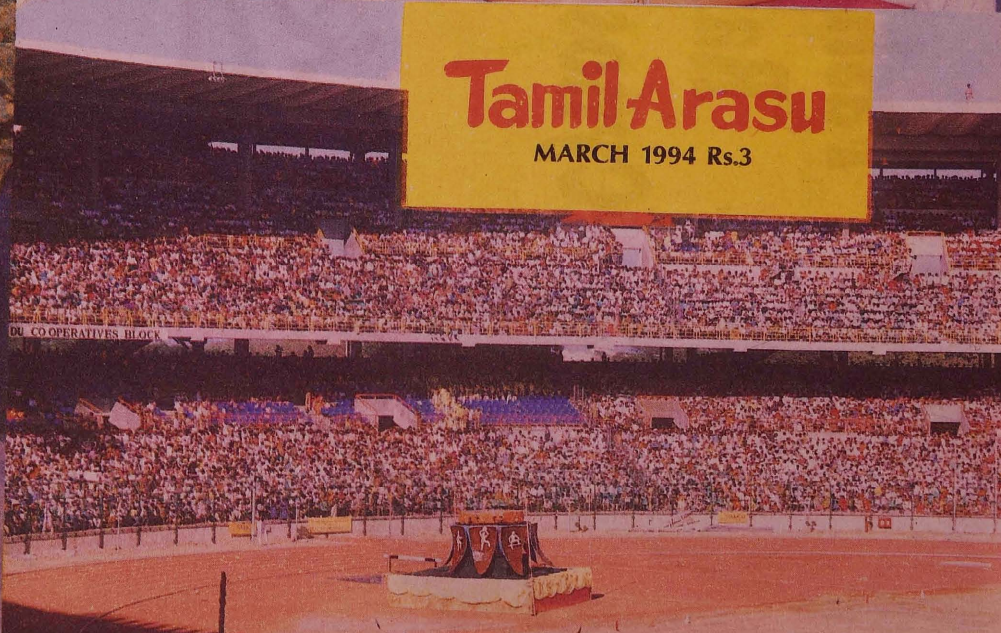


Tamil Arasu

MARCH 1994 Rs.3



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A Monthly Journal of Government of Tamil Nadu
Thiruvalluvar Year - 2025
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MARCH 1994



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International Invitation Athletic Meet and Open National Athletic Championship Inaugurated



SPORTS AND GAMES BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

—Hon'ble Chief Minister

Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha

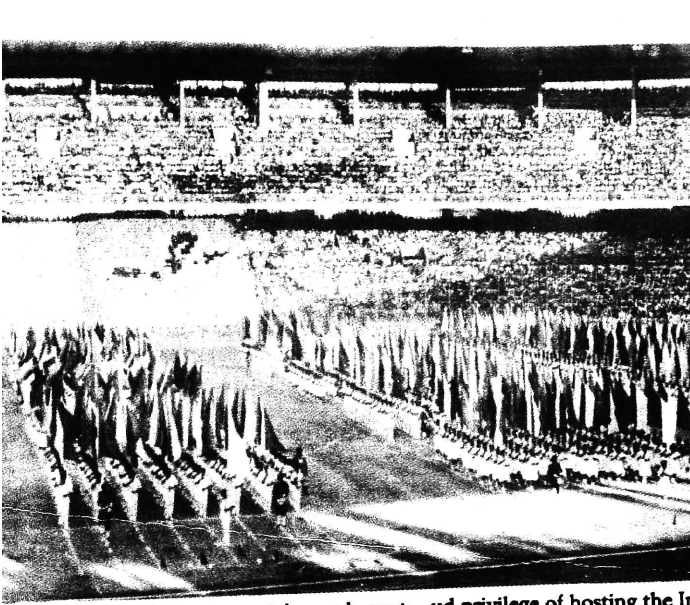
The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at Madras wore a festive ambience. All roads in Madras city led to the Nehru Stadium on February 2nd 1994, to witness the turning

point in the progress of Sports in Tamil Nadu. The most modern Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium with its gleaming and sophisticated synthetic track was truly warming up

to witness a sports spectacle unimaginable three years ago. The colours, the mood and the spirit showed that a fascinating spectacle was to take place in the pleasant evening.

The Inaugural Ceremony for the first ever International Invitation Open Athletic Meet at Madras and Open National Athletic Championship was obviously designed to provide to all those present at the stadium a glimpse of the colourful cultural mosaic of the country as well as the ability of the Tamil Nadu to host an event of Olympic proportions. The ceremony began with the speeches of the VIPs present as per protocol, followed by igniting of the 'games'





fame, the ceremonial march past and finally the cultural fiesta.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. Jayalalitha dedicated the newly laid sophisticated synthetic track to the athletics community and declared open the International Invitation Athletic Meet 1994 and 33rd Open National Athletic Championship. The Chief Minister pressed the button to unveil a replica of synthetic track to inaugurate the facility. The Chief Minister in her address, spoke:

"To-day is a "Red Letter Day" in the annals of Sports in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu has been given the pro-

viding great support to all our programmes for the promotion and development of sports and games. I must also express my gratitude to Shri Suresh Kalmadi, M.P. and President of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India, for the readiness with which he came forward to support the holding of these two major sports events in Madras City, and for his help to us in organising the Meets. His standing and influence in the field of sports has been a source of strength to us in our efforts to conduct these two Meets on this grand scale. I am also happy that doyens of the world of sports from many countries have come here, in response to our invitation to witness the events, and to see what we can offer in terms of sports facilities, sports talents and hospitality. Their presence here speaks volumes of their friendship towards us and will inspire our athletes to perform better.

ud privilege of hosting the International Invitation Athletic Meet and the 33rd Open National Athletic Championship. I am sure that the conduct of these two outstanding sports events at Madras will mark a turning point in the development of Sports in our State. I must, therefore, on this happy occasion, convey my sincere thanks to Thiru Sivanthi Adityan, President of the Indian Olympic Association, for the initiative he has taken to get these events to Madras and for his sincere commitment to sports. As the Vice-Chairman of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu Thiru Sivanthi Adityan has been

It is also a matter of great happiness that more than 750 of our best national athletes have assembled here, to participate in the 33rd Open National Athletic Championship. They are coming here, fresh from the National Games that were held recently in Pune and Bombay. I am sure they will do their best to





improve upon their previous performance and set many more records here. Our national athletes will have the added advantage of competing with international athletes, in some of the events during the next three days, and I do hope that this international competition will spur them on towards greater achievement. I am happy to extend my warm welcome to all the athletes from other countries. I convey my best wishes to all the national and international athletes. I hope you are happy about all our arrangements for your stay in Madras. I have no doubt that the pleasant and friendly atmosphere of this City and the warmth of its people will provide

you with a congenial environment and create the right mood to put you in top form and enable you to give a splendid and superlative performance.

We constructed this magnificent Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium within a period of just 7 months in 1992. It was inaugurated in January 1993, last year, by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. We have dedicated it to the people of our country. International sports Meets could not be held in Madras earlier, because the City of Madras did not have a stadium of this kind in the past. The construction of this new

stadium has made possible the conduct of international athletes events on this scale.

I call upon the young people of our State to make the best use of the vastly improved facilities that are available here, and to train and equip themselves sufficiently, in order to distinguish themselves in the national and international sports arena. We are planning to create further facilities of international standards such as a swimming pool, an indoor stadium, a velodrome, as Astrourfed hockey stadium and a modern tennis stadium, so that more and more international competitive fixtures can be held in the City of Madras.

You will also be happy to know that the City of Madras will be hosting the next South Asian Federation Games in the year 1995, and we hope to be ready with all our vastly improved and new facilities by that time.

Sports and Games bring people together. The participants vie with each other for honour and glory in their respective fields, with the pursuit of excellence as their only goal. They sink all their differences and seek to demonstrate to the world the infinite possibilities of BODY and SPIRIT. In their own turn, the spectators spontaneously acknowledge the great acts of physical and mental endurance that the athletes put forth without regard to colour, creed





or nationality. Such bonds of friendship between the sports persons and the spectators can truly promote peace and understanding in the world.

We need more of sports and games, not less. We need to develop more outstanding sports men and women, not only for the glory that they will bring to their Motherland, but also for the example that they set before the young people, as the embodiment of discipline and determination that they must display, in all their endeavours, in order to succeed.

Today, more and more young people are taking to sports and games in India. They do well at the national level, but they have a long way to go to be able to reach international standards. They must put in hard work and be prepared to go through arduous training. They need well qualified coaches in order to train them to international standards. Right talent has to be spotted well in time, and the State, as well as Society, in general, must help the talented young people to pursue their ambition in the right atmosphere. There has to be greater recognition of the fact that sports men and women bring glory and fame to the country, as much as

Scientists or Technologists or Scholars or Public figures do. The State and the Society must join together to Pool all the available resources, so that the needs of aspiring sports men and women can be met, in full. We, in Tamil Nadu, have already started this process with the setting up of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, and I am happy to say that we have been able to identify the issues and focus our resources upon the development of sports and games in our State. We are beginning to see the results, even within a short time. Our State came third in the National Games held recently, and I am sure our boys and girls will

make it to the top during the next games.

