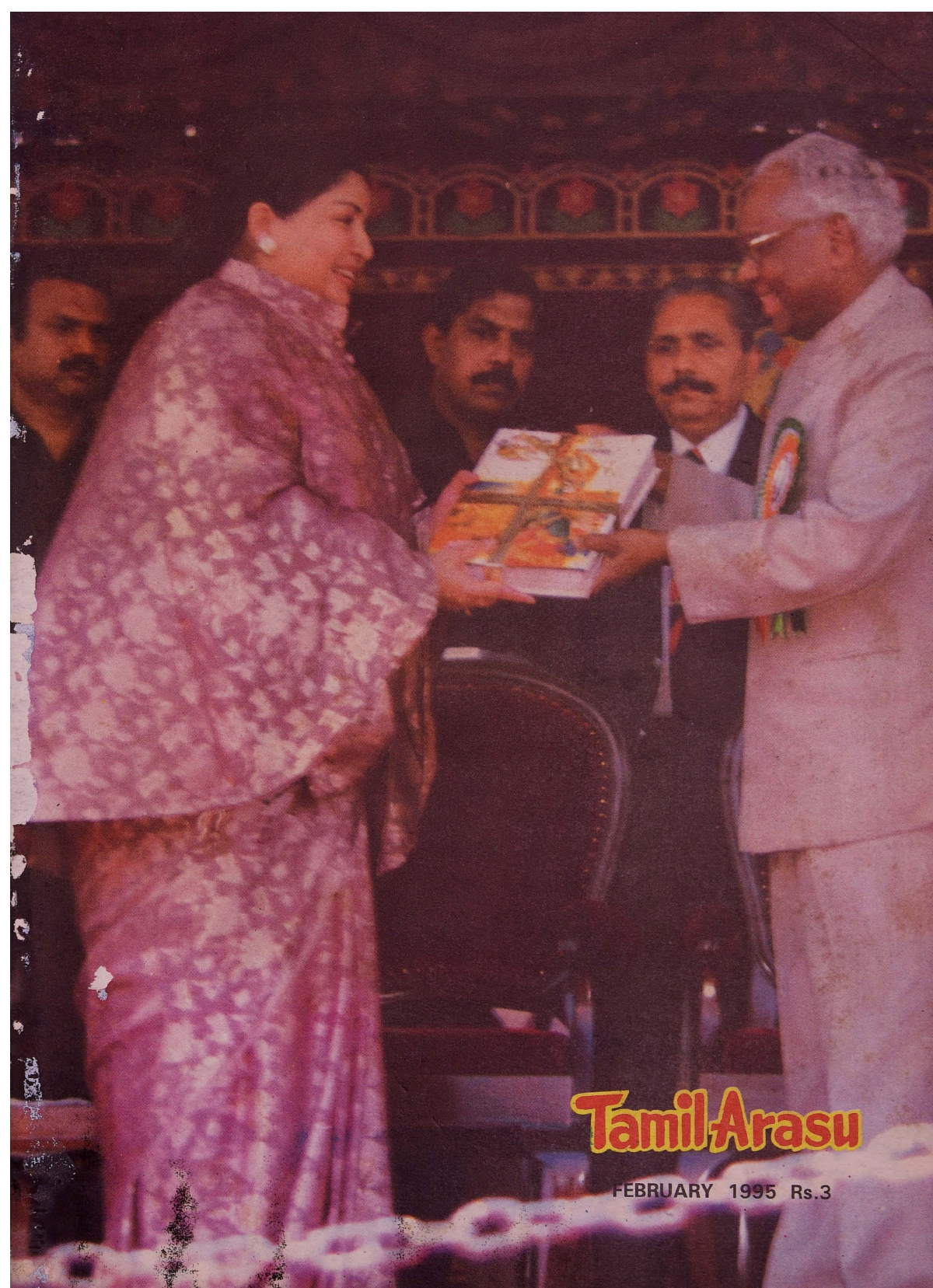


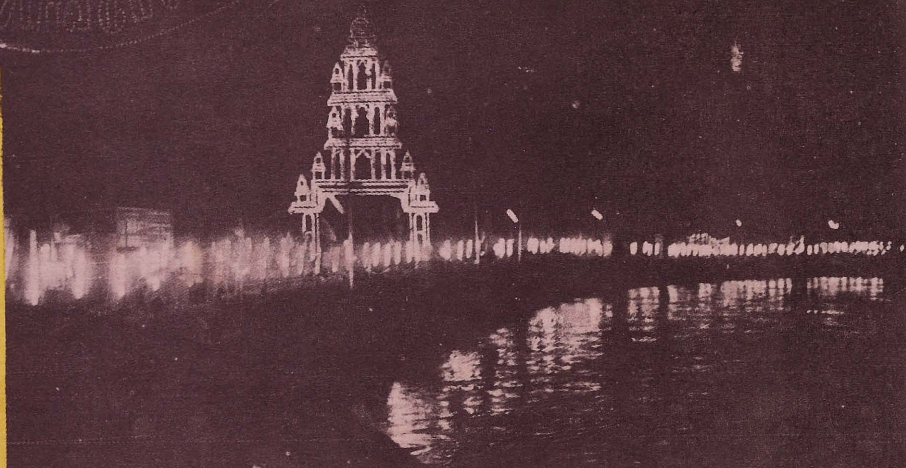


Tamil Arasu

FEBRUARY 1995 Rs.3



**ILLUMINATIONS
AT THE EIGHTH
WORLD TAMIL CONFERENCE**



TAMIL ARASU

A Monthly Journal of Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiruvalluvar Year 2026

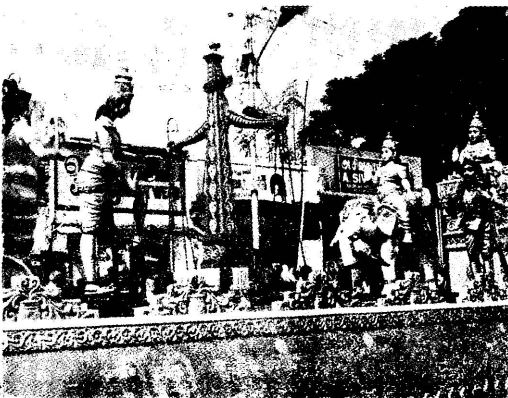
Thai - Maasi

February - 1995

IN THIS ISSUE

- ☆ **The historic Eighth World Tamil Conference scales new heights.**
- ☆ **Hon'ble Chief Minister announces the revival of the World Tamil Sangam at Madurai.**
- ☆ **Tamil Nadu is the hub of culture that has made a deep imprint across the Indian Ocean and even beyond.**
- ☆ **Tamil Eulogised in spectacular Float Pageantry.**
- ☆ **Co-operation, a significant part of Tamil cultural traditions.**
- ☆ **The Chief Minister's desire to develop Scientific Tamil welcomed.**
- ☆ **Ilakkia Cholai.**
- ☆ **Tamil Nadu's record plan outlay.**
- ☆ **National Institute of Fashion Technology to be located at Madras.**
- ☆ **Contribution of the Information and Public Relations Department to the success of the historic Eighth World Tamil Conference at Thanjavur.**

- Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao at the valedictory function of the Eighth World Tamil Conference at Thanjavur on 5.1.1995.



His Excellency, the Vice President of India Inaugurates the Conference



THE HISTORIC EIGHTH WORLD TAMIL CONFERENCE SCALES NEW HEIGHTS

The Eighth World Tamil from January 1st to 5th, Conference was held at the 1995. The mega event was Temple town of Thanjavur inaugurated by His Excel-

lency, the Vice President of India, Thiru K.R. Narayanan. Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J. Jayalalitha presided over the function.

Statues unveiled

On 1.1.95, prior to the inauguration of the Conference, Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha unveiled the statue of Dr.M.G.R. installed in front of the Railway Junction. The Function was presided by Thiru S.D. Somasundaram, the Minister for Revenue. The function was attended by Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the Parliament, Members of the





Legislative Assembly, Chairpersons of various Boards and a large gathering.

Thiru Datto Samivelu, Hon'ble Minister for Energy, Malaysia unveiled the statue of the King Raja Raja Chola. Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open 'Raja Raja Cholan Mani Mandapam' and the, 'Tholkappiar Memorial Tower'.

The Chief Minister also unveiled the statue of the great Saint Thiruvalluvar installed in the Tamil University Campus. She also released 63 Books on the occasion.

At the function to declare open the Raja Raja Cholan Mani Mandapam, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed cheques, each of the value of Rs.50,000 to families of 12 martyrs who laid down their lives to the cause

of Tamil language. The names of the martyrs are Mayiladuthurai Sarangapani, Viralimalai Shanmugam, Keeranur Muthu,



Iyampalayam Veerappan, Sathiyamangalam Muthu, Peelamedu Dhandapani, Virugampakkam Aranganathan, Kodambakkam Sivalingam, Keezhapazhuvur Chinnasamy, Dhalapathi Rajendran and Thalamuthu Natarajan.

Permanent Welcome Arches

Seven permanent arches have been constructed on Main roads leading to Thanjavur. The arches are named after Athiaman, Kunthavai, Kabilar, Karikal Cholan, Velunachiar, Raja Rajan and Cheran Senguttuvan. These arches were declared open by the Chief Minister.

