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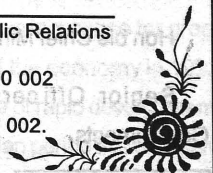
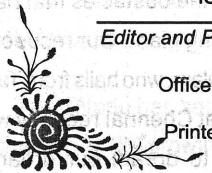
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Government of Tamil Nadu

Office : Tamil Arasu, Omandurar Govt. Estate, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002

☎ : 25368926 Fax : 25368926

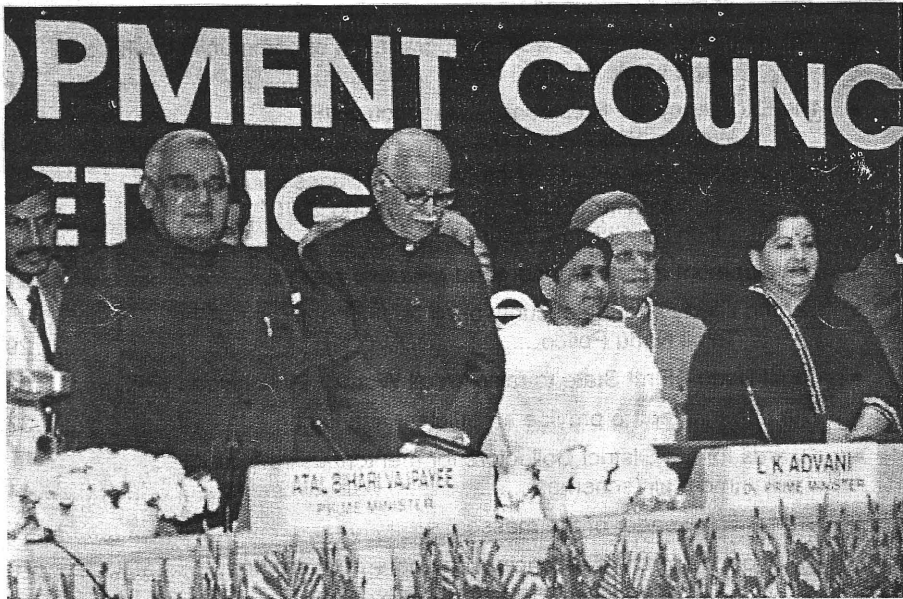
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“The level of central assistance to states, which do well, should be stepped up”

*Speech delivered by Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
at the fiftieth National Development Council Meeting held at New Delhi on 21.12.2002.*



Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee,

Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani,

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning
Commission Shri K.C. Pant,

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Shri Jaswant
Singh,

Hon'ble Chief Ministers of States,

Senior Officers of the Union and State
Governments,

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this meeting of the National Development Council, convened to discuss and finalise the Tenth Five Year Plan for the period 2002-2007. While this is the culmination of a long process of preparation, it also represents a new beginning in an era where we have to set our goals high, breaking free of the fetters of the past and vaulting over the obstacles that have held India back as a sleeping giant. Our respected President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who hails from Tamil Nadu, enthralled all of us at Chennai recently with his refrain that we have to dream our dreams,

transform our dreams into thought, and take sure footed action to realise the dreams. I have a vision of a powerful and strong India marching stridently ahead to take its rightful place amidst the comity of strong and developed nations. My vision is that of an India where hunger, malnutrition and starvation stand banished, where opportunities abound, and the youth of the country stride forward purposefully with self-esteem and confidence. I feel this process of finalisation of the Tenth Five Year Plan should be one where the vision is transformed into thought and action. The journey begins here as considerable thought has gone into the preparation of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Some critics could cavil at the temerity of going in for a high growth rate of 8% in the Tenth Plan Period. They will no doubt reinforce their argument with the lack lustre performance in the Ninth Five Year Plan Period, where the Gross Domestic product grew only by 5.35%. I do not wish to enter into a tautological debate on the feasibility of 8% as the growth rate for the Tenth Five Year Plan. It would suffice to say that when such a goal is not before us, we could end up capitulating without even a whimper. We need to go forward boldly and if there are bottlenecks, handicaps and obstacles, we should not fight shy of clearing them post haste. It calls for a united, concerted and bold effort by all the stakeholders, the people, the Union and the States.

Tamil Nadu has set for itself the national goal of achieving an 8% growth rate in GDP in the Tenth Five

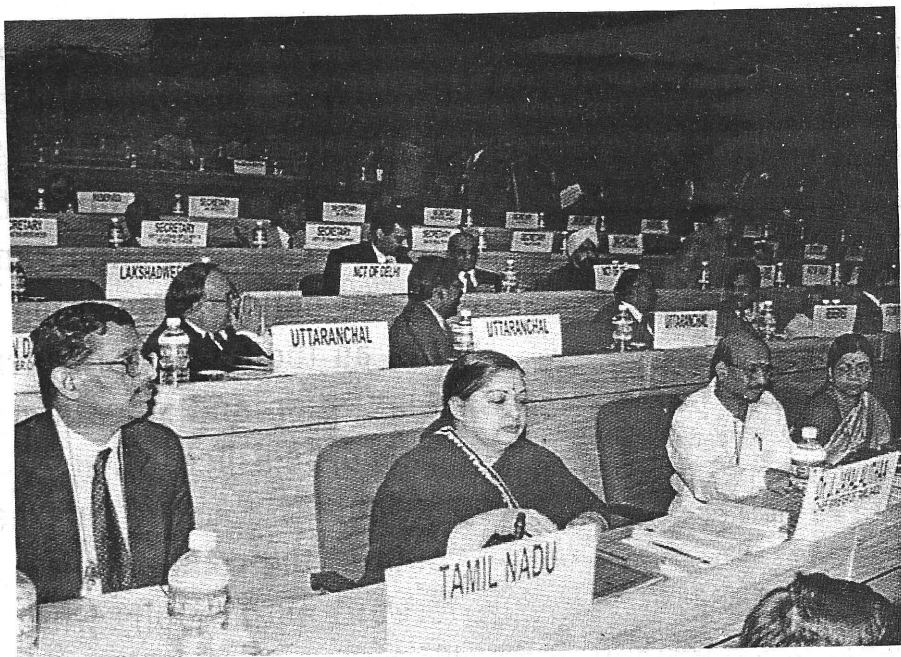
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I have a vision of a powerful and strong India marching stridently ahead to take its rightful place amidst the comity of strong and developed nations. My vision is that of an India where hunger, malnutrition and starvation stand banished, where opportunities abound, and the youth of the country stride forward purposefully with self-esteem and confidence.

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Year Plan. We will strain every sinew in not only reaching this goal but also surpassing it. I, for one, am committed to assessing what it takes to achieve this goal and then going on to do just that. The Tamil Nadu Tenth Five Year Plan actualises a 15 point outcome oriented programme that I have set. With a total outlay of Rs.40,000 crores, it is a road map for taking the State on a development path, with the specific goal of doubling the per capita income by 2010, two years before the national goal is realised.

The indepth analysis of the performance in the Ninth Five Year Plan period shows clearly that the rate of growth declined particularly in agriculture and the manufacturing sectors. This is a cause for great concern. The liberalisation of the economy in 1991 was expected to usher in an era of rapid development. While in the Eighth Five Year Plan period this did seem



to happen, the momentum certainly has not been kept up in the succeeding Ninth Plan period. This calls for introspection and careful analysis. While there is no question of putting the clock back, I would like this forum to reflect carefully on what has gone wrong, and whether the blue print before us, in the form of the Tenth Five Year Plan document, is adequate to achieve the higher goals we are now setting for ourselves in the Tenth Five Year Plan period.

I am glad that the weaknesses witnessed in the primary sector, particularly agriculture, have been candidly assessed. Herein lies our fundamental weakness in dramatically taking the attack on poverty forward, while at the same time providing greater opportunities for the rural poor. The worsening land man ratio compounded by serious water shortages, together with concerns on environmental sustainability, makes it imperative that we pay very

close attention to this sector. The limitations that are placed by land and water availability on agricultural output and employment, necessitate a fresh strategy to step up growth in this sector, which will provide meaningful opportunities. A whole host of measures are called for.

I have, therefore, set out to address this issue boldly in Tamil Nadu's Tenth Five Year Plan period. It is our effort to undertake a Comprehensive Wasteland Development Programme, which is based on an agricultural approach, identifying current fallows and permanent waste lands and bringing them back to productive use. Corporate houses have also been invited to undertake wasteland development projects, connecting them with an agri-business strategy to produce new products and reach new markets. Above all, by adopting a watershed approach, we wish to ensure environmental sustainability. The whole

programme has been carefully developed over the last year and is now ready to take off. I do believe this sustained programme will yield good results, imparting that extra impetus to the primary sector.

I am chagrined by the plateauing of growth in the agriculture sector in the Ninth Plan period. We have to place the right emphasis on new technologies, improved value addition, and capital investment in agriculture in the Tenth Plan period. I would like to see a determined effort to take across a new technology package to farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers, and get them to adopt these technologies. We have to work relentlessly for

improved productivity in cereals, millets, pulses and oil seeds and this has to be done in quick time. A national effort mirroring the green revolution of the Sixties is called for, and the Union Government should take the lead. Value addition by diversification to high value crops should be promoted. We should not be found wanting in accessing world markets which are to open up under the WTO regime. A most disquieting feature is the poor capital investment in agriculture. This has come about as a knee jerk reaction to the crisis in the financial system. A totally risk averse ethos is prevailing which calls for immediate correction. Mr. Prime Minister, I think you should intervene, in getting genuine credit needs for investment of the farm sector met. The Union Finance Minister and the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India need to focus on this key policy issue.

While dwelling on the primary sector, I wish to draw attention to the need for a national outlook in dealing with our water resources. As rightly stated in the Tenth Plan document, we will get nowhere by following a beggar-the-neighbour policy. I am glad to see that the Union Government has established a Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers. A very distant date of 12th December, 2016, has been set to complete the project of linking the rivers. I would like the Tenth Five Year Plan strategy to include the

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completion of the first series of links between the Mahanadhi and the Cauvery. Similar river links in the Southern Peninsula such as the west flowing Pamba Achankoil link to Vaippar providing a lifeline of support to an arid zone in Tamil Nadu should also be completed in the Tenth Plan period. Tamil Nadu is a water starved State and we look forward keenly to rapid progress in undertaking this massive programme as part of the Tenth Plan.

I also wish to draw attention to the anomalous situation in the formula for distributing Central assistance for State Plans, whereby a component is reserved for States having medium and major irrigation projects. Tamil Nadu, which has completely exhausted its surface water resources and is now facing extreme distress due to denial even of its legitimate share of water, is doubly hit by this formula. In the context of a national programme for the interlinking of rivers, I would like to suggest that this component may be revised to provide funds for wasteland and watershed development and rainwater harvesting, rather than State sponsored irrigation projects. This will place due emphasis on the need for conservation of water. A strong signal on water use efficiency needs to be sent and this appears to be the best way to do it.

I would now like to turn to the secondary sector and more particularly to the manufacturing sector. The performance in the Ninth Plan period has been disappointing. There is a tendency for the Union Government to take a standoffish view that the first generation of reforms is over and it is now for the States to put through the second generation of reforms. Post liberalisation, we waited to see manufacturing grow by leaps and bounds. This has

not happened. Recent studies have shown the several factors that render Indian manufacturing non-competitive. These include issues to be addressed by the Union and the States. I would like to call for an agenda of second-generation reforms to be taken up by the Union and the States, that will reposition Indian manufacturing in the new global scenario. I have a vision of Tamil Nadu following an export led growth model, and we are extremely keen to get on with this. States are willing to push ahead with the second generation of reforms as evidenced by the unanimity to go in for a State VAT from 1st April, 2003. Simplification of procedures, elimination of transaction costs, deregulation, reduction of transaction time at ports and customs, interest rate corrections, labour reforms, labour productivity, correction of energy pricing, and improvement of quality of energy supply - we can have a comprehensive list and tackle it within a specified time frame. Let us put manufacturing back as a priority item on the agenda.

We have placed special emphasis in Tamil Nadu's Tenth Five Year Plan on building world-class infrastructure consisting of roads, water supply, energy, urban services and ports. We shall, through an enabling law, involve the private sector in this effort. Adequate capital has to be found for this major task and the Union Government should enable this.

I am greatly concerned by the lack of a proper policy frame for Small-Scale Industries. I understand much of China's laudable growth comes from the vibrant small manufacturing enterprises. Unfortunately, there has been no drive to foster such growth in India. We need to go all out and make this happen. This is where employment intensity is higher and new

opportunities can be created. A new policy package of technology upgradation, world market based quality improvement credit and deregulation will have to be evolved. This has to be put through in quick time. The greatest problem seems to be, again, credit. It is high time the Union Finance Minister steps in and resolves this paradox of high liquidity with banks and lack of credit for genuine requirements of small manufacturing enterprises.

I am a bit surprised that the strategy paper in the draft Tenth Five Year Plan document does not focus on the services sector. In fact, it is this sector which has shored up the growth rate in the Ninth Five Year Plan, and it is here that opportunities can be extended to realise the key employment goals that have been set for the next 10 years. I endorse the vision of creating 100 million employment opportunities over the next 10 years, as announced by the Prime Minister. It would however be simplistic to assume that the targeted growth rates, if achieved, can provide this level of new opportunities. Obviously, investment in infrastructure, improvement in the efficiency of capital, a better investment climate and good governance, can contribute to a robust growth rate in the services sector. Tamil Nadu, as a leading provider of technical manpower in the country, will strive to create a knowledge based society with tremendous opportunities in the services sector. While the down turn in the capital spending in the Information Technology sector has dampened the growth prospects in

recent years, signs of revival cannot be far away. We have therefore persisted in creating adequate infrastructure for turning out the right kind of technical manpower, who can adjust to the changing global environment. We perceive the services sector to be information technology and tourism led, in the Tenth Plan period. We shall concentrate on these areas, in addition to the traditional segments in this sector. The success of the Tenth Five Year Plan and the stated goals will depend very largely on our ability to provide the right kind of environment to facilitate accelerated growth in the services sector.

I have briefly touched upon some of the major concerns relating to the growth forecast in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Certainly, we have major storm clouds confronting us. The global economic down turn and

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In Tamil Nadu, we believe in constructive and rapid progress in this area of good governance. Roadblocks, if any, will be removed. We are also moving fast, harnessing the power of information technology in creating value added e-governance practices.



the dim prospects for the Indian economy in the current fiscal year are indeed depressing. Yet, one can take comfort the fact that the Indian economy has been resilient enough not to see an even sharper down turn, inspite of adverse seasonal conditions, in this gloomy sequence of events. Further, it should only strengthen our resolve to set our house in order and create the correct environment for the upswing when it does happen, as it certainly will.

It is not for me to stray into the arcane world of macro economic considerations, which have gone into the formulation of the Tenth Five Year plan. I would only like to draw attention to some crucial issues. A key assumption has been made on the investment required to generate the projected growth rates. The underlying theme has been to use capital more productively by securing efficiency gains. No one can really have an objection to this assumption. The implicit understanding that the investment requirement can be lower, with policy and procedural reforms and through better governance, indicates

the imperative need to push ahead in these areas. World-class infrastructure, however, calls for higher investment levels. Some States, such as Tamil Nadu which are committed to an export led growth strategy, may indeed need a higher level of investment intensity to make this happen.

I now turn to the question of a higher savings rate, which is crucial. The higher investment requirement of the Tenth Five Year Plan calls for a remarkable step up in domestic savings, with a sharp reduction in the dissavings of the public sector. We have to encourage savings and target these savings towards the investments needed. It comes as a rude shock that the report of the

Task Force on Direct Taxes has recommended that the Union Government should do away with all the tax exemptions available for small savings. This will spell the doom of the States and render it impossible to fulfil the Tenth Five Year Plan even at the start. It seems incongruous that on the one hand we are looking at investment levels by States which are substantially higher, and on the other hand we are doing away with the wherewithal available to the States to finance such a Plan. Mr. Prime Minister, I request that this disentitlement of small savings, which has been proposed, may be given up, and the existing benefits retained in the coming budget. I am all for tax simplification which the Task Force has proposed, but let us not take such a high risk gamble involving State Plans, even at the very start of the Tenth Five Year Plan period.

Ultimately, the litmus test of any Plan lies in the outcomes it seeks to accomplish. The strategy paper

before us clearly indicates that additional employment is a key goal. Tamil Nadu, with an unemployment rate of 12.05%, which is the third highest among all States, has a serious problem. In the social context that we are confronted with today, any denial of opportunities, particularly to the youth, can have extremely serious effects, which undesirable extremist forces can easily exploit. In all humility, I would like to suggest that this goal of providing opportunities needs to be monitored very closely, and we should not feel shy of meeting again and reassessing our position if the level of creation of new opportunities is not keeping pace with what we have set out to do.

Another key outcome which we expect of the Tenth Five Year Plan is a dramatic reduction in poverty. I find that State specific targets for poverty reduction have been included in the draft Plan document. While it will no doubt be our endeavour to fashion a strategy which will see such a sharp percentage of reduction of the percentage of the poor, I do wish to point out that given the land and water shortages that we face in Tamil Nadu, affecting the primary sector, it will be an uphill task. It is here that the Union Government should support us in our specific poverty alleviation programmes. Another factor we have to contend with is that the percentage of urban poor will now be far higher than the percentage of the rural poor. It will be useful, as part of the Tenth Five Year Plan strategy, to have State specific poverty alleviation projects which can perhaps be funded even by external agencies such as the World Bank.

While growth is a necessary condition, it is not by itself enough to ensure that our people do get an improved quality of life. The vast literature available on human development indices and poverty alleviation

indicate clearly how, even with a lower growth rate, life can be better for the poor. Tamil Nadu has traditionally done very well, ranking third in the human development index. In the wake of the liberalisation process initiated in 1991, I had spoken at this very forum about the need for an effective social safety net, to protect the poor from the rigours of the structural adjustments process. I am glad that since 1995, this has become the National Social Assistance Programme. I am determined to protect and see improvement in real terms in social infrastructure such as education, health, nutrition and social welfare. Housing and hygiene, which constitute a real improvement in the quality of life, need to be given high priority. Investment in housing also creates huge employment opportunities. We should not, in the pursuit of tax reforms, give up the incentives for housing, as savings channelised into housing, do foster the growth and creation of employment opportunities.

I am glad that certain monitorable targets of outcomes have been set out, including poverty reduction education, reduction of gender gaps in literacy and wages, reduction in population growth rate, increase in literacy, reduction in Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate and so on. While all these outcomes are extremely desirable and should be adopted, it is in the actual realisation of these outcomes that the essence of good governance assumes pivotal proportions. It is in the Tenth Five Year Plan, more than ever before, with its optimistic assumption on savings and the incremental capital output ratio, that the gap between success and failure can be bridged by huge gains in efficiency, brought about by good governance. I am all for a consensus on what constitutes good governance and for an action

plan to deliver all these. In a recent conference of District Collectors, I have specifically focussed on this. In fact, my perception of the Tenth Five Year Plan strategy is the way we spend funds or how we spend on programmes, rather than how much. It is here that good governance practices come to the fore. In Tamil Nadu, we believe in constructive and rapid progress in this area of good governance. Roadblocks, if any, will be removed. We are also moving fast, harnessing the power of information technology in creating value added e-governance practices. I do not wish to take up time elaborating on this, except to say that Tamil Nadu is striding forward purposefully in ensuring good governance practices.

Lastly, I would like to turn to what we all collectively wish to sweep under the carpet. This is the crucial question of financing the Central Plan and the State Plans. A healthy state of Central finances is also a cause for comfort and happiness to the States. I do hope the Union Finance Minister is listening. It is a matter of great concern that Central revenues are not doing well. Mr. Prime Minister, this is a critical issue, which needs to be addressed immediately, namely, the pulling up of Central tax revenues from the low level of 8.6% of GDP to beyond 10% next year.

As for the States, they have huge fiscal problems. Unfortunately, the meeting convened in October 2002 could not resolve any of these problems. May I appeal to you, Mr. Prime Minister, to take a large hearted and broad-minded view of the extreme fiscal distress faced by the States, to extend a meaningful debt relief and debt swap package to the States? Interest rates on State Plan loans need to be cut sharply by at least 4 percentage points. Otherwise, we face the grave danger of the Tenth Five Year Plan document

becoming only a statement of glorious intent, with no purpose. State Plan investments in infrastructure, poverty alleviation and social sectors, are crucial for the success of the Tenth Five Year Plan. Any further delay could only jeopardise the attainment of all the outcomes we have prescribed in this plan document.

With a little effort, we can have a consensus on fiscal reforms to be undertaken both by the Centre and the States. In fact, I pleaded in the meeting in October 2002 for some seemingly harsh but necessary decisions, to take us forward to a meaningful development agenda. We are also faced with a babble of voices from the opposition, questioning fiscal reforms, with the sole intention of getting us to flounder and run aground. Mr. Prime Minister, a minimum agenda of fiscal reforms should be set out, which should be adopted by the Centre and all the States.

I notice that there are serious inconsistencies in the level of Central support for State Plans. Inefficiency and neglect are rewarded in terms of higher Central assistance. This proceeds from a mistaken notion that higher levels of fiscal support can guarantee better outcomes. Rewards and incentives should be limited to those who perform. This is the spirit, which should go into the Tenth Five Year Plan. All talk of good governance has no meaning, if this principle is not upheld. The level of Central assistance to States, which do well, should be stepped up. There is no case for handholding laggard States any more. A State like Tamil Nadu, which was delivered a body blow by the Eleventh Finance Commission, is hit again by reduced Central assistance for its Plan. This is clearly a case of pulling down a State, which does well.

