence on making it appear a dire statutory threat to the upper - riparian State. The accord has not left Kerala and Pondicherry aggrieved at their interests being ignored.

- **Indian Express** (10.8.98)

★ ★ ★

Constructive decisions have been arrived at for the first time in the cauvery water dispute. Chief Ministers of four States under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister have finalised the implementation of the interim order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal. It is an achievement to be applauded.

The Karnataka Government has agreed to give 205 tmc of water to Tamil Nadu. The fear of losing the control over the irrigation reservoirs, by the farmers of Karnataka has been wiped off. Though the previous talks to protect the welfare of the farmers of both the States have failed, this time it has been successful. This agreement can be

taken as the gift to the farmers in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence. A hope has been dawned that this type of approach would be taken in implementing the final order of the Tribunal...

- **Dinamani** (10.8.1998)

★ ★ ★

It has taken seven years to bring into practice the interim order passed by the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal in 1991.

The powers provided to the Cauvery Monitoring Committee in the interim order was not accepted by the Karnataka Government. 205 tmc of water has to be let to Tamil Nadu. The Monitoring Committee was empowered to act on its own to force the Government to let the water. It is no wonder the Karnataka Government opposed this power given to the Monitoring Committee.

The concerned four States have agreed for the formation of Cauvery River Water Authority, with the Prime Minister as the Chairman, with changes to the objectionable powers given to the monitoring committee. This has happened only due to the involvement of the Supreme Court and its dead line of August 12.

BJP Celebrates this as a victory; Tamil Nadu Chief Minister welcomes it; As expected Selvi. Jayalalitha has severely criticised the fresh agreement. What would have happened if the interim order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal had been implemented as such..? The problem will be politicised and as if waiting for this one and the tamilians living in Karnataka will face the wrath of the miscreants and agitators. A large scale destruction of the properties and

lives of Tamilians will take place including unemployment.

Agreement made anyway would have resulted in disappointment and dissatisfaction to one faction. We can say the present agreement has reduced the dissatisfaction to the minimum to both the factions. So, opposing this, just for the sake of opposing will not add pride to Selvi. Jayalalitha, but will only reduce it.

- Kalki (23.8.1998)

★ ★ ★

Just one word "Cauvery" evokes so many names in memory - Karikalan, Raja Rajan, Elango, Kambar, Ganasambandar, Azhwargal, Thayumanavar, Thiyagaiyar, Arunachala Kavirayar, Gopalakrishna Bharathi, Oothukadu Venkatasubbaiyar, Vu.Ve.Sa. Mayuram Vedanayagam Pillai, Kalki, Na.Pitchamoorthy, T. Janakiraman. Kaveri has enriched their works. For Tamils-Cauvery is not water, it is mother's milk. Cradle of culture. It is a music, literature, devotion, history, wisdom and intelligence. The fear that cauvery water will prove to be a mirage to Tamils, was nullified last week. The discussions which started doubtfully ended amicably, for which everyone is happy. Elder leaders with their experience and patience have brought this result.

- Kumudam (20.8.1998)

★ ★ ★

An opportunity has arisen after many years to minimise the complications in the Cauvery water dispute. It will be childish to think that the problem has been solved, at the same time it is purely arrogance if it is not viewed as

a breakthrough in solving the dispute. It is no doubt that this agreement is an achievement, when this issue has been grown to entertain enmity among the States over the years. Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Vajpayee with his tireless efforts, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Karunanidhi with his political diplomacy and the Chief Minister of the Karnataka Thiru. Patel who acted boldly, the three of them have strived hard, putting their political inhibitions aside in rendering justice to the people of both the States.

According to the interim order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal, Karnataka has to give 205 tmc of water to Tamil Nadu. Even if it had agreed to provide a lesser quantity of water, Tamil Nadu would have accepted it, so as to bring to an end to the dispute. This had been our position. But now Karnataka has agreed to provide 205 tmc of water with no need for Tamil Nadu to compromise for lesser quantity of water. Karnataka which was adamant in this regard for seven years has now relaxed its attitude.