Float Pageantry

Hon'ble Chief Minister arrived at the special stage erected near the old bus stand to witness the floats and the cultural procession. 54 floats depicting the rich cultural mosaic of ancient Tamils and 27 cultural troupes participated in the procession. It took four hours for the pageantry to cross a point. A running commentry had been arranged both in Tamil and

English to amplify the meaning behind each of the floats.

The Grand Inauguration

The inaugural function was preceded by Nadaswaram music by the Maestros M.P.N. Sethuraman - M.P.N. Ponnusamy at Annai Sathya Stadium.

The Vice President inaugurated the Conference by lighting a Kuthuvilakku. The Chief Minister presided over the function.

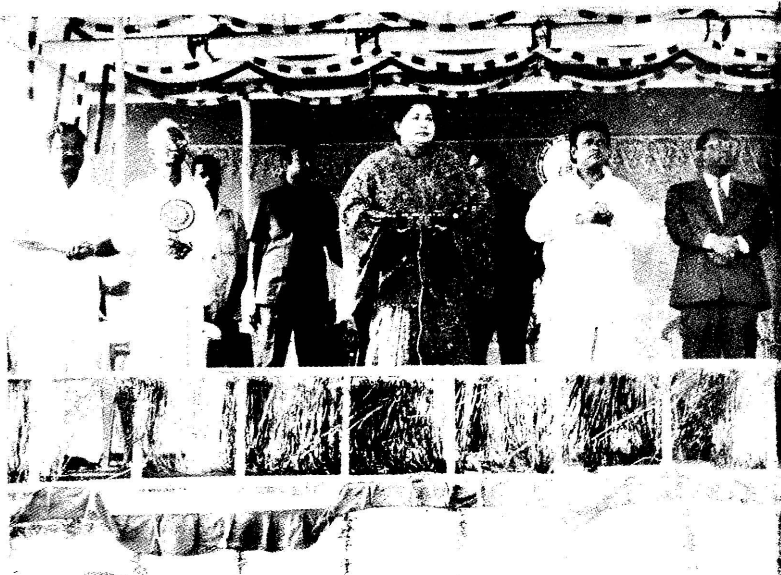
The inaugural address of His Excellency, the Vice President of India, Thiru K.R. Narayanan was as follows:-

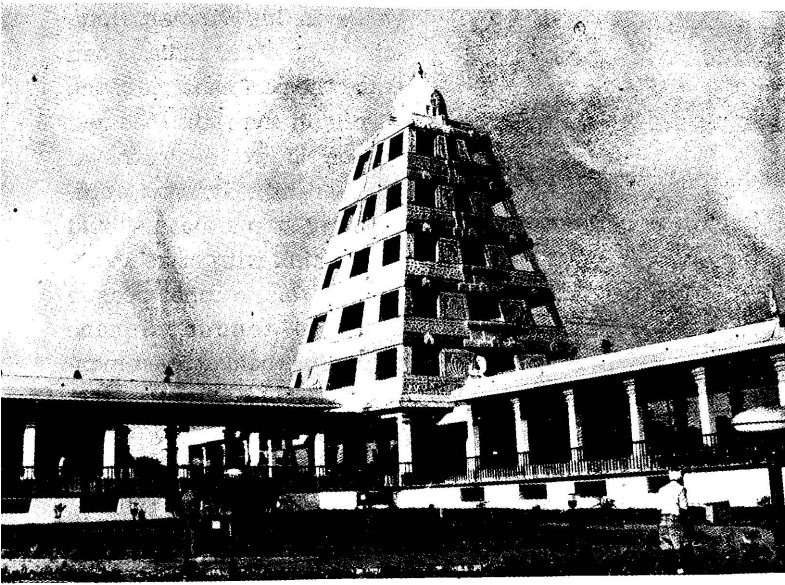
"May I, first of all, convey to this impressive and distinguished assemblage gathered in the Eighth International Conference of Tamil Studies, greetings and good wishes from Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, the President of India. He was looking forward to inaugurating this Conference but unavoidable preoccupations have prevented him from leaving Delhi at this time. May I say, on behalf of my wife and myself, how happy and honoured I am to be here at this historic city of Thanjavur to inaugurate this important Conference on the kind invitation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.J.Jayalalitha. I am grateful for the warm welcome that has been ex-

tended to us.

Tamil, which is one of the great languages of India, is to-day an international language, and Tamil culture a lively current in the stream of international life. Nothing could be more demonstrative of this fact than the presence at this Conference of erudite scholars and emi-

nent personalities from twenty-three Countries of the World. The genius and the dynamism of the Tamil people had from the earliest times, under the Pallavas, the Cholas and the Pandyas overflowed the boundaries of India and influenced and enriched life and culture in our neighbourhood as well as in





far-flung regions. India can be proud of the attainments and contributions of people of Tamil origin in the world who have identified themselves with the countries they have adopted as their homes while retaining their linguistic and cultural affiliation with their original homeland.

The language and the cul-

ture of the Tamils have their origin and development in antiquity going back to over 2500 years in history. Scholars have traced Tamil words in the Rig Veda and have discovered evidence of Dravidian culture in different parts of northern India. Indeed distinct similarities between Tamil and some of the languages of Africa have

been detected in recent times. One may recall that when the post-President of Senegal visited India he was struck by the similarity between the language of his country and that of Tamil and caused to establish a research project for the study of this remarkable cultural phenomenon. It has been sometimes said that Sanskrit when it spread in India had overwhelmed Tamil and other Dravidian languages. While the dominant influences of Sanskrit over Dravidian languages is indisputable, the influence that Tamil exercises over Sanskrit has not been sufficiently recognized. Scholars have pointed out that some of the words in the Dravidian languages considered as of Sanskrit have often turned out to be Dravidian words adopted by Sanskrit. Students of comparative literature have noted that the story and the plot of Sudraka's Sanskrit drama "Mrichakatikam" is so similar to that of the Tamil classic "Silappatikaram" that it must have been influenced by the Tamil work which had come earlier in the 2nd or 3rd century A.D. Indeed the interaction and cross fertilization between Sanskrit and Tamil and other Dravidian languages had been one of the creative processes in India's





cultural history. We know that among the Dravidian group of languages, Tamil is one of the oldest and had influenced all of them. As a Malayalee I have no hesitation in saying that it has been acknowledged that Malayalam is the foster child of Tamil. In modern times Tamil has also contributed many words and concepts to English and other European languages as well as to the languages of South-East Asia. I think this is a subject that merits more serious research than the very useful clues contained in "Hobson Jobson". Allied to this linguistic influence has been the far reaching influence of music and dance and architecture which originated in Southern India, particularly in Tamil Nadu. Thus, in a real sense Tamil is a major Indian language and an international language with all its

cultural implications. Even as compared to the great classical languages of the world Tamil has a certain uniqueness. As the Encyclopaedia Britannica has stated: "Tamil is perhaps the only example of an ancient classical language which continues as a spoken language for more than 2500 years without undergoing change in its basic structure". I must add that Tamil has not only continued as a spoken language but is today a magnificent modern language. It has flowered into a rich contemporary literature and is today a vehicle not only of literary sentiments but modern scientific ideas and concepts.

Nobody has paid richer and sincere tribute to Tamil than Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. In 1909 while engaged in his struggle in South Africa he

wrote in his "Indian Opinion". "No other Indians can equal the performance of the Tamils in the fight (the reference is to the Transval Satyagraha). It, therefore, occurred to me that I should read Tamil with close attention, if for no other reason than to tender sincere thanks to them at least mentally. Accordingly the last one month was devoted mostly to the study of Tamil. The more I learn it, the better I appreciate the beauties of this language. It is a very fine and sweet language, and I find the Tamils have produced, and still produce, a large number of intelligent, thoughtful and wise men. Moreover since India is going to be one country, some Indians outside Madras (i.e. the Madras Presidency) should also learn Tamil". Later in 1913 when a new school was started in South Africa at which Gujarati was taught during school hours but not Tamil, Gandhiji protested to the Government and advised the people to agitate against it. Years later in 1933 Gandhiji sent a message to Tamil Lovers Conference in which he said: "The superficial knowledge that I have of Tamil has enabled me to appreciate the beauty and the richness of the language. To neglect it would appear criminal". I must congratulate the or-

ganizers of this Conference who have carried out the idea of Gandhiji and to-day what we are seeing at this Conference is a celebration of Tamil not only as a regional and national language, but also as an international language and literature.

The status of Tamil as an international language is rooted in its greatness as an Indian language. It articulates the age-old culture, traditions, myths, thoughts, dreams and aspirations of the people of India. As the great poet Subramania Bharathi sang in his immortal poem "Our Mother".