The response of International athletes to our invitation has been overwhelming. In the next few days, sports lovers and spectators will have the opportunity to view some of the world class athletes in action, in this very stadium. Our Indian athletes will have a chance to compete with them. I am sure that this competition will help our Indian athletes to improve their performance. The participation of Indian athletes in international events such as this, will give them the necessary confidence and valuable experience which will stand them in good stead, in this era of competitive sports.

I have great pleasure, once again, in extending a warm welcome to all our guests here and to all the athletes both national and international.

I must convey my very special greetings and thanks to the several thousands of boys and girls, 12,500 in all, who will, in a short while, present some captivating cultural fare and a display of gymnastics. They have toiled very hard during the last few weeks and are waiting to present a spectacle of beauty and perfection. I also wish to say a very special "thank you" to the several thousands of young boys who are presenting a colourful placard



display before us. I would also like to thank Thiru A.R. Rahman for composing the music for the entire inaugural ceremony; Thiru K.S. Raghuram, for choreographing the dances to be performed by thousands of school children, which you will witness shortly; and poets Kavignar Naa. Kamarajan and Thiru Gomathi Nayakam, for penning the lyrics for the songs.

I must also express my gratitude to the personnel of the Tamil Nadu Police Force who will be presenting a dare devil display of motorbike riding while performing thrilling feats, as well as popular folk dances of Tamil Nadu, such as Karagam, Kavadi and dummy horse dances; and the personnel of the Railway Protection Force who will perform an exquisite torch light tattoo.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not thank the more than 500 school teachers and physical training instructors who have been training the children, and putting them through their paces for this inauguration ceremony.

I must convey my warm appreciation and gratitude to Thiru Walter Isaac Davaram, Additional Director General of Police, Law & Order, who is the Chief Co-ordinator of to-



day's spectacular inaugural ceremony, and Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, who has toiled ceaselessly, without respite, for the successful conduct of these Athletic Meets, and all the officers of the Government of Tamil Nadu who have co-operated with us. I would also like to compliment and thank the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, Thiru S. Sripal, the Commissioner of Police, Madras, Thiru R. Rajagopalan and

the Inspector General of Police, Intelligence, Thiru A.X. Alexander, for the excellent security arrangements, and convey my thanks to all the Police Men and Officers working under them. Above all, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri P.V. Narashima Rao, and the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Shri K.P. Singh Deo, for kindly arranging for the live telecast of the inaugural and closing ceremonies of these Athletic Meets on the National Network of Doordarshan, and also for the telecast of the daily highlights every night on the national network of Doordarshan.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating the newly laid Synthetic track, which, I am sure, will be instrumental in producing outstanding athletes in the near future. I am happy to inaugurate the International Invitation Athletic Meet and the 33rd Open National Athletic Championship. I wish to say that millions of people, all over the country, are looking forward to a magnificent and sterling performance by the athletes. My warm greetings to all of you"

Earlier, Thiru. T.V. Venkataraman, Chief Secretary to the Government





phase of sports activity in Tamil Nadu as Golden age. He spoke:

"The youth of our State are lucky to have found such a benevolent Patron as our Chief Minister. From the day she assumed office, she has shown total commitment to the cause of Sports and Youth activities. With specific dedication, and infinite patience she has devoted a great deal of time and thought to the welfare of youth, and on how to improve sports infrastructure in the State.

In her planning and conceptualisation, the Chief Minister has

of Tamil Nadu welcomed the gathering. The Chief Secretary in his speech welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Minister as the Prime motivator to the holding of the Games and that but for her dynamism the international meet of such magnitude would not have become reality.

Thiru Suresh Kalmadi, President of Amateur Athletics Federation of India, thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister for providing a splendid facility for athletics in Tamil Nadu.

Appreciating the Chief Minister's dynamism Thiru B. Sivanthi Adityan, President of Indian Olympic Association described the present



shown a unique creativity. It would be no exaggeration to say, that under her leadership today, it is the Golden Age of Sports in Tamil Nadu. Never before has so much been achieved by any person in such a short time. In fact, our Chief Minister has made a habit of breaking records.

It was only a year ago this magnificent Nehru Stadium was built, under the guidance of our Chief Minister, in a record time of 6½ months, and thereafter the sportsloving people of Tamil Nadu had the privilege of watching international football stars in action.

Today yet another record has been broken, with this prestigious



International Invitation Athletic Meet being held here under the auspices of our dynamic Chief Minister. It would be significant to point out, that never before have so many countries responded to our invitation to participate in an Athletic Meet in India. It is a matter of great pride for Tamil Nadu that over 60 internationally reputed athletes from 30 Countries, and 750 Indian Athletes will participate in these Championships. A veritable feast of athletics for our sports loving people.

An important part of our beloved Chief Minister's strategy in



can proudly host international competitions, in any discipline in future".

Giving a detailed picture of the efforts of the Tamil Nadu Government to improve Sports, the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Prof. K. Ponnusamy said:

"Today is a milestone in the history of Tamil Nadu.

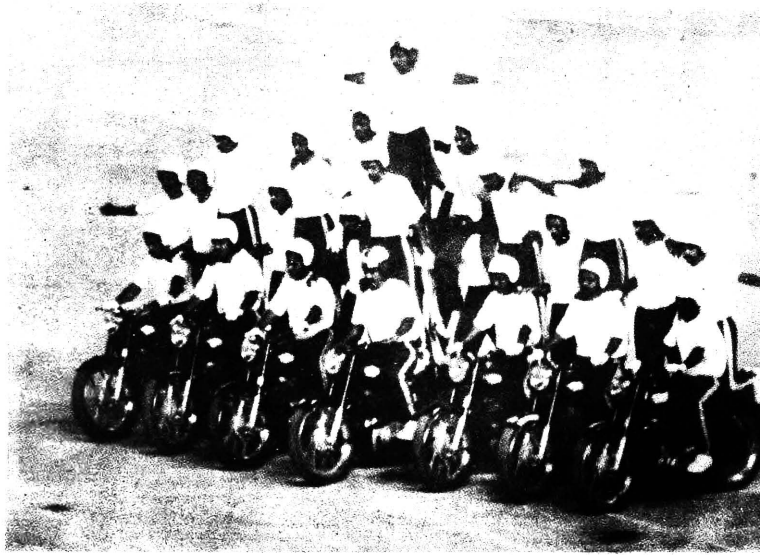
These has been a renaissance in the Tamil Nadu Sports scene under the Golden rule of Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. Jayalalitha.

A vast number of concessions have been granted to sports men and women. The Pension for



developing sports in our State is to create a permanent sports infrastructure, and offer constructive facilities to our sportspersons: along with inspiring our youth by organising prestigious competitions like this.

It is a part of this long term planning that this stadium was built and this wonderful synthetic track laid down. Future plans include the development of the Dr. J. Jayalalitha Sports complex adjacent to the stadium including a Swimming pool, an indoor stadium and Velodrome of international standards. Once these infrastructural facilities are completed Tamil Nadu





former sports persons has been increased. The Sports persons of the state are honoured annually by State Awards.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister created a record of sorts by constructing the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in 225 days at a cost of Rs.40 crores. And now a world-class sports meet is being held at Madras.

I am grateful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi for having consented to inaugurate the modern synthetic track as well as the Athletic Meet".

The Ceremonies began after the Hon'ble Chief Minister unveiled the replica of the stadium. A huge flag of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India was carried in an impressive march past by 16

police personnel. Following the Amateur Athletic Federation of India's Flag was the mascot in a motored vehicle- Leo in hurdling action which was followed behind by a group dressed in the costume of the mascot-Leo. Then came the march past of the competitors of the participating Nations, States and Public Sector undertakings.

The high point of the ceremony was igniting the Meet' flame. A torch relay featuring famous sportsmen and sports women of Tamil Nadu was held. They included B. Subramani, Balambal, Charles Borromeo, A. Rajen, T. Sundarraj, Nizar Pasha, Balasubramaniam, K. Natarajan, K. Gnanasekaran and Anusuya Bai. K. Gnanasekaran and Anusuya Bai received the torch from the Hon'ble Chief Minister which had been handed over to her by K. Natarajan, and then slowly jogged upto the specially designed 45 foot cauldron to ignite the 'Flame'. Before the participants left the arena, Angela Lincy and Nallusamy Annavi (high jumpers from Tamil Nadu) took the oath on behalf of the competitors "to play the games in the true spirit of sports".

The cultural celebrations began with a flag march by about 2500 boys and girls. Following the simultaneous release of balloons and pigeons, children drawn from various schools regaled the audience by presenting 'Garba' of Gujarat, 'Bhangra' of Punjab and Gypsy Dances. There was also gymnastics with human pyramid being appreciated by the audience. Karagam by Tamil Nadu Police, Torch Tattoo by Railway Protection Force and a colourful Fire works display kept the audience spell bound.

So was the breath-taking display by motorcycle riders. It would be under statement to say that the 50,000 audience at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was in an euphoric mood throughout the evening of 2nd January.





