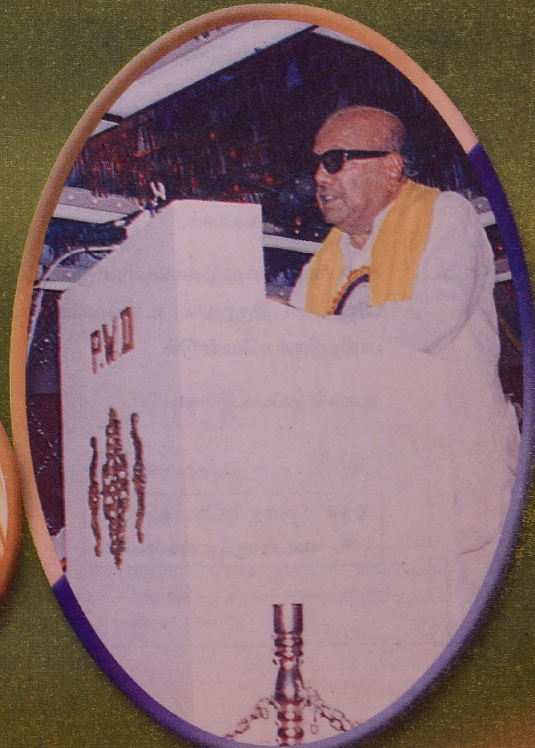
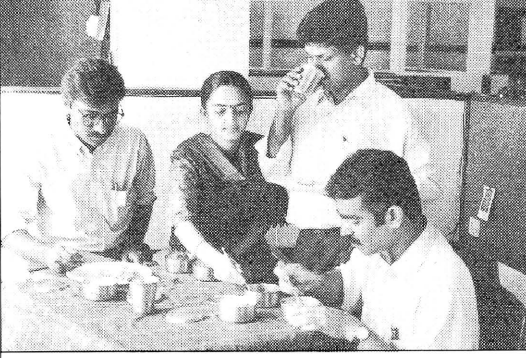




Tamil Arasu

JUNE 1999 Rs.3





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

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

இவர்களில் யாருக்காவது எச்ஐவி/ எய்ட்ஸ் பாதித்து இருக்கலாம்.

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

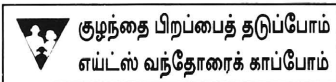
ஆனால் அப்படி இல்லையே...

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

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

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

**சிறிதளவு ஆதரவு பெருமளவு
சுமையைக் குறைக்கும்.**



மேலும் விவரங்களுக்கு அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி :
தமிழ்நாடு எய்ட்ஸ் கட்டுப்பாட்டு அமைப்பு
417, பாரதியன் ரோடு, சென்னை - 600 008.
தொ.பே.: 8255467, 8255261, 8254917.
24 மணிநேர தொ.பே.: 8256882, 8256864.

TAMIL ARASU

Magazine of the Government of Tamil Nadu

THIRUVALLUVAR YEAR 2030

VAIKASI - AANI

JUNE - 1999

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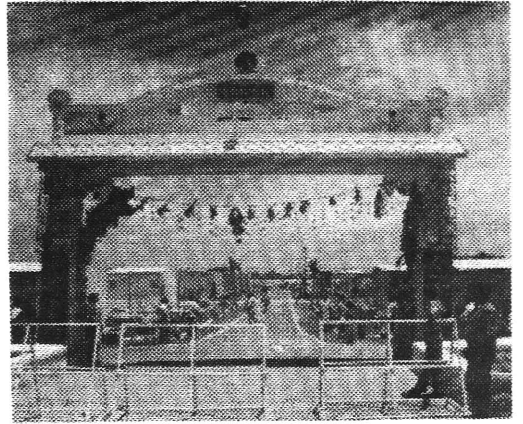
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Important Achievements of KALAIIGNAR's regime during the past three years

- ★ Land tax abolished on the day of assuming office as the Chief Minister (13.6.1996)
- ★ The Government incurred a loss of Rs. 14 crores.
- ★ 1.25 lakh families benefited.

Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram (egalitarian habitat)

- ★ 50 Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams per year from 1997.



- ★ So far 38 Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams have been opened.

Anna Renaissance Scheme

- ★ 52,943 works were taken up at a cost of Rs. 353 crores during the past two years. This year the initial allocation is Rs. 75 crores.
- ★ The works taken in 15 Districts during 1997-98 have been completed.
- ★ 847 works in the remaining districts are being carried out at a fast pace.
- ★ Out of 23,206 works taken in 1998-99, 18,587 works have been completed.

Self Help Programme

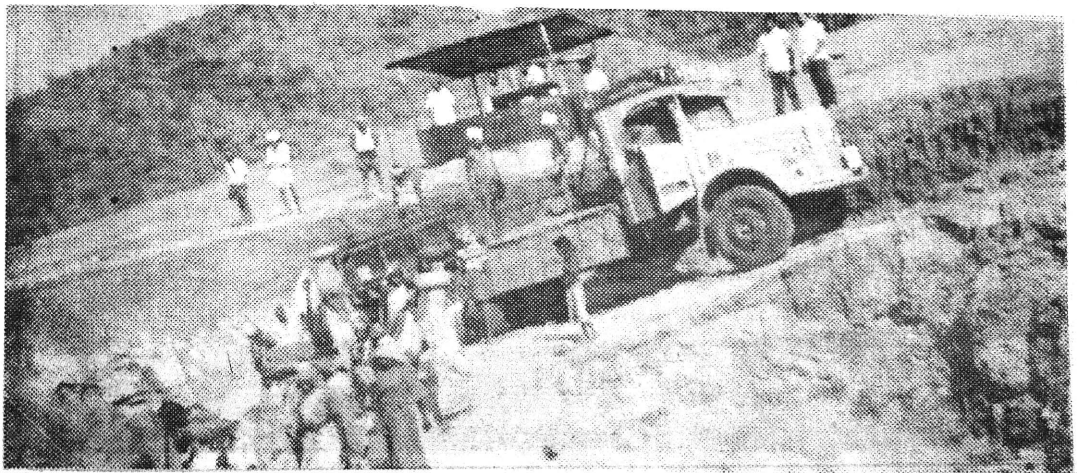
- ★ 9,722 works were taken up at a cost of Rs.48 crores during the past two years. This year the initial allocation is Rs.10 crores.
- ★ 4,932 works taken during 1997-98 have been completed.
- ★ Of the 4,790 works taken during 1998-99, 3,047 works have been completed.
- ★ The people's contribution for implementing the schemes during 1997-98 was Rs.6.90 crores.
- ★ The contribution of the public for the implementation of the schemes for 1998-99 has increased to Rs.12.36 crores.

Scheme for the development of MLA Constituency

- ★ This scheme was introduced during 1997-98.
- ★ Rs.25 lakhs is allocated per MLA constituency.



- ★ 12,045 road and bridge works were taken up at a cost of Rs.141 crores, during the past 2 years.
- ★ This allocation has been enhanced to Rs.35 lakhs per constituency during 1998-99.
- ★ For 1999-2000 this allocation will be Rs.50 lakhs.



Temples

- ★ 1,660 property Registers have been prepared in Temples during the last three years.
- ★ Temple properties viz. 273 acres of land and 253 ground house sites have been recovered.
- ★ An additional income of Rs.6 crores to the exchequer.

Cattle Wealth

- ★ 100 new veterinary dispensaries at a cost of Rs.2.68 crores.
- ★ 50 veterinary dispensaries upgraded.

Nutritious Meal Programme

- ★ An egg was supplied along with the nutritious meal once in a fortnight during 1989-90.
- ★ Egg once in a week from 1.6.1998.
- ★ The financial allocation for nutritious noon meal programme in 1995-96 was Rs.360 crores.

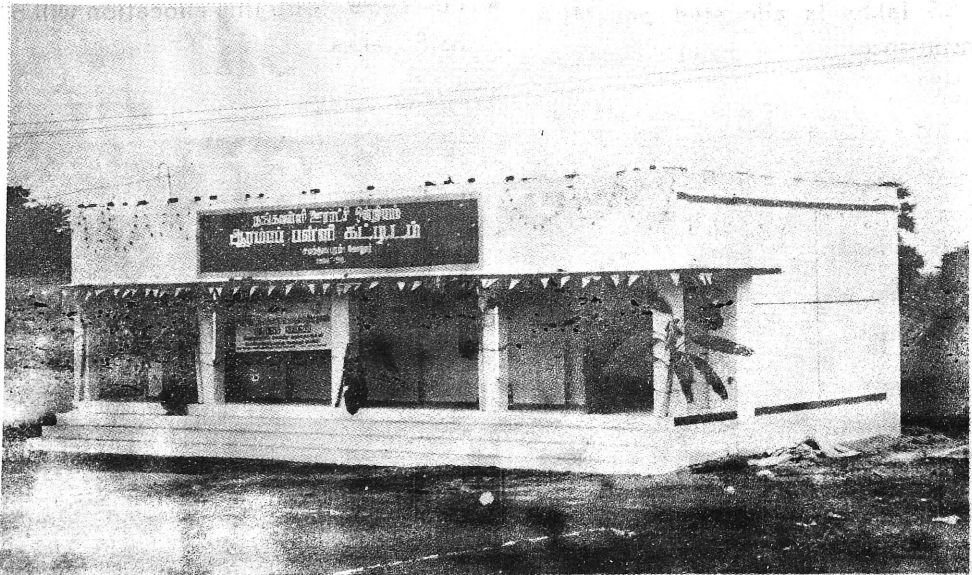
- ★ The present allocation is Rs.532 crores - An additional allocation of Rs.172 crores has also been made.

Financial allocation for Education Department

- ★ The allocation during 1995-96 was Rs.2,233.17 crores.
- ★ The allocation for 1999-2000 is Rs.4,092 crores.
- ★ An additional allocation of Rs.1,859 crores during the past three years.

During the past three years...

- ★ 953 New Primary Schools have been opened.
- ★ 462 Primary schools have been upgraded to middle schools.
- ★ 319 middle schools have been upgraded as high schools.
- ★ 250 high schools have been upgraded as Higher Secondary schools.



