

Tamil Arasu

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October-November-December 2009

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CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMILNADU
THIRUVARUR

Foundation Stone
laid by

Thiru. Kapil Sibal

Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development

On Wednesday, the 30th September, 2009
in the august presence of

Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi

Hon'ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu

Thiru. M.K. Stalin

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of TamilNadu

Dr. K. Ponmudy

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education of TamilNadu

Thiru. S.S. Palanimanickam

Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Finance

Thiru. U. Mathivanan

Hon'ble Minister of Dairy Development of TamilNadu

Thiru. A.K.S. Vijayan

Hon'ble Member of Parliament

Prof. B.P. Sanjay
Vice Chancellor.



Tamil Arasu

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எய்தற் கரிய தியைந்தக்கால் அந்நிலையே
செய்தற் கரிய செயல்

A chance rare and ripe in time is the best to
dare on things hard to wrest.

Thirukkural : 489

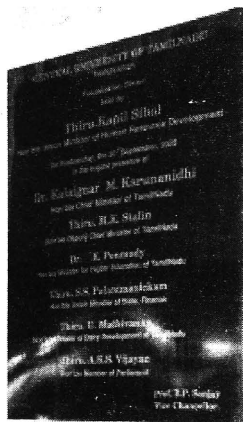
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First Wrapper : On the 141st birthday of Uthamar Gandhi, on
2.10.2009, floral tributes were paid to his
portrait by His Excellency the Governor
Thiru. **Surjit Singh Barnala**, Hon'ble Chief
Minister Kalaignar **M. Karunanidhi** and
Hon'ble Ministers.

Second Wrapper : Honb'le Chief Minister Kalaignar
M. Karunanidhi inaugurated the Central
University, on 30.9.2009 at Tiruvarur.

HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER KALAINGAR DEMANDS 50 PERCENT STATE QUOTA IN CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



*Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi
at the inauguration of Central University,
Tiruvarur (30.9.2009).*

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi appealed to the Centre to reserve the seats in Central Universities for students from the respective states where the institutions are located. Speaking at the inauguration of the Central University, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar requested Hon'ble Union Human Resources Development Minister Thiru.Kapil Sibal to earmark 50% of the seats in central universities, IIMs and IITs for those from the respective states.

Hon'ble Chief Minister made this appeal while delivering the presidential address

during the inauguration of the Central University at Tiruvarur on September 30, 2009. "I am requesting the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Thiru.Kapil Sibal, to earmark 50 percent of the seats in Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Management and the Indian Institutes of Technology for the students of the respective states," Hon'ble Chief Minister said.

He also wanted the Centre to ensure that Tamil Nadu students get 50 per cent of the seats in the Central University at Tiruvarur.

He attributed the increased educational opportunities for rural students in the State



at the primary level to the foundation laid by Kamarajar through the noon meal scheme, and the commitment.

Under the DMK rule headed by Arignar Anna, several high and higher secondary schools were started. Its subsequent tenures, extended the higher education opportunities to rural students, by starting several colleges and universities.

Stressing that the Government was keen on improving the higher education scenario, Hon'ble Chief Minister said that before 1967 there were just 105 arts colleges in the state but 78 more colleges were opened across the state soon after the Government assumed power.

"It was during the DMK rule in 1966-2001 that two arts colleges for women and 125 self-financing colleges were established," Hon'ble Chief Minister said. The number of students enrolled in those higher education institutes rose from a 94,000 in 1967 to 2 lakh in 1975.

"I am requesting the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Thiru.Kapil Sibal, to earmark 50 percent of the seats in Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Management and the Indian Institutes of Technology for the students of the respective states,"

Citing the creation of separate ministries for school education and higher education for the first time in the history by the current regime. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin said Tamil Nadu had always been a front-runner in education under the leadership of Kalaignar.

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Dr.K.Ponmudy said "Tamil Nadu was the only state to obtain sanction for three Central institutions: the Central University of Tamil Nadu in Tiruvarur, the Indian Institute of



Management in Tiruchy and the World Class University in Coimbatore.” He requested the Union Minister to expedite the process of establishing the World Class University, stating that the State government had already earmarked 500 acres for the purpose.

Earlier, arguing that increasing enrolment in higher education was vital to achieving two-digit growth in the country's GDP, Union Human Resources Minister Thiru.Kapil Sibal called for increasing access to higher education to boost enrolment. He said that at least 30 to 35% of children completing school should opt for higher education.

Inaugurating a new Central University, Hon'ble Union Minister said the gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education was 12.4% in the country at present, much less than the global average of 25 to 27%. Developed countries had a registered GER

of 50 to 70%, he noted, and wished that the GER touched 30 to 35%.

The Tiruvarur Central University is set to come up at Neelakudi village, about four k.m. from Tiruvarur town on Mayiladuthurai road. However, the university will function from a temporary location in a building in the district collectorate complex until the required permanent infrastructure is developed at the Neelakudi site at an outlay of Rs.1,000 crore. In the first phase, the central government has allocated a sum of Rs.20 crore for purchase of furniture required for the institution.

"The UPA government is investing heavily in higher education. The allocation for education was hiked from eight per cent in 10th Five Year Plan to 19% in the 11th Five Year Plan," Hon'ble Union Minister said, adding that more central universities, IIMs, IITs and global universities would come up.

★ ★ ★

‘SUB-QUOTA HAS HELPED ARUNDATHIAR STUDENTS’



**Hon'ble Chief Minister
K. J. Somasundaram**

The introduction of a 3% sub-quota for the Arundathiar community within the Scheduled Caste reservation has yielded good dividends, as the number of students from the oppressed caste - mainly consisting of scavengers and cobblers - gaining admission in medical colleges has gone up by 93% and in engineering colleges by 57%, according to Hon'ble Chief Minister K. J. Somasundaram.

The special Arundathiar quota legislation came into effect in academic year 2009-10. Recalling the enactment of law while he was undergoing treatment in hospital, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said in a statement that the measure was yielding fruits to the community.

The number of Arundathiars in medical colleges rose to 56 this year, while it was 29 last year and just 13 in 2006-07. In engineering colleges, as many as 1,165 students got admission this year, while it was 744 last year when the sub-quota was not in vogue, the Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out.

Buoyed by the downtrodden community entering professional colleges in large numbers, the Hon'ble Chief Minister on October 26th, 2009 donated Rs.61.50 lakh for a scholarship scheme to aid these 1,221 students. Each of them will get Rs.5,000. The donation includes the Rs.50 lakh remuneration he had received for penning a film script.

Thanking the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Aadhi Tamilar Peravai founder-leader Thiru.R.Adhiyaman said the sub-quota had generated great enthusiasm among students from the community and boosted parents' morale. "We thank him for introducing the reservation. Our community's plight has received his attention this term. We are planning to organise a thanks giving conference in Coimbatore for this," he added.

Welcoming the Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement that machines would replace manual scavenging for removing blocks in sewer lines, Thiru. Adhiyaman said the government had a long way to go in attaining this goal.

The intake of Muslim students to engineering and medical courses has gone up by 72 percent and 74 percent after the implementation of the separate quota system for the community, Hon'ble Chief Minister said on October 27th 2009.

For engineering, the number of the Muslim students admitted to Anna University, government and government-aided colleges and self-financing colleges was 3,655 during 2009-2010 whereas it was 2,125 in 2007-2008 before the introduction of the system. Last year (the year after the introduction),

the number of the students admitted was 3,288.

In the case of medicine, the number of students admitted was 46 in 2006-2007 and 57 the next year. But, once the system was introduced, the figure rose to 78 in 2008-2009 and 80 this year.

Giving an account of how this government rule, in different spells, had implemented welfare measures for the Muslim community, Hon'ble Chief Minister recalled that his government, as its gift to the community on the occasion of 99th birth anniversary of Arignar Anna, introduced 3.5 percent reservation for Muslims in the overall quota of 30 percent for Backward Classes through an ordinance in September 2007. Much more remained to be done for the community, he added. ★

“KALAIAGNAR LAUNCHES WELFARE SCHEMES FOR POOR WHENEVER HE IS IN POWER”

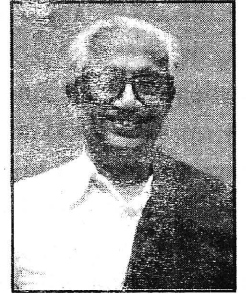
Finance Minister Prof. K. Anbazhagan

Honble Finance Minister Prof.K.Anbazhagan gave away assistance worth about Rs.60 lakh to differently abled persons at a function held at Kattumannarkoil recently.

The aid included Rs.28.13 lakh to 292 persons for starting self-help ventures; callipers worth Rs.1.72 lakh, tri-cycles, spectacles, hearing-aids and Braille books to 169 persons; Rs.2.40 lakh as marriage assistance to 12 persons at the rate of Rs.20,000 each (incase one of the partners is differently abled.)

The Hon'ble Finance Minister inaugurated a 12 bed wing, a generator room and an administrative building constructed at a cost of Rs.79 lakh at the Government Hospital and said “Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi was fully aware of the living conditions of the poor and had launched several welfare schemes every time he came to power. Notable among them were the Vision

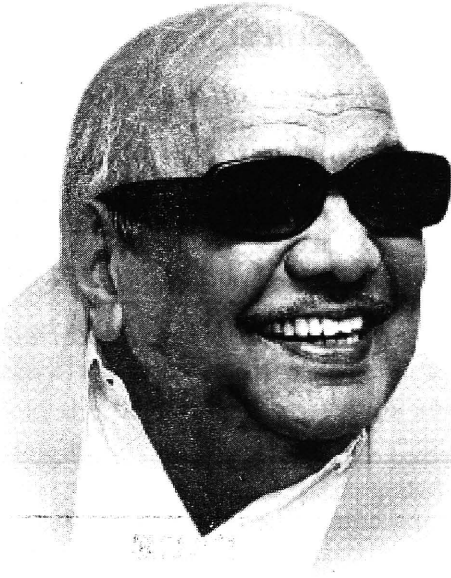
Restoration Scheme (Kannoli Thittam), Beggar's Rehabilitation Scheme, scrapping of hand-pulled rickshaws and provision of at least one electric bulb to huts. Providing electricity had helped wards of slum-dwellers to study at nights and pursue education.



The Chief Minister had extended a financial assistance of Rs.6,000 for pregnant women in poor families (the payment to be spread out over six months - three months before and three months after delivery).

The Kalaignar Health Insurance Scheme for Life - Saving Treatments was also a boon to people.

58,000 DISPLACED LANKAN TAMILS TO BE RESETTLED WITHIN 15 DAYS



*Hon'ble Chief Minister
Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi*

gradually, as and when landmines in their places were removed. Lanka had assured the team that efforts would be made to hand over orphaned children and disabled persons to NGOs.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that the move of the Sri Lankan government was in response to the request made by the team that the internally-displaced Tamils be sent to their homes before the advent of rains. The team had furnished elaborate information to Colombo on attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy on Tamil Nadu fishermen. Colombo agreed to ensure that the incidents would not recur. For this purpose, it sought help from the Indian government.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister explained that his government had pointed out to the Union government that the Centre's quick response to Sri Lanka's request for help in demining operations would remove the Tamils' misery. To queries whether resettlement of the internally-displaced Tamils was delayed citing demining operations, he said he was sharing with the media information furnished by the team. He counselled patience.

The Sri Lankan government has assured a 10-member delegation of MPs from Tamil Nadu that 58,000 internally - displaced Sri Lankan Tamils in camps will be sent back to their native places in 15 days.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi, who received the delegation at the Chennai airport on October 14th, 2009 evening announced this at a press conference later at Party headquarters. Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa had promised them that 58,000 displaced Tamils living in camps would be rehabilitated in their native places within the next two weeks. Totally, there were about 2.5 lakh people in the camps. Rest of the 1.95 lakh Tamils would be rehabilitated

The 10-member delegation of MPs that visited Sri Lanka had wide ranging interactions with top elected representatives of the Sri Lankan government and with internally displaced persons spread across some four camps.

"It was not a conducted tour. The delegation chose to visit the camps and we did not visit the model camp that they [Sri Lankan authorities] wanted us to," said a member of the delegation. Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa's brother Basil Rajapaksa, in an interaction with the MPs delegation, remarked in a lighter vein that the people in the model camp were unhappy because he could not persuade the delegation to visit the camp.

In their meetings with the Sri Lankan leaders, the MPs spoke about the need to find a political solution and to arrive at a consensus on contentious issues at the earliest. Some of them said they came away with the impression that the Sri Lankan government also did not want to sow the seeds of another armed conflict.

They were engaged in reasoned, healthy and rational exchanges with the Sri Lankan leaders.

The Tamil Nadu MPs found appalling conditions in the barbed wire camps during their visit to north Sri Lanka. In the report submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, they mentioned that the people in the

"They are temporary shelters meant for a few months. A few more months of stay there would worsen their situation. If the monsoon sets in, the danger of epidemic is imminent. Children and the aged may die unable to bear the hardships,"

camps complained of lack of food and water.

"The children did not get milk. We found that many of them did not have a dress to change. They wore the same dress for several days," the report said. It is said people struggled to take bath or defecate as there was severe shortage of water. "We could see a long queue of plastic pitchers in front of water pipes," said the MPs.

"They are temporary shelters meant for a few months. A few more months of stay there would worsen their situation. If the monsoon sets in, the danger of epidemic is imminent. Children and the aged may die unable to bear the hardships," they warned.

The delegation said it had urged the Lankan government to free the people from the IDP camps immediately.

"The Sri Lankan government urged us to get the Indian government's help for the rehabilitation of people in the IDP camps.

We promised to get them the Centre's assistance on this," said the MPs.

"Manik Farm is spread across 2,500 acres. There are eight barbed wire camps. These camps house 2,38,056 Tamils, according to the UN. There are water pipes in the camps. We met the people in these camps and interacted with them," they said. "The people said they did not get food regularly. They struggled without water. They could not get milk for their children and pleaded with us to help them get back to their homes as soon as possible," the MPs report added.

The report also detailed the meetings of the delegation with Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa, defence secretary Gothabaya Rajapaksa and the President's political advisor Basil Rajapaksa.

He said that delay in demining was cited as one of the reasons for the delay in resettling Tamils. "We have urged the Centre to help Sri Lanka in de-mining operations," pointed out the Hon'ble Chief Minister, saying that he was satisfied with the way "the Indian delegation was guided" during the tour. He said the Lankan president had

also assured that Sinhalese would not be settled in traditional Tamil areas.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on October 10th came out with a clarification that the team was not an official one and that the team had gone to the island nation at their own expense after the External Affairs Ministry had given necessary permission.

"The MPs from Congress, DMK and VCK requested the Prime Minister to send an MPs delegation to Lanka and he agreed to it. The External Affairs Ministry had permitted the MPs to visit Lanka and know the prevailing situation there. This is not a team sent by the government on its expenditure he explained.