We don't say the Cauvery water dispute has been solved. But as we had mentioned earlier, a way has been paved for it. Obstacles will arise in the path which has to be set right by talks. Acceptance by the Karnataka to provide 205 tmc of water to Tamil Nadu is a wonder which did not happen for seven years. When Karnataka has compromised in this regard, it is not a mistake if Tamil Nadu too compromise in future when problems arise.

It is a welcome agreement at this time, when both the States have been induced enmity over the issue. The appreciation goes to the Prime Minister Thiru Vajpayee,

Chief Minister Thiru Karunanidhi, Thiru Patel,
Chief Ministers of Kerala and Pondicherry.

- **Thuklak** (19.8.1998)

★ ★ ★

A good ending after so many years, after many struggle, stubbornness and politics. Just to think of it, the heart is flooded with Cauvery waters.

Let Cauvery come; ensure a good harvest. Let Cauvery quench the thirst of the earth. And let us rejoice over it. No function can equal the history, when, it notes down that Kalaignar brought in the Krishna Water for the human beings; and Cauvery water for the lands.

- **Savi** (20.8.1998)

★ ★ ★

A Cauvery River Water Authority with the Prime Minister as Chairman and a monitoring committee is to be setup. The interim order of the Tribunal - 205 tmc of water is being let to Tamil Nadu. After seven years the interim order is being implemented.

The problem will be solved if the people of both the States think 'we will approach the problem without allowing it to be politicised...and arrive at an agreement'.

At the time of concluding the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence, if this issue also comes to an end, then this itself is the Golden Jubilee gift to us.

Anandavikatan (16.8.1998)

★ ★ ★

A remedy to the Cauvery water dispute after several years. A silent war has come to an end. A sense of joy among the people.



Prime Minister Vajpayee has proved that he respects his promise more than the vote bank. This has been accomplished by discussions of the Chief Ministers and the Prime Minister. The Central Government also published the revised draft in the gazette, journals and people welcome this joyfully.

- **Kungumam** (21.8.1998)

★ ★ ★

A new turn has taken place in the Cauvery water dispute. A victory for Tamil Nadu - A remedy has been arrived at for the long disputed problem. News are being flashed that the Central Government is going to submit the draft to the Supreme Court. If everything goes well without any set back to anyone, amicably, then the happiest one will be the Dravidar Kazhagam.

Viduthalai (10.8.1998)

★ ★ ★

An agreement has been signed through the discussions held by the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister, in the Cauvery water dispute, which had been disputed for a long time. It is a welcome thing that the concerned States have accepted the agreement. It is noteworthy that this agreement has assured 205 tmc of water to Tamil Nadu, the interim order of the Cauvery water tribunal. The Cauvery dispute which concerns four States cannot be solved by Court action alone. Marxist Communist had been insisting that the problem could be solved by discussions alone, taking into consideration the welfare of the people of both the States. Accordingly,

the Chief Ministers of four States have discussed and have formed an agreement.

- **Theekathir** (11.8.1998)

★ ★ ★

A good remedy has been arrived at in the Cauvery water dispute due to the concentrated efforts of the Prime Minister Thiru Vajpayee, intelligent approach of the Chief Minister Kalaignar and the cooperation of the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Kerala.

The people, and various print media have welcomed this agreement with appreciation. Various party leaders have also appreciated this agreement which has joyed lakhs of farmers.

Chief Minister Kalaignar, who had tirelessly worked for solving the Cauvery water dispute, which had been testing the lives of farmers since 1968 for 30 years has been repeatedly telling not once or twice but continues to say that, he consider this victory as not his personal victory but the victory of the farmers of the four States.

In what way it is justifiable, in politicising this Cauvery issue, just for the sake of enmity and narrow political ambitions?

