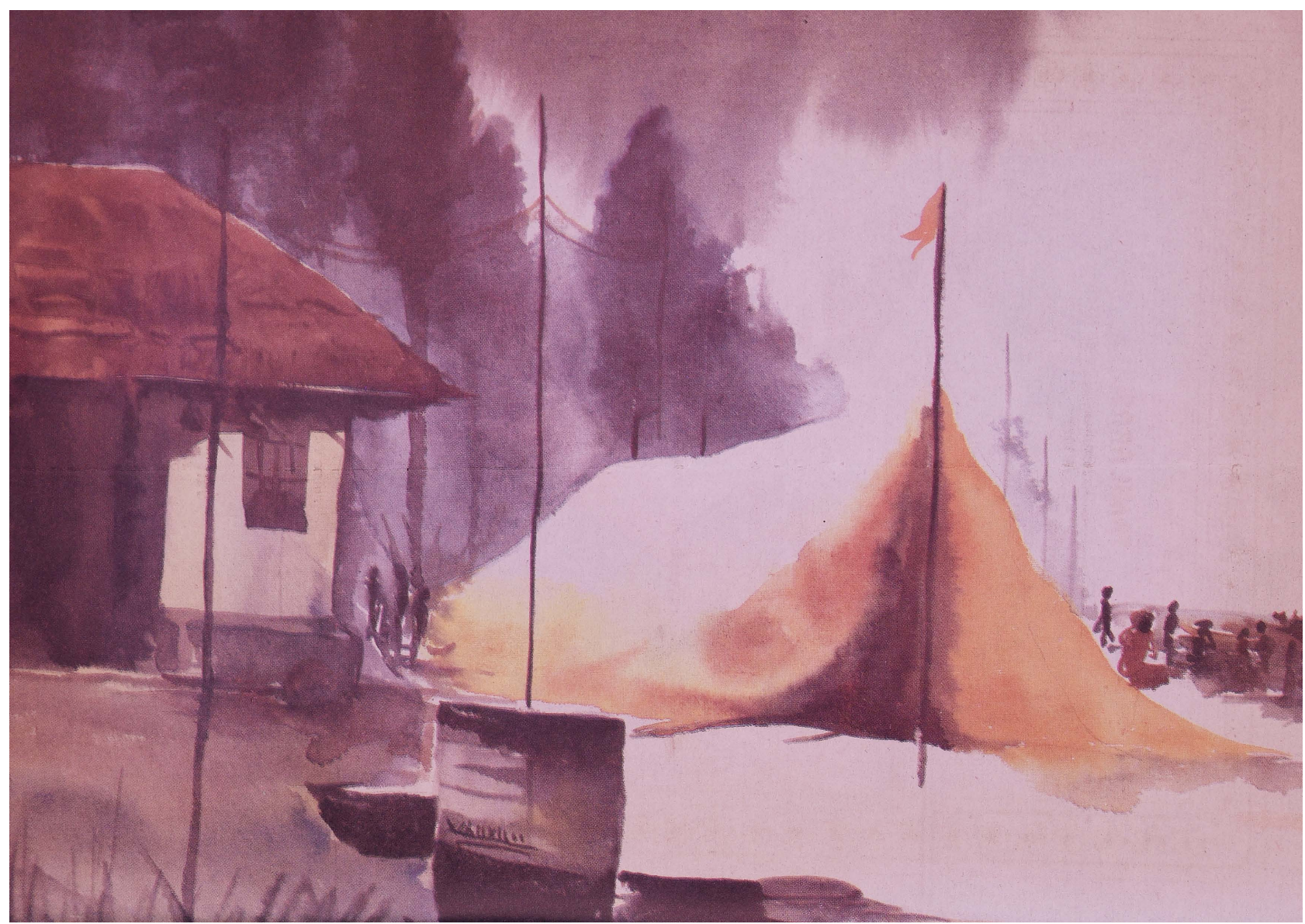


# Tamil Arasu

JULY 1997 Rs.3





# TAMIL ARASU

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu  
JULY 1997

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# 'The Law and Order problem should be approached impartially' - Policy of this Government

(Inaugural address of the Hon'ble Chief Minister  
at the Conference of the District Collectors  
and Superintendents of Police)



**W**e have assembled here to review the actions taken during the past one year since this Government assumed Office and to plan the further course of actions.

Eventhough the past one year in the Office was satisfactory, I must point out that a few departments should have fast development.

Even the people who would like to criticize the Government cannot help praising the

- Clean administration
- Open Approach and
- Constructive action plans of the Government.

It is widely spoken throughout Tamil Nadu, that a good atmosphere has been created by this

Government in which anybody could easily approach me and my cabinet ministers and other higher officials to voice their grievances and to consider their reasonable demands quickly.

This Government is implementing various schemes, for the betterment of the entire Tamil Nadu for the past one year. In particular, several schemes are being effectively implemented for the industrial development, rural development and for the development of the poor and middle class people.

Actions have been taken to change the wrong approach which lead to corruption during the last regime and provisions have been made for the recovery of the revenue which was lost by the Govt, and to bring them back to the Exchequer.

I wish that the clean administration and the fast performance seen in the higher levels of the Government, should also reach the grass root levels. Hence, I request you all to cooperate for giving a clean and able administration at all levels, in all the departments, throughout Tamil Nadu.

I understand that there is a slackness among a few officers while implementing the scheme who look out whether they could derive any benefit from it.

In the present context, it is the foremost duty of the District Collectors to change their attitude and to take up appropriate action whole heartedly, that the Government's schemes are implemented promptly so that the public are benefitted.

This Government, after assuming office on 13th of May last year, prepared the Budget for 1996-97 and presented before the Legislative Assembly in July. After obtaining the approval in the Assembly in August, necessary orders were passed in September and October and we started implementing this Government's schemes. The speed in implementing the schemes, last year, might have been slowed down due to the short period in which the schemes had to be implemented and due to the vast devastations caused by floods in few Districts.

I would like to spell out certain actions taken by this Government to correct and establish a clean and good administration which was almost in deterioration.

Single tender system was abolished and transparent open tender systems have been implemented.

To prevent the misdeeds in Minerals Department, the rule 39 of the Mineral Rules, which was introduced by the previous Government has been abolished and the Government have earned several crores as revenue.

Further, this Government have appointed Justice Ramanujam Commission for streamlining the administration and to prevent corruption in administration.

A high level Committee has been formed, headed by the former Chief Secretary Thiru Sabhanayagam for bringing in reforms in the Revenue administration.

An expert committee has also been formed with officials to regulate the State's Registration procedures.

We have enacted a new act called 'Right to Information Act' to provide even to the common man the right of access to information about administration.

We have successfully conducted elections to local bodies which had not been conducted for more than a decade and co-operative societies. We have provided with suitable powers and additional financial resources to the local bodies. We are considering the ways regarding devolution of additional powers to the local bodies through State Planning Commission.

Since the Government assumed office, in Rural Development Department alone 1,14,000 works to the value of Rs. 150 crores which had remain incomplete for several years during the previous regime in various stages have been completed by this Government.

In order to bring in a second Green Revolution, an expert committee headed by former Vice-Chancellor, Thiru V.C. Kuzhandaisamy was formed to develop waste lands and rainfed lands. We have proposed to accept the recommendations to be given by the committee and implement them expeditiously.

In order to make greater development in Industrial sector, several major industries are coming up in Tamil Nadu since this Government have signed MOUs with foreign entrepreneurs.

Legislation has been passed for establishing centres for 'Single Window Clearance' in industrial complexes. Actions have been taken to develop the existing infrastructure facilities and also to create new ones for the development of industries. Actions have been taken to generate additional 6,000 MW power. In order to make Tamil Nadu, an Industrialised State, we are planning and setting up new industrial estates, Chemical industrial Complex, Computer industrial city, Computer aided Information equipments Industrial Complex, etc.

- ❑ Hyundai Car Project at Thiruperumbudur at a cost of Rs.2,450 crores.
- ❑ Integrated Coconut Processing Plant near Pollachi at a cost of Rs.39.9 crores.
- ❑ Floating Glass project near Chengalpattu at a cost of Rs.550 crores.
- ❑ Optical Fibre Cable industry at Maraimalai Nagar at a cost of Rs.41.57 crores.
- ❑ setting up a tyre factory at a cost of Rs.350 crores by the TIDCO in collaboration with a South Korean Company.
- ❑ A petro-chemical plant at Ennore on an area of 7,000 acres.
- ❑ A Naptha Craker Complex at Ennore at a cost of Rs.7,500 crores.
- ❑ Cargo trucks unit of Ashok Leyland Ltd., at Hosur at a cost of Rs.680 crores.

Apart from these, actions are being taken to establish several Large scale industrial units in Tamil Nadu.

