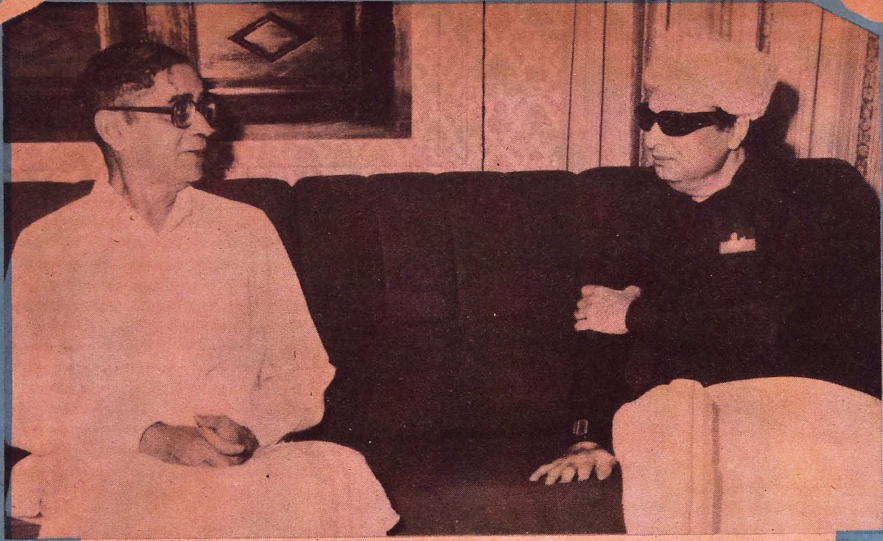


# Tamil Arasu

SEPTEMBER 1983 75 p.





**Thiru G. Parthasarathy, Special envoy of the Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi met the Honourable Chief Minister Thiru M. G. Ramachandran on 25-8-'83.**

**Thiru Raj Kapoor, Thiru Rajendrakumar and Thiru S.S.M. Sowndappan, presented a cheque for Rs. 1 lakh towards the Sri Lankan Tamils' Relief Fund to the Honourable Chief Minister Thiru M. G.R., on 25-8-'83 on behalf of "Dawn India Wattle Extracts Limited".**



## BEAR IN MIND

The incidents taking place in Sri Lanka at present cause great agony.

Our Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi is taking suitable steps to solve the problems of the Tamils of Sri Lanka. If the President of Sri Lanka, Thiru Jayawardane fails to utilize this opportunity, Sri Lanka will cease to be an independent country. If Thiru Jayawardane would in haste seek help from any foreign country, it is possible for Sri Lanka to become a slave country once the foreign power is allowed to set foot in the country.

The people of Tamilnadu are shedding tears of blood on account of the ethnic killings taking place in Sri Lanka.

It will be an invitation to disastrous results if efforts are made to eliminate the Tamils enmasse.

Honourable Chief Minister  
(Excerpts from the speech made  
at Tiruchi on 21.8.'83)

# Tamil Arasu

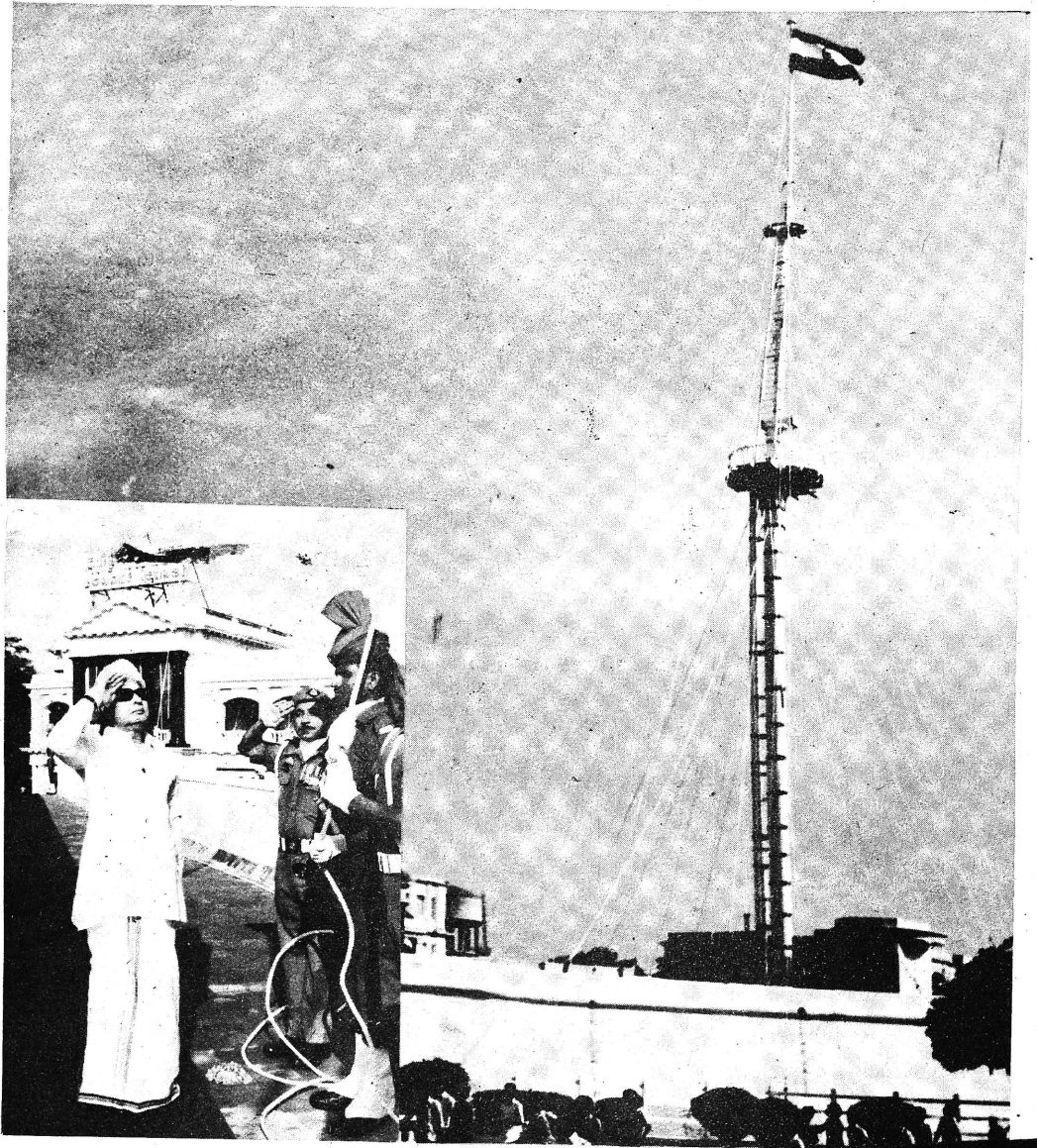
SEPTEMBER 1983

Vol : XIV No : 3

Thiruvalluvar Year - 2014

Aavani - Purattasi - Rudhrothkaari





**LET OUR SOCIALISTIC**

**IDEAL TRIUMPH**



I send my hearty greetings to the people of the country when India our Mother land completes her 36th year and steps into the 37th year of her independence.

Even though it is our duty to celebrate gloriously this independence day, our attention is centred on the plight of our brethren in neighbouring Sri Lanka, subjected to atrocities.

Everyone is aware that a national consensus has emerged in the favour of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, because of the steps taken by the Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi and the efforts of the State Government as also the all-party committee to reflect the feelings of the people of Tamilnadu on it.

Let us take a pledge for securing for the Tamils in Sri Lanka a dignified life with all rights. Let us do our duty to protect the life and properties of the Tamils and stand by the Central Government in all its measures to rehabilitate the affected people in Sri Lanka.

Our country stands foremost in giving protection and guidance. The time has come when we should realise our responsibilities to further strengthen and discipline it.

A Government and its people should follow the ideals of equal rights, equal chances and should eschew religious differences. It is the duty of the Government to give proper protection to the people and curb divisive and narrow parochialistic tendencies and dissensions. The incidents in Sri Lanka and its repercussions constitute a warning to those countries which fail to observe these aspects.

It is our bounden duty to pay grateful homage to those martyrs who gave up their precious lives to attain freedom for the future generations to enjoy the fruits of freedom with civil rights.

Let us take a pledge that we shall defend the freedom of the country at any cost which was achieved by the brave martyrs known and unknown.

The manner in which the freedom struggle was conducted; our culture to seek unity in diversity; our glory of continuing a democratic form of Government; our path to progress through peaceful planned ways; these have helped India carve a special place and earn the respect among the comity of nations. No one can deny that the real strength of India lies in the smooth progress of the people.

No country can progress without an aim and without ceaseless effort. We cannot forget the fact that even after 37 years of independence and the progress made in several fields, half the population still lives below the poverty line. If we do not lend a helping hand to the downtrodden or expedite the work towards this goal, there will be no meaning to democracy.

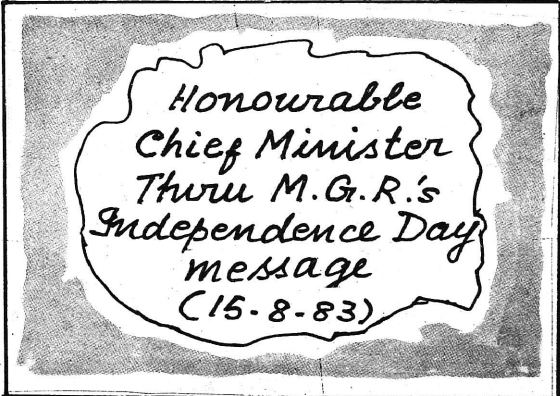
Pandit Jawaharlala Nehru has aptly described that a society which does not progress gets weakened. This weakness will pervade all spheres of development. We have to isolate the obstacles in the path of progress and growth. Only by removing these can we ensure the enhancement of a country's progress.

The biggest obstacles today are violence and divisive forces. The attempt to seek the path of violence or to solve any problem and to treat the interests of a particular region or a party as greater than that of the country will only ultimately ruin or destroy us. Let us create a great society where there is no place for violence and separatist tendencies. Let us give priority to the plans which guarantee the welfare of the downtrodden. We shall expedite the efforts to promote the unity of society. We shall strengthen our country through fulfilling these basic necessities. If our country is in a position to defend its strength and unity, it will be a protection to those who are displaced and long for protection. Recent events testify this.

Any party or leader has a privilege to fight for his rights justly. We should realize that no leader, party or organization has the right to destroy public property or indulge in killings to meet his own end. These persons are anti-social elements. Only those who do not harm others, however great their ideals may be are considered patriotic and protectors of society.

Only leaders with such ideals can usher in a socialistic order. I hope that this independence day will help infuse the aim and spirit in all of us to ceaselessly make efforts to realize an egalitarian society in India. It is also my desire.

Long live Indian independence!  
Let our united efforts triumph!  
Let our socialistic ideal triumph!  
Long live Tamil; Long live Tamils!  
Long live Bharat!  
Long live Anna's name.