Chief Minister Kalaignar who has dedicated his life for the cause of tamils is a fire. If some one says that the fire is sought after by flies, their questionable intelligence will clearly be understood by the people. As a whole - Finding fault with Kalaignar in the Cauvery issue, is like doubting one's mother.

Murasoli (12.8.1998)

★ ★ ★

"THE AMITY PREVAILING AT THESE VILLAGES

WOULD MAKE INDIA ITSELF A SAMATHUVAPURAM"

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, **Kalaignar**, on 17.8.1998, inaugurated the State's first "**Samathuvapuram**" conceived to facilitate harmonious co-existence of people belonging to various communities at Melakottai Village in Thirumangalam Taluk of Madurai District.

While addressing, the Chief Minister said that the objective behind creating Samathuvapuram was towards reaching the goal of making Tamil Society live as a homogeneous one. Samathuvapuram which is being created first in Madurai District will be implemented in every District, he added.

The Chief Minister expressed his confidence that the village which caters to the essential needs of the people such as the primary school, fair price shop, public library and health centre situated in the Samathuvapuram.

The Chief Minister appealed to the beneficiaries to realise the spirit behind the Samathuvapuram and called upon them to co-operate with the Government in its efforts in creating good citizens from the Samathuvapurams. The amity prevailing at these villages would be a model for the whole country and these efforts would make India itself a Samathuvapuram he concluded.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated the Primary School, fair price shop, public library and health centre.

The District Collector, Thiru.Kasi Viswanathan I.A.S., welcomed the gathering. Hon'ble Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru. P.T.R. Palanivel Rajan presided over the function. Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. Arcot N.Veerasingam, Thiru Durai Murugan, Thiru.Pasumpon T.Krishnan, Dr. M. Tanjizhkudimagan, Thiru.R.Rahmankhan, Samayanallur Thiru.Selvaraj, the Worshipful Mayor, Thiru. P. Kuzhandaivelu were also present on the occasion.

FIRST SAMATHUVAPURAM (EQUALITY VILLAGE) IN TAMIL NADU CREATED

Hon'ble Chief Minister **Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi's**
announcement taking concrete shape

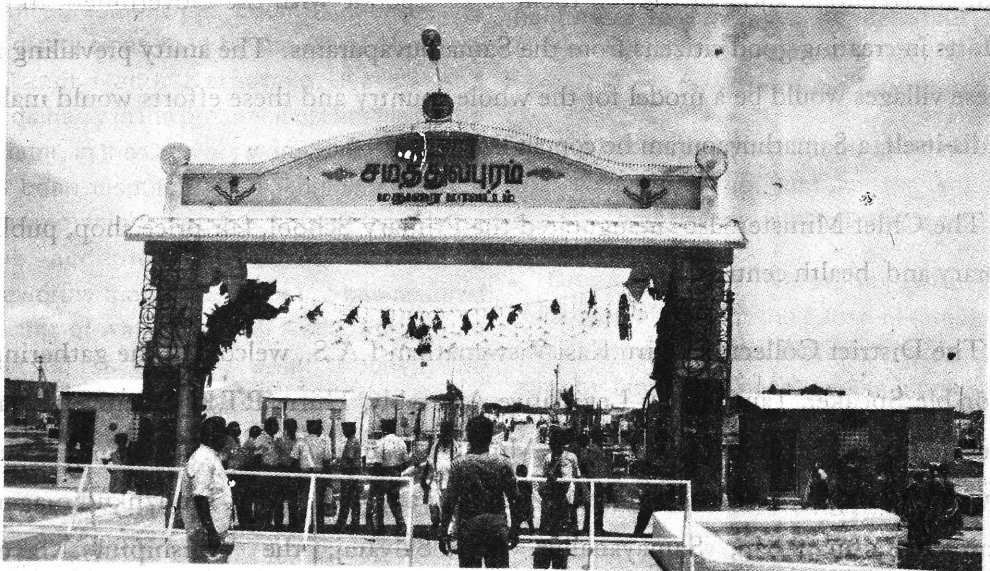
On the National Highway from Madurai to Tirunelveli, 6 Kilometers from Thirumangalam, rows of newly constructed and beautifully coloured houses have come up in a mini town "**Samathuvapuram**".