He further said only when the government was sending a delegation, representatives of all political parties and the department concerned could be sent. The political parties which have deputed their MPs now would bear the airfare and other expenditure to be incurred during their visit, he added. Stating that it had become a habit of some persons to find fault with anything and everything. "If the government sends a delegation comprising members of all parties, then these persons would ask why the representatives of those outside the Parliament have not been included... it is quite natural for the opposition parties to find fault on such issues."



WORLD CLASSICAL TAMIL CONFERENCE'S LOGO RELEASED

The image of saint-poet Thiruvalluvar statue in Kanyakumari, depicted as being lapped by waves of the tsunami, and encircled by seven icons of the Indus Valley Civilisation forms part of the logo of the World Classical Tamil Conference to be held in Coimbatore in June 2010.

The logo emphasises the ideal of the mankind that it should always be free of narrow walls of race, creed and casteism found emblazoned in a palm leaf manuscript at the bottom of the statue. This concept ("*pirapokkum ella uyirukkum*") has been declared the motto of the meet.



The figures of the Indus Valley Civilisation's icons, found in the logo, symbolise the Dravidian civilisation, which is regarded as one of the four ancient civilisations, according to an official release. The number of icons stresses the importance of 'seven' to the lives of Tamils.

On October 23, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi released the logo of the Conference at the Secretariat in the presence of Hon'ble Finance Minister Prof.K.Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin, Hon'ble Information Minister Thiru.Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, scholars Dr.V.C.Kulandaiswamy and Thiru.Iravatham Mahadevan, Chief Secretary Thiru.K.S.Sripathi I.A.S., and Special Officer for the conference Thiru.K.Allaudin I.A.S.



★ ★ ★

HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER UNVEILS POLICE MEMORIAL



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi on October 18th 2009, unveiled a new Police Memorial at the office of the Director General of Police (DGP) office, to commemorate the police personnel who laid down their lives while discharging duty.

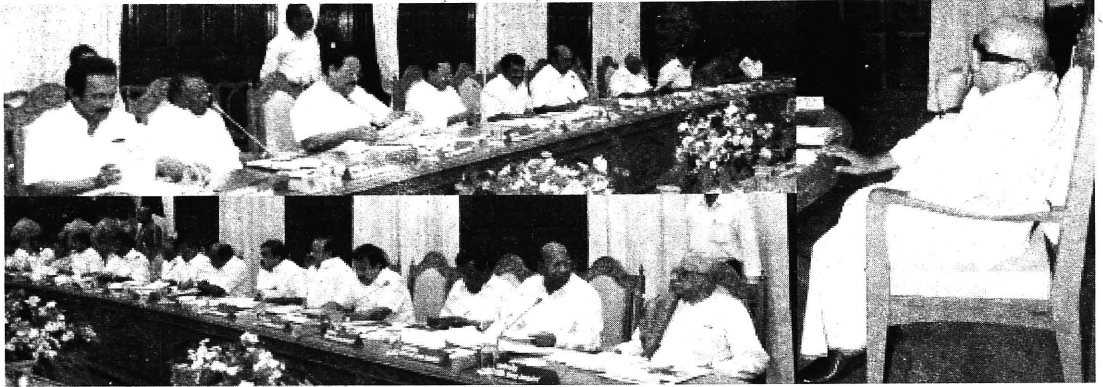
Hon'ble Electricity Minister Thiru.Arcot N.Veerarwami, Chief Secretary, Thiru.K.S.Sripathi, I.A.S., DGP Thiru.K.P.Jain, I.P.S., Thiru.S.Ve.Sekar, MLA and senior police officers attended the function. The granite memorial depicts the role of the police personnel in protecting the society from criminal and anti-national forces. Two policemen at the bottom of the

ramp are shown in an encounter situation. One policeman is saving a victim, while the other pinning down a criminal. Two policemen in the middle are shielding a leader from anti-national elements. A police officer on the top of the ramp is holding the national flag.

The Police Commemoration Day was celebrated every year on October 21th, 2009. The history of commemoration dates back to October 31, 1959, when a CRPF patrol party, led by sub-inspector Karam Singh, was ambushed by Chinese Forces at Hot Springs. Ten jawans were killed in the incident.

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CABINET CLEARS TWO RADIAL TYRE PROJECTS



The Tamil Nadu Cabinet on October 30, 2009 cleared two projects envisaging an investment of Rs.5,600 crore, for production of radial tyre.

While one approval pertained to the project proposed by French company Michelin for setting up a facility in Thiruvallur district at a cost of Rs.4,000 crore, another related to the increase in investment by Apollo Tyres from Rs.500 crore to Rs.2,100 crore for its plant at Oragadam in Kancheepuram district.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi chaired the meeting.

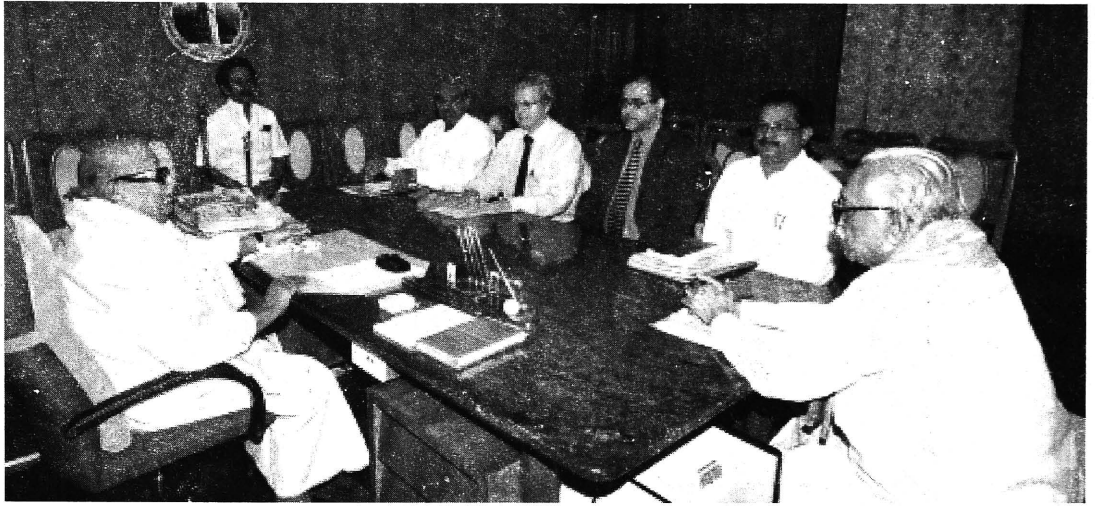
The execution of the two projects would reinforce the position of Chennai as a leading automobile hub, according to an official of the Industries Department.

In the case of Apollo Tyres, commercial production was expected in six months. In two years, the enhanced quantum of investment would be made. Of the original approval for

Rs.500 crore, the company, till now, had invested around Rs.300 crore. As for the French company, the rollout of the first lot of tyres would be in two years. The Cabinet also discussed the transfer of land in Melkottaiyur and Nallambakkam villages in Kancheepuram for the establishment of the Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing. At the beginning of the meeting, Thiru.A.Mohanakrishnan, Chairman of the Cauvery Technical Cell, submitted to the Chief Minister a report on the feasibility of the proposed Athikadavu - Avinashi flood flow canal scheme in the Bhavani river basin. The announcement regarding the constitution of an expert committee on the subject was made in the State budget in February, in response to the long - pending request of farmers of Coimbatore and Erode districts. The committee explored the possibility of diverting flood flow to Avinashi, a dry pocket for irrigation.

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TAMIL NADU PITCHES FOR MORE WORLD BANK AID



Tamil Nadu, which is the highest recipient of World Bank funds among states, has sought an additional assistance of Rs.1,764 crore. At a meeting with World Bank officials, including its country director Roberto Zagha, at the state Secretariat on November 5, 2009 Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigarnar M.Karunanidhi made a fervent bid for the additional funds for three big projects in the state.

Tamil Nadu has been implementing six major projects - health, road sector development, urban development, tsunami reconstruction, agricultural modernisation and poverty reduction - with a total outlay of Rs.9,760 crore assistance from the World Bank.

The bank recently sanctioned Rs.440 crore to construct 17,000 houses along the coastline under the vulnerability reduction project.

The state has appealed for additional Rs.242 crore for road sector project, citing the spiralling cost of materials; Rs.572.62 crore for expanding the health systems project by establishing new health centres across the state and Rs.950 crore to extend the empowerment and poverty reduction project (Vazhnthu Kattuvom), which is now under implementation in 16 districts.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister appealed to the bank's country director to sanction the amount expeditiously.

Mr. Zagha, a Brazilian, economist said he held "fruitful discussions" about the ongoing projects. "We had discussions about the World Bank's ongoing programmes in the state and also what we are doing now and what we have to do for the future," he said.

"I'm very much satisfied" he remarked on the implementation of ongoing projects.

He had previously worked as a senior advisor to the World Bank's vice-president in the poverty reduction and economic management unit, was accompanied by WB operations advisor for India, Mr. Rachid Benmessaoud, on his maiden visit.

Recalling the World Bank's help in implementing integrated nutrition project several years ago, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that the state government was providing three eggs a week to the children in schools. He also explained the various ongoing welfare measures being implemented by the state.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Prof. K. Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin, Chief Secretary Thiru.K.S.Sripathi,I.A.S., and Finance Secretary Thiru.K. Gnanadesikan,I.A.S., took part in the discussions.

★

TAMIL NADU SET TO IMPROVE FARM PRODUCTION, CONDITION OF FARMERS



The State Government is initiating measures to improve agriculture production and is surging ahead to become the most socially and economically progressive State in the country, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi said in Coimbatore on November 6, 2009.

Presiding over the inaugural of the Fourth National Conference on Krishi Vigyan Kendras, organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, he said.

I am immensely happy to preside over the inaugural function of the 4th National Conference on Krishi Vigyan Kendras. This is conducted for 3 days by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. In this conference, Scientists of 569 Krishi Vigyan Kendras located all over India are taking part. Indeed I am very happy that Union Minister

of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Thiru.Sharad Pawar has inaugurated the Agricultural Technology Exhibition and the Conference.

Though my health condition does not permit me long journies, I have come here from Chennai, mainly because of the kind and affectionate invitation extended to me personally by Thiru.Sharad Pawar. I value very highly my long association with Pawar. I extend a very warm welcome to him on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu. He has come here in recognition of his affection for the Tamils, though his presence is quite esser tial at Mumbai at this juncture. I am sure, this gathering is quite aware of his contribution to the development of Agriculture in our country. He has always been extending a helping-hand to Tamil Nadu whenever required for which I have been grateful to him.



At the outset, I would like to record that Tamil Nadu is surging ahead steadily and strongly to become the most socially and economically progressive State in the country. The State, an agrarian economy at the dawn of independence is now a modern economy that is propelled by the secondary and tertiary sectors.

In this memorable conference of National significance, I would like to proudly say that our great saint and poet Thiruvalluvar has recorded a number of thoughts on Agriculture. Thiruvalluvar brings into limelight the significant aspects of farm management at one stroke, which clearly shows the prominence of Agriculture in human civilization even 2000 years before.

“ஏரினும் நன்றால் எருஇடுதல்; கட்டபின்
நீரினும் நன்றதன் காப்பு”

which means - in farming, manuring is important than tilling. Weeding and irrigation are still more important but, crop protection

is the most important. To be precise, his words still leads the Agriculture.

I am very happy for this opportunity of hosting the 4th National Conference of Krishi Vigyan kendras in Tamil Nadu. I firmly believe that Tamil Nadu is the right place to conduct the conference, since Tamil Nadu is one of the Pioneer States in the development of Agriculture. I would like to add that if Tamil Nadu is one of the shining examples of agricultural growth, it is more due to the dedicated and untiring efforts of the farmers. Their success in agriculture shall be rightly attributed to the Government policies in making this State lead in all fronts.

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is exemplary in three mandates namely, Teaching, Research and Extension. In this event of National importance, I wish to place on record my appreciation to each one of the scientists, staff and the students of this University, who have been associated with it for the past four decades.

On an invitation from Thiru.Gurnam Singh, the then Chief Minister and my good old friend, I had an opportunity to visit the Punjab Agricultural Univeristy for inaugurating a huge Building in November, 1969. That was the main cause which made me to start this Agricultural University in Coimbatore.

The main objectives of Krishi Vigyan Kendras are to increase the agricultural production, to improve the quality of the produce, to get better price and remuneration, so as to improve the socio economic status of the farming community. To achieve these objectives, they impart knowledge to the farmers, by way of conducting field-level demonstrations, On-Farm Trials, Exhibitions, Kissan Melas, Training on ICT, Exposure visits, etc.

As you are aware, the survival and well-being of a Nation depends much on the sustainable development of its natural resources. The available resources and lands shall be suitably managed to meet the social, economical and cultural needs of present and future generation.

This is where the scientist community plays an important role in transforming the Government's policy into reality. The continuous growth of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras is dedicated to the transfer of newly-developed technologies to the rural masses.

I request the scientists to explore all the avenues to develop agriculture, since they are directly in contact with the "son of the soils, who till and toil". The Scientists should serve as a "ladder" them to scale better heights in their economic and social status.

In 1967, when Perarignar Anna was the Chief Minister, open and bore wells were constructed in Cauvery delta and in other districts to increase the irrigation intensity and Land Cess was annulled for rain-fed crops so as to encourage the farmers to increase the food grain productivity.

When I became the Chief Minister, after the demise of our leader Perarignar Anna in 1969, I realized the importance of technologies for increased agricultural production and hence I upgraded the Coimbatore Agricultural College to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in 1971. Due to this, intense research activities were carried out in this University to increase the cropping density. Intensive Agricultural Development Programme was implemented to improve the food-grain production.

All these efforts resulted in increasing total food grain production from 54 lakh tonnes in 1967 to 72 lakh tonnes in 1976. The food grain production in 2008-09 has risen to 91 lakh tonnes. The Rice productivity has increased from 1,450 kilo per hectare to 3,450 kilo. All these were possible only due to the efforts taken to transfer the technologies.

There were opposition for introduction of machineries in agriculture in the place of human-beings some 15 years back. But now, once the farmers started using machineries in the field of agriculture, there is demand for further introduction of machineries for improving the agricultural production.

Due to industrialisation and urbanization, the cultivable area is slowly shrinking and hence new agricultural technologies are being



advocated to the farmers to increase the agricultural productivity.

Although we have attained a good position in the total production of food grains especially in rice and millets, we still have to improve our productivity in case of pulses and oil-seeds. To achieve productivity, farmers should be trained and encouraged by the Scientists of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras to adopt latest technologies.

Apart from the above, Tamil Nadu is implementing Drip Irrigation Scheme, Precision Farming, Agricultural Mechanisation for the benefit of farming community.

This Government is providing 50 percent of the Insurance premium as Subsidy to the farmers from the year 2006-2007, after our Government assumed office, to protect them from crop loss on account of natural calamities. A sum of Rs.652 crores has been sanctioned to the affected farmers numbering more than five lakh.