Besides the above mentioned -

- ❑ orders have been issued for the purchase of 5,800 new buses at a cost of Rs.450 crores and the purchase is being made in stages.
- ❑ Ground Rent was abolished and the outstanding amount was written off.

- ❑ Orders have been issued for the issue of Patta Pass Book at a cost of Rs.24 crores.
- ❑ Four new Districts have been created for administrative convenience.
- ❑ The Government will bear the expense of the higher education for the first three rank holders in the tenth and twelfth standard at District and State level.
- ❑ Government will meet the expense of the higher education in professional colleges to students hailing from non graduate family, who secure the first ten ranks out of 300 marks, to their choice of professional institutions, like Engineering, Medical, Dental, Agriculture and Veterinary.
- ❑ 15 percent reservations have been made in the Engineering Colleges for the students coming from Village schools.
- ❑ 11,652 secondary grade teachers have been appointed last year according to their seniority registered in the Employment exchange.
- ❑ Further the Government have appointed more than 2000 graduate teachers and Post Graduate teachers.
- ❑ In the current year, around 14,000 teachers of various categories are awaiting for postings.
- ❑ A new Law College has been started in Thirunelveli.
- ❑ A new Medical College will be started at Thiruchi this year.
- ❑ This year a new University is being started at Salem.
- ❑ The Government have ordered construction of buildings to 600 Primary Health Centres which does not have own building.
- ❑ In 1996-97, we are carrying out road development works at a cost of Rs. 250 crores with financial assistance from NABARD.



Further, for the year 1997-98, so far Rs.148 crores have been allocated for road development works.

- ❑ Besides, Rs.35 crores have been sanctioned for the urban road development works.
- ❑ The 10,000 posts of road workers which had been left unfilled for more than 10 years would be filled up this year.
- ❑ Besides, the Government have issued orders for the sanction of pension to 15,000 former village officers, this Government have also directed to give the arrears for 10 years enabling each of them to receive Rs. 23,000.
- ❑ Orders have been issued to fill up the vacancies for Adi Dravidars and scheduled Tribes at the earliest, according to 18+1 percentage.
- ❑ Separate branches in 17 Teacher Training Institutes all over Tamil Nadu will be started

this year at a cost of Rs.5 crores to train Adi Dravidar students since, qualified teachers in Adi Dravidar community are not available.

- ❑ Rs.42 crores have been allotted for relief works in the drought affected Southern Districts.

I look forward to your indulgence work to implement the schemes which this Government have announced.

Scheme of providing house sites free of cost for the construction of houses to Adi Dravidars has been extended to poor and most Backward class people - Rs.10 crores.

To Backward class people - Rs.5 crores.

To the poor in forward community - Rs. 3 crores

Medical Surgery for dangerous disease of the poor - Rs.15 crores.

This year, unlike last year, the Budget was passed in time and necessary orders for the implementation of schemes were issued in May itself.

Further, under Part II Schemes out of 588 schemes, orders have been issued for 571 schemes so far.

I wish the District Collectors and heads of Departments should have the same enthusiasm which myself, ministers and the higher officials at Secretariat in passing the orders.

I hope that directions should have been issued by the Government to subordinate officers and to the Field Staff for implementation of the orders.

If the instructions have so far not been issued to them, it should be done within a week and the works should be completed at the earliest. I hope, that major portion of the funds allocated in the Budget Estimates can be utilised by December.

If we complete our schemes, then we can obtain additional financial allocations from the centre.

Majority of the people wish to get the prescribed quantity of the essential commodities, distributed by Public Distribution system. This Public Distribution system is the basis in which the people have their faith with the Government. The District Collectors should give special attention in the implementation of this scheme and to ensure proper functioning throughout Tamil Nadu, so that the general public should have the faiths with the Government.

The District Collectors should keenly watch this scheme so as to ensure the Government's order, with distribution of essential commodities to the people.

12 kg of rice for a family with 1 unit

14 kg of rice for a family with 1½ units

16 kg of rice for a family with 2 units

18 kg of rice for a family with 2½ units

20 kg of rice for a family with 3 units and more

(1 unit denotes the adult, ½ unit the children)

The following shortcomings are possible in providing essential commodities to the public through the Public Distribution System.

- ★ Shortage in weights of the commodities while transporting them from the godown to the ration shops.
- ★ Shortage in weights while distribution in the ration shops.
- ★ Saying 'No' to the public when they ask for particular commodity.
- ★ Making false entries in the ledger without making any distribution.
- ★ Selling the allotted commodity in black market by making such false entries.
- ★ Selling in black market using bogus ration cards.

I request the District Collectors to ensure that the benefit of this scheme should reach the public fully by giving personal attention to avoid misdeeds.

I would like to explain the employment schemes of the Government, to eradicate poverty in rural areas.

About 2000 crore Rupees are spent through Local Administration for various schemes.

Schemes like employment assurance scheme, Jawahar Vela Vaippu Thittam, Indira housing scheme are implemented with the financial assistance from the State and Central Governments. The District Collectors should give intensive attention in these schemes.

Village Agricultural labourers, Coolies and landless poor people will be benefitted by these

employment schemes, which are being implemented by local bodies. The District Collectors should have this in their mind and speed up the works related to these schemes.

During this year an amount of Rs.450 crores have been allocated exclusively to provide protected drinking water facilities. The Government have taken steps to provide drinking water facilities to the drought affected districts and also to many water scarcity areas. I hope that the District Collectors would fulfil the drinking water

year, more than 2,700 motor pumps have been repaired for the effective use of the same for the people.

It is being said that, in certain places even the minor repairs to hand pumps and electric motor pumps have been delayed causing difficulties to public in getting drinking water. The District Collectors should give priority to such of these problems and take action to solve them.

I would like to brief you on various schemes



requirements of their respective areas, by utilising the finance allocation of the State Government's.

154 habitations which are not provided with drinking water facilities have been provided with drinking water facilities during the year. Arrangements are being made, to provide an average of 40 litres of protected drinking water, to a person, per day, and to all rural habitations before the end of the coming Five Year Plan. Last

implemented to safeguard the interest of the downtrodden and the effective implementation of these schemes.

You all are aware that this Government have always paid special attention in framing welfare schemes for the downtrodden and the following Welfare Schemes praised by all were formulated by this Government.

## Schemes:

- ★ Scheme for payment of incentives to outstanding Mahalir Mandrams - 1967-68.
- ★ Scheme for payment of subsidies to voluntary organisations/charity homes - 1968
- ★ Leprosy beggars Rehabilitation Home Scheme - 1971
- ★ Eye Camp Programme - 1972
- ★ Scheme for replacing of handpulled - rickshaw by cycle - rickshaws -1973
- ★ Scheme for provision of subsidies to voluntary organisations for construction of hostels for working women - 1974-75.
- ★ Scheme for Establishment of 'Karunai Illam' for destitute Children - 1975.
- ★ Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiyar Memorial Widow remarriage assistance Scheme.
- ★ Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme - 1989-90.
- ★ In the same year Muthulakshmi Reddy Ammaiyar Memorial Maternity assistance scheme.
- ★ Anjugam Ammaiyar Memorial Intercaste Marriage Assistance Scheme.
- ★ Scheme of Distributing free dhoties and sarees to people below povertyline.

I would like to stress that the District Collectors' direct involvement is necessary in implementing these schemes.

On receiving information that there had been some foul play in implementing these schemes. I had advised the concerned District Collectors to take stringent action against those who committed mistakes and accordingly actions have been taken.

It should be ensured that irregularities should not occur while implementing the social welfare schemes. It is the duty of the District Collectors to

watch the Social Welfare officials incharge of implementing the schemes and see that no irregularities would occur.

It has been decided to provide Marriage assistance to 36,145 women, this year, under Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Assistance scheme and an allocation of Rs.36.15 crores have been made for that. Of this 20,000 will be benefitted under the current financial year target and 16,145 women will get assistance as in the waiting list, the allocation was less than the required amount during the last financial year. The District Collectors should ensure that the assistance reach the concerned beneficiaries without any irregularities.

It is to be cultivated in the minds of each and every individual for voluntary participation in the Social Welfare - Developmental works. Then only it will be possible to implement the schemes expeditiously after ascertaining the needs of the people; and problems could be solved. People's grievances could easily be redressed if the implementation of Manuneethi Scheme is improved. In order to pave way for this I had announced the self help programmes in this years Budget Speech.

Self help programme is to be implemented to fulfill the basic needs of the villages by integrating the human resources of the villages and by complementing it with Government support. Importance has been given to the Grama Sabha in the Panchayat Act.

The voters in the panchayat should form a 'Village Public forum'. This forum will meet once in two months and discuss the needs and problems of the village and decide on the schemes to be implemented. The Public should involve themselves in the implementation of the schemes formulated by them. This is the 'Self Help Programme'.