A Massive Welcome Arch

The entrance to the town has a massive welcome arch with "Samathuvapuram" inscribed on it.

The houses, constructed using modern techniques, tar-topped roads, noon-meal centre, library, community hall, mosaic tiled street water fountains, all form part of this beautiful small town.

Among the several steps taken by the Government to stop the communal riots which rocked the Southern Districts in Tamil Nadu, creation of Samathuvapuram was one. Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi announced that such Samathuvapurams, where members from all religions and communities would live in harmony without any differential treatment, would be created in all the Districts in Tamil Nadu in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence. The Madurai District Collector has taken the lead in implementing the Chief Minister's announcement.



The First Samathuvapuram in Tamil Nadu

Although it was announced that Samathuvapuram would be created in every District, the pride of setting up the first Samathuvapuram in Tamil Nadu belongs to Madurai District.

This Samathuvapuram has been created over an area of 10 acres at Melakottai.

100 houses have been built here at a cost of Rs.35,000/- per house.

Each house has been constructed on 5 cent plot with a built - up area of 259 sq.ft. By the entrance to the house is a large hall, attached to which is a small kitchen, followed by a bath room and toilet with modern flush. The houses have concrete roofing, cupboard facility, with doors and windows made from Kongu Wood.

The front and rear portion of each house has trees planted by the Forest Department. They have grown to 4' height.

100 Poor People Given a House Each

These houses in Samathuvapuram are being allotted free of cost to 100 people living below the poverty line in 8 villages of Madurai District.

All facilities like an overhead water tank, street water fountains at 13 places, have been provided in Samathuvapuram. A very big community hall has been provided to conduct family functions of the inhabitants.

People belonging to various religious groups will not be allowed to construct places of worship and instead be expected to use the community hall for their prayer.

A primary school with play ground has been constructed here. Other facilities include a

beautiful library, a sub-health centre, fair-price shop, noon-meal centre with attached class room, a colour television set for recreation purpose with a small room, a park and playground with a modern fountain for children to play games and for relaxation for the old people as well.

10 streets, all tar-topped, are at this Samathuvapuram. These streets have literary names like Silapathikaram, Seevakasinthamani, Valayapathy, Kundalakesi, Manimekalai, etc.

Almost 1,000 trees have been planted at Samathuvapuram. Tubelights and sodium vapour lamps, have also been provided.

Strict Guidelines to Select the 100 poor Beneficiaries

The officials directly visited the villages, convened Gram Sabhas and selected 100 beneficiaries, all living below the poverty line. Of these 100 houses at the Samathuvapuram, 40 houses have been allotted to Adi-Dravidars, 25 houses to Backward Classes, 25 houses to Most Backward Classes and 10 houses for people belonging to other communities.

These houses are being allotted serially to Adi-Dravidar, followed by a Backward Class Person, then a Most Backward Class person... and so on.

Undertaking By the Inhabitants

The Madurai District Collector has obtained an undertaking from each of the 100 families who would live at Samathuvapuram. The beneficiaries have given an undertaking in writing as below :

- ★ Not try to or give consent or permit the setting up of statues of religious or community leaders.

- ★ Neither sell or pledge the house for a period of 15 years.
- ★ Accept a common burial ground or a cremation ground.
- ★ Not to create a separate place of worship for each community or religion.
- ★ Not to consume liquor.
- ★ Not let out the house on rent.
- ★ Keep Samathuvapuram clean and hygienic.
- ★ For violation of rules, agree that property be taken over by the Government.

The Government has not collected any money from the people selected to live at Samathuvapuram. A total sum of Rs.410/-, comprising Rs.300/- towards electricity connection and Rs.110/- towards house tax has only been collected.