International Invitation Athletic Meet and Open National Athletic Championship

THE RESULTS:

Men:

Javelin Throw:

1. Dag Wenlnund (Sweden) (77.02m)
2. Gagin Lovegrove (New Zealand) (75.52m)
3. Satbir Singh (Police) (71.86m)

High Jump:

1. Chander Pat (Railways) (2.10m)
2. K.M. Bopiah (Services) (2.00m)
3. Mathew Cherian (Services) (2.00m)

110 Hurdles:

1. Li Tong (China) (13.64s)
2. Darminder Singh (Railways) (14.68s)
3. K.S. Ajimon (Services) (14.80s)

400 Metres:

1. Narsiram (Railways) (47.67s)
2. P.I. Sebastian (Heavy Engg.) (47.78s)
3. D.K. Malaviya (Gujarat) (47.89s)

1500 Metres:

1. Venuste Niyongabo (Burundi) (3:38.70)
2. Bahadur Prasad (Railways) (3:40.06)
3. Vincent Malakwen (Kenya) (3:44.16)

Women:

400 Meters:

1. Pauline Davis (Bahamas) (52.27s)
2. Shiny Wilson (FCI) (52.41s)
3. H.G. Apsara (LIC) (54.60s)

1500 Metres:

1. Jyotirmoy Sikdar (Railways) (4:18.84) (Meet and National Record)
2. Erica Konig (Austria) (4:21.22)
3. Bettina Romer Anderson (Denmark) (4:23.84s)

110 Hurdles:

1. K.K. Geetha (Railways) (14.25s)
2. Chitra (Railways) (14.34s)
3. Mita Sadhu Khan (West Bengal) (14.55s)

Long Jump:

1. Larissa Bareznya (Ukraine) (6.34m)
2. Tapasi Bour (Railways) (5.86m)
3. M. Madhavi (Karnataka) (5.74m)

Javelin Throw:

1. Sushma Behra (FCI) (48.36m)
2. Gurmit Kaur (LIC) (44.94m)
3. Gurbari Hembran (Bihar) (44.26m)

Men:

100 Meters:

1. Salaam Gariba (Ghana) (10.47s)
2. Chidi Imoh (Nigeria) (10.67s)
3. Tao Wushiun (Taipei) (10.73s)

5000 Meters:

1. Ibrahim Kinuthia (Kenya) (13:54.41)
2. Bahadur Prasad (Railways) (13:54.72) (Meet Record)
3. Paul Donovan (Ireland) (14:18.19)

Pole Vault:

1. M.A. Eldo (Railways) (4.50m)



2. Ronnel Duarah (Heavy Engg.) (4.40m)

3. Raj Kumar (Services) (4.40m)

Triple Jump:

1. T.M. Martin (Kerala) (15.4m)

2. T.M. Thangavelu (Tamil Nadu) (15.36m)

3. Rambir Singh (Railways) (15.35m)

Discus:

1. Lars Riedel (Ger) (59.00m)

2. Vestin Hafsteinson (Iceland) (57.82m)

3. Ade Olukoju (Nigeria) (57.24m)

Decathlon:

1. Anil Kumar (Services) (6538 points)

2. Bhoop Singh (Services) (6396 points)

3. Jaiveer (Pondy) (6334 points)

4 × 400m:

1. Railways (Jude Carr, Bijumon, Ajit Singh and Narsi Ram); 2. Maharashtra

(Siddarth Basak, Anil Kumble, Firdous Mehta and Homi Mistry); 3. Services (M. Kunhi, R. Kumar, Vijay Kumar and Lallen Singh).

Women:

100 Meters:

1. Celena Mondie Milner (US) (11.75s)

2. Twilett Malcolm (Jamaica) (11.89s)

3. E.B. Shyla (FCI) (12.08s)

10000 Meters:

1. L. Leelamma (Railways) (35:30.23)

2. Usha Verma (Railways) (35:34.47)

3. V. Sathyabhama (Maha) (35:44.47)

Discus:

1. Aye Nwe (Myanmar) (50.46m)

2. Neelam J. Singh (Railways) (48.10m)
(Meet record)

3. Promilla Bhairai (Railways) (44.14m)

Heptathlon:

1. R. Chitra (Railways) (4805 points)

2. B.N.S. Sumavathy (Karnataka) (4711 points)

3. Ancy Philips (Tamil Nadu) (4539 points)

4 × 400 Meters:

1. Railways (Beenamol, Minimol, K.Saramma, Jyotirmoy Sikdar)

2. FCI (K.S. Bijimol, Rinku Atta, Pranoti Mishra, Shiny Wilson)

3. Tamil Nadu (R. Rajasundari, K.K. Sunitha, K. Solaimuthu, Sangeetha S. Kumar).

A PAT FROM HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, lost no time in announcing an award of Rs.50,000 for each national record and Rs.25,000 for every meet record set at the Sports Meet.

Jyotirmoy Sikdar was awarded Rs.50,000 for her national record in 1500 metres, while a cash prize of Rs.25,000 was given to those who set meet records. They were Bhaduria, (Rs.25,000), Bahadur Prasad (Rs.50,000), Molly Chacko (Rs.25,000), Neelam J. Singh (Rs.25,000) and R. Chitra (Rs.25,000). A special award of Rupees one lakh was given to Shiny Wilson for settling down in Madras. All these awards were presented by the Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha.



Chief Ministers' Conference on the goal of 'Education For All'

TAMIL NADU TO LINK CHILDHOOD CARE SYSTEM WITH PRIMARY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha

At the outset I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resource

Development for having taken the initiative to convene this important meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss all relevant issues concern-

ing the achievement of the goal of "Education for All". I am glad that the Nation has at last understood the necessity to accord universal elementary education the primacy of place in national development.

The Indian Constitution made the provision of free and compulsory education for children, a directive principle of State policy. The Constitution lays down that the "State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of 10 years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years". It is a sad commentary on our perception of priority, that even after more than four decades of planned development, we are still in pursuit of the elusive goal of "Education for All". Despite the appearance of studies and reports on the subject of education at regular intervals, the commitment of the Governments, both Central and State Governments, and Society to the fulfilment of this important goal has been weak, and the

measures taken to reach the goal half-hearted, and progress in the implementation of the various schemes tardy. Further, the issues relating to education are complicated enormously by the vastness of the size of our population and disparities in the attainment of goals from State to State, region to region, and from community to community, and as between males and females. The problem is further compounded by the fact that the need for strengthening the professionalism of education has been mixed up with the kind of administrative arrangement by which this is sought to be done, and by our own lack of clarity as to the institutional framework which will have to be provided, in order to mobilise the support of the people, without which very little can be really done. I am, therefore, happy that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has come forward to listen to the views of the Chief Ministers on these important issues, so that some firm goal-oriented action programme can be formulated and implemented within a specific time-frame.

This august body will be happy to know that, in Tamil Nadu, we have initiated new legislation to make elementary education compulsory. I have been emboldened to take this far-reaching step as I firmly believe it is our bounden duty to ensure immediate realisation of the Constitutional directive. In Tamil Nadu, we have also launched an innovative 15-point programme for the Child, which is a comprehensive plan of action including education for the child, and women's literacy. We believe that the State Governments can take considerable local initiative and the Central Government should come forward to support the innovativeness, flexibility and pragmatism of the State Governments. I regard this as an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to this noble mission of achieving "Education for All" which will form the foundation for nation building.

We have on the agenda before us, the issues involved in reaching the goal of "Education for All", consideration of the report of the National Development Council Committee on Literacy, and the report of the Central Advisory Board on Education, (CABE) on Decentralised Management of Education. Let me first spell out my view on the issues involved in attaining the goal of "Education for All". The declaration on "Education for All" by 2000 AD, endorsed at the World Conference of Education in 1990, enjoins on us certain key tasks which include expansion and improvement of early childhood care, universalisation of elementary education, reduction in illiteracy, particularly in the 15-35 age group, provision for continuing education, creation of necessary structure and processes to empower women, making education an instrument of women's equality and improving the content and process of education to relate it better to the environment. In addition to the intrinsic merits of imparting basic education, we have to invest in basic education as a means to rapid growth.

There is plenty of well documented evidence which points out that basic education and its synergistic effects on the health and welfare of the community is an essential condition to propel a country forward on a higher growth trajectory. Keeping this in view, we, in Tamil Nadu, have adopted a holistic approach which covers every ingredient of the tasks involved in reaching the goal of, "Education for All". This has been set out in our action plan which was launched in 1993 for achieving universal elementary education in Tamil Nadu by 2000 AD.

I would like to briefly highlight what we have been able to do so far and how we propose to march ahead. Tamil Nadu has been in the vanguard of the movement towards early childhood care and education. I am glad to inform you

that, this year, the entire State will be covered by a comprehensive programme of early childhood care and education. With a World Bank supported nutrition project and with support under the Integrated Child Development Services, we have reached the happy situation of comprehensive coverage of all children in the age group of six months to six years throughout the State. In addition, the Puratchithalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Noon Meal Programme of Tamil Nadu covers all the school going children from 6 to 14 years; one of the largest programmes of its kind in the developing countries. We are also adding the element of education as an input in these centres so that they function not merely as nutrition centres but also as early education centres.

This is indeed a remarkable milestone in our progress towards "Education for All". In addition, I have also proposed to launch from this summer, a special programme to link the early childhood care system with the primary school system. We will ensure that the different sub systems reinforce each other in the realisation of the main goal.