**"She has three hundred
million faces,
But one sole life, majestic
and strong,
Eighteen are her tongues for
utterance,
And yet the heart is one"**

To-day Mother India has 900 million faces of which Tamil face is one of the most beautiful reflecting "the one sole life, majestic and strong" of India and the tongue of Tamil is one of the most mellifluous through which the heart-beat of India could be heard. No poet of India has expressed as beautifully and movingly the emotional unity of India as Bharathiyar when he sang that we would sport in row-

ing boats in moonlight on Indus waters "singing with girls from Kerala songs in dulcet 'Telugu'". We find the immortal yearnings of Tamil Nadu and India in the following lines of Subramaniya Bharathi:

**"Mantras we shall learn
and tantras
For our service; we shall
measure
The sky above and the fish
in Ocean
We shall explore and
thoroughly know
The moon's disc, and shall
also master
The science of sweeping the
thoroughfares clean."**

We have gone quite some-way in measuring the moon and the stars and sounding the depths of the ocean, but I am afraid we have yet to master the science and the art of sweeping our streets clean. It is the distinction of Tamil poets and thinkers that they have attached as much importance to the philosophical soarings of the mind and high pursuits of science and technology as to

the basic and mundane tasks of keeping our environment clean and addressing the problem of the sufferings of women, children and the poor in society. When I see the programmes that Tamil Nadu has launched to give midday meals to school children, to look after the health, education and the rights of the children, to elevate the status, education and the rights of women and other social development schemes for the welfare of the masses, on the one hand, and ambitious programmes for the industrialisation of the State, for foreign investment, for export promotion, for modern technology parks and far-reaching science and technology programme, on the other hand, my mind goes back to those thrilling lines of Poet Subramania Bharathi. I am glad to say that the delegates of the International Conference have to-day the opportunity not only to discuss the language, literature and the culture of Tamil Nadu but also to see some of the cur-



rent economic and technological developments that are taking place in this State. I understand that you will be discussing at this Conference such subjects as ancient and modern Tamil literature, the official language question, the status of women, society as seen by Tamils, science and technology and 21st Century and the Arts.

In my remarks I have not so far touched upon the ancient literature and arts. I hesitate to do so before this scholarly audience. The richness, the exuberance, the originality and the humanism of Tamil literature is well-known. So are the worldly wisdom and the guides to action contained in Thirukkural which are of relevance to whole humanity. One commentator has said: "In a society ridden by caste it draws up a testament for a classless society. The whole book is a charter for human conduct having the same force to-day, eighteen centuries after it was written, it will continue to have the same force to the end of time". When one speaks of society and the social order one cannot ignore the position of women in Tamil society. It is well-known that women have contributed significantly to Tamil literature. They have

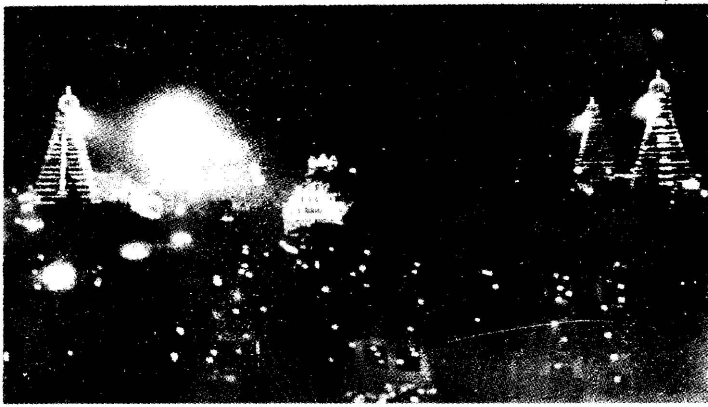
also been in the forefront of social and political action in modern times. India has shown in critical periods of its history that women can lead the country. Women are not only adorable heroines in books of poetry, drama and novel, but in actual life in our country. Jawaharlal Nehru has often stated that the status of women in a society is the real measure of the advancement of that society. It is pleasing to note that Tamil Nadu is in the forefront of India in the development and empowerment of women in our society.

In the history of Indian culture there are two themes that stand out - spiritual devotion and universal human-

ism. They are present in Tamil culture and literature from ancient to modern times. A Sangham poet wrote: "Every country is my native land and every man is my kinsman." There is no other saint in India who can rival Nandanar in his spiritual devotionism that cuts across the divisions of caste and class. In both humanism and sheer spirituality Tamil culture takes us to the summits of human experience. And Tamil is a language that can express such sublime thoughts and experiences with beauty and lucidity. It is a part and parcel of the multi-lingual unity of India. It has been said that Indian literature is one though written in different languages. Tamil is one of the languages in which the literature of India and the thought of India has blossomed with a splendour of its own".

Presiding over the function, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha recalled the Second World Tamil Conference held in Madras in 1968 when Arignar Anna was the Chief Minister and the Fifth World Tamil Conference which was held in Madurai in 1981 when MGR was the Chief Minister. She said on the footsteps of these two great leaders, she had organised the Eighth World





Tamil Conference as an 'aradhanai' to Tamil. She said Tamil has a uniqueness of helping in the growth of other languages. Even while helping the other languages grow, it retained its youth and charm.

Invasions resulted in the language dominations but in the case of Tamil, it was the other way round. King Raja Raja Cholan invaded Eastern countries. But the languages flourished with the impact of Tamil and did not die because of Tamil. It had no history of destroying other languages, she added.

She said, Tamil had books on ethics, and devotional bakthi literature which had no parallel in any other languages. She reminded the audience that this was an age of Science and Technology. She said there were two challenges before Tamil lovers and scholars. One was to bring all scientific developments that had taken place in this Century into Tamil

and the second was to equip Tamil language to face the future technology changes.

The Chief Minister said that apart from the existing three branches of Tamil - Iyal, Isai and Natakam - a fourth branch namely "Scientific Tamil" is needed today. She said, Tamil which is known for its spiritualism should be made a language of science. It should be developed in such a way that it became the medium of instruction for conveying the thoughts of Science and Technology.

"While one should be proud of the ancient history of the Tamil language, efforts should be made to find a separate place for the language in the international arena," she added.

She thanked the Vice President, Thiru K.R. Narayanan, for accepting her invitation at short notice to inaugurate the conference. Tamil people living in the entire World would thank

the Vice President for the gesture, she added.

Dr. Noboru Karashima, Chairman, International Association of Tamil Research thanked the Tamil Nadu Government for its support in holding of the Eighth World Tamil Conference at Thanjavur. He expressed confidence that the Conference would give a lead to transform Tamil into a language of modern thoughts in the 21st Century, so that, it could hold its legitimate place among world languages.

Thiru Arumugam Parasuraman, Minister for Science and Education, Mauritius, said Tamil was being taught in the school system of Mauritius and the Indian Government was providing assistance for learning of Indian languages in his country.

Thiru S. Thondaman, Rural Development Minister, Sri Lanka, Thiru Datto Samivelu, Minister for Energy in Malaysia, Thiru R. Venkataraman, Former President of India, Thiru K.V. Thangabalu, Union Minister of State for Welfare and Thiru P. Ramachandran, Former Governor of Kerala offered felicitations.

Dr. V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, the Minister for Finance earlier welcomed the

gathering. Thiru S.D. Somasundaram the Minister for Revenue proposed a vote of thanks.

At this function special books were released. A Souvenir of the Seventh World Tamil Conference held in Mauritius in the year 1989 was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The first copy was received by Dr. Noboru Karashima. The special Souvenir of the Eighth World Tamil Conference was released by the Vice President of India which was received by the Chief Minister. The Vice President also released the Eighth World Tamil Conference's Science Souvenir and Students' Souvenir, and the first copies were received by Thiru Datto Samivelu and Thiru Arumugam Parasuraman respectively.

Ilakkiacholai

At the function held at Police Parade Grounds a film titled 'Ilakkiacholai', produced by the Government of Tamil Nadu was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The print was received by the Minister for Information and Publicity, Thiru M. Thennavan. The film was directed by Thiru R.V. Udayakumar. The film has six episodes of historical Tamil Characters.

Cultural Programmes

Following the release of



the film Ilakkiacholai, a dance drama was performed by Dr. Padma Subramaniam. A performance by Violin Maestro Thiru Kunakkudi Vaidyanathan was also held.

At the same hour, a Veena recital by Maestro Chitti Babu was performed at Thilagar Thidal. The function was presided by Thiru Datto Kumaran, Member of Parliament, in Malaysia. The Minister for Adidravidar Welfare, Thiru Anandan participated. Later, a drama "Thamizh Katha Thalaivan" was staged by the Secretariate drama troupe.

At the Raja Rajan Memorial Hall, a music programme by Selvi Sowmya, a Violin recital by Lalitha-

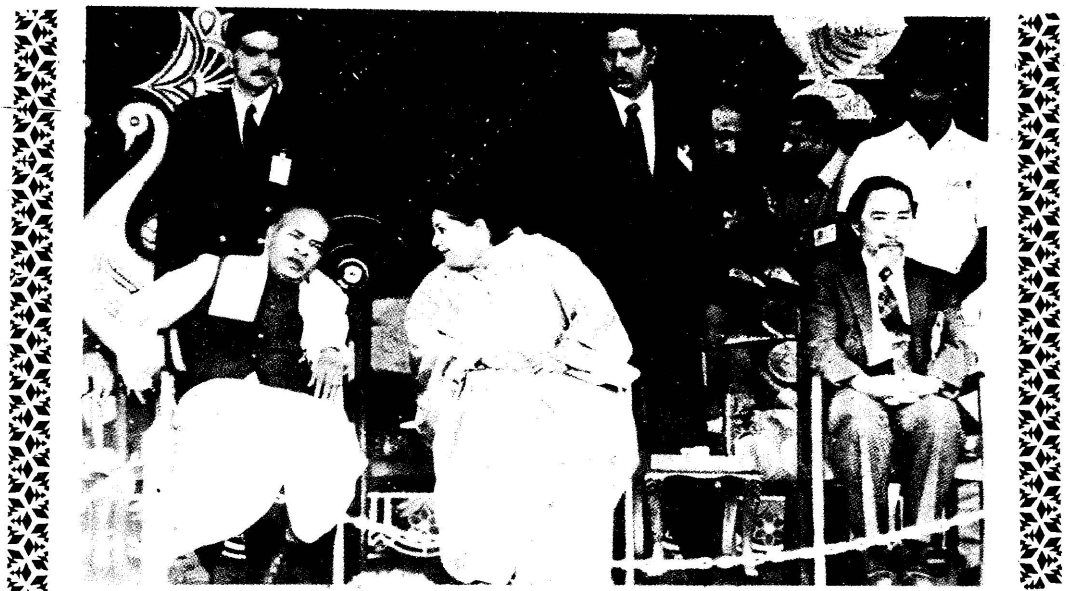
Nandini and Kottu Vathyam by Thiru Durgaprasad were held.