Quality Houses - Basic Amenities

People below poverty line from 8 villages have been selected to be housed here.

To avoid malpractices the entire construction work was handed over to the Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation, laying emphasis on the quality of construction.

A town bus will ply to Samathuvapuram from Madurai via Karisalpatti. In addition to this, all buses plying on the National Highway will stop over at Samathuvapuram. To facilitate this halt, bus shelter will be provided in front of Samathuvapuram. Post office and telephone facilities will also be provided.

A dairy farm is being set up at Samathuvapuram. In the first phase 30 inhabitants will be provided with milch cows. These beneficiaries will milk the cows and supply it to the dairy farm.

The youth living at Samathuvapuram, will be extended loan facility for their self-employment. The Government is also willing to provide various facilities for the overall economic growth of all inhabitants.

★ ★ ★

Samathuvapuram constructed in Just 150 days

The Madurai District Collector visited the site 57 times to inspect the progress of work and constantly motivated the officials for speedy completion of various works.

The construction work which commenced during the month of December 1997 was

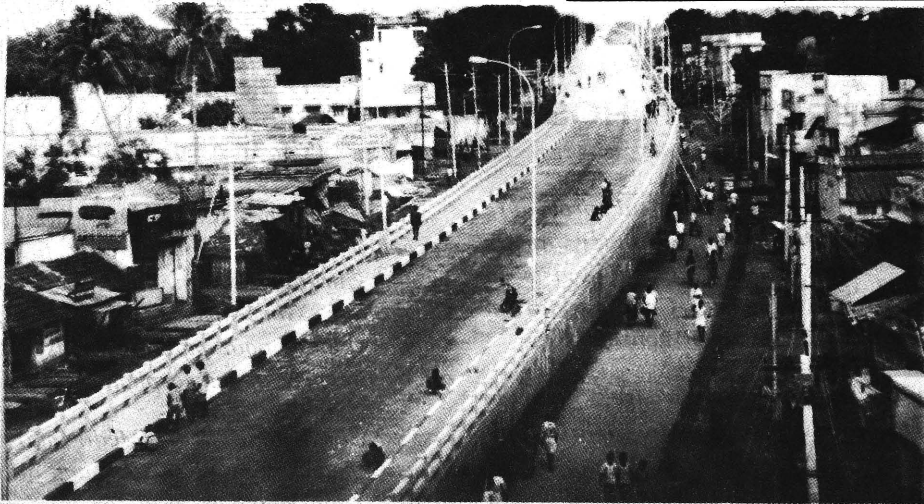
stopped due to the instructions from the Election Commission for 3 months during January, February and March, 1998 due to election. The work was re-started and taken up during April, May, June and July 1998, thereby completing the total work in just 150 days.

People Belonging to 18 communities live together in Samathuvapuram

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| ● Adi-dravidar | ● Priamalai Kallar | ● Brahmin | ● Reddiar |
| ● Maruthuwar | ● Tommara | ● Nadar | ● Muslim |
| ● Raja Kambalam | ● Agamudaiyar | ● Pillaimar | ● Kammalar. |
| ● Vannar | ● Gounder | ● Padmasaliyar | |
| ● Kullaalar | ● Naidu | ● Chettiyar | |

"Construct bridge between religion and create a casteless society"

- Chief Minister Kalaingar



The Hon'ble Chief Minister, **Kalaingar** inaugurated a rail over bridge and other completed works and laid foundation stones for various developmental works to a tune of Rs.28 crores at Dindigul on 16-8-1998.

The Chief Minister listed out some significant projects particularly in the irrigation and road infrastructure that have been implemented during his regime and assured that his Government was committed for total development of the State and said that this Government would devote its full time and capability to serve the people.

Referring, to the blessings of his well - wishers for his long life, the Chief Minister said that his desire is only the speedy implementation of welfare schemes for the people as long as he holds office.