Even now some philanthropists, students and

service hearted people join together and plant trees, carryout cleaning works, repairs and white wash public buildings, schools, noon meal centres, worship places etc. Though they are not doing the above works in all places, but doing them in some places. Few District Collectors have involved public in 'Kudimaramathu' works like deepening of irrigation tanks and lakes. Roads have also been laid in certain places. If this feeling of involvement

I want to tell you another information with a view to provide able administration.

The District Collectors should keenly monitor the developmental works carried out by various departments in the districts. Unnecessary delays in certain departments have been brought to my notice. For example delay in providing technical approval even after getting the administration



in the work is cultivated among them, then the fund allocated by the Government will be fully spent for the purpose and the requirements of the public will be met and I hope this will also solve several problems. I request the co-operation of the officials, to involve themselves in this work and for the success of this programme. Two young Government officials, under training, met me and briefed me about the two villages they had visited and informed that people in villages are ready to welcome the 'Self Help Programme'.

approval for a scheme; delay in inviting tenders; delay in finalising the tenders; then delays in awarding the work; those delays to be avoided. An Action plan has to be prepared and steps should be taken to complete the work accordingly at the earliest.

Now we encounter delays everywhere viz. delay in transferring of lands, delay in handing over the land, delay in acquisition, delay in getting approval from other departments- this situation has to be changed. Each and every department

should function in co-ordination with other departments. Differences of opinions between the departments should not come in the way of implementing the schemes.

If slackness is noticed in any of the department while carrying out works relating to schemes, the officer of the department has to be advised suitably and the work should be expedited. 'Chief Minister's Monitoring cell for Development Programmes' should also be informed. This is very important point that you should bear in mind.

The District Collectors should ensure that benefits of these schemes should reach the people by reviewing the works in every block level and by removing the hurdles if any.

#### **Law and Order:**

"The Law and order problem should be approached impartially". is the policy of this Government. You all are aware that wherever reports about partiality was brought to my notice I have looked into them and rectified the mistakes. So, the Police should taken action impartially and punish the guilty whoever they may be.

Anyone who have deep concern over the Tamil society, will not be without agony while seeing the youngsters in Southern Districts, in the recent days fight among themselves in the name of castes, due to the wrong guidances.

As for the Districts, the District Collectors are viewed by the people as the representatives of the Government. Hence, the District Collectors should identify the sensitive areas, and make periodical visits and form 'Peace Committees' and ensure safety and instil confidence in the minds of the people. Superintendent of Police should arrange for Police patrol in the area.

People coming to Police Stations would be already affected in one way or the other, seeking help. I would like to say the Police Officers should register their complaints and formal actions should be taken and a feeling of protection should be developed. Often we receive allegations that the

complaints lodged somewhere by some people have not at all been registered. Such allegations has to be put an end to. All the complaints have to be registered and acknowledgement card has to be given to the person who lodge complaints; Similarly, complaints regarding crimes committed in bus or trains can be given to any police station and that should be accepted; and, if the police station does not have the jurisdiction over the subject of the petition then it has to forward the same to the concerned police station which has jurisdiction over it. These orders were issued by the Government recently which I would like to point out now.

This Government's approach is that Police department should act as the friend of the public, should treat the public decently and everyone coming to police stations are not criminals and they should not be treated as criminals. It is the duty of the police personnel to be fully aware of this fact and to treat those who approach the station seeking help, well and help them.

Likewise it is also the expectations of this Government that Police officers in all the District should discharge their duties in such a way that public can easily approach them and particularly police officers posted in the Districts should hear the demands concerned to the police department and take steps to solve them immediately.

Already there is a Government order that the Superintendents of Police and the DIG's should meet the public on Mondays at the headquarters. Apart from this, the police officials who remain at the Headquarters on other days and also on the days when they are on camp, should hear the public grievances and should take remedial actions immediately.

It is also very very important that the Revenue Department and the Police Department should work together in maintaining law and order.

As I have already pointed out that, the Police Department, apart from being the friends of the people, should also be a guide to them. The Police



officials can take appropriate action on culprits, without coming under criticism, only if they have right sene of mind and disciplined dedication for duty. So I would like to stress that right approach and disciplined action are essential for police officers.

It is a well known fact that the Government had taken severe action against those officers who had committed crimes in the Police Stations. Custodial death have occured in few police stations due to some negligent and irresponsible police personnels. In order to prevent such incidences in future, the police officers should act carefully with utmost sense of responsibilities.

Illicit arrack, apart from causing several problems to the Government, causes social deterioration in several ways. Apart from taking actions on the persons selling illicit arrack, deterrant actions should also be taken on illicit distillers.

Erradication of illicit liquors should be carried out as a 'Mass movement'. The District collectors and District Police officers should take efforts towards this end. When people themselves come forward to erradicate illicit liquor, you should co-operate with them and encourage them towards this social cause.

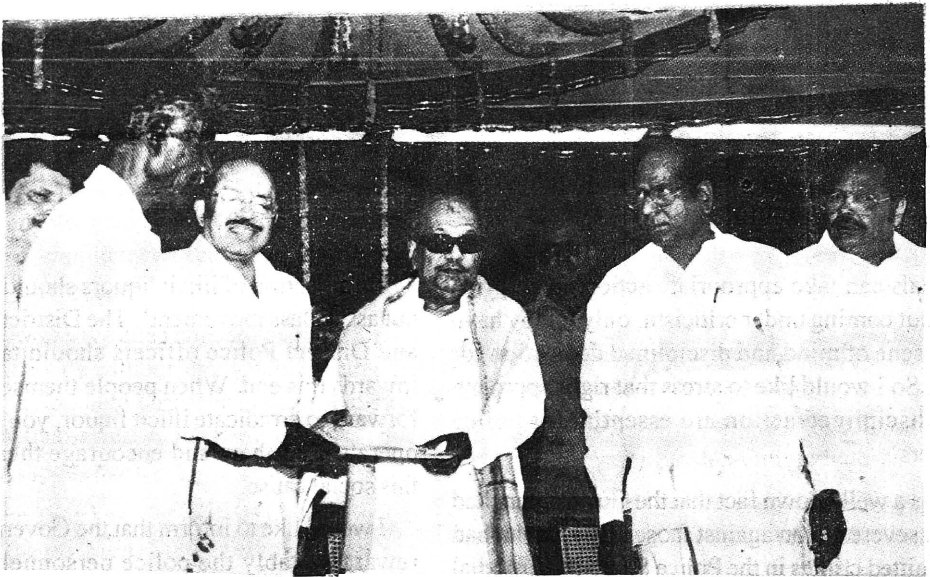
I would like to inform that the Government will reward suitably the police personnel who take actions boldly on the illicit distillers and sellers, irrespective of their social status.

I request the Secretaries, heads of departments, District Collectors and Police officials to come forward openly with their suggestions and experiences without any hesitation. I have strong belief that your suggestions will be a foundation for the Government's principles and policies. The respect and reputation given to the Government depends upon the work of the District Collectors, Heads of Departments and Police officers. With this, I request you to extend your kind co-operation to this Government. ★

# “ANNA RENAISSANCE SCHEME” AND “SELF HELP PROGRAMME”

- The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi  
at the inauguration of 'Anna Renaissance Scheme' and  
'Self Help Programme' on 26-6-1997 in Vellore District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi inaugurated "The Anna Renaissance Scheme" and "Self Help Programme" (Namakku Naamae) on 26.6.97 in Ponnai Village at Wallajahpet and Vinnamangalam at Mathur in Vellore District respectively. The Chief participants of the functions were the Hon'ble Central Minister for Industry, Thiru Murasoli Maran, Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration, Thiru Ko.Si.Mani, Hon'ble Minister for Health, Thiru Arcot N. Veerasami, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Thiru Durai Murugan, Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Secretary to Government, Thiru K.A. Nambiar, I.A.S. and the Collector of Vellore District, Thiru P.W.C. Davidar, I.A.S.



## ANNA RENAISSANCE SCHEME

The objective of Anna Renaissance Scheme is to select a village in each Legislative Assembly Constituency every year and develop into a modern village.

Minimum basic facilities like protected drinking water supply, primary education, primary health care, nutritious food, housing facilities, link roads and fair price shop.

The following schemes were launched at Ponnai village under the Anna Renaissance Scheme at a total cost of Rs.85.5 lakhs.

- ❑ A separate water supply pipeline at a cost of Rs.6.0 lakhs for providing uninterrupted water supply to Ponnai village.
- ❑ An additional overhead tank at a cost of Rs.15.0

lakhs for giving additional supplies the pipelines in Oddaneri and S.N. Palayam villages.

