

# Tamil Arasu

January 1983 75p.



Thiruvalluvar Year—2014  
Margazhi - Thai, Dhundubi



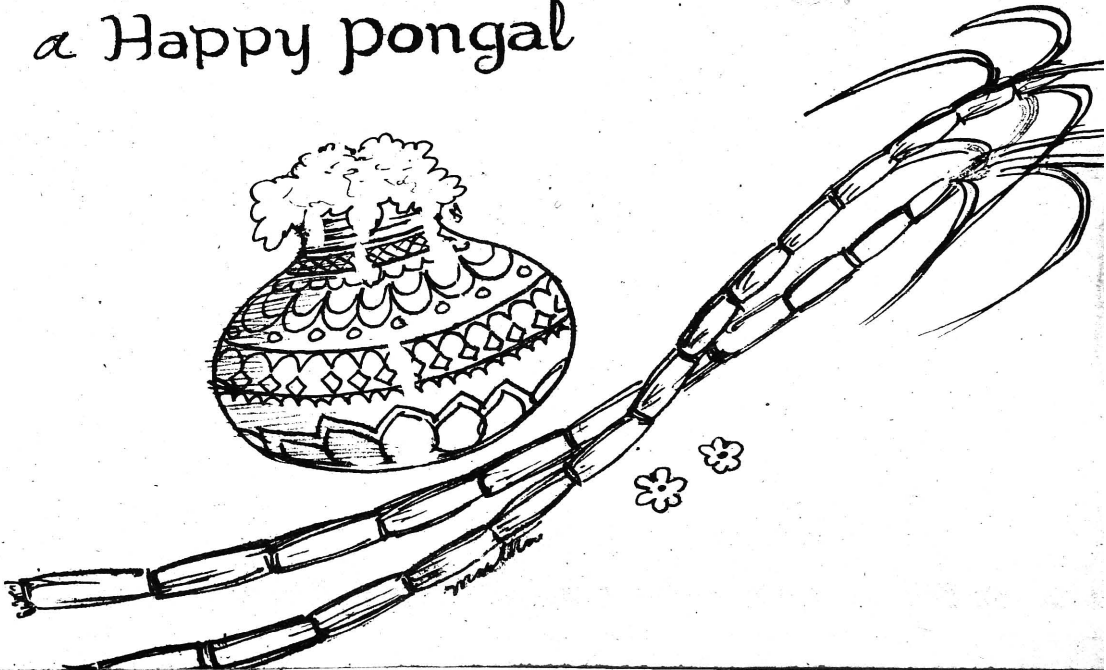
A seminar on Adult education was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran on 14-12-1982 in the city in which 15 nations participated on behalf of the UNESCO.

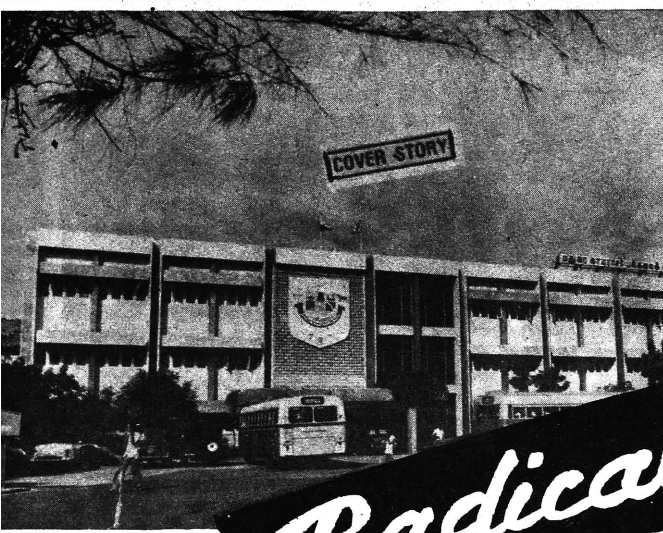
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# Tamil Arasu

*wishes its Readers  
a Happy pongal*





# Radical change in Educational Pattern

CM's Convocation address.

Your Excellency the Chancellor of the Madurai Kamaraj University Honourable Pro-Chancellor! Vice-Chancellor! Learned Professors of the Various Faculties! My beloved students who have assembled here to receive their degrees!

It is always a delightful experience for me to meet you the young men and women of the present generation, that too a generation that is on the threshold to shoulder the great task of shaping the future of the society. I have not studied much in educational institutions; as I was forced by circumstances to work hard and eke out my living myself, I lost the opportunity of completing my education in youth. On seeing you all, fresh graduates, I feel elated like an educated parent without a degree who sees his children graduating after a successful period of higher education.

In memory of the great leader Kamaraj who worked selflessly in a spirit of sacrifice for the freedom of the country and who strove to provide free education to the poor, I wanted to see this University (which is situated in Madurai, the city

which narrated Tamil through the establishment of Cankam) to function in his name. The people of Tamilnadu ardently supported this noble idea. It was a matter of distinction for Tamilnadu indeed to have a University named after a person who had no college education.

I as one who has lost the opportunity to have higher education, deem it an honour and a privilege to have been invited to deliver the Convocation address of the University named after Kamaraj.

By conferring such privileges on persons like me, I take it that the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor do want to demonstrate to the world of the student community in general and the College-going youngsters in particular the fact that formal education and knowledge of research are not gained only through working for a degree.

It is our great duty to recall on this occasion that the immortal Perarignar Anna was called upon to deliver the first Convocation address of this University fifteen years ago. Perarignar Anna repre-

sents an era in the history of Tamil nadu. He was a great thinker who was tutored in the illustrious traditions of the School of Periyar and who later evolved for himself distinct ideals of his own and who exemplified his ideals through his own practice; "Duty, discipline, dignity", "To have the heart to face any crisis"! "The jasmine blossoming in the neighbour's garden smells sweet"; "Forget and forgive"; "Long live detractors"; "Live long wherever you be" - these are not mere ornate-verbal phrasings but living principles of his life, they constitute a philosophy of life advocated by him for the benefit of all. That is the reason why he is still remembered as a great man with a great heart.

The views on education, the code of conduct for the student community propagated by him on platforms and forums like this university are worth remembering and emulating. Following in his footsteps under the inspiration of his leadership, I have nothing new to add to what he has already said on these matters. Yet it is my duty to place before you a few ideas keeping in mind the present social situation.



Our country is a land of great heritage. Our Tamilnadu holds importance. But still, whatever be the richness of past, social changes are indispensable. That "the old order changeth yielding place to new" is a Tamil axiom. At the same time it is not desirable for us to go craving for novelties in utter rejection of the time-honoured principles of our heritage. To be reluctant to change and to be enslaved by the shackles of the past means only stagnation. Without getting lost in either, to keep to traditions as the basis and to evince interest in the new would be favourable for the creation of the economic structure of our society. Undaunted by the changes, to be prepared to face the challenge of life with courage in deference to the time and its needs, is the duty of a man of reason and discrimination.

Despite the fact that human civilisation has reached its peak and the affluent society could command all the necessary facilities, many have lost their peace of mind. That is only due to a lack of feeling of togetherness or a sense of belonging. A self-centred development encouraged by an unhealthy competitive society does not reflect the awareness that we are the members of the same society and consequently we lack a spirit of cooperation and mutual help. We never think in terms of creating a society based on mutual love and support. Mere education or graduation does not help man complete his personality. The real

education lies only in developing his personality to enable himself to use his skills for the good of the society. A man to be called a man should acquire education. In a democracy education is the necessary means to establish equality. There is no possibility for an egalitarian society without education to all. At the same time, increasing the number of educational institutions will not contribute to the growth of education. It leads to an irreparable loss for the society if we send the children to work when they are supposed to learn. The nutritious midday meal scheme is to promote the abolition of economic constraints in the way of children's education. The government is providing free lunch to 65 lakhs of school children. This will guarantee that the financial difficulties of their families will not adversely affect their education. This is our investment for the benefit of future generations.

Education does not consist merely in reading, writing and arithmetic. Deep knowledge, good experience, cultured behaviour and social sense alone can make ideal citizens. To-day you are leaving the portals of the University after having secured your degrees, through success in the University examination. The examination of life however is waiting to meet you outside. I greet you on this occasion and wish that you will come out with flying colours in that examination also and earn the title of a good citizen.

The Father of our Nation Mahatma Gandhi taught us the

truth that India lives in our villages. Perarignar Anna told us that for the welfare of our society the fusion of the knowledge gathered through reading and the wisdom of the villagers acquired through experience is essential. With that aim you should go to the common multitude as the ambassadors of the university. The wisdom that the unsophisticated villagers possess has been gained by the sacrifice of their lives and it is more glorious, more lasting and more valid than the knowledge collected from a few books. To work for a proper harnessing of the experience of the villagers and our research abilities is the prime responsibility of the university to-day.

Most of you have conducted experiments in the laboratories in academic institutions. But you should cultivate your youthful minds equipping them with the ability to do experiments in the laboratory of society.

Anna used to say humorously that we should really be a courageous people to expect the Westerners to respect us when 90 percent of them are educated whereas 60 percent of us are illiterate.

According to the latest census, only 46 percent of the Tamil population is literate. It has to be mentioned that we have not yet become ready for the courage Anna spoke of. That claim could have been made if in the course of the last fifteen years the percentage had increased to sixty or seventy. What is the reason for this? Schools, colleges and Universities have increased in



number. But there is no corresponding vigour in our progress. Year after year the amount of money spent on education has been steadily increasing. But our advancement has not been commensurate with this expenditure. The reason is that the service of our educational institutions has not reached the villages which are the heart of our country. I, therefore, feel that fundamental changes in our syllabi and methods of teaching are required. Two thirds of the Indian population live in villages. We should find out the ways and means of imparting basic education to the illiterate men and women of our villages. We should gradually change the present situation in which education can be had only by going to school. Schools and colleges should offer research oriented scientific and technical education. Facilities should be provided for one's acquisition of non-formal basic education from home or through evening school. This will enable one to learn while earning. When you after graduation lead your lives as experts in various fields, you should use your leisure time to teach adult men and women. By this you will be doing a great service to the nation. I believe that this is a practical suggestion for spreading education.

Even an ordinary citizen should have the opportunities to keep abreast of the development in scientific, technological and agricultural fields in different parts of the world. He should be given the facilities to learn all these in Tamil. For this we should write a large number of books in Tamil. Mahakavi Bharati has said that students should be taught such subjects in Tamil. If Japan has now been able to

compete with developed nations like the United States in various fields, it is because all branches of knowledge including advanced sciences are there taught in their mother tongue. There it is possible for an ordinary citizen to enjoy the fruits of education and to improve his knowledge. It seems we can bring about a revolution in the world of knowledge by adopting this method. We should keep in mind the words of Bharati at least during his Birth Centenary Celebrations: "The great works of the intellectuals of other countries should be translated into Tamil. We should compose in Tamil books that will never perish."

Our young men have been brought up under the wrong conception that to get education or to get a degree is meant only for acquiring a job. If education and degree are meant for this purpose alone, none in the country needs education.

During the British regime they gave educational opportunities only to those whom they needed for administrative purposes. If the unemployment problem is posing a more and more serious threat one of the reasons may be our belief in the old notion that education is for employment. There should be an expansion of technological education. Educational institutions should foster the idea that education is a fundamental need of man whereas technological education is required for life. I, therefore, would like to state here that there should be revolutionary changes in our thoughts about education. Educated youngmen should go to villages or stay in their places spreading learning or start industries or go into business.

The government is implementing a number of schemes to help them. If you take the initiative to start an industry on your own you will pave the way for your own progress and also the prosperity of the nation.

On this occasion let me remind you of the memorable words of Anna about the role of the youth! "Educated young men should become teachers and introduce the world to the villages, they would become doctors and cure the body as well as the mind; they should construct bridges and dams and revolutionize agriculture. They should liberate tactfully the common people from the stranglehold of the traditionalism, teach them the necessity for change and thus usher in a new world. For bringing about this change, courage and ability are essential".