Honourable  
Chief Minister  
Thiru M.G.R.'s  
Independence Day  
message  
(15-8-83)

## New Ministers Sworn in

Four New ministers of the Tamil Nadu Cabinet were Sworn in by Governor Thiru S. L. Khurana at Rajbhavan. (9-9-83)



**Thiru R. Soundararajan,**  
**Minister for Nutritious Meal Scheme.**



**Thiru Y. S. M. Yusuf,**  
**Minister for Irrigation**

**Thiru R. Arunachalam,**  
**Minister for Rural Industries**



**Thiru K. Kalaimani,**  
**Minister for Fisheries.**



Thiru A. Amirthalingam, Leader of the opposition in the Sri Lanka Parliament and the Secretary-General of the Tamil United Liberation Front arrived at Madras on 13-8-'83.

Thiru Amirthalingam was given a warm welcome on his arrival at Meenambakkam.

Thiru K. Rajaram, Speaker of the Tamilnadu Assembly, Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information & Religious Endowments, Thiru K. Raja Mohammed, Minister for Irrigation, and Thiru C. Ponnaiyan, Minister for Co-operation, and Thiru Pulamaitthan, Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council were among those present at the Air Port to receive him.

Thiru Amirthalingam drove straight from the airport to the Chief Minister's residence and had an hour-long talk with him on the problems of the Tamils of Sri Lanka. He later returned to the Chepauk guest house.

Later Thiru Amirthalingam left for Delhi on 14-8-1983 to discuss with the Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi at her invitation.

Thiru Amirthalingam had a 90-minute meeting with Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi when he appraised her of the problems of the Tamils of Sri Lanka. The External Affairs Minister Thiru P. V. Narasimha Rao was present during the latter part of these discussions.

He also exchanged views with the Prime Minister's foreign policy adviser Thiru G. Parthasarathy, Principal Secretary Thiru P. C. Alexander and the Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Thiru K. S. Bajpai for two hours before he met the Prime Minister.

# AMIRTHALINGAM IN INDIA



Later in an interview with the Press he stated :

'The Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi's intervention to make the people aware of the sentiments of the Tamils of Sri Lanka, had brought about an important change in the political situation. India is a big neighbouring country of Sri Lanka. It has close cultural affinities with Sri Lanka. The minority Tamils are of Indian origin. Therefore the efforts taken by India to see that the Tamils of Sri Lanka get justice is correct. I thank the Prime Minister of India for showing extreme consideration in the problem of Tamils of Sri Lanka.'

Thiru Amirthalingam met the Union Defence Minister Thiru R. Venkataraman and other ministers, leaders of opposition parties and had a series of discussions with them.

On his return to Madras Thiru Amirthalingam met the Press on 19-8-1983.

While addressing the Press Thiru Amirthalingam said that he cannot forget the concern expressed by the people of Tamilnadu, the

leaders of political parties, the media etc., towards the problems of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Thiru Amirthalingam said that his talks with the Prime Minister on the Sri Lankan problem was fruitful.

Under the auspices of the Tamilnadu branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association a meeting was held that evening, presided over by Thiru K. Rajaram, Speaker of the State Legislature.

Thiru Amirthalingam related how the Tamil race was subjected to untold suffering and harassment for many decades by the Sri Lankan Government.

'International affairs is a embarrassing problem. The Indian Prime Minister who is a great diplomat knows how to deal with it pragmatically. Her diplomatic to approach have made us confident. I hope the people of Tamilnadu will act unitedly to give their whole-hearted support.'

Thiru M. P. Sivagnanam Chair-

man, State Legislative Council proposed a vote of thanks.

Thiru Amirthalingam met the bereaved families of martyr Thiru Kuttamani and the former speaker of the State Legislature Thiru K. A. Mathiazhagan. Left for Trichy on 20th. He met the Chief Minister Thiru M. G. Ramachandran again and gave him the details of his Delhi trip. He also met Thiru K. A.P. Viswanathan and other party leaders.

At a press conference at Tiruchi, he said there was no need for India to send its army to Sri Lanka at present. If violence is resorted to against the Tamils again we have to request for military intervention from India," he said.

A dinner was hosted by Thiru Amirthalingam on 22-8-83 by the Honourable Speaker of the Legislature and the Honourable Chairman of the Legislative Council.

Thiru Amirthalingam met Thiru G. Parthasarathy special emissary of the Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi to Sri Lanka at Madras on 25-8-'83 and discussed the problems of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.



Thiru K. A. Mathiazhagan former Minister of Tamil Nadu and former Speaker of the State Legislature passed away at 9.45 A.M. on 17-8-'83.

Brother of Thiru K. A. Krishnaswamy, Minister for Rural Industries, Thiru Mathiazhagan was admitted into the Royapettah Hospital for treatment of kidney failure.

His condition turned critical from 16-8-'83. The Honourable Chief Minister paid a visit to the hospital the same evening. He met Thiru K.A. Krishnaswamy and other doctors and made enquiries of Thiru Mathiazhagan's condition.

Thiru Mathiazhagan passed away on 17-8-'83. His body was taken to his residence at Nungambakkam to be kept for public view.

The Honourable Chief Minister placed a

wreath at 11.40 A.M. and paid his respects. The Chief Minister consoled Tmt. Rajasundari and the bereaved family.

Honourable Ministers, Justices of the High Court, leaders, of various political parties paid their respects to the departed leader.

Born in 1926, in Kaniyur, Coimbatore District Thiru Mathiazhagan took his B.A. Degree from the Annamalai University. Even as a student he participated in the Dravidian movement and was in close touch with Periyar and Perarignar Anna and entered public life.

Thiru Mathiazhagan leaves behind his wife, three daughters and one son. Let us pay our respects to the departed leader.



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Periyar's good will was sought and obtained.

How can one reconcile the so called contradictions in Periyar's stand ?

What was Periyar—the great public figure — concerned with? Was he in public life for personal profit? Was he after self appraisal? Was it the urge to perpetuate one's name that kept Periyar in the thick of great public controversies?

Anna, Kamaraj and Rajaji knew, beyond an iota of doubt, that Periyar has no axe to grind. As the richest man of Erode and as the third influential person of Coimbatore District, Periyar entered the mainstream of public life. Great was the cause to which he dedicated

# PERIYAR - THE HARBINGER OF TOTAL REVOLUTION

'There are all sorts of leaders. Among them Mahatma Gandhi, Jinnah and Periyar belong to a special order. They are leaders for their lifetime. None can dislodge them? This was the verdict of the wise man of Tamil-Nadu, it was Perarignar Anna who declared the above verdict. The year was 1944; the occasion was the provocative attempt, by a few of Periyar's followers., to snatch away the leadership of the Justice Party from Thanthai Periyar E. V. Ramaswami.

Events, that followed over the years, proved the correctness of Anna's verdict. The real challenge to Periyar's authority, came only when Anna severed his connection with Periyar and formed a party of his own. A battle royal went on for eighteen long years. At last Anna won a majority in the general elections of 1967, in spite of Periyar's all-out efforts, to bring back Congress to power.

The wise and great Anna, even, at that hour of glorious victory, was intensely conscious of the inspiration, illumination, and training, they got in Periyar's move-

N. D. SUNDARAVADIVELU  
Ex-Vice Chancellor,  
University of Madras.

ment. Arignar Anna rushed with a few colleagues all the way to Tiruchirappalli to take Ayya's blessing; before he assumed the high office of Chief Ministership of the Madras State.

How did Periyar react to the magnanimous gesture of Anna? To quote Periyar's own words, 'he felt shy like the old time bride. He, however, responded spontaneously with equal magnanimity Periyar stood by Anna.

This epoch-making event, is a case of history repeating itself. Thirteen years earlier, a similar turning point in history was recorded. When Kamaraj an avowed opponent Dravidar of Kazhagam was elected leader of the Congress Legislative party in 1954, with a similar foresight, he sought the support of Periyar and he got it in a full measure.

Two years earlier, when Rajaji took the mantle of the Chief Ministership of the Madras Presidency,

himself. E. V. Ramaswami realised the seriousness of the struggle he was joining. He knew that winning political freedom could not be an arm-chair affair; it could not be gained by leisure time activity. Realising that the movement for India's Independence needed the full time and devoted services of thousands of workers, he closed his prosperous mundy and threw himself fully to the cause of liberty.

E. V. Ramaswami, continued to be an unalloyed selfless public worker, even after he left the congress and formed the self respect movement. His public service continued to be totally unselfish, throughout his life.

E. V. Ramaswami, the merchant was a man of luxurious living. E. V. Ramaswami, the congressman was a totally different person. He became the personification of the dictum 'simple living and high thinking'

Time without number, persons without number, received necessary financial assistance from E.V.R. both in the Congress and in the self-

respect movement: Not only was his personal expenses but also of needy co-workers came from E.V.R.'s private income. This continued unabated for many years.

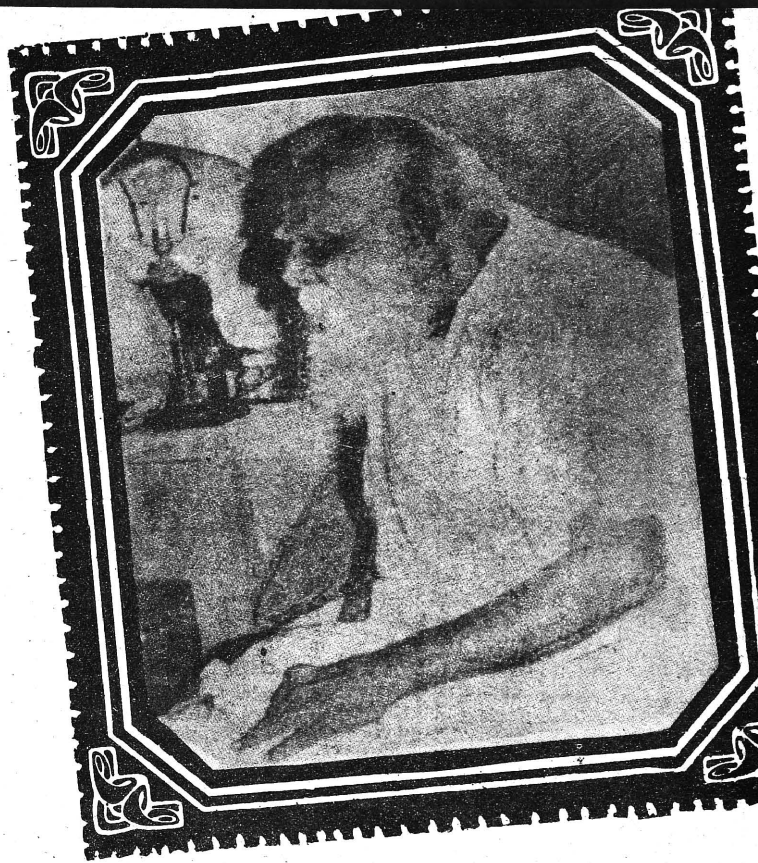
In the year 1940, the Governor of Madras and the Governor General of India, in turn, invited Periyar to take up the reins of the Prime Ministership (now Chief Ministership) of Madras Presidency. Even Rajaji volunteered to extend his co-operation to Periyar if he accepted the Prime Ministership. Periyar did not yield to the temptation. Once again, similar invitations came from the same dignitaries, with the same result in 1942.