- ❑ Renovation of pipelines at a cost of Rs.3.6 lakhs.
- ❑ A new water supply connection from the overhead tank to P.N.Palayam village at a cost of Rs.8.5 lakhs.
- ❑ Water supply connection to S.N. Palayam and Oddar Colony at a cost of Rs.5.8 lakhs.
- ❑ New water supply facilities to Kondareddipalli at a cost of Rs.1.5 lakhs.
- ❑ New water supply facilities to Devakannikapuram at a cost of Rs.1.5 lakhs.
- ❑ Additional building for Ponnai High School at a cost of Rs.3.0 lakhs.
- ❑ Additional building for Ponnai Primary School at a cost of Rs.3.0 lakhs.
- ❑ Water supply facilities for the three primary schools in Ponnai village at a cost of Rs.1.5 lakhs.
- ❑ Toilet facilities for the three primary schools at a cost of Rs.30,000.
- ❑ Construction of group houses, renovation and repairs of old houses at a total cost of Rs.28.6 lakhs.
- ❑ 60 group houses.  
20 in Oddanery village 20 in P.N.Palayam and 20 in Ponnai Pudur .
- ❑ Renovation of 40 houses.  
20 in Ponnai Colony 20 in Kuravar Colony.
- ❑ Repair of 20 houses.



- ❑ Construction of building for the fair price shop at a cost of Rs.1.3 lakhs.
- ❑ Construction of new Bus Stand at a cost of Rs.5.0 lakhs.
- ❑ In addition to the basic facilities, the following three schemes were also inaugurated.





- ❑ Housesite pattas to 95 beneficiaries through the Adidraavidar Welfare Department.
- ❑ Patta Pass Book to 75 beneficiaries.
- ❑ Old-age pension to 50 destitute persons.
- ❑ Sewing machines to 6 destitute women.
- ❑ Distribution of tools to three barbers and three dhobies.

By implementing various schemes as a package, the Government hopes that the inhabitants of the village are provided with the minimum basic facilities. Specially the Government expects that each and every inhabitant of the village has a decent house, has access to potable water and gets adequate health coverage. This village should have adequate transport facilities and the fair price shop functions smoothly and the children of the village enjoy good educational facilities.

There should be your full involvement in these schemes implemented in your village. These schemes are implemented for your benefit, for the benefit of your village, your welfare and the future welfare of your children. Hence, you should develop the feeling that this scheme is implemented for you and you should participate in it. Your participation can be in the form of free manual labour or donation of money and material. Some of you can come forward to construct buildings for your schools and hostels. The success of the scheme depends on your involvement and the co-operation extended by the various Government officials in charge of implementing the different schemes.

Hence I request all of you to co-operate for the success of this scheme in Ponnai village. I hope that your success in implementing this scheme will set an example for the entire State. ★

- ❑ A new branch of the Vellore Co-operative Central Bank.
- ❑ A new full time fair price shop at Periakoil Street, Ponnai.
- ❑ Under the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas Scheme (DWCRA), distribution of spindles to the women's group through the Sarvodaya Sangam.
- ❑ Under various welfare schemes of the Government, beneficiaries from Ponnai village Panchayat will be getting the following benefits.
- ❑ 2 coconut seedlings, 2 papaya seedlings and a drumstick and guava seedling to 1,000 families in the Panchayat.
- ❑ Assistance to 51 beneficiaries under IRDP.
- ❑ Assistance to 20 beneficiaries under TRYSEM.
- ❑ Distribution of 2.45 acres of land to landless poor.
- ❑ Housesite pattas to 21 beneficiaries.

# SELF HELP PROGRAMME

## (NAMAKKU NAAMAE)

- ❑ People should come forward to participate in community development programmes.
- ❑ Every citizen should involve in formulating and implementing developmental schemes.
- ❑ Only then, will the Government be able to assess the needs and problems of the village and address them.
- ❑ The Mass Contact Programme currently in vogue can be streamlined and the grievances of the public can be redressed.

Only with these objectives in mind, I had announced the Self Help Programme in my Budget speech and we are launching the scheme today. I had mentioned in the Budget speech that the Mass Contact Programme which was launched by this Government in 1969 for the first time in India, got diluted during the subsequent regimes. I had mentioned that this Government has decided to remove the slackness which has crept into the programme and remove the bottlenecks in the implementation of developmental programmes by adopting the Self Help Programme. Under the Mass Contact programme, various Government officials visit villages, hear the grievances of the people and solve them. We are going a step further in the Self Help Programme. By harnessing and integrating the human resources of the villages and by complementing it with Governmental effort, we have decided to fulfil the basic needs of the villages. Accordingly, we have assembled here in Vinnamangalam village to inaugurate the Self Help Programme to fulfil the basic needs of this village with the participation of the villagers.

The Grama Sabha has been given the pride of place in the Panchayat Act. The Act provides for the

constitution of a Grama Sabha in every village with all the electors in the village as its members. The Grama Sabha will meet atleast thrice a year and discuss the needs and problems of the village and decide on the schemes to be implemented and prioritize them. The public will involve in the implementation of the schemes formulated by them. This is the basic concept of the Self Help Programme.

Various officials entrusted with the responsibility

of implementing various schemes are here today. They will be explaining to you the details of various schemes of the Government. As in the case of your village, the officials will be visiting all the villages in their jurisdiction and explain the features of various schemes to the people. The villagers should come forward to fulfil their immediate needs. The officials will assist them. For example, there may be some philanthropists in this village who

**“ We ourselves  
Government of the people,  
by the people  
By the people, for the people  
‘For us, By us’  
Together we prosper  
United we stand  
Together, we march ahead  
Participate and progress  
Let us march together  
Progress by participation ”**

will be ready to contribute to the cause in terms of money, material and manpower. Others may be willing to contribute their labour for the public good. The Grama Sabha should accept the offers of those magnanimous persons and may construct buildings for schools and hospitals of this village. You may also carry out repairs to the floors and ceilings of public buildings. Some others from the village may be willing to donate equipments for the school. The people themselves may whitewash the school buildings. If there are minor repairs in the water supply system, the villagers themselves may set them right and ensure continuous flow of water in the system. Grama Sabha may put an end to the illicit distillation of arrack in the village with the assistance of the Police and the Revenue Departments.



The Government has been assisting the poor through various welfare schemes. For example, Government has been granting Rs. 10,000/- under the Moovaloor Ramamirtham Ammaiyaar Marriage Assistance Scheme for girls from poor families who have studied upto 8th Standard. Similarly, there are other marriage assistance schemes like Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiyaar Marriage Assistance Scheme for Widow's Remarriage and Marriage Assistance Scheme for Destitute Women. Under Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Ammaiyaar Ninaivu Makapperu Udhavi Thittam for the pregnant women, the Government has been extending cash assistance amounting to Rs. 500/- covering two months before confinement and two months following it. The Grama Sabha may select the beneficiaries under these different schemes.

The Government has been implementing various developmental schemes for the villagers. There may be a slight cost overrun in a few schemes. If the Grama Sabha comes forward to bear the additional expenditure, a large number of schemes can be

implemented successfully for the benefit of the villagers. If such a bond develops between the Grama Sabha and the Government, the Government allotment for various schemes can be fully utilised without any wastage or pilferage; and the schemes can be completed early. By implementing schemes in this manner, I believe that various social problems could be solved.

In implementing schemes involving public contribution and effort, I have instructed the officials that there should not be any procrastination or red-tapism usually associated with the Government programmes.

I have come here specifically to inaugurate the scheme in this village which will be replicated throughout the State. As a part of implementing the Self Help Programme, the Grama Sabha of Vinnamangalam village has assembled today. You must spell out the schemes required for the advancement of your village. The officials will then tell you which of the schemes required by you can be covered under the ongoing schemes and the allocation available for those schemes. Based on those suggestions, you can decide on the schemes to be started immediately. I hope to inaugurate a few of the schemes selected by you today itself with financial assistance from the Government and the free contribution of labour, money and material from you. So far, Government machinery has been coming to you either to inaugurate schemes already announced by the Government or to declare open schemes completed by them. But today, the Government has come to you to know first hand what the schemes are required by you and know from you which scheme should be implemented on top priority. Much more than that the responsibility of implementing and supervising the schemes is being given to you. The Government has come to you to lend its helping hand in assisting you in implementing your programmes. This is the speciality of the Self Help Scheme. I now invite you to tell us the requirements of your village.

★

## CHIEF MINISTER'S MASS TREE PLANTING SCHEME

**C**hief Minister's Mass Tree Planting Scheme which was inaugurated on 3rd June 1997 will be implemented in 75 Panchayat Unions in Tamil Nadu. Under this scheme, seedlings such as tamarind, neem etc. will be planted on either side of the road for 25 kms at an interval of 8 meters, in each Panchayat Union. Thus 250 seedlings will be planted per kilometre on both sides of the roads in each Panchayat Union. Tamarind seedlings will be planted for a length of 15 kms and neem and other seedlings will be planted for a length of 10 kms. It will cost Rs.6,30,000 for planting neem and other seedlings for 10



kms at the rate of Rs.3,50,000 for planting neem and other seedlings for 10 kms at the rate of Rs.35,000 per km in each Panchayat Union. The cost per Panchayat Union will be Rs.9,80,000. The total cost will be Rs.7.35 crores for 75 Panchayat Unions throughout Tamil Nadu.