When after graduation you prepare your selves to enter society, you will meet with some problems. The most serious of them are dissensions of caste and creed, the situation unknown to you as members of the student community. Even though we won our political independence 35 years ago, we are still occupying a back seat in the comity of nations. You should plan a programme of action with a determination to change this situation. You should never encourage religious and caste differences which have long affected our way of life. This is necessary because such differences have disturbed our unity at all levels, weakened our integrity, ruined our creative potentialities and undermined our progress. To bring about this change demands mental courage. Gandhiji has said:



"Courage in not to be indentified with physical strength but with the mental". He has also said: "Those who possess moral integrity and mental courage will not only inspire confidence but will purify those who look upto them". Therefore you should be determined not to surrender the evil forces which retard the progress of society but should act with clarity of vision, integrity and courage. Your education is meant to help you to distinguish the good from the bad, to accept the desirable and reject the undesirable and resolve to march forward.

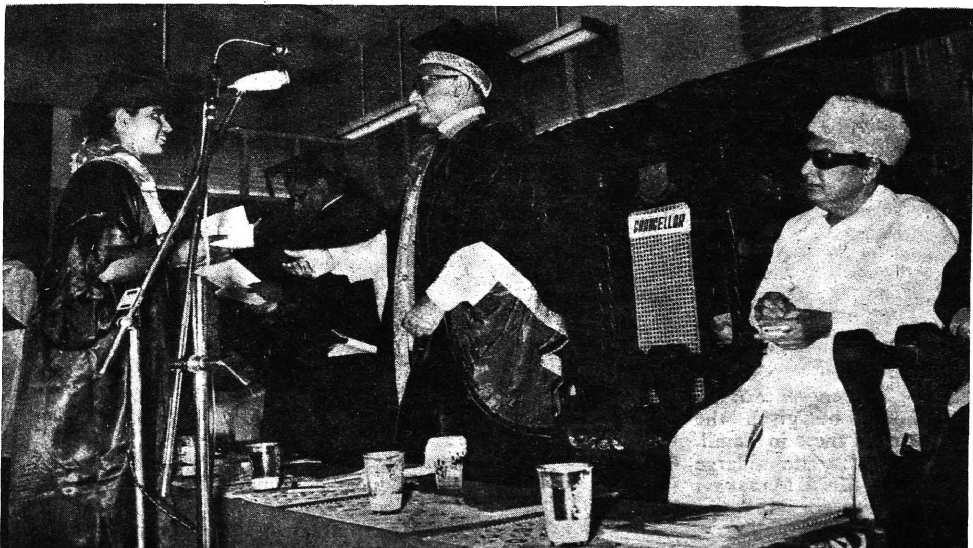
The distinguished thinker Ruskin, for whom Gandhiji had great admiration, said: "The true aim of education is to transform people into those who can not only do the right things but believe in right

things, not only to work but also to respect work, not only into men of knowledge but also lovers of knowledge not only into men of purity but also have faith in purity, justice and good life".

Education has endowed you with the light of knowledge. Therefore you should take decisions after deep and clear thinking and accept nothing blindly. No one has any right to impose his way of life on you. But would reiterate that whatever way you choose it should be the way of righteousness. All of us have certain basic duties to perform. In the performance of those duties I should like to make a specific request. Deify your mother who has endowed you with flesh and blood and remember her for ever; cherish for ever your beloved Tamil which gave the world long long ago

an immortal concept that "every habitation is my habitation and everyman is my kinsman". Love for ever your motherland which has endowed you with the pride of being her citizens. Remember for ever the words of the great Mahakavi Bharathi" "My mother and my country are greater than this universe". Above all, be true to yourself; then alone you will not only be able to shape your life but also the future of the country which depends on you. All my good wishes and blessings are with you for your future to be made very bright by becoming the ideal citizens of your country through your qualities of head and heart, by your devotion to your proud parents, by your sterling service as citizens to your country for its exaltation.

Long live the memory of ANNA!

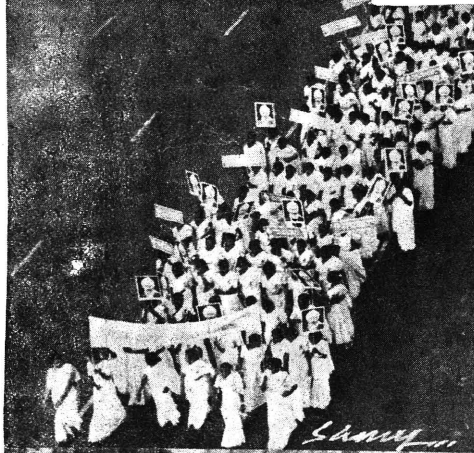
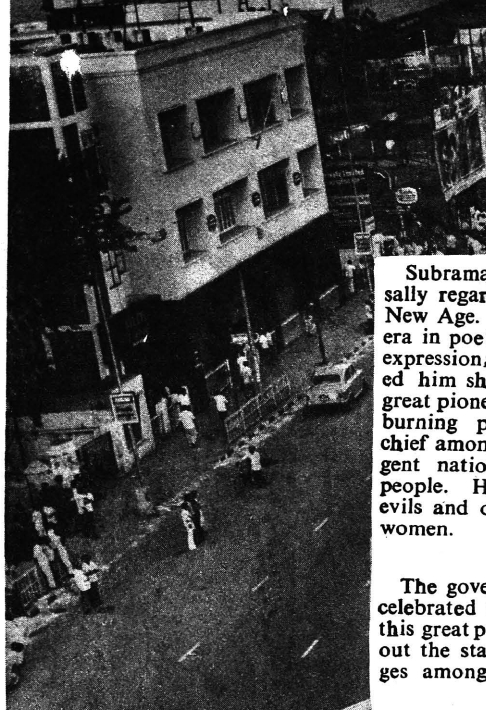


# *Fitting tribute to* **BHARATI**

Subramania Bharati is universally regarded as the poet of the New Age. He ushered in a new era in poetry, both in content and expression; and those who follow him show the imprint of the great pioneer. Bharati sang about burning problems of the day, among which was the resurgence of nationalism of an enslaved people. He also sang of evils and of the emancipation of women.

The government of Tamil Nadu celebrated the birth centenary of this great poet for one year throughout the state to spread his messages among the people.

The celebration started with a function on his birthday on 11.12.81 at Ettayapuram his birthplace. His work and life were highlighted through an exhibition. A life-sized statue of the poet was unveiled in front of the Bharati Mani Mandapam at Ettayapuram. A centenary memorial arch will be erected near the Manimantapam. Proposals to start a university for women; a polytechnic for women in Tirunelveli; opening of more schools for girls; starting of a Co-operative spinning Mills at Ettayapuram; etc., are some of the major schemes to be implemented. The valedictory function of the centenary celebrations was held at Madras for two days.



As a fitting finale, a women's forum was held at Valluvar Kottam which was preceded by a mammoth rally of women from all walks of life symbolising the poet's dream of "liberated woman".

The year-long Bharati centenary celebrations in Tamil Nadu concluded with a spectacular procession in Madras city by women representing all walks of life.

Tens of thousands of women turned out in colourful attire, marching along a five km. stretch holding aloft the banner of equality and rights.

The women came in an unending stream, interspersed by folkdancers, cultural troupes, karagam, dummy horse and peacock artists and bands.

The marchers seemed to be paying a debt of gratitude to Bharati who first raised the call for equal status to women and decried exploitation and discrimination against women. The processionists carried placards containing excerpts from works of the revolutionary poet urging them to revolt against injustice and agitate for equal rights with men.

Women belonging to the I.A.S. and I.P.S. led the procession which consisted of doctors, professors, lawyers, nurses, employees of the State Government and its various undertakings, banks, Central Government departments followed by volunteers from scores of social service organisations, women's associations and teachers and students of a number of schools and colleges in the city.

Women Police, in their well-starched uniforms, marched to the rhythmic beat of the drum and band.

The procession was led by Tmt. Gomathi Srinivasan, Tamil Nadu Minister for Social Welfare, Selvi. Jayalalitha member of the Highlevel Committee of the nutritious room meal scheme and Tmt. E.V.K. SulochanaSampath, Chairman of the State Slum Clearance Board.

Thiru S.L.Khurana, Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister, Thiru. M.G.Ramachandran, Thiru. A.R. Kidwai Governor of Bihar and Tmt. Sheila Kaul, Union Minister of State for Education and Social Welfare, Thiru M.P. Sivagnanam, Chairman, of the State Legislative Council, Ministers and Officials watched the rally from a specially erected rostrum near the Thousand Lights mosque.

A tastefully decorated float carrying a big cut-out of Bharati was in the vanguard of the procession, which commenced from Rajaratnam stadium in Egmore and wended its way through Anna Salai, Nungambakkam High Road and Kodambakkam High Road and reached Valluvarkottam, where the valedictory of the Bharati centenary celebrations was inaugurated by Thiru A.R. Kidwai, Governor of Bihar.



Inaugrating the valedictory function the Bihar Governor, Thiru A.R. Kidwai, said a Bharati mantap was being erected in Patna by the Bihar Government, which had gifted a plot of land and Rs. 1 lakh to the South Indian Cultural Association in P. tna for the purpose. He thanked the Tamil Nadu Government for making a matching grant of Rs.1 lakh.

Thiru Kidwai said he was happy to learn that the Central Committee for the Bharati Centenary celebrations had initiated action to get the poet's works translated into all major Indian languages.

He said, "it is a pity that Bharati was given due recognition only after he died, and his life was a constant struggle. He died a broken man, leaving his family in dire straits".

"A three-day national Bharati Centenary celebration will be held in Delhi from January 8 next," the Union Minister of State for Education, Tmt. Sheila Kaul, said while speaking at the inauguration of the two-day valedictory function of the poet's centenary celebrations. The Minister said the Centre was also planning such celebrations at the international level.

She unveiled portraits of women who held important positions in the country-Thillaiyadi Valliammai, Nagammai, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, Sarojini Naidu, Durgabai Deshmukh, Dr. S. Dharmambal,

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sucheta Kripalani, Clubwallah Jadhav, Kothainayaki Ammal and Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya.

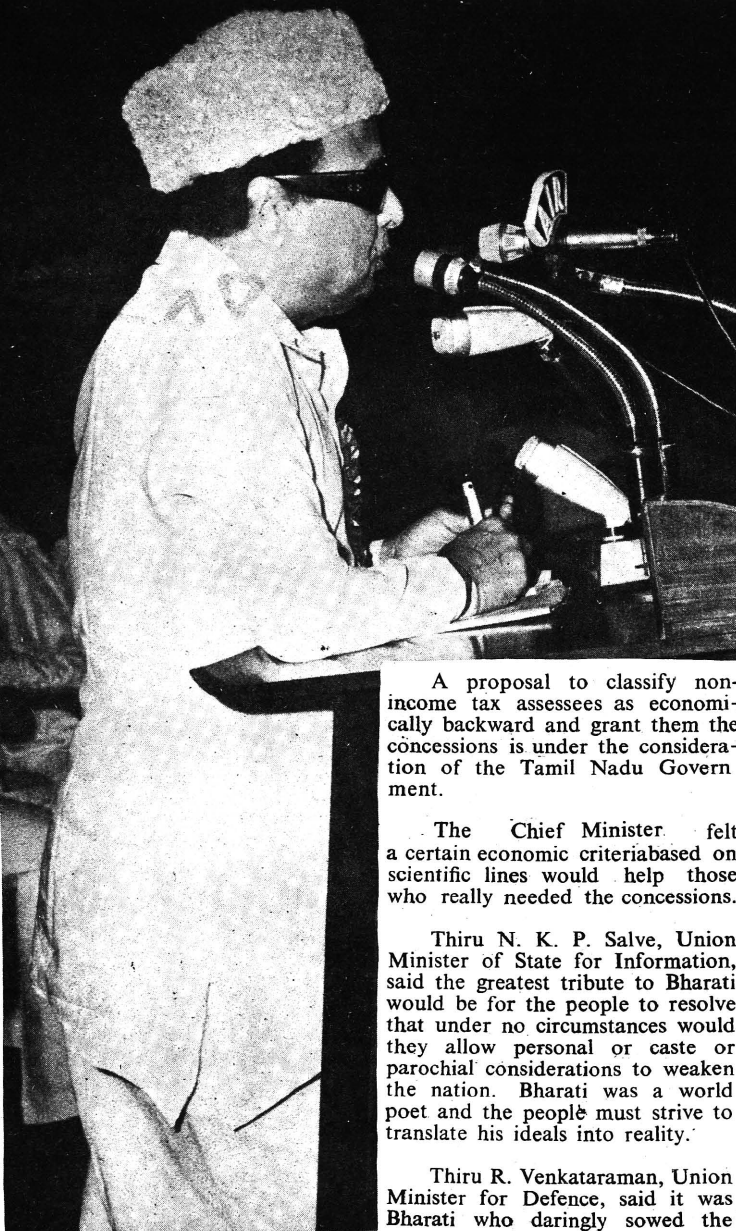
Dr. Sathivanimuthu, Member of Parliament, unveiled a portrait of Bharati and commended the State Government's efforts to promote the welfare of women, a cause the poet championed.