- ★ 31,108 secondary grade teachers have been appointed according to the seniority registered in the employment office.
- ★ 2,407 Post Graduate teachers have been appointed.
- ★ 1,529 Graduate teachers have also been appointed.
- ★ 828 Assistant Professors have been posted in colleges.
- ★ Formation of a separate department for higher education.
- ★ 114 self financing engineering colleges.
- ★ 84 self financing Arts and Science colleges.
- ★ Government colleges for women at Sivagangai and Nilakottai.
- ★ Law college in Tirunelveli.
- ★ A medical college in the name of K.A.P. Viswanatham who fought for the cause of Tamil Language, at Trichy was started.
- ★ Yet another medical college in Tuticorin in the current year. The Chennai Medical College (formerly Madras Medical College) was upgraded as Deemed University.
- ★ Periyar University in Salem.
- ★ Dr. Ambedkar Law University in Chennai.
- ★ A scheme to meet the expenses of higher education of the first three rank holders in the State level and the District level who pass in 10th and 12th standard examinations, by the Government.
- ★ A new scheme wherein the Government will meet the entire expenses of

education of the students from families which do not have any graduates and are interested in pursuing professional courses who secure the first ten places among students from such families without graduates based on the marks obtained out of the total of 300 qualifying marks in the Entrance Examination.

- ★ 15 percent of seats reserved in all professional colleges for the students hailing from rural areas.
- ★ 28 trusts have been formed in 15 Universities in the names of great kings, leaders and poets with Rs.25 lakhs per trust. Total expenditure is Rs.7 crores.

MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Marriage Assistance Scheme

- ★ Introduced by Kalaingar's Government in 1989 with an assistance of Rs.5,000 per beneficiary.
- ★ This assistance was enhanced to Rs.10,000 per beneficiary in 1996.
- ★ During the past three years Rs.128 crores have been spent for this scheme and 1,28,000 poor women benefited.

Anjugam Ammaiyar Memorial Inter Caste Marriage Assistance Scheme

- ★ Rs.5,000 per beneficiary was given as assistance in 1989.
- ★ The assistance was enhanced to Rs.10,000 in 1996.
- ★ From 2.10.1997 onwards if the bride or the groom belonged to Adi-draavidar Community, then the assistance given is Rs.20,000.



Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiyar Memorial Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme

- ★ Rs.5,000 per beneficiary in 1989.
- ★ This assistance was enhanced to Rs.7,000 per beneficiary during 1997-98.
- ★ This assistance is further enhanced to Rs.10,000 at present.

Destitute Women's Marriage Assistance Scheme

- ★ This scheme has been named after Mother Teresa.
- ★ During 1996-97 the assistance was Rs.2,000.
- ★ The assistance was enhanced to Rs.3,000 during 1997-98.
- ★ During 1998-99 this was further enhanced to Rs.5,000.
- ★ Currently Rs.7,000 is being given as assistance.

Marriage Assistance Scheme for Poor Widow's daughter

- ★ The scheme has been named after E.V.R. Maniammaiyar.
- ★ Rs.2,000 was given as assistance during 1996-97.
- ★ This assistance was enhanced to Rs.3,000 in 1997-98.
- ★ Rs.5,000 as assistance in 1998-99.
- ★ Presently this assistance has been further enhanced to Rs.7,000.

Assistance to the Poor

- ★ The monthly pension which was Rs.100 was enhanced to Rs.150.
- ★ The ceiling on the number of beneficiaries cancelled.
- ★ The condition - (the assistance will not be given if the widow has a son of more than 18 years old) is cancelled.

Development in the Information Technology

- ★ An Information Technology Department was created on 5.10.1998.
- ★ A state level Task Force on Information Technology under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, for the development of IT, formed on 8.10.1998.
- ★ Formation of a subcommittee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anandkrishnan for finding ways and means to the development of Tamil Software and introduction of Computer education at school level.
- ★ An International Conference and Seminar on Tamil in IT, 'Tamil Net 99' was convened in February 99, to encourage the use of Tamil in Computer.
- ★ This conference has recommended standards for Tamil Keyboard and for coding of Tamil scripts.
- ★ To extend the benefit of Tamil education to interested students throughout the world, a Tamil Virtual University based on the Internet will be setup.
- ★ A Tamil Software Development Fund will be set up with a corpus of Rs.5 crores to encourage the development of innovative Tamil Software.
- ★ A 'Tidel Park' at Tharamani in Chennai on an area of 1.2 million sq.ft with world class facilities for software development centres.
- ★ IT parks in Sholinganallur and Kelambakkam.
- ★ Rs.30 crores as special investment fund to help young IT entrepreneurs.

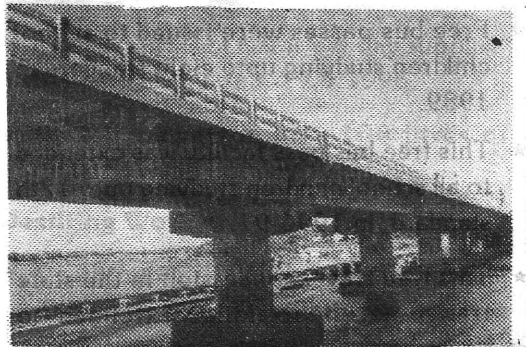
- ★ The Government established 'Tamil Nadu Institute in Information Technology' (TANITEC) on 11.9.98 as an Academic Institute of excellence for promoting IT education.
- ★ A hightech park for women entrepreneurs near Tharamani was inaugurated on 29.7.98.
- ★ A network of 13,000 community Internet Access Centres, with the help of M/s. World Tel of U.K. It will lead to employment of around 1,50,000 persons.
- ★ Computer science as an optional subject in all the 1,200 Higher Secondary Schools.

Bridges and flyovers

- ★ 35 bridges were constructed and opened during the past three years, at a cost of Rs.25.51 crores.
- ★ Presently 208 bridges are being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.450 crores.

In Chennai City

- ★ 14 bridges were constructed after 1997, at a cost of Rs.1.79 crores.
- ★ 10 flyovers are being constructed at a cost of Rs.115.50 crores.





freedom fighters and those who fought for the cause of Tamil language, has been extended to their legal heirs also.

★ A maritime academy for the development of minor ports created.

★ Actions are on to develop the Kulachel port.

★ Mini bus services introduced in rural areas to increase the bus facilities

- ★ Plans for the construction of 12 more bridges during the current year.
- ★ The widening of Napier bridge is nearing completion. Cost Rs.5.11 crores.
- ★ A motorable subway is being constructed below the railway line on the bazar road, Saidapet.
- ★ A subway is being constructed near Ezhilagam on the Kamarajar Salai.

New Buses

- ★ A total of 7,384 buses were purchased.
- ★ A saving of Rs.48 crores in the body building of the buses due to the complete eradication of corruptions.
- ★ A saving of Rs.14 crores in the purchase of tyres during 1998-99.
- ★ Free bus passes were issued to school children studying upto eight standard in 1989.
- ★ This free bus pass facility was extended to all school children studying upto 12th standard, in 1996-97.
- ★ This free travel concession in the state transport undertakings extended to

to the interior villages. A total of 320 mini buses are being operated.

- ★ Rs.605 crores allocated for Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) from Thirumaiyali to Velacheri.

Road facilities

- ★ Connecting roads to villages with a population of more than 1500 in 1972.
- ★ This scheme extended to villages with a population of more than 1,000 in the year 1990.
- ★ 517 villages were connected with other roads after 1996 achieving the goal of "there is no village with a population of 1000 without connecting roads".
- ★ It has been planned, as a first phase, to provide road connectivity to 340 villages with a population of 500 to 1000, during the current year.
- ★ 10,000km of village roads have been newly laid.
- ★ 12,000km of village roads have been converted to tar topped roads.

★ Rs.702 crores worth of works have been implemented in rural areas through NABARD.

★ 8000 road workers have been appointed.

Laying of Bye-pass roads

★ Thambaram - Mathuravoyal bye-pass road at a cost of Rs.43 crores.

★ Madurai bye-pass road at a cost of Rs.36 crores.

★ Coimbatore bye-pass road at a cost of Rs.92 crores.

★ Land taking process is on at a cost of Rs.2.18 crores for bye-pass roads in Kumbakonam, Palani and Seiyaru.

★ 410 places have been identified as accident prone areas. Of that 402 places have been improved.

★ Rs.15 crores allocated for the development of roads in and around Tiruppur.

★ Rs.212 crores allocated for the development of radial roads in Chennai.

National - State Highways

★ 1,781km length of road on National Highways have been added.

★ 2,258 km length of State roads have been added to present length.

Protected drinking water

★ Rural drinking water schemes have been implemented at a cost of Rs.668.87 crores during the past three years.

★ 3,222 power motors were repaired at an expense of Rs.32 crores.

★ 233 drinking water schemes were renovated at an expenditure of Rs.7 crores.

★ 818 village overhead tanks upgraded at a cost of Rs.8.26 crores.

★ Rs.53.40 crores were spent to rectify drinking water facilities affected with fluoride content in 1,514 tenements.

★ 409 tenements benefited by the 11 desalination schemes in Ramanathapuram District at a cost of Rs.41.07 crores.

★ 98 urban drinking water schemes have been completed at a cost of Rs. 196.67 crores.

Drinking water schemes under Anna Renaissance Scheme

★ Drinking water schemes were implemented in 3,359 tenements in 424 Panchayats.

★ Drinking water schemes completed in 2,706 tenements at a cost of Rs.68.19 lakhs.

Krishna Drinking Water Scheme

★ 24 crore litres of water per day was supplied till 28.9.1996.

★ 70 litres of water per day per person was supplied.

★ 44 crore litres of water per day supplied to Chennai city from 29.9.1996.