Before concluding my speech, I would like to highlight the performance of our country in agriculture at Global level. Our country has stood second in production of sugarcane, second in rice and wheat production, first in pulses production, third in oilseeds and second in vegetables and fruit production.

Although the performance is exemplary, we still have to achieve a lot in agriculture. Hence, I request the scientists to utilize this opportunity and re-do their objectives and re-dedicate themselves to empower the farming community.

On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I am glad to welcome the Agricultural Scientists and others who have gathered here. I wish this Conference a grand success.

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RS.4,000 CRORE TYRE MAKING UNIT PLANNED AT GUMMIDIPOONDI

French tyre major Michelin has committed to make an investment of Rs.4,000 crore in the State to establish a manufacturing facility in Gummidipoondi taluk of Thiruvallur district.

Thiru.Prashant Prabhu, Michelin's President (Africa-India-Middle East), signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Thiru.M.F. Farooqui, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Industries Department at the Secretariat on November 16th 2009, in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin.

The State Cabinet cleared the proposal two weeks ago. Though it had approved the project about a year ago, clearance was sought again as the group wanted to modify the project, according to an official.

The facility, to be established by Michelin India Tamil Nadu Tyres, would come up in the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) industrial complex over an area of 290 acres. It would provide employment to 1,500 persons.

The investment of Rs.4,000 crore would be made over a period of seven years.

Michelin is one of the world's leading tyre manufacturers. It employs 1.21 lakh persons in



19 countries and has 69 plants with a capacity to produce 190 million tyres. The plant would focus on radial truck and bus tyres. It would start operations by 2012 and concentrate on the domestic market. With road and highway infrastructure development accelerating and a number of road development projects under way, the country would have a growing need for radial tyres, he said. India held tremendous potential for his group in terms of establishing a "world-class manufacturing facility".

Thanking the State Government for permitting the company to begin operations, Thiru.Prabhu said it was an "honour" for the group to be able to contribute towards the economic development of the State.

Mr. Nicolas Beaumont, Michelin India Programme Director, Thiru.K.S. Sripathi, I.A.S., Chief Secretary, and Thiru.K.Gnanadesikan, I.A.S., Principal Secretary Finance Department were present.

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HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER'S WELFARE SCHEMES FOR NUTRITIOUS MEAL, ANGANWADI WORKERS



As many as 15 new welfare measures, including the General Provident Fund Scheme and lowering of working hours by half hour, were announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi to the Nutritious meal and anganwadi workers in Chennai on November 21, 2009.

Announcing the welfare measures while replying to a thanksgiving function, organised by the Tamil Nadu Nutritious Meal workers and Anganwadi workers, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said the special monthly pension has been extended to those who retired before September 2008 also. This will benefit 16,000 retired employees.

The workers will be eligible for a monthly medical allowance of Rs.100 and festival advance of Rs.2,000, like in the case regular

government staff. Nearly 2.06 lakh people will be the beneficiaries.

Those who have completed B.Ed., and working as nutritious meal centre coordinators would be selected as teachers and a government order to this effect will be issued.

Qualified nutritious-meal centre coordinators will also be promoted.

The workers will be covered under the health insurance scheme for government servants and they will be sanctioned 10 days leave with salary, in case they undergo any surgery.

From now on, the working hours for nutritious-meal workers will be from 8 am to 3.30 pm, instead of the current 8 am to 4 pm.

The workers will be given two pairs of uniform and the travelling allowance will also been increased to Rs.40 from Rs.20.

A special examination would be held for about 340 employees, who had completed B.Ed. to make them teachers. Those who worked under the NMP and Integrated Child Development Services and got promotion as teachers, Supervisors Grade-II and health workers, 50 percent of the service period prior to their promotion would be taken into account for calculating pension. The facility of leave with pay not exceeding 10 days would be extended to those who underwent surgeries under the new medical insurance schemes.

Giving a break-up beneficiaries, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said 11,21,374 children in the age group of 2-5 were benefited through Anganwadi centres, 56,41,652 school boys and girls studying in classes 1-10 standard and upto the age of 15 years and 29,561 senior citizens receiving old age pension were benefited through Nutritious Meal Scheme.

The number those employed in implementation of these schemes are, 1,03,698 workers in 50,433 Anganwadi centres and 1,18,213 workers in totaling Nutritious Meal Centres 2,21,911 workers out of whom 1,92,219 were women.

Recalling the history of the Meals scheme, Hon'ble Chief Minister said MGR during his rule introduced the nutritious meal scheme. But prior to that Kamarajar introduced Noon Meal scheme and made teachers and the local public responsible for its implementation. But it was Justice Party leader Thyagaraya Chettiar, who as Mayor of Chennai Corporation introduced noon meal scheme on an experimental basis in the city which was later extended to the whole of the state by Kamarajar. When the DMK came to power in 1996 the children were supplied with one egg per week to make the meal really nutritious which is now increased to three per week, he said.

The Government in 1996 increased the basic pay of anganwadi workers and nutritious meal organizers from Rs.200 to Rs.600 and for cooks from Rs.225 to Rs.400. After the DMK came to power in 2006 the basic pay was raised from Rs.600 to Rs.1,300 and with all allowances it was raised to Rs.2,418. On 13.8.2008 the pay of cooks, cooking assistants were given special time scale in the place of consolidated pay. After the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission the basic pay of Nutritious Meal organizers and Anganwadi workers was increased to Rs.2,500 from Rs.1,300 besides a grade pay of Rs.500, he added.

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THEY ARE TAMILS, NOT REFUGEES



Hon'ble Chief Minister **K. J. Somasundaram**

“Don't see those staying in camps here as refugees, see them as Tamils. The amenities available to the Tamils living in the other parts of the State should be made available to those living in the camps too”.

This was the strong message of Hon'ble Chief Minister K. J. Somasundaram to the Ministers and officials who attended the emergency meeting convened by him on November 2nd, 2009 to discuss the ways to improve the basic amenities to the camps of Lankan Tamil refugees.

The State Government will spend Rs.12 crore immediately to improve basic amenities in the Sri Lankan Tamils refugee camps in Tamil Nadu. Ministers

and District Collectors will visit 115 camps in the State and present their findings on their condition to Hon'ble Chief Minister K. J. Somasundaram by November 10th, 2009. On the basis of the feedback, the government will work out the modalities for the expenditure of Rs.12 crores.

These decisions were taken at a meeting chaired by Hon'ble Chief Minister on November 2nd, 2009. Eleven Ministers and senior government officials attended. Briefing reporters of the decisions taken at the meeting, Thiru.K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, the Hon'ble Handlooms, Textiles and Backward Classes Minister, said the Chief Minister clearly conveyed to the Ministers and officers that the refugees should be

regarded as Tamils and not merely as refugees.

Hon'ble Handlooms, Textiles and Backward Classes Minister said 73,241 persons belonging to 19,340 families were living in 115 camps in 26 districts. There were 31,802 persons of 11,288 families living outside the camps with approval.

This government took over in May 2006, a scheme to improve amenities was drawn up on the basis of a visit by Ministers to the camps. The scheme, envisaging works for Rs.16 crore, was sent to the Centre. As the Centre's clearance had not been received, the State government itself set apart Rs.5 crore for 2009-2010. The Minister denied suggestions that some refugees were being harassed in special camps. On questions about the release of those refugees who were booked in petty cases, he assured reporters that he would apprise the Chief Minister of the issue.

He explained how the DMK regime had doubled the cash dole to refugees and improved facilities and concessions given to them. In 2005-2006, the budget provision for the Rehabilitation Department was Rs.25.78 crore; it was

Rs.44.62 crore last year. This year a sum of Rs.55.34 crore had been earmarked.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Prof.K.Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin, Hon'ble Electricity Minister Thiru.Arcot N.Veerarwami, The Chief Secretary Thiru.K.S.Sripathi, I.A.S., Principal Secretary of (Finance) Thiru.K.Gnanadesikan, I.A.S., Public Secretary Thiru. D.Jothi Jagarajan, I.A.S., Thiru.M.Mutia Kalaivanan, I.A.S., Rehabilitation Commissioner and Thiru.Jaffor Sait, I.P.S., Inspector General of Police (Intelligence) were among those who participated in the meeting.

Earlier, the Chief Minister convened an urgent meeting of officials and Ministers for November 2nd, 2009, to discuss and issue orders for allocation of sufficient funds to improve the living conditions of Sri Lankan Tamils living in refugee camps in the state.

In a statement, Hon'ble Chief Minister said he was "in tears" when he saw reports and pictures depicting the plight of the Sri Lankan Tamils who were living in the camps without any basic amenities.

"It is our duty to take quick actions to alleviate problems of the Sri Lankan

Tamil refugees. All the departments of the State Government have the responsibility to ensure food, education and peaceful life to the Tamils who left their mother land to Tamil Nadu” the Hon’ble Chief Minister said.

Recalling the visit of a delegation of Member 56 parliament from Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka to study the condition of the Tamils the camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the Hon’ble Chief Minister said the efforts facilitated the resettlement of around one lakh Tamils in their own places.

“This is not adequate. All those in the camps should be resettled. The effort of the Indian Government is important in securing the livelihood and ensuring a peaceful life for them. We will continue to prevail upon the Indian Government to help the Sri Lankan Tamils”.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister also recalled the promise of the Union government to consider Tamil Nadu government’s request to provide Indian citizenship to all Sri Lankan refugees.

In a statement, he recalled his party’s resolution adopted at the Kancheepuram conference in September and his letter

to the Hon’ble Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh immediately thereafter. Quoting a portion of his letter, the Hon’ble Chief Minister Kalaignar wanted the Hon’ble Prime Minister to take action that would enable the permanent settlement of the refugees in the State.

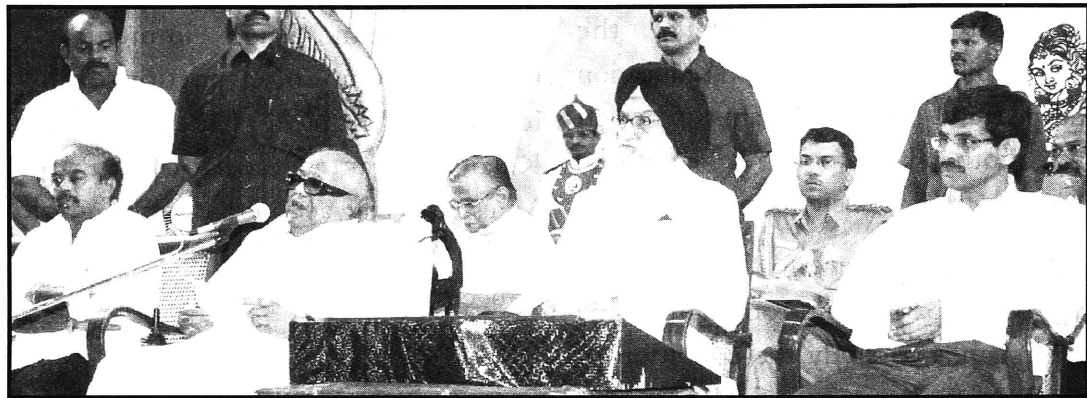
When Deputy Chief Minister and other Ministers visited Lankan Tamil refugee camps in suburban Puzhal and other districts on the directions of the Chief Minister, they got a feedback from the refugees who expressed their desire to stay back in India as some of them claimed that they had spent more than two decades in Tamil Nadu.

The state government would like to treat the refugees, lodged in various camps across the state, as Tamils and provide them facilities. “This government wants to treat them not as Sri Lankan Tamil refugees but as Tamils who have umbilical cord relations with us”.

Only when their stay is legalised, the state government would be able to take steps for their betterment, the Hon’ble Chief Minister Kalaignar added.

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KALAIMAMANI AWARDS PRESENTED TO 70 PERSONS



Hon'ble Chief Minister **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi**

Addressing a function organised at the Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai by the Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram for presenting the Kalaimamani award, Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi said the Arangam, which once accommodated the Assembly and had witnessed several historic functions, would not, hereafter, the venue for functions, as work on the new auditorium had to be taken up.

The proposed hall would be as big as auditoriums in countries such as Singapore and Malaysia. It would be part of the new Assembly Complex, which would be bigger and more beautiful than the Vidhan Soudha in Bangalore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister said, "Kalaivanar Arangam, one of the well known auditoriums in the city, where several programmes have been organised earlier, would be demolished giving way

for a bigger and modern auditorium." "There should not be any hue and cry over the hall's demolition as the demolition and renovations are meant to improve quality".

"It should not be constructed that this auditorium would be pulled down as the new Assembly secretariat complex is being established in Omandurar Estate.

It will be refurbished to accommodate a large number of audience and extolled for its facilities," Hon'ble Chief Minister said.

Referring to Hon'ble Information Minister Thiru. Parithi Ellamvazhuthi's remarks that the curtains would come down for this auditorium with this function, Hon'ble Chief Minister said everyone knew the reason. "We have planned to ensure that the new Assembly Complex is established on a greater magnitude and more beautiful than the Vidhan Soudha in Karnataka,"



Hon'ble Chief Minister said and apparently hinted that the Kalaivanar Arangam would be pulled down for its expansion and recalled that it was he who had named the Government Estate after Omandur P. Ramaswamy Reddiar, Chief Minister of the former Madras State at the time of Independence.

His Excellency the Governor Thiru. Surjit Singh Barnala, at the function stressed the need to instill the idea of cultural identity and artistic heritage in children and the youth. "The electronic media should come forward to foster and spread our traditional art forms among the youth and we should encourage and motivate them to learn various art forms," His Excellency the Governor said.

He, called for more and more inter-state cultural exchange programmes. He wanted educational insitutions to encourage culture-oriented activities.

His Excellency the Governor handed over the awards while the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed gold medals to all those who received the State awards for their performance in their fields.

Among those who received the award were Avvai Natarajan, Saroj Narayanaswamy, Maharajapuram S.Srinivasan, Harris Jayaraj, Abirami Ramanathan, Anu Hassan, Zakir Hussain, drummer Sivamani, Sunder C., Bharath, Asin, Vineeth and Kooththupattarai S.Muthukumar.

Thiru.V.Irai Anbu, I.A.S., Secretary of Tourism and Culture Department, and Thiru.Rama Narayanan, president of Iyal Isai Nadaga Mandram, spoke.

So far, about 1,450 artists had been honoured with the Kalaimamani award.

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LANGUAGE IS A TOOL FOR UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigñar M. Karunanidhi on December 8 came down on linguistic chauvinism, saying that language was only a tool for mutual understanding and it should not create animosity.

Addressing a function organised to distribute the State Government's film awards for 2007 and 2008, the Hon'ble Chief Minister spoke against attributing "divinity" to a language and claiming supremacy for it over other languages.