As part of the function a women's forum was organised in which representatives from various walks of life spoke on the prophetic nature of Bharati's works and their relevance even to the present day.

The speakers included Rukmani Arundale, Tara Cherian, Sarojini Varadappan, Radha Thyagarajan, T.N. Anathanayaki, Jayalalitha, Jaya Arunachalam, Sivasankari, Dr. Lalitha Kameswaran, May George and Sulochana Sampath.

The State Social Welfare Minister, Tmt. Gomathi Srinivasan, who presided over the forum, said that in Tamil Nadu, women had come up in every profession.

The Information Minister, Thiru R.M. Veerappan, who welcomed the gathering, said the celebrations which began a year ago at Bharati's birthplace-Ettayapuram-were now coming to a close after his message had been taken to the nooks and corners of the State and country and even parts of the world.



Tamil Nadu Government for spreading the message of Bharati to the nook corner of the country. The real homage to the poet would be to follow his ideals particularly in respect of national unity and bringing about an India which he dreamt of.

A proposal to classify non-income tax assesseees as economically backward and grant them the concessions is under the consideration of the Tamil Nadu Government.

The Chief Minister felt a certain economic criteria based on scientific lines would help those who really needed the concessions.

Thiru N. K. P. Salve, Union Minister of State for Information, said the greatest tribute to Bharati would be for the people to resolve that under no circumstances would they allow personal or caste or parochial considerations to weaken the nation. Bharati was a world poet and the people must strive to translate his ideals into reality.

Thiru R. Venkataraman, Union Minister for Defence, said it was Bharati who daringly sowed the seeds for the freedom struggle through his poems. Let the people stand united protect the integrity of the nation and strive to industrialise the country as desired by Bharati, he said.

Thiru R. V. Swaminathan, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, said it was Bharati who fanned the flames of patriotism and nationalism.

Thiru S. L. Khurana, Governor of Tamil Nadu commended the

Thiru V. R. Nedunchezian, Finance Minister, unveiling a portrait of Bharati, said the great visionary was one who revolutionised the thinking of the commoner.

Thiru C. Aranganyagam, Education Minister, detailed the various steps taken by the Government to commemorate the memory of the poet in the field of education.

Thiru P. Kulandaivelu, Minister for Local Administration, said the Government had spent Rs. 8.13 crores in launching welfare projects to perpetuate the memory of the poet during the year-long centenary celebrations.

Thiru M. P. Sivagnanam, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council, who presided, recalled the robust patriotism of the poet and his love for Tamil.

Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Religious endowments welcomed the gathering.

Thiru Salve received the first copy of the Bharati commemorative volume released by the Governor.

The Chief Minister distributed prizes to the students adjudged the best in poetry, essay and oratorical contests held in connection with the centenary.

Participating in the valedictory function of the Bharati centenary celebrations at Valluvar Kottam, the Chief Minister Thiru M. G. Ramachandran regretted that the people should still continue to think on the lines of caste, creed and religion instead of considering themselves as one community belonging to a nation. How could there be real integration and a casteless society if every section on the basis of castes demanded privileges be asked.



Dr. Sathiavani Muthu, M.P., unveiled a portrait of Bharati

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unveiled a portrait of Bharati

Tmt. Maragatham Chandrasekar, M.P.,  
opened an Exhibition

Governor of Tamil Nadu

Governor of Bihar

Union Ministers receiving mementos from  
Chief Minister.

Mementos were given to those who spread  
Bharati's fame.

Silambu Chelvar Ma.Po.Si.

Thiru Suddantha Bharati

Thiru Pe. Thooran

„ L. Somayajulu

„ Pe.na. Appusamy

„ A. K. Chettiar

„ A.V.R. Krishnaswamy Chettiar

„ Arya

Kavignar Arumuganar

Thiru Narana Duraikannan

„ S. V. Sahasranamam

• A. V. M. Productions

„ N. Mahalingam

„ R. A. Padmanabhan

Tmt. D. K. Pattammal

Thiru T. N. Ramachandran

Thiru Seeni Viswanathan

Mementos given to Bharati's family



Tmt. Maragatham Chandrasekar, M.P., opened an Exhibition



Governor of Tamil Nadu  
Governor of Bihar



Tmt. Sheila Kaul, Union Minister of State for Education and Social Welfare



Thiru R. V. Swaminathan, Union Minister of State for Agriculture

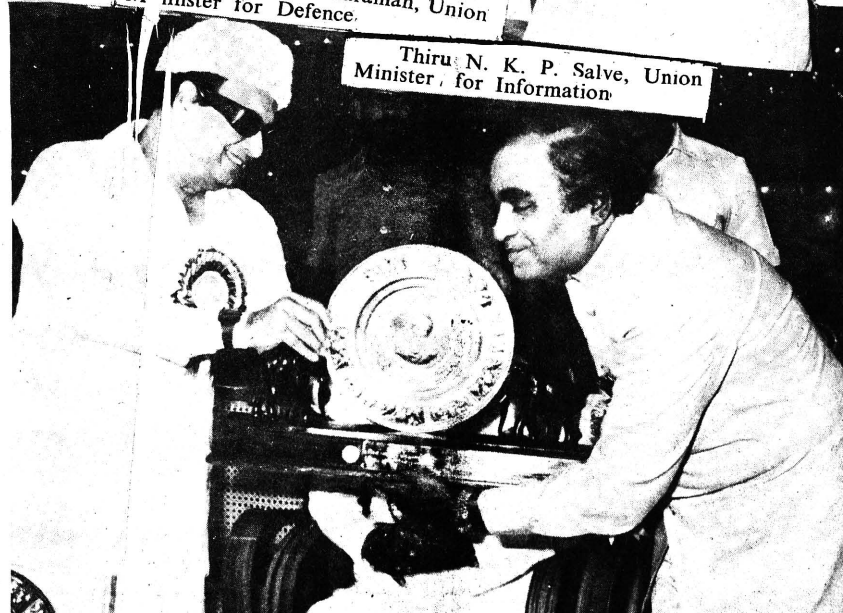




Silambu Chelvar Ma.Po.Si.



Thiru R. Venkataraman, Union  
Minister for Defence.



Thiru N. K. P. Salve, Union  
Minister for Information



Thiru Pe. Thooran

Mementos given to Bharati's family

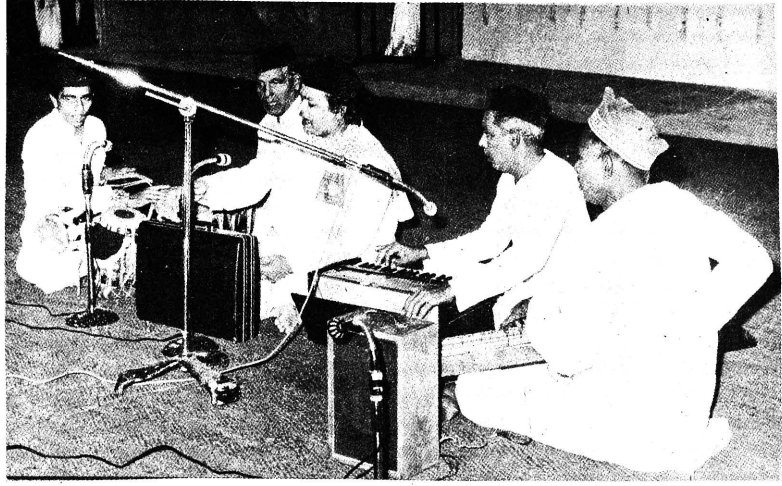
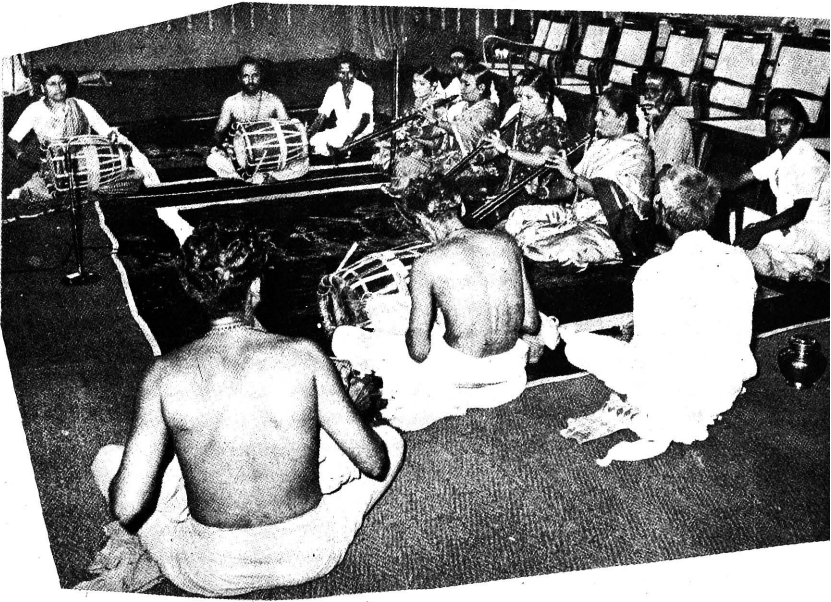


Thiru Seeni Viswanathan





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Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Religious Endowments who presided sought to differentiate between the Tamil Nadu and Bihar press bills, in reply to Thiru Salve's query how there was upsurge against the Bihar bill when there was no uproar against similar bills in Tamil Nadu and Orissa. He pointed out in the Tamil Nadu bill there was a clear demarcation between the executive and the judiciary. A Journalist charged and imprisoned by an executive officer under the Tamil Nadu Act could seek redress and bail before an independent judiciary, while it was not so in Bihar where the executive officer was armed with judicial powers too.

The Minister said the press in Tamil Nadu had full faith that the legislation would not be misused. He wanted the press in the state to realise that government would use the Act only against those elements which had crept into the journalistic fold and were misusing the rights of the profession to make slanderous and baseless allegations against men in power.

The press law should be viewed as a reasonable restriction to weed out the erring minority and not as a threat against the responsible majority of the fourth estate. The state government would stand by the press in protecting press freedom as long as the freedom was used to inform and educate the public. "We are also for free dialogue with the press on such controversial matters as the appointment of committee to review the press bill" he said. "At the same time I can project myself against scurrilous writing" he said.

He wanted the press to remember that freedom of expression finally boiled down to upholding public cause.

Thiru Salve, Union Minister for Information and Broad Casting released the silver jubilee souvenir of the Guild. Thiru R.M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Religious Endowments inaugurated the health insurance scheme of the guild for its members. Thiru P. R. Sundaram of Enfield India and Thiru G. V. Rao of New India Assurance company, explained the scheme.

Founder members and past presidents of the guild were honoured.