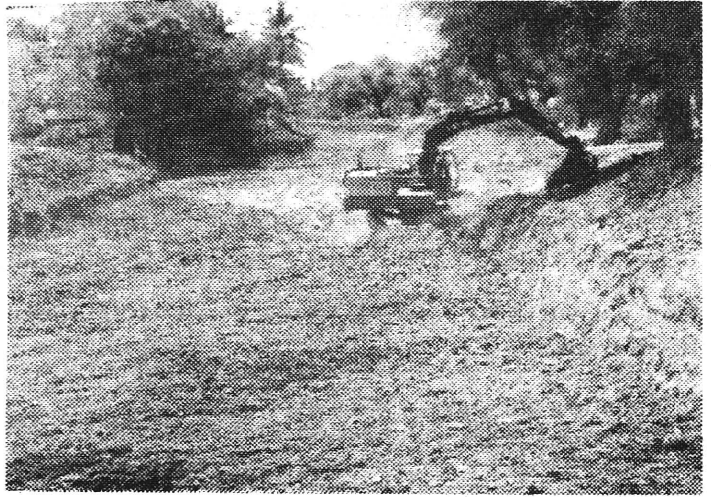
★ By this, a person gets 100 litres of drinking water per day.

Desilting Works

★ Desilting works in Nagapattinam and Thiruvarur Districts were carried out from

March 1998 to June 1998 at a cost of Rs.12.14 crores.

- ★ Kolianur canal in Villupuram District was renovated at a cost of Rs.90 lakhs.
- ★ 200 lakes were desilted at a cost of Rs.27.84 crores.
- ★ Buckingham Canal was desilted from Coovum junction to Adyar at a cost of Rs.3.22 crores.



Achievement in Food Production

1995-96 - 67.96 lakh Metric Tonnes
1996-97 - 76.45 lakh Metric Tonnes
1997-98 - 85 lakh Metric Tonnes
1998-99 - 98 lakh Metric Tonnes

Concessions to Farmers

- ★ Free supply of electricity to farmers introduced in 1990 by this Government will be continued.
- ★ 3,53,000 fertilizer identity cards were distributed to the farmers.
- ★ Rs.50 is given as incentive for food production to the Cauvery delta farmers.
- ★ The rate of quality control has been reduced to Rs.5 from Rs.15.
- ★ Rs.76.41 crores were disbursed as loan to public and co-operative sugar mills to give the pending amount to sugarcane farmers.

- ★ A sum of Rs.47.89 crores were disbursed as flood relief to farmers who lost their crop due to the floods in December 1996.
- ★ 10,05,166 sugar cane growers benefited.
- ★ Rs.11.46 crores were given as flood relief during November 1997 floods.
- ★ The subsidy given to farmers for the purchase of oil engines with 5 HP instead of 3 HP is as follows :
 - 25% for small farmers
 - 30% for marginal farmers
 - 50% subsidy for downtrodden / tribal farmers.
- ★ Rs.44 crore worth land tax written off for the affected farmers by the 1997 floods.

Co-operation

- ★ The interest for short term crop loan reduced by one percent (from 13% to 12%.)
- ★ The short term loan amounting to Rs.174.69 crores given to farmers

affected by drought of 1996-97 and 1997 November floods, was converted to midterm loan. Thus the penal interest of Rs.50 crores written off.

- ★ 6.25 percent incentive to farmers who repay the loans promptly.
- ★ Rs.25,000 was given per person as jewel loan through co-operative banks in 1995-96.
- ★ This amount has been increased to Rs.1 lakh.
- ★ Loan assistance programme for women to benefit small time business women was introduced on 1.1.1999 in Chennai and later introduced in other corporations also.
- ★ This scheme was extended to Municipalities and town panchayats from 2.5.1999.
- ★ The daily loan amount ranges from Rs.100 to Rs.5000.
- ★ So far more than 20,000 women have benefited.
- ★ For one Rupee collected everyday 85 paise is saved and returned with interest.

Block houses

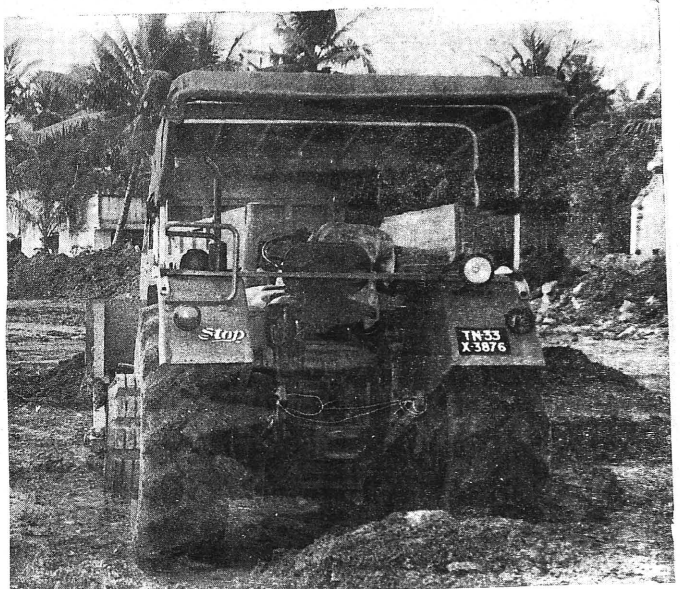
- ★ 83,486 block houses were pending during the previous regime.
- ★ 1,74,264 block houses have been approved for construction during the last three years.
- ★ Out of 2,57,750 houses 2,42,645 block houses have been constructed so far.

Free house site pattas

- ★ 5,10,440 house site pattas have been freely distributed during the past three years. 1,77,440 Adiravidars and 5,793 tribals benefited.

Welfare of Fishermen

- ★ The target fixed for construction of houses for fishermen under Singaravelar housing scheme during the past three years was 12,000 houses.

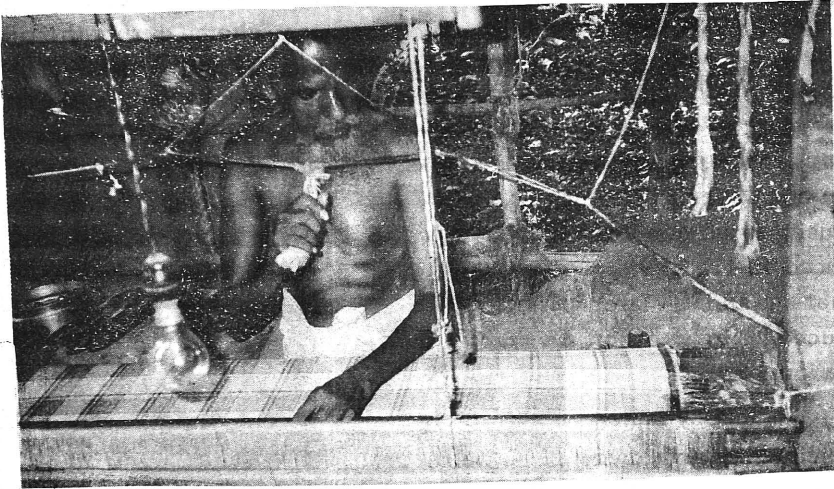


- ★ Number of houses constructed - 7,155.
- ★ The increase in the construction cost is from Rs.32,000 to Rs.37,000.
- ★ 2000 houses in fishermen tenements were planned for repair.
- ★ 1,004 houses were repaired.
- ★ 996 houses are being repaired.
- ★ 1,193 street lamps have been lighted.
- ★ Connecting roads to fishermen tenements target - 34, roads completed - 31.

- ★ The fishermen insurance amount has been increased from Rs.35,000 to Rs.50,000.

Welfare of Weavers

- ★ An assistance of Rs.150 to those weavers who have crossed 60 years of age.
- ★ 96,000 weavers benefited.



- ★ An increase of 10 percent in wages to the weavers.
- ★ The insurance amount to the weavers which was Rs.25,000 had been increased to Rs.35,000 last year, which is further increased to Rs.40,000 presently.
- ★ 20 percent rebate for handloom products throughout the year.
- ★ Six months special rebate of 10 percent from 31.3.1998 for the unsold stock. Total rebate 30 percent.
- ★ 30 percent special rebate for further 5 months for lungi.
- ★ Rs.43.25 crores as subsidy amount was given to co-operative societies which was pending during the previous regime.

- ★ The penal interest of 2 percent levied for the defaulters who do not pay back the instalment is written off by TAN-silk for those who bought the silk from loan amount.

Welfare of labourers

- ★ Labourers Welfare Board formed for the welfare of non-organisational labourers.

- ★ 25 lakh labourers benefited.
- ★ The minimum wages of the agricultural labourers fixed at a higher rate according to the recommendations of the Kolappan Committee.
- ★ Rs.250 is being paid as relief every month to the labourers of closed industries from 1.4.99.

Welfare of Government Servants

- ★ The family welfare fund has been increased from Rs.60,000 to Rs.1 lakh.
- ★ 30 years of Government service is enough for availing full pension.
- ★ On the basis of fifth pay commission new scale of pay was given to the Government servants and pensioners, from 1.1.1996.

- ★ By this, the Government incurred an expenditure of Rs.10,344 crores, during 1998-99 alone.

Welfare of freedom fighters

- ★ In commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence the monthly pension given to the freedom fighters and to those who fought for the cause of language, was enhanced from Rs.1,500 to Rs.3,000.
- ★ The monthly pension to their descendants have also been enhanced from Rs.750 to Rs.1,500.

Family pension to those who lost their lives while fighting for social causes

- ★ Rs.3 lakhs each to the families for the 24 deceased persons who lost their lives in firing, while participating in the agitation for 20 percent reservation in 1987.
- ★ Rs.1,500 is being given to the families as pension.

Welfare of Journalists

- ★ The journalists pension was increased from Rs.500 to Rs.1,000 during 1996-97. Presently it has been enhanced to Rs.1,500.
- ★ Journalists family pension of Rs.500 to the wife of the deceased retired journalist who received journalist pension of Rs.1000 per month.
- ★ A relief of Rs.25,000 was given to the families of deceased journalists while at service, in 1997-98.
- ★ Now it is Rs.40,000.
- ★ House sites given to journalists in Chennai during 1989-90.
- ★ Presently house sites are allotted to journalists in Madurai and Trichy.