His speech on linguistic chauvinism came in the wake of a slightly modified scene from Tamil film "Manohara", enacted by comedian Vivek to prove Tamil's supremacy at the function.

Explaining that Tamil was not a language intended to reign over others, Hon'ble Chief Minister said there was no need for other languages to stand aside for Tamil as English was portrayed in the skit.

He explained that there were no differences between people belonging to different languages, and all people belonged to the same "kulam" mankind.

Observing that there should be no enmity on the basis of language, he said all languages had their benefits and what must be opposed is the forceful imposition of a language on different



people. He also said he was running the government with the belief that people of all languages are equal, but would not tolerate the imposition of one language over the others. The dais showed that they (in the film) were enemies to no language and embraced all.

Speaking about being both a recipient of a State award as well as the Chief guest for the event, he said he was a good script writer, even without receiving the award. He recalled an incident during former Chief Minister Anna's regime when he was to be awarded the Best Dialogue Writer Award. "Even as he brought the garland close to me, Anna wore the garland himself. I then explained that Anna's action showed that the award I was to receive actually belonged to him," he said.

Reiterating that his association with the film world had always been a source of rejuvenation whenever he was physically and mentally

exhausted in public and political life, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said it was that affinity that made him reject the doctors' advice to participate in the festival "That is why I never bothered about my life and I remain active in political life. It (association with film world) is a better medicine," he added.



He pointed out that he made it to the function despite being unwell and had to be examined by a team of six doctors before starting for the event. "Whenever I faced a crisis in my public life, it is always the film industry that has served as a remedy for me. That is why I made sure that I participate in this event despite being unwell," said the octogenarian leader, who has written scripts for 80 Tamil films so far. He was awarded the best scriptwriter for Uliyin Osai (2008). While Rajinikanth presented it to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Kamal Haasan, Ilayaraja, Vaali, Vairamuthu and many other film personalities gave a standing ovation.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, who received the best dialogue writer award for 2008 for the film 'Uliyin Osai' from actors Rajnikant and Kamal Hassan, said the occasion made him recall the days he worked together with Sivaji Ganesan and MGR.

"I have given away all the awards that I got so far to others. But this one is so precious that it was given to me by Rajinikanth, Kamal Hassan, Ilayaraja, Vaali, Vairamuthu and the entire Tamil film world. I will keep this with me and won't part with it despite criticisms in a section of the media," said the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

He said unlike other remunerations that he received from the film industry, he would not dedicate this gift to the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Relief Fund. "I wish to retain this as a souvenir of the art world's love for me," he said, adding that he did not wish to insult the two actors by giving off the award for any other cause.

Rajinikanth was given the best actor award for the film Sivaji (2007) and Kamal Haasan, for his Dasavatharam (2008). Jyotika was given the best female actor award for Mozhi (2008) and Sneha was given the best female actor award for the film Pirivom Santhippom (2008).

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaaignar reminisced on his connections with Kollywood since the days of Kalaivanar N.S. Krishnan to the days of Rajini and Kamal. He compared Rajini and Kamal to Yesterday legends MGR and Sivaji Ganesan.

Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, who received Best Actor Awards for Sivaji The Boss and Dasavatharam respectively, said they were proud to have the opportunity to give the Chief Minister an award.

Actors Surya, Jothika, Sneha, Sathyaraj, Vaidivelu, Vivek, Prakash Raj, music director Ilayaraja and art director Thotta Tharani were along those who received awards. ★

WORLD CLASSICAL TAMIL CONFERENCE WEBSITE LAUNCHED



Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi on December 9th, 2009 launched the website (www.ulakathamizhchemozhi.org) for the World Classical Tamil Conference to be held in Coimbatore in June 2010.

Designed in Tamil and English, the website has different sections pertaining to the theme of the conference, announcements made on the meet, significance of the host city and the historical background of the declaration of Tamil as a classical language.

There is provision for online registration. Also, one can post one's views to comments in the blog section. Links to Tamil University, Tamil Virtual University, International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil (INFITT), Thinnai and Project Tamil have been provided.

Thiru.M.Rajendran, Tamil University Vice-Chancellor and coordinator of the Academic Committee for the meet, explained the website's features.

Later, the Hon'ble Chief Minister told reporters that a massive rally would be taken out on June 27, 2009 the final day of the conference. The meet would begin on June 23, 2010. Several committees were being formed. The Chief Secretary, Finance Secretary, Special Officer and District Collector will monitor the expenses. The Government would meet whatever requirements were indicated by the officials.

Hon'ble Finance Minister
Prof.K.Anbazhagan and Hon'ble Minister for

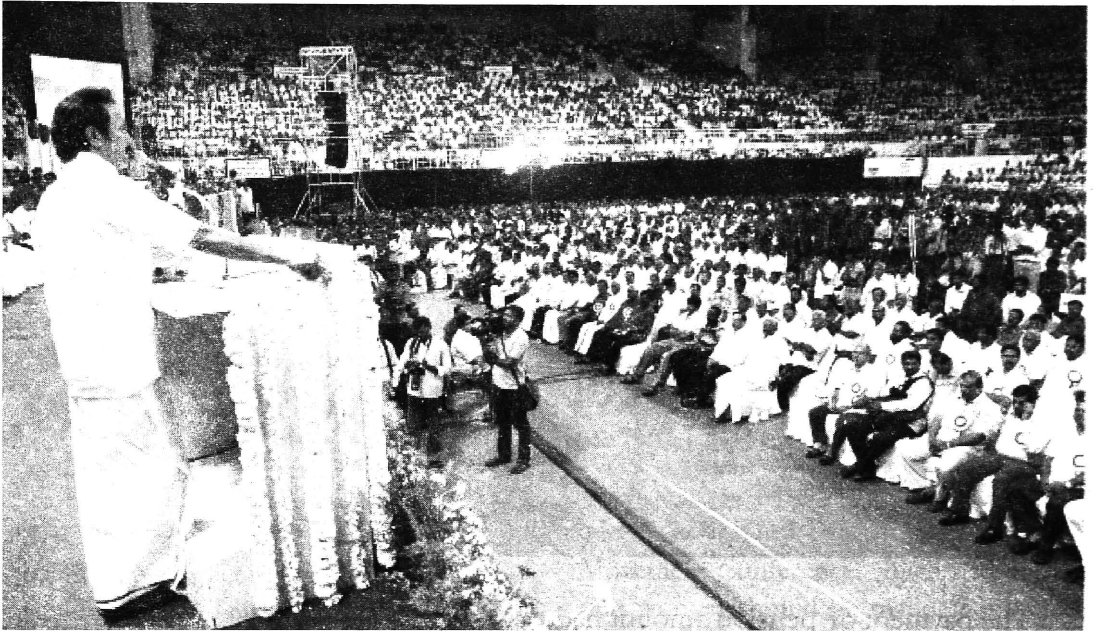
Electricity Thiru.Arcot N.Veeraswami, Poet Kanimozhi, Member of Parliament and Thiru.K.Allaudin, I.A.S., Special Officer were among those present.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has constituted an all-party advisory committee to provide suggestions on the upcoming World Classical Tamil Conference to be held in Coimbatore next year.

He will head the committee and some of the other members are Hon'ble Finance Minister Prof.K.Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Assembly Speaker Thiru.R.Avudiaappan, Congress leader Thiru.K.V.Thangabalu, Dravidar Kazhagam leader Thiru.Ki.Veeramani and MGR Kazhagam leader Thiru.Rm.Veerappan. Pattali Makkal Katchi's Thiru.G.K.Mani, BJP's Thiru. L. Ganesan, Indian Union Muslim League's Thiru Khader Moideen, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi's Thiru.Thol.Thirumavalavan, Communist Part of India's Thiru.V.Siva punniyam and Communist Party of India (Marxist) Thiru.N.Varadarajan are also members. Three other political members in the committee include Moovendhar Munettra Kazhagam's Thiru.Sridhar Vandayar, Puratchi Bharatham's Thiru.Jegan Moorthy and Kongu Munnetra Kazhagam's Thiru.Best Ramasamy, Chief Secretary Thiru.K.S. Sripathy, I.A.S., has also been nominated to the committee and co-ordinator is Thiru.K. Alaudin, I.A.S., Special Officer, World Classical Tamil Conference.

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STAFF OF TRANSPORT CORPORATIONS WILL GET BENEFITS ON PAR WITH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES



Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin

Employees of seven state transport corporations would enjoy benefits on a par with government employees.

The government would strive to fulfil all their needs, according to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin and said this while responding to demands of various unions of the employees that the personnel should be made government employees and that they were not eligible to become

government employees as the transport corporations were registered under the Companies Act.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister was addressing a function organised by the Transport Department in which he inaugurated 297 new buses for the state transport corporations and also gave away consolidated pension amount worth Rs.115 crore to 6,000 former employees of the transport corporation.



The payment of pension amount had been due for last four years and also handed over appointment orders, issued on compassionate grounds, to 460 heir of transport corporation employees. Also, 230 staff of transport corporations and transport department were given promotions.

Senior officials of Metropolitan Transport Corporation said 200 of the new buses were for Chennai and they include 10 air-conditioned Volvo buses.

The rest were low-floor buses, as replacements for the old buses.

Hon'ble Transport Minister Thiru K.N. Nehru highlighted that in the past three years, 12,000 new buses had been inducted into the transport corporations and "During the inauguration of the statue of Sarvajna in Chennai, even Karnataka Chief Minister B.S.Yeddyurappa praised the government transport corporation. He saw our services at the Koyambedu bus terminus and was very impressed,".

Despite the hike in price of diesel, the government had not increased bus fare.

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HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER ENSURES FILLIPS TO SOCIAL SECTORS

-HON'BLE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER



Whenever the DMK is in power, it takes up infrastructure works along with social development to ensure wholesome growth of Tamil Nadu, according to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin.

Inaugurating a 'Periyar Samathuvapuram' at Theevattipatti near Salem on October 26. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister pointed out that without social development, growth would not be complete. "Hence Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar, while ensuring an all-round development, simultaneously ensures fillip to social sectors too."

Saying that it is the Chief Minister who has been taking relentless efforts to make the dreams of Thanthai Periyar and the vision of Arignar Anna a reality, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister underscored the inherent need for setting up samathuvapurams, which would usher in a casteless society.

This lofty endeavour should make one to identify oneself first as a human being and then a Tamil and not by caste egalitarian

society would ensure peace and inclusive growth. Tracing the SHG movement to Thanthai Periyar's Chengalpet Self-Respect Movement Conference, which had declared that women should be made economically independent. He said this had prompted Kalaignar to float the movement in the State in 1989. "Now I am proud to say it has grown into a big tree with disciplined members."

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Thiru.Veerapandi S.Arumugam said it was the progressive policies of the government that had wiped social evils. Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Health Thiru.S.Gandhiselvan, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Thiru.V.P.Duraisamy, MPs and MLAs took part. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated 79 works at a cost of Rs.9.25 crore and laid stone for 694 works. Welfare assistance to the extent of Rs.17.52 crore, including revolving funds to the tune of Rs.12.41 crore to SHGs, was disbursed.

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KAKKAN BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATED



The Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will establish a wing of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) at Idayapatti near Othakadai in Madurai district.

Announcing this at the centenary celebrations of former Home Minister P.Kakkan at his birth place Thumbaipatti near Madurai on October 10, Hon'ble Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers Minister Thiru. M.K. Alagiri said that the CIPET unit would give an impetus to plastic industries in the region.

Idaiyapatti would also get a branch of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), the country's first national-level institute in

pharmaceutical sciences functioning in Punjab.

The Hon'ble Union Minister said that Anna University would start functioning in Madurai next year. Efforts were being taken to set up a unit of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and a private alloy steel factory near Melur.

A Government Polytechnic at Vellalur Ambalakaranpatti near Melur and inauguration of a granite polishing unit in a part of the land owned by a defunct cooperative handloom mill at Melur would be other projects that would come up. He said that he had successfully persuaded the State government to issue orders for constructing a new Primary Healthcare



Centre at A.Vellalapatti and upgrade the PHC at Vellalur.

He pointed out that the State government had issued an order on September 22 to involve self-help groups in Melur in making stones required for building construction from granite quarry waste. It would benefit nearly 1,000 labourers. He also said that the consecration of a village temple at Uranganpatti would take place soon. Renovation work, involving expenditure of Rs.55 lakh, was apace at the temple where kumbabhishekam was not held for the last 45 years for various reasons. Recalling the contributions made by the departed Minister for the welfare the poor and needy in this region, many of his dreams were being fulfilled now. "I will continue to complete the

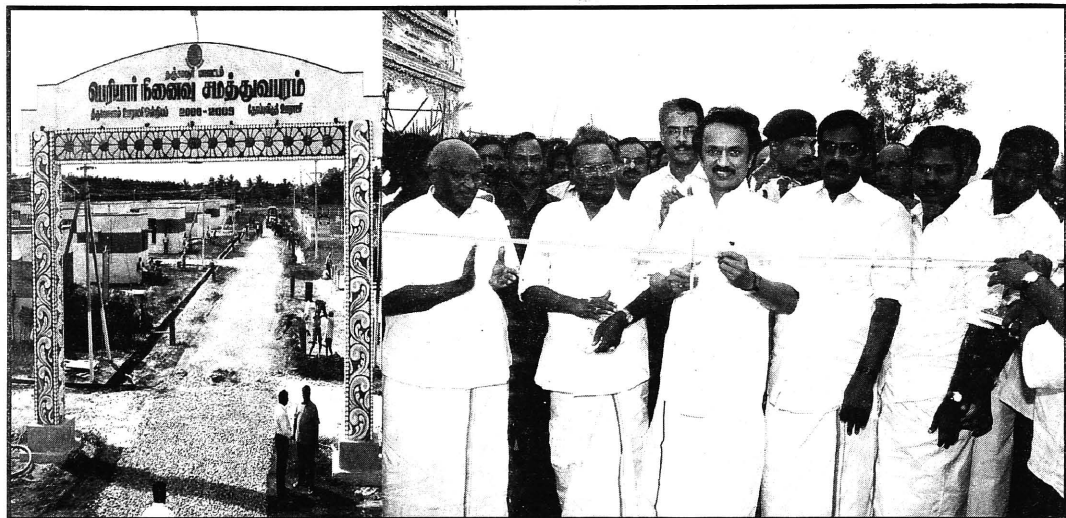
works left unfinished by Kakkan." he said. Government welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.1.32 crore was given 1,229 beneficiaries as part of the centenary celebrations.

The Hon'ble Union Minister handed over free house site 'pattas' (land ownership document and orders granting financial assistance to the aged, physically challenged, pregnant women and unmarried girls. He unveiled a plaque to mark the foundation-laying for an arch to be constructed at a cost of Rs.5 lakh at the entrance to Kakkan memorial Thumbaipatti and also unveiled a portrait of the leader.

The two sons, a daughter and three brothers of Kakkan were felicitated in the function.