# PRESS' FAITH IN

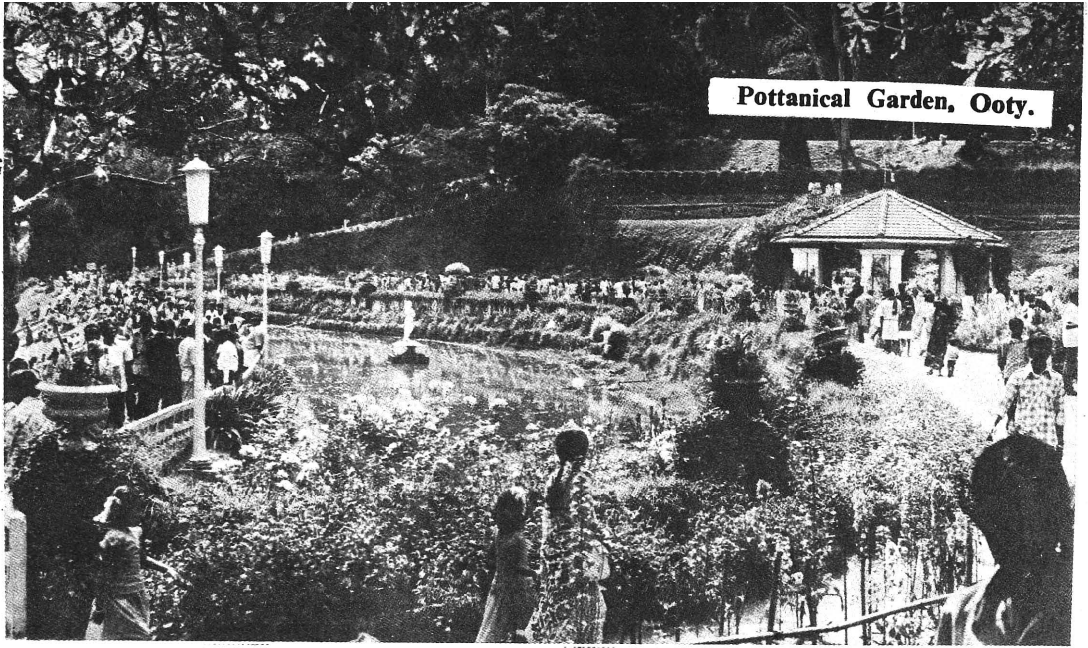
# FAIRNESS OF

# TAMILNADU

# GOVERNMENT

As long as the press in India ensured that fearless newsreporting was swayed only by the sole criterion of responsibility, all the press bills enacted by the various governments would fall as dead-letter, Union Information Minister Thiru N. K. P. Salve said while inaugurating the silver jubilee

celebration of the Madras Reporter's Guild, Thiru Salve said that while he and the Central Government were fully in agreement with the view of the press on protecting freedom of expression, it was also the duty of government to project public figures from false reporting and the rag press.



# South to join hands to promote **TOURISM**

Respected Chairman of the Conference, Union Minister for Tourism Hon. Thiru Khursit Alam Khan,

Our Host and Minister for Tourism Karnataka Hon. Thiru Veerappa Moily,

My fellow Ministers for Tourism from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry,

Distinguished participants, and friends:

At the outset, let me thank the hosts, Government of Karnataka for organising this timely conference at the gracious City of Bangalore and for giving us all an opportunity to exchange views on the various steps to be taken collectively to improve tourism in this part of the country. We, in Tamil Nadu feel close to Karnataka our host not merely geographically, but also culturally and emotionally. The conference cannot be better-timed because, of late, new trends and challenges are noticeable in the fields of both domestic and foreign tourism. In the past the Zonal Conferences

have tended to be occasions for us to meet and pass pious resolutions with little follow up action. I hope this Conference will be different and be marked by the participants engaging themselves in useful deliberations and evolving a suitable plan of action for a meaningful co-operation among the Southern States in all activities connected with promotion of tourism. Our aim should be to ensure for South India its due and prominent place in the tourist map of the world.

Mr. Chairman, it is an obvious fact that South India is not attracting enough share of the tourists visiting India in spite of the unique tourist attractions present here. All the four Southern States are blessed with beautiful scenic tourist centres that range from the cool Nilgiris and Mysore to sunny Madras and Trivandram. Also we have a rich cultural heritage depicted in the innumerable holy shrines and sculptural marvels scattered all over the region. Hampi in Karnataka and Mallapuram in Tamil Nadu are but two examples of these eternal attractions.

Tourist statistics point to the fact that infrastructural facilities in the Southern States need urgent improvements to motivate the foreign tourists to visit the Southern States. The Government of Tamil Nadu is fully aware of the need to develop



**Thiru. R. M. Veerappan,**  
Minister for Information and Religious  
Endowments

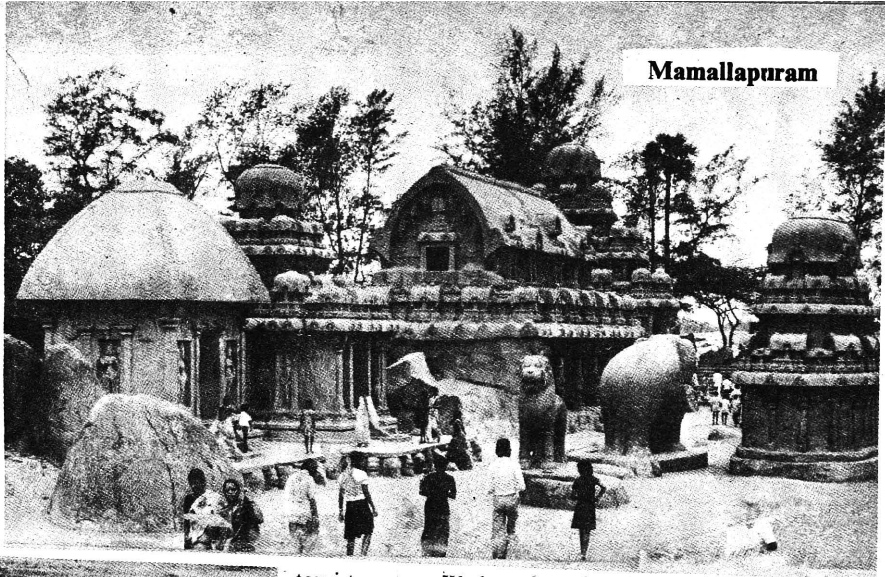
# தமிழரசு

தமிழ்நாடு அரசின் திங்களிருமுறை ஏடு



## 1983 நாட்காட்டி

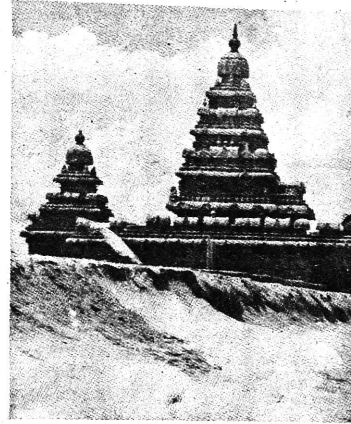
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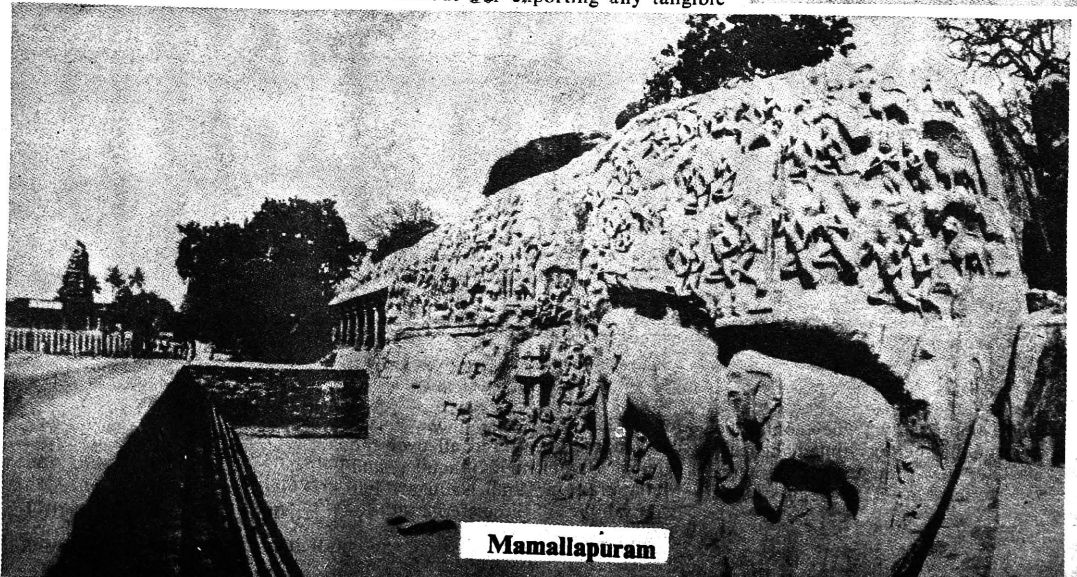
**Mamallapuram**



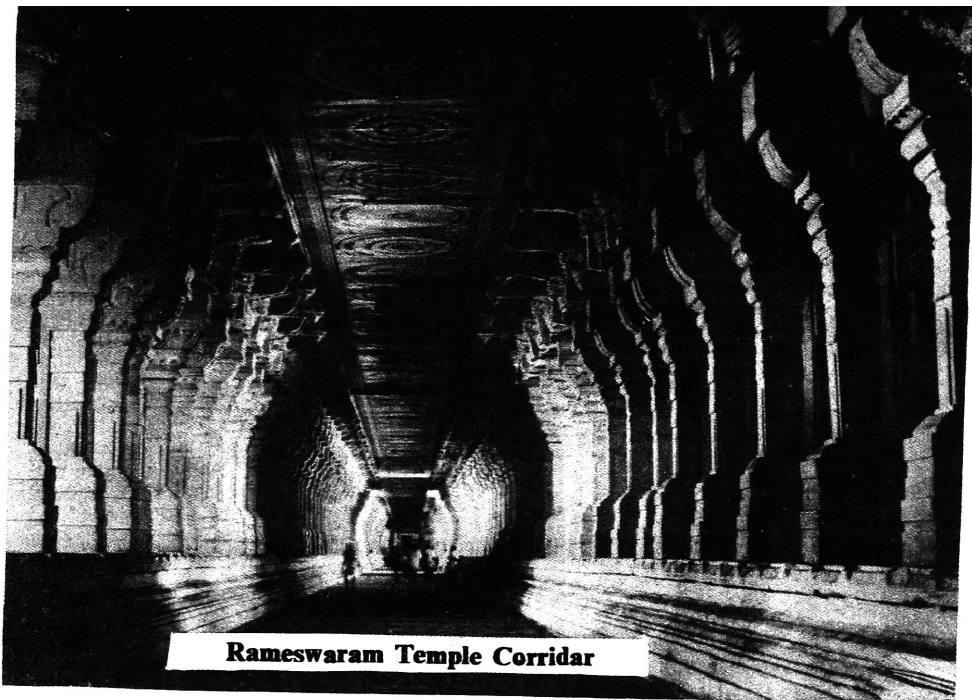
tourist centres. We have formulated Master Plans for large scale development of the major centres in our State. These include Mamallapuram, Rameswaram, Kanniakumari and Uththamandalam. We are of the firm view that once these Master Plans are implemented, these centres will be equal to any other renowned tourist spots of the world. But their implementation calls for resources that are beyond what the State Government can mobilise. It is in this context that we expect Government of India to come up with adequate assistance.



Tourism, as a single industry earns the largest share of foreign exchange without our exporting any tangible



**Mamallapuram**



**Rameswaram Temple Corridor**

goods and services. We would like to reiterate our view that tourism should be declared as an industry entitled to all the financial concessions and assistance that are available for other industries, which make even less contribution to either foreign exchange earnings or promoting national integration and international understanding. Moreover, within Government this crucial sector should be accorded due priority in the allocation of budgetary resources. This is a subject which requires urgent attention by the Government of India. Resolutions on the subject in the past have not been acted upon. I hope that the new Minister of Tourism of Government of India and the dynamic Union Secretary of Tourism (who for unfortunate reasons is not with us today) will now do the needful.

I firmly believe that the four Southern States can gain a lot by active mutual co-operation in the promotion of tourism. I hope that the Conference will arrive at concrete decisions to set in motion a series of Joint-promotion plans. In order to ensure effective follow up action, it might be worthwhile setting up an inter-state Committee at the official level which can submit a progress report to the next meeting of Ministers.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that a modest beginning on collective

action can be made in the field of publicity by exchange of publicity materials among the States. Publication of combined tourist information literature, production of documentaries and promotion of combined package tours will go a long way in projecting to the foreign tourists, an intergrated view of Southern India.