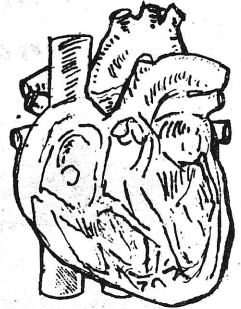
He said that most of the over bridges have been constructed only during his regime. 30 to 35 bridges have been completed and 7 more are to be completed. But these are not sufficient. People should come forward to build a bridge to plug the chasm existing among castes and religions in the society. The message of religious amity and unity should be disseminated and people should help in constructing such a bridge, he added.

The Chief Minister also recalled the services rendered by great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ambedkar, Periyar, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Thevar and Perarignar Anna who had devoted themselves to usher in a casteless society in the State and Country.

The District Collector, Thiru. A.S.Jeevarathinam, I.A.S., welcomed the gathering. The Hon'ble Minister, Thiru. I.Periyasamy presided over the function. The Hon'ble Ministers Thiru.T.Krishnan, Thiru. Durai Murugan, Thiru. Arcot. N. Veerasamy, Thiru. Rahman Khan and Thiru. Thamizhkudimagan offered felicitations. Thiru. Balakrishnan, Chief Engineer, Highways, proposed a vote of thanks.

The Chief Minister also laid foundation stone for a Women's College at Nilakottai and distributed welfare schemes to the beneficiaries. He also declared open an Intensive Cardiology Care Building constructed at a cost of Rs.7 lakhs by the Health Department. Four new buses were flagged off. In total, he inaugurated 201 projects and laid foundation stones for various schemes.

STENTING FOR CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL



Stenting is a non-surgical procedure in the management of Coronary Artery Disease. It is done by Cardiologists in a high tech Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory using costly consumables.

Stenting is a new procedure, after the invention of balloons to dilate the narrowed blood vessel (PTCA). Stenting prevents recoil of the vessel wall and narrowing of the lumen, which is responsible for 30% of failures (restenosis) following PTCA.

This is one of the latest techniques done by the Cardiologists to reopen and sustain the opening of the diseased vessel segment as against 'by passing' the narrowed area in surgery by the Cardiothoracic Surgeons. The entire procedure is done under local anesthesia while the patient is fully conscious and comfortable. Stenting with balloon dilation is done through the femoral artery in the groin, without any scar after the procedure. In addition, the patient is fit to be discharged on the second day after the procedure.

Stenting the narrowed (diseased) coronary artery is done for the first time by the Cardiologists in the Department of Cardiology, Government General Hospital, Chennai, for a poor patient who is working as a sweeper in an orphanage.

The "Bestent Artist" (Medtronic) used by us is made of stainless steel and attached to a balloon which is used for dilating the diseased narrowed proximal left anterior descending (LAD) coronary artery; and then the stent is deployed over the dilated area and the balloon catheter is removed.

We are thankful to Medtech - Medtronic Company for their generosity in providing their "Bestent" with other accessories costing nearly Rs.65,000 free for this poor patient. The entire procedure in a Corporate Hospital will be approximately Rs.1.5 lakhs.

If these costly consumables (stents and balloons) are available in Government Hospitals, we are prepared to do the same for our poor patients, as it is done for affordable persons in Corporate Hospitals.

We are happy to inform that the Tamil Nadu Government is shortly introducing this privilege for poor patients in Government Hospitals through our Chief Minister's Health Fund Scheme.



Prof. S. D. JAYARAJ, M.D.D.M.
Professor and H.O.D.
Cardiology,
Government General Hospital,
Chennai.

Tamil Nadu meets the Challenge of Malnutrition

The entire world is observing "Nutrition Week" every year during 1st week of September. From 1982, the Government of India have been celebrating the "National Nutrition Week". However from 1996 onwards only, there has been a focus on certain themes. The theme for 1996 was - "Child Care Practices" for 1997, the theme was "Nutrition, Health and Sanitation". For this year, the theme is slightly on a different note. It is "Nutrition Promotion Role of Family and Community". This is to create an awareness in the family and the community on their important role and responsibility for women, child health and nutrition.