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16 MORE 'SAMATHUVAPURAMS' TO BE OPENED



Sixteen more Samathuvapurams will be opened in Tamil Nadu before the end of December, said Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin, at Tiruvonam near Thanjavur on November 13, 2009.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated the Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram at Thoppuviduthi in Tiruvonam Panchayat Union and said 13 Samathuvapurams have already been opened in the State this year.

The first Samathuvapuram during this year was opened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigñar at Tiruchy and the second one by the Hon'ble Finance Minister Prof.K.Anbazagan. The remaining 11 samathuvapurams were inaugurated by him.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister also distributed revolving fund to 1,000 women self-help groups at a meeting held at Tiruvonam. He said that Tamil Nadu stood first with respect to the activities of women SHGs. That was why out of a total loan amount of Rs.11,132 crore given by the banks at all India level during 2008-09, Rs.2,174 crore had come to Tamil Nadu. This worked out to 20 percent. Similarly Indian Bank which gave Rs.1,864 crore throughout the country, allotted a lion's share of Rs.1,150 crore to Tamil Nadu, that worked to 62 percent. Indian Overseas Bank had given 48 percent of its total loan to Tamil Nadu.

This is mainly because of the impressive 99 percent recovery rate displayed by the State.

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HON'BLE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OPENED FREEDOM FIGHTER B.SRINIVASA RAO MEMORIAL



Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Thiru.M.K.Stalin, on November 14th, 2009 declared open the B.Srinivasa Rao Memorial at Thiruthuraipoondi in Tiruvarur district. Srinivasa Rao was a freedom fighter, who also fought for the cause of farm labourers.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister paid floral tributes to the portrait of Srinivasa Rao inside the memorial after its inauguration. The memorial had come up at a cost of Rs.25 lakh.

An assurance was given by Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar in the State Assembly on April 10, 2007 that a memorial would be constructed for Thiru.Srinivasa Rao at Thiruthuraipoondi in recognition of his services to the society. Accordingly it had been constructed opposite to the bus stand on Tiruvarur - Thiruthuraipoondi Road and

handed over to Information and Public Relations Department.

Srinivasa Rao was born at Badagara village in Karnataka in 1907. He came to Tamil Nadu in 1930 and participated in the Salt Satyagraha. He was imprisoned in 1932. In 1946 he started the Kissan Sabha (farm labourers association) and led it for many years. He was a Communist Party member.

Hon'ble Information Minister Thiru.Parithi Ellamvazhuthi, Hon'ble Dairy Development Minister Thiru.U.Mathivanan, Thiru.C. Kamaraj,I.A.S., Director Information and Public Relations, Thiru.M. Chandrasekaran,I.A.S., District Collector, participated in the meeting.

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STEM CELL THERAPY HAS GREAT POTENTIAL



Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin laid the foundation stone for a stem cell research centre and launched a cadaver maintenance programme on November 16, 2009. Hon'ble Finance Minister Prof.K.Anbazhagan inaugurated a state-of-the-art operation centre at Government Stanley Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said stem cell therapy had great potential for use in treatment in the future. Stanley Hospital's researcher could now be at the forefront of cutting-edge treatment in the country.

He congratulated the team at Stanley Hospital that had performed the "first successful liver transplantation surgery in any government hospital in the State." Vast improvements had been made to the hospital, one of the oldest in the State, and the new operation theatre with the best standards of infection control was a great addition.

He also highlighted the importance of cadaver donation, in the context of the cadaver maintenance unit he inaugurated. The State had set in place several welfare schemes, particularly in health, like the insurance scheme for life-saving treatment. It was the duty of doctors in the Government hospitals to ensure

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Thiru.M.K.Stalin

that the benefits of these schemes reach the people.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister Prof.K.Anbazhagan also highlighted several welfare schemes launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. As a result, Chennai had emerged as a sort of leader providing quality healthcare to the people and ensuring that the poorest of the poor benefit from it. There had been several advancements in treatment and research in allopathy and these had proved to be of immense benefit for the people, despite the possibility of side-effects. Such advancements had made it possible for doctors to maintain 'brain dead' persons on life support so that the patient's organs could be transplanted onto others. The Hon'ble Health Minister Thiru.M.R.K.Panneerselvam highlighted the benefits of several health sector schemes launched over three-and-a-half years. Dr.R.Surendran, Head, Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery, provided details about the Stem Cell Research Centre and the Cadaver Maintenance Programme.

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STATE SET TO INCREASE FOOD SUBSIDY TO RS.3,500 CRORE



The Tamil Nadu government would soon be increasing its food subsidy to Rs.3,500 crore, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin said on November 2nd 2009.

"The food subsidy granted by the State Government is now Rs.2,900 crore," he said at a function in Tambaram to launch new people - friendly initiatives and projects of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department.

Ever since the present rule took over, there was a lot focus on modernisation of the department, prevention of smuggling of essential commodities from the Public Distribution System and steps were taken to ensure that the benefits reached all sections of society. The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said the monthly offtake of rice through fair price shops three years ago was 2.5 lakh tonnes and it had increased to 3.18 lakh tonnes. Similarly, the monthly offtake of wheat had increased from 6,000 tonnes to 13,000 tonnes, while that of sugar from 20,000 tonnes a month to 34,000 tonnes now. Pointing out that all the promises in the election manifesto of the DMK were now being fulfilled, he said as rice was available at Re.1 a kg, it was being smuggled out of Tamil Nadu. To ensure that the beneficiaries received their due, the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection was adopting modern methods to combat this problem, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said,

adding provision of electronic billing machines in fair price shops was one of them.

At the function, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister launched the machines in all fair price shops of Chennai.

The electronic billing machine was in operation at a shop in Anna Nagar and has been extended to all 939 fair price shops of the different cooperative societies and 351 shops of Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation. The machines would be linked to a government server from where, the daily sales, stock position and other details in each of these shops could be checked. He laid the foundation stone for construction of 251 fair price shops in different parts of the State at a cost of Rs.8.78 crore and an office building for Assistant Commissioner of Civil Supplies in Tambaram at a cost of Rs.70 lakh.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister also inaugurated a Customer Service Centre with helpline where people could call and record their grievances and complaints not only about PDS, but also about deficiencies in service in the private market and retail sector.

He gave away free liquefied petroleum gas stoves to a section of women on the occasion. Hon'ble Food Minister Thiru.E.V.Velu and Hon'ble Labour Welfare Minister Thiru.T.M. Anbarasan spoke on the occasion.★

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER INSPECTS CAMPS ACROSS THE STATE



Following Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar's directive, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin and many of the Ministers on November 3rd, 2009 began inspecting the refugee camps in various districts and took stock of the prevailing conditions there.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin and Hon'ble Fisheries Minister Thiru.K.P.P.Sami inspected the refugee camp at Kavankarai in Ambattur taluk. Tiruvallur District Collector Thiru.V.Palanikumar, I.A.S., accompanied them.

Tiruvannamalai: Hon'ble Food Minister Thiru.E.V.Velu inspected the camp located at Adi Annamalai. The inmates complained about the lack of toilet facilities and insufficient electricity connections. Besides, they also requested the Minister to make arrangements for providing loans to the Women's Self Help Groups in the camps.

Talking to the reporters after interacting with Sri Lankan refugees in many camps in

the district on November 3, Hon'ble Food Minister said, "Most of the refugees in the camps expressed their willingness to stay here permanently. They have also urged the government to construct houses for them." The refugees, who want to stay here permanently, were asked to submit a letter to the district administration. The letters would be forwarded to the State Government.

Of the total 14 camps in the district, the Hon'ble Food Minister inspected eight camps at Adi Annamalai, Athianthal and Sorakulathur in Tiruvannamalai taluk, Thukkapettai and Pudupalayam in Chengam taluk and Elathur, Kathampadi and Thenpallipattu in Polur taluk. Around 1,200 families are staying at the camps.

Stating that several houses do not have electricity connection, the refugees in Adi Annamalai urged the minister to do the needful. They have also pleaded with the minister to help the women in the camps to open bank accounts and help them to avail

state government's revolving fund to become entrepreneur.

On hearing their pleas, the Hon'ble Food Minister assured the refugees that their demands would be brought to the notice of the Chief Minister Kalaingar and would do the needful.

Manamadurai: The inmates at the camp in Manamadurai near Madurai pleaded with Hon'ble Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister Thiru.K.R.Periyakaruppan to take action to bring them under the Chief Minister Kalaingar's life saving health insurance scheme. The Minister also inspected the refugee camp at Moongil Oorani, near Manamadurai in Sivagangai district.

Natarajan, the leader of the inmates, told the Minister that the refugees were suffering from a variety of ailments. They should be covered under the CM's Health Insurance Scheme and provided treatment.

Many young men in the camp were capable of driving light vehicles, but they were being denied driving licence. Therefore, they remain unemployed. He requested the Minister to arrange for issuing at least temporary licence to them.

The Hon'ble Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister who also visited the camps in Thayamangalam, Chennakudi, Natarasankottai, Devakottai, Karayur and Okkur told the inmates that he would submit a report to the Chief Minister.

Tirupur: Hon'ble Highways Minister Thiru.M.P.Saminathan, along with District Collector Thiru.C.Samayamurthy, I.A.S., visited the refugee camp at Paruvai at Palladam.

The Minister said that 12 kg of rice, three litre of kerosene and Rs.400 as financial aid

per head of the family are being given to each family every month.

Virudhunagar: Hon'ble Backward Classes Ministers Thiru.K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran and Hon'ble Education Minister Thiru.Thangam Thennarasu visited seven refugee camps in Mallankinaru, Kulloorsandai, Anaikuttam, Kandiapuram, Sevalur, Mottmalai and Anuppankulam in Virudhunagar district and inspected the conditions of housing, availability of basic amenities and other facilities.

After interacting with the inmates in the camps, Hon'ble Backward classes said that the Hon'ble Chief Minister was deeply concerned about the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the State.

Refugees at Mallankinaru camp told the Ministers they wanted access to higher education. "Tamil Nadu has many colleges, and education would give us greater opportunities", said Ravi, one of the refugees. Hon'ble Education Minister Thiru.Thangam Thennarasu said 38 seats were allotted for them and they could approach the government if they needed more.

Women said they wanted to be included in the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme and NREGS, and sought loans for Self Help Groups.

Villupuram: In Keezhputhupet in Villupuram district, the refugees asked Hon'ble Higher Education Minister Dr.K.Ponmudy for better housing. They wanted the fortnightly checking by police to be made monthly.

Hon'ble Higher Education said the administration planned to construct 161 houses at an estimated cost of Rs.2.11 crore. He said they would submit reports to the Hon'ble Chief Minister on November 10th 2009.

Tirunelveli: Basic amenities at the refugee camps will be met soon, said Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker Thiru.R.Avudaippan in Tirunelveli.

A team comprising Hon'ble Information Technology Minister Dr.(Tmt.)Poongothai, Environment, Youth Welfare and Sports Minister Thiru.T.P.M.Maideen Khan and Tirunelveli Collector Thiru.M.Jayaraman,I.A.S., visited the refugee camps. According to the Hon'ble Speaker, most of the refugee families requested upgradation of basic amenities in the camps. Some requested credit facility through women Self Help Groups.

Nagercoil: Hon'ble Tourism Minister Thiru.Suresh Rajan inspected the camps at Perumalpuram, Pazhavilai, Gnanamvilai and Kozhiporvilai in Kanyakumari district and reviewed basic amenities.

Tiruchy: They'd waited years for a borewell, but all it took was a ministerial visit. Just hours after Hon'ble Transport Minister Thiru.K.N.Nehru visited the Kotapattu camp for Sri Lankan refugees, residents saw the Tiruchy corporation workers start work on a borewell.

Free movement, access to education, and inclusion in the Hon'ble Chief Minister insurance scheme were some of the demands made during the minister's visits.

Hon'ble Transport Minister received petitions relating to housing, drainage and water. Some demanded facilities under the Chief Minister's insurances scheme, admission to educational institutions and jobs. Similar demands were made in Vazhavanthankottai camp. About 1,600 refugees live Kotapattu, and an equal number in Vazhavandhankottai.

Some refugees, who said they had been in the camps for more than two decades,

demanded citizenship. "I have been here for 23 years. My children were born in Tamil Nadu," said Tmt.Chandramathi, who sought Indian citizenship.

"I will meet the Chief Minister on November 5th 2009 and convey your demands," Hon'ble Transport Minister told camp inmates. At Vazhavandankottai, and instructed officials to open a ration shop immediately and sanctioned a bus between the camp and Chathram bus stand.

Lack of proper housing is the main issue that Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in camps conveyed to State Ministers who visited them on November 3rd 2009.

Officials explained that housing in most locations was cramped and unhygienic because the locations were chosen in a hurry when the flow of refugees was at its peak during the first Eelam war in the 1980s. "Once Mandapam (camp) began overflowing, I believe nearby districts were also roped in. There doest not seem to have been any planning at that time," one official said. Also, the number of persons in the camps grew dramatically as more refugees poured in. Later, as refugees began raising families, many of quarters became crowded.

The study was undertaken after a meeting held at the Secretariat on November 2nd 2009, on the condition of camps in the State. Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi had directed Ministers and officials to visit all the camps and report back.

There were no complaints from refugees about getting government aid or food and other essential items. In fact, they thanked the teams that visited camps in Sivaganga, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Tiruvannamalai and other locations for the prompt supply of rice and other essential commodities. There were also no complaints of harrasment by police personnel or officials when approached for resolving local issues. ★

RISE IN SOFTWARE EXPORTS IN TAMIL NADU

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Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin
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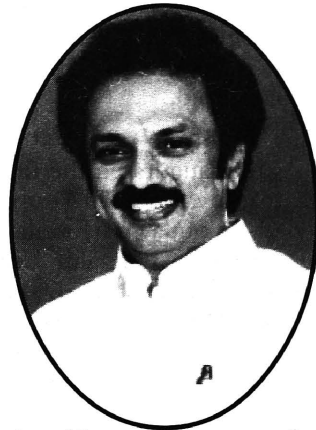
The setting up of IT parks in Tier-II cities is a manifestation of the consistent progress Tamil Nadu has been registering in software exports, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin said on October 22nd, 2009.

Laying the foundation stone for the IT Park in the Navalpattu Special Economic Zone in Tiruchy, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said software exports from Tamil Nadu during 2008-09 rose 29 percent to touch Rs.36,680 crore, involving a workforce of Rs.2.8 lakh. Tamil Nadu was obliterated from the economic stagnation elsewhere owing to the government's keenness to generate employment through industrial progress.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin emphasised that only since 1989, Women's Self Help Group movement and other empowerment initiatives, including accordance of inheritance rights, provision of marriage assistance and priority for women in appointment of teachers in elementary schools, were being given a fillip in keeping with the resolution for women's emancipation adopted at the self-respect conference in Chengalpattu under Periyar's leadership.