I have already brought to notice, the inadequacy of the fiscal reforms facility, following the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. If the States are to be enabled to perform the Tenth Five Year Plan, there has to be a substantial fiscal reforms facility, which will provide funds to stabilise the State's fiscal position, before fiscal reforms take hold completely. May I request the Union Finance Minister to provide such a facility in the current financial year, to States which have actually embarked upon a minimum agenda of fiscal reforms? In the medium term, the States can be supported by a structural adjustment facility, which can encompass more reforms over a longer period.

I would also like to point out some serious risks faced by the States. When we move to VAT by 1st April, 2003, we face the risk of a large revenue loss. This has to be compensated 100 percent for a period of 3 years. So also, any phase out of Central Sales Tax has to be accompanied by a permanent hundred percent compensation mechanism.

The Prime Minister has referred to 4 broad sets of issues to be addressed by Sub Committees. I have pointed out the need for a consensus on these issues in my speech. I welcome the proposal to constitute these Sub Committees.

I have dwelt on a few issues in the context of the Development Agenda that has been brought out in the draft Tenth Five Year Plan document. As always, it is in the execution that the real test lies. A plan document cannot be allowed to become a mere statement of glorious intent, a piece of purple prose with little action. The people, the Centre and the States as stakeholders, have the responsibility to deliver on

Obviously, investment in infrastructure, improvement in the efficiency of capital, a better investment climate and good governance, can contribute to a robust growth rate in the services sector. Tamil Nadu, as a leading provider of technical manpower in the country, will strive to create a knowledge based society with tremendous opportunities in the services sector.

the stated goals. The people have to participate in this process. It is our bounden duty to create this enabling atmosphere, to facilitate growth and development. We have also to take across to the people this defining moment is our economic history, when we have to push ahead very fast even to stay where we are, in an extremely competitive global environment. India can no more remain a poor cousin in the Asian region. It has the potential to become an economic super power given its human resources. It is time for us to embark boldly on a strategy which turns the economy inside out, reaching for new goals benchmarked against the fastest growing economies, using human resource as the main driver of growth rather than capital. To do so, we have to quickly move towards being a knowledge driven economy. This has to be the new paradigm. It has to be our collective effort to enable this transformation to happen in the Tenth Five Year Plan Period.



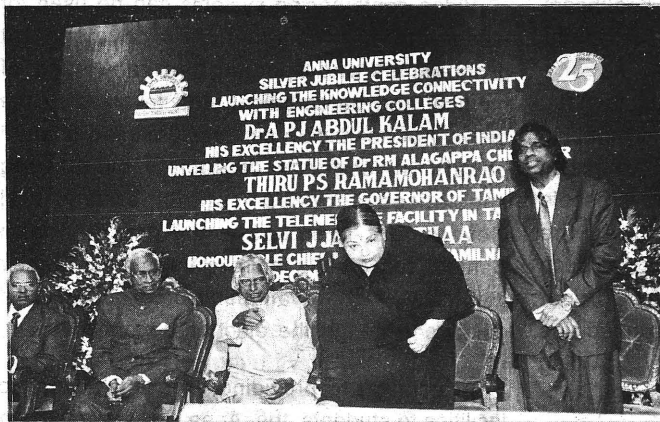
Telemedicine paves the way for upgradation of Community Health Care in the whole of Tamil Nadu

- Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHA

I have immense pleasure in associating myself with this memorable function and addressing this distinguished gathering today. Anna University, one of the premier Technical Universities in India, has a long history and a glorious past. Starting from a small Survey school way back in 1794, it was transformed into a unitary type University in the year 1978 by the amalgamation of four institutions, namely : (1) College of Engineering, Guindy, (2) Madras Institute of Technology, Chromepet, (3) Alagappa College of Technology, and (4) School of Architecture and Planning, Guindy, by the then AIADMK Government, headed by our illustrious leader Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. It was Dr.MGR's farsighted and grand vision, which perceived a greater and larger role for Anna

University in shaping the destiny of Technical education in Tamil Nadu. Today, with all the 240 Engineering Colleges in the State brought under the fold of Anna University, Dr. MGR's dream of making the Anna University a Technical Education Centre of International repute and the best in the entire country has been realised. With the Anna University having attained the enviable distinction of being the largest Technological University in the entire world, I have great pleasure in participating in its Silver Jubilee Celebrations currently underway.

My Government's main objective has been to expose our students pursuing technical education to the latest technology in their chosen fields of science and engineering, and



I hope that these multi-functional expert teams of Anna University will work in tandem with the Government of Tamil Nadu in such a way that the State of Tamil Nadu attains a status of pre-eminence and glory in the arena of technical education.

I have great pleasure in launching today the Telemedicine programme instituted at the Anna University, in the august presence of His Excellency the President of

India, who is himself a renowned technocrat and a great visionary. It is gratifying to note that the Anna University and Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, have taken the initiative to provide medical expertise and medical infrastructure through virtual technologies, even to the remotest rural regions in Tamil Nadu.

thus enable them to meet the requirements of the ever expanding hi-tech industries of the world. They are trained to undertake need-based activities that benefit society by making available at very low costs, what the members of society require. This is the main focus of the technical education system in Tamil Nadu today, with the Anna University taking up the onerous duty of raising the calibre of each of the 240 affiliated Engineering Colleges in its fold to international standards. Speed has become the Anna University's dominant theme, with innovation and invention remaining its bench marks for attaining excellence in this competitive field.

There needs to be a strong partnership, a highly contributory collaboration, amongst different sets of professionals involved in the development of the country - educationists, scientists, technologists, researchers, and industrialists. I attach the highest importance to the active participation of technocrats in nation-building activities, who can make new technologies work to the advantage of society. It is with this laudable aim that we have transformed the Anna University into an affiliating type of University, with 240 Engineering colleges brought under its fold now, so that it can meet the challenges of the fast growing global needs.

Telemedicine refers to "health care delivery", where doctors examine distant patients through the use of telecommunication technologies. It brings a wider range of services such as radiology, mental health services and a host of other branches of medicine such as neurology, cardiology, gynaecology, dermatology etc. to under-served communities and individuals in both urban and rural areas. Telemedicine can also greatly enhance and add to the retention of health professionals in rural areas, who can still receive necessary training and collaboration with other medical professionals through the Telemedicine stream. I learn that Telemedicine has proved to be a very viable option for a second opinion and has on many occasions facilitated rural doctors to take crucial and Life-saving decisions. Thus, the Telemedicine system virtually provides a national platform for the exchange of health information and medical knowledge, cutting across geographical barriers,

by providing a link between tertiary healthcare and remote areas in all fields of medicine.

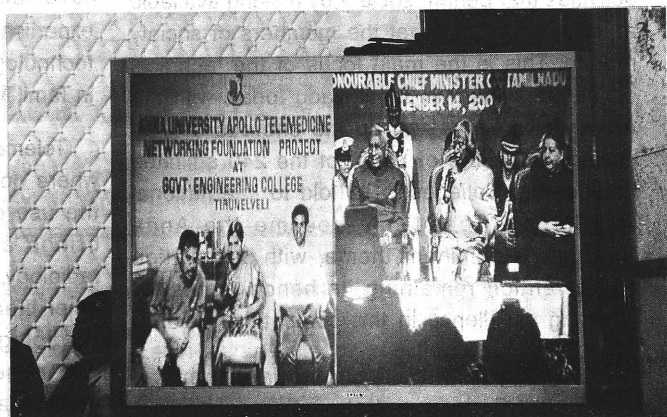
We are aware that in spite of the dramatic advances made in the medical field, geographic and economic isolation have denied access to proper health care services to millions of people across the country. Telemedicine has the potential to offer high quality facilities to all such needy people who suffer from lack of proper medical attention. Apart from that, Telemedicine can also greatly help rural women by providing them with information regarding -

- ★ Prenatal care
- ★ Identification of high risk cases of pregnancy and
- ★ Immunization schemes for newborn babies, etc.

Although the concept of providing patients with medical expertise through Telemedicine is still in its infancy in India, I am happy that Anna University has taken a pioneering step in this right direction in collaboration with the Apollo Hospitals in making Telemedicine a reality in Tamil Nadu. I am sure that the Tele-medicine programme developed jointly by Anna University and Apollo Hospitals will enthuse the students of these Engineering Colleges to work towards the objective of social contribution including AIDS awareness and community health in several remote but deserving areas. I am sure with the interest and involvement evinced by the electronics and telecommunication industries, the health care sector will absorb these cutting edge technologies and strive to provide medical assistance to the poor and the downtrodden, especially in the rural areas.

Video conferencing systems can be used for transmitting community development programmes and updating the knowledge of medical and paramedical staff involved in the delivery of healthcare services. Telemedicine will benefit all sections of society by offering specialized services instantaneously, and Government hospitals and Primary Health Centers can greatly improve the quality of their service with the availability of expertise and guidance through the electronic mode.

In addition to providing excellent academic facilities to students, the Anna University is keen on extending healthcare benefits to the students of colleges located in different campuses throughout the State of Tamil Nadu. Presently, it has set up 25 Telemedicine Consulting Centres



and hopes to offer assistance to all other engineering colleges. In this context, I would like to request all the engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu to extend their earnest co-operation to the Anna University, so that Telemedicine facilities in their premises can be established in a time bound manner. I hope that the Anna University will develop Telemedicine connectivity to all the 240 Engineering Colleges with the support of Apollo Hospitals. When this Telemedicine connectivity comes into being in

its entirety, each of these 240 Engineering Colleges with Telemedicine connectivity will have functional Community Health Centres within its fold. Since these colleges are distributed throughout Tamil Nadu, if each college allows the public in the neighbouring villages to make use of the Telemedicine unit, Tamil Nadu will achieve the unique distinction of enabling 95% of the population of the State to have instantaneous access to secondary and tertiary medical expertise, thus paving the way for upgradation of community health care in the whole of Tamil Nadu.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the 35 engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu which have extended their fullest support to the Government of Tamil Nadu by providing the necessary infrastructure and expertise for giving computer training to nearly 6000 Police personnel over a period of 6 months. I look forward to such co-operation from all Engineering Colleges which can extend support to the Government in all such niche areas for the continued development of the State in all realms.

I take this opportunity to convey a request to all the Health Care Professionals in Tamil Nadu to involve themselves with the noble cause of 'Telemedicine' systems and work towards the goal of extending the latest medicare facilities to all sections of society irrespective of economic status. I would like to congratulate the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Balagurusamy and his enthusiastic team for having embarked on an immensely useful project of this kind. In this context, I would like to assure you that the Government of Tamil Nadu will extend all support to such service-oriented activities.

There is a famous saying that: 'Hard work is the most critical ingredient of success'. Hard work must be directed towards a purpose. You have to identify the purpose, which inspires you,

which challenges you and gives you tremendous satisfaction to pursue. Let the purpose you choose be Service to Humanity. Pursue this purpose with a single minded, determined, and unwavering perseverance and the whole world will be yours. I would like to remind you of what sage Thiruvalluvar has said in his Thirukkural.

"ஞாலம் கருதினும் கைகூடும் காலம்
கருதி இடத்தாற் செயின்"

which means that: "you can conquer the world by doing the appropriate deed at the appropriate time."

The Anna University's contribution to the field of technical education has made Tamil Nadu the most technically powerful knowledge State in the entire country. I wish to convey my hearty congratulations to the Faculty, Research Scientists and students for their splendid performance in their chosen academic pursuits, and I am sure that, as a result of your brilliant efforts, Anna University will keep soaring to greater heights in future.

I thank His Excellency, the Governor, who is the Chancellor of this University, and the Vice-Chancellor for having invited me to participate in this memorable function. I am equally happy that His Excellency the President of India has chosen to attend this function in Anna University on his first visit to Tamil Nadu his home state after being sworn in as the President of India.

Once again I wish you all a great future resplendent with prosperity and success in all your endeavours.

Thank you.

*Speech delivered by
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
'Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,
at the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of
Anna University on 14.12.2002*

His Excellency the President's of interaction with Women Self Help Groups

His Excellency, the President of India, Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam had an interaction with Women Self Help Groups of Medavakkam, Pozhichalur, Thirisoolam and Nanmangalam villages of Kancheepuram district on 15.12.2002. The visit and interaction with the Self Help Groups was not part of the President's original itinerary. During the course of the State Dinner at Raj Bhavan on 14.12.2002, while conversing with the President, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa mentioned to the President the success of the movement of Women's empowerment now sweeping Tamil Nadu, which was pioneered by the Chief Minister in 1992, during her first tenure in office.

Expressing keen interest in this silent revolution ushered in by the Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa, the President wanted to meet and interact with some women's groups. Accordingly, deviating from protocol, an impromptu interaction was arranged for the President. Nearly 100 women from Self Help Groups of Medavakkam, Pozhichalur, Thirisoolam and Nanmangalam villages of



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa who envisioned the formation of Women Self Help Groups as a vehicle for elevating the economic, educational and health status of women in Tamil Nadu, has now given it a new direction by announcing a massive programme covering 5 lakh women over a period of 5 years of Entrepreneurship Development Training for Women of Self Help Groups. The Self Help Group movement in Tamil Nadu now covers 1,12,815 groups and has a membership of 19,33,911 women. Rural women are encouraged to pool their savings and undertake various economic schemes. The group level savings now stand at a huge amount of Rs.238.60 crores. 6,15,000 women have now been able to access institutional credit of Rs.290 crores for undertaking various economic activities.

Kancheepuram district were present when the interaction took place at the Alandur Municipal Commissioner's Office. Highly impressed by the enthusiasm displayed by these Women SHGs, the President wished the women all success and spent about 40 minutes with them, evincing keen interest in their activities. The President was received by the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, the Secretary, Social Welfare and the Collector of Kancheepuram District. The Collector, Kancheepuram District made a presentation on the Self Help Group Programme in the State. The President also witnessed an exhibition of products manufactured by the women under various economic activities undertaken by them. ★



"My vision for the people of Tamil Nadu includes doubling the percapita income of the State by 2010"

Key note address of
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
at the Regional Poverty Assessment
Symposium organised by IFAD
at Chennai on 1.12.2002

"It gives me great pleasure to participate in the Regional Poverty Assessment Symposium organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) this morning, and deliver the keynote address. I take this opportunity to extend a hearty welcome to Mr Lennart Bage, President IFAD, and his team, on their visit to Chennai and Tamil Nadu – a visit that I should say was long overdue, given the cherished association of our Government with IFAD, in the implementation of the extremely successful Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project.

The Government of Tamil Nadu and IFAD share a common vision of eradicating poverty, hunger, destitution and dependency amongst the deprived sections of our Society. This visit also gives us an opportunity to renew our commitment and explore new realms of co-operation for attainment of these shared objectives.

During the 1980s and 1990s, much of the developing world moved towards implementing market-friendly reforms through the process of economic liberalization and globalization. The economic landscape of many countries, in the new millennium, stands dramatically altered. Direct Government involvement in economic activity is being scaled back and domestic markets are now more open to international competition. Have these widespread reforms delivered the expected results? What have the attendant structural changes meant for the poor?

Cross-country studies reveal that, on an average, the process of liberalization and globalization has created very visible dislocations. The reforms programme has been accompanied by great pain and hardship in the East European countries like Romania, Poland, and the countries constituting the former Soviet Union. Herein lies a significant lesson. Reforms may be necessary to find a place in the new world economic order, but it would be perilous to ignore the particular vulnerability of the poor during this process.

India embarked on the process of economic and fiscal policy reforms in the wake of a serious balance of payments crisis in 1991. The euphoria of the initial years has been replaced by concern that rapid growth has not been sustained. We are now at the beginning of the Tenth Plan and our future strategies have to be delineated against this background.

I have often asked myself some basic questions: What are we trying to achieve through this process of economic liberalization and globalization? I know I want Tamil Nadu to become the No. 1 State in the country, with the human development indicators being among the best in the country and matching the best in Asia. How am I placed to achieve these objectives? Quite in an unenviable position, I must say, but I strive to make up for lost time.

Anticipating the initial distortions that the process of economic and fiscal policy reforms would create, I had categorically set out the need for a comprehensive social safety net to cushion the poor from the adverse effects of reforms. We, in Tamil Nadu, during 1991-1996, had created such a comprehensive social safety net to protect the poor. I am happy to say that the National Social Action Programme of the Union Government in 1995 was conceptualized based on the lead given by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The recent directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to all the State Governments, on the provision of a hot mid-day meal to children in schools, also takes its cue from the comprehensive scheme launched by my political mentor Dr. MGR, when he was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1982 - twenty years ago. With assistance from IFAD, Tamil Nadu pushed ahead in empowering women in the period 1991-96. The self-help groups established then have, without doubt, helped the State and the poor to face up to the rigours of the structural adjustment process, when growth did not keep pace with expectations.

While growth by itself is no elixir for poverty alleviation, it is often a good precursor in our fight against poverty. In this context, I have been quite concerned at the plateauing of growth, particularly in the primary sector of the State in the last 5 years. While agriculture and the primary sector continue to remain the mainstay of a vast majority of our population, namely 62%, its contribution to the overall GSDP is just 17%. This points to continuing pressure in rural areas and a continuing susceptibility to swings in rural poverty levels. Unemployment in Tamil Nadu is the third highest in the country at 15%. These have strengthened the perception that the growth process in the past has not involved the poor and has, in fact, widened income inequalities.

I have the formidable task of picking up the threads left from my previous tenure in office, after an interval of five years, and imparting a new momentum to the poverty alleviation effort. I have to contend with the State's finances being in complete disarray due to mismanagement of the State's finances and wrong policies pursued by the predecessor Government, and to face the heart-wrenching prospect of even cutting back outlays for the social sector, health and primary education. I am determined not to allow this to happen.

I share the view that poverty constitutes pronounced deprivation of well-being. The poor

"Our success in eradicating poverty and improving the standards of living of the people would depend on promoting opportunities, facilitating empowerment, enhancing security and good governance. What the poor need is an enabling environment that provides them with material opportunities to break free from a life of perpetual destitution."

are denied the fundamental freedoms of action and choice. It encompasses economic insecurity, vulnerability, powerlessness, shame of dependence and social isolation.

Our success in eradicating poverty and improving the standards of living of the people would depend on promoting opportunities, facilitating empowerment, enhancing security and good governance. What the poor need is an enabling environment that provides them with material opportunities to break free from a life of perpetual destitution. An effective poverty reduction strategy, therefore, requires concerted and complementary action on all the four fronts through the Government, private sector, civil society and the poor themselves.

My vision for the people of Tamil Nadu includes doubling the per capita income of the State by 2010. Keeping this in mind, my Government has evolved a multi-pronged strategy to remove the fetters and to provide each individual with what Professor Amartya Sen describes as "the capabilities that a person has, that is, the substantive freedoms he or she enjoys, to lead the kind of life he or she values". Our strategy includes:

- ★ Stimulating growth by reviving the performance of the agricultural and industrial sectors, to ensure sustained and remunerative livelihood security for the people.
 - ★ Fostering comprehensive rural and urban infrastructure development with the objective of increasing the opportunities for the people. Increased opportunities would lead to enhanced purchasing power for the rural populace, which in turn, would translate into demand for goods and services produced by the agricultural and industrial sectors of the economy.
 - ★ High and unsustainable revenue deficits and fiscal deficits could imperil the Government's ability to provide security for the poor. Fiscal consolidation is thus a must.
 - ★ Good-governance practices, democratic decentralization and a caring administration would seek to eliminate the avoidable transaction costs and make administration truly participatory and people-oriented.
- My Government has announced our commitment to increasing the agricultural growth rate to 4 percent in the Tenth Plan Period (2002-2007). Our approach towards the primary sector would include the following:
- ★ Optimizing land area under cultivation by integrating wasteland reclamation with watershed development and rainwater harvesting. Small and marginal farmers, for a variety of reasons, leave their land fallow. It is now our effort to track these lands and empower them to participate in the growth process.
 - ★ At the same time, to get quick results, we have encouraged corporate houses to take

up the integrated development of wastelands with agri-business for providing new opportunities in the rural areas.

- ★ Ensuring remunerative returns to the on-farm and non-farm workforce in the State by improving production and productivity of land, horticulture development and stimulating agro-based industries and infrastructure in rural areas.
- ★ Increasing the supplementary income of people, directly or indirectly, employed in the primary sector by encouraging them to take up additional avocations.

Our strategy is all-inclusive. It does not limit its focus to just material deprivation but also covers vulnerability and exposure to risk. Very recently, when farm incomes and the income of agricultural labourers were lost in the Cauvery delta region due to the non cultivation of the kuruvai crop following the denial by Karnataka of our legitimate share of Cauvery water, I launched a special programme with an outlay of Rs.164 crores to provide income support. This was extremely successful and staved off certain deprivation and want.

Again, when fiscal pressures had become unbearable, making it necessary to cut subsidies, we protected the poor accessing the public distribution system for grain. The fact that my Government continues to provide a specific quota of food grain at the lowest price among all Indian States shows our clear commitment to protecting the vulnerable poor.

We have launched a 15-point programme for the all round socio-economic development and prosperity of the people of Tamil Nadu in consultation with eminent scientists like Dr. M.S.Swaminathan. These have to be consolidated further.