*Thiruparappu water falls.*

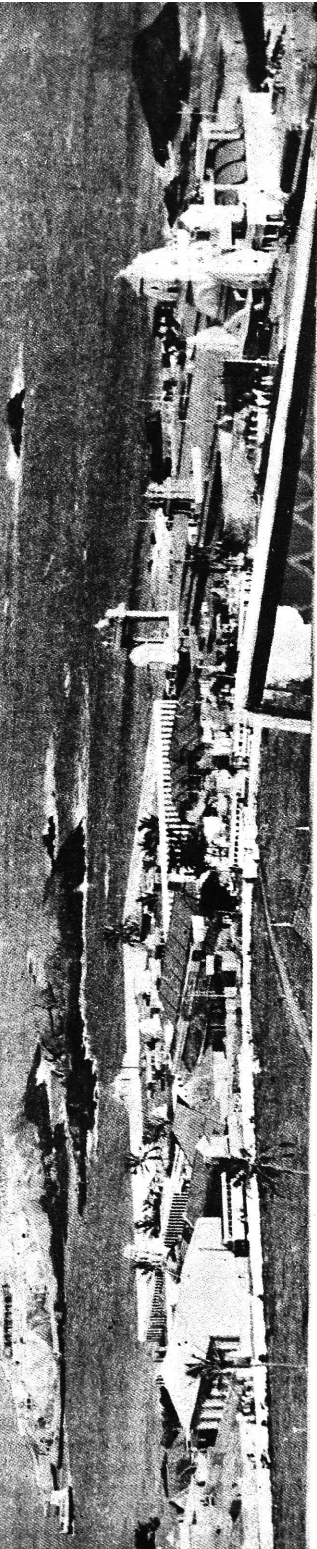
*Kanniyakuman*



Another step in this direction would be organising joint tourist fairs and festivals in the four Southern States on a rotation basis. Already some States are conducting their own tourist fairs and there may not be much problems in converting these fairs into joint ones.

Tourism Corporations of the four States can conduct joint package tours, do reciprocal marketing of their services and also concentrate on exchange of valuable know-how on these services. The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation would be happy to discuss co-operative arrangements with sister organisations in the region for promoting co-ordinated action.

We have proposed for discussion in this Conference once again the major unresolved issue of financial assistance from Government of India for tourism promotion plans of the State Governments. The Government of Tamil Nadu believe in developing tourism at the State as well as on an All India basis. We have prepared detailed plans for the development of 3 travel circuits and about 54 tourist centres in our State on the lines suggested by the Government of India. These travel circuits and tourist centres are complementary to the Master Plans which we have already prepared and presented to the Government of India for



sanction of financial assistance. When implemented, these will go a long way in attracting the long haul tourists from all over the world to South India. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been stepping up its outlays on tourism substantially during the last four years. Our Tourism Development Corporation has been expanding its activities manifold. We hope that the Government of India will also come forward with massive assistance.

Mr. Chairman, I must also make reference to another long felt need of the Southern States in regard to the proper development of air travel to this part of the country. The feeder services and shuttles connecting the various tourist centres of the Southern States may immediately be introduced. A number of centres in Tamil Nadu have already been identified and we look up to the Government of India for taking necessary action to introduce this much needed facility that has been denied to this region so far. Similarly immediate attention is required to introduce charter services for the international airports in the region.

The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation has been successfully conducting the much renowned South India tours. I am informed that sometimes these tourist coaches are subjected to double taxation. I hope that this Conference will come up with concrete suggestions for avoiding such a situation, atleast in the case of the services operated by the State Corporations. It is also felt that the number of all India permits to the State Corporations is not sufficient to meet the demands of the tourists. I request the Government of India to increase the number and also consider ways to treat All India

permit applications from State owned Corporations on a priority basis.

I wish to reiterate, Mr. Chairman, that tourism being the single largest foreign exchange earner, with only a minimum capital investment, needs a priority treatment by the State and Central Governments. South India abounds in all major attractions that foreign tourists seek, be it a typical Indian culture, sculpture rural way of life, religious monuments, historical sign-posts: yet large number of foreign tourists visiting India skip the South. This is because of the lack of infrastructural facilities and publicity. We are happy to note your statement at Madras, Mr. Chairman, that Government of India will try and disperse foreign tourists arriving in India to all regions and help in the development of all the regions.

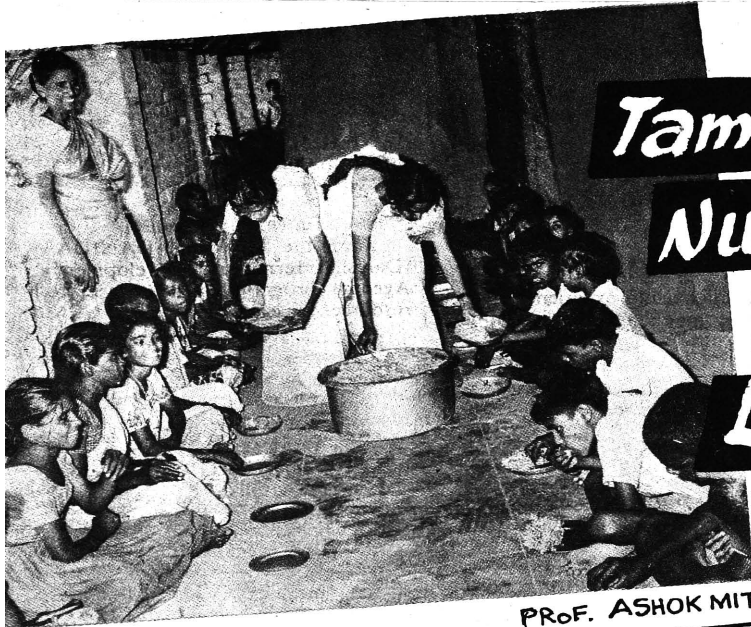
Specifically, Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that this Conference adopt resolutions on,

- (a) treatment of tourism as an "industry"
- (b) treatment of tourism sector as a priority sector: and
- (c) early introduction of charter and feeder air services in this region.

We should also ensure that these resolutions are followed up and acted upon by all concerned.

Before concluding I once again express my heart felt thanks to the Government of Karnataka on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu for hosting this Conference and for all the facilities that they have provided including the much awaited trip to Mysore tomorrow. I congratulate and thank them on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu and look forward to an era of constructive co-operation among the States of the region with much needed assistance from the Government of India in the matter of tourism promotion in this region. I have also pleasure in extending an invitation for the next Zonal Conference of Ministers of Tourism to meet at Madras either at the time of Depavali in November, 1983 or pongal in January, 1984.

(Speech of Thiru. R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Religious Endowments at the Southern Regional Tourism Ministers Conference on 26-27, October 1982.)

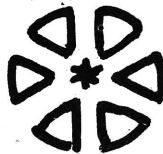


# TamilNadu as

# Nutrition

# Delivery

# Laboratory



PROF. ASHOK MITRA

My purpose in wanting to visit Tamil Nadu was to see whether it would yield a few suggestions that would wrap up my substantive paper on the Changing Role of the Multilateral and Bilateral Agencies in the Field of Nutrition in the Eighties. I chose Tamil Nadu because I rate the state among the top ones in the matter of administrative cohesion and grit, dedication to appointed tasks at most levels of the hierarchy, and efficiency of supervision and monitoring. The state political authorities do not automatically assume that as soon as a decision is taken and the relevant circulars are issued from the Secretariat implementation down to the village is as good as achieved. They also entertain a fair notion of the tenses : they do not use the past perfect tense when the future imperfect will be more in order. As I found in this visit as well, everything still works in Tamil Nadu and works, much better than in most other states of India. There is very little humbug or pomposity, a great relief for a visitor from Delhi. On the contrary the modesty and understatement of achievement of people like Dr. Thirugnanasambandham and his colleagues at the Institute of Child Health or of Dr. K. S. Sanjivi can serve as a lesson to experts bristling with self-importance.

Secondly, successive changes of political regimes do not automatically overturn previous commitments or on going programmes.

serve and even strengthen continuity. Dr. Sanjivi of the V. H. S. told me how, when the D. M. K. Government came to power in 1967, he went to Chief Minister, C. N. Annadurai, to plead for his V. H. S. which had been nurtured by the previous Congress regime. Before he could open his mouth, Annadurai told him that he suspected that Dr. Sanjivi had come with the misapprehension that his grants would be cut. He, Annadurai had gone to his hospital without Dr. Sanjivi's knowing it, to visit one of his ailing relations and knew about its competence and excellence. Dr. Sanjivi could rest assured that not

only would the grants not be cut that the new Government would augment them, if Dr. Sanjivi wanted to expand and instal new facilities. This is very different from my experience in the last 42 years with most other states in the country, where program after excellent program has been made to slip, slide, perish by the apathy, neglect and even deliberate hostility of successor governments or presiding officials. Some of them are veritable morgues of what were once very excellent innovative programme.

I had seen an announcement in the *Hindu* of the Chief Minister's midday meal programme and his government's intention to spend 100 crores a year on it. It would be by no means farfetched, from what experience, one has gathered if the feeding programmes all over

another political gimmick of the ADMK Government on the eve of an important bye-election which would test MGR's strength against Tmt. Gandhi's. I was also apprehensive that much of the money would find its way into private pockets, different layers of party functionaries dipping their hands frequently into the Fund. Such a fear is certainly valid to one who has seen what has been happening in other states in the past years. A hundred crores would easily call for a counterblast of 300 crores in some more populous states, where locusts would immediately swarm and finish it. But then I was willing to suspend my judgment from what I knew of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is a state of 60 million people, which is larger than some major states of Europe. If what they are trying to do in Tamil Nadu was good for Tamil Nadu alone and not for any other part of India, it would still be worth supporting full tilt

My assumption, therefore, in going to Tamil Nadu was that I would find the various nutrition programs of the central government and the multi-bi-agencies in better running shape than in most other states. This would give me insights into problems of coordination between the central and state governments and the multi-bi-agencies which would still remain to be sorted out under conditions of fair implementation of individual programs

My expectations were not belied. I must at the outset express my appreciation of the help I received from Thiru M. S. Dayal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare New Delhi, who immediately put me in touch with Tmt. A. Dayanand, Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, Tamil Nadu. Arrived in Tamil Nadu on 28 October I had the benefit of a long discussion with Tmt. Dayanand and Tmt. Mathew and her colleagues, followed on the 29th and 30th by visits of Chief Minister's midday meal and ICDS centres and the Institute of Child Health and Children's Hospital. On the 31st I met with Dr. K. S. Sanjivi of Voluntary Health Services. On the 1st and 2nd November I was enabled to tour the World Bank aided TINP in Kottampatti, engage in searching discussions with all levels of workers in TINP at Melur, meet with the collector of Madurai and visit Gandhigram. On 3rd November I held another discussion with Tmt. Dayanand and Tmt. Mathew. On the 4th I had a rewarding conversation with the Chief Secretary, the Commissioner of Social Welfare and the World Bank's Project coordinator of TINP. Later, I visited the V. H. S. Hospital and its laboratories where I met with Dr. Sanjivi and Dr. Chari. On the 5th November I had the opportunity of discussing my Tamil Nadu visit with nutritionists from many parts of India who had come to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Nutrition Society of India. On the 6th November, as President of the Nutrition Society of India, I made a long presentation of my thoughts on the role of multi-bi-agencies in the field of Nutrition.

I shall not encumber this brief article with detailed comments on what to me seemed the merits and demerits of the on going schemes. For quite some time, from my experience in India and from attending the last meeting of the Subcommittee on Nutrition of the U.N. System in Bangkok last February, I have been entertaining doubts about the consequences of the patron-client relationships that multilateral and bilateral agencies have developed with national governments. These relationships have in many cases served to put nutrition as an instrument of political manoeuvre between multi-bi-agencies and ministries whereas the Nutrition Community per se have been feeling more and

more dejected as the failure of on going programmes. I had assumed that I would not have to substantially change my conclusions but may have some practical suggestions to offer by way of how the roles of multi-bi-agencies can be modified to strengthen the nutrition infrastructure and on going nutrition programs in developing countries.