At 8 p.m. in the Thanjavur Big Temple's banquet Hall a Kutchipudi Dance programme, and Drama programme were organised.

A play and a dance programme were conducted at the Kalyanasundaranar Higher Secondary School.

Tamil Research sittings

Tamil scholars from various countries participated in the seminars presided by Dr. Noboru Karashima held in the Tamil University. The entire town of Thanjavur wore a festive look with thousands of people thronging to witness the programmes.



Grand finale to the World Tamil Conference

HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCES THE REVIVAL OF THE WORLD TAMIL SANGAM AT MADURAI

The valedictory function of the Eighth World Tamil Conference was held at Thanjavur on the 5th January, 1995. The Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao participated and delivered the valedictory address. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha presided over the function.

At this function, Prime Minister paid rich tribute to the Tamil language and literature for its role in the development of other languages and cultures.

The Prime Minister, said that Silappathikaram and Manimegalai have made rich contribution and the Thirukkural was of a special significance, with its universal characteristics and this work was so remarkable and popular even today. He also pointed out the long history of the Tamils in marine trade and the spread of Tamil culture beyond the Indian

Ocean. Tamil was one of the purest forms of the Dravidian family of languages, he added.

The Prime Minister appreciated the universalism of Thirukkural and said that the ethics of Thirukkural and equality ethos of devotional literature were the unique contribution of Tamil literature to the World. He also pointed out to the contribution of Tamil to temple architecture and of Karikala Cholan's in providing irrigation through construction of dams. The bronzes of Chola period were also highly appreciated all over the world and Tamils were also in the forefront in various fields of arts, literature, music, architecture and marine trade and so on, the Prime Minister added.

At this function, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced the revival of the World Tamil Sangam which was announced to be set up at Madurai by the late Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. at the valedictory of



the Fifth World Tamil Conference. The etymological Tamil lexicon project, which was started 20 years ago was stopped after two volumes were published, would be revived to bring out a comprehensive lexicon with the assistance of the Tamil Nadu Government, she added.

The Chief Minister, also said that the work of Tamil encyclopaedia project started in 1947 was stopped after 10 volumes had been published and it is now proposed to bring out a new series with updated information and latest development in various fields.

Besides, the Chief Minister announced that new Chairs would be created in Universities abroad for Tamil studies and that a grant of Rs. 75 lakh would be sanctioned to the 83 year old Karandai Tamil Sangam (near Thanjavur), which is doing yeomen service. The grant is for the improvement of infrastructural facilities such as library, hostel, canteen and so on.

A grant of Rs.10 lakh would be given to Dharmapuram Gnanambikai Government Arts College for Women to start a new course on Pragmatic Tamil and a Department of.

Women's Studies would be started in Tamil University, Thanjavur for studies on the development of women since the days of Sangam Age. It is proposed to describe Karaikkal Ammai as the "Mother of South Indian Music" in all future references in order to recognise her services for the cause of Tamil Music (pann), she said. The Chief Minister announced the slogan, "Indrum Thamizh, Endrum Thamizh" to provide an impetus to the development of Tamil language.

The Chief Minister pointed out that any language which refused to accept changes, could not develop, but would stagnate and weaken. She also reminded the audience that Tamil should develop in a modern world without losing its unique character and that in the context of fast changing developments in the world of Science and Technology. Tamil language has to get prepared to meet the challenges of the future, she added.

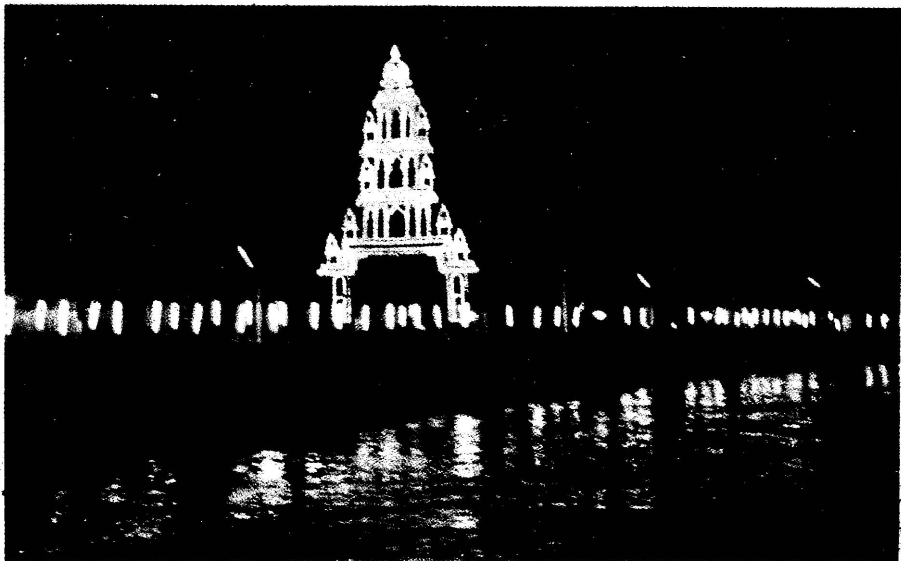
The Chief Minister thanked the Prime Minister for extending his full support by his presence which signifies his abundant love for Tamil literature and the Tamil people. She also thanked the Hon'ble Union Minister for com-



munication, Thiru Sukh Ram for gracefully releasing a special commemorative stamp on the occasion.

.. Earlier, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister Thiru S.D. Somasundaram welcomed the gathering hailed the Chief Minister as "the heroine of social justice." The Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru Seda-patti R. Muthiah, Dr. Noburu Karashima, President International Association of Tamil

Research, Thiru Datto Samivelu, Malaysian Minister for Energy, Thiru S. Thondaman, Sri Lankan Minister for Rural Industries and Animal Husbandry, Thiru Arumugham Parasuraman, Mauritius Minister for Education, Thiru K.V. Thangabalu, Hon'ble Union Minister for State for Social Welfare, Thiru Mani Shankar Iyer and Thiru Era. Anbarasu, Members of Parliament were also present at the function. The Hon'ble Minister for Law Thiru K.A. Krishnaswami proposed a vote of thanks.



"TAMIL NADU IS THE HUB OF CULTURE THAT HAS MADE A DEEP IMPRINT ACROSS THE INDIAN OCEAN AND EVEN BEYOND"

—Hon'ble Prime Minister at the Valedictory of the
VIII World Tamil Conference at Thanjavur on 5.1.1995

As I stand before this large international gathering of distinguished Tamils, I feel privileged to be in the midst of people who have made a name for themselves and for India through their individual and collective achievements. In these last five days scholars from all parts of the world have enlightened this gathering with the contribution of the Tamils to India and to the world. The historic city of Thanjavur has now joined the ranks of cities like Kuala-Lumpur, Madras, Madurai

and Paris which have had the honour to host this conference earlier. The serene waters of the Kavery flowing gently past this renowned centre of art and culture provide an idyllic setting for a conference of this nature.

This international gathering brings together vividly the vastness of the spread of Tamil as a culture, as a language and in the world its spread has been quite remarkable. Here one can see that Tamil Nadu is the hub

of a culture that has made a deep imprint across the Indian ocean and even beyond.

Thanjavur gave us the music trinity namely, Thiaagaraja Swamigal, Muthu swamy Deekshithar and Shyama Sastri and the fore-runners of Tamil music Arunachala Kavirayar, Muthu Thandavar and Marimutha Pillai. It is also the birth place of Tamil music. Divine hymns of the devotees enchanted Thanjavur. Apart from music, Thanjavur is also famous for





its architecture, handicraft, dance, music and the fine arts. Thanjavur paintings are famous throughout the world. An air of aesthetic excellence pervades the atmosphere here. Here stands the Big Temple, that monumental Chola edifice, holding aloft the torch of a rich heritage in full splendour and grandeur.

In commemoration of this conference the, Rajaraja Chola stamp is being released. I have just released it. I also understand that Gold coin is to be issued in a very near future in commemoration of this occasion. It is indeed befitting that we pay our homage to this patron of arts who has left the indelible stamp of his rule on our country. The cholas

have a pride of place in our history. They were probably the first Indians who established a strong maritime presence across the seas. They also fostered maritime trade in the Far East.

Let me now come to the theme of this conference, which is "Contribution of Tamil culture to the 21st Century". The distinctiveness of Tamil culture is an established fact that needs no elucidation. Equally well established is its richness and vibrance. For an erudite gathering it needs hardly be added that like all living traditions this culture has flourished not by distancing itself from, but by continuously adapting to an assimilating from different cultures.