I find that what we are trying to do is squarely within the charter of IFAD. I would like to appeal to

Mr. Lennart Bage, President IFAD, to consider a new beginning in Tamil Nadu. The transformation of wastelands, improving the sub-optimal cultivation by small and marginal farmers, and encouraging rural non-farm activities could be the focus of the new project. We have enough shared knowledge of the dynamics of various processes in the State. We have also been the pioneers in actuating the self-help groups, which are now vibrant with activity. Can we again participate in a joint effort, travelling the last mile together, in our

Tamil Nadu's effort has to be different from what has been adopted elsewhere. We are dealing with people here, their fears, voicelessness, vulnerability, hopes and aspirations. Good governance implies reaching out to them and helping them to live their dreams.

frontal attack against poverty in Tamil Nadu? I request Mr. Lennart Bage to consider this seriously as this could be a most successful crucible for forging new development paths in this millennium.

Tamil Nadu's effort has to be different from what has been adopted elsewhere. We are dealing with people here, their fears, voicelessness, vulnerability, hopes and aspirations. Good governance implies reaching out to them and helping them to live their dreams. I am committed to wiping those tears away and bringing smiles to the faces of the poor in Tamil Nadu. May I conclude by wishing you all a very pleasant stay at Chennai and in Tamil Nadu. Let me also wish you the very best in your deliberations and I hope that this sharing of insights will enable us to develop most useful strategies in the attack on poverty". ♦



DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

*at the Conference of District Collectors and
Police Officers held on 9.12.2002*

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate this Annual Conference of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police. I believe that this conference is a valuable opportunity for us to take stock, to assess ground realities and look to the future. It is a mirror to the aspirations of the people, an hourglass that reminds us of the urgency with which we must infuse our efforts to fulfil these aspirations, a touchstone to assess the impact of these efforts, a springboard to launch new initiatives.

2. After my Government assumed office, I held the first Conference of Collectors and Police Officers in August, 2001, in which we announced

and initiated several new plans and programmes. In the special conference of Collectors held in August, 2002 to deal with the drought situation arising out of the failure of the South-West Monsoon, we took several decisions that greatly mitigated the distress caused to our farmers in particular, and the people in general, by the failure of the monsoon.

3. The time is now ripe for a thorough stock-taking of our efforts in these last 15 months. I would like you to focus on three broad themes in this Conference – maintenance of law and order, development initiatives and good governance.



4. The pursuit of development goals would be a meaningless meander in a maze, unless public order is maintained and the rule of law upheld. These are difficult times indeed. The spectre of terrorism is no longer a sinister shadow but a multi-headed Hydra that wreaks death and destruction and creates panic in all parts of the country with disturbing regularity. You are all aware of my unswerving commitment to stamping out extremism and the fissiparous forces that it generates. My Government has ensured that the ban on the LTTE has been extended further. Two other major terrorist organizations viz., the TNLA and TNRT have been banned under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, and under POTA, 2002. Our determined and decisive action, in contrast to the vacillation and inertia in dealing with these forces prior to 2001, has considerably muted these militant and subversive forces. I would like to record my appreciation of the sincere efforts of the District Collectors, Superintendents of Police and other senior Police officers in keeping at bay these malevolent and pernicious forces and in maintaining peace and public tranquillity in Tamil Nadu, thus creating the conditions necessary for us to march ahead on an accelerated path of development.

5. But let me strike a note of caution here. There is no room for complacency. The tendency of militants and terrorist groups, when pursued with firmness and relentlessness as we have done, is to go into hibernation or retreat to safer havens and then regroup, by a process of infiltration into new front organizations. We must be watchful and vigilant. We must continue to gather intelligence, keep up the pressure and not relax the tight regiment of security checks that has been put in place.

6. The recent incidents in Dharmapuri District are a pointer to the fact that extremism can rear its ugly head at any time and can manifest itself in individual and group violence without warning. This is true of fundamentalist groups also, whose access to foreign funding has been conclusively established in a number of cases. Thus, preparedness at all times and assimilation of intelligence, have to be the watchwords. In the words of the immortal Thiruvalluvar,

எதிரதாக் காக்கும் அறிவினார்க் கில்லை
அதிர வருவதோர் நோய் -திருக்குறள்

வரப்போவதை முன்னே அறிந்து காத்துக் கொள்ளவல்ல அறிவுடையவர்க்கு, அவர் நடுங்கும் படியாக வரக் கூடிய துன்பம் ஒன்றும் இல்லை.

“Wise men who can read the signs and foresee developments, Will not be shocked by emerging distressful situations.”

- *Thirukkural*

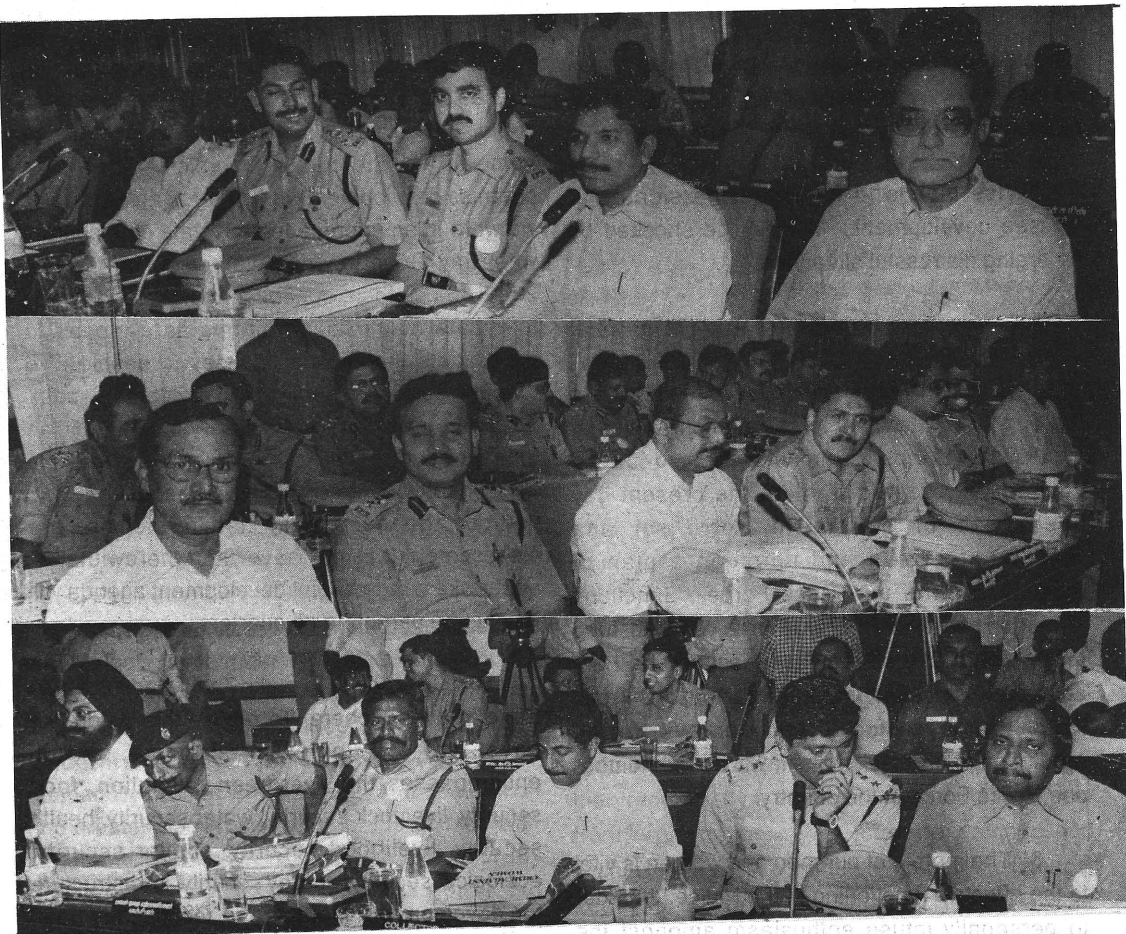
7. In order to equip the Police to function as a thoroughly professional force with capabilities of sophisticated arms, communication and logistic support fully geared to meet the present day challenges of extremism, terrorism and fundamentalism, I had unfolded a plan of modernization of the Police Force. Sanctions amounting to Rs.272 crores in 2 years to fund these plans have already been issued and I am confident that after implementation, the Tamil Nadu Police, which already enjoys a high reputation of professionalism, will be the number one Police Force in the country.

8. The morale of our men and women is vital to the effective functioning of the Police. In order to personally infuse enthusiasm amongst the officers and ranks of the Tamil Nadu Police and to learn firsthand about the problems they encounter in the field, I held five detailed sittings with them to hear their grievances. This direct interface with the Force at the level of a Chief Minister is unique in the history of Police administration. It has had a salutary effect in improving their commitment and dedication to work. I would urge the Superintendents of Police and other senior Police officers to hold such grievance redressal sessions regularly and take action to settle the grievances of Police personnel speedily. This will go a long way in alleviating the stresses of policing for long hours, their frustrations and personal pressures and will tone up the overall efficiency of the Police Force.

9. I would now like to turn to the development agenda that we have before us. Before I address some specific issues of development, let me bring home to you the context in which you have to organise development work. As you are all aware, we were in an unprecedented state of fiscal ruin when my Government assumed office in May, 2001. Since then, our concerted effort has been to initiate major fiscal reforms as a means to consolidate the State's finances to enable it to embark upon a meaningful development path. Fiscal reforms are the necessary bitter medicine that we have to swallow in order to restore the fiscal health of the State. The message that, without the necessary fiscal reforms, the Government will not have the wherewithal to undertake a meaningful development agenda will have to be carried to all quarters.

10. My vision is to make Tamil Nadu the best State in every sphere. To realise this vision, we have the 15 point programme, which encompasses the evergreen revolution, food security, livestock security, water security, health security, livelihood security, shelter security, ecological security, energy security, infrastructure for development, literacy and technocracy, folk, classical and modern arts, culture and drama, gender equity, new deal for the oppressed classes and technological leapfrogging. This constitutes the road map for this Government for the next three and half years. I would like the Collectors to set out microplans under each of these 15 points and work tirelessly towards the attainment of set goals.

11. I have also been greatly concerned by the slowdown in the agriculture and allied sectors witnessed between 1998 - 2001. This is the primary sector which contributes 17% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) but which supports 62% of the population. In 2001 - 2002 and in the current year, we have had adverse seasonal conditions that have put our rural



economy under further stress. It is, therefore, clear that if we wish to make a significant impact on rural poverty, we have to impart a new momentum to growth in the primary sector. For this, I have set out three key programmes. The first programme is the Comprehensive Wasteland Development Programme. Land and water resources must be harnessed efficiently for improved growth in this sector. It is with this intention that the Comprehensive Wasteland Development Programme has been launched to make wasteland productive. First and foremost, the process of identification of wasteland in large blocks and selecting suitable Corporate houses with a proper agri-business plan, has to be completed immediately. I expect that these

projects will be operational in all districts before the end of December, 2002. Thereafter, these plans will have to be monitored intensively, so that they are brought to fruition in quick time. The second component relates to Wasteland Development by individual farmers. Farmers, for a variety of reasons, have been leaving their own lands fallow. An intensive drive, involving the Village Administrative Officers and the Assistant Agricultural Officers, to locate such lands in all villages to undertake a thorough diagnostic study and to bring them back under the plough, will have to be undertaken. It should be our endeavour to integrate other programmes such as the Watershed Development Programme and the Programme of creation of Rain Water Harvesting

structures, so that we can succeed in bringing wastelands alive with productive economic activity.

12. The third component alongside the Wasteland Development Programme is Agro - industry under the New Anna Marumalarchi Thittam. The intention is to inter-connect the two programmes. New agro — industrial units with financial support from commercial banks and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation must be encouraged to start operations within the next six months.

throwaway plastics and our inability to dispose of them properly, leading to the ugly sight of used plastic items heaped in our cities, municipalities and even in smaller towns, and along all our roads, State Highways and National Highways. These are an eyesore, a serious health hazard and extremely injurious to the environment. All Collectors should launch a plan of action involving local bodies, NGOs and the public to have all the plastic wastes collected and disposed of in separate land - fills. I want this drive to be completed before Pongal, a time when we

traditionally get rid of waste material in our homes. Collectors should also take the initiative to have the garbage separated at source into bio-degradable wastes and other wastes.

13. We have on the agenda several items relating to the provision of rural infrastructure, including all — weather rural roads, integrated rural sanitary complexes, renovation of village tanks, thrashing floors and rainwater harvesting structures. Local bodies are mainly responsible for the delivery of these rural infrastructure services. I would like the Collectors to personally involve themselves in the quick execution of all the schemes aimed at providing rural infrastructure. The emphasis should be on ensuring quality of work and speed of execution so that people appreciate the benefits of these services in time. The release of funds for these rural development works will not be a constraint and I expect all Collectors to implement these programmes with the utmost expedition.

14. Sustainable development and the preservation of the environment go together. I am, therefore, distressed by the increasing use of

"The time is now ripe for a thorough stock-taking of our efforts in these last 15 months. I would like you to focus on three broad themes in this Conference — maintenance of law and order, development initiatives and good governance."

15. I attach the greatest importance to the provision of an effective social safety net for our people. My Government stands committed to the protection of the poor, whatever be the

economic and financial pressures on us. The social safety net that I introduced when I was in office between 1991 - 1996 was the forerunner of the National Social Assistance Programme announced by the Government of India in 1995.

16. Under this social safety net, we have Health Programmes, Primary Education Programmes, the Public Distribution System, Pension Schemes and the Mid-day Meal Scheme. We have adopted the life - cycle nutrition approach to make Tamil Nadu hunger - free and malnutrition - free. A sequence of programmes such as the

Integrated Child Development Services, Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Noon Meal Programme, the National Nutrition Mission, the Annapurna, Antyodaya schemes and the laudable Annadhanam Scheme in temples are making this a reality. We have launched new initiatives such as the Speciality Medical Camps, the Upgraded Primary Health Centres, improved weaning food and enriched mid-day meals for school children and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

civilised society. Amongst our many firsts, Tamil Nadu was also the first State to frame the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2001. Collectors should now motivate NGOs and get them to participate in a massive effort to combat the evil of child trafficking and child abuse.

19. AIDS has been described as a ticking time - bomb and must be combated effectively by prevention propaganda, counselling and after - care. In Tamil Nadu, we have already established



17. Tamil Nadu has, however, slipped in the Family Welfare Programme between 1996 and 2001, with the reduction in the Infant Mortality Rate plateauing. This has to be corrected. We have to attain demographic transition quickly by paying renewed attention to the Family Welfare Programme. Collectors should take personal care in implementing this programme.

18. The problem of child abuse and exploitation should be a priority concern in any

a widespread network of voluntary counselling and testing centres as also an excellent surveillance system. This, together with high general awareness, has enabled Tamil Nadu to combat this problem effectively. It is mainly because of our effective system that we are able to bring out the true number of AIDS patients in contrast to many other States where even detection and surveillance systems are not in place. It is a good sign that the level of HIV prevalence among ante-natal women in Tamil Nadu is now only the fifth in

the country, behind States such as Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. It is important that we continue to be vigilant and track all the cases. This is particularly relevant in rural areas. The District AIDS Advisory Committees, under the chairmanship of the Collectors, should take an active interest in the entire AIDS control campaign.

20. A key programme, which I initiated in 1992, is the empowerment of our women through Self - Help Groups. This has been a resounding success. Today, 20 lakh women have joined the movement and are participating in the drive to improve the quality of their lives. We now seek to enroll 15 lakh more families who are below the poverty line, to become a part of this movement in the next four years. Collectors have a major role in taking forward this movement. It is possible that, when such a large number of Self - Help Groups are organised, there could be problems of marketing the products that they produce. Marketing linkages are crucial and Collectors should involve themselves in organising the production of such goods as will find a ready market. Skills being imparted should focus on producing marketable goods. Collectors should take the lead in organising skill development and vocational training for 50,000 women this year. The Entrepreneurship Development Programme which is to cover 1.25 lakh women in the current year will assist these Self - Help Groups to organise their activities better.

21. The Government has recently revamped the Public Distribution System, incorporating changes in the procurement pattern and issue price through the fair price shops. It is under great financial strain that the Government continues to provide rice at the lowest price in the country. You must, therefore, ensure that every family obtains the first 10 Kgs. at Rs.3.50/- per Kg. The efficient management of the Public Distribution System is a vital responsibility. You must put in place a credible system of complaint redressal covering

scale and timeliness of supply, correct weighing and correct price.

22. The South - West monsoon has not been favourable in the current year and the North East monsoon, which began very well has tapered off quickly. This has left many districts with an overall deficiency in rainfall. Though the Monsoon has revived in the last few days, we cannot be sure how long it will last. I would like you to keep a close watch on the situation and take steps on a war - footing to deal with drinking water shortages which may emerge. Necessary funds for providing water supply have been made available to all the affected districts. You must also initiate a good works programme immediately, taking advantage of the availability of funds under various rural development programmes, as also the special allotment of rice for drought relief works. Collectors should use this opportunity to organise programmes to ensure that the water-holding capacity of large and small tanks and village ponds is improved and also take up the creation of Rain Water Harvesting structures that can feed such water bodies. This will ensure optimal utilisation of our water resources.

23. Let me now speak to you of good governance. It is only good governance practices that can improve the efficiency and reach of all development programmes. The unlimited possibility of information technology should be harnessed to provide efficient services. It is with this intention that I have launched new initiatives such as the Touch Screen Kiosks in Taluk Offices and the Internet based Kiosks in rural areas. My emphasis on e-governance is to ensure that services are made available to the common man efficiently and quickly, with no transaction costs. A whole gamut of applications is possible, such as registration of documents, patta transfer and other services rendered by the Taluk Office as well as entitlements, payments to utilities and so on. A broad framework of e-governance has now been

"I attach the greatest importance to the provision of an effective social safety net for our people. My Government stands committed to the protection of the poor, whatever be the economic and financial pressures on us."

established. We must now push ahead with its implementation so that people can get better services.

24. The convergence of services delivered by different departments is most important. It eliminates duplication, reduces procedural delays and optimizes resources. For example, Health, Education and Social Welfare can combine in the field in several campaigns to give the best results. Similarly, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Water Supply and Small Industries can combine together to give the best results in programmes like the Comprehensive Wasteland Development Programme and the new Anna Marumalarchi Thittam. Collectors should propagate the concept of convergence of services in their districts and ensure that different field functionaries work as one cohesive unit. Only then will the delivery of services to the target groups be effective.

25. Good governance will be a pipedream unless we crack down on corruption. I wish to emphasise to you in the strongest possible terms

that this Government has totally set itself against corruption at all levels. People should perceive Government Departments as agencies meant for rendering service. The tendency of employees to act as an ingrown toenail has to be eschewed.

26. For administration to move close to the people and for the people, democratic decentralization and performance of several functions by Local Bodies is a process that has to be strengthened. An issue that I wish to raise here is as to whether the Local Bodies on whom we have placed so many responsibilities, are indeed satisfactorily undertaking quality work. The Government provides substantial devolution of funds and grants to the local bodies and significant progress can be made in rural areas if they perform their roles well. Collectors must play a major role in monitoring the efficient performance of Local Bodies. Democratic decentralization, to be an effective delivery system, has to be truly participatory as well as conferring genuine and lasting benefits upon the people. Collectors have to ensure that Local Bodies deliver good service to the people in their statutory role as Inspectors of Local Bodies.

27. The agenda is now before you for discussion. The duty cast upon us by the people who have mandated us to power can be succinctly summed up in just three themes picked up from this agenda. 'Peace, Development and Good Governance'. I expect you to benchmark yourselves against the best standards and practices to live up to the expectations of this Government that reflects the aspirations of the people.

28. I do not accept the profound wisdom that administration is the art of the possible. I would rather stretch every sinew to attain the impossible. Collectors and Superintendents of Police have to lead from the front. I look forward to a meaningful exchange of views. ✧

Let the liberty and the security of all be the noble aim of the Tamil Nadu Police

Speech made by the
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
at the Conference of the Police Officers
held on 10.12.2002
at Chennai.

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we are meeting today at an exclusive session of Police Officers to discuss issues relating to Police administration.

This year has been an eventful one for the Tamil Nadu Police. The Officers, men and women of the Tamil Nadu Police have distinguished themselves in very trying circumstances showing exemplary commitment to duty, professionalism and remarkable courage in apprehending the dreaded terrorist Imam Ali and eliminating him in a daring and intrepid swoop. Three of our officers have won international awards for innovations in Community Policing. Several of our men and

officers have distinguished themselves in the All India Police Duty Meet.

The concept of policing has undergone a considerable conceptual change in terms of its definition, application and purpose. Emerging civil societies have demonstrated that self-help is the stepping-stone to building a safe society. Community Policing is gaining credence all over the world. I am happy to recall that what began as the Friends of Police Programme in Tamil Nadu in 1994, during my first tenure as Chief Minister, has now won international recognition and awards for our Police officers. This concept must be taken beyond the realm of experimentation and replicated all over the State to make it an integral part of preserving the security environment in our State.

During the last Conference of Police officers, I had dealt with the various Police reforms being brought about in the Police Force of the State, that would enable the Police to discharge their duties professionally without fear or favour. I had also expressed concern over the recurrence of instances of custodial violence, torture and death in the lock-ups, which undermines public confidence in the Police. I was glad to hear yesterday from many of the Superintendents of Police, that after that last Conference, there have been no custodial deaths or lock-up deaths in their districts, over the past one and quarter years. Some crucial Police reforms have been carried out by implementing the various schemes that I announced during the last Conference. However, the still prevalent image of the Police as an oppressive instrument of the State should be wiped out from the public mind. Community Policing started in Tamil Nadu as a Friends of Police project in 1994. A new sensitive and considerate image of the Police should now be built up so that they can be seen as Friends of the People.