Out of Rs.11,132 crore given as loans to Self Help Groups across the country, Rs.2,124, accounting for 20 percent, was given to the groups in Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister cited instances of lending by Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank to Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu which signified the high credibility enjoyed by the SHGs of Tamil Nadu owing to their prompt repayment.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister laid foundation for 1,838 works involving expenditure of Rs.68.73 crore, commissioned 940 projects to the tune of 29.8 crore and



distributed welfare assistance under various schemes to the extent of Rs.28.73 crore.

He spent an hour and ten minutes after the function to hand over the cheques for revolving fund and working capital to 3,004 Self Help Groups allotment letters to nine IT companies, and patta documents to 100 residents of the Malligaipatti Samathuvapuram.

The best performing banks to receive honours for Self Help Group financing were Indian Overseas Bank, Tiruchy District Central Cooperative Bank and Indian Bank. Among the branches the Lalgudi branch of IOB stood first. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin also honoured the Lead District Manager Thiru. Ramdas in recognition of his meritorious service to Self Help Groups. Presiding over the function, Hon'ble Transport Minister Thiru.K.N.Nehru attributed the sanction of various projects to Tiruchy to the efforts of Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Thiru.D.Napolean, Hon'ble Ministers Thiru.N.Selvaraj and Dr.Tmt.Poongothai, District Collector Thiru.T.Soundiah I.A.S., also spoke.

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WOMEN SELF HELP GROUPS RANK FIRST IN REPAYMENT OF BANK LOANS

'In repaying the loans obtained from banks, the Women Self Help Groups are the forefront' Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin said.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Prof. K. Anbazhagan inaugurated the first Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram in Tirupur district constructed at an outlay of Rs.3.81 crore at Madappur village in Pongalur Union near Tirupur, on October 21st, 2009, and also commissioned 204 projects completed at an outlay of Rs.25.65 crore and laid the foundation for 584 projects planned at an outlay of Rs.198.39 crore in the district and distributed welfare assistance worth Rs.21.36 crore to 22,318 beneficiaries.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister said that the Samathuvapuram, established by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, was aimed at promoting social justice and spread Periyar's message of social equality.

Participating in the function. The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said that these Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams have translated the dreams of Periyar into reality. It was during the Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar's rule that the decision to establish Samathuvapurams was taken and the first one was established in 1997. In the next five years 145 Samathuvapurams will be established. Again when Kalaingar's rule for the fifth time in 2006 was formed, he ordered to establish Samathuvapurams in 95 centres in memory of Periyar, who breathed his last in his 95th age and also made it through an order that each Samathuvapuram will have a statue of Periyar. Even this Madhapur centre has a statue of Periyar, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said.

Adverting to the role of Women Self Help Groups, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said that the first such group was formed in Dharmapuri district in 1989. It is not an organization set up to take advantage and

utilize the system for the Party's benefit and propaganda. These groups were formed with a clear intention to help these women members

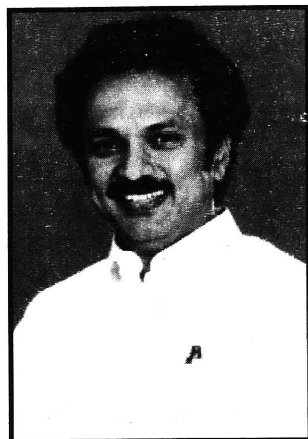
of the groups obtain small loans from banks at lesser rate of interest to start small and tiny business activities so that they can financially stand on their own legs.

It is encouraging to see that the Women Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu occupy a prominent role at the all India level. There are also 19,885 Youngmen Self Help Groups. 65,20,000 women members are there in the WSHGs. These groups top the list in the repayment of bank loans obtained by them at all India level, he said.

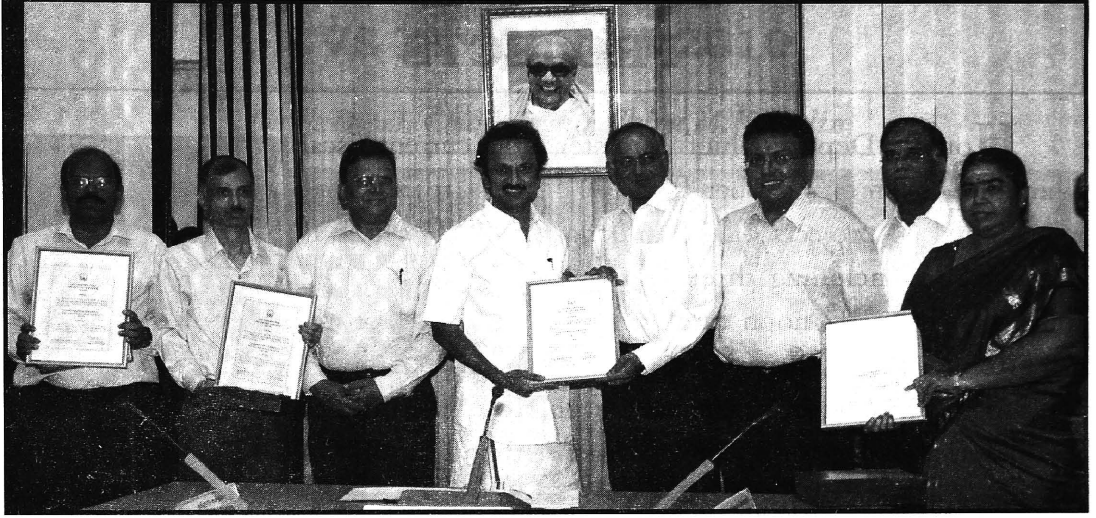
It is amazing to note that 10,81,000 SHGs in India were granted loans aggregating Rs.11,132 crore in 2008-2009 at all India level. It is again interesting to observe that out of the above loan amount a sum of Rs.2,174 crore was granted as loans to the SHGs in Tamil Nadu. It amounts to 20 percent of the total bank loans granted to the Self Help Groups.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister was all the more happy to talk about the sterling performance of the Women Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu.

He launched the official website of the district (www.tiruppur.tn.nic.in) and released a booklet on tourism in Tirupur published by the district administration. Hon'ble Minister of Highways and Minor Ports Thiru.M.P.Saminathan, District Collector Thiru.C.Samayamoorthy, I.A.S., Mayor Thiru.K. Selvaraj, Project officer of District Rural Development Agency Renuka Devi and MLAs, among others, attended.



DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER DISTRIBUTED SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARDS



Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin on October 19th 2009, handed over corporate social responsibility award for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 to nine organisations for their exemplary work in rural and urban development. Instituted by the Rural Development Department, the award is given to industrial units, taking into account their work in the last five years.

Two years ago, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin announced the award scheme during the debate on demands for grants for the Rural Development and Local Administration departments. It carries Rs.5 lakh and a citation.

For the year 2007-08, the CSR award was given to Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited, Karur; Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Karaikal, Puducherry; Srinivasan Services Trust, Chennai; Saint Gobain Glass India, Sriperumpudur, Kancheepuram district; and Sakthi Masala,

Erode. For 2008-2009, it was presented to Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL), Chennai; Steel Authority of India Limited, Salem; Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Chennai; and Sri Ramalinga Mills Limited, Aruppukottai, Virudhunagar. Thiru. K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, I.A.S., Rural Development Commissioner, were among those present, K.K.Acharyad CPCL managing director, who received the award, presented a cheque for Rs.10 lakh to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin towards the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

Presenting the award, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister commended their corporate social responsibility activities in different spheres, including agriculture, education, women's empowerment, assisting SHGs, children's welfare and renewable energy.

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DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER LAUNCHES 84 CORPORATION PROJECTS

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin on October 16th 2009, inaugurated 84 projects of the Chennai Corporation, including three Garbage transfer stations, 32 noon meal centres, 13 kitchen sheds, hospitals, school buildings, physical exercise halls and libraries at a total cost of Rs.19.56 crore.

Addressing the gathering the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said that by 2010 the Government would finish distribution of free colour T.V. sets in the state. TVs were being given without any discrimination on party lines. In Thousand Lights Assembly constituency alone, 39,289 televisions have been distributed so far. In the 14 assembly constituencies of Chennai, 4,12,856 televisions have been given.

He said that in the fourth phase, a total of 1.04 crore sets, procured at a cost of Rs.2,267.87 crore, would be distributed of this 81.39 lakh sets have been distributed.

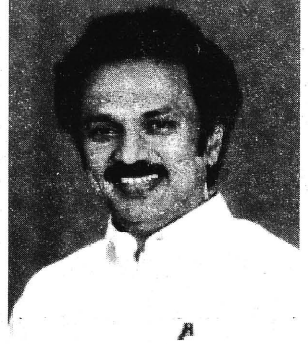
The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, distributed a total of 10,533 sets at the function and also gave away 1,483 bicycles to school students, said that in

the current fiscal a total of 5,68,867 cycles, at a cost of Rs.136.41 crore, had been given to students throughout the State.

In Chennai, 30,862 students have received bicycles.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister opened 10 gymnasiums built at a cost of Rs.1.45 crore, nine open-air auditoriums constructed at a cost of Rs.1.19 crore, two school buildings and classrooms at a cost of Rs.2 crore and a guest house in Greenways Road at a cost of Rs.20 lakh.

Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles Thiru.Dayanidhi Maran said that hundreds of underprivileged persons had benefited by the Kalaingar Insurance Scheme for Life Saving Treatments. Mayor Thiru. M.Subramanian, Chennai Corporation Commissioner Thiru.Rajesh Lakhoni, I.A.S. participated.



ALL FAMILIES WILL GET FREE COLOUR TVS BY MARCH 2010

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin



The State Government has released Rs.15 crore for creating a portion of the infrastructure facilities on the proposed site for Nanguneri multi-product Special Economic Zone; the hi-tech park will become operational in near future, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin has said.

Addressing a function held in Tirunelveli on October 13, 2009 Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said that though foundation stone for this ambitious project was launched in February 2001, no step was taken to carry forward the development works on the project site by the successive government. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on returning to power in 2001 had to identify a potential developer afresh as the already identified company had to face several hurdles owing to the global financial crunch.

As the situation had finally started looking up and gradually showing signs of recovery, Tamil Nadu Government had earmarked funds for creating infrastructure facilities on the site and hence the Nanguneri multi-product Special Economic Zone would become reality in near future, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister laid foundation stone for 63 projects, worth Rs.61.26 crore and disbursed welfare measures to the tune of Rs.2.22 crore to 2,676 persons. Over 2,000 SHGs received revolving fund.

Informing that the State Government had earmarked Rs.500 crore during the current fiscal for the purchase of free colour television sets, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister has asserted that all families in the

State would get the television sets by March 2010 and also said 1,04,42,500 free colour TVs had been purchased and distributed to around 79, 35,975 families.

More over Rs.500 crore had been allotted to purchase 25 lakh TVs.

Addressing a function held at Tenkasi on October 14, 2009, after laying foundation stone for a rail over bridge on Tenkasi - Madurai Highway and some more development works to be executed at the cost of Rs.43.15 crore, this government, which was fulfilling all its poll promises like free colour televisions to every family holding the ration card, 1 kg rice for Rs.2 (which was later made available to the poor cardholders for Re.1), etc., was keen on ensuring the strengthening of infrastructure across the State right from the village panchayat.

Through the Anaiththu Graama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam, Anaiththu Town Panchayat Anna Marumalarchi Thittam and Anaiththu Municipality Anna Marumalarchi Thittam, designed with the prime objective of fortifying infrastructure facilities, the public were getting better amenities.

"In Tirunelveli district, we've selected 333 village panchayats, 27 town panchayats and 3 municipalities under these schemes and

development works are being executed with the whopping sum being allotted by the State Government's Ministry of Local Administration," noted the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and said the State Government had disbursed free colour televisions to 79.35 lakh families, including 3.65 lakh families in Tirunelveli district. Recalling his experience in the construction of flyovers in Chennai during his tenure as Chennai Mayor, he urged the officials to execute the projects with the best quality within the stipulated schedule.

"When I was the Mayor of Chennai Corporation, we constructed nine flyovers within a short span of 9 to 10 months. Though we had allotted Rs.93 crore for this purpose, we managed to complete the project with superior quality by spending just Rs.63 crore, thus saving Rs.30 crore to Chennai Corporation. It is just a classic example for the this government's keen interest in executing the projects with the best quality," Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister noted, and further said that the Deputy Chief Minister post had been given to him so that he acts as a bridge between the government and the people. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister disbursed welfare measures to the tune of Rs.2.03 crore to 1,995 beneficiaries.

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SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM FOR INDUSTRIES LICENCE

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin

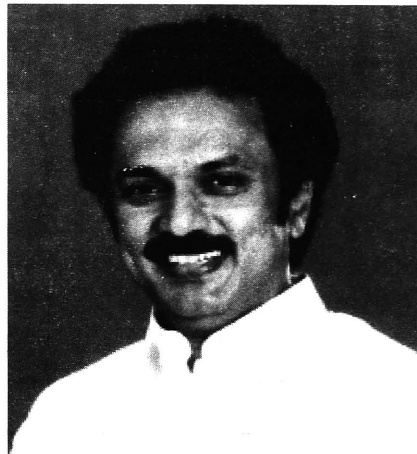
Presidential nod for single window system (SWS) for granting licence to establish industries in the State would be obtained shortly, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin said.

Addressing a meeting with representatives of Confederation of Indian Industry at Sankar Nagar in Tirunelveli on October 13, 2009, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said that the Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed a Bill to this effect. The State Government was persuading the Union Government to give nod for a mega project to bring natural gas from the Godavari basin to Tamil Nadu through pipes as it could be used for a range of applications, including power generation.

Due importance was being given to get industrial investments in the southern districts.

"While Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited plans to have its unit at Pudukottai, talks are being held with a television manufacturer to set up its unit at Manamadurai at a cost of Rs.1,500 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation has planned to expand its Valinokkam unit in Ramanathapuram district at a cost of Rs.6.60 crore."



"Nine new companies have applied for starting their units at Gangaikonden SIPCOT industrial estate. Madurai district is all set to get new investments such as a unit of Central Institute of Plastic Engineering Technology," he said. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister wanted to have similar discussions with the industrialists in every region once in six months, "as it will ensure overall development of all districts."

Thiru.M.F. Farooqui, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Industries, Thiru.C.K. Ranganathan, Chairman, CII-Tamil Nadu, and Thiru.K.S. Bharath, Chairman, CII-Madurai zone participated.

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WOMEN SHGs GIVEN OVER RS.5,000 CRORE AS LOANS



Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin

The State government is giving more thrust to the development of women self-help groups members, helping them gain economic independence and social empowerment, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin said on October 4, 2009.

Inaugurating a Samathuvapuram in Agaram village near Namakkal, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said that a slew of development programmes were being implemented in the State, enabling SHG members to take up self-employment activities. The State has over 4 lakh SHGs. Of them, over 2.8 lakh groups were in rural areas. Over Rs.5,000 crore had been extended as loans to the SHGs,

encouraging women to start micro and small enterprises.