I would like very briefly to touch upon some aspects of Tamil culture to elucidate its contributive and assimilative qualities. As a language, Tamil has preserved some of the purest forms of the Dravidian family of languages although there has been considerable borrowing from the Indo-Aryan. Tamil has the earliest and richest corpus of literature in the heroic poetry of the Sangam anthologies. The language and its literature are the linguist's delight in comparative studies and historical and social-linguistics. The idioms and metaphors of the corpus of literature have a special symbolic meaning for Tamil even today. Although they have been well researched, these classics still offer enormous scope

for further study, historical and cultural.

Tamil literature was considerably enriched by and in turn influenced Sanskrit, due to its interaction with northern literary traditions. To the Sangam anthologies one must add the rich contribution of the Jains and Buddhists such as the two epics Silappadikaram and Manimekalai and 18 didactic works or the Padinenkilkanakku. Of the latter, the Thirukkural is of special significance. With its universal character, this work has a remarkable typicality about it which explains its popularity even today.

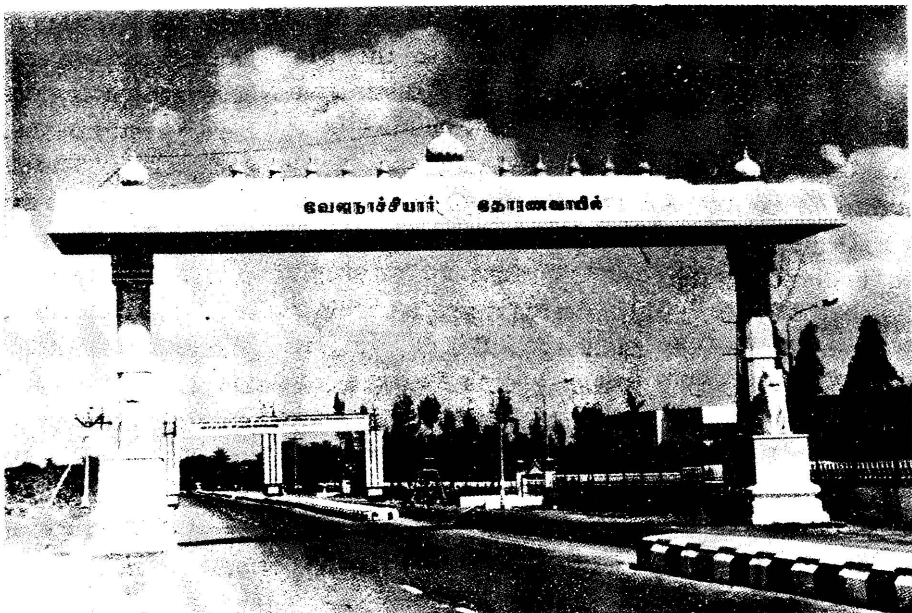
The bhakti or devotional poetry of the Vaishnava Alvar and Saiva Nayanar of the early medieval period

(7th to 9th centuries A.D.) represent another genre of literary works, which show the continuity of the Tamil vernacular tradition, drawing upon, at the same time, from the Sanskritic Puranas and Agamas relating to Vishnu and Siva. These emotionally powerful hymns also spread the message of protest against social inequalities and the idea of community against caste.

The Tamil major and minor Kavyas similarly represent the great synthesis of Sanskritic and Tamil traditions, retaining, at the same time, in their rich poetic modes, the Tamil ethos and cultural landscape. Kambar's Ramavataram is the best example of the rendering of a Sanskrit epic in a purely Tamil setting.

In the development of South Indian scripts, Tamil has made significant contribution. It adapted the Brahmi script, which was used initially for Pali and Prakrit, to the Tamil language with its phonetic peculiarities and evolved the Grantha script for the Sanskrit language. The Brahmi script came in the wake of trade with the Ganga region through Andhra and coastal traffic into South India. It also came in the wake of the Buddhist and Jain religions spreading cross the country.

The Tamil contribution to Indian temple architecture lies in the evolution of Dravida style. One of the two major styles, Nagara and Dravida. Its evolution is marked by several stages, from the Pallava-Pandya



Rock-cut caves and monoliths, to the structural temples of the Chola and Vijayanagar periods, the Chola period representing its apogee, in the stupendous royal temples at Thanjavur and Gangaikonda-Cholapuram which are marvels of engineering skill and aesthetic sensibility. They combine the three art forms, architecture, sculpture and painting, as monumental works of art. The Chola bronze, in particular, have become cherished objects d'art in India and the world over.

This development interestingly coincides with that of the most remarkable nagara style temples such as the Lingaraja at Bhubaneswar in Orissa, the Khajuraho group of temples in Madhya Pradesh and temples of Rajasthan, all of which mark the emergence of regional states and regional cultures within an overarching idiom of temple architecture and its regional schools under royal patronage.

The Vijayanagar period saw the development of temple architecture in Tamil Nadu, through a horizontal magnification and imperial proportions, with huge pil-

lared halls and the famous Raja gopurams, dotting the landscape of Tamil Nadu. The Chola and Vijayanagar temples are iconographically rich, with stylistically advanced sculptural technique and frescoes. They are also rich in socio-religious themes.

These expansive temple structures are unique in being centres of a sacred character as well as of economic importance and as symbols of authority, with their impressive administrative machinery and integrative role in society.

Tamil contribution to the history of ideas and philosophy has also been significant. Right from the days of Valluvar, the author of the Tirukkural, which has been translated into many other Indian languages and European languages, ideas on ethics, polity and economy have influenced not only Tamil polity and society, but have acquired universal appeal.

Comparative studies of Kural have been made with other treatises on polity like Arthasastra and great Greek thinkers like Plato and Aristotle. It is significant that the Kural belongs to that era of

Indian history in which many of the important Dharmastraic and Arthasastraic works were composed in Sanskrit and carries in it several strands of Jain, Buddhist and Sastraic influences.

Composed in terse epigrams, the work deals with three of the main purposes of human existence on Purusastra i.e. Aram (Dharma), Porul (Artha) and Inbam (Kama). Its high ethical and moral tone is as visible in its epigram on economy as on politics. Valluvar spoke of the importance of agriculture as the basis of the economy and exhorted rulers not to use oppressive methods to extract tribute or tax. His advice on a whole range of human relations and existential problems point with great acumen to the universality of such problems and the unity of humankind.

The bhakti movement of the Alvars and Nayanars represented one of the major socio-religious movements of medieval India, which directly inspired the structuring of Tamil society and influenced movements of a similar nature elsewhere in the country. In our own times we can see the lead

taken by Tamil Nadu giving the backward classes the impetus necessary for them to progress.

Great philosophers like Sankara and Ramanuja have created traditions of philosophy by imbibing the Upanisadic doctrines and combining it with temple bhakti movement. The Udhaya Vedanda of the Vaishnava tradition and Sankara's Advaita have inspired a whole millennium of philosophical speculations in India.

Tamil rulers from the "Sangam" period onwards have paid special attention to the development of agriculture with irrigation as a major resource. The story of Karikala's attempts to make the Kaveri valley a major

resource base and his measures for flood control through dams are well-known. The imperial Cholas pursued such efforts. At the same time for nearly two millennia from the beginning of the Christian era, Tamils have embarked upon trading enterprises with other regions of India and, more significantly, on maritime trade with distant lands. This region was never an area of isolation, for it was drawn into a larger network of maritime shipping and trade from the Gujarat coast to the Bengal coast and between the Mediterranean world and east and South East Asia. Individual enterprise and corporate trading ventures have characterised these activities especially in the early centuries of the

Christian era and in the early medieval time and even beyond.

In the wide ramification of early trade and commerce, Tamil traders played a major role in the trade between the Roman empire and South East Asia. The Sangam anthologies, the epics, the classical Greek accounts of navigators and geographers like Pliny, Ptolemy and the unknown author of the "Periplus of the Brythraean Sea", are corroborated by a vast body of archaeological and other evidence dispersed along the trade routes. They established the prosperity that was generated in the region by this flourishing trade.

Research has shown how the political elite, especially





the imperial Cholas, promoted this trade and how south Indian merchant guilds were the major participants. These guilds carried on inter regional trade in peninsular India and also ventured into distant lands in East and South East Asia. Spices, gems, luxury items, textiles, aromatic wood, incense and camphor were some of the items which we know were popular items of trade. The Cholas sent emissaries abroad to promote trade and political relations. They even gave liberal endowments to religious institutions.

The courage to change, the confidence to learn and the wisdom to teach are products of a strong and vibrant culture. Culture facilitates our interaction with fellow human beings and

education gives us the necessary ability to do so. Our faculties of learning are sharpened by our confidence in our culture and education. Our willingness to interact with others increases with self-assurance. When international trade and commerce flourished in this region one writer described life in the port town of Kaveripoompattinam, also called Puhar, in 2nd Century A.D. as follows:

“People speaking diverse tongues, that come from great and foreign homes, mix freely on friendly terms with those who occupy this glorious town”.

When I hear people advocating our country's isolation from the world today I am astounded at their ignorance of our own history.

The environmental awareness depicted in the Sangam anthologies, the ethical precepts of the Kural and the egalitarianism of the bhakti movement show a remarkable universalism and farsightedness. We have to seek the wisdom of these ancients and try to assimilate the qualities that brought them international acclaim. We have to learn how they brought prosperity to our land. These studies should not be only academic dissertations useful as they are for their own sake, or exercises in promoting exclusivism. I would like to submit that they should have a broader social and economic objective of creating awareness and encouraging integrative and humanistic approaches.