Malnutrition is a multifactorial and multifaceted disease. Lack of food and infection result in growth failure. The consequences of 'growth failure and stunting, especially in women during pregnancy and labour are well recognised for several decades. However only of recent, the effects of malnutrition especially iodine and iron deficiencies on child's ability to interact with and learn from the environment, leading to lower intellectual ability have been universally recognised and accepted. This scientific revelation has only helped to add to the worries we already have!

Tamil Nadu has been very conscious of the problem of malnutrition. The Nutritious Meal Programme was introduced in 1982 to provide a regular noon meal to the children aged 3+ to 4+. However its benefits are more likely to be social rather than developmental from a physical or intellectual perspective. The Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project which started in 1980 in one block in Madurai District has expanded to 318 blocks over a period of 17 years, as project-I from 1980-1989, Project-II from 1991-1997.

S. SURYAN, IAS,

PROJECT COORDINATOR, TINP.

The Project which ended in December 1997 was evaluated by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. Though the results are yet to be published, the interim report indicates that the incidence of severe malnutrition which was around 16% in the age group of 6-36 months in the early 1980 has been brought down to 3%. However moderate and mild malnutrition are still problems to be tackled. There are also interdistrict variations which indicate that we have to address to district specific issues. It is also heartening to note from the Terminal Evaluation that the Project has contributed through its awareness campaigns and educational activities to narrow down the gender gap between the male and female child. We are also aware that there are certain pockets in Tamil Nadu where female infanticide is still a problem. The project, through coordination with health department has contributed to a reduction in rural infant mortality rate from 103 to 60 over a period of 17 years. Immunisation programme has been very successful in Tamil Nadu and the incidence of paralytic poliomyelitis has been brought down to 0.45 and neonatal tetanus to 0.69 per lakh population at risk.

The Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project created infrastructural facilities in

19,500 villages spread over in 24 districts. The project while providing employment opportunities for nearly 60,000 women in the rural areas, helped to improve the health and nutrition status of women and



children. At a point of time, about 13.5 lakhs of children 0-36 months and 7 lakhs of pregnant and nursing mothers get the benefit of the project services.

Tamil Nadu has been selected as one of the five States for implementing a new Women and Child Development Project from 30th September 1998. The Project will be implemented by the Government of India

with World Bank assistance. The purpose of including Tamil Nadu in the Project, it has been mentioned in the document, is to facilitate the transfer of experiences. We propose to focus in the new project on the 3 themes namely

Child Caring Practices

Nutrition, Health and Sanitation

Role of Family and Community in Nutrition Promotion.

Our Country especially the State of Tamil Nadu is blessed in the sense that there is food scarcity at the national or state level. However it is our common knowledge and experience that there is inequitable distribution of food between men, women and children in the family. Social customs, beliefs and cultural values have contributed to these paradoxical situation of food security at national or state level and food insecurity at family level. The new Project in Tamil Nadu proposes to empower women and enable them to decide about their fertility, their family size and child caring practices including prevention and management of diarrhoeal diseases and child feeding during health and disease. A change of focus on growth monitoring and promotion from the institutional level to household level will be the strategy to be followed. The family and

community have to be educated on the rights of the child to adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services. It is impossible for mother to provide high quality child care if she herself is poor, uninformed, anaemic and unhealthy. It is rightly said that if care of children by the mother is to be realised, the care of the mother is to be addressed. Maternal malnutrition and anaemia contribute to low birth weight. This, in turn, affects subsequent growth and development of child. Therefore, the new project aims to address this specific problem by not only addressing to the health and nutrition status of pregnant mothers, but also to help the nutrition status of adolescent girls. Special intervention activities like iron folic acid supplementation and deworming are proposed, in addition to creating awareness on personal hygiene, health and nutritional requirements of this special group in the community and also to inculcate the habit of self monitoring of weight periodically. As I have already mentioned before, malnutrition adversely affects the development and intellectual capabilities of young children, we are planning to provide facilities for early childhood development and preschool education at the home and the institution, we have created so far.