Power Schemes

- ★ The 630 MW North Chennai Thermal Power Station and 120 MW Basin Bridge gas turbine power projects have been recently commissioned.
- ★ The 7.5 MW Sathanur Power Project was commissioned on 9.3.1999.
- ★ The 8 MW Bhavani Power Project was commissioned in February 1998.
- ★ 27 MW of power from combined power schemes in sugar mills.
- ★ The finalisation of fund allocation for Pillaiperumal Power Scheme has been completed This will start its generation from March 2001.
- ★ Permissions have been granted to seven private organisations to produce 2563 MW of power and agreement has been signed for the purchase of power.
- ★ The first private organisation that started power generation was G.M.R. Vasavi Power Generation in Basin Bridge. 196 MW of power is being generated from 28.3.1999.
- ★ Action is being taken to implement 3 gas turbine power generation schemes in Koilkalappal (90MW) Perungulam (65 MW) and Kuthalam (60MW).
- ★ Permission has been granted by the Central Government on 14.8.98 for Neyveli Lignite power generation project to produce 250 MW of power. This will commence its generation in 2002-2003.
- ★ Jayamkondam thermal power station to produce 500 MW of power at an investment of Rs.5,500 crores - The Mumbai based Reliance Industries have been selected as contractors. This will be commissioned in 2003.

- ★ Ennore L.N.G gas turbine power generation scheme to produce 2000 MW of power - Mumbai based Datsin Bharat Energy Consortium has been selected as contractors - The construction work will commence soon.

- ★ A scheme to start 20 short time power generation projects - The Central Government have agreed gas connection to 5 schemes to generate 465 MW of power.

- ★ Central Government's gas connections is awaited for the remaining 15 power projects to produce 2307 MW of Power.

- ★ Tax exemption for 5 years to textile mills, paper mills, chemical industries, sugar mills, etc who produce their power requirements by themselves using fuelled generators.

- ★ Permanent tax exemption for the industrial organisation who generate power from wind and solar energy.

Tamil Nadu ranks first in loan deposit amount

- ★ The all India average rate of loan deposit amount is 55.5%.

- ★ But Tamil Nadu ranks first with 92.3%.

Tamil Nadu's achievement in Software export

- ★ In 1997-98 Software export was worth Rs.400 crores.

- ★ The software export was worth Rs.1100 crores, exceeding the target of Rs.700 crores during 1998-99.

Tamil Nadu ranks first in 100% export - oriented industries

- ★ Tamil Nadu ranks first in starting cent percent export - oriented industries.

- ★ 3,503 export oriented industries at All India Level.

- ★ 584 export oriented industries in Tamil Nadu alone - 1/6th of the total.

Distribution of food grains

- ★ 20 kg of rice for a 3 member family .

- ★ 2,800 fair price shops started as full time and part time shops.

- ★ Rs.1.42 crores 2 coloured family cards distributed

Kerosine Distribution Centres

- ★ Proposed Centres - 500.

- ★ Started so far - 121.

- ★ Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, Representatives of Local Bodies are empowered to inspect the fair price shops located in their respective constituencies.

Health Centres

- ★ Sanction accorded for the construction of new buildings for 652 Primary Health Centres at a cost of Rs.52 crores.

- ★ So far 600 such buildings have been constructed, 200 sub-health centres are to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 9 crores.

Primary Health Centres functioning round the clock

- ★ Target - 298

- ★ So far 250 implemented.

Rs.25,000 for medical treatment fund for those living below the poverty line

- ★ A scheme was introduced in 1997-98 to sanction Rs.25,000 to those patients suffering from diseases like heart, kidney and cancer living below the poverty line.

- ★ The time limit for out patients in Government Hospitals is extended upto 12 p.m.
- ★ 280 ambulances for Hospitals and Primary Health Centres at a cost of Rs.10 crores.

Improvement of Hospitals with the help of Industrial Organisations

- ★ The Hon'ble Chief Minister had discussions with industrialists on 1.11.97.
- ★ 19 Industrial Organisations accepted to take care of 7 Hospitals, 50 Primary Health Centres and 5 Sub Health Centres.

Eye Camps

- ★ The scheme of distribution of spectacles introduced in 1972-73 had a slackness.
- ★ The scheme was given life by this Government in 1996.
- ★ Ophthalmology Department in all District Hospitals have been upgraded.
- ★ Ophthalmology Departments have been started in important Taluk Hospitals.
- ★ Mobile Ophthalmology wings have been created in 29 Districts.
- ★ A scheme to provide contact lens to one lakh persons.
- ★ Cataract operation for 3.75 lakh patients this year.
- ★ Eye operations will be undertaken and Intra ocular lens fixed, free of cost.



National Siddha Medical Centre

- ★ On the requisition made by this Government the Central Government is establishing a Siddha Medical Research Centre near Thambaram at a cost of Rs.100 crores.
- ★ For that purpose 15 acres of land worth Rs.6.64 crores allotted free of cost.
- ★ Monthly Pension amount for Siddha Doctors who are above 60 years of age has been enhanced from Rs.150 to Rs.500.
- ★ In order to monitor the performance of the Hospitals, an Advisory Committee with the Member of the Legislative Assembly as one of the members have been constituted in each Hospital.

Appointment of Police Personnel

- ★ 7,698 men and 2,604 women police were appointed, which was announced and not fulfilled by the previous regime.
- ★ Among the 2000 Police personnel selected by this Government during

1989-90, 1,023 personnels who were selected and unemployed were given postings.

- ★ 3,465 Police Personnels were selected last year.
- ★ This year 5,000 more police personnel will be selected. Of this 1000 are women.

Selection of Sub-Inspectors

- ★ 1,100 Sub-Inspectors who were selected and not appointed during previous regime, were recruited by this Government.
- ★ 882 persons were selected through the examination for Sub-Inspectors conducted last year.

New Police Stations

- ★ 44 Police Stations were inaugurated during the past 3 years.
- ★ This year 17 more police stations will be opened.

Buildings for police stations

- ★ Sanction accorded for the construction of buildings for 120 police stations.
- ★ Construction of buildings completed for 23 Police Stations.
- ★ 75 buildings are nearing completion.

Police Quarters

- ★ 1,000 Quarters were constructed per year.
- ★ This have been increased to 2,500 quarters per year.
- ★ Toilet facilities have been provided in 2,751 quarters. Seperate electricity meters provided in 13,932 houses.

★ 11,140 police quarters have been provided with electric fans.

★ Rs.270 crores spent for the welfare of police personnel.

Courts

- ★ 100 new courts have been started.
- ★ Land has been acquired at a cost of Rs.2.52 crores for the establishment of High Court Branch in Madurai.
- ★ 9 Court Halls in Chennai High Court have been air-conditioned at a cost of Rs.2 crores.

Fire Service

- ★ 47 new Fire Service stations have been opened.

Prohibition

- ★ Separate wing for Prohibition.

Additional revenue to the Government exchequer through revision of taxes

★ Revenue from prohibition

During

- ★ 1995-96 Rs.1,425 crores
- ★ 1996-97 Rs.1,649 crores
- ★ 1997-98 Rs.1,942 crores
- ★ 1998-99 Rs.2,697 crores

Tax rebate through Commercial Taxes Department

During

- ★ 1996-97 Rs.353 crores
- ★ 1997-98 Rs.143 crores
- ★ 1998-99 Rs.81 crores
- ★ 1999-2000 Rs.25 crores

Tax exemption and tax reduction

During 1996-97

- ★ Total exemptions of tax for Dhal, Chilli, coriander, turmeric, tamarine, cumin, asafoetida, jaggery, sikkakai, silver metti, anklet, waist thread, paddy, grit.
- ★ Tax exemption for vests, rope, wheats, panchamirtham, viboodhi, husk etc., in the year 1997-98.
- ★ During 1998-99 edible oils like goundnut oil, coconut oil, gingily oil, sunflower oil, refined oils were exempted from taxation.
- ★ Tax exemption for Computer Software, Raw Materials used for producing picture varnish.

Tax reduced for the following articles

- ★ In 1996-97 cooking gas, sugarcane, fuel, raw materials for power generation.
- ★ In 1997-98 - typewriters, spectacles, mosquito mat, glass balls, small glass beads, electronics spare parts, helmets, rubbles, toys, fried groundnut, umbrellas, paper bags, tarpaulin, suitcase, oil engine parts, table, chair, zari, tailoring, embroidery machines etc.
- ★ In 1998-99 coconut, riped coconut, masala powder without trade mark, food items prepared in bakery, icecream with trade mark, peas flour, grit etc.

Reduction of Professional Tax

- ★ Professional tax only for those who earn Rs.21 thousand and above for six months instead of Rs.9,000.
- ★ Rs.108 had to be paid as tax by those, whose income was Rs.21,000 for six months, previously. Now this has been reduced to Rs.60 upto the limit of Rs.30 thousand.

Concessions of stamp duty in registration of documents

- ★ Exemptions from stamp duty for sale deeds from Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board.
- ★ 22 thousand youth appointed as document writers.
- ★ Stamp duty on partition deeds reduced from 4% to 2%.
- ★ Exemption of stamp duty for the sale of immovable properties not exceeding the value of Rs.3000.
- ★ 1,524 stamp vendors appointed.
- ★ Stamp duty on mortgage deeds reduced to 4% from 7%.
- ★ Stamp duty for second mortgage reduced from 13% to 0.1% for the mortgaged properties of the public by the private housing societies.

Tamil Development

- ★ Seperate Ministry for Tamil Development.
- ★ An amount of Rs.50 lakhs for Dravidian University in Kuppam area of Andhra State.
- ★ Nationalisation of the books of Devaneyapavanar, Maraimalai Adigal, Thiru.Vi.Ka., Kalki, Kavimani, Jeevanandam, Nammakkal Kavignar, V.O. Chidambaranar, K.M. Sheriff, Navalar Somasundara Bharathiar, Parali Su. Nellajappar, Va.Ve.Su. Iyer, Karaikudi Sa. Ganesan and S.D.S. Yogi.
- ★ Rs.5 lakhs given to Vellore K. Ragavan who translated the work of Karl Marx, as the source.

- ★ Rs.2 lakhs to the family of the writer - Film dialogue writer late Ilangovan.
- ★ Bharathiar award in 1997 and Ambedkar award in 1998 introduced.
- ★ Cash award of Rs.10,000 to Tamil Scholars was enhanced to Rs.20,000 in 1996 and enhanced Rs.1 lakh in 1998.
- ★ 10 Music Schools have been started.