It was because, the three leaders mentioned above, knew that Periyar stood for certain basic principles and ideals and not for personal gains and that personal equations would not affect his public attitude that they were wise enough to seek Periyar's cooperation and support. Periyar's spontaneous response proved that they were totally in the right.

Periyar stood and waged a relentless life long war for liberty, liberty not only in form but also in content and spirit. If a prize were to be instituted for building up the congress movement in Tamilnadu, the first prize would go to E. V. Ramaswami, was the valuation of his contemporary, Thiru V. Kalyanasundaram.

To Periyar, freedom meant not only the change of rulers but also of the attitude and approach of the rulers towards the ruled. The dilly dallying of the issue of acceptance in principle of communal representation and the final refusal even to discuss this matter made Periyar feel that the fruits of independence will be cornered by the few and not be made available to the people at large. As he did not want to strengthen a movement, which in his opinion, would not stand for opportunities for all, he quit the congress, which he built in Tamilnadu by his great sacrifice.

Equality is denied to the learning millions of our people. In the name of religion, Hindus have been divided into unapproachable, un-touchable uneducable castes. Both in the Congress and for about half a century, from other forms, Periyar campaigned vigorously against the caste system. He advocated and encouraged inter caste marriage.



The edifice of caste system has yet to crumble down but the gaping cracks are innumerable.

Year after year, inter caste marriages are increasing in number. This fossilised system deeprooted in our history, has started crumbling, thanks to the tireless and undaunted crusade of Periyar.

Fraternity will not be possible as long as each group continue to live and dine with and marry among its own caste. Fraternity cannot thrive so long as there are millions of poor, low paid workers, with thousands of peaks of richness. Periyar, fought not only for a casteless society but also for a classless society. To these two great causes, Periyar sacrificed his all-thought, time, energy and wealth.

None has championed the cause of equality between man and women as Periyar did. The grateful women of Tamilnadu, assembling in a state conference, called him

Periyar the great.

Thanthai Periyar Ramaswami was indeed great in all respects. He stood head and shoulders above other leaders, by his ceaseless activities, including intensive and frequent tours, even at the age of ninety five. His thoughts were crystal clear and fresh as the spring waters of the Himalayas. His thoughts were far ahead of his time. They covered every aspect of human living. They still till the soil—hard soil—for a casteless and class-level future, when woman would enjoy equal rights with men.

As Arignar Anna had epitomised 'Periyar had put centuries into capsules'.

May Periyar's progressive thoughts, intellectual honesty, personal integrity, great concern for public weal, spirit of sacrifice, simplicity, politeness and self effacement permeate our society and usher in the new order for which he struggled for over sixty years.

# the Creative Genius



Dr. V. C. KULANDAISWAMY

*Vice-Chancellor, Anna University Madras.*

He is a creative genius of world order, born to become a Shelly or a Shaw, but drawn into a life of revolt against social injustices, rejection of outworn traditions, and negation of many faiths and beliefs. In whatever he did, however, the creator in him dominated, and consequently in every area of his interest, he left behind a new order, a new system and an indelible mark of his natural predilections and potential for creative contribution.

To the politics of Tamil Nadu, he gave a new sense of sophistication and refinement; to the Tamil stage and film, a new theme and style; to journalism, a new language and method of expression; to the party system, a message of development and encouragement of leadership; to the art of speaking a new style; and above all to the Tamil language a new form, new life and new vigour.

The world of art and literature that he left behind was vastly different, infinitely richer than the one he inherited. The Tamil that we hear from our political platforms,

literary forums and discussion groups is the Tamil of his making. The style we see in the contributions of our scholars, writers and reporters is the style that bears an indelible mark, of his moulding and shaping. In short, the Tamil that we write and the Tamil that we hear from platforms, stages and screens is the Tamil that bears very distinguishably the mark of Anna. Even those who rejected his political policies and social philosophies have accepted his method of writing and speaking and manner of conducting himself.

Anna was an artist of global dimensions, and a creator of a calibre that makes enduring contributions to humanity as a class. He had the sails to move in the wide seas and the wings to fly in the vast skies. But the mission that drew him and the goal he set for himself, chained him to the earth. A genius born for the wide world, confined its contribution to the boundaries of its land of birth—a loss to humanity in general, but a gain, a great gain to the Tamil language and the Tamil race.

It was Valluvar who said that the greatness of a person must be judged by

what he or she leaves behind. In the case of a leader, political, social or religious, his/her greatness must also be judged by the kind of the first and second line of leadership that is developed and left behind. In this regard, Anna comes next only to Gandhi in the manner in which he moulded and shaped everyone according to one's talent and potential. The party he belonged to, the philosophy he advocated and the reforms he sought to bring about did not, in the early stages of his career, attract the traditional class of intellectuals. The followers were drawn from the masses and from among the radicals and the less affluent of the students. From the modest potential that was available, he by his magnanimous encouragement, liberal appreciation and discriminating guidance, developed leaders, who to-day dominate the scene in every political party in Tamil Nadu.

Anna stood, sure at the base, and soaring high at the top. He never feared a threat to his leadership, or a challenge to his eminence, for he was always prepared to transfer both of them to the deserving among his disciples, very willingly and gladly. On every occasion, he invited them to ease his burdens either by sharing them as equals or by taking over the mantle. He encouraged liberally the emerging talent; acknowledged unreservedly the established

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ones; introduced to the world voluntarily many names that remained unknown, many faces that were unseen, but deserved recognition; and brought them into the glare of recognition and reputation. The political party they belonged to, the convictions they worked for, and the controversies of the day-to-day struggle, did not very much influence his decision and judgement in this regard. The fragrance of blossoming flower in whichever compound, and in whatever clime, found in him a spontaneous bard to sing its glory.

All through his life, he campaigned against certain vested interests; fought for certain new order; increasingly and incessantly he strove to bring down or break to pieces many a citadel of privileges and patronages and succeeded in them; but all without leaving a trail of bitterness or trace of enmity. He introduced into the world of politics a new culture; into the platform of controversy a new order and into public life in general a new dimension of understanding and where possible appreciating the 'other view', even if it be an 'opposite view'.

He was among the writers, a patron; among the politicians a saint; among his partymen the brother, and to his countrymen and women in general 'Anna', the beloved.



## THIRU. VI. KA. THE THRILL

As one who has read Thiru. Vi. Ka.'s works from boyhood (i.e. from 1937) and as one who has closely watched him personally during the last decade of his life (i.e. 1943-53) the dominant element that overwhelms me about his life and thought is the thrill that one gets about his selfless nature. This dominating element has adorned his life and thought all through.

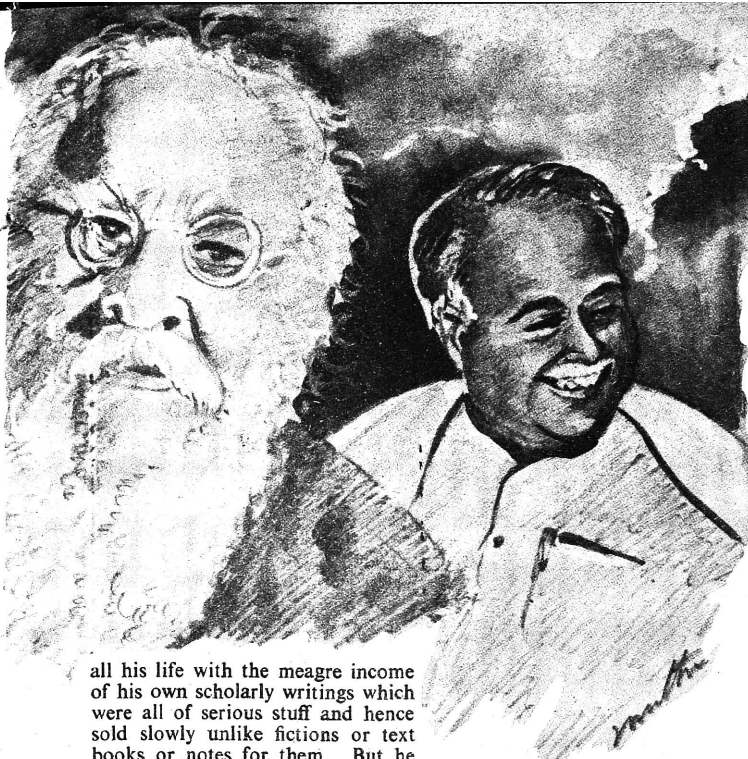
Thiru. Vi. Ka., by nature a very sensitive, serious and daring person was early influenced by the Indian national upheaval that took roots in the early years of this century. He was intimately acquainted with Bal'gangadara Tilak, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and Subramania Bharathi who were his close political contemporaries. Later he was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and found in him the quintessence of Tamil culture (which is broadly speaking part of Indian culture). His association with the great theosophist Annie Besant (1847-1933) founder of Home rule movement and Thiru B. P. Wadia a co-founder of the labour movement in Tamilnadu brought him into the grips with the political, economic, social and cultural movements. Because of this background he first resigned his clerk's post in the

Spencer's Company and later his head Tamil pandit's post in Wesley College which was a coveted position in those days. Further this daring venture of Thiru. Vi. Ka. clearly establishes his urge for service in a wider area for the sake of political, economic and social emancipation of his countrymen.

As mentioned earlier Thiru. Vi. Ka. had certain opportunities of acquainting himself with All-India leaders of great name and fame because of his sincerity and voluntary nature of service. One such was his meeting with Mahatma Gandhi which proved to be a turning point. He translated Mahatma's speeches in the labour meetings with which he was very popular. And it is recorded by Thiru. Vi. Ka. himself and eminent disciples of him like Kalki that Mahatma Gandhi used to remember and call him always as 'Mr. Translator.' But

**Prof Dr. N. SANJEEVI**  
Head, Department of Tamil  
Literature, University of  
Madras.

Thiru. Vi. Ka. was not a mere translator of Mahatma Gandhi's words alone but was a real translator of his principles into practice. If there is anyone in the history of Tamilnadu who introduced and established the personality of Mahatma Gandhi in the minds of Tamil people in a classical idiom both in writing and speaking it could be no one other than Thiru. Vi. Ka. So also if someone is to be identified as a close follower of Mahatma Gandhi in day-to-day life, thought and service well known in public life, it could not be anybody else than Thiru. Vi. Ka. He never succumbed to the temptation of accepting any gift worthy of its name even from his ardent admirers for his personal pleasure or gain. He lived



all his life with the meagre income of his own scholarly writings which were all of serious stuff and hence sold slowly unlike fictions or text books or notes for them. But he drew all his satisfaction by his own fullness of heart and soul and by the enlightened appreciation of the elite and admiration of the learned and labour as well. In fact some of his slender first editions which were only essays of a few pages got enlarged into fairly big volumes as the number of editions grew. This was a result of his continuous introspective, retrospective and prospective thinking. It was also symbolic of his never diminishing character of not only sound and subtle thinking but of self-improvement caused by deep reflections and dynamic reform. Self-thinking and Self-improvement were synonymous with Thiru. Vi. Ka. from the beginning to the end. And Thiru. Vi. Ka. always kept the best balance between quantity and quality. He was never verbose or superfluous.