The self-help groups (SHGs) from Tamil Nadu stand out among those in other States due to their high credit worthiness record and the sheer scale of their operations.

He pointed out that there were 4,05,651 groups in the State with 65.20 lakh members. "SHGs in Tamil Nadu have recorded a whopping Rs.2,322 crore saving. The State has given them Rs.4,188 crore loan over the last three years whereas they got Rs.76.2 crore as Revolving Fund and Rs.1,644 crore as bank loan during the previous Government," "In 2008-09, 10.81 lakh SHGs across the country availed



Rs.11,182 crore loan. The groups from Tamil Nadu achieved 99 percent loan repayment.”

“As per a report released by the Indian Bank, it had disbursed Rs.1,864 crore to 2,64,825 groups. Out of this 1,17,892 groups were from Tamil Nadu that were given a loan of Rs.1,159 crore. The State Government has encouraged the SHG movement to flower and has facilitated the development of its members,” he said.

The DMK Government had introduced a number of programmes for the empowerment of women, including implementation of 33 percent reservation in seats in local administration.

Pointing out the struggles of Thanthai Periyar to build a classless society, people from all sections of society should cooperate with the government in eradicating the caste system.

Whenever the DMK came to power, the party had ensured that women were helped to gain self confidence, economic independence and social empowerment, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister claimed.

Enacting laws to set apart 33 percent of local body seats to women, and several other programmes vouch the fact, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister added.

Earlier, he inaugurated 49 new buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.8.76 crore and laid Foundation Stone for the construction of buildings at a cost of Rs.27.04 crore and also distributed welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.21.77 crore to 8,255 beneficiaries selected under various welfare schemes.

Hon’ble Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Thiru.S.Gandhiselvan, District Collector Thiru.U.Sagayam, I.A.S., and senior officials were present.

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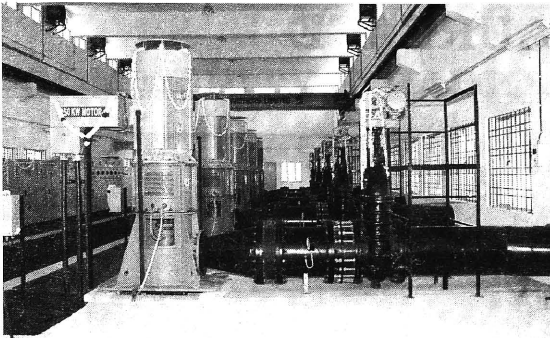
HON'BLE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OPENS RAW WATER PUMPING STATION IN POONDI



Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin on October 7, 2009 inaugurated a raw water pumping station in Poondi to convey 100 MLD (million litres per day) of water to Puzhal water treatment plant. Of the six works undertaken by the Chennai Metrowater under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) the Poondi facility is the first to be inaugurated.

Chennai Metrowater officials said that a work on a pipeline meant to carry water

from the Minjur desalination plant to Red Hills had been completed and would be commissioned when the plant is ready. Works totalling Rs.546 crore are being carried out in the city by agency. It is executing 28 works in and around the city worth Rs.2,032 crore. Municipal Administration and Water Supply Secretary Thiru.Niranjana Mardi I.A.S., and Metro Water Managing Director Thiru.Shiv Das Meena I.A.S., were also present.



Later, speaking after laying foundation stone for works of various departments, including Highways, School Education, TWAD Board and PWD, to be implemented at a cost of Rs.119.44 crore in Pallipattu, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said that the Poondi reservoir work had been completed at a cost of Rs.9.11 crore.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister also inaugurated the Thanthai Periyar Ninavu Samathuvapuram with 100 houses and facilities, including water supply, streetlights and roads at a cost of nearly Rs.2.13 crore and said that it was in 1997 that Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar had announced the setting up of Samathuvapurams, where people from all castes and communities would live together. A total of 145 such residential area were constructed across the State, which were however not maintained by the previous regime. He said last year the Government had announced that 95

Samathuvapurams would be constructed of which 29 were completed and five inaugurated. This year, 30 more are being constructed. He distributed revolving funds and bank loans totalling Rs.16.31 crore to members of 2,500 Self Help Groups.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Thiru.S.Jagatharakshakan urged the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister to declare Pallipattu Assembly constituency as industrially backward area and set up a handloom weavers techno park there. He said that by-pass roads were needed for Solingur, Tiruthani and Tiruvallur towns.

Member of Parliament Thiru.T.K.S. Elangovan and Hon'ble Fisheries Minister Thiru.K.P.P.Samy, Tiruvalluvar District Collector Thiru.V.Palanikumar I.A.S., and MLAs were present.

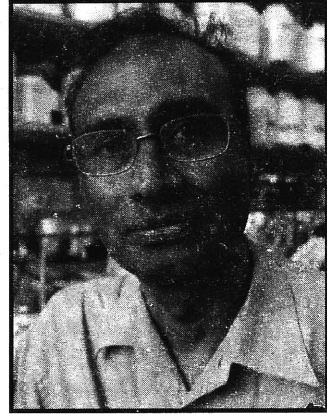


HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER LAUDS NOBEL LAUREATE

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaingar M.Karunanidhi on October 8th, 2009 congratulated India born scientist Venkataraman Ramakrishnan for winning the Nobel prize for his research on ribosomes, saying he has made the Tamil community proud by his achievement.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister said, Ramakrishnan born in Chidambaram in 1952, was the third from the state after Sir.C.V.Raman and Dr. S.Chandrasekar to have won the coveted prize. In his message, he said the Tamil Society was proud that Dr.Ramakrishnan, who was born in Chidambaram of Cuddalore district, was the third Tamil to get the Nobel Prize after Sir.C.V.Raman (1930) and Dr. S.Chandrasekar (1983).

Of the four India born scientists who won Nobel Prizes, three hailed from Tamil Nadu. Prof.C.V.Raman, who won the 1930 Nobel prize for Physics was born at Trichy. He graduated in Physics from Chennai Presidency College. Dr. Subramanyan

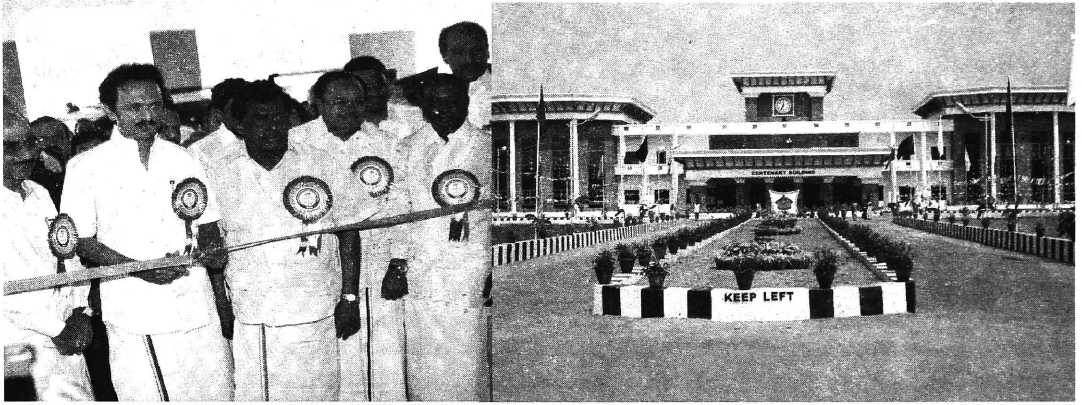


Chandrasekhar, who bagged the 1983 Nobel Prize for Physics, was Prof Raman's nephew. Though Dr.Chandrasekar was born at Lahore, he had his education in Chennai. He studied at Hindu High School in Triplicane, and like his illustrious uncle, graduated from Presidency College of Chennai.

The latest laureate, Dr.Venkataraman Ramakrishnan, though born at Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu, is now a U.S. Citizen. He too, graduated in Physics from Baroda University in 1971. It is also interesting to note that all these three scientists had excelled in Physics.

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CENTENARY BUILDING, AGRI-TECH PORTAL, COMMUNITY E-RADIO LAUNCHED AT TNAU



October 27, 2009 was a day of opening buildings and launching new crop varieties, farm implements, an agri-tech portal and a community e-radio station at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in Coimbatore.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin and Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Thiru.Veerapandi S.Arumugam inaugurated these and pointed to the TNAU's rich tradition. Efforts must be made to uphold it at a time when the agricultural economy of the State and the rest of the country looked for breakthrough technology from farm scientists.

The British started the first agricultural college at Saidapet in then Madras in 1876. As the soil conditions and climate in Coimbatore was ideal for research, the institution was shifted to this city in 1905.

The college building and another structure for research came upto at a cost of Rs.47 lakh in 1907. After a host of expansion activities since then TNAU had now constructed a centenary building whose ground floor and first floor measured 32,000 sq.ft. each. The construction of the building was initiated in the centenary year of 2005.

The ground floor has 20 rooms, seven halls as office space, a waiting hall, a canteen, a lobby and a portico. The first floor consisted of four rooms, four meeting halls, a board room, a dining hall, a conference room, eight office rooms and a waiting hall. A rainwater collection tank with a capacity of one lakh litres had been constructed on the premises.

While the building was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister released



11 new varieties of crops such as kudiravali, greengram, sesame, castor, cotton, sugarcane, Guinea grass, brinjal, snake-gourd and cashew. The farm equipment released were the improved TNAU dal mill, twin row precision organic manure-cum-fertilizer applicator, worker-friendly areca nut stripper and multi-row power weeder for the system of rice intensification.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Hon'ble Agriculture Minister visited an exhibition at the TNAU's Technology Park where the new crop varieties, implements, location-specific technologies and agricultural inputs were on display.

The agri-tech portal of the university has nearly one lakh pages on subjects such as agriculture, horticulture, agricultural engineering, forestry, fisheries, animal husbandry, sericulture and seed certification.

The community e-radio station of the university had been sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and the World Foundation. The objective was to local agricultural information among people in the local language.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Health Thiru.S.Gandhiselvan, Hon'ble Highways Minister Thiru. M.P.Saminathan, Hon'ble Khadi Minister Thiru. K.Ramachandran, Agriculture Commissioner Thiru.S.Kosalaraman, I.A.S., Agriculture Marketing Commissioner Thiru.Atul Anand, I.A.S., and Corporation Commissioner Thiru.Anshul Mishra I.A.S., were present at the inaugural event. A former Vice-Chancellor of TNAU, Thiru. Ramaswamy, was felicitated for initiating project to construct the centenary building. ★

PERIYAR MEMORIAL SAMATHUVAPURAM



The State Government is giving shape to the cherished ideals and dreams of Thanthai Periyar. Establishing samathuvapurams manifest the importance, the State Government accorded to the “just social order” yearned by Thanthai Periyar and Arignar Anna, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin has said and appeal to people to identify themselves as Tamil or human being rather than after caste.

Delcaring open a Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram at Veeranampatti near Kadavur in Karur district on October 3, 2009, the Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister said that Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi was working towards ensuring that all sections of

society had access to development parameters be it in the economic or social sphere.

An egalitarian society would ensure that the fruits of development reached every section transcending social stratifications. Every man and woman should strive to shed their social identity and transcend man-made barriers to display humane qualities and tendencies, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister added.

Periyar dreamt of a casteless society, Anna nurtured his ideals and his protege Kalaignar was only furthering what they had always yearned for, the Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister said. The Samathuvapuram was constructed at a cost of Rs.2.5 crore, he said.



Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister also underlined the importance, the State Government was according to women's development issues. From legally getting the women members of a family the right of share to their family property to implementing a slew of welfare and development schemes especially aimed at uplifting women, the State Government was intent on improving their state.

He disbursed revolving fund and credit for economic activities to 700 SHGs involving over 10,500 members. A sum

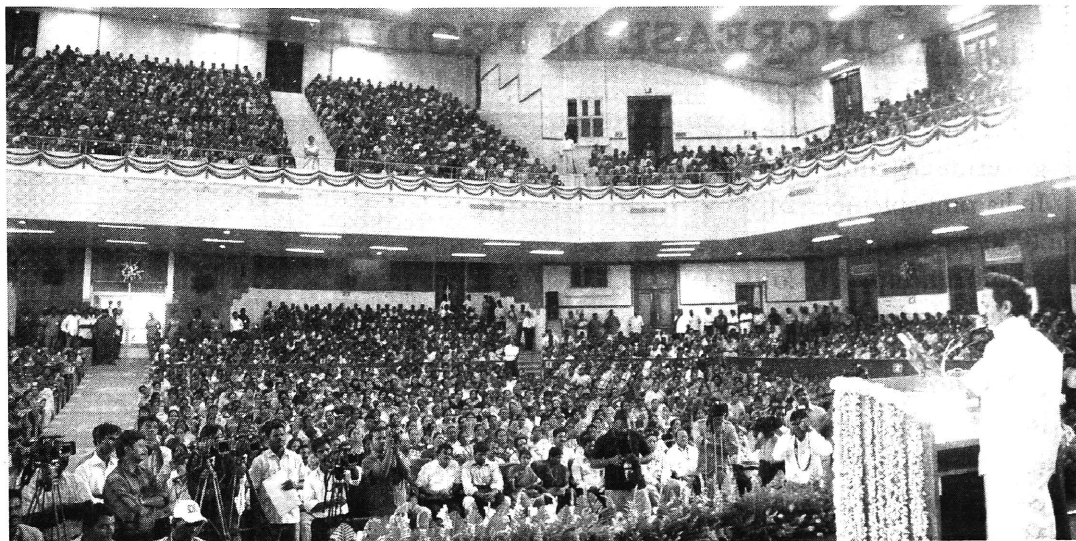
of Rs.4.20 crore was disbursed as revolving fund to selected groups and also declared open new buildings and launched schemes totally worth Rs.37.11 crore while laying foundation stone for projects and programmes worth Rs.30.83 crore on the occasion.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Thiru.D.Napolean, Hon'ble Minister for Forest Thiru.N.Selvaraj, and District Collector J.Uma Maheswari, I.A.S., participated in the function.

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WOMEN SHGs HAVE BECOME A GREAT MOVEMENT



With a strength of 65,72,000 members, the 4,12,104 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Tamil Nadu have become a great movement, said Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin on November 16, 2009.

Addressing a function to distribute revolving fund to 2,200 SHGs, Manimekalai award to SHGs and panchayat-level federation of SHGs and other awards, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said 96,668 new SHGs had been formed since 2006, when the DMK came to power. This included 21,175 new SHGs formed in 2009 -10.

Reeling out statistics to support his argument that the SHGs in the present Government were enjoying tremendous patronage, he said Rs.201 crore had been given as revolving fund in three years while the previous government allotted only Rs.76 crore in five years.