We have already improved access to schools by ensuring that we have one primary school for every 500 population within a distance of 1 Km. I have very recently gone into the various reasons for drop-outs and I propose to launch a new multipronged programme shortly to ensure better school retention. This will consist of an attractive package of incentives including free midday meals, free text books, free bus travel, free uniforms and free footwear. It is a total package which we shall continue to provide, despite the constraints in resources.

Our focus is on girls, children of scheduled castes, tribes and disadvantaged groups. We have launched an innovative girl child support scheme under which financial support is given to girls throughout

their schooling years. I firmly believe that with the attention and resources we are now committing to this task, we can make a significant impact on the problem of drop-outs.

By the year 1994-95, there will be no single-teacher schools in Tamil Nadu and in the course of the next three or four years, it is the intention of my Government to appoint more teachers, so that ultimately we reach the goal of one class, one teacher. The in-service training of teachers will receive our continued attention, with focus on minimum levels of learning, multi-grade teaching, appreciation and acceptance of socially deprived sections like SC/ST and girls as equally competent to learn. I can say with all the force at my command that education of girls is absolutely essential for women's empowerment, and an empowered woman

can discharge her social obligations with utmost commitment and conviction. We are also implementing a Scheme of appointing only Women teachers upto Standard V.

My Government believes in the immense potential of teachers and has always been utilising them in all progressive measures. Our State is one of the few where the Class room primary school teacher is associated with text book preparation. We intend to involve them in a greater measure in curriculum preparation as well as in finding enforceable solutions to a variety of education-oriented problems.

I believe that community participation in education is the key to the success of the programme. I have called upon all the schools to constitute Mother-Teacher Councils and I am happy to report that such Mother-Teacher Councils

have been formed in all the primary schools in Tamil Nadu, and are playing a positive role in the improvement of facilities in schools. Their functions include ensuring enrolment of children, ensuring their attendance on all days, running Creches in schools and appointment of voluntary teachers on days when teachers go on leave.

Conscious of the need for a supporting non-formal system, we have launched a new comprehensive "educated volunteers service" scheme under which educated jobless youths are being enlisted to teach children who have dropped out. It is a very ambitious programme in which one lakh and fifty thousand youths are being involved in a major effort to tackle the drop out issue. I am sanguine that this effort will pay rich dividends and will be complemen-

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru PV. Narasimha Rao at New Delhi on 14th February, 1994 and sought speedy Central clearance for several projects in Tamil Nadu.



tary to the major effort we have launched within the school system.

I entirely endorse the view that it is not enough that we improve access and retention. It is necessary to qualitatively upgrade the school system and also build up reinforcing non-formal systems. In Tamil Nadu we have recently launched a massive effort to improve qualitative aspects of the school system.

We have endorsed the concepts of minimum levels of learning and multigrade teaching. Our teachers are being reoriented and retrained with these concepts in view. I have ordered a survey on the availability of the physical infrastructure. We intend to provide the facilities needed at the earliest. We shall undertake a comprehensive review of the curriculum and the text books needed. We shall keep in mind the gender issue. It is my keen desire that the girl child should be empowered in order to be a high achiever. I have every confidence that we can bring this about.

The 'Education for All' declaration also envisages a strong effort to combat the problem of illiteracy. We have to take note of the report of the National Development Council Committee on Literacy. We broadly endorse the recommendations of the Committee which cover all aspects of universal elementary education, literacy campaigns and the need to sustain the effort. In Tamil Nadu we have launched a massive campaign, under which 13 Districts involving 45 lakh people have been covered, and we intend to ensure State wide coverage before 1995. It is a colossal task covering 83 lakh persons in the literacy drive. What is more important is that we sustain the drive. I have in fact placed special emphasis on the post literacy campaign so that we can consolidate the gains achieved.

Social mobilisation which is at the heart of the total literacy cam-

paign has to be nurtured. We have constituted mother-teacher councils to harness the full potential of the community to strengthen the school system. We have also gone ahead and established 1363 Jana Shikshan Nilayams and we shall expand this network to cover the State.

The Tamil Nadu Government's strategy of involving Non-Governmental organisations and Voluntary Agencies, especially in the Literacy Movement, has been a fruitful and productive experience. The Voluntary Agencies who come forward to work in the field of literacy are being provided necessary technical help by the Department of Non-formal and Adult Education and State Resources Centre. It is worth mentioning here that Nine Voluntary Agencies have been entrusted with the total literacy campaign in limited areas in Madras, Trichy and Chengalpattu M.G.R. Districts. The Scheme of Grants-in-Aid given to Voluntary agencies is directly administered by the Government of India. Here I would like to suggest that the State Governments should be involved in financing, monitoring and evaluating the work of voluntary agencies.

Primary Education is basically a State subject. While the magnitude of the tasks today does call for a Central initiative, I am of the view that considerable flexibility should be allowed at the State level to implement State-specific strategies. The Centre should seek to assist the States to create a good management team at the State level and leave it to the States to devise detailed implementation plans. The States have not been associated with the scheme of grants-in-aid to voluntary agencies which is administered directly by the Centre. Since the States are fully involved in the field they should be fully associated.

I also hold the view that we can harness the potential of the mass

media including television much better in this effort. I suggest that the time allotted by All India Radio and Doordarshan for educational programmes be placed at the disposal of the State Government. This will enable the production of education programmes wholly in conformity with the needs of the children in the States concerned.

I would also like to express my appreciation of the well designed District Primary Education Project which is being formulated. Three Districts in Tamil Nadu will be covered under this Project. The Hon'ble Prime Minister may recall my plea that Tamil Nadu be supported to take up a comprehensive State Project at a cost of Rs.1200 crore. Our Project proposal is with the Centre to be forwarded to the World Bank. While we are glad that a beginning is made in three Districts, our State-specific situation is such that we have the ability to launch an all-out State-wide effort. I do hope it would be possible to allow us to go ahead, given particularly the earnestness which we have demonstrated in taking up the District primary education project.

I would now like to turn to the management of education which is a key issue in our endeavour to achieve the goal of 'Education of All'. I entirely agree that it is necessary to reinvigorate the management of primary education particularly in the current context.

On our part, we have taken note of the recommendations of the Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) on decentralized management of education. At the outset, I would like to confirm that we shall be bringing forward in the ensuing Assembly Session, detailed new legislation, incorporating the various objectives enumerated in the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution. Once the new legislation is passed, we will have the framework for the revised structure of local bodies.

The main suggestion in the CABE report is regarding the Constitution of a Village Education Committee which could also be the Panchayat Standing Committee on Education. We shall certainly constitute such a Committee to oversee primary education at the village level. I am also glad to see that the CABE Committee has recommended joint meetings of the Village Education Committee with other such Committees, relating to health and similar subjects, so that we can have a synergistic fusion of efforts at the micro level.

We shall also enhance the roles of all the three tiers of local bodies in primary education. At the same time we shall also give them an expanded role in non formal education, adult education and so on. I appreciate the spirit behind the recommendation of the Committee on decentralised management of education, relating to the transfer of funds to the Panchayat Raj bodies.

We had sought to achieve this, way back, in our 1958 Panchayat Act. Over a period of time, the need for professionalism on education began to dominate, with the result that the functional responsibility for the management of education came to be fully vested with the Government. Return of the focus with regard to education management to the Panchayat Raj institutions is welcome in principle. At the same time, in view of the developments that have already taken place over many years, we need to bring about the needed management system in a careful manner, by vesting the Panchayat Raj bodies with enough functions and responsibilities, and providing, at the same time, a proper and congenial atmosphere for improvement in professionalism and quality of education. We should definitely need much operational flexibility in ensuring the transition. In particular, we would have to tread somewhat cautiously in the management of teachers. May I



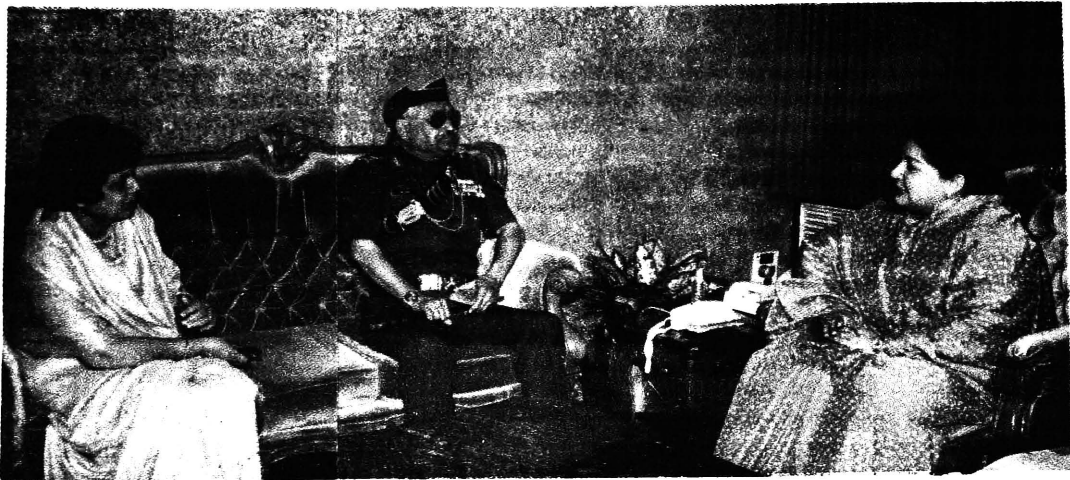
suggest that the States be allowed to formulate their own policies in this regard, taking note of the ground situation?