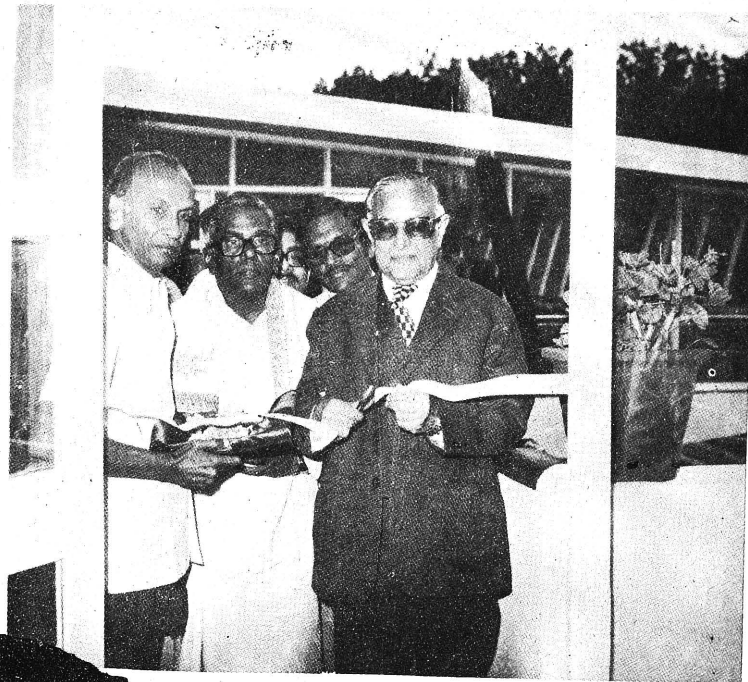
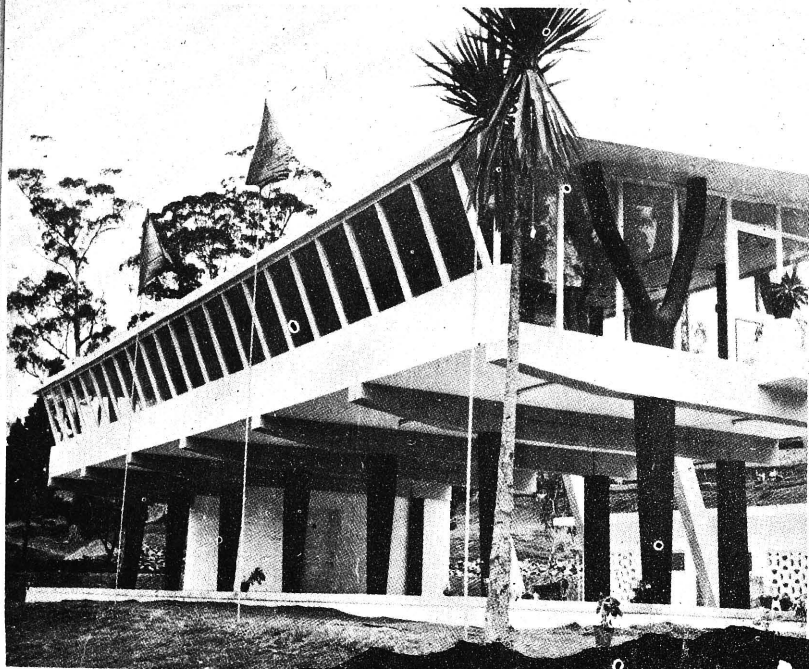
Surely the inborn qualities of sincerity, seriousness and selfless service that compelled him to involve himself in a case against his Tamil teacher, Kadiravelpillai of Jaffna, and thereby disabled himself to appear for the matriculation examination. Again those were the qualities that pushed him into prominence in political life and pushed him out from active party-politics. In 1925 he became the pivotal point for a historic rift between pro-

Congress non-brahmins and anti-congress non-brahmins in a provincial political conference held at anchipuram. He was against cliques and wire-pullings amongst congressmen for group victories and self-aggrandisement. In other words, he was not clever and cunning to establish his personal leadership in the congress party. Hence he was preferred to be more a friend, philosopher and guide to nationalist movement in Tamilnadu than a power-monger. He was averse to 'adjustments' at the cost of public morality. Further he never desired to develop groupism for the sake of temporary political leadership. As a result he is more honoured and respected for his lasting contribution to healthy nationalism and superb literary creations than any other political leader of his times. Even periyar and Rajaji are not acceptable more than Thiru. Vi. Ka. to a majority of people because the latter was more for compromise than conflict. It is this key point that should be borne in mind to understand the excellence of Thiru. Vi. Ka. who was really a thrill when he lived and when he is

no more, because he possessed and practised the genius that unified the old and new, the gray and the green, the men and the women, the capital and the labour the pan-Indian nationalism and linguistic separatism, the orthodox and the modern, the male chauvinist and the female sufferer the revolutionary and the moderate and last but not the least the Gandhian and the Marxist. Thus he was a 'multi coloured dome' or 'multi-personality picture'

Thiru. Vi. Ka. was both a visionary and missionary. As a result he spoke to spell-bound audience labour or learned, wrote to scholars and critics, served the poor and down-trodden and suffered because of refusal to be slaved by the well-to-do. He was one who clearly saw and carefully avoided the onslaught of money over morals. He served the cause of Tamil and Tamils by his writings in prose and poetry through book and journals in such a style that totally reflects his style of thought and life itself that even his political writings are of permanent value for all times. It is interesting to remember that his writings like that of Subramania Bharathi were of such prophetic nature that as Bharathi was quoted to raise patriotic emotions during the Chinese attacks on our borders Thiru. Vi. Ka. was quoted for the propagation of current noon-meals programme for under-nourished children.

Thiru. Vi. Ka. by his speeches and writings and more than that by his services and sacrifices has contributed not merely for a temporary social-change but for cherishing and nourishing great human values that will be needed even in a society that has seen political and even economic emancipation. As such he has given not only a new style to the language that he spoke- crispness and clarity but a new style to all the people of the world to comprehend all that is good coming from anywhere and everywhere and, practice as they preach. In fine he is a Tamil by his language but a man amongst men.



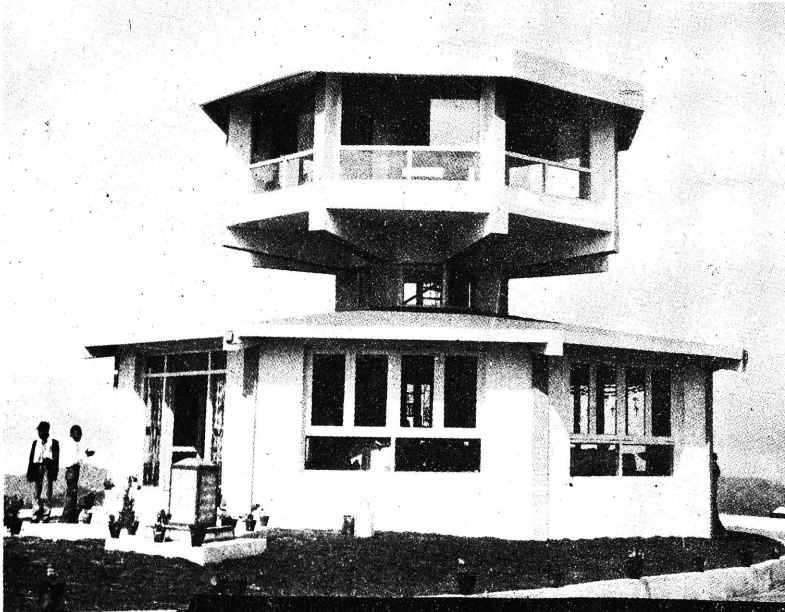
# UDHAGAI *gets* new boat house

Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation's Telescope House at Dodabetta, the highest peak in the Nilgiris and a new Boat House at the Boat House Complex in Udhagamandalam was inaugurated by Thiru S. L. Khurana, Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information, Religious Endowments and Tourism presided over the function.

TTDC has already a Boat House at the lake in Udhagamandalam. In view of the heavy inflow of visitors to the existing Boat House, an additional Boat House has been built with architectural synchronization.

The ground floor of the new Boat House will



# Telescope

  
HOUSE

## For Udhagai

have a Waiting Hall while the first floor will have a Snack Bar with viewing glass for the entire length of the building facing the lake. The new Boat House has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 6.5 lakhs.

The Telescope House consists of two floors. The ground floor will have a Snack Bar and in the first floor, the Telescope is installed. The Telescope which is coin operated has been imported from the United States of America. The cost of the Telescope House is Rs. 4 lakhs.



# ANNAS

## Writings

A. P. JANARTHANAM.

One may be a great orator, but a poor writer. One may be a great writer, but he will tremble on the platform. Anna was a rare exception. He spoke and wrote with the same perfection and excellence, one trying to get the better of the other.

Anna took great pride in calling himself a journalist. He was a great journalist, a famous author, a superb novelist and great playwright.

Anna's voracious reading and keen observation of life provided him with background material for his writing.

He had made very good use of the Connemara university, the British Council and the USIS libraries. Discussions with dignitaries, College students, party workers and journalists gave him further food for thought. On long train journeys he used to take lots of books along with him. He literally burnt midnight candles. He read and wrote for hours together. The sheets got filled rapidly, neatly with his inimitable round hand, without any erasures. A chance remark, a good quotation, a little incident, was enough to fire his imagination. He had a retentive

memory which tape-recorded an astonishing amount of matter. Any place was enough for him. He did not need a posh hotel in Bangalore to get 'mood'. He coined words with rapid succession. Week after week, for over twentyfive years he contributed rich, valuable matter to his weeklies, 'Dravida Nadu' and 'Kanchi'.

He was a great writer in both Tamil and English.

He had a great mastery over Tamil. He distilled the essence of Sangam literature in his writings. His interpretations of some Kural stanzas were strikingly fresh and original. He was very fond of poetry. He was thorough in history. References to English, Greek Roman, French, American and, Russian histories abound in his writings. The Buddha, the Siddars, Bradlaugh and Ingersoll have all left their imprints. He had made an intensive study of Shivaji and other historical heroes.

In politics, he had mastered all the thinkers from Plato to Laski. The economists Marshall, Keynes and Dalton figure in his writings. He had produced fine pen-portraits of all the prominent personalities

of the present century from Lenin to Kennedy.