In an earlier visit in 1972 I had the unenviable experience of being asked to change into six different jeeps and place myself in the company of six different teams to inspect identical feeding programmes being conducted by six different agencies. Even on this visit I had some difficulty in recalling, for example, during my presentation at Hyderabad on 6th November, whether this centre I visited on the 29th or 30th October was ICDS, or the Chief Minister's midday meal program or that centre I visited in Madurai on the 1st or 2nd November was TINP (World Bank aided Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project) or ICDS (Intensive Child Development Services) or Chief Minister's midday meal program. The Chief Secretary categorically observed that his government had no intention to restrict the Chief Minister's midday meal program to a mere feeding program. Rather, the aid was to build a very extensive infrastructure; network of buildings; paid and voluntary services to deliver the major health and welfare content of the ICDS program even to primary school children. All the three programs had some feature or features in common, although for each type of project I was in the company of different groups of functionaries. The Commissioner for Social Welfare and the Chief Secretary told me that DANIDA was based on the same principles and content as the World Bank TINP project, and the Chief Minister's Midday Meal Program was aimed at incorporating all the major features of ICDS and TINP. The Chief Secretary said that the Government of Tamil Nadu was appreciative of the assistance that it was receiving severally from each of the multi-bi-agencies and of the distinctive features or specialities or emphases of each Agency's program. I was not thinking just yet of blurring their separate identities by asking them to conform to or be subsumed under a single common program. His government valued these inter-national connections, which gave it a certain elbow

room and leverage. It was, however, obvious from the trend of his observations, that his government regarded the ICDS as the middle section of a chain (2 years to 5 years), to which TINP (0-3 years) would be added at one end, and the Chief Minister's Midday Meal Program (6 to 10 years) at the other. This makes eminent sense. For instance, the TINP and DANIDA (Danish International Development Agency) programs could conserve resources by stopping at 24 months,

instead of present 36, while ICDS could take over 24 months as it professes to, and hand over to the Chief Minister's MMP at 60 months. It was amply clear from the Commissioner of Social Welfare's very comprehensive 42 page booklet in Tamil called Guidelines Part II on Preschool and Noon Feeding Programs in Schools that the T. N. Government was bent on fusing the ICDS with the MMP in the not too distant future.

Proof of intension is manifest, for instance, in the elaborate guidelines given in the chapter or Preschool feeding program as follows:

(a) a long Preface (b) What is preschool education (c) Building for Centre (d) Child Welfare Organisation (e) Timetable of Preschool Education (i) Importance of Syllabus (this is given in great detail later in the booklet) (ii) Timetable: 8.30 arrival 9.00 cleanliness and prayer 10.00 sports and games 10.45 action songs 11.15 story telling 12.00 lunch 1.00 rest 2.00 games 2.30 measuring and record writing by organisers 4.00 close (f) Rules of implementation for organisers (i) charts and aide (ii) importance of shade trees for outdoor games (iii) games (iv) rymes (v) care of children (vi) easy & traditional way of teaching (vii) aesthetic sense (viii) play equipment (ix) leadership (x) repetition of songs and stories (xi) preparation of indigenous play equipment (xii) physical exercise (xiii) follow inclination of children (xiv) non compulsory writing exercises for age group 4-5 (xv) need to consult parents (xvi) Teaching should not be monotonous, make texts interesting. Each item is thereafter spelt out in great detail.

The task of taking care of all children in the state up to the age of 10 is of course quite herculean and will probably pre-empt a very sizeable chunk of the state's budget.

One is reminded of Sri Lanka where the outlay on Social Welfare for close on three decades has been so heavy that there was very little left for economic and industrial growth. Fortunately, Tamil Nadu is differently placed. Private enterprise in agriculture and growth industries and services is so strong and thriving and has so far received so much support by way of central public sector undertakings and investment in infrastructure that Tamil Nadu can now afford to augment its resources and spend more on social welfare than many other states. Its spending is also much less wasteful than in many other states.

However one might argue, the basic question of nutrition in India and many developing countries is still food. A square meal for at least 50 per cent of all children, pregnant and lactating women, can still make the difference (as my practised eye and hands, trained on 30 years of experience from the Bengal Famine of 1943 to the Bangladesh war of 1971, detected while examining children and mothers whom I found in the ICDS, TINP or MMP centres in Tamil Nadu) between a basically healthy and a prospectively unhealthy child. One realises that there are many difficult hurdles to cross. For example (1) Would feeding for all 365 days be feasible? (2) How far would teachers help or function within adequate voluntary support from parents or hired support of attendants? (3) The logistics of purchases of perishable foods; (4) Supervision of cooking, feeding, cleaning; (5) Prevention of pilferage; (6) Building and maintenance of enormous quantities of infrastructure including moveable and immovable property; (7) Joining health and educational infrastructure to the feeding programs etc., etc.,

Discussion with the Chief Secretary made me feel that he was wistful of the need of those economic programmes that were originally proposed by the Tamil Nadu Scheme to the World Bank but which had been dropped by the latter in the final formulation of the project. The Chief Secretary remarked that it would be his endeavour to move in that direction and that he also felt the need of moving more resolutely on the formulation and implementation of economic programmes for production and

processing of nutritious agriculture produce like pulses and fruits, the establishment of artisanal factories for the preparation of mixes for feeding infants, children and pregnant and lactating women; for the training of cadres and their management at all levels; for the effective monitoring and evaluation of on-going programs. In the meantime, it would not do to minimise what has already been achieved in so short a time since 1 June 1982. (1) a vast network of improvised or newly constructed sheds with facilities for cooking, washing, feeding, stocking of foodgrains and vegetables, pots and pans, cups and plates etc. etc. (2) the employment of an army of 150,000 rural women all at once throughout the state and the task of training and requiring them to discharge their duties adequately. I cannot think of any comparable project in the last thirty years of my planning experience, where so much employment has been created by a single program. Besides, the employment of rural women of such magnitude carries in it the seeds of great winds of change in rural Tamil Nadu and transforming the status of women in the state, particularly when it is suitably augmented and supported by the employment of additional armies of women as in ICDS and TINP or DANIDA.

This is the place where I must record my assessment of the World Bank aided TINP. I would hail it as an excellent laboratory of experiments, and quite cost-effective if only it did not have to pay the overhead charges of the World Bank for technical assistance. I cannot, however, help regretting how much richer these experiments would have been if, as I suggested to certain World Bank experts in 1978-79 before the Project was finalised, the World Bank, the Central and Tamil Nadu Governments had actively sought and secured the collaboration of outstanding figures in nutrition in Indian and of National Institutions of Research, training, surveillance and evaluation. The Project would in that case have much more acceptance and reliable value in other states. TINP will yield many lessons to the State Governments in the coming years, particularly for a possible fusion between the TINP, ICDS & MMP programs. The recruitment and training of Community Nutrition Workers, Supervisors and and Instructresses and of the Multi-

purpose health Workers and Supervisors have been quite thorough and will serve as models to ICDS&MMP. It was quite clear from my interrogations in the meeting that I attended in Melur on the 1st November that each of the cadres knew and performed their tasks well: administration of vitamin A and Piperazine, immunization with DPT and Polio; T. T. shots to pregnant women; close surveillance and pregnancy cases; antenatal, delivery & post-natal care; taking care of minor health ailments and referral; diarrhoea and oral rehydration, food supplementation; periodic weighing; treatment of scabies; holding of mothers' working groups; nutrition education; nutrition demonstration; small scale manufacture of nutrition supplements; communication; evolution and monitoring. MPHWs like Savitri or Saraswati; CNS's like Soleamma; CNIs like Rohini or Florence Chandra; AMNs like Mrs. Lakshmi; commu-

nicators like Thiru Mohan would do honour to any set-up in any country by their dedication and comprehension, not to speak of a DHO like Dr. Krishnamurthy or a M. O. like Dr. Gous.

In conclusion, while I agree that the Tamil Nadu Government should be in no hurry to make the better the enemy of the good, I also imagine that officials and policy makers of the calibre of its Chief Secretary and Commissioner for Social Welfare must already be working on the tasks and time frames of the future. While the current Five Year Plan period up to 1985 might be spent in working out the World Bank and DANIDA TINP in full, and drawing appropriate lessons from them, the state government might like to insist on a consortium approach on the part of multi-bi-agencies, each to apply itself to some facet or other of its integrated approach in the next Plant period. Such a course in its turn would yield many desirable lessons for other countries on the ways the multi-bi-agencies could fruitfully record their roles in the field of nutrition in the late 80s and early 90s.

*(Valedictory address delivered by Ashok Mitra on 12-11-82 to Nutrition Society of India. Prof. Ashok Mitra, I. C. S. (Retd.) is formerly the Registrar General of Population Census. He was formerly the Secretary of Planning Commission, Government of India. He is an acknowledged expert in Nutrition.)*

# NOT ONLY SALT...

provide regular employment to 260 persons besides seasonal employment to 1500 labourers.

## Maravakadu Vadakadu Salt Project:

(i) During November 1978, the Government ordered the development of suitable areas in Maravakadu Valakadu villages of Prittukottai Taluk in Thanjavur District as a salt complex. An area of 4092.33 acres was taken up for development as salt works at an estimated cost of Rs. 120 lakhs from the year 1979. During the years 1980 and 1981, preliminary works like peripheral bunds and cross bunds were constructed and in 1982 remaining peripheral bunds have been taken up besides formation of road-cum-bunds channels, crystallisers, etc. So far 262 crystallisers have been cut and supply channels formed for charging crystallisers. The formal scrapping of salt commenced on 11.5.82 and the salt complex is expected to produce around 5,000 tonnes of salt during this year.

(ii) The production of salt will be carried on along with development works and the project is expected to be completed in all respects by 1985. The salt complex will achieve a production of 1,20,000 tonnes of salt when fully developed.

(iii) The Salt Project is expected to provide seasonal employment to 1,000 persons besides regular employment to 100 persons. At present, about 600 persons were employed in the bund work besides 15 regular employees.

### New Schemes:

- (a) Salt Works South Arcot Dist. Chengalput Dist.
- (b) Marine chemicals:

The Corporation has proposed to set up a plant for manufacture of plaster of paris for pharmaceutical application from the gypsum available at the Mariyur Valinokkam Salt Complex. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 12.00 lakhs and this will provide regular employment to 30 persons.

For the year 1982-83, the Government of Tamilnadu have provided a sum of Rs. 15.00 lakhs towards the implementation of the projects. Preliminary steps have been taken for implementation of the above scheme.

(i) The Tamilnadu Salt Corporation Ltd. was started on 22nd July 1974 with an authorised capital of Rs. 50.00 lakhs. The Corporation commenced business on 22nd February 1975. The authorised capital has been increased from Rs. 50.00 lakhs to Rs. 100.00 lakhs from 1981 onwards. The main objectives of the Corporation is to manufacture salt, salt based chemicals and by-products.

(ii) The Corporation was entrusted with the responsibility of developing an area of 5617.66 acres as major salt works in Mariyur Valinokkam, a most backward area in Ramanathapuram District at an estimated cost of Rs. 145 lakhs. The main consideration which prompted the Government of Tamilnadu to order the implementation of Mariyur Valinokkam Salt Complex was to develop a most backward area where no other industry could be set up and to provide employment to the local people.

(iii) The Corporation is also developing an area of 4092 acres of land in Maravakadu Vadakadu villages of Pattakottai Taluk, Thanjavur District for salt production.

### Mariyur Valinokkam Salt Complex:

(i) The project is located 45 km. from Ramanathapuram on the north west. The project was taken up for implementation from the year 1975-76 onwards. An area of 2366 acres has so far been developed out of an effective area of 4400 acres. The details of production, sales achieved from 1976 are given below:

Year	Production	Sales
	(In M. Tonnes)	
1976	550	550
1977	3400	799
1978	6500	2747
1979	22660	2237
1980	29047	10645
1981	25600	8194

There has been reduction in quantum of production in 1981 mainly because of the efforts taken to improve quality. Besides heavy rains during peak manufacturing seasons and restrictions in power supply are the other reasons for the decline in the production.

(ii) During the year 1981, H.T. supply was availed on 25.8.81. Facilities for crushing and powdering of salt was created. Drinking water amenities to the labourers at a cost of Rs. 1 lakh was also provided.

(iii) During the year 1982, the salt complex is expected to produce around 50,000 tonnes of quality salt in the form of crystal, crushed and powdered salt. Staff quarters workshop building, lavatory block to workers would be constructed during this year.

(iv) The Salt complex could achieve a production of 2.4 lakh tonnes of salt when the entire effective area of 4400 acres is developed. The development of further areas has been deferred in view of high competition in marketing. The main problem is the transport. In the absence of rail, or port facility nearby the salt complex, we experience great difficulties to transport the bulk commodity to distant places. There has been export enquiry, but in view of the transport problems the salt could not be exported. The Corporation therefore has requested the Government of Tamilnadu to develop a minor port at Valinokkam to cater to the needs of the salt complex so that the salt complex could work on a viable basis besides providing employment to the people in the drought-prone area.