Another key dimension relating to the management of education is the question of resources. Most States have faced a very difficult time in contending with the trials and tribulations posed by the stabilization and structural adjustment process. In fact, it has been an uphill task to protect the outlays for the social sectors. Even within the social sectors, it has been the qualitative inputs which have faced tremendous pressure, as very little can be done to regulate salary costs.

It is in this difficult scenario that we have to examine the question of resources for primary education. I fully subscribe to the recommendation that our focus and priority has to be primary education. It has, therefore, been my endeavour to provide maximum resources for primary education, while requiring higher education to find resources on its own for its needs. The CABE has made certain recommendations on mobilisation of additional resources, and has highlighted the situation relating to the resources position of the local bodies. It would seem to me that in a situa-

tion where both the States and the local bodies have to struggle to find the resources even to maintain existing levels, we cannot dismiss the question of resources as merely one of transfer of resources from the States to the local bodies. May I suggest that, given the Nation building task that we are engaged in, a specific reference should be made to the Tenth Finance Commission to take note of the basic requirements of elementary education in its recommendations? Given the fact that the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission are to cover the period 1995-2000 and our goal is "Education of All" by 2000 AD, we should address ourselves to the resources question in a resolute manner.

There has been a suggestion with regard to levy of Education Cess. The Education Cess is generally levied on Land Revenue in many States. In Tamil Nadu, the Panchayat Unions have been permitted to levy a Surcharge on Land Revenue Cess and the collected money is wholly available with the Panchayat Unions. The Government gives them a Surcharge matching grant based on their Cess collection. Thus, in one form a Cess Surcharge is already in force



The Chief of the Army Staff, General B.C. Joshi, PVSM, AVSM called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at her residence on 2nd February, 1994.

in our State. Over and above this, the Government meets the entire expenditure on Education. It will be difficult, in addition to levy a Cess for Education, which will cast heavy burden on the rural people. The cost of education has to be met by other sources of funds. In Urban areas, it may be a different matter. It may be possible for Corporations/Municipalities to levy an Education Cess. But not in the rural areas. Moreover, in most States, Land Revenue has declined in importance and Cess collection will not amount too much.

I have conveyed my views somewhat broadly on the various concerns before us, as set out in the reports of the Committees. We have a National Policy on Education (NPE 1992). We have come a long way in establishing access to the school system. Our enrolment percentages are quite good. What is a cause of concern is that we are not able to ensure 5 years of schooling for a large number of children.

In addition, what is disturbing is that even those who technically complete 5 years of schooling do not possess minimum levels of learning. Given the size of our Country's population and the large

number of children involved, a massive task to transform this system is before us. In addition, the harder task of imparting qualitative dimensions to the whole structure and process of education has also to be faced. It is not going to be an easy task. We need to develop flexible approaches in the field, which will subserve the common objective of ensuring the minimum threshold levels of literacy we have set for ourselves. Innovative strategies developed at the micro level will prove to be the key to speedier progress.

In Tamil Nadu, I am personally committed to ensuring that we reach the 'Education for All' goal which has been incorporate in the 15-Point Programme for the Child which we have launched recently.

I wish to assure you that the comprehensive package of programmes that we have launched, represents a bold and imaginative new effort towards reaching our goal. We are marshaling all our resources, skills and the people's support towards realisation of this goal. As set out in our programme of action, it is our endeavour to achieve this goal by 1998. We are

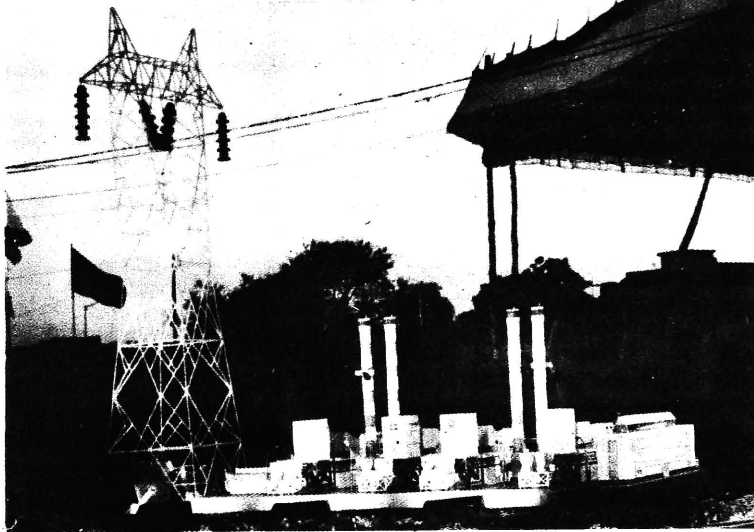
confident that, with the significant new steps that we have already taken, and the new programmes we will launch this year, we shall attain this goal.

I am aware of the very many problems that exist, but I do firmly believe that basic education cannot be postponed from the agenda any further. As I have already mentioned, it is the first building block in Nation building and it is perilous to ignore this any further. In Tamil Nadu we shall rededicate ourselves to this goal of education for all, and leave no stone unturned in attaining this goal.

It shall be our united endeavour to see that the people fully participate in this Nation building task. I am confident that with the very many new measures that we have initiated, this goal will not be a distant dream, as it has remained in the past, but will actually be realised in the specified time-frame of five years.

(Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at the Conference of Chief Ministers on Education at New Delhi on 15th February, 1994.)

**ECO-FRIENDLY
GAS TURBINE
POWER PROJECT
COMING UP
AT MADRAS**



TAMIL NADU LAUNCHING POWER PROJECTS TO ENSURE OVER ALL GROWTH

Hon'ble Chief Minister

Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. JAYALALITHA

"Madras Corporation would soon implement an action plan to produce electricity from garbage

and other wastes", the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha announced after

laying the foundation for the 120 MW gas turbine power station at Basin Bridge in January 30, 1994. "The scheme would have a capacity to convert 500 tonnes of waste and would be a forerunner to similar projects by Madurai and Coimbatore Corporations".

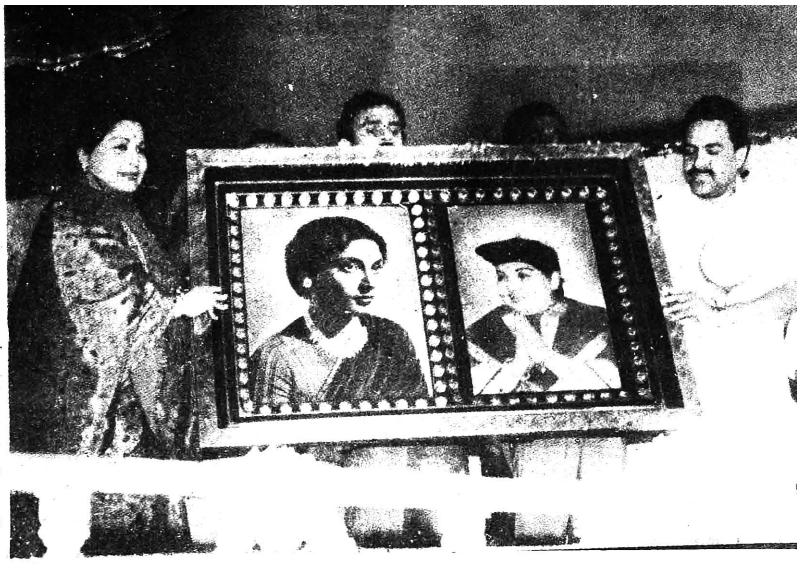
The Basin Bridge Power Project is to be a milestone in the efforts of the Tamil Nadu Government to tap non-conventional energy sources and the Government understood and recognised the need for increasing the availability of power for the industrial development and overall progress of the state, the Chief Minister said.

"Even before coming to power, I had repeatedly reiterated the need for more projects to augment power supply. On assuming office, I immediately took steps to set the power sector on its leg. During the last 30 months, the Tamil Nadu Government has been steadily increasing the allocation for power projects and was also launching new power projects. Tamil Nadu has not just achieved remarkably in the power front but has also paved the way and ensured a revolutionary power cut free situation", the Chief Minister added.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also announced that work on the gas turbine project would begin "tomorrow". "The power project is being established to meet the peak hour demand for power in Madras

without polluting the environment" she said.

The Chief Minister appealed to the Central Government and the Prime Minister Thiru P.V. Narasimha Rao to approve the Southern gas grid and peninsular river grid projects. She said that it would be 'enough' if the centre approved the Projects. "I would take the initiative to mobilise the Funds. I would arrange for the Chief Ministers of Southern States to contribute their share for the Projects. The schemes would herald an economic revolution in Tamil Nadu and The entire economy of the State would undergo a transformation", the Chief Minister stressed.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT

- ★ Specially designed for use of multi fuel like Naphtha, H.S.D. and Natural Gas.
- ★ Designed to provide stability in power supply to the city of Madras and peak load requirement of the State, taking advantage of the infrastructure already available at the old Basin Bridge Thermal Power Station.
- ★ Generation of 172 Million Units per annum at 6 hours per day for 240 days, during peak hours.