Anna diluted serious political thoughts with sweet humour and gave them in a breezy, easy style. He had made hard facts and dry statistics very palatable through his sweet, mellow presentation. Tamil classics, which slept in the holds of Pulavars, were brought to the masses. Anna turned the hard nuts of Tamil literature into sweet chocolates.

In 1934, when Anna entered Tamil journalism, great writers like Thiru T. S. Chockalingam, Thiru Pudumai Pithan, Thiru R. Krishnamurthi (Kalki) and Va.Ra. held the field, Anna became popular soon.

Anna became the editor of 'Viduthalai' in 1937. He went through the Madras dailies which arrived by the Mails very rapidly. At once he wrote a brilliant editorial to 'Viduthalai' running into four to five columns. They were worthy gems in Tamil journalism. Anna's serial articles on the Tamil Music Movement were masterpieces depicting the glory of the ancient Tamils. Anna's editorials on the untimely demise of Sir. A.T. Pannerselvam with the dis-

## ANNA'S MASTERY OF ENGLISH

"...what many of us, who had been taught by our Tamils to appreciate the linguistic talents of Arignar Anna were not aware of was his quite extraordinary mastery of English. Then came the Second International Conference Seminar of Tamil Studies, at the concluding session of which we were privileged to hear the (then) Chief Minister speak in English.

After this, no delegate to the conference would fail to understand how he had gained such a following through his speeches in his mother-tongue.

For, this was a great performance, mingling humour with sentiments, wit with profundity in a way that no native speaker of English present on the occasion could have surpassed or even equalled.

Dr. A. E. ASHER,  
Edinburgh University,  
Scotland.

appearance of the plane 'Hannibal' in the gulf of Oman, moved the readers to tears. Anna's editorial 'The Ripon Building Worthies' was so excellent that Periyar very warmly congratulated Anna for the same.

Anna started his own weekly 'Dravidanadu' in 1942. I vividly remember those days when every week I read aloud the contents from cover to cover to many friends in Vellore. His leading articles under the pen names 'Bharathan', and 'Sowmiyan', his serials, his imaginary conversations, vivid description of the valour of the allied troops, exposition of the Justice party's stand, clarion call to youngsters, vivid descriptions of Dravidian trade, literature and civilisation, all had a great effect on the readers. His captivating headings like 'An Adi-Dravida's Wedding in Dikshithar's Home' (about a party conference in Chidambaram), 'Cripps in Kishkinda (about the Cripps' mission)' 'Amery's Akbar Pooja,' 'The

Screeching sparrow', 'The Bat's Sorrow' (an excellent allegory on Thiru Vi. Ka.) 'Washing Mouth with Tiger's Milk', 'JusticeJanaki', etc., still ring in our ears.

He encouraged young students, to write.

Anna's "Home Rule" attracted the intelligentsia. His "Dear

Brother' letters and 'Cuckoo club' are memorable. A collection of articles under the heading "Post Office Socialism" was published. The Rajya Sabha proceedings preserve Anna's fine speeches for posterity.

Anna is a great playwright and actor. Kalki, the great writer compared him to Shaw, Ibsen and Galsworthy. 'Chandrodayam' was his first drama. As hero Durairaj he acted so well that once Thiru T. Shanmugam, an elderly leader began crying that "Anna should not die."!

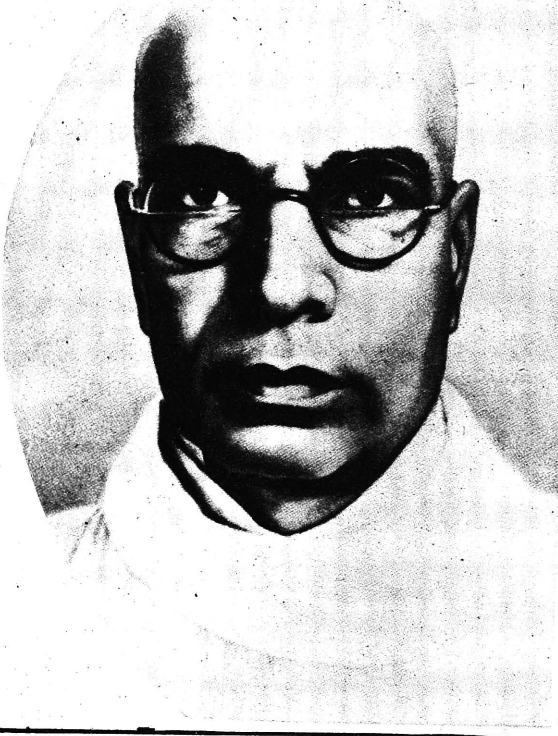
His "Shivaji" later named "Chandra Mohan" was a great historical drama. Periyar praised Thiru. Ganesan's role of Shivaji and conferred the title "Shivaji" on him. Anna in the role of Kakabatta excelled all.

Anna's "Velaikkari" and "One Night" (literally written within a night) were staged for many months in Tanjore by Nadippisai Pulavar K. R. Ramaswami's troupe. Kalai-vanar N. S. Krishnan went into raptures over Anna's dialogues. They were subsequently filmed. Anna's "Nallathambi" bled for the poor. Both N. S. Krishnan and Tmt. Bhanumathi rendered full justice to their roles. Anna's - "Rangoon Radha" was also filmed. "In Sorga Vasal" Anna exposed the hollow pretensions of hypocritical priests. Anna's (Neethi Devan. Mayakkam) (The Dilemma of the God of Justice) is a great masterpiece of literary debate. Anna, maintained that political and social dramas and films are powerful media. In largely illiterate countries great campaigns can be conducted very effectively through Drama. He maintained a dramatic troupe himself. His leading lieutenants were encouraged to take part in dramas: The political themes figured in dramas, cultural hits, dance-dramas and films. All this had been possible through Anna's writings and efforts. He secured respect for the actors in society. His dialogues became the model for many playwrights.

Anna coined fine slogans for posters during election times. Just in two lines, they were concentrated political nuggets, readily assimilated by the electors. Anna's appeal to the voters both in English and Tamil was marked for maturity and political wisdom.

In short, Anna's writings are rich in variety. His inimitable style has become the hall-mark of a modern Tamil. Thiru Vi. Kalyana Sundaram was once the father of Tamil political prose. Anna had surpassed him. Anna's writings, entused the youth, fired their imagination, galvanised them to action.

In short, to the great Tamil people, Anna is Rousseau, Voltaire, Thomas Paine, Bernard Shaw and Ingersoll, all put in one. His followers are easily the best Tamil writers. Easily he is the greatest writer that the Dravidian movement has produced.



to external stress, the traditions and rituals become progressively narrower and women are the ultimate sufferers. By the end of the 17th century there were already 3,000 sub-castes into which the society had been divided. Many evils like Sa'i, child marriages etc., crept in. The misery of widows was beyond expression. Thus the woman of India found the walls of their social laws closing around them.

Men and women began to think seriously of the remedial measures. Many reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and others rose to the occasion and brought about number of legislations banning 'Sati, child marriage and other evils as early as 1829 itself. With all these legislations the women continued to suffer and there was no improvement in their status. Why this sad state? Well it was Thiru. Vi. Ka. who made the world realize the real nature of the problem of "Emancipation of Women." He told that no amount of legislation can bring about any Emancipation unless and until the man's and the Woman's mind changes.

Born in the year 1883, in a small village Thullal, near Chingleput, Thiru V. Kalyanasundaranar, more familiarly known as Thiru. Vi. Ka. is one of the greatest reformers of our

# THIRU VI-KA

R. THAMARAI MANGAI M.A.,  
M. Phil.,  
Professor of Physics,  
Govt. Arts college for Women,  
North Madras.

time. He is a revolutionist because he attempted at revolutionising the minds of men and women through

"Gods are complacent when women are venerated" runs an old saying and there is no reason why God should not be pleased with our ancient India. The world comprises of both sexes. No man means there is no woman and there can be no man too without a woman' Our forefathers had fully realised the importance of woman not only in the development and propagation of the human race but also in the betterment of social economy of the world. This is well brought out in our Sangam literature. It shows how our women were held in high esteem and were treated with honour and dignity as is warranted of any human. The pre-historic women of Tamil Nadu were so respected and admired that the most beautiful aspects of Nature such as dawn, the rivers, the earth were all deified.

But then a gradual change for worse in this Godly status of our women was brought about by foreign invasion. The many historical events that took place century after century in this land forced petrification in the society in the place of evolution. It is quite natural that in any culture subjected his writings and speeches by bringing out his concept of creation. And as he himself has stated in his book "Pennin Perumai" or "Vazhkai Thunai" he did succeed in his attempt. Thiru Vi-Ka had not headed any agitations or meetings for the emancipation of women as he had organised and headed

## AND WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION



labour unions. But still he is the greatest emancipator of women. According to him the emancipation lies in two factors. First it should be understood that the women's status in society is not merely a social problem but it is also individual something personal at the same time, unlike the labour problems and therefore reformation can't be achieved overnight by agitations and representations. And that is the reason why he had not agitated for this important cause which he had all along cherished so dearly in his heart as is clearly seen in all his writings, lectures and other works. Had he wished, he could have organised number of meetings for women's liberation and succeeded in bringing out some more legislations. But he knew fully well that unless the man realises his limits and helps in beautifying the existence on earth no amount of external stress can bring about any liberation for the bonded women. Thus he believed that the real reformation should start at home first. The man should learn to treat his wife with honour and dignity instead keeping her a slave to satisfy his animal pleasure and other comforts, he told. The object of women in god's creation is something superior and nobler the man should understand, he felt.

Secondly the woman should not also consider herself mere object of lust. She should know that she is born with the high purpose of bringing out eligible souls into this world by living natural life and help God's work of continuance of mankind

How Thiru. Vi. Ka. adored the womanhood can be seen in his writings. The one on "Pennin Perumai" or "Vazhkai Thunai" bringing out these feelings of his explicitly and thus appeal to the minds of the readers to rectify themselves, so as to enable their women attain their honoured place in society.

Few more quotations from his writings are given here under to illustrate how Thiru. Vi. Ka attached utmost importance to the moral revolution in order to bring about the desired emancipation.

"Oh men! Your greatness is linked with women. It is woman who gave birth to you. It is woman who brings you up. It is woman who lives with you. Show due respect to woman. Give her full freedom. Show her due regard. To treat woman with regard and respect is civilization treating her cruelly with restrictions in the most inhuman manner is barbarism." Thus Thiru. Vi. Ka tries to enlighten man about the need for women's emancipation.