"A society that cannot protect the dignity and honour of its women cannot be termed a civil society, and only if women can look up to the Police with hope and confidence, can we consider that the Police Force is free from a gender bias."

I am glad that many training modules have been put in place to train Police personnel through specialized capsules such as gender sensitization, policing with a human face etc. I hope that these initiatives would yield results and that the Police-People interface would become pleasant and proactive. Citizens must have free access to Police Stations to seek redressal of any wrong done to them. You will agree with me that the entry barrier to the portals of the guardians of law enforcement is the first and foremost thing to be removed if our efforts in this direction have to bear fruit.

There must be a change in the attitude of the station level Police personnel. They must be sensitized to respond politely and with humane consideration to complaints as well as the complainants. The tendency at the Police Station level to resist registration of cases should be done away with. As supervisory officers, your role in this is most vital.

The very thought of going to a Police Station is distasteful to most citizens, even in an emergency. This must change. Your endeavour should be to make all complainants, particularly

the economically weaker sections, the victims of caste outrages and women, feel confident about approaching a Police Station for redressal of their complaints. Only this can prevent the development of clandestine and alternative systems of arbitration and criminal intervention in law enforcement. They are the springboards for organized crime and underworld activism.

The time has now come to chalk out a comprehensive Policing Strategy for the State. The key objective of the strategy should focus on the maintenance of public peace by firmly tackling anti-social forces, ensuring reduction in crime with special focus on organized crime and persistent offenders, and in bringing about an improvement in detection and conviction rates. These steps are essential to reduce the fear of crime in the minds of the public and to rebuild their faith in the rule of law.

The reduction and control of crime calls for special attention. Effective crime prevention strategies have to be devised and sincerely implemented by the supervisory Police Officers. Crime detection should be done in a professional and scientific manner, which should preclude the use of extra — constitutional methods that assail human rights. Monitoring of crime is a continuous process and I expect that, with the formation of Police Zones, the Zonal Inspector Generals of Police would closely and regularly monitor this vital aspect of Police work.

The scourge of organized crime that pervades all spheres of activities and causes panic in the public mind must be firmly dealt with. The Police should concentrate on targeting organized gangsters and racketeers who operate in areas as diverse as bootlegging, extortion and trafficking in women and children. To handle serious organized crime having inter-state ramifications, seven organized Crime Cells

have already been set up in the State under the Crime Branch CID. However, it is the primary duty of the field officers to deal effectively with notorious goondas and gangsters in their jurisdiction. Crime control should be a qualitative exercise, not a quantitative one.

A maze of statistics about crime detection and disposal has been presented to me; but we have to transcend this array of numbers and charts to really understand the situation on ground. The real index of crime control is the rate of investigation, detection and finally conviction. I think that a Police Station-wise analysis based on such parameters can easily be achieved by extensive computerization. Only such an analysis, particularly of grave crimes, will curb the tendency to arrest petty offenders for trivial offences and then allow them to languish in prisons for long periods. This may boost statistics of crime detection but inevitably leads to avoidable criticism of the Police. Field officers should, therefore, concentrate on dealing firmly with habitual offenders and organized gangsters, rather than on petty crimes.

A society that cannot protect the dignity and honour of its women cannot be termed a civil society, and only if women can look up to the Police with hope and confidence, can we consider that the Police Force is free from a gender bias.

A fair deal for women is a subject very close to my heart. I have taken many steps in this direction including the amendment to the existing law providing for stringent punishments to offenders who indulge in harassment of women. Already, 109 All Women Police Stations have started functioning and 287 Regular Police Stations have a complement of one Woman Sub-Inspector and 2 Women Police Constables. I am, however, disturbed by the

growing incidence of crimes against women, such as dowry deaths, rape and cruelty by husbands and relatives. I expect that stringent and impartial action will be taken in cases of crimes against women.

Another area of concern is the delay in disposal of cases of financial irregularities in Co-operative institutions that are investigated by the Commercial Crimes Investigation Wing of the Police Department. Though a number of financial irregularities have been detected in the Co-operative Sector, there is abnormal delay in referring these cases to the Commercial Crimes Investigation Wing and delay in launching prosecution, with the result that the Societies continue to be controlled by undesirable elements, affecting the overall interest of the Co-operative Societies. We need to deliberate on the reasons for such delays and come out with a solution to streamline this area.

The implementation of schemes for the Modernization of the Police Force gained momentum soon after I assumed office again in 2001. I note with satisfaction that the entire plan allocation of Rs.136.20 crores has been fully utilized. Buildings for Police Stations, housing facilities for Police personnel, purchase

"Citizens must have free access to Police Stations to seek redressal of any wrong done to them. You will agree with me that the entry barrier to the portals of the guardians of law enforcement is the first and foremost thing to be removed if our efforts in this direction have to bear fruit."

of new vehicles, updated weaponry, sophisticated communication systems and computerization have been provided under this shared scheme with the Government of India. We have taken up another batch of schemes for about Rs.136.20 crores this year. By making an investment of Rs.272.40 crores in these two years to make our Police Force modern and effective, we have shown that we are far ahead of all States in the country.

To ensure that the morale of our men and women is kept high, and that their dedication to duty and level of motivation in performing the highly demanding job of preserving law and order is kept intact, the utmost attention should be paid to grievance redressal. You are all aware that I held Grievance Day Meetings for the Police Personnel of the four Police Zones of the State and for the personnel attached to the Chennai City Police on 5 days. This unique exercise of a direct interface, unparalleled anywhere in India, was undertaken to understand first-hand the problems of the Police personnel in the field and to redress their grievances. I have been personally reviewing the follow up action on the petitions presented to me by the Police personnel. I expect that senior officers like you should also follow this up and take prompt action to ensure quick redressal of grievances with the utmost sincerity and expedition. I had also issued instructions that there should be a well laid out mechanism for grievance redressal from the level of Superintendents of Police up to the Head of the Force. I expect that all senior officers from the DGP down to the

Superintendents of Police will conduct Grievance Day Meetings with dedication and commitment. This will eliminate much of the frustration and sense of inadequacy amongst the constabulary.

The Superintendent of Police in each District represents the policing aims and objectives of this Government. I expect each one of you to set the tone and tenor of Police administration in your District, to be a role model to your subordinate officers, to be the symbol of law enforcement and the protector of the rights of the common man. This mantle of leadership carries with it onerous responsibilities. It is your duty to live up to the rich traditions of the Tamil Nadu Police and to keep up the dignity and decorum of your high office. I exhort you to work untiringly for the



liberty and security of all our citizens. I wish to call your attention to the words of Edwin Markham :

"There is no true liberty for the individual except as he finds it in the liberty of all. There is no true security for the individual except as he finds it in the security of all."

Let the liberty and security of all be the noble aim of the Tamil Nadu Police.

TAMIL NADU - First State to raise an all Women Police Battalion

*Valedictory address made by
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
at the Police Conference held at
Chennai on 10.12.2002.*

We have had a purposeful exchange of thoughts, and deliberated upon many crucial issues of public importance and issues which concern the welfare of the State. I was tempted to continue these deliberations, because of their usefulness in highlighting the ground realities at district level. However, you have already been away from your districts for more than two days, and you also have before you, the job of translating ideas into action.

I have requested the Chief Secretary, the Development Commissioner and the Home Secretary, to carefully take note of the suggestions you have made and the problems you have expressed. I am confident that we will have a solution for each of these problems. During the Grievance Day Meetings, which I recently conducted, there was an over-whelming request for opening of crèches, since we have a large number of women police personnel employed in our Force. Inspite of our financial difficulties, I have ordered that 6 crèches in the Commissionerates in Tamil Nadu, be opened forthwith. Each creche will have trained ayahs, and also provision for food charges for the children. We also have plans to inaugurate another 38 crèches, in phases, covering all the District and Battalion headquarters.

I can justifiably take the credit for inaugurating the first All Women Police Station in 1992, and sustaining a large number of All Women Police Stations in our State. **Tamil Nadu will soon have the distinction of being the first State to raise an All Women Police Battalion.**

To combat crime, and to make the Police Force effective in law and order operations, I have already expedited the implementation, of a massive programme of Modernisation of the Police Force. I will now make some new announcements, which will underscore the focus and direction of our modernisation effort in providing teeth to our Police Force.

- 1) Video Cameras will be provided to all the Police Stations, including All Women Police Stations, at a cost of Rs.6.40 crores.
- 2) Computers will be provided to 1250 Police Stations in the State, at a cost of Rs.7.50 crores.
- 3) 750 hand-held wireless sets will be provided to the Constables who are on the beat duties, at a cost of Rs. 90 lakhs.

- 4) 32 Police Stations and 24 outposts will be provided with search lights, at a cost of Rs. 8.75 lakhs.
- 5) Bomb detection and disposal equipment, along with two vans for the disposal team, will be provided to the Chennai City Police, at a cost of Rs.51.61 lakhs.
- 6) Railway Police Stations and outposts all over the State will be provided with walkie-talkie sets at a cost of Rs.17.28 lakhs.
- 7) A Tamil Nadu Special Police Battalion will be relocated in Dharmapuri District, for which suitable land has been identified by the District Collector, near Pochampalli. Necessary infrastructure will be sanctioned for the purpose.
- 8) Three Private Hospitals have been identified in Dharmapuri District for providing treatment under the Police Health Fund Scheme.
- 9) Considering the importance of Arulmigu Palani Andavar Temple, the existing strength of one Sub-Inspector of Police and four Police Constables will be doubled, for providing security to the Temple.
- 10) The Government will draw up a scheme in consultation with the Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments to provide a sound security system for the major temples of Tamil Nadu.
- 11) Traffic Police Units will be sanctioned for Kodaikanal and Villupuram.
- 12) One wrecker each will be sanctioned for Chengai (East), Villupuram and Virudhunagar Districts.
- 13) All Women Police Stations will be provided with Caller-ID telephones.
- 14) The total number of vacancies of men and women in the Police Force as on date put together is 16,823. The total number of recruitments under process through the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board (including those undergoing Training) comes to 12,778. A further number of 4,045 posts will be notified by the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board for recruitment. As the process of recruitment and the completion of training will take some time, the possibility of employing retired Police personnel up to Grade-I Police Constables and Ex-servicemen will be examined.
- 15) In order to address the issue of shortage of manpower urgently, a redeployment exercise will be undertaken to ensure equitable distribution of manpower in the districts.
- 16) District Police Office and Armed Reserve complex will be sanctioned for Theni District.
- 17) Suburban Police Stations adjacent to Madurai and Coimbatore cities will be strengthened.
- 18) The office building of the Superintendent of Police at Cuddalore will be shifted to a good rented building for the present. A new building will be constructed during the next financial year.
- 19) The strength of the Guduvancheri Police Station will be immediately augmented.
- 20) An Armed Reserve Ground will be provided for Erode District.
- 21) For better traffic regulation in all the Districts road markings will be done on all the major



district roads. For this adequate Budget provision of Rs.30,000/- per district will be made for purchase of paints and other accessories.

- 22) Funds for constructing buildings for the District Police Offices at Thiruvallur & Trichy will be sanctioned immediately.

- 23) For providing adequate accommodation facilities for Police Officers visiting Chennai on official work, additional rooms will be constructed at the Police Officers Mess at Chennai.

- 24) Perambalur District will be included in the list of "Communally Sensitive" districts, where it will be mandatory for the Police personnel to

serve a tenure to become eligible for promotion.

- 25) Improvements to the Security arrangements in the Central Prison, Coimbatore, including separate walls will be taken up immediately.
- 26) The Police Training College will be sanctioned a grant of Rs. 25.00 lakhs to upgrade the facilities in the mess attached to the Training College. Further, an annual grant of Rs.5.00 lakhs will be granted for upkeep of the mess.
- 27) In order to set up the First Citizens - Policing Academy in Asia, a suitable building will be allocated by the Government at Chennai. For Community Policing, an annual budget of Rs.50,000/- will be provided.
- 28) To curb the menace of illegal forms of money lending like the Kanthu Vatti System in vogue in certain districts of the State, the Government will legislate a new Act to make this a cognizable offence and enable the Police to take immediate action on receipt of complaints.
- 29) To locate the office of the IG North Zone a suitable Government Building will be provided immediately.

Some Superintendents of Police and Collectors have referred to endemic problems of poverty and unemployment as factors behind trade in illicit liquor. I had already announced a Rehabilitation Fund for implementing schemes to gainfully employ ex-prohibition offenders so that they do not revert to illicit distillation as a profession. I now announce an allocation of Rs.2.50 crores for undertaking schemes to rehabilitate reformed prohibition offenders. The scheme will be implemented by District Collectors and

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Superintendents of Police in their Districts in an effort to put down illicit distillation.

The joint discussions that we had yesterday and the exclusive deliberations we had today, have generated many new ideas and innovative suggestions. You now have before you the onerous task of converting these inputs into action, in tune with the conditions prevailing in your districts. Such a conference would appear relevant in the public eye, only if it translates into perceptible benefits for the common man. It is your responsibility to carry the message of enforcement, equity and empathy to your subordinates. This message should permeate and percolate down to the rank and file of the Force, and should be reflected in your interaction with the people whom you come across in discharge of your duties. The feedback we receive at the State Head quarters should echo the success of your performance. Only then can we acknowledge that we have succeeded in initiating a process of change, in converting the Police Force as Friends of the People. ♦

OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT AND CARING ADMINISTRATION

- Concluding Remarks made by
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
at the Collectors Conference
held at Chennai on 11.12.2002

We have now come to the concluding session of the Development Agenda in this Conference. The last 3 days have thrown up several new ideas, initiatives and innovations. Our discussion has also enabled me to assess for myself the ground realities in every district. In making this concluding statement, let me focus on what this Government expects should be our agenda and our priorities in the months to come.

Our commitment is to provide a responsive, just, efficient and caring administration and you are the nub of this commitment, presenting the Government's face to the people. Ultimately, the litmus test of our success is what the people feel about us. There is, therefore, no place here for sluggishness, a lackadaisical or laidback attitude, cynicism or a come-to-me approach. Collectors have to be proactive in seeking out problems and issues and in crafting and working out innovative solutions to them.

One significant issue that emerged in these deliberations is the vulnerability of certain areas and people to the ideological doctrinaire approach of certain misguided groups professing violence. Extremism ferments on neglect. With the resources at your command and the correct attitude, there should be no difficulty in redressing their grievances and in resolving most of these

incipient threats. Collectors of such districts should draw up a special action plan to take concerted action directed against extremist activities.

Today we have covered the whole gamut of development programmes. Some of you made useful suggestions regarding the implementation of plans and programmes. Perhaps some of these ideas may even become part of the forthcoming Budget. We shall consider them carefully.

We have also discussed the implications of the failure of the South West Monsoon and the prospects of the North East Monsoon. Some immediate action is necessary, particularly in providing drinking water supply. I am glad to announce the sanction of Rs.30.00 crores for taking up water supply works in the districts affected by the adverse seasonal conditions. Three seasons of monsoon failure have led to the widespread withering of even the permanent coconut crop in many districts. I have, therefore, decided to provide an assistance of Rs.4000 per hectare as per the Calamity Relief Fund norms, as a grant to enable these coconut plantations to be revived and replanted. This will entail an additional cost of Rs.8.9 crores. Please make sure to assess the field situation following these adverse seasonal conditions continuously, and

bring any further requirements to the notice of the Government for further grants of relief.

The efficient management of land and water resources is a priority area. Immediate action is necessary to launch a campaign involving all the farmers having fallow lands, and to draw up a programme to bring all these lands under the plough in the coming agricultural season by, adopting an agri-clinical approach, diagnosing the causes, providing the treatment necessary and supplying the inputs required. The process of identifying Corporate houses, getting the wasteland under cultivation and starting connected agri businesses or small industries, including biomass energy plants, should be completed immediately. This scheme must take off by Pongal 2003.

At this Conference, I have heard various success stories about rainwater harvesting and the beneficial effect it has had on the management of scarce water resources. This programme must become a movement, and be taken up as a challenge. I am glad to announce an allotment of Rs.25 crores for provision of rainwater harvesting structures in Government buildings throughout the State. Let me flag off a race amongst Collectors for the first town in the State where every building and house will have a working RWH installation.

Solid waste disposal, with particular reference to throw away plastics, is yet another priority area. Many of you have shown great dynamism in implementing innovative solutions for segregation of garbage at source, organising separate land fills for plastics and getting local bodies and NGOs to participate fully in this effort. This campaign, too, must become a mass movement. Public hygiene and cleanliness is half the battle won in improving public health standards. I would, therefore, like you to launch a special drive to clean up the Corporations, Municipalities, Town Panchayats and Villages. The results should be visible to all by Pongal 2003. This movement should also be sustained thereafter.

In our nutrition and mid day meal programmes, please concentrate on hygiene, adopting a convergence approach to get the health and social welfare staff to work together. Despite the very stringent financial situation, I am glad to announce an increase of 12 paise per beneficiary per day for vegetables, condiments, etc., from the present allotment of 23 paise per beneficiary. This will be increased to 35 paise per beneficiary to cover 81.50 lakh beneficiaries, at a total additional cost per year of Rs.20.98 crores. This will enable you to ensure that a good quantity of vegetables is purchased every day and an enriched meal given to every beneficiary.

As a comprehensive measure of support to handloom weavers who were engaged earlier in the production of saris and dhotis under the free distribution scheme, we have totally revamped the scheme as a market based production scheme. I am glad to announce that this new scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.47.41 crores in the current year, for which orders will be issued shortly. Under this scheme the dhotis and saris produced by 15000 weavers will be sold at an affordable price through the Fair Price Shops on a regular basis. New designs and production techniques will ensure good response from the public. Collectors should take an active interest in promoting the sale of these dhotis and saris.

The problems posed by the poor condition of roads that had received inadequate or no attention at all between 1996-2001, have been brought out by many Collectors. Though the fiscal crisis thrust on us by the previous Government has not allowed us to take up a major programme, now that you have brought this to my attention, I am happy to announce a massive programme of relaying 2500 kms of roads at a cost of Rs.90 crores. This will commence from 1st January, 2003, and will be completed by March 2003. Thereafter, in the coming financial year, that is, in 2003-2004, an additional 5000 kms of roads at a cost of Rs.180 crores will be taken up for relaying. Collectors may tie up with the Highways Department and ensure that these roads are taken up on a priority sequence for the best public satisfaction.

We shall make available 50,000 MTs of rice as a first instalment for taking up drought relief works. More rice can also be made available in further instalments according to need. I would like the Collectors to use this allocation judiciously and focus it for undertaking rain water harvesting structures, restoring water courses and surpluses to feed ponds under Village Panchayats, small tanks under Panchayat Unions and large tanks under the control of the PWD, giving priority to drought proofing works, so that permanent remedies for chronic water shortages by stimulating recharge can be implemented.

Good governance is our watchword. I want you to reflect on this and draw up a comprehensive plan for good governance in your district. Effective management of Local Bodies to execute quality work and service delivery, e-governance and the use of information technology, convergence techniques, participatory rural governance, elimination of transaction costs by process reforms and self help group dynamics should all be understood, and integrated into your good governance strategy for the district. This will pave the way for the best results. It is not how much we spend but how we spend it that matters to the people. I would exhort you to keep this uppermost in your mind.

As a major e-governance thrust, I am glad to announce that in 2003, every single one of the remaining 177 taluks in the State will be provided with a touch screen kiosk facility and on line services at a cost of Rs.4.00 crores. This will be a great boon to the people.

The Government relies on the District Collectors to give to the people an efficient and caring administration. Concern and care for the poor and the underprivileged should be reflected in your every act. Amidst all the progress reports and periodicals, targets and thrust areas, remember that the reason we are all here is to serve the people. Remember that there is a face behind every file, a human being behind every number in that progress report, a human problem behind each periodical.

I would like to congratulate and compliment the Collectors, who have won awards in various development programmes today and I would like to exhort the other Collectors to emulate them.

Based on the deliberations on the last three days, I will now make some new announcements :

1. A new Sub-Station will be taken up in Anchetty in Denkanikottai Taluk of Dharmapuri District within the current financial year at an estimated cost of Rs.2.00 Crores.
2. Kembakarai habitation in Denkanikottai Taluk will be electrified before the end of December, 2002.
3. The system of Highway patrolling and Traffic Aid Posts will be reorganized to ensure better traffic discipline on the Highways.
4. Amendments to the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, stipulating the norms for mechanised boats and traditional fishing boats will be expedited and introduced in the next Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly.
5. A special programme will be worked out for the rehabilitation and care of disabled children who are found in large numbers in Theni District.
6. To facilitate the Women Self Help Groups to congregate and conduct meetings, the main hall in the buildings of the Child Welfare Centres will be made available to the Self Help Groups in the evenings after the Child Welfare Centres close for the day.
7. The habitations of Guntur, Chinnapalamalai and Periapalamalai in the Pachamalai Hills in Trichy District will be electrified by Pongal.
8. The road leading from the foothills to the habitations of Pachamalai Hills in Trichy District will be laid for a total length of 16 Kms. immediately.