The Chief Minister pressed a button unveiling a plaque to mark the foundation laying for the Rs.376 crore project, being implemented

★ Funded by Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Japan, 11,450 Million Japanese Yen has been sanctioned and an additional loan amount of 300 Million Japanese Yen is expected.

★ Allotment of 50,000 tonnes of Naphtha per year has been obtained to meet the peak hour requirements.

★ More Environment friendly than conventional Coal based Thermal Stations.

★ Planned diligently to start generation of power in 16 minutes.

with the assistance of the Japanese Government's Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund. As she pressed the button a model of the project

simultaneously emerged from a decorated chamber behind the plaque.

Presiding over the function, the Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah said the power project would further promote industrial activity in North Madras and create more employment opportunities.

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department Thiru S. Kannappan during his welcome address said that the Tamil Nadu Government is highly progressive as proved by many of the projects undertaken. The Tuticorin Power Station is being considered a super-thermal power station, a rare privilege for a power station under a state Government.

Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms Thiru E. Madhusudhanan, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Thiru D. Jayakumar and Thiru D. Pandian, M.P., extolled the efforts of Hon'ble Chief Minister to get the Basin Bridge Gas Turbine Power Project going.

Thiru A.P. Muthusamy, Chairman, TNEB gave a detailed report on the Power Project. Thiru R. Arumugam, Secretary to Government, Energy Department proposed a vote of thanks.





CHIEF MINISTER VISITS KARUR

PEOPLE ARE THE SOURCE OF MY STRENGTH

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. JAYALALITHA

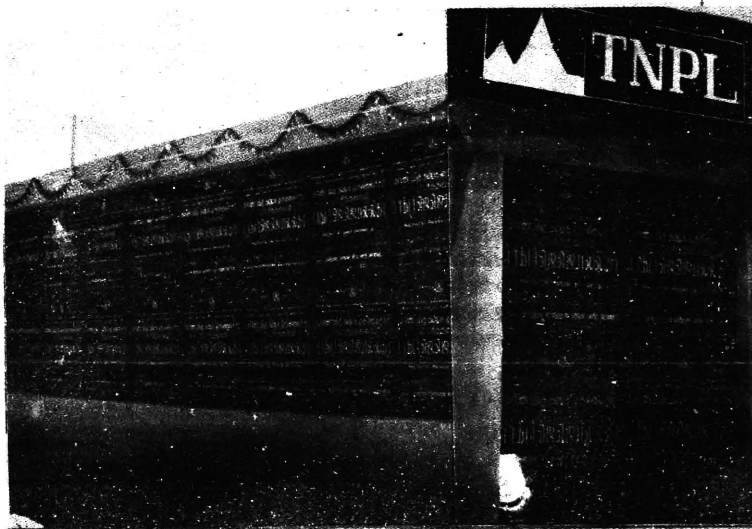
"Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha laid the foundation for several projects, inaugurated various welfare schemes costing Rs.801 crore and distributed Government's assistance to more than 50,000 beneficiaries at a grand function held at Kuzhanda Goundanur near Karur, Trichy District on 22nd January, 1994. In her speech, the Chief Minister said the 15MW wind power farm commissioned by her in Tirunelveli Kattabomman District was the biggest plan scheme in non conventional energy sources, established in India. She expressed satisfaction and hoped that the Rs.29 crore project to which she had laid the foundation would cater the need of the entire District and also would pave way for the growth of industries.

She said that the Government was implementing the Inam Karur drinking water project at a cost of Rs.55 crore, Pirattiyur drinking water project at a cost of Rs.4 crore, K. Abishekapuram drinking water

project at a cost of Rs.15 crore and Kallakkudi-Pullambadi Panchayat Union drinking water supply projects at a cost of Rs.15 crore. She said these schemes show the aim and efforts of the Government to provide protected water supply to all the rural areas. She informed that orders have been issued to put up, 1,000 borewells at a cost of Rs.2.5 crore with financial assistance from the World Bank.

The Chief Minister announced that a new industrial estate would be set up with infrastructural facilities at a cost of Rupees one crore in Athur village near Karur.

She also said that work on a new bye-pass road to connect the Karur road and the Salai road costing Rs.4 crore would be taken up soon to prevent the congestion in Tiruchy town. She said orders have already



been issued to establish a Science and Technology Park at Trichy at a cost of Rs4 crore.

Describing Tiruchy as a cultural heritage District with numerous temples, the Chief Minister said it was in the fitness of things to establish a Veda and Agama Padasala in Kambarasanpettai near Tiruchy. Apart from being a centre for learning, it would also take up research studies on the Vedas and Agamas, the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister said she met the people in person and accepted petition, districtwise, to get first hand knowledge of their problems and visited the Districts to launch new schemes and hand over the benefits to beneficiaries in person.



She said more than 50,000 beneficiaries were given Government's welfare assistance worth

Rs.22 crore. She said the people were the source of her strength and it was her endeavour to satisfy their aspirations.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly presided. Thiru K.P. Krishnan, Minister for Agriculture, Prof K. Ponnusamy, Minister for Education and Tmt Indra Kumari, Minister for Social Welfare spoke on the occasion.

Thiru M. Chinnasamy, Minister for Industries welcomed the gathering. Thiru D. Rajendran, IAS, District Collector, proposed a vote of thanks.

The function was attended by Ministers, Chairpersons of State Boards, Members of the Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly and a vast gathering.

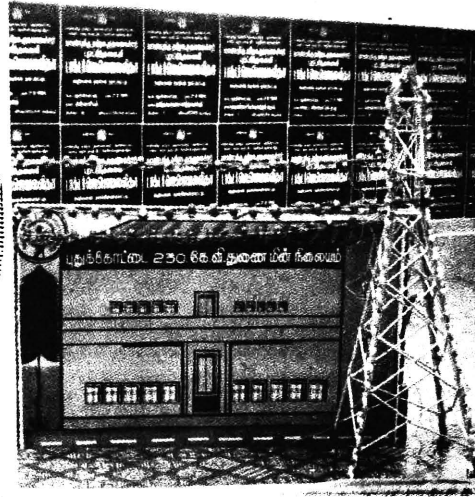
The Ambassador of Italy to India, Thiru G. Manegatti called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at Secretariat on 31st January, 1994. Dr. Vannino Chiti, President of the State of Tuscany in North Italy and Thiru R.J. Sahney, Hon'ble Consul-General of Italy accompanied the Italian Ambassador.



Chief Minister Visits Pudukottai District

Tamil Nadu has taken effective steps to hold the Price-line

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi
Dr. J. JAYALALITHA



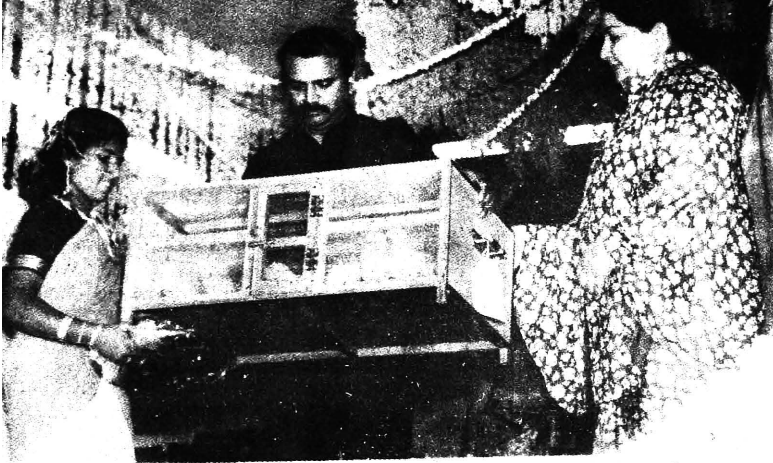
Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha laid the foundation for various projects, inaugurated development programmes at a cost of Rs.248 crore and distributed welfare assistance to more than 30,000 beneficiaries of Pudukottai District at a grand function held at Pudukottai on 7th February, 1994.

In her speech, the Chief Minister expressed her happiness in meeting the people of Pudukottai

who had welcomed her with a warm heart during all her previous visits. She said a group of people who had no faith in democracy and who were blind to the needs and welfare of the poorest in the State, were creating pin-pricks and problems to the Government. In spite of these, her Government which had the foresight and basic ideals of Periyar, Anna and MGR who had fought for the dignity of the common man, and hence was determined to go ahead with its plan to improve the

lot of the people. She said her Government was not suffering from 'short sight' or 'long sight' but had the foresight for the development of the State.

The Chief Minister said that for a state to be economically strong it should be in the forefront of industrial development and power generation. She highlighted the schemes and projects which had been inaugurated and introduced by her during the past 2½ years. She said the Planning Commission



had commended the excellent record of Tamil Nadu. On the implementation of the Eighth Plan Programmes, since the State had exceeded its targets. The Plan allotment for the State had gone up from Rs.1605 crore in 1991-92 to Rs. 2750 crore for 1994-95. Everyone in Tamil Nadu should be proud of these achievements, the Chief Minister added.