"Woman's welfare is your welfare, your country's welfare, where woman is unhappy, the country is poor. It is a slave country. It will burn off. It will decompose and destroy. How for the sake of one woman Sri Raman toiled! How he suffered! How he fought! For the sake of one woman the Bharath

war was fought. To keep woman happy is the duty of man. One who can't keep her happy is not a man at all. One can even sacrifice one's life to emancipate her. Man is born only to safeguard her honour. Without woman where is the world? Where is life? Where is love and affection? Where is God? Everything is because of woman. Everything is in woman. Show due regard and honour that all important woman—the mother—the Goddess. Let womanhood prevail everywhere. Let motherhood prevail everywhere. Long live Godliness.

Thus throughout his book titled "Pennin Perumai" or "Vazhkai Thunai" Thiru-Vi-Ka agitates for the emancipation of woman by appealing to the hearts of men for their rectification in order to realise the goal. Not only this single volume but all his writings and speeches contain somewhere or other the greatness of women and men's duties towards them. As is admitted by him his services have not certainly gone unrewarded.

Thiru. Vi. Ka says that he loved to be born since birth is an opportunity to serve the human race. His service mindedness is brought out in the following lines of his. "As birth is an opportunity for service minded people, I love to be born in this world so that I can lead a useful life serving the cause of humanity in general and women in particular. How can I repay my parents for having given me this opportunity."

"Is there anything greater than service?" he wonders "I don't think so. Service is my life—my wealth—my beloved—my religion—Everything—Everything—Let what be the consequences. I am not bothered. My duty is to serve. I want birth to serve humanity irrespective of their caste, creed-religion." says Thiru. Vi. Ka., the greatest reformist of the 20th century. These words bear witness to his service mindedness and devotion to selfless service. Every birth should have an aim in life. Only then it achieves greatness. Purposeless life is a waste. No doubt, Thiru. Vi. Ka. lived a great life by his untiring services to the cause of women and to improve the lots of the poor labour section. The womanhood especially is deeply indebted to Thiru. Vi. Ka for his services in the field of emancipation.

Long live Thiru. Vi. Ka's name.



# Essential commodities at Fair Prices

The Government have a responsibility to ensure the availability of essential commodities at fair and reasonable prices to the public. When the monsoon rains fail, food production is affected resulting in increase in the price of rice in the open market and consequently the public, particularly, the weaker sections of the society are very much affected. It is quite necessary to supply essential commodities to them in such a context. The Government of Tamil Nadu being aware of this, is having a well knit system of public distribution and adopt a procurement policy to maximise procurement.

During the year 1980, due to failure of monsoon rains, the situation compelled the Government to

resort to levy to procure necessary stock for meeting the requirements of public distribution system. The Government have imposed 40% levy on the traders in paddy and rice. The requirement of rice under public distribution system increased substantially. With a view to create adequate buffer stock, the Govt. increased the traders' levy from 40% to 50% from 1981 Kuruvai season. The Government have procured 1.25 lakh tonnes of rice during Samba 81 season and 1.58 lakh tonnes of rice during Kuruvai 81 season.

There was drought situation in several districts in the State due to the failure of monsoon rains in the year 1982. This has resulted in increase in the demand for rice in the fair price shops.

Even in such a drought situation, the Govt. have procured 4.10 lakh tonnes of rice during samba 82 season.

During '82, due to the failure of South West monsoon, there was no adequate flow of water into the Mettur Reservoir and consequently the Kuruvai cultivation in the delta districts of Thanjavur, South Arcot and Tiruch rapalli was affected. As against a total extent of 4.25 lakh acres under kuruvai cultivation in Thanjavur district, the actual cultivation was only in 3.02 lakh acres. In spite of that difficult situation, special efforts were taken and a quantity of 2.45 tonnes of paddy were procured in Thanjavur district. During 1982 kuruvai season, a total quantity of 2.61 lakh tonnes of paddy





is being continued. There are at present fair price shops in the rural areas and they supply essential commodities to 84.72 lakh cardholders. Besides rice, sugar, wheat and Kerosene, other essential commodities like dhals, chillies and edible oil are also supplied through these fair price shops., the Govt. is spending about 4 crores of rupees every year on this scheme.

In the urban areas 2002 shops are functioning. On the whole under the public distribution system there are 17,844 shops in the State.

Some complaints of irregularities in the fair price shops and the non supply of essential commodities to the public received were by the Govt. With a view to prevent them and also to ensure the regular supply of essential commodities to the cardholders, advisory committees have been formed in taluk/district level. Besides them, vigilance committees have now been set up for every fair price shop associating officials and non officials in the Committee. It has been directed that the essential commodities brought to the fair price shop can be issued only after it has been inspected by one of the members of the vigilance committee. By this arrangement, the receipt of the essential commodities which are sent to the fair price shops for supply to the cardholders is got ensured.

Rice is supplied to the cardholders through fair price shops at prices cheaper than the open market price. Common rice is sold at Rs. 1.75 per kg. fine rice is sold at Rs.2/- per kg. and superfine rice at Rs.2.15 per kg. Though the Govt. of India have increased the procurement price of paddy, the Govt. of Tamil Nadu have not increased the price of rice having in view the public interest and on account of this, the Govt. have to bear crores of rupees towards subsidy.

There were representations that there are large crowds in the fair price shops and the public are inconvenienced. In order to avert such a situation, in Madras city, as a pilot measure, staggering system of supply of essential commodities to family cardholders has been introduced from April '83. Under this scheme, the cardholder has to go to the fair price shop on the day assigned to him. Under this method, the cardholder is able to get all the commodities at a time and he need not go to the fair price shop every time for every commodity. The Public have very much welcomed the scheme.

were procured in the whole State. During that year, South West monsoon and North East monsoon also failed. This has seriously affected the paddy production in the traditionally surplus districts of North Arcot and South Arcot districts. Due to inadequate flow of water from the Mettur reservoir, in Thanjavur district to a certain extent samba paddy crop and to a large extent thalady crop paddy were affected. When several districts were under the grip of severe drought conditions in the State, the demand for rice under the public distribution system increased substantially. It therefore, became necessary for the Government to procure adequate stock of rice to continue the public distribution system, They have therefore decided to resort to monopoly procurement of paddy in Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Kulithali, Musiri and Lalgudi taluks in Tiruchirappalli district, Chidambaram and Kattumannarkoil taluks in South Arcot district. With a view to enthruse the ryots to sell their paddy, to the Govt. the Government have ordered the payment of a drought allowance of Rs.15/- per quintal over and above the procurement price.

also and they have so far purchased 1,40,000 tonnes of rice. It is certainly a creditable achievement of the Govt. to have contained the open market prices at reasonable levels, in a serious drought situation by maintaining supply of rice under public distribution system to the cardholders without any break.

**Public Distribution:**

It is the policy of the Govt. that the essential commodities which are supplied to the cardholders in the urban areas should be made available to the rural folk also. The Govt. implemented a scheme in the year 1977 to open fair price shop in every revenue village and that scheme



The Government of India did not make any allotment of rice from the Central Pool from June 82. Even in such a situation, from June 82 to February '83 6.68 lakh tonnes of rice was supplied to the cardholders through fair price shops. Besides local procurement in the State, the T.N.C.S.C. has purchased rice in the open market from other States



# Madras Police Force *takes to* *Physical exercises*

The Police department of Tamilnadu is famous like the Scotland yard Police force. The Tamilnadu Police department has a number of achievements to its credit and stands as a model for other States. On the Honourable

practise drill and other exercises at the Marina Beach.

Thiru Sri Pal, gave away prizes to the competitors who were adjudged the best on 12-8-'83. Recalling the various measures provided to the




Chief Minister's advice that the police personnel should keep themselves fit and healthy by practising drill, the personnel under the supervision of Police Thiru SriPal, Commissioner. Deputy Commissioner Thiru M. Balachandran and Assistant Commissioner Thiru Sundara Varadhan,

employees of the police department like housing facilities, making commodities available at cheaper prices, medical facilities etc., under the direct supervision of the Honourable Chief Minister Thiru SriPal advised the personnel to strive to do better to earn the goodwill of the public.

# The son who named his mother

Anna was born to educate the illiterate,  
To enlighten also the idle literate;  
He toiled and toiled all day and night  
And shed unto their minds the supreme light;  
The depressed masses relied on Anna  
And the toiling millions worshipped him;  
No leader had ever so great an influence  
Despite possession of tempting affluence;  
Anna was born not with a spoon of silver  
Yet with a mightier means—the tongue of silver;  
Millions of audience were taken captive  
By his power of oration so attractive;  
Anna penetrated all the spheres to an extreme  
Like drama, story, screen and all the arts so supreme;  
He was the son of the Tamil Land  
And the father of her modern fame all grand;  
The youths he held so spell-bound,  
And the students flocked to him all around;  
To the teeming millions he was a brother elder  
And their guiding friend, philosopher and leader;  
Death may take Anna's body away,  
But not his spirit that wields its sway;  
Anna was a worthy 'son' of Thanthai Periyar,  
And actualised his ideals all superior.  
Anna Christened this land as Tamil Nadu,  
And made the Legislature unanimously applaud,  
So great a son was our Elder Brother,  
Who, in history, ever named his 'Mother'.

S. Nallarasu,



C. N. Annadurai

# A REVOLUTIONARY SCHEME



The Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme was started on the 1st of July, 1982 in the rural areas as a revolutionary scheme. The programme has been extended from 15th September, 1982 to cover the children in the urban areas also.

The Government has implemented the scheme to provide one nutritious meal a day to those poor children living in villages and urban areas in order to make the present generation into healthy citizens of tomorrow.

The distinction of having implemented this unique scheme to promote happiness of the poor goes to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

A programme to feed poor children was indicated in the budget for the financial year 1982-83.

"This Government feels that it is the urgent and important duty of the Government to alleviate the sad plight of the hapless mothers living below the poverty line, who

wring their hands in despair for want of the means to feed their children.

A scheme has therefore been formulated to provide poor children in the age group of 2-10 at least one nutritious meal at noon. This scheme will cover children below poverty line all over Tamilnadu for the provision of a nutritious meal free of cost from 1st July, 1982.

On the 30th of June, 1982, the eve of starting the project, the Hon'ble Chief Minister in his speech over the AIR and TV referred to the announcement made in the budget.

"In his immortal Tirukkural, while describing the ideal state, Saint Thiruvalluvar says :

"Where there is no terrible famine, no cruel pestilence, no foreign enemy to ravage, where peace always reigns, that is the ideal state."

On the one hand is the vast

growth in India's population which is nearing 70 crores, and on the other exist the evils of dire poverty. Therefore, is it any wonder that our doctors repeatedly point out that our children born in those circumstances, have emaciated bodies, dry lips and sunken eyes.

This scheme is an outcome of my experience of extreme starvation at an age when I knew only to cry when I was hungry. But for the munificence of a woman next door, who extended a bowl of rice gruel to us and saved us from the cruel hands of death, we would have departed this world long ago. Such merciful womenfolk having great faith in me elected me as Chief Minister of Tamilnadu.

To wipe the tears of these women I have taken up this project.