9. The left over 94 habitations in the Thathaiyangarpettai - Thuraiyur Water Supply Scheme in Trichy District will be covered.
10. Facilities in the Trichy General Hospital will be upgraded and new facilities for dialysis and plasma separators will be provided.
11. Government will take up the Manur Combined Water Supply Scheme at an approximate cost of Rs.78.70 crores in Tirunelveli District.
12. Defunct quarries near towns will be used to store rain water which is harvested locally and this water will augment water supply to the town. Abandoned quarries not fit for water storage will be used as land fills for urban waste.
13. Jatropha (காட்டாமணக்கு) which is a versatile plant yielding bio-fuel oil will be propagated in all Districts as an alternative crop and will be linked with the new Anna Marumalarchi Thittam for processing requirements.
14. Sugar beet cultivation will be propagated in the Western Districts for production of ethanol which is now to be mixed with petrol as a green fuel.
15. A new fillip will be given to the Family Welfare Programme. The emphasis will now be given to male sterilization overcoming inhibitions which are not valid and out of date.
16. To prevent indiscriminate felling of Silver Oak Trees, it has been decided to bring Silver Oak Trees within the ambit of Timber Transit Rules.
17. Treatment works for Vaigai Dam Catchment will be taken up to prevent siltation.
18. Boating facilities at Vaigai Dam will be resumed.
19. Specialists will be posted in the Periakulam District Hospital.
20. Sothuparai Water Supply Scheme costing Rs.4.95 crores will be taken up in Theni District.
21. Meenakshipuram Water supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.95.00 lakhs will be taken up in Theni District.
22. A new lift will be installed at the District Headquarters Hospital, Erode.
23. The Shutter in the Anaikuttai Dam which is a major drinking water source for the Virudhunagar Municipality area which is in a state of disrepair will be repaired immediately.
24. Funds will be allocated for reconstruction of the Nagapattinam Port Jetty. Dredging will be taken up expeditiously.
25. Forest Department will take up post planting care for the sapplings planted by the citizens of Nagapattinam at a cost of Rs.5.29 lakhs.
26. Rs.30 lakhs will be given under the Self Sufficiency Scheme for developing a Tourist Park at Naaluvadapathy in Vedaranyam Taluk.
27. The Dindigul Combined Water Supply Scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.91.35 crores.
28. All taluk hospitals will be provided with telephones.
29. All PHCs in the 385 Panchayat Unions which are being upgraded to 30 bedded hospitals will be provided with telephones.
30. The Operation theatre of the Dindigul District Headquarters Hospital which is not functional will be repaired immediately.
31. Land will be allotted to the Kodaikanal Municipality at market rate to improve the infrastructure of the Kodaikanal bus stand.
32. In Arcot Town there is a problem relating to old sewer lines and water supply lines

- breaking down. These will be replaced at a cost of Rs.45.00 lakhs.
33. Kumbakonam Hospital will be provided with an Out Patient Ward.
 34. 500 Doctors will be recruited shortly both in specialities and in the general line for being posted in Government Headquarters hospitals in the Districts where there is shortage of Doctors.
 35. In Tiruvannamalai District, the District Headquarters Hospital will be upgraded with additional 48 beds to the existing bed strength of 294 beds and the strength of doctors will be increased to meet the requirements.
 36. Rs.50 lakhs will be sanctioned for the construction of a building complex for the Women's College at Ramanathapuram.
 37. In Ramanathapuram, two bridges one at Karendal and one at Nathipalam at Alangankulam will be constructed to link the 15 villages which are cut off during floods at a total cost of Rs.4.00 crores.
 38. An amount of Rs.1.00 lakh to each of the 29 districts will be sanctioned for the purpose of maintenance of the infrastructure such as Computers, Printers, Scanners, etc., used for Computerisation of Land Records.
 39. Wherever the village health nurse stays in a rented building, a maternity centre will be constructed adjacent to this at an unit cost of Rs.70,000/- in districts wherever required.
 40. A programme to immunise adolescent girls against the disease of Rubella will be undertaken in Perambalur, Theni, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai and Cuddalore Districts as a pilot project.
 41. A Lap-top computer will be provided to each of the 29 District Collectors.
 42. In view of the requests made by the Collectors to encourage more units to come up under the new Anna Marumalarchi Thittam it has been decided to reduce the investment on plant and machinery cost per unit from Rs.35 lakhs to Rs.25 lakhs. This will enable more units to come up in each Panchayat Union.
 43. As a pilot project Kanniyakumari District will be permitted to put up sanitary complexes for men.
 44. The shutters of Pechiparai Dam will be repaired at a cost of Rs.23 lakhs in Kanniyakumari District.
 45. 37 Town Panchayats in Kanniyakumari District will be downgraded into Village Panchayats to enable them to avail of more funds for development.
 46. The residuary works for the Madurantakam High level channel will be completed at a cost of Rs. 1.00 crore.
- I have a vision of taking Tamil Nadu to the forefront amongst all the States in India. Shattering numerous obstacles and overcoming countless handicaps, I have set out an agenda for rapid development to take Tamil Nadu to the number 1 position in the country. I have every confidence that you will give your very best in successfully accomplishing this massive task before us.

FURTHER NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

47. A new Sub-Station will be taken up in Anchetty in Denkanikottai Taluk of Dharmapuri District within the current financial year at an estimated cost of Rs.2.00 Crores.
48. Kembakarai habitation in Denkanikottai Taluk will be electrified before the end of December, 2002.
49. The system of Highway patrolling and Traffic Aid Posts will be reorganized to ensure better traffic discipline on the Highways.
50. Amendments to the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, stipulating the

norms for mechanised boats and traditional fishing boats will be expedited and introduced in the next Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly.

51. A special programme will be worked out for the rehabilitation and care of disabled children who are found in large numbers in Theni District.

52. To facilitate the Women Self Help Groups to congregate and conduct meetings, the main hall in the buildings of the Child Welfare Centres will be made available to the Self Help Groups in the evenings after the Child Welfare Centres close for the day.

53. The habitations of Guntur, Chinnapalamalai and Periapalamalai in the Pachamalai Hills in Trichy District will be electrified by Pongal.

54. The road leading from the foothills to the habitations of Pachamalai Hills in Trichy District will be laid for a total length of 16 Kms. immediately.

55. The left over 94 habitations in the Thathaiyangarpettai - Thuraiyur Water Supply Scheme in Trichy District will be covered.

56. Facilities in the Trichy General Hospital will be upgraded and new facilities for dialysis and plasma separators will be provided.

57. Government will take up the Manur Combined Water Supply Scheme at an approximate cost of Rs.78.70 crores in Tirunelveli District.

58. Defunct quarries near towns will be used to store rain water which is harvested locally and this water will augment water supply to the town. Abandoned quarries not fit for water storage will be used as land fills for urban waste.

59. Jatropha (காட்டாம்பனக்கு) which is a versatile plant yielding bio-fuel oil will be propagated in all Districts as an alternative crop and will

be linked with the new Anna Marumalarchi Thittam for processing requirements.

60. Sugar beet cultivation will be propagated in the Western Districts for production of ethanol which is now to be mixed with petrol as a green fuel.

61. A new fillip will be given to the Family Welfare Programme. The emphasis will now be given to male sterilization overcoming inhibitions which are not valid and out of date.

62. To prevent indiscriminate felling of Silver Oak Trees, it has been decided to bring Silver Oak Trees within the ambit of Timber Transit Rules.

63. Treatment works for Vaigai Dam Catchment will be taken up to prevent siltation.

64. Boating facilities at Vaigai Dam will be resumed.

65. Specialists will be posted in the Periakulam District Hospital.

66. Sothuparai Water Supply Scheme costing Rs.4.95 crores will be taken up in Theni District.

67. Meenakshipuram Water supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.95.00 lakhs will be taken up in Theni District.

68. A new lift will be installed at the District Headquarters Hospital, Erode.

69. The Shutter in the Anaikutai Dam which is a major drinking water source for the Virudhunagar Municipality area which is in a state of disrepair will be repaired immediately.

70. Funds will be allocated for reconstruction of the Nagapattinam Port Jetty. Dredging will be taken up expeditiously.

71. Forest Department will take up post planting care for the sapplings planted by the citizens of Nagapattinam at a cost of Rs.5.29 lakhs.

72. Rs.30 lakhs will be given under the Self Sufficiency Scheme for developing a Tourist Park at Naaluvadapathy in Vedaranyam Taluk.
73. The Dindigul Combined Water Supply Scheme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.91.35 crores.
74. All taluk hospitals will be provided with telephones.
75. All PHCs in the 385 Panchayat Unions which are being upgraded to 30 bedded hospitals will be provided with telephones.
76. The Operation theatre of the District Headquarters Hospital which is not functional will be repaired immediately.
77. Land will be allotted to the Kodaikanal Municipality at market rate to improve the infrastructure of the Kodaikanal bus stand.
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Awards for the district collectors for meritorious service in certain schemes

I. Chief Minister's Cell Petitions

(a) Highest Rate of Disposal

1. Dr.J.Radhakrishnan, I.A.S., *Salem*
2. Thiru K. Sellamuthu, I.A.S., *The Nilgiris*
3. Thiru Atul Anand, I.A.S., *Theni*

(b) Highest rate of compliance in the disposal

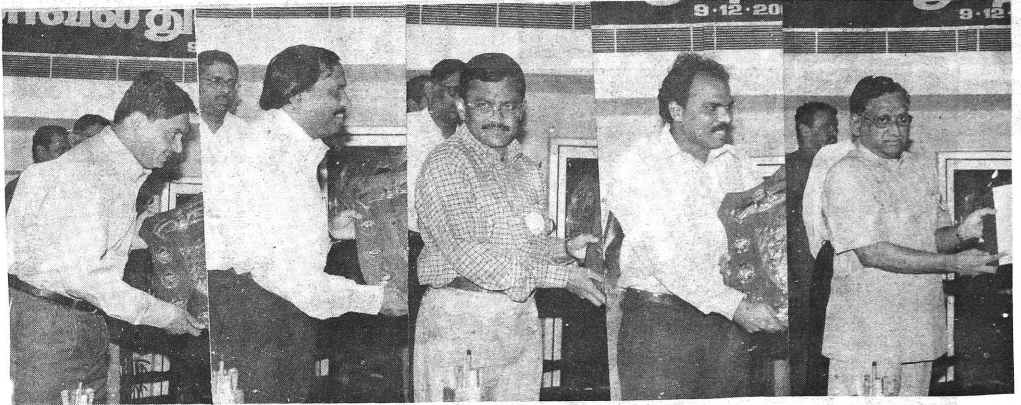
1. Thiru A.Abdul Salam, I.A.S., *Chennai*
2. Thiru K. Rajaraman, I.A.S., *Kancheepuram*
3. Dr.J. Radhakrishnan, I.A.S., *Salem*

II. Twenty point programme

Achievement of targets

1. Thiru Atul Anand, I.A.S., *Theni*
2. Thiru N. Muruganandam, I.A.S., *Coimbatore*
3. Thiru Ka.Balachandran, I.A.S., *Erode*
4. Dr.Santosh Babu, I.A.S., *Sivaganga*

5. Thiru R.Thyagarajan, I.A.S., *Thoothukudi*
6. Thiru S.Kosalaraman, I.A.S., *Thanjavur*
7. Thiru D.Raajendiran, I.A.S., *Namakkal*
8. Dr.J.Radhakrishnan, I.A.S., *Salem*
9. Thiru Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana, I.A.S., *Pudukottai*



10. Thiru S. Vijayakumar, I.A.S., *Ramanathapuram*
11. Thiru S. Thangaswami, I.A.S., *Cuddalore*
12. Thiru P. Annamalai, I.A.S., *Karur*
13. Dr.A.C.Mohandoss, I.A.S., *Vellore*

III.Rehabilitation Services to the disabled

- a. "Best Collectors" (Certificate of Appreciation, a Gold Medal and a cheque for Rs.25,000 for District Welfare Fund)

1. Thiru K. Rajaraman, I.A.S., *Kancheepuram*
2. Dr.K. Manivasan, I.A.S., *Trichirapalli*
3. Thiru S.Vijayakumar, I.A.S., *Ramanathapuram*
4. Thiru Rajesh Lakhani, I.A.S., *Perambalur*

- b. Special Prize : For successfully implementing the "Girl Child Protection Scheme" and for having reduced the infant mortality rate :

Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, I.A.S., *Salem*



(Certificate of Appreciation, a Gold Medal and a cheque for Rs.25,000 for District Welfare Fund)

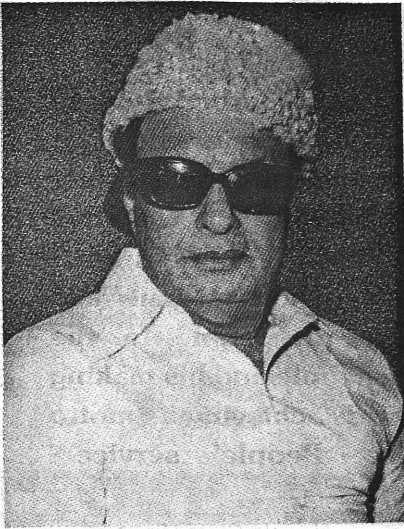
- c. Special Prize : Best District in the entire country in providing outstanding rehabilitation services to the disabled :

Thiru S. Ramachandran, I.A.S., *Madurai*

(Certificate of Appreciation, a Gold Medal and a cheque for Rs.25,000 for District Welfare Fund)

Small savings award for exceeding the target fixed.

1. Thiru M. Kalaivanan, I.A.S., *Commissioner,
Corporation of Chennai*
2. Thiru N. Muruganandam, I.A.S., *Coimbatore*
3. Thiru S. Ramachandran, I.A.S., *Madurai*
4. Thiru Sunil Paliwal, I.A.S., *Tirunelveli*
5. Thiru K. Rajaraman, I.A.S., *Kancheepuram*
6. Thiru S. Vijayakumar, I.A.S., *Ramanathapuram*



Dr. M.G.R.

- *Leader of the Masses*

Thiru M.G. Ramachandran endearingly known to us as M.G.R. is one of the great leaders of Tamil Nadu, whose life long public service was inspired by the conviction to help the poor and also to serve the Humanity.

Dr. M.G.R.'s dynamism, charisma and his contribution towards the growth of Tamil Nadu have got for him a unique place in the History of the Country as well as in hearts of the millions and millions of the people.

Dr. M.G.R. who glittered as the monarch of the silver screen for more than a quarter of a century assumed charge as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after achieving resounding victory in the General Election held during 1977.

During the 1980 Election, he returned to power with thumping majority and became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the second time.

During 1984 Election, he has got the people's mandate for his party, while he was away from the State - taking treatment in Newyork.

M.G.R. assumed office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for a third term on 4th February, 1985.

During this tenure as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he introduced several far reaching reforms in the administrative setup and also implemented various schemes for the development of the state and to the benefit of the poor, downtrodden women and children.

The Noon Meal Scheme which was launched by him during 1982 has been hailed by all States of India as well as International Organisations such as UNICEF and World Bank.

He has played an instrumental role for the rapid growth of education both in quantity and quality by creating new Universities - Anna University of Technology, Bharathiyar University, Bharathidasan University and Tamil University.



"Here is a powerful people's rule of Dravidian Movement, a southern beacon light of the Indian-Sub-Continent. This Government is following the foot steps of our "Ithaya Theivam Puratchi Thalaivar MGR" to fulfil the objectives of Perarignar Anna. The Government now in Tamil Nadu is a Government of the people, for the people and by the people and his making rapid strides towards achieving its motto "People's welfare - People's service - People's progress".

- Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

Dr. M.G.R. has dedicated his life for the cause of humanism. Hence, he was adonrned and admired by the people as **"Makkal Thilagam", "Ponmana chemmal" and "Puratchi Thalaivar"**.

Thanthai Periyar described him as a "Man with Large Heart" and Perarignar Anna admired him as a "Poem with Serene Beauty and Emotion".

Dr. M.G.R. has strived hard to perpetuate the memory of Perarignar Anna in each and every aspect and activity of Tamil Nadu. Following the footsteps of his political mentor, Dr. M.G.R. has organised the 5th World Tamil Conference at Madurai during the month of January 1981. Dr. M.G.R. has great respect for Thanthai Periyar who advocated the ideals of social reformation and worked for reconstruction of the society based on rationalism, liberty and equality.

The centenary celebration of Thanthai Periyar was celebrated all over the State by the Government under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. M.G.R. He also ordered to implement the reformed Tamil Script introduced by Thanthai Periyar.

The centenary celebration of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, described as the "People's Poet" by Perarignar Anna was also organised by the Government headed by Dr. M.G.R.

The great leader who inspired the massess and has a lot of admirers throughout the countries and continents, passed away on 24th December, 1987.

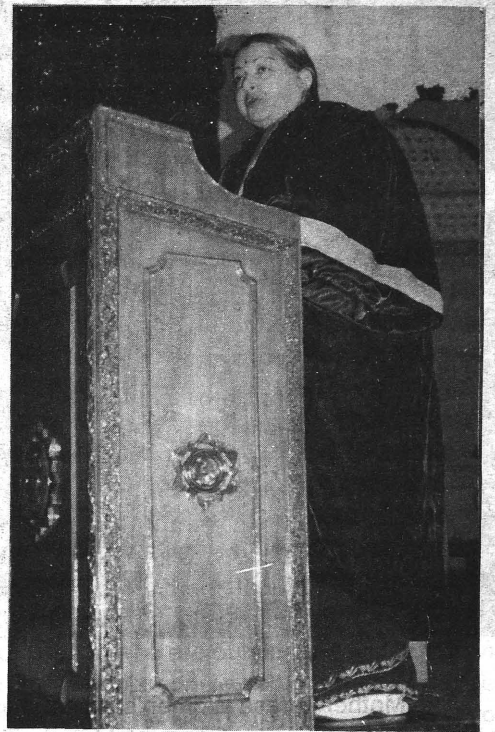
Death comes to all; but the great deeds and achievements will continue to live for ever and influence the people as great monuments.

CARRY ON THE TORCH OF EMANCIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

*Convocation address of
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA*

It gives me great pleasure to attend the Twelfth Convocation of the Mother Teresa Women's University and to deliver the Convocation. Address before this distinguished gathering. This unique University, dedicated to higher academic pursuits relating to women is fittingly named after a legendary figure, a Nobel laureate and a great humanitarian of our times - Mother Teresa.

This prestigious University owes its existence to the farsighted vision of Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR who was himself totally committed to the upliftment and empowerment of women in Tamil Nadu during his tenure as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu between 1977 and 1987. It was on the occasion of the great Tamil Poet Subramania



Bharathi's Centenary Celebrations during 1981-1982 that Dr. MGR envisaged the inception of an exclusive Women's University in Tamil Nadu. Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR accompanied Mother Teresa to Kodaikanal in 1984 and announced the setting up of this great University and named it after the legendary Mother. Dr. MGR envisioned this University as an unique institution unparalleled elsewhere in the world, solely devoted to women's causes and totally committed to empowering women through education. It was a historic milestone in the development of the status of women in Tamil Nadu. Today, this University which seeks to empower women belonging to all strata of society, is not only a tribute to Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR's wisdom and lofty vision, but also is a symbol of his deep concern and compassion for the weaker sections of society, especially women and children.



The Mother Teresa Women's University is the real life manifestation of Mahakavi Bharathi's dream of "சரி நிகர் சமாணம்" i.e. equal status for women, in the sense that the missionary zeal of the poet's aspirations of elevating the position of women on par with men is inherent in it.

India, as a nation State, is relatively young though as a civilization we are several centuries old. The status of women in India is in a state of flux riven between tradition and modernity. Women are seen to be playing major roles as change agents. They are visible in politics, administration, the police and a host of other non-traditional professions. Women are seeking education in ever-increasing numbers. Yet, the vast majority of India's rural women live in penury and subjugation for lack of basic education. The perpetuation of subservience of Indian women is caused by unequal access to quality education.

We are aware that the Constitution of India guarantees the right to education to all, but even now it is a fact that in many households women have no choice in life and are caught in the drudgery of domestic chores. It is only the girl child who is forced to drop out of school to look after her younger siblings. My Government is deeply concerned with the plight of the girl child, marginalized and exploited in society. To bring girls into the mainstream of education and economic progress, I announced The Girl Child Protection Scheme which ensures a lumpsum to such girls when they attain 20 years of age. Efforts are being made by my Government to enroll more girls in schools, to encourage them to continue their education and realise their full potential.

My Government is committed to promoting women's empowerment through various programmes and schemes particularly through education and entrepreneurship. The ambitious scheme of providing entrepreneurial training to 5.00.000 rural women, currently halfway through, is a fitting 'example of my Government's efforts towards making women economically and financially independent. Besides the continuation of the free noon meal scheme and the distribution of free bicycles to rural SC and ST girls in the Plus I and Plus II classes, this Government has issued orders for providing free education to SC and ST girl students up to the Post Graduate level in Government Colleges. I am happy to see these schemes bearing fruit now with many of the 970 women, who graduate today from this distinguished University, being beneficiaries of some of these schemes introduced by my Government.