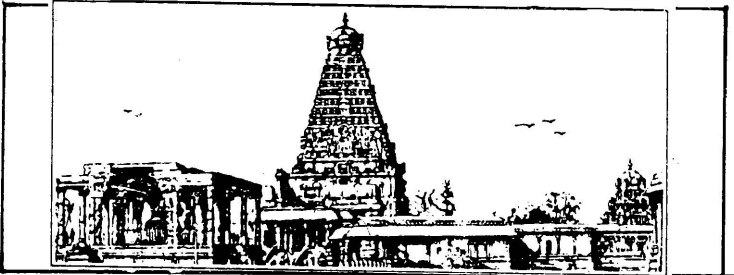
We in India rejoice in our

freedom of belief and expression. This is the fountain of all creativity and creativity is both the precondition and the fruit of progress. It is true that creativity also leads to diversity but then happily in our civilisation we have always celebrated diversity. We do not, and should not, seek the orderliness of mediocrity or the easy course of uniformity.

As you look ahead to the 21st century, I do not need to state the obvious to you, that the contribution of a

community in the coming millennium will depend upon what it contains and what it has to offer. This in turn will depend upon its internal dynamism and ability to keep abreast with the world. Distances are shrinking rapidly in terms of time. We have to keep widening our horizons because they are

constantly closing in on us under the relentless pressure of technological progress. I am confident that your deliberations just concluded will help all of us in this task. I wish you a happy new year and all the very best till you meet again in the 9th International Tamil Conference.



BONUS TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr .J. Jayalalitha announced the bonus to the Government employees for the year 1993-94.

State Government employees drawing emoluments of 2,500 and below, would be paid 21 days emoluments as bonus. By this, employees at the entry level in the lowest grade would be paid Rs.1,071 as bonus. This amount is higher by Rs.159 when compared to last year. Employees drawing the emoluments upto Rs.2,500 will draw bonus computed at a level of Rs.1,600. Thus at this level, an amount of Rs.1,120 would be paid as bonus. This amount is higher than that of the last year

by Rs.107.

An amount of Rs.550 would be paid a special bonus to employees drawing more than Rs.2,500 as emoluments and similar to those drawing emoluments in State and Central Government scales of pay and University Grants Commission scales of pay.

Part-time and full-time employees drawing monthly emoluments, employees drawing consolidated pay, noon-meal workers, village establishment and those drawing daily wages for a minimum of 240 days in a year would be paid Rs.550 as special bonus.

Despite the prevailing difficult financial situation, Hon'ble

Chief Minister had announced the bonus payments to benefit about 11 lakh employees of Government and Local Bodies at a total cost of Rs.83.80 crore.

Hon'ble Chief Minister has also announced Pongal gift of Rs.100 for the year 1995 to all Pensioners including ad-hoc Pensioners of all categories and Family Pensioners of Government (including All India Services), aided educational institutions and Local bodies. By this 3.03 lakh Pensioners would be benefited. This would cost of Rs.3.03 crore to the Government.

A Grand Cultural Display also held

TAMIL EULOGISED IN SPECTACULAR FLOAT PAGEANTRY



A dramatic re-creation of the grandeur of Tamil literature and Tamil history took place at Thanjavur on 1.1.95 in the august presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha. Hon'ble Ministers from Malaysia, Srilanka and Mauritius were also present.

Tamil Nadu were indeed excited.

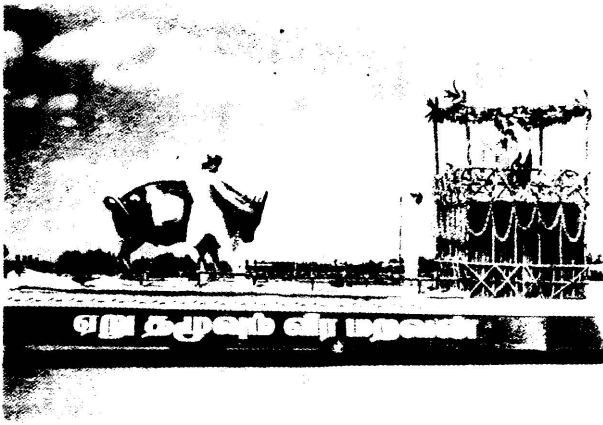
The Floats amplified Tamil history and literature. The pageantry begun with a float carrying Nadaswaram artistes playing out majestic welcome music, considered au-

spicious by Tamil traditions. The next float carried 'Mother Tamil'; the famous five geographical tracts of Kurinchi, Mullai, Marutham, Neithal and Palai were vibrantly described on different floats. The Ancient Trinity of Tamil music, The Trinity of Carnatic Music as well as the Ancient Tamil musical instruments marked the theme of three other floats. Some of the famous characters in Tamil classics such as Kannagi, Manimegalai and the courageous lady who drove away a tiger with a winnow were displayed too. Thiruvalluvar, Bharathiyar, Bharathidasan as well as the



The 54 thoughtfully and meticulously designed floats displayed important themes in Tamil literature as well as the high points in Tamil history and culture. The floats took nearly four hours to get past the VVIP dais and the people who were witness to the most colourful display of the century in

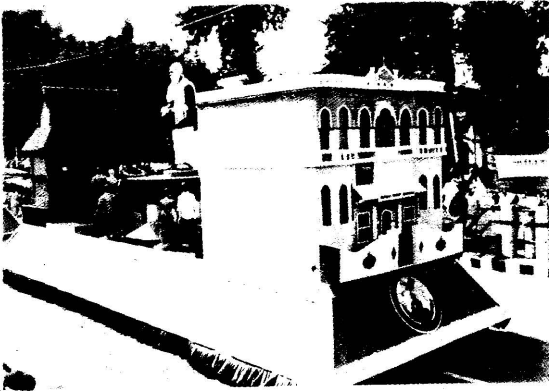




contribution of Europeans to hiyaman gave majesty to Tamils were also on the pag- the procession. Women were eantry. The floats on the King honoured in one of the floats RajaRaja Chola, Manuneechi and another float displayed

and M.G.R. were the focus of attention of three other floats. It can be said that all the 54 floats were both rich in grandeur and glamour.

The float pageantry were followed by a grand cultural display. On the forefront was a cavalry parade followed by flag bearing school children. An N.C.C. contingent, a Scout Team and a Guide team followed. Nadaswaram music,



Chozhan, Karikalan, Sibi, Kumanan, Pagen, Paari and Aandal the Goddess of devo- tional hymns. Periyar, Anna

Temple hymns by odhuvars, blowing of horns, beating of drums, Naiyandimelam (folk drum), Bharathanatyam, Kollattam, Kummi, Tribal dance of Badugas, Folk songs, Oyilattam, Sevaikyattam, Alagarattam, Karagattam, Kavadiattam, Bull dance, Dummy horse dance, Peacock dance, Tiger Dance, Dummy legs Dance and a display of physical feats marked the cultural display.





CO-OPERATION, A SIGNIFICANT PART OF TAMIL CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Thiru Noboru Karashima of Tokyo University, the chairman of the International Association of Tamil Research delivered the keynote address at the Eighth International Conference Seminar of Tamil Studies, held at Tamil University on 2nd January 1995. Dr.V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, the Minister for Finance inaugurated the Seminar.

Speaking on "Indian Commercial activities in ancient and medieval South-East Asia", Dr. Noboru Karashima said the spirit of co-operation and inter-reliance was a significant part of the Tamil cultural tradition. He said the recognition of this spirit was important to people everywhere. He said that in the 20th

Century people from all over the world had striven to develop their own particular society and culture, and many of them including Tamils, had achieved their goals. However, while achieving their specific goals, they sometimes were thinking of themselves for their own interests, overlooking the interests of others. He said that therefore, the next century should be one in which all people co-operative with each other to create global harmony.

Speaking on the Tamil inscriptions found in Countries in South East Asia, such as Vietnam and Thailand, he said that he had found how the Tamil merchants had organised themselves into corpo-

rate bodies' such as 'Mahigiraman', 'Ainnurruvar', and 'Nanadesi'. one of their conspicuous features was their non- alignment with all political powers. This non political character of their organisation had enabled them to conduct their overseas trade for centuries and to earn fame, he added.

Thiru. Karashima said these inscriptions were found in Mekong Delta of Vietnam in Takua pa, north of Krabi, in the Malay Peninsula, in Barus in North-Western Sumatra, in Nakhon Si Thammarat in Thailand, in the National Museum of Jakarta, and Pagan in Myanmar.

Regarding Srivijaya, Kadaram which had been

identified with Kedah in the Malay peninsula by some scholars, he said four inscription found in these places showed that friendly relations existed between Kadaram and the Chola country in the beginning of the 11th century continuing at - least until 1015 AD. Soon after this, the famous attack by Rajendra I on Kadaram took place and this

had been recorded in many inscriptions.