(v) The Salt complex is providing seasonal employment to 1,000 labourers besides regular employment to 50 people. The project when goes into full stream will



# CARE OF MUSEUM OBJECTS

One may not realise it: that the two buildings near the rear gate at the back of the Museum Campus house a unique section of the Museum: the Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory where the work of preserving the Museum's antiques and art objects is carried on. It is fifty years since this Laboratory was set up for this work of art conservation, and recently the Golden Jubilee of the Laboratory was celebrated on December 23rd and 24th to coincide with an All India Seminar on "Conservation of Textiles and Related Materials". An exhibition of the work and achievement of the Laboratory was organised and a brochure about the Laboratory was released during the time of the Seminar.

An art object is the best embodiment of the culture of a people of any region or time, and preserving art objects is the best way of ensuring the continuity of knowledge of a culture. It is this realization, way back in the late 1920's by Dr. F.H. Gravelly, the then Director of the Government Museum, Madras which led to the establishment of the Chemical Conservation Laboratory of this Museum.

This Museum has the best collection of South Indian bronzes, and these bronzes are the acme of Indian art. They are mostly obtained for the museum through treasure trove finds, and as they are dug out of the earth, they come covered with thick crusts of corrosion products which hide details and threaten the existence of the bronzes itself if allowed to be active. It was Dr. Gravelly's concern for these masterpieces that led him to take measures for preserving these bronzes. After a few preliminary studies, he found that there was necessity for a full-fledged Laboratory to take care of these bronzes. The result of these efforts was the establishment of the Laboratory in 1930, which was at first located in a temporary three-room structure. The preliminary studies had also shown that electrolytic treatment was the best for bronzes. In the U.S. where this method was developed, it was used for small bronzes about 12 to 18 inches in height, but the Madras Museum bronzes were nearly 3 feet in height and more in some cases. Therefore the American method had to be suitably modified and the required equipment designed specially. This

was done by Dr. S. Paramasivan who was the first Archaeological Chemist to be appointed in charge of the Laboratory. When it was found later that more accommodation was required for the expanding work in the Laboratory, a separate building was constructed in 1937 and the Laboratory was set up in it. At this time, the Chemical Conser-

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N. HARINARAYANA,  
*Director of Museums,  
 Government Museum, Madras*

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vation Laboratory of the Madras Museum was the first to be established in a museum in our country for this work of preserving art objects.

Gradually the scope of work in the Laboratory was extended to include the treatment of objects made of other materials in the collection. It was also found that the treatment of any object necessitated a knowledge of its composition and

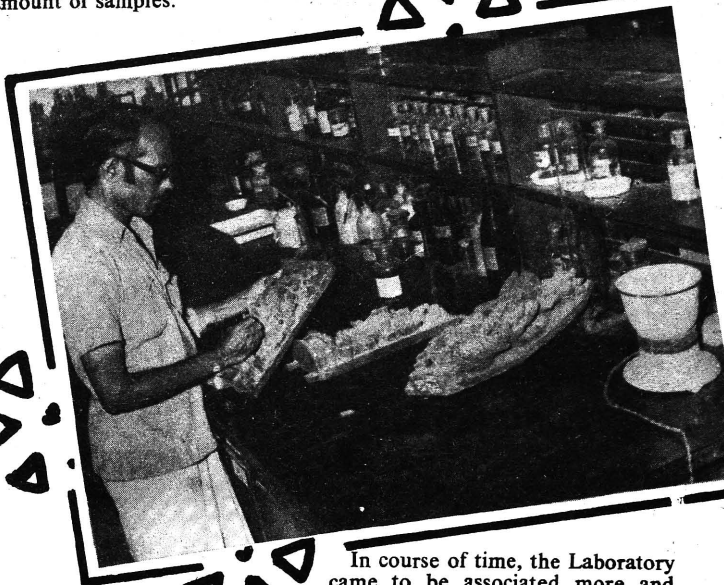
the state of its preservation. This led to scientific studies of objects, and as early as 1934 Dr. S. Paramasivan undertook X-ray studies of Nagapattinam bronzes so as to be able to treat them properly.

At about this time, there was a request from the Pudukkottai Durbar to the Madras Government through the Archaeological Survey of India for someone who could study and preserve the ancient wall paintings at Sittannavasal. Dr. Gravely deputed Dr. Paramasivan for this purpose in 1937, and this was the beginning of a series of studies of wall paintings in fifteen well-known sites. These studies were intended to gather knowledge about the techniques which went into the making of ancient Indian wall paintings and the composition of the materials used in them. This was the earliest such work to be done in this field and fetched for Dr. S. Paramasivan the Doctor of Science degree of the Madras University—a high honour for excellent research work in those days.

The Laboratory continued steadily its work both of preserving objects and investigating into the techniques and composition of materials of art objects. A two-storeyed block was constructed and opened in 1963 for providing more space for the increased work in the Laboratory. More equipment was also purchased and installed carrying on different types of restoration and preservation.

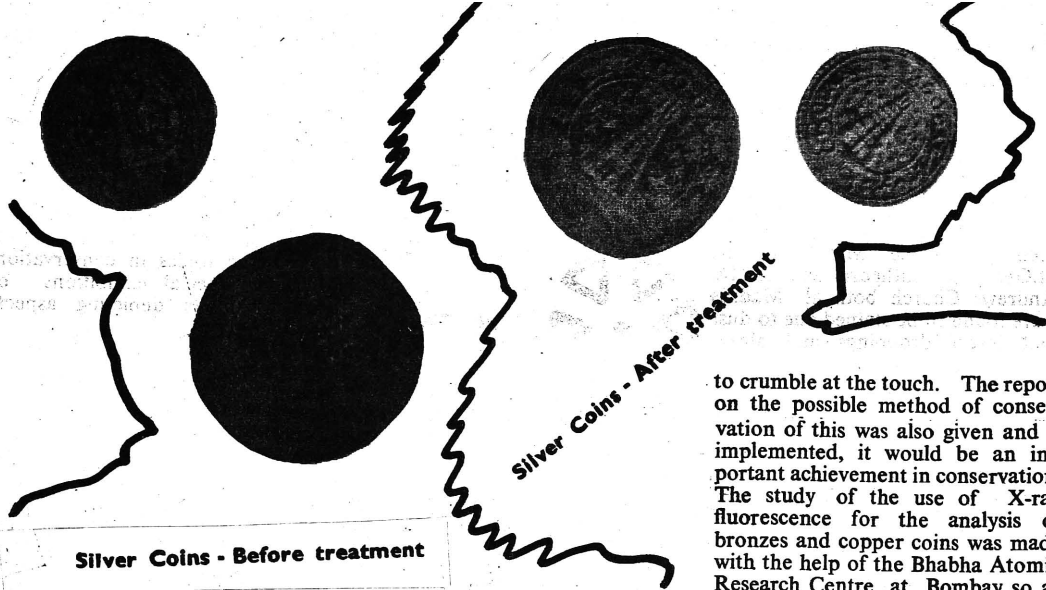
At present the Laboratory is organised in two buildings. The older building is devoted mainly to electrolytic restoration of bronzes. The new building is used for analytical work, examination and preservation of paintings, scientific

examination of art, objects through the use of X-rays ultra violet and infra-red rays and spectrophotometre. There is a fumigation chamber for ridding organic materials like wood, paper, textiles etc. of fungus spores and insect larvae. A vacuum fumigation equipment has been installed for consolidating objects of ivory, bone and wood. The spectro photometre enables the composition of materials of objects to be found out using the smallest amount of samples.



In course of time, the Laboratory came to be associated more and more with the task of helping in conservation of important art treasures outside its collections while continuing to look after its regular work of conservation of the objects in this Museum. Even in the 1930's Dr. Paramasivan had done brilliant work in analysing wall paintings and preserving them. During the seventies, this sort of work increased. The earliest of such tasks was the treatment of 14th Century Hoysala paintings in the Venugopala Shrine of the Srirangam Temple. This was carried out in 1972





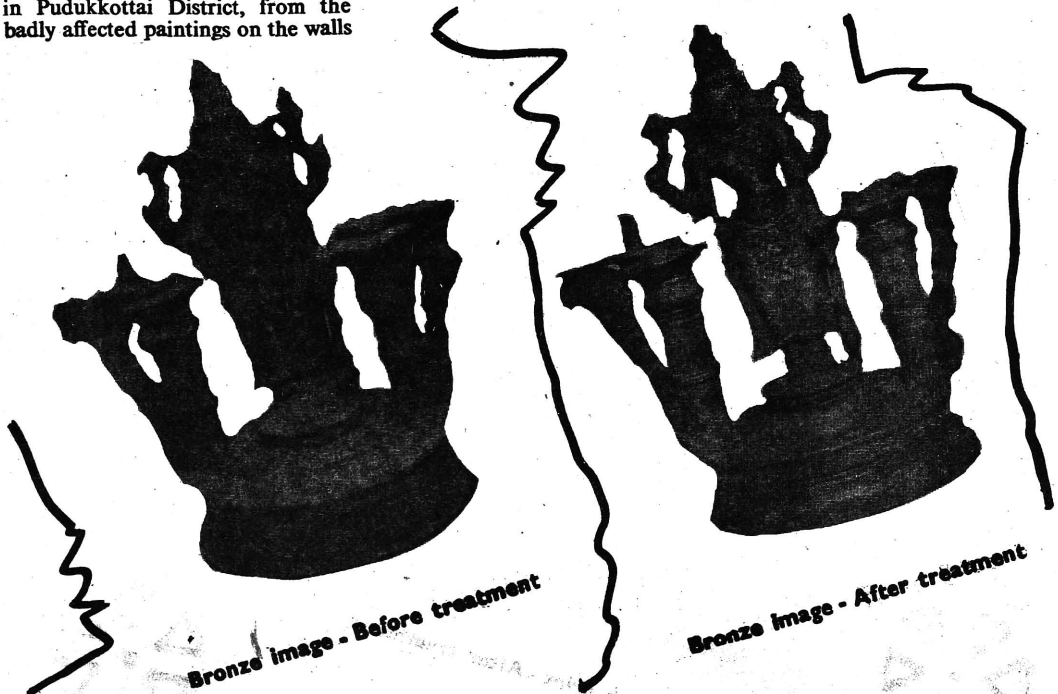
**Silver Coins - Before treatment**

**Silver Coins - After treatment**

to crumble at the touch. The report on the possible method of conservation of this was also given and if implemented, it would be an important achievement in conservation. The study of the use of X-ray fluorescence for the analysis of bronzes and copper coins was made with the help of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre at Bombay so as to assess the possibilities of correlating metal composition of objects with their date and provenance. Further studies on the same lines were carried out in collaboration with the Forensic Laboratory in Madras and the Electric Corporation of India Limited who brought their portable XRF equipment for this purpose.

and the then Curator not only treated these paintings but also studied the paintings in other parts of the same temple and prepared a detailed report on the action to be taken to preserve them. Other tasks unde taken ranged from the study of salt-encrusted pillars in the temple at Thiruvallur near Madras to the damaged temple car at Nedungudi in Pudukkottai District, from the badly affected paintings on the walls

around the Golden Lily Tank in the Madurai Temple to the stained marbles in the St. George's Cathedral and the discoloured prints in the Raj Bhavan. The most interesting study was that of salt-encrusted granite pillars in the Thiruvallur temple. The effect of this salt was such that the granite surface has been greatly weakened and is found



**Bronze Image - Before treatment**

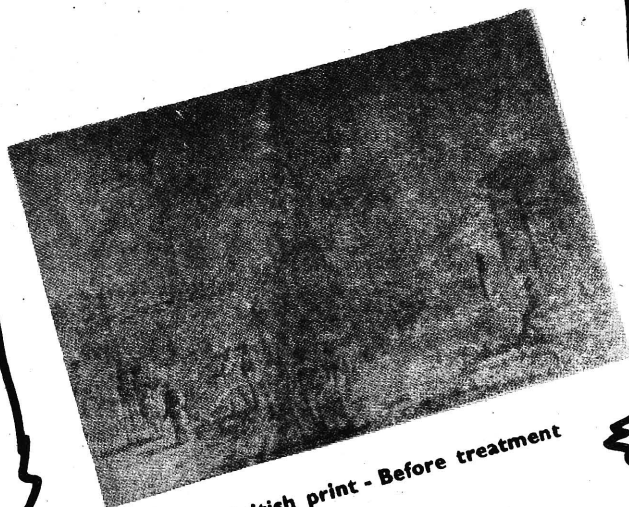
**Bronze Image - After treatment**

On the conservation side, the restoration of 12 oil paintings of the British Governors of Madras previously kept in the Rajaji Hall, was an important piece of work. Sixty-eight, 13th Century British prints in the Madras Raj Bhavan were treated for discolouration and fragility of paper and reframed to improve their appearance. Marbles in the St. George's Cathedral and the St. Andrews Church both at Madras were found to be stained due to dust and insect droppings and algae. The stains were removed to make the statues look much better. Recently the present Curator, Thiru V. Jayaraj helped in conserving the famous bronze statue of Dupliex in Pondicherry.