It is my firm belief that the focus of planning has to shift from seeing women merely as recipients of welfare schemes to recognizing their role as producers, making major contribution to the family, the state and the nation as agents of social transformation. Education of women must, therefore, be accorded the topmost priority for bringing about improvement in the status of women. As the great Indian sage Swami Vivekananda has stated (I quote)

"All nations have attained greatness by paying respect to women. That country and that nation which do not respect women have never become great, nor will ever be in future" (unquote)

Women are the first educators of mankind. But according to a **UNESCO (1995) report**, women and girls are (I quote) *"the largest single category of persons denied equality of educational opportunity in the world today"*. (unquote) One is anguished to see a wide gap existing between women's literacy rates as compared to those of men. According to the 2001 census, though the literacy rate in Tamil Nadu is higher at 73.47% than the All-India literacy rate at 65.38%, the gender gap in literacy still persists. In 1951 the gender gap in literacy in Tamil Nadu was 21.67%. This vast gap has been reduced only to 17.78% in 2001, indicating the enormous responsibility on the part of the Government as well as the educational institutions in improving the literacy rate among girls and women. My Government therefore is fully aware of the ground reality relating to women's education and women's empowerment, and is deeply committed to extending education to every girl and to every woman in Tamil Nadu.

Despite the increase in the percentage of women recipients in general education

during the last decade more than 90 percent of women do not enter the portals of higher education. Women are also absent from the top most positions in the echelons of power in the policy and decision making apparatus of the educational, administrative and political systems in our country barring a few exceptions.

It is my considered view that it is no longer correct to regard Higher Education solely as a privilege. It should be regarded as a basic right to be given to all men and women who aspire for it, irrespective of caste or creed or socio-economic status. It is in this context, that the role of an exclusive Women's University becomes so much more significant, as it can function as an apex body to oversee women's education at all levels, to help design policies aimed at the inclusion of women who are outside the academia and remain under-privileged. I am happy to see Mother Teresa Women's University taking on a monitoring role, enabling women at all levels to avail of the benefits of education. I am glad that this University, through its triple functions of teaching, research and extension services, is disseminating vital information needed for generating awareness among women, in addition to pioneering Women's Studies. Besides, I understand that the Distance Education programmes of Mother Teresa Women's University aim at reaching women in far flung areas and providing them with facilities and access to higher learning, which is indeed highly laudable.

I am happy to learn that this University offers 19 courses in all, and produces 500 Graduates and Post Graduates every year, and that the alumnae of this University have made a significant mark in several professions, both at the national and international levels. I am delighted to learn that two of your alumnae became Vice-

Chancellors of Universities in Tamil Nadu and I congratulate all such achievers for their splendid academic performance and excellence.

With globalisation and universalisation firmly established as growth patterns of development all over the world, education is fast becoming a significant and integral part of human life and we, in India, can no longer afford to have 50% of our human resources - namely women, being uneducated, and ignorant. In this era of Information Technology, with the dynamic growth of the Internet, it is high time that we prepared our women to face the challenges of the 21st century by exposing them to the latest, modern, innovative and technical courses.

The Mother Teresa Women's University needs to break gender barriers by producing women graduates of high quality in these fields. I understand that the courses offered by the University, range from down to earth disciplines such as Herbal Sciences to stellar subjects like Astrophysics, Visual Communication, Computer and Bio-Informatics, Information Technology, Executive MBA, Food and Nutrition. I hope that this University will train more and more women to become agricultural, technological, and Information Scientists, who could take pride of place in policy-making and nation building activities.

My Government is committed to redressing gender imbalance in all areas and thereby to facilitating and infusing gender justice. The provision of an All Women Police Station in each of the 188 Police Sub Divisions in Tamil Nadu is a fitting testimony to this lofty commitment. My Government has also appointed women in the Fire and Rescue Services Department, besides Women Executive Officers in the Hindu Religious &

Charitable Endowments Department, and also a Muslim Woman as the Chairperson of the TNPSC and another Muslim Woman as the Chairperson of the WAKF Board, and today, a woman has been appointed by my Government as the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, which I consider are all path breaking measures. Further, this Government undertook the Himalayan task of sensitizing its Police Force to gender issues. Our gender sensitization programme, in which this University has also had a share, has been welcomed not only by other States but by other countries, as well. I am happy to mention that this has also started a ripple effect in other public domains such as the judiciary and the world of business, which are emulating our feat. Mother Teresa Women's University should identify different sections of society which need gender awareness and offer effective courses as a step towards creating an egalitarian society.

It is my vision that the University should join hands with the Government in all its endeavours to raise the standard of women in our State. Your research efforts should focus on socially relevant gender issues, so that your findings could form the basis for our policy making and assist the Government in identifying crucial issues and suggest solutions to translate them into appropriate schemes for the welfare of our women. The University should function as a vital nodal agency for monitoring all women related concerns, particularly the education of women at all levels. Women who have made worthy contributions to academics should be identified and an award should be instituted as an incentive for them to excel in their service to society in general and to women in particular.

Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR had nurtured this University to evolve into an advanced

institute of International repute, collaborating with other Universities both in India and abroad, in the area of research relating to Women's studies. It was also his dream that it should commit itself to the welfare of the rural women folk, destitutes and women in an impoverished state, besides furthering the advancement of learning and pursuing research.

My Government is committed to transforming Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR's dream into reality. It was entirely my own brain-child to allot a large tract of land to the Mother Teresa Women's University and develop it into a Centre of excellence with aid from the Ford Foundation, USA, and as such, I have a special interest in the growth and development of this University. I am sure that other infrastructural facilities needed by the University for its becoming an institute of international eminence will soon follow. Besides, my Government has also transformed the unitary status of this University into an affiliating one, thus broadening its base.

I am sure, those of you graduating today, will prove to be worthy of your Motherland and of the Society to which you belong. **I trust that you will carve a niche for yourselves as nation builders and social transformers. Continue to educate yourselves to be of constant service to the poor and the down-trodden. I exhort you to carry on the torch of emancipation and empowerment that has been kindled in you during your tenure in this University.** You are the privileged few who have had access to higher education in this vast country and it should be a matter of pride for you to serve the nation with all the talents and expertise the University education has given you.

I am reminded of what Mother Teresa once one said (quote,

"It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving" (Unquote)

It is your responsibility to extend your knowledge, talents, skills and energy to empower your fellow beings, particularly your less-fortunate sisters living throughout our great State. I congratulate you and the prizewinners, and I wish you all a very bright future and success in all your endeavours.

I would like to conclude with a few memorable lines written by our great Poet Bharathidasan from his famous work 'குடும்ப விளக்கு':

"பெண்கட்குக் கல்வி வேண்டும்,
குடித்தனம் பேணுதற்கே!
பெண்கட்குக் கல்வி வேண்டும்,
மக்களைப் பேணுதற்கே!
பெண்கட்குக் கல்வி வேண்டும், உலகினைப்
பேணுதற்கே!
பெண்கட்குக் கல்வி வேண்டும், கல்வியைப்
பேணுதற்கே!"

— என்று கூறி உங்கள் கல்விப் பணி சிறக்க
உளமாற வாழ்த்துகிறேன்.

I thank His Excellency the Governor for having invited me to deliver the Convocation Address today, and once again I wish to convey my warm greetings to all the young scholars. I wish each one of you good luck, prosperity, success in all your endeavours and activities and brilliant, illustrious careers in the service of the Nation and humanity.

— Convocation address of
Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa at
Mother Teresa Women's University,
Kodaikanal on 2-12-2002.

Hon'ble Chief Minister's

DEEPAVALI GIFT HAMPER

Solace to the poor Agricultural Labourers



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa is always thinking about the interests of the poor, downtrodden and working class people.

As a result, various schemes are being implemented by the Tamil Nadu Government for the betterment of the vulnerable sections of the Society as well as for the overall development of the Tamil Nadu.

Out of the new and innovative welfare schemes being implemented by the Government, Deepavali Gift Package Scheme is really remarkable and praiseworthy. The gesture shown by Hon'ble Chief Minister towards Landless poor is laudable.

Due to the Drought conditions prevailed in the State and non- release of water by

Karnataka Government into Mettur Dam, The Kuruvai cultivation was badly affected in the Cauvery Delta Districts. Even the SAMBA coverage has been much less than the normal area. Consequently the landless agricultural labourers in the Delta Areas have been put to a lot of hardship.

With a view to help the farmers and the Agricultural labourers of the Cauvery Delta Districts, The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced a massive Relief Programme at Thanjavur on 24.6.2002, mainly employment generation programme so as to implement at a total cost of Rs.164.18 crores.

The Programme has been implemented in an effective manner so as to provide employment opportunities to a large number



The District Collectors of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Perambalur, Karur, Cuddalore and Namakkal have been requested to indicate the approximate number of the beneficiaries in their respective districts. The Collectors have also been instructed to prepare village wise and shopwise list of beneficiaries.

of Agricultural Labourers. In addition to the provision of the employment opportunities various welfare schemes were implemented to the benefits of the people. The works covered by this scheme were completed.

Taking into consideration of the Deepavali festival and the financial conditions of the affected Agricultural Labourers, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J. Jayalalithaa has announced, in the Legislative Assembly on 28th October 2002, the Rs.21 crore Deepavali Giff hamper scheme.

Under the scheme, Giff Package containing 10 kgs. of Rice, One Kg. of Sugar, One Coconut, 250 gms. of Sweet (Milk Khoa, Jangiri etc.) Vegetables worths at Rs.7/-, 100 gms. Ghee, 200 gms. of green grain, 50 gms. of Turmeric, 50 gms. of Mustard and 50 gms. of Dry Chilli and along with cash assistance of Rs.50.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed to distribute the gifts to the beneficiaries before Deepavali.

As per the number of the families of the Landless Agricultural Labourers identified and indicated by the District Collectors, sanction has been accorded for the supply and distribution of Giff Bags.

The allotment and distributions of the Giff Bags have been made as detailed below :

Thanjavur District	-	2,50,000
Nagapattinam	-	2,04,900
Trichy	-	1,49,000
Pudukkottai	-	29,464
Perambalur	-	22,583
Namakkal	-	4,108
Karur	-	21,000
Cuddalore	-	76,978
Tiruvarur	-	1,80,000

The Giff Bags were distributed jointly by the president of the localbodies and the village Administrative Officers. The process was closely monitored by the Hon'ble Ministers, District Collectors and Zonal Commissioners of the respective Districts.



families were benefitted by the scheme in Nagapattinam District.

The Minister also said that the noble scheme is being implemented so as to help the agricultural labourers to celebrate the Deepavali Festival. The scheme is an ideal example for the generous attitude and motherly affection of our Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Thiru Vivek Harinarain, I.A.S., Secretary, Information Technology, Thiru Sudeep Jain, I.A.S., District Collector and the Members of Legislative Assembly also participated in the distribution process.

While inaugurating the distribution of gift hamper scheme in Thanjavur District, the District Collector Thiru S. Kosalaraman, I.A.S., said that 2.50 lakh families are benefitted by this scheme.

The Zonal Commissioner for the district Thiru Lal Rawna Sailo, I.A.S., monitored the distribution works.

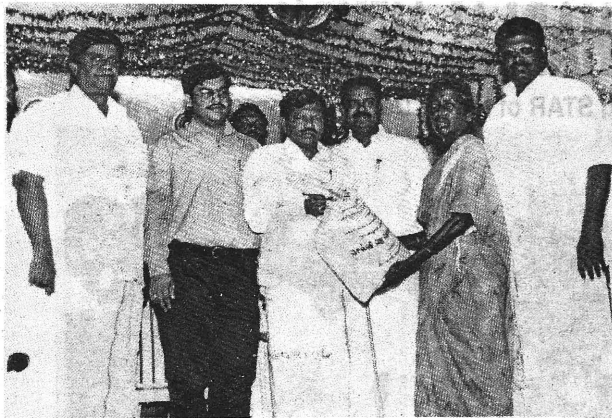
The Hon'ble Minister for Information & Publicity Thiru K.K. Balasubramanian distributed Deepavali Gift Bags to 1441 families of the Agricultural Labourers at Pettavaithalai of Trichy District on 2nd November, 2002. While addressing the gatherings, the Hon'ble Minister for Information & Publicity Thiru K.K. Balasubramanian said, "Despite severe financial crisis our Hon'ble Chief Minister has implemented this scheme with a view to help the poor, landless agricultural labourers".

The Minister also said that 52,510 families of Trichy Taluk, 32,780 families of Srirangam Taluk, 35,910 families of Lalkudi Taluk, 18,720 families of Mannachanallur Taluk, 18,450 families of Musiri Taluk, 11,630 families of Thottium Taluk were benefitted by the gift hamper scheme.

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Thiru R. Jeevanandam inaugurated the distribution of Deepavali Gift Bags to the Agricultural Labourers at Sattanathapuram and Agani Villages in Sirkali Taluk of Nagapattinam District.

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture disclosed that a total number of 2,04,670 poor





and elected local body representatives and higher officials participated in the function.

In Thiruvavur District the Deepavali Gift Hampers were distributed to 15,000 families of Thiruvavur Taluk, 20,000 families of Nannilam Taluk, 31,000 families of Kodavasal Taluk, 16,500 families of Valainganai Taluk, 42,000 families of Mannargudi Taluk, 23,500 families of Needamangalam Taluk, 32,000 families of Thiruthuraiipoondi Taluk. The District

Collector and the elected representatives participated in the function.

Thiru A. Arunachalam, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly inaugurated the distribution of Deepavali Gifts at Thirumanur and at Edankanni Village in T.Palur Block.

"The ambition of the greatest man of our generation is to wipe out every tear from every

The Deputy Speaker said that 22,584 families of the Agricultural Labourers living in 69 Panchayats of Thirumanur and T.Palur Blocks in Perambalur District were benefited by the scheme.

In Pudukottai District 30,900 families belonging to 400 villages were benefited. These gift hampers have been disbursed through 250 PDS shops in that area.



Disbursement of Deepavali gift hamper had been commenced in two blocks viz., Aranthangi and Karambakudi on 1.10.2002 and in the remaining 3 blocks viz. Manamalakudi, Avudayarkoil and Gantharvakottai on 2.11.2002.

On 3.11.2002 a function was arranged at Sunaiyakadu and Paravakkottai in Aranthangi block for this disbursement. Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Thiru M. Radhakrishnan, M.L.A.s

eye" is the tribute paid by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Nation.

The intention and efforts of our Hon'ble Chief Minister to help the poor and the implementation of various schemes for the upliftment of the poor are directed towards realising the dreams of the father of the Nation. ★

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

The Guiding STAR of Indian Democracy



Jawaharlal Nehru - the guiding Star of Indian Democracy and the great emancipator of the human race - has dedicated his life for the liberation of India and for its onward march so that his countrymen may lead a happy and contented life. Jawaharlal Nehru will be remembered for ever, for his achievements in the fields of economic development, democratic process and Non-alignment policy.

The birthday of our former Prime Minister falls on 27th Nov 2002. The following compilation is presented to the readers to highlight the greatness of the great soul of India.

Tributes to Jawaharlal Nehru

"He is as pure as crystal; He is Truthful beyond suspicion. The Nation will be safe in his hands".

- Mahatma Gandhi

"Here is a man the like of whom treads this earth but rarely and only in a crisis. He has been born and has lived in a critical period in India's History and has played his part nobly and well"

- Dr. Rajendra Prasad

"Mahatma Gandhi had chosen Pandit Nehru as his political heir and it is gratifying to see that the choice fell on the right person".

- Sardar Vallabai Patel

"As a fighter for freedom he is illustrious as a maker of modern India his services were unparalleled. His life and work have had a profound

influence on our mental make up, social structure and intellectual development.

- Dr. S.Radhakrishnan

"The humanitarian approach was at the root of his thinking; on economic subjects, his passion for planning and his desire to create a socialist society".

- Lal Bahadur Shastri



The thoughts of **Jawaharlal Nehru**

standards of the people rise substantially and Poverty be counteracted.

Democracy demands discipline, Tolerance and mutual regard. In a democracy changes are made by mutual discussion and persuasion and not by violent means.

- I see no way of ending the Poverty, the vast unemployment the degradation and the subjection of the Indian People except through socialism.
- I believe in the Rapid Industrialisation of the country and only thus, I think will the

- Planning will help us in having an emotional awareness of our problems as a whole. It will help us to see the isolated problems in villages or districts or even provinces in their largest context.

- The pattern of society that we look forward to is a socialist pattern of society which is classless and casteless.
- You know I am keeping interest in the Progress and advancement of women of India. To the measure women go ahead, to that measure India will Advance.

...



"Jawaharlal was the architect of modern India. He is a great visionary who foresaw that the future of the country lay in the hands of the youth and gave them all encouragement. The stadium is aptly named after him.

- Selvi J JAYALALITHAA
Hon'ble Chief Minister
while dedicating the Nehru Stadium
to the nation on 18.1.1993.



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE IN LAW TO PROVIDE QUALITY LEGAL EDUCATION

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

and I am happy to see this University making great strides now.

I have great pleasure in associating myself with the inauguration of the "School of Excellence in Law", and the upgradation of the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Chennai.

The recent advancements in professional education have clearly proved that universities all over the world focusing on a particular speciality of education have greatly improved the standards of professional education. Taking this healthy phenomenon into consideration, my Government conceptualised the establishment of an exclusive University for legal education in the year 1995 itself,

In view of the well - entrenched trends of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation sweeping across the globe, the need of the hour is to offer quality education in every field, which should not only match international standards, but also address itself to the task of nation building. It is the sacred duty of all Universities to take all out steps to achieve this goal.

Keeping this in view, my Government visualised the need for establishing a "School of Excellence in Law" to provide quality legal education to meet the rigours of this challenging era. While delivering the First Convocation Address of Dr. Ambedkar Law University on 19.4.2002, I expressed my desire to

establish a School of Excellence Law to be run directly by the University, which shall become

“a lead agent for all legal institutions imparting legal education in the country”

It gives me immense satisfaction that the proposal made by me while delivering the First Convocation Address of this University to establish a School of Excellence in Law has now been translated into reality in an admirable manner.

It is gratifying to note that the proposal of the Government to upgrade the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Chennai has fulfilled by the introduction of the B.A., B.L., (Hons.) Degree Course on par with the School of Excellence established by the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University. I am sure that every possible step will be taken by the Department of Legal Studies to make the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Chennai, a premier institution of legal studies in the entire country.

It gives me great satisfaction to learn that the University has not only acted on the suggestion made by me during the First Convocation and established a School of Excellence in Law, but has also come forward to offer a series of programmes to fulfil the cherished goal of this Government to provide quality legal education in the State.

My vision of making Tamil Nadu the 'number one' State in the entire country in all fields includes providing quality legal education on par with international standards.

I hope that the Law University and the Department of Legal Studies will endeavour to achieve this lofty goal by undertaking path breaking measures. The future of these institutions lies in the hands of the faculty members, who through their ceaseless efforts should strive to achieve excellence in every sphere of legal education.

I find that the University is now proceeding in the right direction, with a Research Department having been established, facilitating research in various fields of law, in the process enabling the faculty members

working in the affiliated law colleges to pursue doctoral research.

I understand that the University will be offering Post-Graduate Programmes in “Business Law” and “Constitution and Legal Order” as full-time programmes, which will help in moulding teachers of high calibre.

Besides, I am given to understand that, shortly, the University will be offering employment oriented Post-Graduate Diploma Programmes also. Apart from these innovative programmes, the University's plans to have Distant Education Programmes and thereby provide opportunities to the vast sections of aspirants who cannot join the regular stream are really commendable.

An eminent Scottish lawyer Hugh Patterson MacMillan speaking on “The Ethics of Advocacy” said, “The practice of law is more than a mere trade or business, and... those who engage in it are the guardians of ideals and traditions to which it is right that they should from time to time to dedicate themselves anew”.

Before I conclude, I congratulate the students who are fortunate in having secured admission to these institutions of excellence. I hope that this University will be a trendsetter in the field of legal education.

Achievements cannot be accomplished without hard work and sacrifice. I therefore call upon the students to put forth their best efforts to bring laurels to the University, the legal profession and the State.

I wish all of you a very bright future.

Thank you.

Inaugural address delivered by

Hon'ble Chief Minister

Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

*on the Inauguration of the School of
Excellence in Law & Upgradation of
Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College
(21.11.2002)*

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
SELVI J JAYALALITHAA
 In the Presence of
DR. VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN
 SINGAPORE DELEGATION LED BY
 MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 SINGAPORE



RAPID INDUSTRIAL GROWTH IN TAMIL NADU

Hon'ble Chief Minister
SELVI J JAYALALITHAA

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa met a Singapore Business Delegation led by Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of State for National Development, Singapore at Chennai on 11.10.2002. A 40 member delegation comprising of officials and members of International Enterprises of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore, Officials of the Building and Construction Authority, Singapore and Officers of the Singapore Government and representatives of various Business Enterprises of Singapore and the High Commissioner of Singapore at Delhi. The Singapore delegation had a detailed discussion with Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa and other Officials of Government of Tamil Nadu on exploring possibilities for collaborative efforts between Singapore and Tamil Nadu in areas relating to (i) Urban Infrastructure Development, (ii) Construction related activities, (iii) Mass Housing Development, (iv) Infrastructure Business Structure and (v) Economic Opportunities.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa in her introductory remarks, said :



"It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Chennai and Tamil Nadu. The ties that bind Singapore and Tamil Nadu are indeed unique and historic. Our language, Tamil, is one of the official languages of Singapore. This amply demonstrates the strong ethnic and cultural ties that Tamil Nadu has with Singapore. In this sense, I am sure you will find Tamil Nadu, a home away from home.

I am proud to state that Tamil Nadu is one among the leading States in the Indian Union with a very huge potential for growth. Historically, Tamil Nadu has always been at the vanguard of the development process in India. Tamil Nadu is a safe haven for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). I have absolutely no doubt that you will feel very reassured with the salubrious environment which we provide in Tamil Nadu.