★ ★ ★

Breast feeding has been the most natural response of a mother to satisfy the emotional and nutritional needs of her infant. This natural food has proved to be the complete and protective food for the baby. That this can even save us money, is perhaps not thought of. It becomes important because health programmes have interpreted breast feeding as a preventive promotive measure.

Recent research has revealed and is still revealing the many advantages to the mother who suckles and the infant who is suckled. In the last 50 years Breast feeding has undergone a drastic decline due to variety of factors, the key of which is undisputedly, unethical and aggressive marketing by multinational infant food industry. Mr. James P Grand former Executive Director UNICEF said "Bottle feeding is a major killer. The resulting death is enormous

Daily death toll equals Bhopal Chemical disaster
Weekly death toll equals Armenian earthquake
Monthly death toll equals Hiroshima Atomic Explosion".

The dangers and tragedy of bottle feeding does not make such news to arrest the attention of people.

An important component of global effort to protect breastfeeding is the W.H.O. international code of marketing breast milk substitutes. In India the code has become law which is a comprehensive piece of legislation enacted for the "**protection of Child Consumer**". Maternity Hospital based programme "**Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative**" tries to make the act effective.

Economic benefits

- ★ Every year in India 25 million mothers excrete more than 12,000 crores rupees worth of milk 6 to 7 times more than the total Health Budget of the Nation and saves Foreign exchange- A major contribution to the Family and National Economy.
- ★ Wasteful expenditure on bottle feeding is prevented. A mother has to spend Rs. 1,000/- every month on infant food and another Rs.250/- to 500/- for water fuel, detergent, brush nipples and bottles. With this amount she can feed 6 family members. The mother spends on medical care as the child falls ill often and many times she loses wages - breast feeding saves this expenditure.

Health Benefits

- a. **Prevention of diseases.** The infant in the womb lives in an aseptic atmosphere and is born into an atmosphere polluted by germs. The milk secreted in the first few days after birth called "Colostrum" is very rich in antibodies and special extra nutrients capable of protecting the infant from infections. In bottle fed infants the incidence of diarrhoea

Breast Feeding

The Best Investment

pneumonia and other infections are 5-10 times higher than breast fed infants. In poor societies UNICEF says that babies are 25 times more likely to die if they are bottle fed. Artificial baby milk is observed to be contaminated by harmful bacteria, chemicals, foreign bodies and irradiation and furthermore contaminated by water used for mixing, making bottle feeding dangerous.

Allergic disease : Breast feeding prevents allergic diseases like Asthma and Eczema in childhood and in later life.

Other health benefits : Breast milk provides in childhood and in later life protection against a variety of Cancer and lesser risk of heart diseases, Diabetes, hypertension and others.

Nutritional Benefits

The milk of every Mammal is formulated for its own young. Breast milk is specifically made to suit the human young. It is the perfect food providing exactly the right nutrients in biologically correct amount for growth and brain development. Breast milk is dynamic living fluid, the constituents change to suit the needs of the baby. Infant formula is an inert chemical.

Protection of Environment : Breast feeding prevents environmental pollution as there is no need for fuel water and throwing away waste.

Mothers : Breast Feeding provides a variety of health benefits for the mother.

- ★ Breast feeding is a natural contraception ideal for birth spacing. If all the mother in India successfully and adequately breast feed their children, **five million births can be prevented annually**, improving maternal and child health.
- ★ Breast fed mothers have significant decrease in the incidence of cancer of the breast ovaries and uterus.
- ★ Breast Milk, builds up infant mother bonding and relieves psychological stress for women.

World Breastfeeding Week 1-7 August, 1998



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