The scheme will be implemented by a committee consisting of the District Collector as the Chairman, Joint Director of Agriculture as Member-Secretary, District Forest Officer and Project Officer (DRDA) as Members of the committee. The Director of Agriculture will co-ordinate the implementation of the scheme.

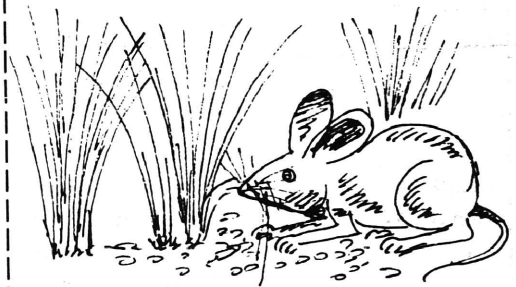
## GRANTS FOR PRIVATE LIBRARIES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

Applications are invited, for Government of India's grants to private libraries having old and rare books, manuscripts, parchments, palm leaves, manuscripts, scrolls etc., for preservation, conservation, storage, catalogue, indexing etc.,



Forms may be obtained from the office of the Commissioner, Tamil Nadu Archives, 28-29 Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai-8.

## THE RAT - LAP DOG OF THE EVIL



The rat plunders a fifth of the world's crops, each year, carries a score of diseases to man, even attacks him. Yet, in laboratories the rat has contributed more to the cure of human illness than any other animal.

# CONCESSIONS TO ADI-DRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL STUDENTS

The following educational scholarship and cash awards are sanctioned to the students belonging to Adi-Dravidar, converted Adi-Dravidar Christians, Tribals (belonging to all communities) studying upto school final and above, during the current academic year 1997-98. As per the G. O. varsity No. 722 Social Welfare Department dated 13.10.1977, the students studying above Tenth Standard belonging to Adi Dravidar, Tribals, converted Adi-Dravidar Christians are exempted from paying tuition fees irrespective of their parent/guardian's annual income. This tuition fees amount is compensated by the Government to the Institution.

S. No. (1)	Name of the Scheme (2)	Details (3)	Terms & Conditions (4)	Whom to approach (5)
<b>A.</b>	<b>Concessions to student studying in Schools</b>			
a1.	Exemption from paying tuition fee under Free Education Scheme	Students studying in Government and Government aided Schools from 1st to 12th Standards are exempted from paying tuition fees.	No conditions	Head Master
a2.	Special Fees	The special fees for students studying from 6th to 10th Standards and the 10th Public Examination Fee is paid by the Government directly. The students need not pay the fees.	No conditions	Head Master
a3.	Boarding fees for Hostel Students	Students studying from 6th to 10th Standards staying in hostels attached to schools or approved hostels are eligible for free boarding.	Annual income should not exceed Rs. 15,000	District Adi-Dravidar Welfare Officer
a4.	Distribution of Text Books and Guides	Free Text Books to 9th and 10th Standard Students and guides to students studying between 4th and 10th Standards are provided.	No Conditions	Head Master
a5.	Scholarship to Children of Labourers who undertake non-hygenic works. (Scavengers, Sweepers, Leather Tanners)	<b><u>Students staying with their parents</u></b> Students from 1st to 5th standard at Rs. 25 per month, 6th to 8th standard at Rs. 40 per month, 9th and 10th standard at Rs. 50 per month	Irrespective of annual income, religion, community,	District Adi-Dravidar Welfare Officer

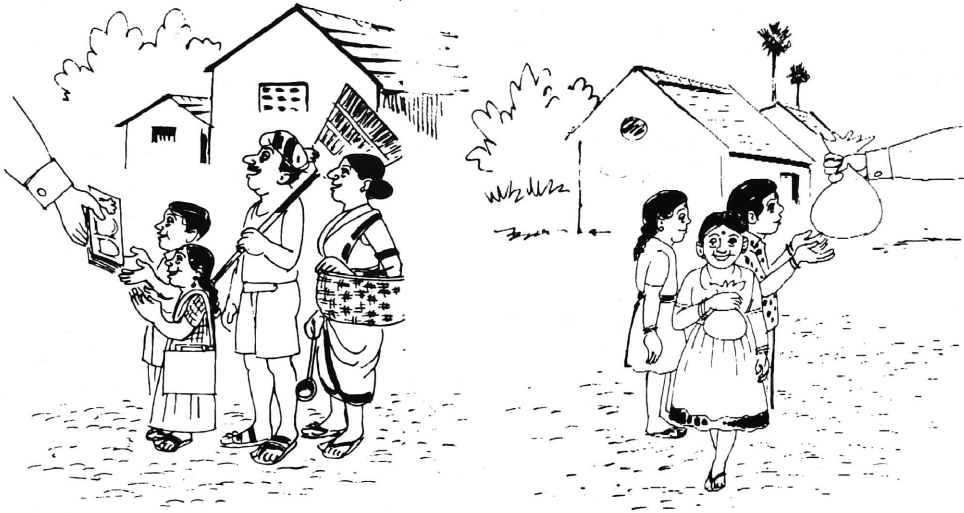
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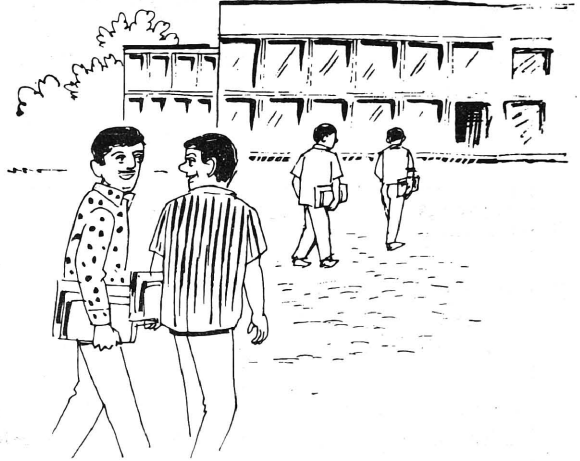
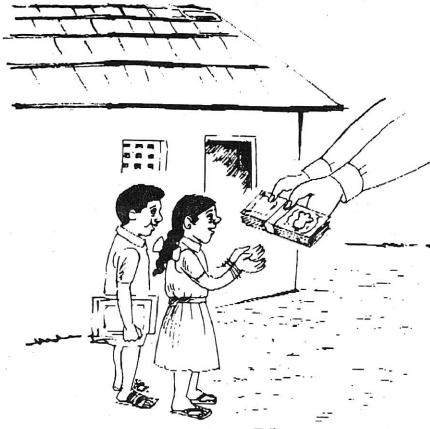
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(5)



<p><b>B. Distribution of Incentive Prizes</b></p> <p>b1. Bright Scholarship</p> <p>b2. Gandhi Memorial Award</p>	<p><b><u>Hostel Students</u></b></p> <p>From 3rd to 8th standard Rs.200, 9 and 10th Standard Rs.250 (per month). Apart from this Rs.500 will be paid totally every year to all school students.</p> <p>Cash award of Rs.800 for first year and Rs.960 for the next five years will be paid to two boy students and two girl students belonging to the Adi-Dravidar, Adi-Dravidar converted to Christianity and Tribal Community who secure highest marks in X Standard Public Examination. In each District 12 Students will be given totally.</p> <p>Each one of the boy and girl students belonging to Adi-Dravidar Community who secure first mark in 12th Standard Public Examination at District Level, from each District will be awarded at a rate of Rs.1500 for the first year and Rs.1000 for the next 5 years.</p>	<p>Paid for 10 months.</p> <p>Should continue studies</p> <p>Should continue studies</p>	<p>Head Master</p> <p>Director, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Chennai - 5.</p> <p>Director, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Chennai - 5.</p>
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b3. Merit cum Means Award	It is similar to the Gandhi Memorial Award. Each one of the student belonging to converted Adi-Dravidars and Tribal communities will be awarded separately.	Should continue studies	Director, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Chennai - 5.
b4. Chief Minister's Merit Award	The first 1000 boy students and 1000 girl students belonging to Adi-Dravidar, Tribals and Adi-Dravidar converted to Christianity communities who secure highest marks in 12th Standard Public Examination at State Level will be awarded Rs.1500 per year.	Should continue studies	Director, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Chennai - 5.
b5. Incentive awards to Adi-Dravidar girl students for avoiding discontinuation of studies.	60,000 Adi-Dravidar girl students studying from 3rd to 5th Standard, will be awarded incentive amount to enable them to continue their studies, at a rate of Rs.500 per year.	Should not discontinue studies	District Chairman, TAHDCO
	This scheme is being implemented in Dharmapuri, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Virudhunagar, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Naga - pattinam, Salem, Thiruvarur, Namakkal, Thiruchirappalli, Karur and Perambalur Districts.		
	30,000 girl students studying in 6th Standard are being given Rs.100 per month for ten months to enable them to continue their studies.		
b6. Award Scheme	Students of Bachelor's Degree, Post Graduate Degree and Professional Courses who secure 60% of marks at their first attempt will be awarded Rs.1000, Rs.1250, Rs.1500 respectively. Totally 1000 awards are given per year.	Should secure 60% of marks at their first attempt.	Director, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Chennai - 5.



b7. **State Level Awards**

12th Standard Public Examinations.