Memorials for renowned freedom fighters and veterans

- ★ Golden Jubilee Memorial Pillar near War Memorial.
- ★ Thiagigal Manimandapam at Guindy at a cost of Rs.30 lakhs.
- ★ Memorial for Bhakthavatchalam at a cost of Rs.25 lakhs.
- ★ Memorial Pillar at a cost of Rs.3 lakhs in memory of Indian Soldier who lost his life during Vellore Sepoy Mutiny.
- ★ The house of Thiagi Viswanatha doss in Thirumangalam, Madurai converted into a memorial at a cost of Rs.50 lakhs.
- ★ Renovation of the bungalow of Poolithevan and installation of his statue in Nelkattumseval village, Tirunelveli District at a cost of Rs. 57 lakhs.
- ★ In memory of the Commander of Kottabomman, Veeran Sundaralingam, a town in his name has been established in Kavarnagiri Village at a cost of Rs.1.05 crores and 200 houses were allotted to his heirs.
- ★ A memorial for Jeevanandam in C.P. Ramasamy Park at Nagercoil at a cost of Rs.15.50 lakhs.

- ★ A statue of Nethaji on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai in connection with his centenary year at a cost of Rs.7.40 lakhs.
- ★ Works started for Ambedkar Manimandapam.
- ★ Burst size statue of Gandhiji installed in the entrance of Gandhi Mandapam.
- ★ Burst size statues of Rajaji, Kamarajar, Anna, M.G.R. at the entrances of their Memorials.

33% reservation for Women in Local Bodies

- ★ Elections were held for Local Bodies in 1996 with 33% reservation for Women.
- ★ 44,143 women were elected.
- ★ Two of them have assumed office as Mayors of Corporations and one among them is from down-trodden community.

Former Village Administrative officers

- ★ Rs.175 as pension and other benefits to those officials who lost their jobs on 14.11.1980.
- ★ Each of them received approximately Rs.23,000 in lumpsum.
- ★ Former employees who lost their jobs on 14.11.1980 and died were sanctioned family pension.
- ★ 1,406 temporary posts were made permanent.



Strengthening Communal Harmony

V.Sankaran

Recently, people in Tirunelveli blocked traffic to protest against the poor services of State Transport Corporation buses. Their grievances may be genuine but they failed to realise one thing. The caste clashes in their area also contributed to the present state of bus services. The State Transport Minister, Shir. K. Ponmudi has gone on record blaming the caste and communal clashes in Southern Districts for the poor financial position of

the State Transport Corporation. In the recent past, as many as 11 buses were set ablaze by the antisocial elements during communal flare-ups. This is just one instance of how caste and communal clashes could affect the general public.

The implications of caste and communal clashes are deep and wide. People, often innocent, get killed or injured; houses and shops set on fire and as tension grips people are forced to remain indoors. Normal life is affected resulting in loss to the economy; but what is more worrisome is the divide or scar these clashes create in the community. The divide is often so deep that it takes a longer time to disappear. The persisting scar poses a grave threat to the unity of the people, so essential for the peace and prosperity of the State and the Country.

Should Tamil Nadu, a well-developed State, become a victim of caste and communal clashes? The Tamils have the long tradition of being one of the most tolerant people. Lakhs and lakhs of people of different faiths and regions have made Tamil Nadu their home. Over centuries,

people have been living in complete harmony in the State. Even today, it is so. The respect for other faiths is ingrained in their spirit. That is why, one can see thousands of Hindus daily visiting the Velankanni Shrine and the Nagore Darga. It cannot be an unfamiliar sight if one happens to see Christians and Muslims visit famous Hindu temples. Come festivals of any religion, greetings are extended to the persons of that religion by his friends in other faiths. Greetings are more often followed up with invitation for feasts. In offices and business houses, the atmosphere is one of complete mutual trust.

Historically, Tamil Nadu has been in the forefront of social reforms and, therefore, there should be no scope for any communal tension in the State. It should be remembered that it is during this century Late E.V.Ramasami Naicker, affectionately called *Thanthai Periyar* carried on a crusade against casteism. In 1924, he led a temple entry at Vaikom where dalits were prohibited from walking through the streets around the temple. Periyar was arrested here twice for staging satyagraha against

untouchability and earned the title, 'Vaikom Veerer'. In 1939, Vaithianatha Iyer led a batch of the down trodden people into the Meenakshi temple in Madurai. Before the temple entry, he actively campaigned against untouchability saying that it had no place in Hinduism. He cited references from sacred books including Vedas.

Then, why occur caste and communal clashes? Reasons apart, they can, at best, be described as aberrations in the otherwise peaceful State. As such aberrations have the potential of becoming cancerous which can eat into the very vitals of our society and the Nation, it is essential to ensure that such incidents do not keep recurring.

Tamil Nadu, therefore, has taken a major initiative to promote communal harmony. It includes several steps, both economic and social. The first significant step was taken when the names of Districts and State Transport Corporations were changed at one stroke. The naming of Districts and Transport Corporations after caste leaders was a sore point for people of

other castes and it led to jealousy and competition among communities, besides giving scope to anti-social elements to foment trouble. The State had earlier abolished the caste suffix in the names of streets and roads. The State is implementing a unique scheme for the promotion of communal harmony among people. The scheme called Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram Scheme envisages co-habitation of people of different communities in a certain ratio. All basic amenities are provided in the colony for a comfortable living. During 1997-98, Rs.17.5 crores were allotted for creating 50 Samathuvapurams throughout the State. An equal amount has also been set apart in 1998-99 budget

to set up another 50 colonies. Some Districts will have more than two or three Samathuvapurams. So far, 30 Samathuvapurams have come up throughout the State. A scheme to promote inter-caste marriages is being implemented from 1974. Under it, financial assistance of Rs.5,000 was given to every inter-caste married couple. The amount was raised in 1996 to Rs.10,000. Double this amount is now being given to the inter-caste married couple if anyone of them belongs to Scheduled Caste.

There is a general feeling that relative economic backwardness of the Southern Districts is also responsible for the caste clashes in that region. In this background, Tamil Nadu Government has set



up a High Power Commission for Socio Economic and Industrial Development of Southern Districts with Justice Shri Ratnavel Pandian, a former Supreme Court Judge, as its Chairman. The commission is to identify the bottlenecks that stand in the way of the economic development of the Southern Districts and to recommend the steps for the upliftment of the people in that region. The commission will submit its report by January next year.

With a view to promote a sense of brotherhood among the people, common feasts are organised in temples on important occasions like Gandhi Jayanthi and Pongal. Hundreds of people from different castes take part in such feasts. Important functionaries like the Chief Minister, Ministers, District Collectors and other prominent public men participate in such feasts to drive home the message of the need for unity among the people.

Strict Enforcement of Laws

Besides such various measures to promote harmony among the people, steps to remove the causes for caste and communal

conflicts are simultaneously taken. These include strict enforcement of the provisions of Protection of Civil Rights Act and Prevention of Atrocities (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Act. The provisions in these acts take care of the violation of human rights such as use of abusive language against anyone belonging to Scheduled Castes and denial of honourable treatment to dalits like the practice or reserving separate glasses for them in tea shops. Such practices are punishable with imprisonment. For enforcing these provisions, special cells under the Police are functioning in all the Districts. Peace committees at District and Taluk levels have been set up to promote peace and to remove the causes which might increase communal tension.

Multi-Media Campaign

Presently, the State Government is organising a major multi-media campaign in all the Districts to promote communal harmony and to eradicate untouchability. Programmes including cultural shows and film and video shows are being conducted to generate awareness against the evils

of communalism and untouchability. A massive poster campaign through all available means is being undertaken. Besides, rallies, human chains, etc., are also organised. The State is to give awards to the people in the media who effectively carry to the people the message of communal harmony and eradication of untouchability. The State Government has already declared the year 1999 as the year of Communal Harmony and Against Untouchability.

The peace and amity in the State have, in no small measure, contributed to the achievements of the State in the industrial and agricultural sectors. The tempo of development in these sectors is being speeded up to ensure a better life for the people of the State. The efforts made in this direction can bear fruit only if all people extend their full co-operation to maintain peace and harmony in the society. Hopefully, they will, so that Tamil Nadu can occupy the prime place of being the most developed State in the social and economic sectors in the twenty first century.

★ ★ ★

Tamil Nadu has made rapid strides in Information Technology (IT). Tamil Nadu has also become a major centre for software exports in the country. Compared to software exports of Rs.400 crores in 1997-98, exports during 1998-99 have increased by nearly 200% to Rs.1170 crores. This goes on to prove that a congenial atmosphere prevails in Tamil Nadu as far as Information Technology development is concerned:

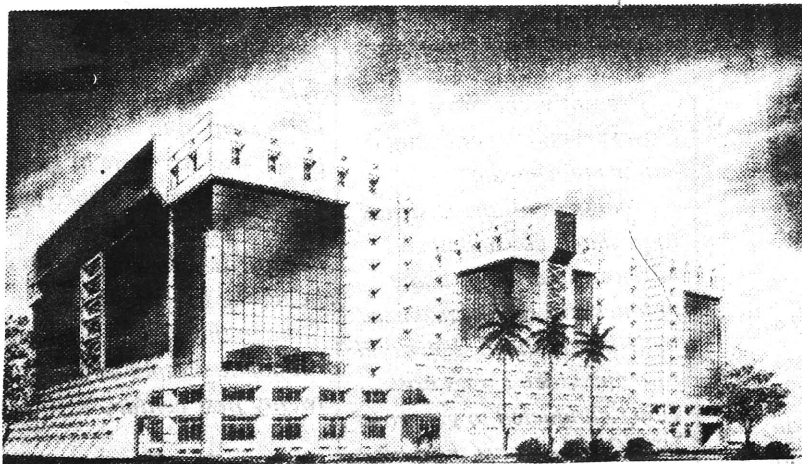
CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE PREVAILS FOR IT IN TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu was one of the first States to notify a separate IT policy as early as November 1997. Arising from this policy, several major initiatives have been launched and will be continued in 1999-2000.