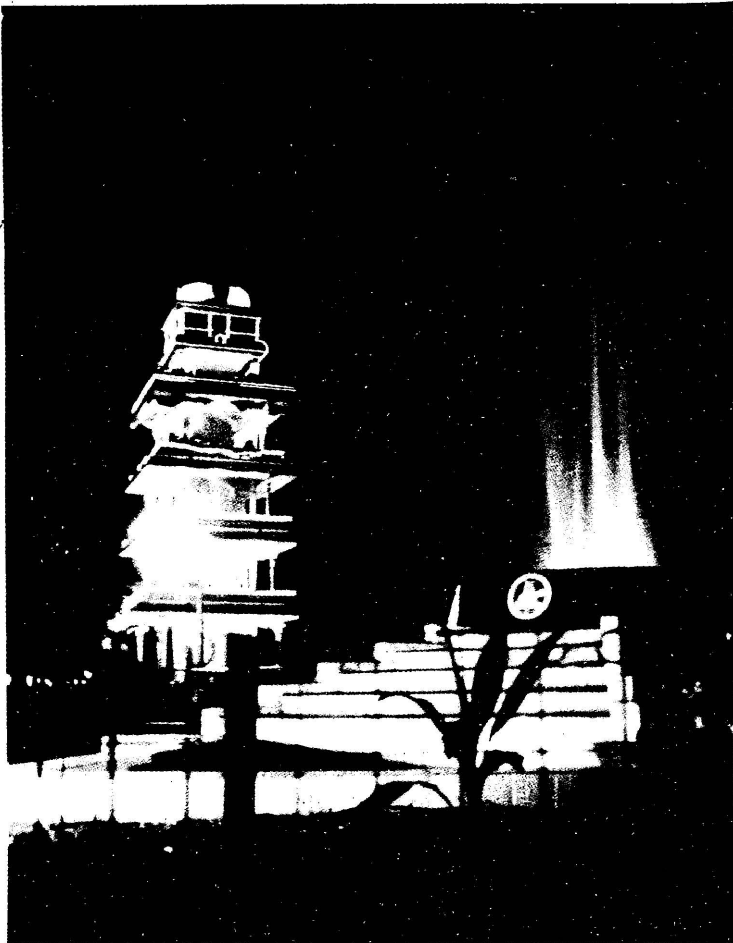
Dealing exhaustively with the expedition of the Tamil Chola Kings to Jawa, Sumatra and other parts of South East Asia, Prof Karashima said that Tamils had even sent mission to China. He said the Chola Navy also crossed the Bay of Bengal again sometime around 1068 AD during the

reign of Virarajendra as inscriptions about this had been found. It had been established that Srivijaya existed in the Palembang and Jumbi region of Southern Sumatra. Chola missions were also sent to China.

The mission sent by Rajaraja I reached the Chinese court in 1015 AD. However, another mission was also sent to China from the Tamil country in 1020 AD, but before reaching the Chinese capital, the envoy died. According to the annals of the Sung Dynasty, a third mission reached China in 1077 AD and all these only showed the closer relations that existed between these two countries.

He said, in Zayton, a famous port in Southern China, a Tamil inscription was found dated 1281 recording the establishment of a Siva Temple for the health of the Yuan King. This inscription combined with other Tamil inscriptions found in South-East Asia testified to the vigorous activities and amicable character of those Tamil merchants who had crossed the ocean to South East Asia and beyond, during the ancient and medieval periods, he said.

The delegates sat in 14 sessions at the Eighth International Conference Seminar of Tamil Studies and presented more than a hundred papers.



The Chief Minister's desire to develop Scientific Tamil welcomed

Thiru R. Venkataraman, former President of India inaugurated a seminar on Tamil development held as part of the Eighth World Tamil Conference on 2nd January 1995 at the Police Grounds. Inaugurating the seminar, the former President said an expert committee should be set up to translate scientific terms into Tamil, or accept them as they are. Simple words with an original Tamil base could be used for articulating new concepts, he said.

The former President called for the acceptance of words from other languages by Tamils which, he said, would help the growth of the Tamil language. He said Tamil had accepted not only words from other languages in the past but also their modern forms of literature like short stories, novels, etc.

He said words helped one to assess the civilisation of people speaking a particular language. Words like 'Navaai', 'Kattumaram', showed that Tamils were great sea faring people. Thirukkural had evolved a code of conduct suitable for all people at all time. 'Silapathikaram' gave evidence of the musical instruments of its time and 'Agananuru' and 'Purananuru' spoke

about the love life and valour of ancient Tamils, he added.

Former Governor of Kerala, Thiru P. Ramachandran in his address said that the 25 centuries old Tamil literature starts with Sangam literature that deals with peaceful life and human feelings, followed by the famous Thirukkural. Later Bakthi literature spread with Nayanmars like Thirugnansambandar spreading Tamil through music. Now the gap between the art and science is narrowing and art is made better through science and vice versa. He said this was the time for development of Science in Tamil. Knowledge about Computer Science should be available in Tamil and efforts should be taken to frame new words in this regard, he added.

The Sri Lankan Rural Development Minister, Thiru S.Thondaman said the leadership of the Conference should be a continuous one from one Conference to another, for taking necessary follow up actions on the resolutions passed in the Conference. He expressed confidence that under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.J.Jayalalitha, the Conference objective

could be met.

Tmt. Indrani Samyvelu, wife of the Malaysian Minister Thiru Samyvelu welcomed the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha, to develop the fourth branch of Tamil called scientific Tamil. She said that English could be accepted as a link language to have communication with the World but Tamil should not be neglected.

Thiru Pon Kumar, General Secretary of Tamil Nadu Farmers and Workers Party General Secretary called for inclusion of Tamil as a subject for deciding admission to professional colleges.

Thiru Abdus Samad, IUML General Secretary said Tamils had considered people of other countries as their own kinsmen.

Thiru Chellamuthu, Thiru Andi Thevar, Thiru Kulasekaran and Thiru V.S. Shanmugam also participated.

Thiru S. Muthusamy, the Minister for Health presided over the session. He assured the gathering that the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu would take all steps to achieve the Conference goals.



ILAKKIYA CHOLAI

"Ilakkiya Cholai" a movie based on some of the themes in Tamil classics was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Pūratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha at the Thanjavur Eighth World Tamil Conference on 1st January, 1995.

The film produced by the Director of Information and Public Relations under the guidance of AVM Productions led by Thiru A.V.M. Saravanan, was directed by Film Director Thiru R.V. Udayakumar.

The film is an anthology of the six incidents that have appeared in the Tamil classics and provides a glimpse of the highest standards in Tamil behaviour and conduct in ancient times. The incidents are:

- ★ An inspiring portrayal of the Brave Tamil mother who cheerfully sends her only son to the battle field, despite having heard the previous day that her father and husband have been killed at war.
- ★ The wisdom of the young King Karikala Chola who prevails on two farmers to accept the treasure they found in the agricultural land but had refused to accept it as theirs.



★ King Nandivarman's self immolation as he listened to Tamil Poetry - an example of his love for Tamil and disregard to the high post he held.

★ King Cheran Irumporai's magnanimity of doing menial service to Tamil Poet Mosikeeranai - despite the latter having committed a grave crime.

★ The intelligence of King Raja Raja Chola in retrieving the lost hymns of Thevaram.

★ The compassion of a King who was thoughtful and considerate to the suffering of animals and insects.

The film starring top stars, Arjun, Sarathkumar, Karthik, Prabhu, Manorama, Suganya, Srividhya and R.S. Manohar has Thiru S.P.Muthuraman as production co-ordinator and Thiru Thotta Tharani for Art Director. Music has been scored by Thiru M.S. Viswanathan and Ramamurthy, while the Dialogue and Lyrics are scripted by Pulavar Pulamaipithan.



TAMIL NADU'S RECORD PLAN OUTLAY

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha had detailed discussions with the Deputy Chairman, Union Planning Commission Sri Pranab Kumar Mukherji on Tamil Nadu's Annual Plan for 1995-96. The Chief Minister was assisted by the Chief Secretary Thiru N. Hari Bhaskar, the Finance Secretary Thiru N.Narayanan, the Planning Secretary, Thiru M.A.Gowrishankar, and the Member secretary of State Planning Commission Thiru A. Nagarajan, at the discussions held on 20th January, 1995 at New Delhi.

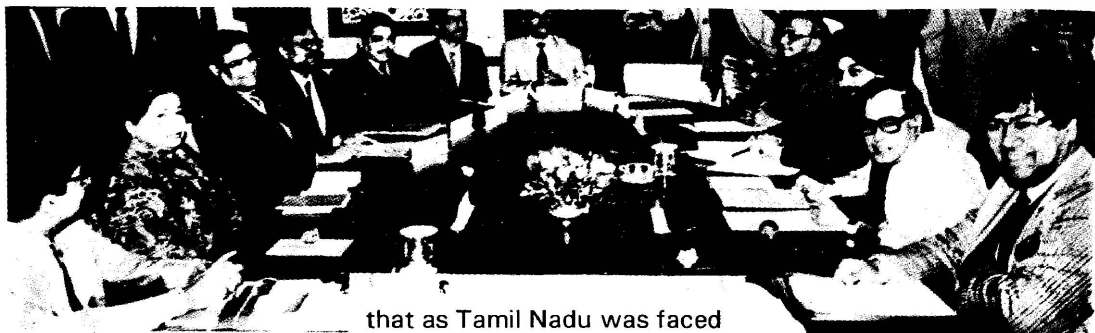
At the outset, the Chief Minister brought to the notice of the Deputy Chairman the

fact that Tamil Nadu had achieved an outlay of Rs.2232 crores in 1993-94 as against the approved outlay of Rs.2101 crores. The Deputy Chairman, Union Planning Commission congratulated the Chief Minister for the excellent plan performance of the Tamil Nadu Government as it had consistently exceeded the approved plan outlay.