First mark - 1boy and 1 girl - Rs.5000 each

10th Standard Public Examinations.

First mark - 1boy and 1 girl - Rs.3000 each

b8. **DISTRICT LEVEL AWARDS**

12th Standard Public Examinations.

First mark - 1boy and 1 girl - Rs.3000 each

10th Standard Public Examinations.

3 boys and 3 girls who secure highest marks with 3 awards

First prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
Rs.1000 each	Rs.500 each	Rs.300 each

8th Standard

First Prize 1 boy and 1 girl Rs.500 each  
Second Prize 1 boy and 1 girl Rs.300 each

Students belonging to Adi-Dravidars, converted Adi-Dravidars and Tribals

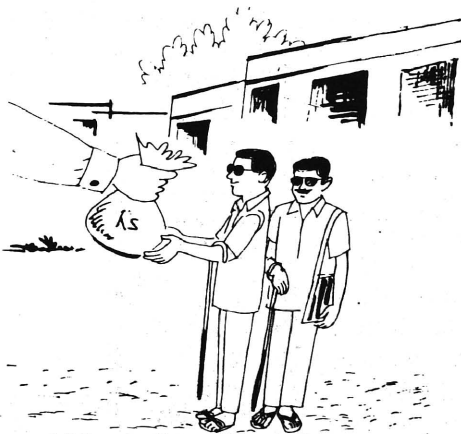
District Adi-Dravidar Welfare Officer

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
b9.	Incentive Awards	Students who secure 60% in 10th and 12th Standard Public Examinations will be awarded Rs.300 only.	Should secure 60% of marks and should continue their higher studies.	District Adi-Dravidar Welfare Officer

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION**

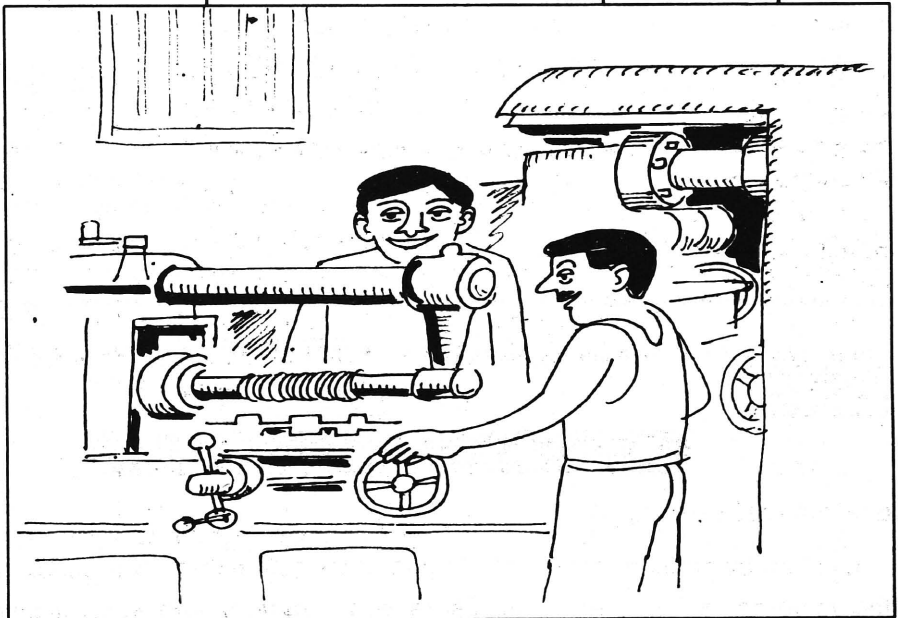
C.	<b>FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION</b>			
c1.	Centre's Financial assistance scheme for education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Under this scheme students studying 11th Standard and above staying with their parents are paid Rs.90 to Rs.190 for maintenance fees per month.</li> <li>2. Hostel students are paid Rs. 150 to Rs.425 for maintenance per month.</li> <li>3. Apart from this all the other non-refundable compulsory fees such as special fees, examination fees payable to the educational institutions will be given.</li> </ol>	Students belonging to Adi-Dravidar, Tribal Communities studying Bachelor's and Post Graduate Degrees in Medicine, Engineering, Architecture, whose parent's annual income not exceeding Rs.44,500 will be given cent percent maintenance fees. For Students studying in other courses, whose parent's annual income is less than Rs.33,400, cent percent maintenance fees and whose parent's income is between Rs.33,400 and Rs.44,500, 50% of the maintenance fees will be paid.	School Head Master/Principal of the College

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
c2.	Concessions to students belonging to Adi-Dravidar/Tribal communities studying in the Educational Institutions of other States.	As per in the above Columns 1, 2 & 3	—	Director, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Chennai-5.
c3.	Concessions to students who are employed full time.	Only fees payable compulsorily to the educational institutions.	Student's and parent's annual income should not exceed Rs.44,500.	Principal of the College.
c4.	Concessions to students studying in evening courses who are not employed.	1. Maintenance fees as mentioned above in Column 1 & 2.  2. Only fees payable compulsorily.	as above  Student's/parent's annual income between Rs.33,400 and Rs.44,500	Principal of the College.  Principal of the College.
<b>OTHER CONCESSIONS UNDER THE ABOVE SCHEME</b>				
c5.	Additional assistance to the blind students	Apart from the Central Government's financial assistance, the following additional financial assistance will be sanctioned to the blind students, under the Readers Charges category.		



(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
		<b>Faculties</b>	<b>Per month</b>	
		Professional Courses / Post Graduate Courses / Other Degree / Diploma Courses	Rs.100	
		2nd & 3rd year Degree Courses	Rs.75	
		Plus1, Plus 2 and First year Degree Course	Rs.50	
c6.	Educational Tour Fees	For essential educational tours of students undergoing professional courses and polytechnic courses, the maximum fee amount of Rs.500 will be given per year.	As above	Principal of the College.
c7.	Concessions to Research Students	Research Scholars undertaking research works are given maximum amount of Rs.600 for typing/printing the research papers.	As above	Principal of the College.
c8.	Concessions to students undergoing correspondence courses.	Apart from buying text books, an amount of Rs.500 per year is being given towards the payment of non-refundable compulsory fees to the Universities.	As above	Registrar of the University.
<b>EDUCATIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT</b>				
c9.	State's Special Educational Financial Assistance	The students who are not able to avail the Centre's Financial Assistance and who are studying 11th standard and above will be assisted under this scheme.  For Day Scholars staying with their parents, an amount of Rs.65 to Rs.125 and for hostel students Rs.115 to Rs.280 are being granted as maintenance fees based on their courses. Apart from this all the non-refundable compulsory fees payable to the Colleges are being granted.	Annual income should be within Rs.50,000	Head Master/ Principal

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
c10.	Free Education	Students studying Plus 1, Plus 2, Bachelor's Science, Commerce Degree Courses in regular Colleges will be granted all the special fees and examination fees.	No income limit.	District Adi-Dravidar welfare officer through the Principal of the College.
c11.	Free education to students undergoing technical courses.	For students undergoing technical courses, special fees and examination fees will be granted under this scheme.	Annual income should not exceed Rs.15,000, should be the first Graduate in the family.	Director, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department through the Principal of the College.



c12.	Educational loan assistance scheme	Apart from the amount granted under the educational assistance, Hostel students are granted additional educational loans, in order to meet the over and above expenditure of the hostel. The loan amount of Rs.6,500 for graduates and Rs.7000 for Post-graduates is being granted. This loan amount should be repaid either after three years of their completion of the course or one year after getting job.	No income limit. Only hostel students are eligible.	District Adi-Dravidar Welfare Officer through the Principal of the College.
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# TNPSC

## TAMILNADU PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Advertisement No. 11/97

### Half - Yearly Examinations and Language Tests for Officers of the All India Services and State Services - September 1997

The Half-Yearly Examinations and Language Tests prescribed for Officers of All India Services (I.A.S., I.P.S., and I.F.S.) and certain classes of Officers of the State, serving in Tamil Nadu will be conducted by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission from 18th September '97 onwards. The last date for receipt of applications for the Examinations is 20.8.97. Applications received after the last date will be rejected summarily and postal delay will not be entertained as an excuse. Application forms and detailed particulars may be obtained on written requisition from the Controller of Examinations, Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, Government Estate, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002.