- ★ TIDCO and ELCOT are jointly promoting a Software Technology Park named TIDEL Park at Tharamani in Chennai at a total cost of Rs.320 crores. This Park will have a total area of 1.2 million sq.ft. and will have world class facilities for software development centres. Construction is in full swing and the facility will be ready for occupation in early 2000.
- ★ Tamil Nadu was first in the country to launch an operational venture capital fund called Tamil Nadu Software Fund, which has been set up by TIDCO in association with SIDBI and ILFS and this is fully operational.
- ★ SIPCOT, the premier industrial infrastructure development agency of the Government of Tamil Nadu, is developing a modern IT Park at Siruseri on the old Mahabalipuram Road. This Park, with total area of 1000 acres will have developed plots for both hardware and


software units and will provide every modern facility to international standards to such units.

- ★ The old Mahabalipuram Road from Tharamani in Chennai is rapidly developing as an IT corridor. In view of its importance, four laning of this road is being started so as to provide excellent physical infrastructure to the IT industry. Many major IT companies have set up or are in the process of setting up their Software industries in this area. Tata Consultancy Service has recently inaugurated Asia's largest Software Development Centre near Sholinganallur and other major companies like WIPRO, INFOSYS and POLARIS are in the process of setting up their Centres in this area.
- ★ ELCOT, a fully owned enterprise of the Government of Tamil Nadu is now focussing primarily on IT Industry. It functions as the nodal implementing agency of the IT department and participates in promoting units in the IT sector. ELCOT is a profitable company and has been continuously earning profits. It has carried out important projects for the Government such as designing and



preparation of voter ID cards, issue of computerised driving licenses, issue of computerised ration cards. ELCOT proposes to acquire land near Sholinganallur on the old Mahabalipuram road for meeting the land requirements of IT companies. It also provides a single window facility to IT companies for all their infrastructure

facilities. **Its website www.elcot.com is the official site for IT in Tamil Nadu.**

- ★ The Government of Tamil Nadu, through ELCOT, have decided to enter into a joint venture with M/s. World Tel of UK for establishing a large network Community Internet Access Centres. World Tel was set up by the International Tele-Communications Union, an agency of the UN. This venture will provide a high bandwidth communication backbone for the State and will create a network of more than 13,000 Community Internet Access Centres. It will lead to employment of around 1,50,000 persons. Through these Centres, people who do not own computers can access internet for any of their day to day requirements at a reasonable cost.
- ★ Internet in the rural areas can be useful for the people only if the content is available in Tamil. To encourage this, the Government has taken several steps. The main initiative was the convening of 'Tamil Net 99', in February '99, an International Conference and Seminar on Tamil in IT. This Conference has recommended standards for Tamil Keyboard and for coding of Tamil Scripts. Based on the Conference' recommendations, final standards in these areas will be notified by Government by July'99.
- ★ For international acceptance of these standards, the Government of Tamil Nadu has become an Associate Member in the International Unicode Consortium, USA, and will send a proposal to Unicode to revise the existing standards for Tamil as these standards do not address the specific needs of the Tamil language.
- ★ A Tamil Software Development Fund will be set up with a corpus of Rs.5 crores to encourage the development of innovative Tamil Software.
- ★ To extend the benefit of Tamil education to interested students throughout the world, a Tamil Virtual University based on the Internet will be set up.
- ★ To stimulate advanced research on the use of Tamil in IT, an Internet Applications and Research Centre to focus on Tamil will be set up either independently or as part of an existing Institute in this field.
- ★ To encourage research in the area of Tamil in IT, three reputed Universities namely Anna University, Bharathiar University and REC at Trichy will be entrusted with the setting up of three Endowment Chairs for Tamil in IT.
- ★ The Government have already established Tamil Nadu Institute in Information Technology (TANITEC) as an academic Institute of excellency for promoting IT education. TANITEC has started functioning and is conducting a one year Post Graduate Diploma in IT on advanced topics which are of immediate relevance to the IT industry. Starting with an in-take of 50 students today, it will double this intake in 1999-2000. TANITEC also proposes to start Degree courses in IT and will function as a nodal agency for upgrading the skills of IT faculty in engineering institutions throughout the State.
- ★ The IT Department also assists all departments of Government in their computerisation activities. Special emphasis is being placed now on areas with large public contact like registration, sales tax, motor vehicles, land records and maps and Citizen's Charter.
- ★ In association with Health Department, a pilot project on Tele-medicine will be implemented this year to make available the benefits of advanced medical consultation to patients in the rural areas.
- ★ In association with School Education Department, arrangements will be made to offer computer science as an optional subject in all Government Higher Secondary Schools in the State numbering about 1200. This arrangement will progressively make available computer education to the students in Class X and below and upgrade the skill of existing teachers.
- ★ **As part of the effort to make administration transparent and effective, important policy decisions of the Government will be made available on the official website of the Government of Tamil Nadu at www.tn.gov.in.** Already, copies of all Citizen's Charters of Government Departments, the Budget Speeches, nearly 80 Application Forms of Government departments which are of interest to the citizens, are available on this site and this process will be completed during this year. The Government is continuing to take initiatives like this. 

MOFUSSIL BUS TERMINAL AT KOYAMBEDU

Chennai is one of the four Metropolis in India and it is poised for growth and change. The population of Chennai City is estimated to be 50 lakhs by 2001 and 60 lakhs by 2011. The rest of the Metropolis around the nucleus Chennai City is also growing fast and its population is estimated to be 25 lakhs by 2001 and 35 lakhs by 2011.

- ★ The urban problems of Chennai City are many. One of the problems faced is congestion in central parts of the City and on arterial roads, viz., Anna Salai, Periyar Salai and G.N.T. Road leading to the Central Business District (George Town) of the City. CMDA has planned for and implementing schemes and projects to alleviate the problems of the metropolis and to ensure better living conditions for the people.
- ★ The CMDA has planned for shifting of wholesale trades in vegetable, fruit, flower (ie. perishables), food grains and allied trades, textiles and Iron and Steel from George Town area to the periphery of the City, of which the perishable trades were already shifted to Koyambedu Wholesale Market Complex (KWMC) and the Market development for Iron and Steel has been completed.
- ★ The shifting of the existing Bus Terminals to the location at Koyambedu, in the periphery of the city is to relieve congestion in the existing old parts of the city and also on the arterial roads.
- ★ The studies showed that the existing Mofussil terminals at Esplanade, Broadway and Basin Bridge are all located in the Central Business District (CBD). The buses entering the city have to crawl through the congested city corridors to reach the terminals. The existing terminals handle more services than their capacity and are very congested. They are operationally and environmentally in a very poor state.
- ★ The traffic studies conducted in 1996 showed that shifting of the bus terminals to the periphery

of the city would relieve traffic congestion. It also showed that the site along inner ring road at Koyambedu was the ideal location for the centralised mofussil bus terminal complex.

Objectives of the Moffusil Bus Terminal Project

- ★ To decongest Central Business District (George Town) and major arterial roads leading to it.
- ★ To provide better environment by minimising conflict between vehicles and pedestrians and also between various types of passengers and providing bus ways, pedestrian ways, pedestrian subways across IRR etc.
- ★ To provide for operational ease and a easy maneuverability, ease of maintenance etc.
- ★ To provide better comfort for passengers by providing for adequate space for waiting areas, toilets, cloak room, water fountains, booking offices restaurants, kiosks, convenient shops, telephone booths, etc.
- ★ To provide adequate space for crew operational requirements including crew rest rooms, time keepers rooms, security rooms, operational manager's rooms etc.
- ★ To provide adequate spaces for visitors, staff, auto rickshaws and taxis.
- ★ Finally to provide for a safe, operationally efficient, aesthetically good and environmentally better modern bus terminal at easily accessible location of the city.

Project Area	: 25 acres + 6 acres for link road to Nesapakkam Road
Estimated Cost	: Rs. 84 crores (excluding interest)
Project Period	: 2 years

FACILITIES PROPOSED

Bus Bays

Departures	: 150 Nos.
Idle Parking	: 60 Nos.
Arrivals	: 30 Nos.

City Buses : 30 Nos.

Total 270 Nos.

Operational facilities

Ticket Booking Counters/Computerised Counters

Security Rooms

Crew Rest Rooms

Time Keepers Rooms

Office Rooms for Transport Operational Managers

Bus Parking Area

Fuelling Station

Maintenance Shed and Store

Others

Visitors parking spaces for cars, auto rickshaws

Staff parking spaces

Two wheelers and cycle parking spaces

Passengers facilities

Seating facilities : 1536 Nos. at arrival/
departure platforms
Departure and
Arrival Halls

Bus bay destination
displays : 180 Nos.

Public Information
Systems : Televisions-60 Nos.

Drinking water
fountains : 15 bays

Telephones : 60 Nos.

Shops : 24 Nos.

Dust bins : 192 Nos.

Advertisement
displays : 250 sqm.

Fans : 125 Nos.

Lights : 910 Nos.

Sanitation : Water closets -
47Nos; Urinals - 32 Nos.

Restaurants : 900 sqm.

Cloak Room

Information Centre

Additional Information

Total built-up area of
the project : 40720 sq.m.

No. of Mofussil Bus services
operated from Chennai : 2000 Nos.

No. of Bays for mofussil buses

Required currently : 120 Nos.

Required by 2011 : 194 Nos.

Proposal in the project : 240 Nos.

No. of bays for transit city
buses proposed : 30 Nos.

Auto/Taxi parking area required
currently : 1000 sq.m.

proposed : 2000 sq.m.

Car parking area required currently : 800 sq.m.

proposed : 1500 sq.m.

Two wheeler parking area
required currently : 1100 sq.m.

proposed : 1600 sq.m.

Presently the mofussil bus terminals are functioning
at following locations :

★ Broadway

★ Esplanade

★ Basin Bridge

★ It is proposed to relocate all these terminals at
the proposed terminal at Koyambedu facilitating
the public to access this central terminal at only
one location with all modern facilities.

★ The existing terminals at Broadway, Esplanade
and Basin Bridge would be used for appropriate
redevelopment by land owning agencies viz.
Corporation of Chennai / Transport
Corporations.