"It was sad that the Central Government had hiked the prices of essentials. As I have understood the difficulties of the poor, I have appealed to the Centre to withdraw the increase in prices," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister informed that the State Government has taken steps to hold the price line and prevent unscrupulous merchants making quick profits. She said the Government was ensuring that all shops exhibit the price list of essential commodities. The Government would not hesitate to take appropriate action if the merchants indulged in creating artificial scarcity to hike the prices, the Chief Minister added.

The Chief Minister said the new schemes for Pudukottai District, viz Ponnamaravathi Town Drinking Water Project at Rupees one crore, Farmers Assistance Scheme at Rs.54 crore, and Power Sub-stations at Rs.20 crore would pave the way for the economic growth of the people

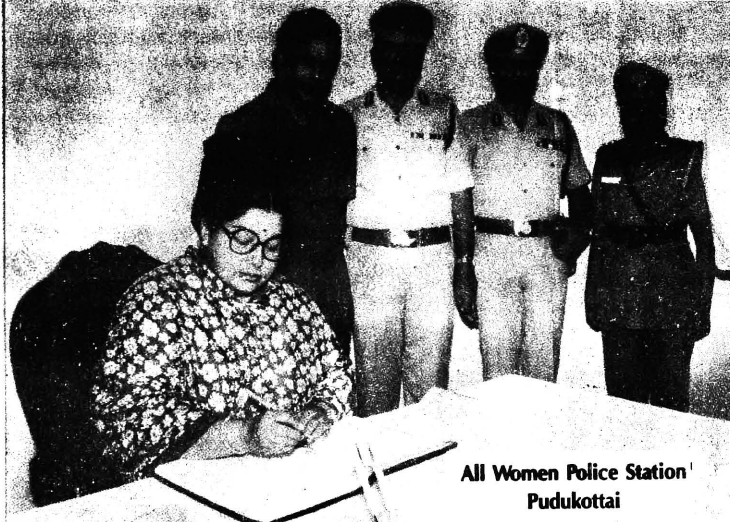
of Pudukottai. The Chief Minister desired that the 30,000 beneficiaries should make use of their benefits in a proper way and in turn prosper in life.

The Chief Minister congratulated Thiru S. Ragupathy, Minister for

The Chief Minister said the young entrants to political arena were impatient to reach the top. Few of them, when they failed in an organisation switched over to another. But there also, they were not accepted. If the young politicians work hard for the cause and steadfastly served the people, they would certainly come up in life. "Thiru Ragupathy is an example in this regard", she added.

The Chief Minister expressed her happiness in meeting the people and in handing over the benefits to beneficiaries personally. She said it gave her immense pleasure to meet them and served as an encouragement to server the public.

Thiru S. Ragupathy, Minister for Housing welcomed the gathering. Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, the



All Women Police Station Pudukottai

Housing, for the excellent arrangements made for the function. Praising Thiru S. Raghupathy, she described him as calm and collected, with pleasant manners. His unflinching loyalty and unshakeable trust in the high command as well as his excellent execution of the work entrusted to him have earned him a reputation. By his calm disposition and steady progress Thiru Raghupathy was an example to youngsters, she said.

Speaker presided. Ministers, Thiru R.M. Veerappan, Thiru S. Kannappan spoke. The function was attended by a strong crowd of many thousands.

Before departing to Trichy, The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open an All Women Police Station in Pudukottai.

Another All Women Police Station was declared open by Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi



Nadu Government had designed many schemes to develop the police force and was keen to provide all the facilities to make it not only the best in the Country but also acquire a pride of place in the world arena.

The opening of All Women Police Stations in every District of the State was a step towards preparing the State Police to meet the needs of the 21st Century, she added. These All Women Police Stations were opened so that Women police get equal rights and that they could prove they could competently discharge all aspects of police work. Apart from women, these police stations were welcomed by the general public as women belonging to economically weaker sections, could easily approach them with their special problems especially those relating to women, she said.

The Chief Minister highlighted the schemes and welfare measures taken by her Government for the welfare of women and children. She said the police force was being modernised and she had so far opened 12 All Women Police Stations and provided vehicles and other essential facilities. She also highlighted the achievements made by her Government in the sports arena. She said the Government had taken a vow to improve the performance of the sports persons so that they would participate in Olympic games and win gold medals.

The Chief Minister expressed desire that the police personnel employed in All Women Police Stations should work in such a way that they earn name and pride to the police force.

She appreciated the work done by Thiru K.P. Krishnan, Minister for Agriculture along with other Ministers, Thiru Chinnasamy, Prof. K. Ponnusamy and the police officials, in arranging the function.

**All Women Police Station
Trichy**

Dr. J. Jayalalitha in Trichy cantonment on 7th February, 1994. The Chief Minister after inaugurating various development programmes in Pudukottai, arrived in Trichy to open the All Women Police Station. Speaking on the occasion she said

that when she came to power, there was a great threat to life and property in the State from militants, and in response to this the Government and the police force by hard work and persistence have put them down. She said the Tamil



Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha Transport Corporation Inaugurated

The Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha Transport Corporation was inaugurated on 27th January 1994 by the Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr.V.R.Nedunchezhiyan at Madras.

"The Tamil Nadu's Transport Corporations have a nationwide reputation for efficiency and comfortableness and the new corporation would be a model", the Finance Minister said. The Dr. J. Jayalalitha Transport Corporation (Dr.JJTC) buses would bring pleasure to long distance bus travel within the reach of the middle class, he added. "The Dr. J.J.T.C. buses were built at a cost of Rs.9.lakhs each while conventional models cost just about Rs.4.5 lakhs".

Presiding over the Function, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah said

The formation of Dr. J. Jayalalitha Transport Corporation follows a decision by the Government that a separate corporation could take over the routes to neighbouring states from Thiruvalluvar Transport Corporation which was operating a heavy fleet of 949 buses.

Among the features in the buses of the new corporation are more leg space with pushback seats, audio-video facility, safety luggage racks, protected drinking water, a choice of soups and beverages during journey and an attendant to respond to passenger's needs during journey.

The Dr. J.J.T.C. is to have 10 branches including one each at Bangalore and Trivandram with headquarters at Madras. The Dr. J.J.T.C. is to operate 157 ultra modern luxury buses to start with, on 54 routes linking Tamil Nadu to Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, covering a total distance of 1.08 lakh Kms. every day.



that the formation of Dr. J.J.T.C. was a mark of gratitude to the Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha for the steps taken by her for the welfare of the people. He pointed out that legislators from other states made a study of the working of Tamil Nadu's Transport Corporations during their committee tours.

The Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Thiru K.A. Sengottaiyan outlined the spectacular growth of the bus service system in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru R.M. Veerappan, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru S.D. Somasundaram, Hon'ble Minister for Law

Thiru K.A. Krishnasamy, Hon'ble Minister for PWD Thiru S. Kannappan, Hon'ble Minister for Handloom Thiru E. Madusudhanan spoke on the occasion.

The Chief Secretary Thiru T.V. Venkataraman welcomed the gathering. The Transport Secretary Thiru A. Nagarajan proposed a vote of Thanks.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha declared open the new building for Kasimedu Police Station at Madras on 31st January, 1994.





WORLD BANK APPRECIATES THE PROGRESSIVE POLICIES OF TAMIL NADU

Thiru Ismail Serageldin, Vice President, World Bank, Washington called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at her residence on 3.2.1994. He was accompanied by Thiru Pierre Landell-Mills and Thiru Alexander Vander Osten. The Chief Secretary was also present during the discussions.

Thiru Ismail Serageldin expressed his appreciation for the progressive policies followed in Tamil Nadu. In particular he highlighted the initiatives taken by Tamil Nadu in the social sectors. He also expressed his appreciation for the new initiatives being planned in Tamil Nadu to ensure environmentally sustainable development.

The Chief Minister requested early clearance by the World Bank for both the Second Madras Water supply and Environmental Sanitation Project (New Veeranam) and the Third Madras Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project (Krishna Water Distribution and Transmission system). She highlighted the fact that these two projects were a must for Madras City to be rid of its chronic water shortages. She requested Thiru Ismail Serageldin to use his good

offices to secure early clearance of these projects. Thiru Ismail Serageldin endorsed the concern of the Chief Minister and indicated that the World Bank would give its best consideration to these projects.

The Chief Minister also requested early consideration of the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project with an outlay of Rs.1450 crores. She pointed out that this project was to ensure the efficient use of water in the river basins of Tamil Nadu and should be supported by the World Bank. Thiru Ismail Serageldin indicated that as water was likely to become a scarce resource it was essential to conserve and use the available water efficiently. He indicated that the World Bank would give serious consideration to the proposals of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister also invited attention to the problems relating to the City's water ways. She highlighted the need for special support from the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) to undertake the Madras City Water Ways Improvement Project. This was to remove sludge, prevent sewage outfall and keep the water ways clean. She pointed out that a com-

prehensive approach for cleaning Adyar, Cooum and closing the central stretch of the Buckingham Canal had been adopted. She requested World Bank support for this project.