My Government has launched an ambitious Tenth Five Year Plan covering the period between 2002 and 2007. This involves public investment to the tune of Rs.40,000 crores and

projects with an ambitious annual growth rate of 8%. The focus in this Plan will be on the mobilisation and channelisation of private investment to planned development. This marks a major change from our earlier approach to planning and the emphasis now is on the Government being a facilitator for private capital to generate over all growth. My Government therefore attaches the highest priority for foreign direct investment and accords a red carpet welcome to it. It shall be our endeavour to provide the perfect setting and all the necessary facilities to encourage such investment. It is my vision to make Tamil Nadu the number one State in India.

Chennai, our capital, is a port town which I am sure, you will relate to easily. A Singapore company is actively involved in improving the functions of the Tuticorin Port, particularly its container terminal. Chennai has a huge hinterland. In fact, it is the hub for the entire region of South India. We are now planning a Special Economic Zone near Ennore Port. I invite

you to think of participating in this development.

I am aware that the Singapore economy is also going through a process of adjustment to the new global economic realities. I am confident that with your fantastic record of innovation, you will chart out a new path. You can rely on Tamil Nadu to function effectively as your dependable partner, in this new direction you are seeking to forge.

I have studied with interest the tremendous foresight that has gone into the creation of the

ensuring that every family has a decent house. This has no doubt called for enormous public and private investment. I find that your business delegation has a large number of delegates who are actively involved in this major sector, namely, housing. We welcome your expertise in public - private partnership in this important area. I would very much like to see the same effort replicated in Chennai and other towns in Tamil Nadu.

I would also like to draw attention to the several new opportunities for investment which



"Science Park" in Singapore. We are keen to establish a bio-tech park in Chennai in collaboration with the Singapore Government. We have already had discussions with the "Genomic Institute of Singapore" to explore further possibilities in this vital area.

I am greatly impressed by the tremendous amount of effort that has gone into public housing in Singapore. In particular, I would like to commend the excellent progress made in

are taking off in Tamil Nadu. In particular, I would like to bring to your notice that Singapore should consider establishing "manufacturing enterprises" in Chennai and Tamil Nadu. This will be a very useful location in a global trading order. Chennai and Tamil Nadu can be your manufacturing base and from here, you could organise the shipping into any part of the world. Together we can be a very powerful trade combine.

There is also great scope for Information Technology parks at Chennai. M/s. Ascendas of Singapore have recently signed a MoU with TIDCO for building a new IT park. We can think of several more joint initiatives to promote IT enabled services in our IT corridor.

*We are planning massive investment in infrastructure during the Tenth Five Year Plan. This includes investment in Highways, Ports, Energy, Industrial Parks, Housing, Water Supply and Sewerage, Special Economic Zones and Urban Development. We need to establish a continuing dialogue, so that together we can achieve rapid progress. We seek to build a world-class infrastructure, so that the growth impulses of the economy are unleashed. **We wish to transform Chennai into the new economic capital of India, just like Shanghai in China. We want you to partner us in this exciting journey.***

We are examining comprehensively the framework of public - private partnership, particularly in cases where proprietary knowledge and designs are involved. A new framework will be put in place, which will enable private capital to take up key projects. I am sure you will find this a further impetus for investment and growth in Tamil Nadu.

*Let me conclude by expressing once again my happiness in meeting all of you. **Our ties are indeed very strong and I hope this visit will mark a further advance on the road towards our shared vision of building a modern and resplendent Chennai and Tamil Nadu, backed by the powerhouse that Singapore is already and will always be.** I wish to convey my best wishes to all of you and I look forward to a very fruitful session with all of you".*

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa thanked the visiting Singapore Delegation for their keen desire to associate themselves in infrastructure development activities of Tamil Nadu and expressed her happiness at the initiative and interest shown by the delegation in Tamil Nadu. Dr.Vivian

Balakrishnan, Minister of State for National Development, Singapore thanked Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa on behalf of the Singapore Delegation for the extremely positive signals that have emerged from the interaction with the Government of Tamil Nadu.

During the meeting the officials of Government of Tamil Nadu described the various potential opportunities that Tamil Nadu presented to Singapore companies for building mutually beneficial economic activities, particularly in areas like construction industry, Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Urban Planning & Redevelopment, Mass Housing Development and Infrastructure Development relating to specialized areas such as Biotechnology and Software development.

The Government of Tamil Nadu's team, under the Chairperson of Hon'ble Chief Minister included Thiru O.Panneerselvam, Minister PWD & PE, Thiru C. Ponnaiyan, Minister for Finance, Thiru D.Jayakumar, Minister for Law & IT, Thiru R.Viswanathan, Minister for Transport, Thiru M.C. Sampath, Minister for LA & H&UD, Thiru Sukavaneshvar, Chief Secretary, Thiru N.Narayanan, Secretary Finance & Development Commissioner and other officials from various departments. The 40 member Singapore Delegation led by Dr.Vivian Balakrishnan included Mr.C.See Chak Mun, High Commissioner of Singapore at Delhi and Mr.Lam Siew Wah, Deputy CEO of the Building and Construction Authority, besides officers of the Government of Singapore and members of the Singapore Business Community.

*- Introductory remarks made by
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,
Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion
of the meeting with the Infrastructure
Business Mission led by
Dr.Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of
State for National Development
of Singapore on 11.10.2002
at Chennai.*



TAMIL NADU'S TONING UP FISC & FARM

- Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

I would like to restrict my views to Tamil Nadu.

A recent joint study done by the World Bank and the Confederation of Indian Industry has identified Tamil Nadu as having a good investment climate. The government accords the utmost priority to the maintenance of law and order. Peace and tranquillity is an important pre-condition for assuring investment safety to potential investors. Tamil Nadu stands out as a destination of choice with its firm commitment to the perfect maintenance of law and order.

Tamil Nadu has a well-developed economy with a diversified industrial base. It is our endeavour to provide world class infrastructure. A separate infrastructure fund to leverage private sector investments is being constituted for upgradation of core infrastructure facilities. The fiscal reforms we have undertaken recently will ensure that the state is enabled to forge ahead again, on an accelerated development path. Our effort is to address every issue where a competitive advantage can be

The Five Qs

Economic Times posers for the Chief Minister

- ★ Do you think the investment climate in the south has significantly improved in the last few months?
- ★ Have you been able to make a perceptible change in the political environment to promote growth?
- ★ All the southern states are talking of being very proactive and transparent. How far has your government moved in this direction? Has this yielded significant results in reducing corruption and increasing the speed of decision making?
- ★ There are still many infrastructure bottle necks that impede growth in the south. How do you plan to overcome these problems?
- ★ What is your medium term growth agenda for your State?

established so that the manufacturing sector can again bloom in the State. the investment climate in Tamil Nadu has, thus, significantly improved in the recent past.

- ★ We have outlined a clear development agenda. To get on with this, we needed to undertake fiscal reforms. We laid a White Paper on Tamil Nadu Government's, Finances' on the table of the Legislative Assembly in August 2001 highlighting the serious fiscal problems. This was followed by a detailed fiscal policy reforms in the current year. With this, we are now better placed to take up the development agenda we have set ourselves.

Obviously, there could be different shades of political opinion on fiscal reforms. But, by and large, its necessity has been well appreciated. People now realise that there could be a pronounced and visible deterioration in the quality of services being provided if urgent fiscal reforms are not undertaken. In that sense, a political consensus has been achieved.

My Government has taken up issues necessary for rapid growth but which had been earlier ignored. These include fostering efficient management of water resources, giving a new momentum to growth in the agricultural sector bringing in improved technologies, improving means of communication and connectivity, and addressing infrastructure needs in a concerted manner. In fact, we have set off on the second generation reforms in a big way. We have been able to energise the state bureaucracy to take on the new development agenda of the government in a liberalised economy. Delivery on set goals as quickly as possible is our watch word and accountability has to be there.

- ★ My state Government attaches the highest importance to probity in public life. Transaction costs have to be corrected and this requires process reforms.

- ★ Regulatory hassles and infrastructure bottlenecks are being eliminated. We are also focusing on simplification of rules and procedures for eliminating the blight of corruption and for speeding up the decision making process. We have designed common application forms and common returns so that this reduces the manager's time and energy in meeting regulatory demands. Tamil Nadu will be transformed into a happening economy.

- ★ I believe that revival of the agricultural sector holds the key to improving the overall economic performance. We have set ourselves a target of improving the agricultural growth rate to 4% of the gross domestic product during 2002-07. This would be achieved by reclaiming waste-lands for agricultural purposes, improving the irrigation potential, creating necessary backward and forward linkages to ensure sustained remunerative returns to farm and non-farm workers. I foresee a strong potential for public-private partnership for the revival and development of the agricultural sector. The secondary sector is gradually but surely recovering from the downswing. I plan to focus on consolidating our comparative advantage in this sector with the objective of recording good growth during the period 2002-07. Sunrise sectors would provide opportunities to the highly qualified pool of technical manpower.

Our Government would also strive towards creating a comprehensive social security net to cushion the poor from sudden economic shocks.

Courtesy : Economic Times (12.12.2002)

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HOPE TURNS INTO REALITY

TOUCH SCREEN KIOSK



The people of Andipatti constituency hitherto had to depend on others to convey their grievances to the elected representative of their Assembly constituency.

Thanks to the order of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa to install the Touch Screen Kiosk at the MLA's Office, the common and uneducated people are able to represent their needs and grievances directly and are being got redressed quickly.

The people who come here to record their grievances can directly make their representations to the Hon'ble Chief Minister through voice mail. Offering this facility is the touch screen kiosk fitted with a micro receiver and camera, installed at the office. Those with any grievance have only to touch the screen to activate it.

At the very first touch of the 'kuraiitheer' screen offers four options, audio recording, audio visual and or recording and registering written complaints, either in Tamil or English.

For making representation in writing, the person must be literate to operate the alphabets which would appear on the screen. But for the unlettered, they could make use of the audio or visual facility. They just have to touch the button on the screen and make their complaint. While they make their complaint, the camera at the top would photograph them.

In the case of audio-visual recording, the person making the complaint is filmed in action, with his cries of anguish pleading for succour. Public now use this as if the Hon'ble Chief Minister was at the other end. The added advantage is that their complaint could be played back to them.

At the end of the complaint, the computer gives a number which the complainant should note down and by using this number they could get the response some time later.

All the complaints are stored in a CD and forwarded to the Hon'ble Chief Minister's grievance cell for further action. A large number of people had utilised this facility and benefitted. They feel that their hope turns into reality.

Villagers feel that this system has brought them close to the Hon'ble Chief Minister. They hope that this would be the quick fire method of having their grievances redressed. ●

A NEW TANK ACROSS VELLAPPARAI ODAI

The long-felt need of Theppampatti Villagers in Andipatti Constituency is being realised now. Andipatti MLA and the Hon'ble Chief Minister

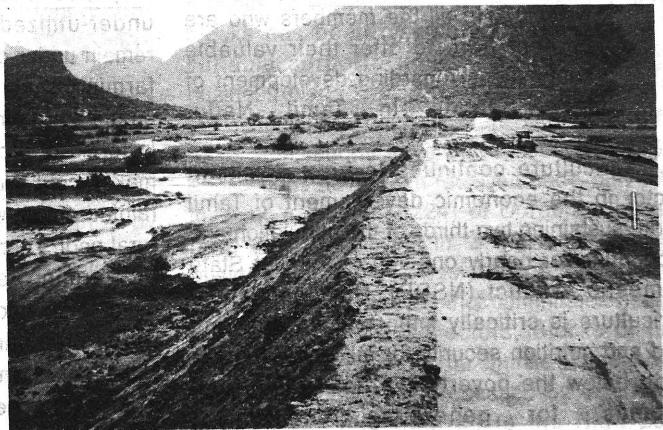
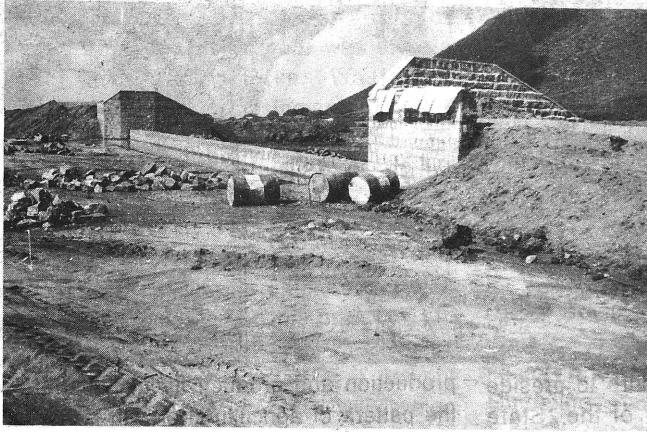
The tank will have a capacity of 9.41 Mcft to impound a storage of 18.82 Mcft annually in two fillings. The effective storage of tank is 8.69 mcft and annual net effective storage is 17.38 Mcft.

Adopting two fillings, 18.82 Mcft can be diverted without affecting the lower down irrigation. It has been designed to form an earthen bund for a length of 740 Mts including 41 Mts length high co-efficient surplus weir. Required patta dry land and poromboke lands will be acquired for supply channel. It has been calculated that, on completion of the tank

construction, which is taken up at the cost of

election promise is also being fulfilled. It is the construction of a new tank across Vellaparai Odai three kilometers away from Theppampatti Village, on the way to vellappar Kovil and it is accessible by a metal road.

The Vellaparai Odai, across which the tank is coming up, is a jungle stream originating from Gandamanur East Reserve forest. It comes under Andipatti Minor basin of upper Vaigai river basin. The catchment area of the proposed site is 3.23 square miles and the total yield available including that of Usilampatti rainfall station is 38.35 Mcft.



Rs.1.19 Crores, the additional food production will be 207.83 Mt.

- O.L. Ravindran,
I&PRO, Thehi.

A massive project for Waste Land Development

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA



It gives me great pleasure to preside over the first meeting of the "State Wastelands and Watersheds Development Authority" of Tamil Nadu and deliver the presidential address. I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome, to all the members who are present here to offer their valuable suggestions regarding development of fallow lands in Tamil Nadu.

Agriculture continues to be a dominant sector in the economic development of Tamil Nadu, sustaining two-thirds of the population and accounting for nearly one-fifth of the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP). Development of agriculture is critically important for ensuring food and nutrition security for millions of people living below the poverty line, for raising rural incomes, for generating employment opportunities and for stimulating industrial growth and overall economic development of the State.

Though advances in seed - fertilizer - water technology have contributed to increased

production and productivity at the State level, the pattern of agricultural growth is not uniform between regions, crops and categories of farmers. The 'new technologies have not permeated into dry land regions and un-irrigated crops; as a result, a number of crops remain under-utilized and the dry land regions too remain under-developed and backward. Dry land farming covers a sizeable 52% of the gross cropped area in the State and remains inefficient in terms of productivity. Dependence on rainfall makes crop production considerably unstable in rainfed areas, which are home to the bulk of the rural poor. There is an urgent need to modernize dry farming technology, laying emphasis on developing and popularizing drought, resistant hybrid crop varieties, and evolving appropriate water harvesting techniques. The key attributes of the watershed approach are conservation of rainwater and optimization of soil and water resources in a sustainable and cost effective manner.

My vision for the people of Tamil Nadu includes doubling the per capita income of the

State by 2010, for which strategies such as integrated and holistic development of rain fed areas, water harvesting, augmentation of biomass production by involving the watershed community through agroforestry, horticulture and agri-business, reclamation of wastelands etc. have to be earnestly employed.

During the Budget Session 2001-2002, my Government announced a massive project for reclaiming 20 lakh hectares of wastelands through a Comprehensive Wasteland Programme (CWP) to be implemented over a five year period. The reclamation of wastelands, improving sub-optimal cultivation by small and marginal farmers, and encouraging rural non-farm activities are the focus of the new project. It will incorporate the micro-watershed development approach with emphasis on soil and water conservation. For this purpose, the Tamil Nadu Watershed Development Agency (TAWDEV) has been constituted as a Society under the Societies Act. The Agency will develop appropriate schemes, implement them and monitor their progress effectively. It will also source funds from IFAS, World Bank and other external agencies. A concept paper for posting the project for external funding is under consideration.

The Comprehensive Wasteland Programme has two components, viz.,

Participatory Watershed Development; and Development of Government wastelands by involving the Corporate Sector/Small Companies and Co-operatives.

The first component, i.e. Participatory Watershed Development Programme is based on a participatory approach, which involves selection of suitable watersheds, creating awareness among the local people, forming Watershed committees and user groups, preparing a plan for development of the entire watershed by enlisting the participation of the beneficiaries, and taking up appropriate activities relating to soil and moisture

conservation. This programme is funded entirely by the State Government. It is being implemented as a pilot project in 10 districts and an area of 55,000 hectares is to be covered in the first phase (2002-2003). I learn that the Forest and Horticulture Departments have raised 67 lakh tree and fruit seedlings and saplings for the above State funded programme. This will include 360 villages in 29 blocks with an initial outlay of Rs.25 crores. As on 7.12.2002, the area covered by planting is 10,968 hectares. In the recently held Collectors' Conference, I have requested the District Collectors to take advantage of the prevailing monsoon season and complete the planting activity before 31.12.2002.

The second component involves private sector participation in wasteland development. My Government has already announced its policy of implementing the Comprehensive Wasteland Programme by associating the private sector in joint ventures for mutual advantage. Guidelines have been issued for sanction of lease of Government lands at concessional rates. In order to raise high value horticultural crops, agro-forestry, biomass plantations and for linkage with agro-based industrial units, the process of identification of wasteland in large blocks has been completed and selection of suitable corporate houses with proper agri-business plans is in progress. The response to the scheme has been very encouraging. So far, 4112 applications have been issued and 1597 applications have been received back, duly filled in. A good number (224) of Corporate houses have evinced interest in taking lands for agri-business. Blocks of lands below 8 hectares will be processed by the District committees headed by the respective Collectors, Blocks of land above 8 hectares and large chunks of land above 40 hectares must be processed by the District Committees and referred to the High Level Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for orders of the Government. Two meetings have been held so far and the High Level Committee (HLC) has recommended proposals covering 4 districts totalling nearly 459 hectares. The Government will issue orders very shortly. I have given instructions that this exercise

A Comprehensive Wasteland Programme (CWP) is to be implemented over a five year period. The reclamation of wastelands, improving sub-optimal cultivation by small and marginal farmers, and encouraging rural non-farm activities are the focus of the new project.

must be completed and the project made operational in all districts by Pongal 2003.

The Wasteland Programme is closely connected with schemes of other departments. My Government has recently launched the New Anna Marumalarchi Thittam with a view to integrating agriculture and rural Industries in all the 385 blocks of this State. New agro-industrial units with financial support from commercial banks, NABARD and TIIIC must be encouraged to start operations within the next six months.

The success of this programme depends upon the convergence of services by different departments. It is important to propagate the concept of convergence of services in districts, and ensure that different field functionaries work as one cohesive unit and develop micro-plans at the district level, to integrate wasteland reclamation with agro-processing under the New Anna Marumalarchi Thittam. An intensive drive may be organised, involving revenue and agriculture department officers, to locate such wastelands and fallow lands in all villages and undertake a thorough diagnostic study

to bring them back under the plough. Only then can we succeed in bringing wastelands alive with productive economic activity.

The scheme involving the corporate sector will have forward linkages to Agri-business cold storage and markets. The Government shall act as a facilitator between corporate houses and small land holders to ensure the integrated development of wastelands with agri-business, thereby providing new employment opportunities in the rural areas. In order to make a programme sustainable it is necessary to establish market in linkages for the agricultural produce as well as for the agri-processed value-added products. Towards this end, the Government has declared three high potential areas as Agri Export zones. The Agri Export Zone for Flowers at Hosur at a cost of Rs.24.85 crores has been set up as a joint venture. The Agri Export Zone for Floriculture in the Nilgiris at a cost of Rs.15.89 crores, and the Agri Export Zone for Mangoes in Theni and five southern districts at a cost of Rs.24.60 crores have been recently approved by the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA). Similarly, provision of infrastructural facilities such as cold storage, model farm and refrigerated vans provided along with extension and research support at Eco-Enterprises Park in Nilakottai will go a long way in promoting sustainable agriculture.

The Chief Minister's 15 Point Programmes "aimed at the all round socio-economic

The Comprehensive Wasteland Programme

has two components, viz.,

Participatory Watershed Development; and Development of Government wastelands by involving the Corporate Sector/Small Companies and Co-operatives.

development and prosperity of the people of Tamil Nadu in consultation with eminent scientists like Dr.M.S.Swaminathan" will be the road map for this Government in the next four years. It has been indicated as the path to development in our Tenth Plan paper by the Union Planning Commission. It will be the endeavour of this Government to realise this vision by March, 2006.

Our motto is to raise the productivity of rain fed and marginal lands in this State through wasteland development using the watershed approach, rain water harvesting and water conservation techniques, along with assured access to remunerative markets for agricultural produce through linkages with agro processing

industries. This scheme can dramatically raise rural incomes and generate millions of on-farm and non-farm employment opportunities. My dream is to elevate Tamil Nadu to the No.1 position among the States in the country, I am sure with your co-operation and valuable suggestions, we can eradicate poverty and usher in an era of prosperity in Tamil Nadu and I look forward to hearing your informed views on the subject.

Speech delivered by

Selvi J JAYALALITHAA,

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

in the First Meeting of the State Wastelands

and Watersheds Development authority

held on 13.12.2002.