Likewise, bank loans to the tune of Rs.4,716 crore was given to the SHGs in 3 years as against Rs.1,644 crore of loans given during five years of the previous regime.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister also pointed out that Indian Bank alone had released loans to the tune of Rs.2,174 crore to the SHGs. The amount, he said, constituted 20 percent of the loans released across the country. On November 16, he gave Rs.2.20 crore to 2,200 SHGs as grants and Rs.14.02 crore as loan. The first three prizes for banks were given to Indian Bank, State Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank.

Chairman and Managing Director of the Indian Bank Thiru.M.S. Sundararajan said 12 of the 27 branches were set up exclusively to deal with SHGs in Tamil Nadu.

"They are repaying the loan on time. Ninety-three percent of them are women SHGs and only seven percent SHGs are run by men," he said. Mayor Thiru.M.Subremanian, Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Thiru.Ashok Vardhan Shetty, I.A.S. and Chennai Corporation Commissioner Thiru.Rajesh Lakhoni I.A.S. participated.

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STATE GOVERNMENT SIGNS MOU WITH FORD FOR INCREASE IN PRODUCTION

The State government and Ford India on September 24, 2000 signed a memorandum of understanding to formalise an investment of \$500 million to double the production capacity of the company's plant at Maraimalai Nagar, about 40 kms south of Chennai.



The investment will facilitate the increase of the annual capacity to two lakh cars. The establishment of an engine plant with a capacity of 2.5 lakh is also covered under the expansion plan. According to a State government press release totally, about 1,000 jobs would be generated. Thiru.M.F.Farooqui, I.A.S., Principal Secretary (Industries), and Michael Boneham, President and Managing Director of Ford India, signed the MoU at the Secretariat.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin who handles the Industry portfolio, President and CEO of Ford Motor Mr.Alan Mulally, Executive Vice-President of Ford Motor (Asia Pacific and Africa) Mr.John Parker,

U.S. Ambassador to India Mr.Timothy J.Roemer, Chief Secretary Thiru.K.S.Sripathi I.A.S., and U.S. Consul General in Chennai Andrew Mr.T.Simkin were present.

Set up in 1996, the existing plant has been producing models such as Ikon, Endeavour, Fusion and Fiesta, the government release said. It employs about 2,100 persons. Noting that the plant was gearing up for volume production of the Ford Figo next year, a release from the company stated that the construction of the engine plant was well under way. Production will come on stream in 2010. The new engine production facility would transform Maraimalai Nagar into the regional source for small displacement engines, serving not only the Indian market but also the Asia-Pacific and Africa region.

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CENTRE SANCTIONS FUNDS FOR 1,300 LOW - FLOOR BUSES

The Centre recently sanctioned 300 low-floor semi-luxury buses for Madurai, Hon'ble Union Minister of Urban Development, Dr.S.Jaipal Reddy, said in Madurai on October 24th, 2009.

Inaugurating the Second Vaigai Water Supply Scheme and three check dams across the river, implemented under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Hon'ble Union Minister said that orders for the buses had been placed. They would be delivered by December 2009.

Similarly, the Ministry had sanctioned funds for 1,000 low-floor buses for Chennai. Besides, Rs.14,000 crore had been allocated for the Chennai metro rail project, Hon'ble Union Minister said.

Stating that Rs.9,225 crore had been sanctioned under the JNNURM for urban development works in three Corporations of Tamil Nadu in the last three-and-a-half years, he said never in the past had the Centre given such a huge assistance for the State in such a short period.

Tracing the history of urbanisation, he said population in cities across the world, which used to be just 2 per cent until the 18th century, swelled to 50 per cent following the industrial revolution. In India the urban population accounted for only 30 percent and there was a long way to go in the direction of urbanisation. All initiatives to provide necessary infrastructure for towns and cities would be taken.

The Centre had sanctioned Rs.1 lakh crore under the JNNURM for 63 cities in 2004 to be implemented in seven years. But, in the three-and-a-half years alone Rs.95,500 crore had been sanctioned. "We have almost exhausted the entire amount [of JNNURM]. I will be able to raise necessary funds either through budgetary allotment or through World Bank assistance to help the process of urbanisation which is going on at a fast pace in the country," Hon'ble Union Minister said.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin urged Dr.Reddy to sanction Rs.919.45 crore for 19 underground drainage and water schemes, pending before the Union Urban Development Ministry, at least next year. "More than the awards appreciating the State for its efforts in implementing the mission projects, it would be better if the requested funds were allotted," Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin said.

Hon'ble Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Thiru.M.K.Alagiri wanted the Hon'ble Union Minister to sanction funds for grade separators and flyovers to improve the road traffic situation in Madurai and also sought funds to preserve monuments of heritage values like the Jain caves, Pudumandapam and Tirumalai Naick Palace.

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SINGAPORE OFFERS TO SHARE ECONOMIC EXPERTISE

Singapore has offered to share its expertise with Tamil Nadu and other Indian states for possible collaboration in sectors such as water management, financial services and aerospace industry.

This was indicated by Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry. Thiru.S.Iswaran, who held talks with Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Thiru.M.K.Stalin in Singapore on November 25th, 2009. The Hon'ble Minister Thiru.S.Iswaran said: "We have been well acquainted for the last several years now. And, more recently, I heard about his thoughts on the Cooum; wanting to clean it. I had (then) invited him to come and see what we have done in Singapore, so that we (could) share our experience. And, to the extent that is relevant for the context of Chennai, he can adapt it. In general, Singapore's experience in urban planning and development is something that we will be happy to share. We have several companies that have capabilities in this case. But the important thing is to find areas of mutual interest which will then create the opportunity to build some collaboration."

Singaporean companies like "Ascendas and the Port of Singapore Authority have already got a good foot print in Tamil Nadu".



Noting that Tamil Nadu "is also growing as a manufacturing hub", he said, "that creates opportunities for both sides: for companies from Singapore to invest in Tamil Nadu, but also for collaboration on both sides to harness on some of Singapore's capabilities."

A range of possibilities was becoming evident now, he added. About Singapore's "regular discussion with the Indian states", he said their "interests vary: urban development, business contacts and industrial parks."

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister held discussion with Singapore officials for setting up of an Aerospace park in Chennai. He also held discussions on the Cooum river restoration. The Aerospace park, to be set up in public private partnership, need 4,000 acres of land and is expected to attract an investment



of around \$10 billion dollars. The park would create over 1,00,000 jobs.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister had announced that a financial city near Chennai would be set up while replying to the debate on the demand for grants for Industries department in the Assembly.

Top Singapore officials on November 24 briefed Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru M.K. Stalin on the City-State's success as an international financial centre.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin, who arrived in Singapore on November 23, 2009, is on a five-day visit to learn about Singapore's best practices in a range of key economic sectors. The main objective is to gain some insights on and learn from Singapore's experiences in creating and sustaining a financial hub, maintaining river cleanliness and operating an aerospace facility, according to officials accompanying the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister.

The visit is directly related to Tamil Nadu's plans for an aero-park, a financial city, and the Cooum restoration and management.

Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Thiru S. Iswaran, held talks with the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister on November 25, India's High Commissioner to Singapore. T.C.A. Raghavn participated in the discussions.

A business roundtable on the economic opportunities in Tamil Nadu was held on November 26, under the auspices of International Enterprise Singapore. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister also visited the Marina Barrage for an onsite briefing by Singapore's Public Utilities Board.

On November 24, top executives of the Monetary Authority of Singapore Exchange, Joshua Lee and Shin Chia Yap respectively, briefed the Tamil Nadu delegation on the dynamics of the City-State's growth as a global financial centre.

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“SHGs FROM STATE BAGGED 20% OF BANK LOANS”

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin

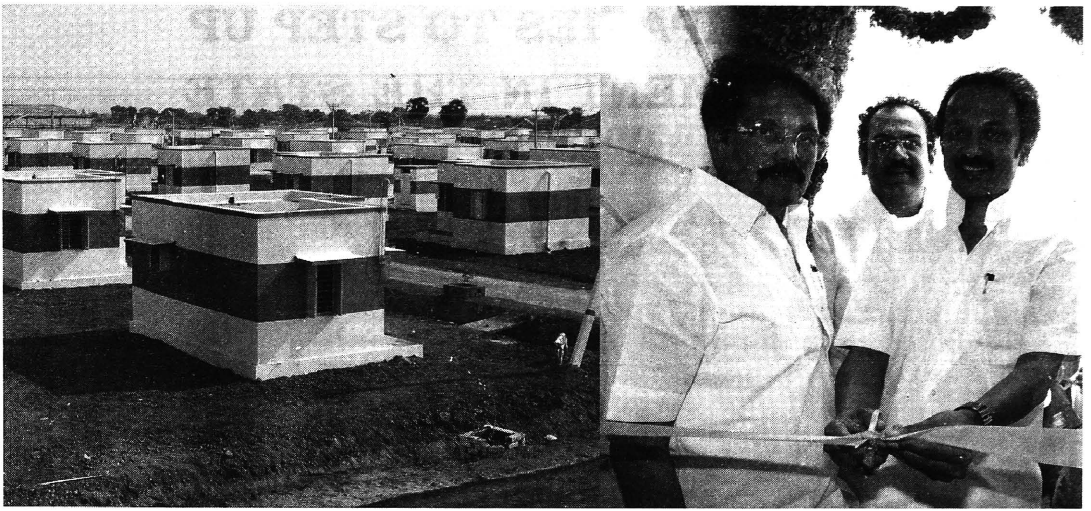
Members of self-help groups (SHGs) in the State have created a niche for themselves by garnering nearly 20 per cent of bank loans given to such groups across the country during 2008-09, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin said in Virudhunagar on October 24th 2009.

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said that the SHGs in Tamil Nadu had

received Rs.2,174 crore out of Rs.11,132 crore disbursed. Indian Bank had disbursed Rs.1,864 crore to SHGs. Of this, Rs.1,159 crore was given to groups in Tamil Nadu alone. Similarly, 48 percent of the loans given by Indian Overseas Bank was bagged by the State.

He was speaking at a function at Aadhithanendhal near Narikudi in Virudhunagar district to inaugurate a





samathuvapuram constructed at a cost of Rs.76.60 crore.

He handed over revolving funds to SHGs, laid the foundation for many development works, inaugurated new government buildings and distributed welfare assistance.



Pointing out that there were 4,05,651 SHGs in the State, he said 1,87,039 of them were receiving government subsidies.

"Bank loans to the tune of Rs.4,188 crore were disbursed to the SHGs in the last three-and-a-half years of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam government as against Rs.1,644 crore given during the

ADMK regime between 2001 and 2006," the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said.

Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Thiru.K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Thiru.Thangam Thennarasu and District Collector Tmt.Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan I.A.S., spoke.

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US COMPANIES TO STEP UP INVESTMENT IN THE STATE



The US companies have retained their focus on Tamil Nadu and are recruiting more people as part of their expansion plans. A delegation from Amcham, an association of American business organisations, met Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin, Industries Secretary, Thiru.M.F.Farooqui I.A.S., and senior officials in Chennai on October 20th 2009, in order to step up investment by the companies.

The delegation comprised Amcham National Chairman and General Electric President and CEO, T.P.Chopra, Vice Chairman, Gulshan Sachdev, another Amcham national Vice Chairman and Cognizant V.P., Thiru. R.Ramkumar besides Amcham Tamil Nadu chapter chairman and Ford India Managing Director, Michael Boneham and other representatives.

They told the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister that though there is a slow down, the American companies are continuously recruiting and a lot of them recruit from the local areas of their production / operating facilities and generate employment in the region.

Amcham surveys among the companies in the State also showed that the investment is likely to increase with the expansion plans of some of the companies. A large part of the recruitment by the American companies are new hires (freshers into their first job after college). The companies also spend lot of resources, time and energy to develop skills through training and in house career development programming.

Amcham, Tamil Nadu chapter has 54 member companies which have invested Rs.16,473 crore, generated direct employment of 1,10,373 and 2,26,139 indirectly. The list include Ford, Dell, Verizon, Ajuba, Pedrot Systems, Cognizant, Ernst & Young, Trimble, Sanmina - SCI, Kemin, Asiana Hotel, Motorola, Visteon, AIG and Caterpillar.

The team also impressed upon the State Government to strengthen the investment climate by focusing more on infrastructure, power generation, especially, solar energy.

Amcham delegates outlined the CSR initiatives of its members relating to school education, higher education, health community development etc.

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தமிழ்நாடு தொழிற் கூட்டுறவு வங்கி லிட்.

தாளமுத்து நடராசன் மாளிகை, நெ.1, காந்தி இர்வின் சாலை,
எழும்பூர், சென்னை - 600 008.

தொலைபேசி எண் : 044-28411643 / 28547952 தொலை நகல் : 044 -28416456
மின்னஞ்சல் : taico@dataone.in taico@vsnl.net இணையதளம் : www.taicobank.com

தாய்கோ வங்கி - 46 ஆண்டுகளாக மக்கள் சேவையில்

சேமிப்பு திட்டங்களுக்கு இதர வணிக வங்கிகளை விட அதிக வட்டி வழங்குகிறது

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| ➤ குறுகிய கால வைப்பு | ➤ நீண்ட கால வைப்பு |
| ➤ பாதுகாப்பு பெட்டக வசதி | |

மூத்த குடிமக்களுக்கு மேலும் 1%அதிக வட்டி

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| ❖ சிறுபோக்குவரத்து வாகனங்கள் வாங்க கடன் | ❖ வீடு அடமானக்கடன் | ❖ சிறுதொழில் மற்றும் குறுந்தொழில் முனைவோர்க்கு |
| ❖ அதிக பற்றுக்கடன் | ❖ காலக்கடன் மற்றும் நடைமுறை மூலதனக்கடன் | |
| ❖ நகைக்கடன் | ❖ வீடுகட்டக் கடன் | |
| ❖ தேசிய சேமிப்பு பத்திரங்கள் / கிசான் விகாஸ் பத்திரங்கள் மீது கடன் | | |

விரைவில் அறிமுகப்படுத்தவுள்ள புதிய கடன் திட்டங்கள் :

எஸ்.எம்.இ. ஸ்மார்ட் (SME Smart Scheme) மற்றும் எஸ்.எம்.இ.ஸ்மார்ட் பிளஸ் திட்டம்(SME Smart Plus Scheme) மூலமாக குறு மற்றும் குடிசைத் தொழில் நிறுவனங்களுக்கு வழங்கும் கடன் வசதிகள்

புதியதாக திறக்கப்பட உள்ள கிளைகள் :

விழுப்புரம், இராமநாதபுரம், பெரம்பலூர், நாகப்பட்டினம், ஒட்டன்சத்திரம் மற்றும் தூத்துக்குடி

நிறைவான பாதுகாப்பும், உத்திரவாதமும் பெற தாய்கோ வங்கியில் முதலீடு செய்வீர் !

Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaigunar M. Karunanidhi
released the World Classical Tamil Conference Logo
on 23.10.2009 at Secretariat, Chennai.