**Note:** (i) These Examinations are only for those who are already in All India Services and State Services.

(ii) The Language Test in Tamil by the Higher Standard conducted under this scheme shall be the proficiency test in Tamil for All India Service Officers of other States, who desire to pass Tamil under Rs. 1,000/- Cash Award Scheme of their State. The Officers who wish to appear for this proficiency test in Tamil should apply to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Public (Special) Department, Chennai-9, through the Chief Secretary to the Government of the State on the cadre of which the member of the service is borne so as to reach the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission on or before the last date (i.e.) 20.8.97. Only Officers who have not completed ten years of Service are eligible for this Examination.

DIPR/1347/CNI/97



# TNPSC

## TAMILNADU PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PROFICIENCY TEST IN TAMIL - SEPTEMBER '97

Advertisement No. 12/97

It is hereby notified that the Proficiency Test in Tamil for I.A.S., I.P.S., and I.F.S., Officers borne on Tamilnadu State Cadre, whose mother tongue is not Tamil and who have not taken Tamil as a subject or passed any Examination in Tamil in the S.S.L.C., and/or Degree course and who will not complete six years of Service on 18th September '97 will be held by the Tamilnadu Public Service Commission at its office on the 18th and 19th September '97. Persons who pass the test will be entitled to a monetary award of Rs.1,000/-. The last date for receipt of applications for the test is 5.45 p.m. on 20.8.97. Persons other than I.A.S., I.P.S., and I.F.S., Officers are not eligible to apply for this Examination. Application forms may be obtained on written requisition from the **Controller of Examinations, Tamilnadu Public Service Commission, Government Estate, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002.**

DIPR/1354/CNI/97

# Magnificent 1300 years old Ayyanar sculpture discovered from Alagramam

**O**ne more magnificent sculpture of Ayyanar has been discovered from the Alagramam village, which had already yielded an exquisite Ayyanar image datable to 7th - 8th Century, a Jyeshta and a Vishnu of the same period in Tindivanam Taluk a few months back. The present Ayyanar is located at the street leading to North near a Rice Mill.

Seated on a pedestal, hanging his left leg in front of the pedestal and placing his right leg folded on it, Ayyanar is having two hands placing the right hand in Lolahasta position on the knee of the right leg, while the left hand is placed as Lolahasta on the left thigh. Jatabaram is seen on his head and the right ear is hanging upto his right shoulder wearing an ornament while the left ear is wearing a heavy kundalam. Over his head, two chowries are seen placed on either side and an umbrella is seen above them at the centre. On the left side of Ayyanar a beautiful lady is standing, bearing a Kalasam on her right hand while her left hand is seen placed on her hip. This lady seems to be either Puranai, the consort of Ayyanar or the Mohini the form taken by Lord Vishnu in order to attract the attention of the Daruga Vana Sages. On the right side of Ayyanar by the side of his shoulder, a horse rider with his horse is carved. Below his right hand by the side of his left leg, there is a majestic cock staring the figure of Ayyanar. At the right side of the pedestal, an animal probably a monkey appears to be playing with its cub bearing it by its four legs. On the left side of the pedestal, a dog in couchant posture is

seen looking at the play of the monkey and its child. Left of it, there is a dwarf in standing posture indicating the greatness and valour of Ayyanar by his right hand and his left hand appears to be placed upon his belly. The height of it is 1 meter and 0.38cm and the width is 0.80 cms.



This combination of figures such as horse rider, monkeys, cock, dog, a dwarf and a lady with the main deity is an unique one so far not found in Tamil Nadu. Ayyanar by his majestic look appears as a great warrior. The ornaments worn by him, the thick yagnopavita appear to run over his right shoulder and the folds of his dress reveal that this figure should belong to the first half of the 7th century A.D. Since this is the unique image, so far not found in Tamil Nadu, it assumes great importance and reveals that the worship of Ayyanar was prevalent even in the first half of the seventh century itself in Tamil Nadu. ★

# MAGICAL MADURAI CELEBRATES JUBILEE

N.Ranganathan & Joseph Chandrakumar

**I**t is a city that never slumbers. A funny attribute to Madurai is that a man can conduct his daughter's betrothal by dusk and complete her marriage by dawn the next day, meaning that every conceivable article needed for the marriage including silk sarees and gold jewellery could be purchased overnight, and all arrangements completed in time for the auspicious occasion. There are rows and rows of shops and streets earmarked for each commodity in this ancient temple city, a beautifully planned citadel of Tamil culture. Madurai Corporation, the custodian of the city's civic amenities crossed a milestone on May 28, 1997, by celebrating 25 years of service to the people. The occasion gives an opportunity to take a peep at this great city's past and its present day condition.

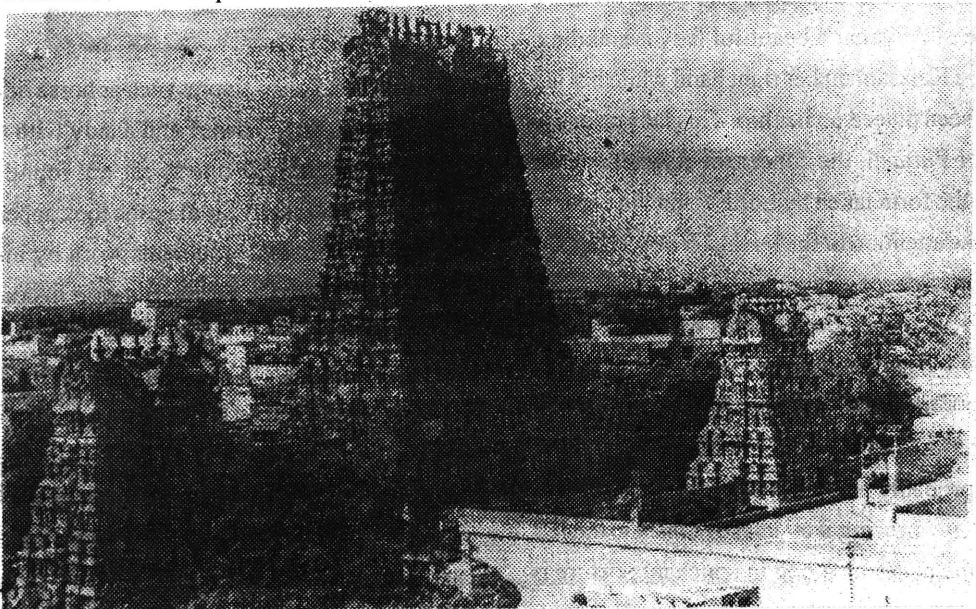
## Historical Madurai

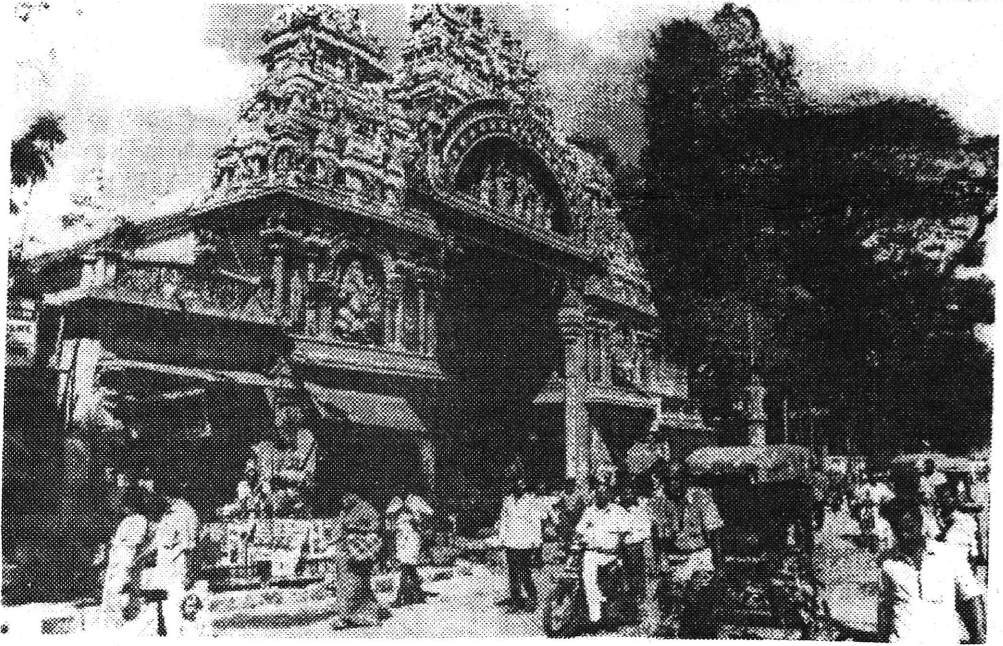
Situated on the banks of river Vaigai which ushers in more sand than water for most part of the

year, the history of the city goes back to the 6th century B.C. when it traded with Greece and Rome. Ancient Madurai was a centre of Tamil culture and learning, well known for the Sangam literature, great poets, patronising kings and temple builders. The main claim to Madurai's fame is its stately Meenakshi temple with its astounding gopurams, multi-pillared mantapams and the golden lotus tank.