FREE GIFT COUPONS TO SMALL SAVINGS INVESTORS

The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced a small savings free Gift Coupons scheme for investors. Under this scheme, for every investment of Rs.5000/- by investors in the each scrip of KVP, POMIS, POTD 3/5 years, PPF & NSC from 1.12.2002 to 31.3.2003 and investment in PORD, accumulation of deposits made in each account for Rs.5000/- from 1.4.2002 to 31.3.2003 in the Post Offices of Tamil Nadu one free Gift Coupon will be distributed.

2. Taking into account the area, population, savings potential, target etc. given to the districts and to ensure draws are conducted evenly in all districts. The 29 districts in Tamil Nadu have been grouped into 11 groups. Chennai will be a separate group and other 28 districts have been arranged as 10 groups. Each Gift Coupon series consisting of 1,00,000 coupons will be issued to each group in respect of Chennai, the Commissioner, Chennai Corporation and Collectors in other districts will be implementing the Scheme. The nodal District Collector in each group will co-ordinate issue of coupons and conducting of draws in the group districts.

3. In respect of Chennai district the Field officers in Small Savings wing of Chennai Corporation will issue Gift Coupons to the eligible investors by

verifying investment details. In other districts EO(SS) in the Block will issue Gift Coupons to the eligible investors of small savings schemes.

4. Each series of Gift Coupon will carry the first prize of Rs.3 lakhs value of POMIS scrip or same value worth of a Car. A total of 282 attractive prizes are to be given in each series as per prize details given below.

Prize	Prize Details	No. of Prizes
1st	Rs.3,00,000 worth POMIS Scrip or Car	1
2nd	Rs.40,000 worth POMIS/KVP Scrip or Motor Car	1
3rd	Rs.20,000 worth POMIS/KVP Scrip or Moped	10
4th	Rs.15,000 worth POMIS/KVP Scrip or Colour TV	20
5th	Rs.1000 worth KVP Scrip or Pressure Cooker	50
6th	Rs.500 worth KVP Scrip or A/c. Payee Cheque	200
Total Prizes		282

All investors in Tamil Nadu may avail this opportunity to win attractive prizes by joining the Free Gift Coupon Prize Scheme after making investments in Post Office Small Savings Schemes.



People's Poet

- Perarignar ANNA

Charming and significant as the term is, it is a warm tribute not only to the poet but also to the people for the people had had their monarchs and ministers, their warriors and saviours, their seers, and saints, miracle mongers and priests, but had no poets and from ages past there were poets in abundance, poets who supplemented the scriptures or who polished the palaces by their poetry but poets who sang for and about the people in the people's tongue were very very rare. The poet's voice did the function of the temple bell or the palace drum; but rarely did that voice represent the innermost thoughts of the people and when at times poets spoke about the people, it was to point out to them, how greedy and worldly they have become, how impermanent and illusory this world is, how sinful is silver and how ungodly is gold, and such like sermons that supplemented the royal rod and the whip of the aristocrat. Poets became in due course one more important item in the Royal paraphernalia one more policeman, who filed the case here and asked the high heavens to deliver the judgement later on. These poets, spoke in a different tongue altogether and were far from the people. They despised the crowd from where they rose and used their poetic genius to gain admission to the royal palace, and when once there, they went on weaving wordy wreaths, for monarchs of all sorts,

provided his gold was pure. The poets of the Sangam period are noble exceptions to this sorry rule and they are the poets least known to the people of our days.

Poets either became vendors of virtue in verses or became pleasure merchants, and they found it hard and unprofitable to become the People's Poets. That is the reason why we find no outstanding people's poet after the Sangam Age in Tamilnadu.



Virtue itself came to be considered an investment for a happy life in another world. Hence, poets who came after the advent of this false and pernicious theory began to extol the particular bank of dispensation for which they were the self-appointed agents. Like the clever banker, or the active insurance agent, these poets began to pour forth rhymes in abundance, about the soundness of their Bank, about the delightful dividends and the bright prospects. If one poet gave the people a sweet song about the powers of Garuda of Maha Vishnu, up rose another to supply us with a sacred sonnet about the stately bull of Siva, or the beautiful peacock of Muruga or even the ugly buffalo of the all powerful God of Death, Yama. All these poems were of the highest order, looked at from the artist's point of view. There was rhythm, diction, similes, metaphors, parables, all in abundance except reason. These poets thought

that the temple bell did not work well and thought it their duty to lend their poetic strength to supplement the sound duty or no duty, it was such a praying job that there was a rush in that direction. Poets assumed an attitude of superiority they enjoyed the commonman's confusion, they tried to compromise contradictions and beautify absurdities, they were loud in their denunciation of things worldly; the worthlessness of human life, the littleness of mankind and they presented a poetic picture of the unknown world heaven up above the clouds, and the hell underneath the earth. The telescope was in the womb of science. Hence, heaven existed, and the poets entertained the people with imaginary descriptions about the theological worlds! The ignorant stood amazed and the intelligent adored the art and not the thought.

ROLE OF A PEOPLE'S POET

It is not easy to take up the role of a people's poet. Bharati rose equal to this stupendous task. It is easy to become the poet of the classes. Some sweet sonnets about the silvery moon swimming in a sea of blue, some poems about the twinkle of the stars, fine poems about the fragrance of the flower, the rhythm in rivers, lyrics about the love and verses of valour these are enough to secure a place of honour in the poets' gallery. But to discharge the duties of a people's poet, one has to cross hurdles of hatred, take many a dive into dangers and should not think about patronage and popularity. Though a select circle of friends knew and spoke about the poetic genius of Subramania Bharathi, the people as a whole were almost unaware of their poet till at a later stage, and then too, it was the poems of a political colour that was presented to the people, and not the poems, which a people's poet alone can conceive and deliver. We had had poets in abundance. The shepherd sleeping inside a temple forgetful of his home and vacation, the goddess returning after her midnight supervision, the smile on her lips on seeing the simpleton, her curious idea to make him a poet. The gentle pat and the touch of the divine rod, the wonderful result these were known to the people. One becomes a poet, because of the divine touch, and it is his duty to sing devotional songs to a particular deity or to all. This theory held the ground

so strongly that the people were not prepared to meet the people's poet, even when one came forward. The people will cast a look of contempt and suspicion on one who says boldly. "I am the people's poet. I sing for them and about them because I am one of them". There would be no recognition and the more radical his poems are, the more vehement will be the opposition. And in this dangerous ground, we find Subramania Bharathi, taking steady steps victoriously.

THE STATE OF AFFAIRS WHEN THE POET WAS BORN

Bharathi was born on the frontier of two eras. The feudal order was in full force in his homeland. Etyapuram had a palace surrounded by huts. Age old castes were still in power. He himself was a Brahmin by birth but side by side with feudalism and Sanathanic order of society, modernism was peeping in. Industrial revolution was dawning, the old order met the new with sorrowful eyes, and there was a challenge in the look of the new era. Bharathi was born during that period and none could have imagined that he will become the warrior in the duel between the old order and the new for in the old order of things his was a comfortable place.

He was born, moreover, in this land of paradoxes, a land where arrogance and humility, cruelty and kindness march together, where there is energy in abundance and absurd contemplation strong enough to dissipate the energy, a land of some dazzling ideas and millions of mute people, a land where there is apoplexy at the centre and anaemia at the extremes, the land of courage as well as fear, the land of faith as well as despair. Byron and Burke landed here just then, only to meet Bharatham and Bagavatham. The booming of the gun became familiar to the ears of the people and the age long temple drum was not silent in such a land of paradoxes and perplexities.

Bharathi was born, and in such a land history moves but slowly and it needs a strong push if it should move at all. Bharathi's claim to greatness rests chiefly on this; he gave the push as the people's poet.



"Tamil literature is a treasure house of enchanting lyricism of poets and edifying wisdom of sages; of exciting history of saints and engrossing biographies of great warriors - all propounding truth and beauty, courage and heroism, love and universal compassion"

- Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALITHAA

MORNING STAR OF REFORMATION

Bharathi was not merely the bard of Nationalism. He was certainly the morning star of reformation only because he was the people's poet. He was angry with the foreigner and wanted his country to become free but that was not his goal, that was not to be his end. It was but the beginning. He wanted to free his countrymen from all shackles, wanted them to rise up in the estimation of the world, wanted to see a new land peopled by men and women of a new type altogether. He found the people enveloped in fear. Fear was written on their very faces. They were afraid of anything and everything. Not only did they fear the foreigner and his gun but their own brethren chanting some slogans. They were afraid of ghosts and phantoms.

ERADICATION OF SUPERSTITION

Such a people cannot become the standard bearers of freedom and a land peopled by such nature cannot lift its head high, and look straight at the world, even if the foreign power is driven out. Hence Bharathi wanted his countrymen, to drive out fear from their mind to shed off inferiority complex. He instilled into their minds hope and courage, he placed before them their own hidden powers and pointed out to them, how that innate power is being wasted, the slumber of the masses, their gross ignorance,

and superstition, their inferiority complex, and their caste prejudices. Bharathi saw clearly, and he determined to root out these evils, and none but a people's poet could have been so deeply interested in these problems.

WORLD FREEDOM MOVEMENTS AND INDIA

But Bharathi knew fully well, that it was the age of the common man, the era of democracy and he wanted the people to fight for freedom. He did not deliver mere devotional hymns to the divinities, nor did he send poetic appeals to the princes of the land. He addressed the man with the plough, the woman at the cradle, and even the children at the play grounds. He did not like the poets of a bygone age, point out ancient scripts in support of freedom, but place before the masses, the world events of importance the freedom movements of distant lands. He announced to the people, the dawn of freedom in Italy through the marvellous resurrection of the masses, thanks to Mazzini the patriot. He painted in glowing colours, the picture of France after the revolution, and placed a brand new picture about Russia, free from shackles of Czardom, free Belgium, free France, Red Russia these were the pictures that he placed not the theological lands of Indra or Brahma and having placed these pictures, he also presented them with a pen picture of countrymen in Fiji islands, and like Shakespeare he asked, "Look at this picture

and at that" That is the people's poet. One who is not afraid of pointing out the follies and foibles of his own people, one who is not afraid of showing to his own people, how slow they are in thought and action where as peoples of other lands were moving fast and faster to a nobler sphere of activity and life. He was not afraid of the privileged class, and did not falter to place the full facts before the people.

PROJECTING A NEW VISION ALTOGETHER

As the people's poet it was his duty to unmask cant and hypocrisy wherever it was to be found, and he did that with remarkable courage and enthusiasm.

There is an attempt by interested parties to enlarge the portrait of Bharathi the National Bard, not entirely because they love that portrait but because, they think that portrait's immensity will conceal from the public eye, the other portrait, the portrait of Bharathi, the people's poet.

Bharathi's poems are no mere hornets. The people's poet was not afraid to lay bare the absurdities of ancient systems and thoughts, and in almost infuriated tone, he asks those who champion the cause of conservatism is very strong words, "Fools! Do you argue, that things ancient ought, on that account, to be true and noble! Fallacies and Falsehoods there were from time immemorial, and dare you argue that because these are ancient these should prevail?"

"In ancient times, do you think that there was not the ignorant and the shallow minded! And why after all should you embrace so fondly a carcass dead thoughts, Live in the present and shape the future, do not be casting lingering looks to the distant past for the past has passed away, never again to return," so says, Bharathi and therein we meet. He gave a moral code for the masses, not unrelated to life, as some of the ancient codes were. He boldly differed from the ancient codes and placed before the people, a new vision altogether. He refused to allow the thought of Maya Philosophy to have a hold on the people. He ridiculed that theory strongly and infuriated

the Ashramites, but he was not afraid of the consequences. "A people immersed in such a thought," Bharathi said, "will become inactive, unprogressive and such a people will become worthless."

SERVICE TO HUMANITY

Hunger and poverty and ignorance, he will not tolerate, and he rises his powerful voice against the tyranny of the rich and threatens the whole world with due consequences even if a single individual is made to starve. He wants the people to lead a full life, develop their faculties, improve their commerce, industrialise their land and enjoy all the benefits of the new era. His religion is not to be priest craft and slogan shouting; his religion is service to humanity and brotherhood in the broadest sense.

THE TASK OF THE PEOPLE'S POET

The task that lies before the people's poet, is almighty one. It is his task to make the people realise new truth, take a new path, and get a new process of valuation altogether. It is his task to release the people from the clutches of the Astrologer, and place before them the Astronomer. His is the task to drive out the Alchemist from the people's mind so that the chemist can get a place. His is the task to push aside the priest so that the teacher can get a place. The people's poet has the mighty task of driving out the influence of the miracle monger so that the Medical man can find a place in the order of things. Superstition is to be fought out so that science can flourish. In short, the people's poet has the task of a revolutionary and more difficult than that of the revolutionary for the people are apt to mistake the tyrant for the saviour and the saviour for the tyrant. He fought with courage and though the battle is not over yet, and though he is no more alive he has given an armoury of thought enough for the successful termination of the fight, and the best and lasting tribute that one can pay to this people's poet, is to continue the fight, the fight for the freedom of the people in the fullest and noblest sense. And there are men for the job and it will be finished. ✧

Putting the smile of prosperity on the face of every citizen by leveraging Information Technology to create value and wealth

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J JAYALALITHAA



"It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SOFTWARE IN INDIAN AND ASIAN DEVELOPMENT' and address this distinguished gathering.

This International Conference is a joint effort of the Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu and the OECD, (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Centre) Paris and focuses on the significance of Information Technology in the development of India and the lessons to be replicated for development in Asia.

OECD, as you all know, is a unique forum to discuss and develop economic policies. Its work includes fostering prosperity and fighting poverty through technology innovation and development co-operation. OECD countries produce two thirds of the world's goods and services and yet it helps all Governments to understand concerns of new economy, e-commerce and sustainable development. For the last 40 years the organization has been and continues to be one of the world's largest and most reliable sources of economic and social data.

While addressing global investors through my Message in the IT Policy of the Government of Tamil Nadu, I had mentioned "The traditional factors of production have evolved around Labour and Capital. The modern factors of production are Knowledge, Communication and Information Technology. Tamil Nadu - the land of tradition and modernity is at the forefront of an ICT led revolution combining both."

It is a great honour for Chennai in Tamil Nadu to be selected for hosting this Conference. In fact the choice of the Government

of Tamil Nadu in India as a co-host for this International Conference is not a co-incidence. It is the result of deliberate choice and is testimony to the prowess of my State in the IT sector. Let me tell you some more about Tamil Nadu.

Blessed with robust infrastructure in civic amenities, world class skilled and trained human resource, global standard corporate, educational and health facilities, Tamil Nadu was the first State to introduce a comprehensive IT Policy and also the first State to place a draft Policy of the Government for the IT Enabled Services Sector on the web. Tamil Nadu also has maintained over 6% growth in State Domestic Product, continues amongst the top ranked States in Human Development Index and Literacy, and is an internationally well known manufacturing center often referred to as the Detroit of India in the Automobile sector, as the Manchester of India in the Textile Sector and now I intend to firmly place it as the Number One State in India, in every sphere of activity.

From a humble beginning, Information Technology related economic activities of Indian IT services, IT enabled Services and now Business process Outsourcing and Out locating have come a long way. Exports from India have grown over 8 billion US dollars and are projected to touch nearly 75 billion US dollars by the year 2008 as per NASSCOM estimates. In Tamil Nadu the highest growth rate in the country was registered at 68% when software

exports catapulted from Rs. 3116 crores to Rs. 5223 crores in the period 2000-2001 to 2001-2002.

Employment by the IT sector in India will increase from 0.8 million in 2001 to 4 million in 2008, the share of the IT sector will increase from 1.4% of the GDP in 2001 to 7% of the GDP in 2008, and IT exports which currently account for 8% of foreign exchange inflow will account for more than 30% of foreign exchange inflow during 2008, according to the NASSCOM-McKinsey Report 2002. The role of Information Technology in the development of India at the national and sub national level can therefore neither be understated nor ignored.

What concerns me however is the distribution of development. In the Information Technology sector, even in India, certain regions have come to be identified as islands of IT development and prosperity in an otherwise ocean of deprivation. Tamil Nadu and the other southern states are part of the IT hub of India. Similarly, in the Asian scenario also, only a few select countries like India, Malaysia, Singapore and China are leveraging on Information Technology and riding the waves of IT led economic development.

Several digital divides still exist besides imbalanced regional and geographical development. The digital divide between the haves and the have-nots, the urban rich and the rural poor, between the old and the young and between those who have access to education and are therefore literate and those who have no access to education and therefore continue to remain in darkness, still exists.

I strongly believe knowledge knows no barrier of caste, colour, creed or gender and so with confidence my Government is committed to the democratic vision of putting 'the smile of prosperity on the face of every citizen of Tamil Nadu by leveraging Information Technology to create value and wealth for a knowledge-based State'.

To prevent any skewed single city centric development in Tamil Nadu my Government is consciously promoting the establishment of IT development in the Tier-II cities of Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Tirunelveli.

Similarly in order to bridge the urban-rural digital divide, the Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing a unique rural connectivity project

through Public Private Partnership. Connecting the rural poor requires innovative approaches and a shift of emphasis from individual connectivity to community connectivity. The divide of accessibility as well as that of affordability are being overcome through integrated multipurpose information kiosks to provide the power of IT to remote communities who cannot individually afford computers.

Started as a small pilot project in Madurai District with the basic philosophy that "a computer with Internet connection is a sustainable means of income generation in the rural areas" this year it is being scaled up through a unique project called Rural Access to Services through Internet - RASI, in ten districts of the State. I am certain similar practices exist in other parts of India and Asia and we need to share these for the sake of development.

The Asian economies which have seen a down turn in the late 1990's can boom once again by tapping the potential of Information Technology for earning foreign exchange, as well as for domestic development and increase in employment.

As regards the deployment of the Internet for development I would like to quote from a book titled "eGov - eBusiness Strategies for Government" by Douglas Holmes.

"The developed world talks about the digital divide, the developing world wants to hear about the "digital dividends". Rather than focus on the divisiveness of the technological gap, the international community should consider the Internet as a source of opportunity to uplift the impoverished people.

"The web doesn't directly put food into mouths, but it can improve the distribution and quality of food and other basic needs. It can provide access to telemedicine and health care. It can create the opportunity to access and exchange information on agriculture, animal husbandry, basic hygiene, literacy, water management and environmental protection, handicrafts, and business administration."

Information Technology should not cause "social exclusion". The most vulnerable people in Society tend to get systematically sidelined, as modern culture is oriented to serve mainstream needs. The globalization of the 1990s, while

integrating the world, also caused social deprivation in many countries. Information Technology should be an instrument of "Social inclusion".

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan says, "People lack many things, jobs, shelter, food, health care, and drinkable water. Today, being cut off from basic telecommunications services is a hardship almost as acute as these other deprivations, and may indeed reduce the chances of finding remedies to them".

India and other countries in Asia need a low cost open source platform to further steer their growth in the IT sector. We also need to develop and share appropriate technologies like the Simputer and indigenous technologies like corDECT for Wireless communication.

My Government is willing to be a proactive partner in this endeavour with the Government of India, other State Governments and other Asian countries, like the Philippines and Sri Lanka which are establishing themselves as leaders in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) map of the world. The need of the hour is to form meaningful partnerships and build synergies for mutual advantage. We should not start playing the "pricing game" Each country and State has its own unique strengths and it should endeavour to build on them.

A good domain for partnership among the Asian countries could be the location of the "Disaster Recovery Centers" of the respective BPO operations in other Asian countries. My Government will look forward to such partnerships and provide all assistance to the other Asian Governments who are keen to locate their Disaster Recovery Centres in Tamil Nadu.

I am proud to inform you that Tamil Nadu, especially Chennai, is the established gateway to South East Asia and offers connectivity to International clients through several Private Communication Providers. With the landing of i2i - India to International submarine cable, with a mega capability of over eight Tera bytes per second communication connectivity, Chennai without a doubt will become the BPO capital of the world.

Delegates and potential investors, I welcome you to invest in Tamil Nadu, the BPO capital of the world. Investments in Tamil Nadu, as I had declared during my inauguration of the World Bank Accounting back

office, "are not a cost reduction exercise but a value adding proposition"

I am delighted to note that during the course of the International Conference through a series of sessions and presentation of papers a detailed analysis is being done on several valuable topics like

- ★ "Information Technology, Production Location and Global Sourcing" by the OECD Development Centre, Paris
- ★ "The Software and IT Industries, Past experience, Future Strategies"
- ★ "The Indian IT sector: What contribution to Broader Economic Development" from the University of California
- ★ "Comparing the Development Trajectories of the Software Industry in India, Ireland and Israel" from Carnegie Mellon University, USA
- ★ "The Emergence of China's Software Industry and some Implications for India" from Singapore Management University,

and several other international speakers from Paris, the USA, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Rome and Italy are contributing with all their intellectual might.

We in Tamil Nadu look forward to a useful and fruitful partnership with the OECD Development Center, Paris, whose brief is to undertake comparative and policy dialogue on issues relating to economic and social development in developing countries.

It has been a great pleasure for the Government of Tamil Nadu to co-host this International Conference on the role and significance of IT in India and Asian development and I conclude by extending my best wishes to all the delegates and express the hope that the deliberations during the two day international conference will be meaningful and beneficial to all the participants.

Thank you.

*Speech by the Hon'ble Chief Minister
Selvi J Jayalalithaa at the inaugural function
of IT Conference on the IT/Software in Indian and
Asian Development at Hotel Le Meridien, Chennai
on 11.11.2002.*

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9.12.2002, 10.12.2002 மற்றும் 11.12.2002