The Chief Minister also drew attention of Thiru Ismail Serageldin to the preparation of an Integrated Coastal Area Development Programme. She highlighted the fragile nature of the coastal zone and indicated that the project proposal was now being drawn up with assistance from Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. She requested World Bank support for funding this project proposal. She felt that this would be an innovative project facilitating sustainable development. Thiru Ismail Serageldin expressed interest in this new approach.

Concerns about the environment and the need for sustainable development were expressed by the Vice President of the World Bank. He had detailed discussions with the Chief Minister on environmentally sustainable development and expressed his satisfaction that Tamil Nadu was addressing itself to all the major concerns relating to sustainable development.



THANTHAI PERIYAR MEMORIAL AT VAIKKOM INAUGURATED

NEED TO TRANSFORM PERIYAR'S DREAMS INTO REALITY STRESSED

The relevance of Periyar's teachings in the context of present conditions in India and the need to transform the dreams of Periyar into reality was stressed by Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Dr. V.R. Nedunchezhiyan at the function to mark the unveiling of the statue of Thanthai Periyar and inauguration of his memorial complex on 31.1.94 at Vaikom in Kerala.

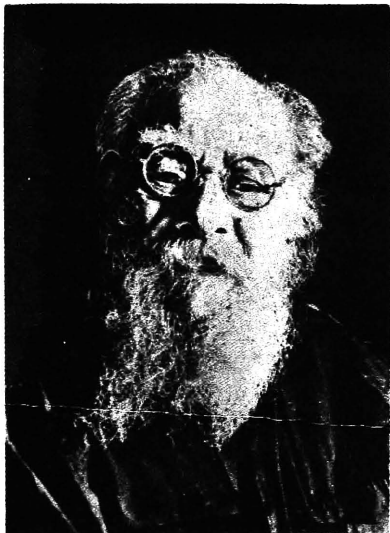
The Finance Minister attributed the slow progress of the Nation to the Social difference caused by caste. He added that by following Periyar, the Youth can further the Nations' Progress. "It is also the responsibility of the younger generation to transform Periyar's dreams into a reality", the Minister said.

The history of social revolution in India has been thoroughly changed by the Vaikom Satyagraha', said Thiru K. Veeramani, the General Secretary of Dravidar Kazhagam, who presided over the function. He referred to roie Periyar played in the historic Vaikom Satyagraha seven decades ago and said that this Satyagraha had far reaching impact on the social reform movement in India, as a catalyst to many other social reform developments.

The Hon'ble Minister for Information, Thiru M. Thennavan said that the oppressed and the backward sections of society would not have come to enjoy the benefits that they have today had it not been for the sacrifices and efforts of Thanthai Periyar.

Thiru Ramesh Chennithala, Member of Parliament, expressed his desire that joint efforts by both the Tamil Nadu and Kerala Governments in association with other organisations to beautify and further develop the memorial complex.

Thiru. B. Jayapirakasam, Joint Director, Information Department welcomed the gathering. Thiru R. Annadurai, Deputy Director proposed a vote of thanks.



Vaikkom, 1924, then a bastion of casteist oppression in the Travancore Samasthan. A place in a period when social injustice was a largely uncontested creed. When upper caste hegemony was the order of the day. Where the sinful practice of untouchability was extended to the extreme, and the 'low-born' were barred entry not only into temples, but also into streets and avenues leading up to them.

However, in the Madras presidency, the 'non-brahmin movement' had made deep inroads into the hegemonic orthodox. Sri Narayana Guru had played a corresponding role in Kerala.

It was in this milieu that the late rationalist leader and Dravidar Kazhagam founder, 'Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy, arrived 70 years ago to lead a movement demanding the right of the oppressed classes to enter the Vaikkom Mahadeva Temple.

It is in commemoration of this historic movement, which ignited the spark of progressive reformism in South India, that the Tamil Nadu Government has erected a memorial at Vaikkom as a monumental reminder of the dawn of liberal practices in a caste-ridden society.

Periyar's Victory Over Untouchability

Ironically, Periyar had not even started his self-respect and rationalist movement then. He was president of the Tamil Nadu Pradesh Congress Committee. By participating in the Vaikkom struggle at the invitation of local activists against untouchability, he earned a rebuke from his political mentor in the Congress, C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji), for 'exceeding' his jurisdiction and entering the princely state of Travancore.

Like all significant movements, the satyagraha had its genesis in a minor incident. Madhavan, an 'ezhava' advocate, was not allowed to enter a court situated in the Travancore Maharaja's Palace. Some ezhava community leaders and Kerala Congress Committee leader K.P. Kesava Menon decided to launch a Satyagraha against such practices. They chose Vaikkom which had a temple in the centre of the town square, with four approach roads leading to the four entries for the temple.

At Vaikkom, the vice was not restricted to the temple precincts. As the main Government offices, the local Court and Police Station were also located on the streets around the temple, ezhavas, acharis, vaaniyars, weavers and pan-chamas were ineligible for appointment as court staff, inspectors or constables or even as labourers in the shops in the temple's vicinity.

Periyar himself narrated the event in a series of public meetings 35 years later. He recalled that in the initial states, the administration had

no difficulty in suppressing the struggle by detaining its 19 protagonists.

Started on a small note by the advocate, Madhavan, and others like T.K. Madhavan, Kesava Menon and George Joseph, the movement was in danger of becoming a failure, as there was none to continue it after their detention.

Gravely concerned over this, they wrote from prison to Periyar who was then on a tour of Madurai District as a Congress leader. They said as he had already made a name for himself as a reformer against untouchability, superstition and obscurantism, he alone could give a fillip to their struggle. They feared that if he did not come, they might be forced to seek the king's pardon and withdraw the agitation.

Periyar did not hesitate even for a moment. He returned home to Erode and wrote to Rajaji that he was proceeding to Vaikkom and requested the latter to take charge of the Congress Committee in his absence.

A strange reception awaited Periyar at Vaikkom; the Inspector General of Police, a Britisher, welcomed him even as he got off his boat.

The Maharaja had instructed the Inspector General to provide all facilities for Periyar's stay. The king was reciprocating the hospitality he had enjoyed occasionally at Periyar's house at Erode on route to Delhi, which he visited frequently.

Periyar began his fierce campaign in his usual acerbic style against the abhorrent practice of banishing the lower castes from temples. Following his relentless attack, the dominant castes represented to the administration to restrain him. The Maharaja could remain patient only for about 10 days.

The administration clamped prohibitory orders within Vaikkom in a bid to stop the campaign. When Periyar violated the orders, he was arrested and detained for a month. He then sent his wife Nagammai and his sister S.R. Kannammal to continue the struggle.

By the time he was released, the movement had gained immense mass support. He ignored a letter from Rajaji asking him not to create disturbance in the Country. A group of Sikh activists came all the way from Punjab to participate in the struggle and Periyar's opponents alleged that he was inciting people from other religions against Hinduism. The Sikhs left on an appeal by Gandhiji to all non-

Hindus not to participate in the temple entry movement.

Meanwhile, Periyar was rearrested and sentenced to six months imprisonment. The temple Namboodiris staged a 'Shatrusamhara Yagna' to destroy the 'enemies' of the 'sacred' rules barring the lower castes from entering it. Ironically, Periyar recalled in one of his speeches, the yagna appeared to have no effect on the satyagrahis, but the Maharaja died. All prisoners were then released in the wake of his death.



It was clear that the struggle could only end in success and opposition to it, started weakening. The Diwan of Travancore wrote to Rajaji seeking his help in resolving the impasse. On a request from Rajaji, Gandhi arrived at Vaikom to discuss the issue with the Maharani. The Rani offered to open the roads to all the communities provided the agitationists did not claim any right to enter the temple.

In a bid get him to agree to the proposal, Gandhi called on Periyar, who refused to give up his demand for temple entry. However, he was prepared to give an assurance that there would be no agitation for the time being and he would go in for a fresh movement only after an in-

tense campaign to educate the people on the issue. The roads were immediately thrown open to all, bringing an end to the Vaikom struggle.

It was not until 1926 that an actual temple entry by harijans could be achieved. This was at Sucheedram, Periyar attributed the decision to the advice given by the Diwan, late C.P. Ramaswami Iyer, that unless temples were thrown open to all, the lower castes would convert en masse to Islam.

A question then asked was why did Periyar, a militant atheist, support the temple entry movement when he believed that the temples were the "refuge of scoundrels",

as he himself explained. He was against the existence of temples, but as long as they existed, they should not be used as yet another instrument of caste-based discrimination.

Indeed, they were many of them who believed that religion was the exclusive preserve of the upper castes.

Though Vaikom did not witness the opening up of temples, it was the locale for a historic victory against untouchability. It was the beginning of a metamorphosis in the hitherto submissive lower caste psyche.

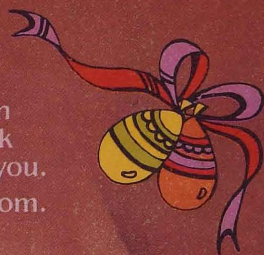
Courtesy: The Times of India dated, January 31, 1994



The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs Day (28.1.94).

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