The Conservation Laboratory has not only interested itself in helping preserve objects and examining art materials but also in disseminating knowledge about conservation especially among personnel from other museums and allied institutions. This has been done primarily through

an annual Refresher Course entitled "Care of Museum Objects". The first of these courses was organised in 1974, and these have been held yearly ever since and have attracted curators, chemists etc. from museums universities and other institutions in different parts of the country. Regularly the Curators of the Laboratory give popular lectures on selected topics in conservation. Moreover special exhibitions or special exhibits depicting aspects of conservation of different types of materials are arranged in the museum or in the museum pavilion in the annual trade fairs, thereby trying to put across to the lay public a basic idea of conservation.

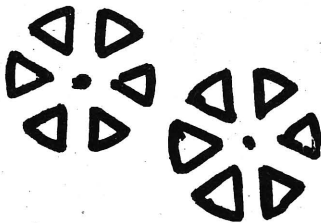
From its beginnings, the Laboratory has been in its own way, taking the lead in conservation studies. The electrolytic method itself was adapted in terms of equipment and techniques from small bronzes for which it has been initially developed to the large bronzes in this collection. Studies of techniques of wall paintings were undertaken in this Laboratory much earlier than elsewhere, and it was made systematic and sound. It is this tradition which is being continued even now, and on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Laboratory, it is visualised that this would be continued so that technical studies of art objects and their conservation would be maintained at a high level.

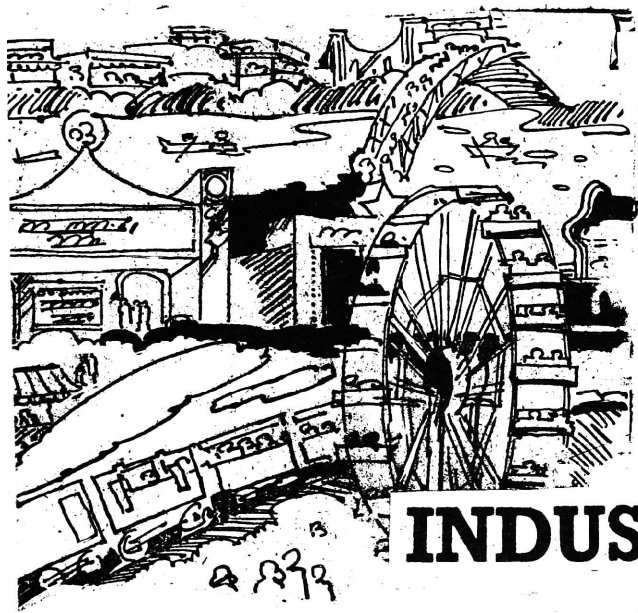


A British print - Before treatment



A British print - After treatment





# ALL INDIA TOURIST AND INDUSTRIAL FAIR

## TENTH ALL INDIA TOURIST & INDUSTRIAL FAIR 1983

The Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation (an undertaking of the Government of Tamilnadu) has organised the All India Tourist and Industrial Fair for the Tenth year in succession since 1974. The Fair is held in Madras during the Pongal Festival, the peak tourist season in Tamilnadu. The Tourist and Industrial Fair is designed to highlight the tourist attractions in the State and also its industrial progress. The response from the Public to the Fair is on the increase year after year. The Fair attracts over 20 lakh visitors from different parts of India as well as from abroad and is considered to be one of the biggest Fairs organised in the country.

'Fair Lands', the site where the Fair is held, extends to an area of about 22 acres on both the

sides of the River Cooum, opposite the War Memorial and is easily accessible to the public by road and rail in view of its central location.

This year, the Fair covers a bigger area than last year and the number of participants has also increased from 338 to 400. The participants include 54 State Government Departments, 16 Districts and 40 State Government Undertakings, 10 other State Government Departments and Undertakings, 14 Government of India Departments and Undertakings and 30 leading private sector units.

Prominent among them are Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Southern Railway, Indian Telephone Industries, Hindustan Teleprinters, Coal India Limited, Madras Fertilisers and Southern Petro Chemicals and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAVILIONS

### Government of India Departments and Undertakings

The pavilion of the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting presents an exhibition entitled "Man and Animal—Partners in progress."

The Neyveli Lignite Corporation in its pavilion displays working models of machines used for mining operations.

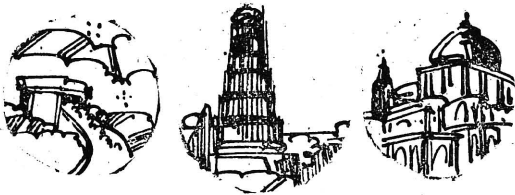
The pavilion of the Coal India Limited describes the origin, preparation and utilisation of coal and its by-products.

The highlight of the Southern Railway Pavilion is the exhibit of 35 ft model of electrical multiple unit train.

### State Government Departments and Undertakings

The Agriculture Department has put up a pavilion which contains a model of drip irrigation system and also highlights the importance of dry land farming.

Various breeds of cattle and sheep reared in the farms are brought and exhibited in the pavilion of the Animal husbandry Department. A model poultry house also finds place.



A model of "Pamban Bridge" is displayed in the Highways and Rural Works Department Pavilion.

The pavilions of the Industries Department, TIDCO., SIPCOT., TIIC., SIDCO., highlight the industrial progress of the State and the assistance rendered to private sector industrial units.

The Health Department highlights the various activities of the Directorates of Health and Family Welfare, Medical Education, Public Health and Indian medicine.

The Housing and Urban Development Department has displayed the activities of the Housing Board, Slum Clearance Board, M.M.D.A. and the Directorate of Town & Country Planning.

The Tourism Department pavilion with an attractive frontage of Veena and Temple Tower depicts several tourist attractions of Tamilnadu.

The Education Department pavilion highlights the importance of the Chief Minister's Nutritious Meal Programme. Sixteen participants display their exhibits in this pavilion.

The Labour & Employment Department gives details of the employment opportunities available and training facilities provided for the repatriates are highlighted.

In the pavilion of the "Metro Water", a Sound and Light Programme is presented to depict their activities.

The Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments' pavilion with an attractive frontage depicting a peacock presents a Sound and Light programme on the temples of Tamil nadu.

The Forest Department highlights the importance of Social Forestry for rural development.

The Information & Public Relations Department has put up a pavilion built on the model of proposed Bharathi Memorial Art Gallery at Ettayapuram conveys the message of Poet Bharathi.

The pavilion of the Corporation of Madras highlights the civic amenities provided to the citizens of Madras.

**District Pavilions :** All the sixteen districts of Tamilnadu have put up individual pavilions to highlight the achievements and the tourist attractions of each District.

The pavilions in the Fair are designed to convey the message of Poet Bharathi.

The Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation has a Hotel in the Fair Grounds which provides catering facilities.

An attractive Handloom Bazaar is organised by Co-optex (Tamilnadu Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society) in an exclusive area covering over 20,000 sq. ft.

The Arignar Anna Auditorium, the Mini Theatre and the Open Air Cinema Theatre will provide Cultural Programmes like Dance, Drama and Music and also popular movies.

The Mini train, the amusement complex and the Snake park are other attractions in the Fair.

Special events such as Horticultural Show, Dog show, Food Fair, Book Fair, Fashion Parade and Boat Race will make the Fair more attractive.

In view of the unique and added attractions, a record turn over of visitors is expected this year.





NURSING THE LEPER

# PIONEER IN LEPROSY WORK

Leper is a word of bad odour. India is perhaps a home of lepers next only to Central Africa. Yet they are as much a part of society as the tallest among us. But the tall absorb our attention though they are least in need of it. The lot of the lepers who are much in need of attention is studied neglect. I am tempted to call it heartless, which it certainly is, in terms of non-violence. It is largely the missionary, who it be said to his credit, bestows care on him. The only institution run by an Indian, as a pure labour of love, is by Shri Manohar Diwan near Wardha. It is working under the inspiration and guidance of Shri Vinoba Bhave.

In this revised edition I am deliberately introducing the leper as a link in the chain of construction effort. For, what the leper is in India, that we are, if we will but look about us for the modern civilised world. Examine the condition of our brethren across the ocean and the truth of my remark will be borne home to us. (Constructive Programme Selected works of Mahtma Gandhi Vol.IV.)

## Spirit of Service

My profession progressed satisfactorily, but that was for from satisfying me. The question of,

further symplifying my life and of doing some concrete act of service to my followmen had been constantly agitating me, when a leper came to my door. I had not the heart to dismiss him with a meal. So I offered him shelter, dressed his wounds and began to look after him. But I could not go on like that indefinitely. I could not afford, I lacked the will to keep him always with me. So I sent him to the Government Hospital for indentured labourers. (An autobiography Vol.1)

During his earlier tour of Tamil Nadu, Gandhiji learnt that a senior -founder member of the Indian National Congress was suffering from leprosy. Gandhiji went to his house while making enquiries, with the ends of his own garments, he wiped the patients wounds. Rt. Honourable Srinivasa sastri who was present at the time has described the incident as follows:

“He (Gandhiji) knows no fear and shrinks from nothing which he advices others to do. In fact his love of suffering and hardships as a means of spiritual progress is almost morbid”

“His compassion and tenderness are infinite like the ocean, to use an eastern simillie. The present writer stood by as he wiped the sores of a leper with the ends of his own garments.”

In 1927 Gandhiji visited a leprosy home in Bengal. The inmates numbering about three hundred and fifty had assembled to hear him speak. Gandhiji began to address them, “Brothers and sisters....but stopped immediately.

Looking at the person in charge of the home he said, “what right have I to call them brothers and sisters...please introduce me to each of them.

Each of the three hundred and fifty patients was introduced to Gandhiji, who shook hands with them.

Resuming the speech he said, “Now I can address you as my brothers and sisters....”

While he was staying at Durban, Gandhiji was walking along with his co-workers, when under a tree, he noticed a group of persons suffering from leprosy. He went over to them and talked with them. When his co-workers remonstrated with him for wasting his time, Gandhiji rebuked them.

In his national reconstruction schemes, Gandhiji had accorded leprosy high priority. In 1945 leprosy work was included in the Constructive Programme which Gandhiji had evoked as a major instrument of national reconstruction and renewal.

At one time Gandhiji had even thought that the care of leprosy patients is a pre-requisite for winning freedom.

He said: “If we are all in earnest about winning independence in the quickest manner possible by truthful and non-violent means, there would not be a leper or begger in India uncared for or unaccounted for.”



Gandhiji could be called a pionner in the work of leprosy. Over the years, he had evolved an integrated scientific approach to institutional care of the leprosy patients. He had suggested a new approach of treating leprosy patients. The most important point was to change the attitude of the people towards leprosy and leprosy patients. He said, “the status accorded to him...is the status of social death, a status which has no role in society to perform.” And he concentrated on his efforts to remove the stigma attached to those who suffered from leprosy. Gandhiji had said. “We are not going in for medical relief but for prevention. Therefore, we should concentrate on sanitation and hygiene, “(Harijan dated March 29, 1935)

Gandhiji believed that in a country like ours with its vast size, and a number of problems facing us, like lack of funds, personnel etc., our major concern is to tackle the problem without setting up big institutions. He told his workers to go to the villages and treat the patients in their houses.

Gandhiji laid emphasis on health education, particularly in hygiene and sanitation.

Gandhiji wanted the leprosy patients to be rehabilitated so that they could be self reliant.

To carry on his work of the leprosy programme he encouraged the setting up of the Maharogi Seva Samiti at Dattapur near Wardha in 1936. The idea of constructive work as conceived by Gandhiji has been made an integral part of the overall medical treatment of leprosy patients. The Gandhiji Memorial leprosy Foundation Wardha was set up in 1951.

Gandhiji's approach to leprosy is an expression of a positive philosophy of life and an integral approach to social reconstruction Gandhiji believed  
Independence must begin at the bottom  
Swaraj for me in our countrymen.in the means of freedom for the meanest wilderness of minority.

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