The Naik kings who ruled Madurai laid out the old town in the pattern of a lotus with narrow streets surrounding the temple. The streets on the four sides have taken the names of festivals which are celebrated in each street exclusively. It is a city that has seen the thick and thin of history from the days of the Pandya kings to the Naiks, even withstanding the assault of the great Moghul commander, Malik Kafur and later of the impact of Carnatic wars and the imperialistic British Raj. The city witnessed a great upsurge of spirit during

Sri Meenakshi Amman Temple





the days of the Freedom Movement proving to be a mighty fortress for Gandhiji's Satyagraha against the repressive measures of the Raj.

### **History of the Corporation**

Throughout the pages of history Madurai managed to retain its basic and fundamental character of South Indian culture, giving little room for modifications and development. Not quite surprisingly, the second largest city in Tamil Nadu is described as a 'Big Village'. It was in 1866 that the Madurai Municipality was formed with an area of 2.60sq.km. and a meagre population of 41,601. The city was raised to the status of a Corporation in May 1971. Elections were held to the Madurai Corporation last year after a gap of 12 years. The present Mayor Thiru P. Kulandai-velu was elected directly by the people for the first time. The Corporation has 72 Councillors. the Mayor will hold office for a period of 5 years giving him sufficient time and opportunity to implement his schemes and programmes effectively.

### **Floating Population**

The population of Madurai today stands at 11.20 lakhs - a good 4.70 lakhs more than it was when the Corporation was formed 25 years ago. Much of Madurai's daily quota of problems come through its floating population running to about one lakh. These people come from nearby towns like Virudhunagar, Sattur, Dindigul, Usilampatti, Theni, Karaikudi, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Srivilliputhur, Rajapalayam and Aruppukkottai. Since Madurai is well connected with all these places by good bus service, scores of people flock to Madurai each day to buy and to sell.

Although good lodging and boarding facilities have come up in the city over the past 3 decades, no facility exists for the floating population to rest during the day. The main bus terminals do not have enough facility for their toilet and other needs. One pleasant fact is that Madurai serves cheap food to its visitors inspite of being a large city. Its roadside stalls, forerunners to the modern day fast food joints have been in existence from time

immemorial. Quite often people from the surrounding rural towns hop on to the 'town bus' to get a sip of their cup of 'kaappee' and a visit to one of Madurai's many cinema houses for their favourite matinee show.

### **Vaigai a Bliss or Bane?**

Vaigai the river that runs through the heart of Madurai, doesn't help much to solve the perennial drinking water problem of the city; so much so that in February 1995 a World Bank assisted scheme was implemented to bring drinking water to the city from the Vaigai dam at a cost of Rs. 48.52 crores. This water is being supplied through 5 overhead tanks while the city is waiting for 10 more to come. The city's total water requirements is about 92 million litres per day.

The Vaigai is a heavily polluted river, its river bed soiled by effluence from dye houses associated with the handloom industry, as well as washing of dirty linen by dhobis on the riverbed and letting in untreated sewerage from the newly developed housing colonies into the river. The people are not able to tap even the spring water which Vaigai is well known for, thanks to the polluted river bed.

### **Transport System**

Madurai is now connected with Chennai on the north and upto Kanniyakumari on the south through broadgauge. This enables merchandise from the north Indian centres to flow into Madurai directly without transshipment. There is great demand for direct trains from Madurai to upcountry cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta. At present, however, broadgauge train service is being operated from Nagercoil to Mumbai via Madurai thrice a week.

There is a small airport connecting the city to Chennai and Calicut. There is, however, a long felt need to develop it into an international airport connecting Madurai to Colombo and Gulf countries.

### **Tourist Potential**

Tourists not only from the rest of India but also from abroad visit Madurai in large numbers, primarily to marvel at the temple architecture and to admire the superbly aesthetic Tirumalai Nayakar Mahal. Tourists can also take short trips from Madurai to picturesque scenic spots like Kodaikanal, Vaigai dam, Suruli falls, Thekkadi, etc. Tourist facilities have improved in the city over the years with a couple of star hotels and a number of 'A' grade hotels coming up.

### **Industrial Development**

Madurai is one of the oldest textile centres in the South, next only to Coimbatore. Eventhough there has been appreciable development in the small scale sector, there has not been much addition to the existing large industries, leaving Madurai to boast of nothing but a few old textile mills. The city, however, is a great centre for handloom industry run mostly by the Saurashtra community. Madurai also has an industrial estate for knit wear.

Plans are afoot to set up a large scale garment factory for manufacturing clothes for the Defence sector. This will be on the lines of the Ordinance factory in Trichy.

As part of the silver jubilee celebrations of the Madurai Corporation, over Rs.75 crores has been earmarked for development of roads, construction of new road over bridges across the Vaigai, a ring road around the city and an integrated bus station at Melur road and other long felt civic amenities. Once these projects are completed, the city, no doubt, will wear a posh look losing its 'Big Village' reputation. In spite of modernity, however, Madurai is sure to retain its ancient cultural drape with its magnificent temple gopurams still managing to tower over any modern edifice. ★

# ACTIVITIES OF ANTI- MALARIA MONTH

**C**orporation of Chennai has celebrated Anti- Malaria month from June 1st to 30th June '97. Respectable Deputy Mayor inaugurated the function on 1.6.97. The Commissioner, Corporation of Chennai, presided over the function. The Chairman of the Work Committee, members and the M.L.A of the Perambur Assembly constituency participated in the inaugural function.

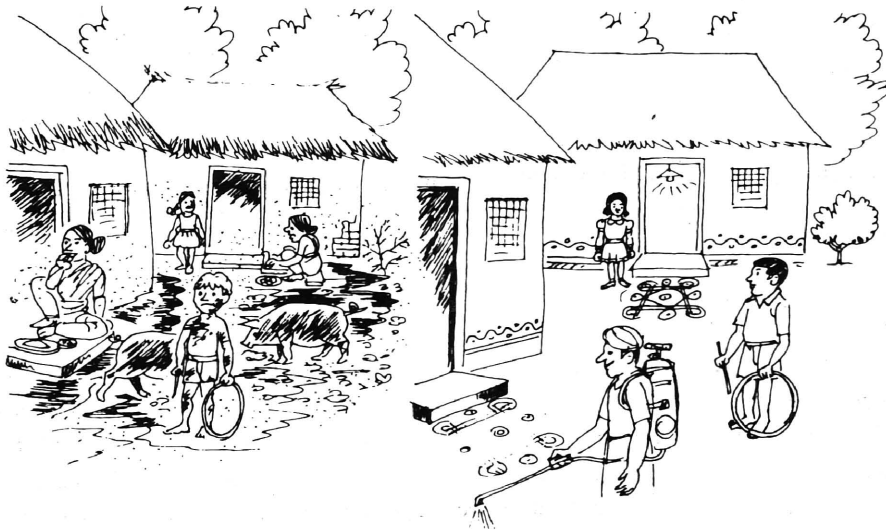
Malaria transmitting mosquito breeds only in fresh water collections like open wells, over-head-tanks, under ground sumps, cisterns and other water containers. 1,52,171 breeding sources were treated during this anti-malaria campaign. 1,15,427 houses were fogged with 155 hand

Anti larval spray work was carried out in storm water drains, water ways and other water stagnant places. A total 791 Kms length of area were sprayed by using 200 hand pumps.

474 Kilometers length of storm water drains were fogged with hand operated fogging machines.

Wide publicity about methods of malaria prevention was given by posters, stickers, handouts, audio announcements and video shows.

Work shops were conducted to educate knowledge on cause of malaria its spread and control measures to all ward committee members, private and Corporation medical officers, paramedical personnel and engineers.



operated fogging machine in slum area and other malaria prone places. In the evening hours thermo fogging operation was carried out with 8 vehicle mounted fogging machines covered all the 155 divisions. Door to door mass blood survey was conducted in all malaria prone areas and slums. A total of 33,273 blood smears were collected and out of them only 179 were found positive for malaria. All these 179 cases were treated radically.

N.G.O's and residential welfare associations were also appealed to pursue their members to adopt permanent mosquito control measures in their residence and to co-operate in conducting the campaign successfully.

Human chain was conducted on 23.6.97 at all zones and cycle rally procession was conducted at all zones on 30.6.97.

★

# Tamil Arasu

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