★ Bus service is said to be the closest
transportation to public. This project would
provide the best possible convenience to the
public and dependability of service improving the
public satisfaction. Further this transport
infrastructure would not only improve the living
conditions in this 'Singara' Chennai, but also
would have positive impact on the economy of
the metropolis. □



Hon'ble Minister for Information, Publicity and Printing Thiru. V. Mullaivendan inaugurated the Multimedia campaign and the Multimedia Exhibition in Ramanathapuram on 7.6.99. Speaking on the occasion the Minister said, video films have been produced at a cost of Rs.21 lakhs, emphasising the eradication of untouchability and promotion of communal harmony and social unity. He also said,

orders have been issued for screening this film throughout the State through Video Vans by the District Public Relations Offices. Tamil Nadu leads at all India level in providing subsidies to the people through various departments. Rs.5,500 crores per year is spent by the Government of Tamil Nadu for subsidy alone.



**THE RATE OF
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First Wrapper

- ★ Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigñar M. Karunanidhi unveiled a portrait of Kamarajar and laid the foundation stone for Kamarajar Manimandapam on the sea shore at Kanniyakumari.

Fourth Wrapper

- ★ Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigñar M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the desalination plant at Narippaiyur, Ramanathapuram District. This plant envisages conversion of sea water into potable water. This will provide protected drinking water to the present population of 2,06,691 living in 34 rural habitations of Mudukulathur, Kadaladi and Kamuthi unions at a per capita supply of 15 lpcd.
- ★ Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram at Kalingarasapuram in Kanniyakumari District.

Smoke on the Lips Fire in the Belly

- Dr. ROHINI KELKAR

Even with new health risks turning up every day, smoking probably ranks as Public Enemy No.1. Even diehard smokers admit its connection to many grim afflictions from lung cancer and heart disease to bad breath. Still, many people are unaware that cigarettes can also contribute to digestive problems. New research reveals that smokers are more likely to suffer heartburn, acidity, ulcers and even cancers of the food pipe, stomach and pancreas. Can cigarette-smoke damage organs, which it does not even touch?

It can and it does. Cigarette smoke is not just hot air. It's a fairly vicious fume, containing 4,000 chemicals, including 200 known poisons. Once these enter the system they cause changes in body chemistry, with far-reaching consequences.

First of all, smoking hits the headquarters of the digestive system - the liver. The effects of smoking on the liver are rarely mentioned, but researchers find that smoking alters the way the liver handles drugs (including medicines) and alcohol. The effect of these substances on a smoker is worse because his liver is less efficient at removing toxins. In medication, a smoker may need an altered dosage. If a heavy drinker also smokes, he is inviting greater damage from the same amount of alcohol.

Smoking seems to change the way in which normal food is processed by the body. The body of a smoker absorbs less nutrition and uses food less efficiently. So while the average smoker may weigh less than his nonsmoking equal, his fitness is worse and nutritional deficiencies are more. Just to stay on a par, smokers need to consume greater amounts of vitamins. The biggest digestive discomfort for smokers is acidity and heartburn, that burning feeling in the chest after a meal. This is often wrongly linked to spicy food.

The burning sensation actually comes from strong stomach acids which have flowed backward from the

stomach into the food pipe. Normally the valve at the end of the food pipe prevents this back flow. But smoking (among other factors) loosens this valve. So when the smoker lies down, bends over, wears a tight belt or has a big meal, stomach acids wash upward into the food pipe. Moreover, smoking increases acid production in the stomach. As if that is not enough, it invites backward movement of bile salts and enzymes from the intestine.

The result? The smoker's upper digestive tract is awash in strong acidic material. Cigarette smoke seems to directly injure the lining of the food pipe as well, so it is more sensitive to the acid.

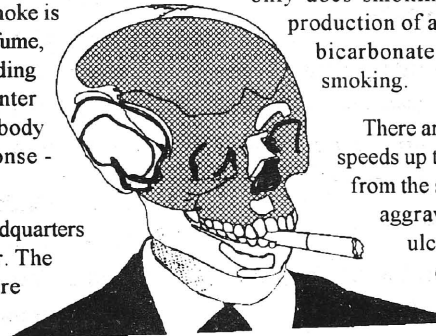
Researchers also know that ulcers (whose exact cause is unknown) are more likely to occur and are slower to heal, in a smoker. Experts have been investigating the connection. It has been found that not only does smoking raise acid secretion, the production of acid-neutralisers like sodium bicarbonate is temporarily reduced after smoking.

There are also indications that smoking speeds up the emptying of acidic material from the stomach into the intestine. The aggravated acidity could explain the ulcer-proneness of smokers. Any existing weakness of the stomach or intestine simply becomes worse or chronic with smoking, say experts. If cancers of the digestive organs are also more common in smokers, there are plenty of explanations.

It could be due to the 30 cancer-causing chemicals in tobacco smoke or due to the effect of enzymes and metabolites that the nicotine produces in the body. Then again, it could be the handiwork of free radicals released by the smoke. Take your pick!

Fortunately, a smoker is not permanently condemned to indigestion. There are indications that tobacco damage to the digestive system can be reversed if the smoker kicks the habit. He may not be able to actually see his cancer risk going down, but he will enjoy some relief from acidity and heartburn.

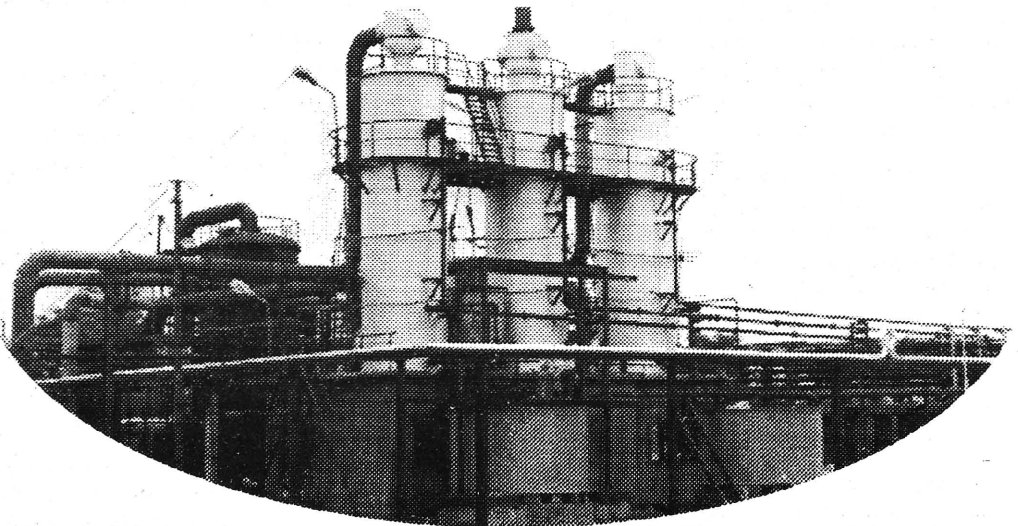
(The author is a member of Healthy Home Advisory Services (HHAS) and is also Head, Department of Microbiology, Tata Memorial Hospital). ★



TAMIL NADU LEADS IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Government has adopted a policy which is transparent and investor friendly which has motivated many reputed International Companies in a big way to choose Tamil Nadu State as an investment destination.

- ★ Rs.1,51,187 crores industrial investment have been made in Tamil Nadu.
- ★ Tamil Nadu is the leading State in the country regarding accelerated industrial development, rapid employment generation, alleviation of poverty, ensuring social justice and equality.
- ★ Tamil Nadu ranks first in starting cent percent export-oriented industries.
- ★ According to the analysis made by CMIE, Tamil Nadu ranks second in India in providing good quality infrastructural facilities.
- ★ The Government is taking effective steps for increased power generation. Against the present generation capacity of 7000 MW, Government is aiming to generate 12,000 MW power at a cost of Rs.40,000 crores in the next seven years and is confident of achieving the target.
- ★ Single Window System has been introduced for expediting approvals and clearances. Certain industries have been identified as thrust areas and specific policies for their development have been formulated.



★ According to the Centre for monitoring Indian Economy the position in May 1996 Tamil Nadu stood in the 5th place with an investment of Rs.90,650 crores, proposed and under implementation.

★ According to the latest report of CMIE, released in April 1999, which compares the various States in terms of investment inflows since May 1991 and up to the end of January 1999, Tamil Nadu has achieved the first rank in the whole country. The particulars are

<i>Tamil Nadu</i>	Rs.1,51,187 crores accounting for 11.50% of the total investment in the country approved and under implementation.
<i>Maharashtra</i>	Rs.1,51,058 crores (11.49%)
<i>Gujarat</i>	Rs.1,46,703 crores (11.16%)
<i>Orissa</i>	Rs.1,14,033 crores (8.67%)
<i>Karnataka</i>	Rs.1,07,703 crores (8.19%)
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	Rs.1,06,364 crores (8.09%)

★ The total investment at All India Level upto January 1999 is Rs.13,15,017 crores. Out of this, the investment in Tamil Nadu is Rs.1,51,187 crores.

★ The corresponding position in 1996 was Rs.10,72,753 crores at all India level and in Tamil Nadu Rs.90,650 crores. i.e. 8.45%.

★ **The increase in two and a half years is Rs.2,42,264 crores at All India level and Rs.60,537 crores in Tamil Nadu. This is 24.98% of the All India figure.**

★ Global auto majors like Ford, Hyundai, Mitsubhishi, etc., have chosen Tamil Nadu as their State for their investment. Hyundai

Motors with an investment of Rs.2,750 crores and Mitsubhishi Motors with an investment of Rs.320 crores were inaugurated and they have commenced their production.

★ The Rs.1,700 crores for car project has been inaugurated and it is expected to commence its commercial production in October 1999.

★ Closely on the heels of these auto majors, many foreign auto ancillary manufacturing companies have also chosen Tamil Nadu for setting up their manufacturing facilities involving a total investment of over Rs.1,000 crores. Of these Visteon, A.C.D., Ilgin auto, Valeo, etc., have already commenced production and many more are nearing completion.

★ In June 1998, foundation was laid for the Rs.24 crore Optical Fibre project. Quick progress has been achieved and the project is slated for commissioning in June 1999. The blood bags project coming up near Sriperumbudur at an investment of Rs.14.50 crores would commence production by March 2000. The Indian & Natural Medical Products company promoted by TIDCO at an investment of Rs.5.6 crore will be launching 18 aroma therapy products in the market. Sriram Auto Components Limited at a project cost of Rs.21 crores has commenced production in May 1998.