The Chief Minister highlighted the need to step up the country's economic growth rate to more than 6% per annum. At the same time she felt that the Government of India should take specific steps to contain inflation. The Chief Minister was particular that while undertaking

economic reforms the position of the poor should not be affected. She explained that Tamil Nadu while keeping up the development efforts the outlays on social services and the safety net for the poor have actually been improved in real terms thus conferring real benefits on the poor.

The Chief Minister brought to the specific notice of the Deputy Chairman the need to make a start on the Penninsular River Waters Grid, taking up the utilisation of west flowing rivers as the first stage. She requested the Deputy Chairman to use his good offices to see that an early start is made on the Neyveli third mine cut. She also high-



lighted the fact that Tamil Nadu was willing to participate in the financing of the 2000 megawatts Nuclear Power Plant at Koodankulam. She felt that this project should start in 1995. She also wanted the Southern Gas Grid project to be expedited.

Referring to the phenomenal export effort achieved from the Tirupur area, the Chief Minister wanted special support for the Tirupur Infrastructure Development Plan. She requested an allocation of Rs. 30 crores as the Centre's support for the Tirupur Infrastructure Development Plan.

The Chief Minister also wanted the Union Planning Commission to examine whether longer term funds of 15 year repayment could be made available to the states for specified infrastructure projects.

The Chief Minister highlighted the fact that Tamil Nadu has been one of the most efficient States in raising resources to finance the plan. She also stressed the point

that as Tamil Nadu was faced with several special problems it merited special Central assistance. She highlighted the sea border problem as also the special security arrangements which are needed in the State to tackle the militants. This needed special attention. The high urban population posed severe strain on the infrastructure. The long coast line has posed new environmental problems. The road net work of the State has suffered repeated damages due to cyclones and floods. A major reconstruction programme is necessary. These issues were highlighted by the Chief Minister and she stressed the need for a special allocation by the Union Planning Commission to enable Tamil Nadu to deal with these special problems. After detailed discussions and taking into account Tamil Nadu's impressive performance in 1992-93 and 1993-94 it was decided that Tamil Nadu's plan outlay for 1995-96 would be Rs 3200 crores. This reflects 16.36% increase over the 1994-95 outlay.

Agriculture, Rural Devel-

opment and Irrigation will continue to receive special importance with a total outlay of Rs 600.77 crores as against Rs 547.23 crores in 1994-95. There will be a major step up on Industry and Power with a total outlay of Rs 1102.03 crores as against Rs 964.51 crores in 1994-95. The outlay on Transport and Communication will be stepped up to Rs 317.08 crores from Rs 287.11 crores. The Social sectors will continue to receive the highest priority and the outlay on these sectors will be stepped up from Rs 140.71 crores to Rs 199.90 crores. Housing and Urban Development will also get a major increase from Rs 152.10 crores to Rs.240.10 crores. Water Supply and Sanitation will receive a step up from Rs 387.72 crores to Rs 428.47 crores.

Tamil Nadu's Annual Plan for 1995-96 set at Rs 3200 crores reflects sustained progress towards achievement of the Eighth Plan goals of the State.

Hon'ble Chief Minister discusses Textile Industry crisis at New Delhi



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY TO BE LOCATED AT MADRAS

The Union Minister of State for Textiles Thiru G.Venkat-swamy met the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.J.Jayalalitha on 20.1.1995 at Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi, to discuss the crisis the Textile Industry is facing. This is was in pursuance of the representation made by the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister on the previous day. The meeting lasted about 60 minutes.

The Chief Minister appraised the Union Minister of State about the position relating to the steep increase in the prices of cotton and cotton yarn over the past 15 months and resultant hardship to the industry in general, and to the handloom weavers in particular. She also pointed out with grave concern that the exports from

Tiruppur were greatly affected. She wanted some urgent market intervention to step up the availability of yarn at reasonable prices to benefit the weavers. The Minister of State explained that the present position was due to shortage in the production of cotton in the country in two successive years. He pointed out that steps are being taken to increase the cotton production in the country.

The Chief Minister wanted some specific action to be taken with immediate effect to bring some improvement in the situation. To bring succour to the handloom weavers she suggested that the subsidy for hank yarn should be enhanced from the present level of Rs.15 per Kg. Conceding the request of the Chief

Minister, the Union Minister agreed to increase the subsidy from Rs. 15 per Kg. to Rs.20 per Kg. of hank yarn. He also promised to consider the Chief Minister's request for the extension of the hank yarn subsidy scheme for one more year, ie., upto 31.3.1996.

The Chief Minister wanted de-hoarding operations to be intensified so that cotton and yarn are freely available. The Union Minister assured that stringent steps would be taken in implementing the Cotton Control Order and the Textile Control Order, so that quick results are obtained.

Responding to the Chief Minister's request the Union Minister assured that the Reserve Bank of India would be requested to reiterate instructions to Nationalised

banks to restrict credit against cotton stocks which provides scope for hoarding.

The Chief Minister wanted the obligations of Spinning Mills to produce specified types of yarn to be enforced. She requested that availability of yarn should be improved by immediate stringent enforcement of these obligations of Spinning Mills to produce specified yarn varieties. She also wanted that action on enforcement of these obligations should be immediate.

Responding to the Chief Minister's request for a ban on Cotton export, the Union Minister assured her that a policy of banning of cotton exports till the situation improves would be followed. He also

gave an assurance that the export of low counts of yarn would be banned.

Responding favourably to the Chief Minister's request that concessional credit be provided for co-operative spinning mills which have substantial obligations to Handloom weavers, he indicated that he would take this up with the Chairman, NABARD and do the needful.

Regarding the location of a National Institute of Fashion Technology, the Chief Minister made a forceful plea that it should be located at Madras for which the land would be provided free of cost by the State Government. She also indicated that for the immediate pur-

pose of starting this Institute, an adequate built up area would be set apart. Responding to this, the Union Minister of State was glad to announce that a NIFT would be located at Madras and the formalities in this regard would be finalised in a week's time.

During the discussions Thiru N. Haribhaskar, the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu, Thiru N. Narayanan, the Finance Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Thiru T.S.R. Subramaniam, Union Textile Secretary, Thiru Vinod Malhotra, the Development Commissioner for Handlooms and Thiru V.R. Lakiri, Executive Director of the National Institute of Fashion Technology were present.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalalitha called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao on 20th January, 1995 at New Delhi.



**Contribution of the Information and Public Relations Department
to the success of the historic VIII World Tamil Conference at Thanjavur**

1. Pageantry of Floats on 1.1.1995: A magnificent cultural spectacle that Tamil Nadu has't witnessed ever before - with 54 exuberant floats - carefully and painstakingly designed to bring back memories of the glories of ancient Tamil Nadu.

2. Cultural Display on 1.1.1995: A breathtaking display of 27 folk performances - each comprising of 108 artistes - portraying the whole gamut and richness of Tamil culture and arts.

3. Production of the Film, "Ilakkiya Chola": The movie that was made to order for the momentous occasion - the celebration of the VIII World Tamil Conference. The movie colourfully and poignantly displays the best of values for which Tamil civilization has stood for through the ages and which were hailed in the timeless Tamil classics. The movie starring top actors such as Arjun, Sarath Kumar, Karthik, Prabhu, Vijayakumar, Manorama and Suganya, was directed by R.V. Udayakumar. The film was produced under the guidance of Thiru A.V.M. Saravanan.

4. Advertisements: Colour as well as B & W advertisements were released to highlight

The stamp released in commemoration of the Eighth International Conference- Seminar of Tamil Studies at Thanjavur on 5.1.'95



भारत
INDIA

200



the occasion. Advertisements were released in foreign newspapers also. Detailed daily programme schedules and on the facilities extended to people visiting the conference were also published. It was ensured that all Government advertisements during the period carried the message of Hon'ble Chief Minister inviting people to conference. Colourful stickers were also printed and distributed.

5. Video vans for live telecast: The conference Pandal could hold about a lakh of people and to enable all the people attending the conference have a closer view of proceedings, 20 nos. of video vans were deployed around the venue. 7 nos. of videoscopes were also installed. The video vans and videoscopes helped about 1.5 lakh additional people to witness the conference.



6. Tie-up with Doordarshan: The valedictory function of the VIII World Tamil Conference was telecast live on TV. The daily programmes of the conference were telecast, through the use of co-axial cables of the Telecommunication Department at Thanjavur.

7. Daily Cultural Programme: 80 Cultural programmes reflecting the cultural ethos of India were held during the conference, for the benefit of delegates, other visitors and the public. About 3,200 artistes participated in these programmes. 4,000 folk artistes participated in folk performances performed in street corners every day.

8. Tamil Arasu - Special Issue: A 88 page Special issue of Tamil Arasu Tamil was released on the occasion. A 48 page special issue of Tamil Arasu - English was also released.

9. Media Centre: A comprehensive modern Media Centre with facilities such as telecommunication, fax, photo-fax, etc. catered to the media during the conference. The service manned by IPROs, and APROs, came in for appreciation from the media and the public.



◆
PURE
silk

PURE
zari
◆

◆
Royal purples...
daring reds...
bright yellows...
exquisite silks
in almost every
imaginable hue.
From Co-optex.



HTA.7556.95



எட்டாவது உலகத் தமிழ் மாநாடு நிறைவு விழா தஞ்சாவூர். 5-1-1995