According to 1981 census, the population of Tamil Nadu works out to 4.82 crores. Children between the 2 to 5 age group constitute 42.10 lakhs. Children in the age group of 5-10 from 63.73

lakhs. Children in the age-group 2 to 10 constitute 105.83 lakhs. It has been declared that children living below the poverty line should be provided this free nutritious meal under the scheme."

**Programme :**

On the 1st July, 1982, Tamil Nadu introduced a scheme of historic significance, for providing a nutritious free meal to lakhs of poor children in the age group of 2 to 10. At the stroke of 12 noon that day, 55.96 lakhs of children sat down in thousands of Child Welfare Centres and Elementary Schools in rural areas of the whole State to partake of hot nutritious food served to them at Government cost. This colossal venture which is expected to bring about a significant change not only in the health condition of the children but in the social environment itself in the rural areas at a cost of more than Rs. 100 crores per year is the brain child of the popular Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran. The formidable dimensions of the problem and the staggering numbers involved called for meticulous planning to the minutest detail. It is to the credit of the administrative machinery that, inspired by the noble ideas behind this scheme, it has risen to the occasion and acquitted itself with a remarkable degree of efficiency, dependability and devotion. This scheme also depends for its success on the whole hearted co-operation extended by the public and the active vigil exercised by it, in monitoring implementation in the thousands of remotest villages - spread far and wide in the State. The magnificent welcome and response, this scheme has had from all sections of independent and enlightened public opinion has been a great boost to the morale of the staff engaged in implementation.

**The Beneficiaries-Age Group of "2 plus to 4 Plus" :**

The beneficiaries have been divided into two age-groups. The children in the age group 2 plus to 4 plus are catered to in the Child Welfare Centres where a trained Bala Sevika and two helpers to assist her are in charge. We have taken pains to recruit the Bala Sevika and the two helpers from the women of the locality itself as far as possible. The Bala Sevikas in most cases are S.S.L.C. passed girls in the age group 25 to 35 and in the case of widows 25 to 40. The helpers have



been recruited from those with an ability to read and write Tamil and are in the age group 25 to 40. In both cases, preference has been given to widows and destitute women. Bala Sevikas are paid Rs. 175 per month and the helpers Rs. 60 per month. It is the responsibility of the helpers to cook and serve food to the children. Bala Sevikas are in overall charge of the Centre and are entrusted with the responsibility of imparting pre-school education to the children. Educational aids and play materials at a cost of Rs. 600 for each of the Child Welfare Centres are being supplied in a phased manner. Cooking utensils, plates and tumblers for the children have been supplied to each centre at a cost of Rs. 2,000.

In this age group 2 plus to 4 plus, 20 lakh children were the beneficiaries as on 31-3-83

**School Age Group of 5 plus to 9 plus:**

Children in the age group 5 plus to 9 plus are catered to in the Elementary Schools where they are studying. A part-time cook on a remuneration of Rs. 2 per day and one helper to assist the cook and clean the vessels at Re. 1 per day are employed in each one of these schools. Where the strength of the beneficiaries is more than 500, provision has been made for the appointment of one additional cook.

**The Ingredients for the Meal :**

It has been laid down that for school children the ingredients of the nutritious meal should comprise of the following :

	grams.
Rice	100
Oil	5

Dhali	..	15
Condiments & Vegetables	..	50

For children of age group 2 to 4, the quantum of rice will be 80 grams and dhali 10 grams. Quantities of oil and vegetables will remain the same.

The scheme has brought in its fold children in the age group 2-5, besides catering to the children in the age group of 5 to 10 in the elementary schools. The scheme provides for feeding for all the 365 days in a year. The scheme provides for the feeding of all the children in a school who are below the poverty line. Instructions have also been issued that a very liberal view should be taken of the poverty criterion and that no child who volunteers to partake of the midday meal should be denied the opportunity.

The scheme provides for an outright grant of 45 paise for every child for feeding charges and 5 paise for every child for administrative expenses. The Government have thus undertaken the entire financial responsibility for the programme. The programme has pro-

vided for the appointment from Government funds of a cook for every 500 children in the school and a helper.

In response to the teaching community's request for additional help, the Government have decided to appoint Noon Meal Organisers for all the School feeding centres. Action has been taken to select suitable local candidates, preferably widows, destitutes and other women. Educational qualification of Noon Meal Organisers is pass in S.S.L.C. Examination. Age limit is between 25 to 40. In hilly and tribal areas, the lower limit is relaxed upto 18 years. The Noon Meal Organisers already assumed charge in 25,146 School feeding centres. It is expected that Noon Meal Organisers will assume charge of all the remaining school feeding centres shortly. They will be paid an honorarium of Rs. 150 p.m.

#### AMIGHTY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN :

Under this scheme, employment opportunities have been provided for 1,58,381 women, in rural and urban areas, particular preference being given among them to

widows and destitutes. This massive provision of employment opportunities has brought about a revolutionary change in the rural landscape and has been heralded as the single largest employment programme for the rural areas in independent India in the last 35 years.

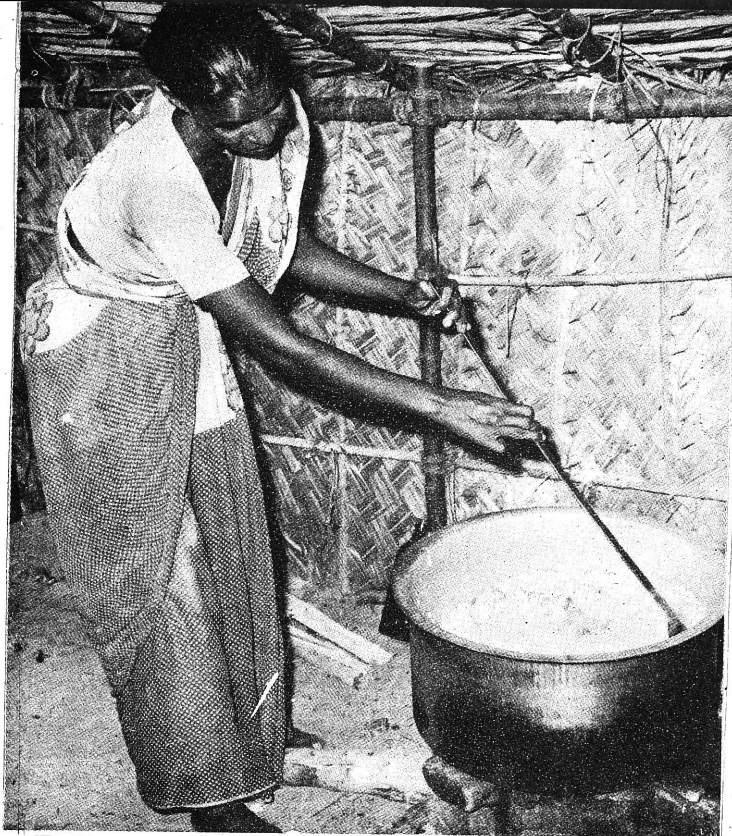
#### Employment in the pre-school sector:

Under this scheme, fresh employment opportunities have been provided for 78,490 women in the pre-school sector of this programme. The two categories in which women are employed, are Balasevikas (Child Welfare Organisers) and Child Welfare Assistants.

#### Employment in the School Sector :

Fresh employment has been generated in three categories namely Nutritious Meal Organisers, cooks and helpers. Of the 34,296 people employed as cooks, only 2,490 (less than 10%) are men and the balance 31,808 are women. In the 'Helper' category, out of the total 33,828 helpers, 2,396 (less than 10%) are men and the balance 31,432 helpers are women. 25,146 Nutritious Meal Organisers have already taken charge of all the school feeding centres.





tions of Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore, who had not been covered under the earlier phase.

As a result of this extension, more than 4 lakh children in the age group 2 plus to 4 plus and 2.5 lakh children in the age group 5 plus to 9 plus have become new beneficiaries. Of the 4 lakh children in the age group 2 plus to 4 plus more than 1.43 lakhs belong to Scheduled castes. Of the 2.5 lakh children in the age group 5 plus to 9 plus, more than 46,000 children belong to the Scheduled Castes. As a result of this extension now, in the State as a whole, 22.66 lakh children belonging to the age group 2 plus to 4 plus and 41.74 lakh children belonging to the age group 5 plus to 9 plus are now enjoying the benefits of the unprecedented scheme. This total number of 64.4 lakh children beneficiaries works out to more than 60 per cent of the total children population in this age group.

To sum up, as on 1-3-83, there are 33,829 school feeding centres and 27,920 pre-school feeding centres. The grand total is 61,749 feeding centres. Of these 90% of the centres are in rural areas.

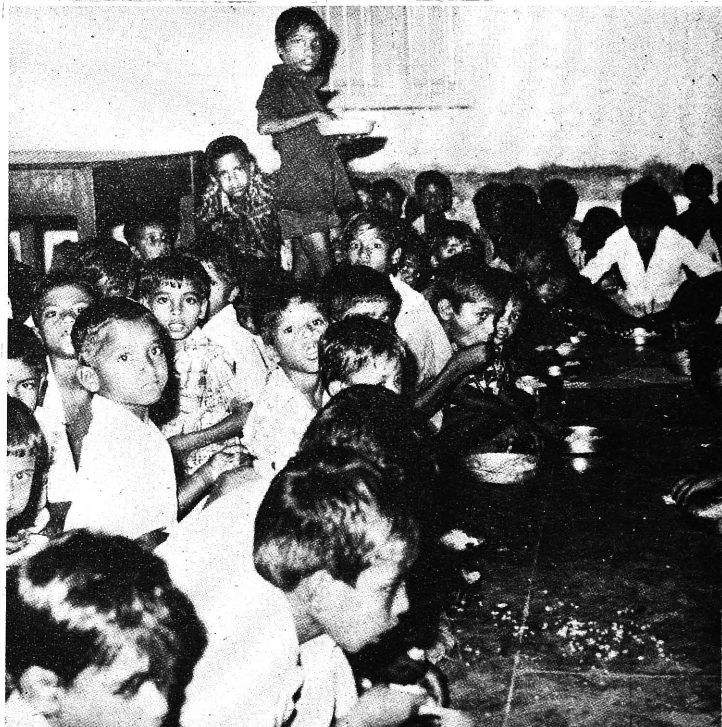
They will take charge of the remaining school feeding centres shortly.

To sum up, this programme has generated fresh employment opportunities for 1,80,118 people in rural and in urban areas. Of the total 1,80,118 people employed 1,58,381 are women.

Village Committees have been constituted giving representation to women, social workers, philanthropists and representatives of the underprivileged classes. These Committees have been entrusted with the responsibilities of monitoring the functioning of the new scheme in the locality. A network of feed-back and information has been built up, weaving official and non-official agencies.

**Extension of Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme to urban areas :**

The programme has been extended from the 15th September, 1982 to cover the 2 plus to 4 plus children in the urban centres and the school children in the Corpora-



**Buildings :**

A design for the construction of low cost and functional buildings for the feeding centres in the villages, each at a cost of Rs. 38,000 to Rs. 40,000 has been evolved. The administrative machinery has been overwhelmed with the generous response from the members of the public who have come forward with substantial donations to put up buildings at their own cost for such community feeding centres. The donors have been permitted to name these buildings in honour of the person of their choice. These buildings will be valuable additions to the tangible rural assets to be created under this programme.