★ TIDCO has signed an agreement with M/s. Mahindra Realty and Infrastructure Developers Limited and IL & FS for an Auto Ancillary Park near Chennai in the associate sector at an estimated cost of Rs.210 crores.

★ Tamil Nadu Petrochem Park Limited, to implement the Rs.600 crores Petrochem Park project near Ennore, Chennai.

- ★ The Rs.320 crore TIDEL Software Technology Park, Taramani is under active implementation and is slated for commissioning in January 2000.
- ★ 'Tamil Nadu Technology City Limited' has been set up by TIDCO to implement the Hi-tech park project in Nanguneri taluk of Tirunelveli District in association with two foreign companies namely INFAC India Group, USA and AXES Technologies Inc. USA. The estimated investment is Rs.800 crores.
- ★ TIDCO had successfully completed international competitive bidding for selection of developers for the multi-fuel power projects at 20 sites.
- ★ The consortium led by SIEMENS Germany has been selected by TIDCO to implement the Rs.6500 crore integrated LNG import terminal and 2000 MW Power Project on BOT Basis.
- ★ The consortium comprising M/s. Reliance Industries Limited, North American Coal Corporation, USA and Foster Wheeler and CEPA, Hongkong has been selected as the developer for the Rs.4000 crore Jeyamkondam Lignite Mining and Power Project. A separate company has been formed to implement the project.
- ★ In order to provide warehousing and storage space for various types of cargo handling, TIDCO is proposing to set up an Air-freight city complex near Chennai Airport, at a cost of Rs.75 crores.
- ★ The co-promoter for the Rs.20 crore Floriculture infrastructure park project at Hosur has been selected. Works are in progress so that the operation of this park will commence by October 1999.
- ★ TIDCO has signed a MOU with ATO-DLO, the Dutch Agency of the Netherlands to commission a detailed study on about 10 important fruits and vegetables of Tamil Nadu, which will cover harvesting, handling, transporting, storage etc.
- ★ Based on the study, a pilot project will be implemented. Tamil Nadu is one of the first States to avail the opportunity.
- ★ TIDCO is setting up a 100% E.O.U. Chicken processing in Pongalur, Coimbatore District at a project cost of Rs.30 crores in Associate sector with Pioneer Breeding farms as Co-promoters.
- ★ TIDCO is setting up a 100% EOU for manufacture of Frozen French Fries at a project cost of Rs.32 crores in Mettupalayam, Coimbatore District in association with Thiru R.C.Suresh, NRI, Kuwait, as Co-promoter.
- ★ M/s. NOVA c.m.p., Italy is setting up a new project for manufacture of Foamed and Free foamed PVC sheets (Synthetic wood) with a plant capacity of 8400 tonnes per annum in Chennai at a project cost of Rs.45.70 crores in Associate Sector with TIDCO. These products are wood substitutes and are extensively used in civil construction, furniture and industry.
- ★ TIDCO is promoting a 5.0 million tonnes per annum Refinery project with Nagarjuna Group, Hyderabad as the Co-promoter. The project cost is estimated to be around Rs.3,200 crores.

- ★ A toll road management project has been promoted by TIDCO along with IL & FS, Transroute International France and CCF, France. The promoter agreement for this project is mainly for development of Highways, Bridges, By-Passes in the State.
- ★ SIPCOT has successfully developed various Industrial Complexes.
- ★ Gummidipoondi-II is being developed with an area of 667.75 acres. SIPCOT is also adding another 246 acres as an expansion of Phase-II.
- ★ Cuddalore Phase-II has been planned over an area of 220 acres and land acquisition proceedings are in progress.
- ★ For extension of Hosur Phase-II an extent of 128 acres of patta land has been acquired and 56 acres of poramboke land is yet to be alienated.
- ★ A new Industrial Park in Cheyyar is being set up in industrially backward Thiruvanna malai District.
- ★ A new Industrial Park is being setup in Irungattukottai in Sriperumpudur Taluk in Kancheepuram District.
- ★ An area of about 2469 acres of land was identified for setting up of an Industrial Park by SIPCOT in Pondur, Sriperumpudur-C, Irungulam, Mambakkam, Thirumangalam, Sirumangadu and Sandavellur Villages of Sriperumpudur Taluk in Kancheepuram.
- ★ Another site measuring about 2429 acres was identified for setting up of a Satellite Township by SIPCOT in Nemili, Sriperumpudur-B, Ayakolathur, Mannur and Valarpuram Villages.
- ★ A site measuring roughly about 1408 acres behind IGGI Resort for setting up of an Industrial Park by SIPCOT at Sriperumpudur in Sriperumpudur-C, Vadamangalam, Mambakkam and other villages.
- ★ There is a proposal to set up a Satellite Township at Gummidipoondi. The land has to be identified for the project.
- ★ The proposal for setting up of an Export Promotion Industrial Park has been approved by the Government of India with their participation of Rs.10 crores. For this 224 acres have been earmarked in Gummidipoondi Phase-II for setting up this project at a cost of Rs.19.90 crores.
- ★ The infrastructure projects undertaken by TACID comprise promotion of Industrial Growth Centres, Complexes, augmenting and improving infrastructure in areas which have developed as industrial complexes on their own, provide facilities for growth of exports etc.
- ★ TACID is setting up two industrial growth centres at Perundurai and Gangai Kondan and two industrial complexes at Nilakkottai and Bargur.
- ★ To boost exports, TACID is setting up a Permanent Exhibition Centre at Nandambakkam in Chennai.
- ★ TACID has identified large extents of land for acquisition so as to create "Land Bank" for offering to entrepreneurs for setting up industries.
- ★ Government of Tamil Nadu has established a composite paper mill at Pugalur in Karur District to manufacture 50,000 tonnes of

Newsprint and 40,000 tonnes of Printing and Writing paper annually using bagasse as the principal raw material.

- ★ The Ministry of Commerce, Government of India has accorded the "Export House" status to TNPL during September 1998.
- ★ TNPL has installed a multifuel power boiler in Kallakurichi Co-operative Sugar Mill Unit-II for augmenting the availability of bagasse to meet its raw material requirements at a capital outlay of Rs.26 crores.
- ★ TNPL has signed a MoU with Quena Newsprint, Egypt for providing technical assistance and support for erection and commissioning of a Newsprint and Paper mill in Egypt.
- ★ Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Ltd. has commenced modernisation/process conversion project works to enhance its production capacity from 4 to 5 lakh tonnes per annum at a total project cost of Rs.160 crores.
- ★ In 1998-99, TAMIN has produced about 17059 CBM of black and colour granite blocks, 25,008 sq.mts. of finished granite products and 1,59,040 MT of major minerals. In 1999-2000 TAMIN will produce 21,690 CBM of Black and Colour granite 36,350 sq.mtr finished granite and 1,39,500 M.T. of major minerals.
- ★ TAMIN is taking steps to set up a molybdenum beneficiation plant at a total estimated cost of Rs.100 crores at Velampatti village Harur taluk in Dharmapuri District.
- ★ For setting up of downstream industries based on Graphite, Projek Kayangan Sdn. Bhd, Malaysia has proposed to set up Exfoliated Graphite cum captive power project in Sivagangai District.
- ★ During the year 1998-99, TANMAG has produced 56,541 metric tonnes of magnesites.
- ★ Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation Limited has developed 2300 acres to produce Industrial and edible salt out of the effective area of 4825 acres available for salt development in Mariyur Valinokkam Salt Complex, Valinokkam, Ramanathapuram District. By 1999-2000 the production would be increased from the existing level of 1,30,000 MT to 2,00,000 MT and the expected turnover would be increased from the present level of Rs.5 crores to Rs.15 crores.
- ★ Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation Limited has a proposal to set up a plant at Valinokkam at a cost of Rs.6 crore for production of refined free flowing iodised salt with a capacity to produce 36,000 TPA of free flowing salt and 3000 TPA as salt fines.
- ★ There are 35 sugar mills functioning in the State, of which 16 are in Co-operative sector, 3 in Public sector and 16 in Private sector. Out of the 16 Co-operative sugar mills, 10 are financially weak. Rehabilitation package for revitalising the financially weak mills is under consideration.
- ★ Co-generation plants had already been set up in two sugar mills.
- ★ Feasibility of implementing the co-generation scheme in 9 sugar mills in Co-operative sector and one sugar mill in Public Sector under joint venture is under consideration.



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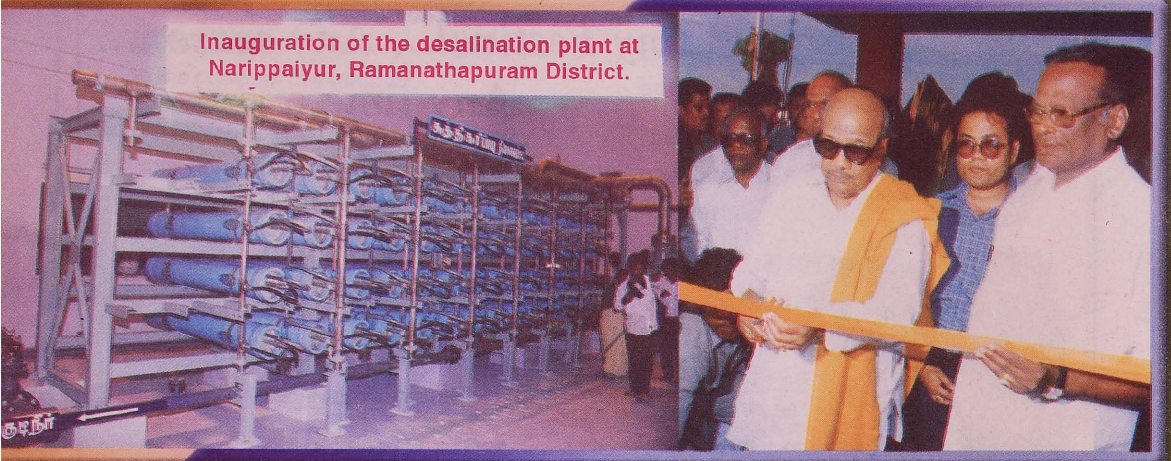
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Inauguration of the desalination plant at Narippaiyur, Ramanathapuram District.



Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram at Kalingarasapuram, Kanniyakumari District.