**Extension of the Scheme to old Age Pensioners :**

The Government in G.O.Ms. No. 69, Social Welfare dated 11-1-1983, have now extended the existing Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme to cover the Old Age Pension beneficiaries in the State with effect from 15-1-1983. The number of beneficiaries under the scheme is 1,99,158. They are being served one free meal a day at a cost of 90 paise per head. The Old-Age Pensioners who are able to come to the centre are provided with a meal. They are also provided with 1/2 Kilo of rice per week per head, instead of one Kilo of rice. The Old Age Pensioners who do not come to the centre, and cannot

come to the centre will continue to draw the ration of 1 kilo of rice per week per head as per the old scheme. By this scheme, 2 lakh beneficiaries are provided with sustenance. Out of 1,99,158 total beneficiaries, about 1,10,799 are old-age pensioners, 43,888 are destitute widows, 14,471 are physically handicapped persons and 30,000 are agricultural labourers.

The following is the scale of ration per day per pensioner :

	grams
Rice	.. 200
Oil	.. 10
Dhalla	.. 15
Vegetables & Condiments	.. 50

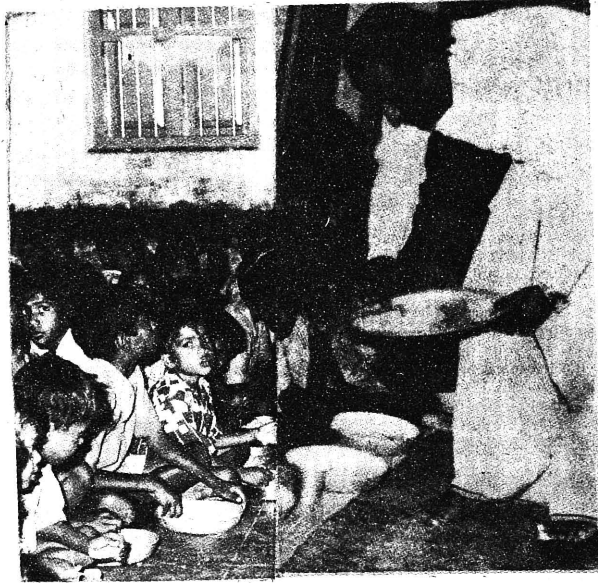
The cost of implementing this programme is estimated to be in the order of over R. 133 Crores per year. The break-up is as follows:

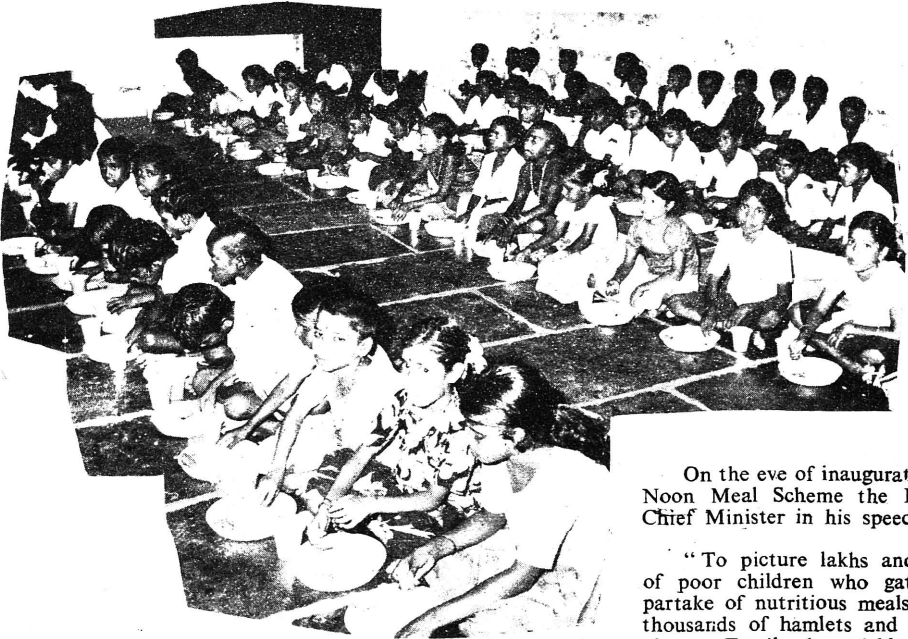
Rs. 120 Crores for Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme for Children.

Rs. 6.48 Crores for feeding Old-Age Pensioners.

Rs. 6 Crores for wages of Noon Meal Organisers.

The latest balance in Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme Fund is Rs. 2.30 Crores as on 15-3-1983. Rs. 2.40 lakhs have been released so far for construction of six pre-school feeding centres in 5 districts (i.e. Periyar, Tiruchirappalli, Dharmapuri, Madurai and Ramanathapuram). The mobilisation of resources of this order is expected to be a severe strain: but the State Government and more so, the people of Tamil Nadu, have come forward confidently and cheerfully to bear this burden because of their firm faith that this expenditure is an investment country, an advance deposit for the well being of the budding generation of to-morrow.





On the eve of inaugurating the Noon Meal Scheme the Hon'ble Chief Minister in his speech said:

"To picture lakhs and lakhs of poor children who gather to partake of nutritious meals in the thousands of hamlets and villages all over Tamilnadu and blessing us in their childish prattle, will be a glorious event."

Yes, the future citizens, are blessing us daily. We are creating a security for their bright future.

It is our duty to extend our cooperation and support in creating a new history to be written in letters of gold.

#### Conclusion -

In the past one year, this scheme has made great progress in redressing the grievances of the womenfolk as pointed out by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

To implement the Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Project more effectively, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has appointed a Minister with the portfolio of Nutritious Meal Scheme. Thiru R. Soundarajan has taken up the portfolio on 9-9-83.

# **NOTIFICATION FROM THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL**

TAMIL NADU, MADRAS-600 018.

## **ACCOUNT SLIPS FOR SUBSCRIBERS TO Provident Fund.**

The Account General (Tamil Nadu) has commenced the despatch of Account Slips for the year 1982-83 in respect of all the subscribers of the Tamil Nadu Government. These Account Slips are being forwarded to the Heads of Offices in which the subscribers were working in March 1983.

Government servants are, therefore, requested to contact the concerned Heads of Offices and collect their statements of accounts. In case of any discrepancy in the accounts, or non-receipt of Account slips by 30-9-1983, the undermentioned Officer may be addressed, giving full particulars of recoveries (Subscription or refunds) such as the month, gross and net amount of the concerned bill, head of account etc., as well as the Account Number of the subscriber. The letters may be sent through the concerned heads of Offices.

**Shri S. VISWANATHAN,**  
Accounts Officer,  
Office of the Accountant General I,  
MADRAS-600 018.



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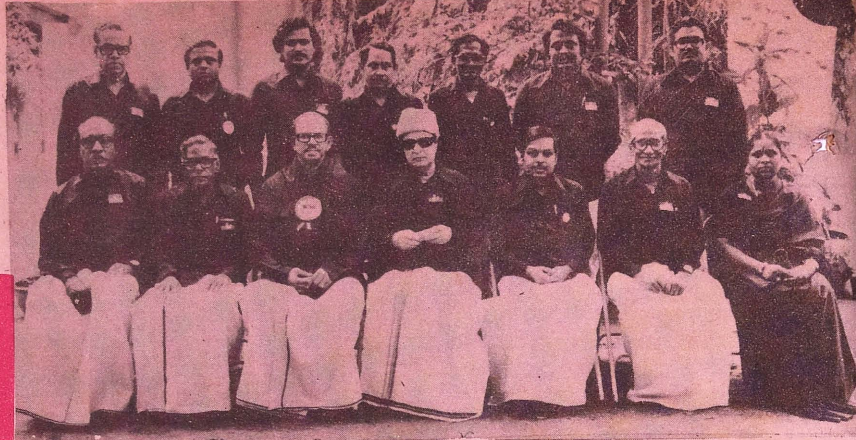
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and designs.



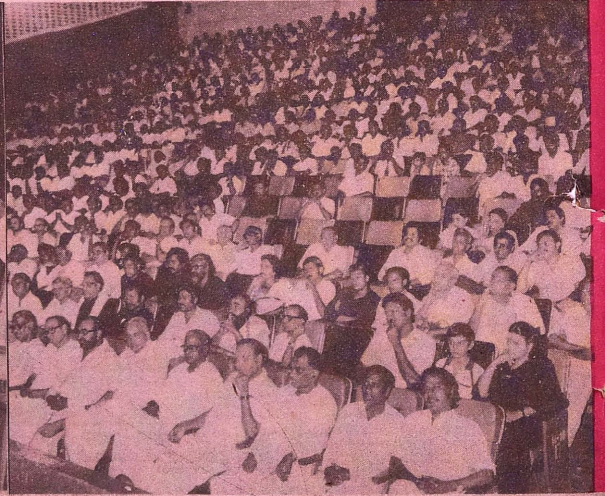
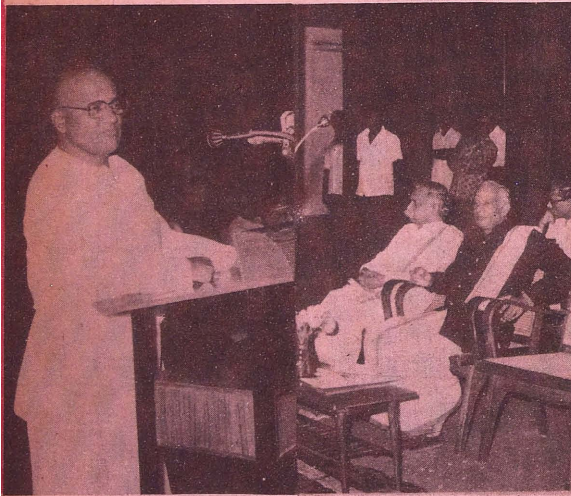
*Co-optex*  
HANDLOOMS



The Honourable Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues have taken to wearing black shirts to emphasize the necessity of arriving at a permanent solution to the problems of the Sri Lankan Tamils,



A meeting was held under the auspices of the commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Tamil Nadu) at Madras on 19-8-83. Thiru A. Amirthalingam TULF Secretary-General and leader of the opposition in Sri Lanka Parliament spoke on the Sri Lankan Tamils' problems. The Honourable speaker of the State Legislature, Thiru K. Rajaram and the Honourable Chairman, Legislative Council Thiru M. P. Sivagnanam participated in the meeting.



43 Adi-Dravida couples were united in wed-lock on 24-8-'83 at the Vadapalani Andavar Temple. The Honourable Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R. M. Veerappan presided over the function. Tmt. Rajammal Veerappan distributed thalis to the couples. The Minister is seen giving gifts to the couples.

