Simplicity and commitment were the hallmarks of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. Starting his career as a teacher, he rose to occupy the highest position as President of India. His birth anniversary, September 5, is observed as Teachers’ Day. I offer my greetings to all those who celebrate Teachers’ Day.

Thiruvalluvar has said that educated persons always like to improve their knowledge because they realise that the knowledge that gives them happiness does so for others too. Dr. Radhakrishnan toiled for the creation of a good society by working as a model to teachers and students alike. He was motivated by the high ideal of elevating all people in life by sharing his knowledge with them.

My Government that upholds the greatness and prestige of the teaching profession has filled up 51,757 teachers’ posts in the last two years in a bid to provide quality education to students, the pillars of future India. To meet the basic demands of students, Rs. 1,660 crore has been allotted to improve the infrastructure in schools all over the State. Works are being carried out quickly.

Along with imparting education, the teacher’s job encompasses the inculcation of discipline, culture, self-confidence, enthusiasm, perseverance and general knowledge in students and making them good human beings. It is such a noble profession! And it is my wish that teachers who are engaged in such an exalted mission, should work with social consciousness and create an intelligent society which will establish the prestige of the country on a high pedestal in the comity of nations. Once again I offer my greetings to all those who are celebrating Teachers’ Day.
In this issue....

- Convocation Address delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during the Silver Jubilee Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University on 20.8.2013 ................................................................. 3

- Speech delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu while presenting the President of India medals and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister’s medals to Police personnel on 23.8.2013 (English Translation) ..... 10

- Convocation Address delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the 155th Annual Convocation of the University of Madras on 17.8.2013. ................................................................. 16

- Speech delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during the Inaugural Function of the Alternative Disputes Resolution Centre and Laying Foundation Stone for Construction of Administrative Block of Madras High Court on 20.8.2013 .................. 24

- National Law School opened at Srirangam ............... 29

- Amma mineral water at Rs. 10 a litre ..................... 80

Education is a powerful tool for human progress and empowerment. It is also a strong driver of social thinking and transformation. True education should emphasise achievement of human resource development in its entirety and thereby augment the Nation’s richest asset.

- Selvi J Jayalalithaa
Hon’ble Chief Minister

1st Wrapper
The Hon’ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa paid floral tribute to the portrait of Perarignar Anna kept near his statue at Anna Salai Chennai to mark his 105th birth anniversary on 15.9.2013.

3rd Wrapper
The Hon’ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa paid floral tribute to the portrait of Thanthai Periyar kept near his statue at Anna flyover, Chennai on his 135th birth anniversary on 17.9.2013.
Tamil Nadu has pride of place in National Health Scene

Convocation Address delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during the Silver Jubilee Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University on 20.8.2013

Your Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor,

The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University – Dr. K. Rosaiah Garu,

Thiru. K.C. Veeramani, Hon’ble Minister for Health and Pro-Chancellor,

Hon’ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Dr. D.Santharam, Vice Chancellor,

Dr. J.RadhaKrishnan, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department,

Dr. C.Vamsadhara, Director of Medical Education,

Dr. S.Paranjothy, Director of Medical & Rural Health Services,

Members of the Faculty,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Students,

It is a privilege to be part of this magnificent event – the Silver Jubilee Convocation, to witness this inspiring moment, when you publicly acknowledge the profound responsibilities that await you, and declare your commitment to the practice of medicine, care of patients and advancement of humanity. I am here to commend and join you, in the celebration of this most noble commitment. It is a tradition which emphasizes the perseverance of the Faculty, students, families and friends, who are all intertwined and indispensable, in the academic journey our students have chosen to undertake. Here I behold the future promise of the health of my people of Tamil Nadu. You have come into this campus full of promise and altruism, replete with superior academic ability, and lives characterized by a commitment of service to others. As you swear by the Oath of Hippocrates, and prepare to cross the threshold of this University, invigorated by the zeal and spirit imparted, remember, that you are being sent out on a mission – a mission to heal. Healing is an art as much as a science, and I am sure you will maintain fidelity to this mission.

I have had the opportunity of delivering the Chief Guest’s Address on the occasion of the Second, Twelfth and Twenty Second Convocations of this University, and it is a matter of pride to be here again, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Convocation. The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University is committed to excellence and has been aptly named after the personality par excellence, Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. The University is emerging as a veritable powerhouse for harnessing top quality health professionals, and as a hub of biomedical research. As the second largest Medical University in India, and the regulatory body for Medical, Dental, Indian Medicine and Allied Health Courses in the State of Tamil Nadu, this University has been spearheading plans and ambitions to attain world standards in medical education. I
am happy to know that the University is in the process of using a more transparent, reliable and fair system of evaluation in medical, para medical, graduate and post graduate courses. Such innovations should illumine the direction of the University towards exploring new paradigms in medical education in Tamil Nadu.

The role of the University in integrating the development of health manpower, with relevance to the real health needs and demands of the people of the State, has become accentuated in the present context. This should be the focus and direction of the education system. The pedagogic shift from the traditional approach to a need-based approach has become inevitable. The University should aim at creating socially-conscious health professionals, mindful of the great task ahead of them. It should be your commitment to create the health care delivery system of the future, to educate the workforce of tomorrow, to establish an ideal learning environment, to focus on research endeavours, and consequently make a global impact. Medical education needs to be planned and implemented, with full awareness of the aims and demands of the health care services, including consistent integration of the sciences of medical practice. Every medical graduate should appreciate that learning is a continuous process, and knowledge should be periodically updated. The other important factor is for the University to have a community, industry and business interface, and to have exchange and collaborative linkages with other institutions.

There is no greater priority for the University, than to produce doctors, who possess high order professional skills, and are imbued with a sense of dedication, and public service. The menace posed by the corrosive commercialisation of medical education has
to be warded off, and efforts should be made to ensure maintenance of standards, and check the growth of substandard medical colleges.

Tamil Nadu has the pride of place in the National health scene and has been receiving plaudits for its extraordinary performance in various indicators. I have always maintained that my highest priority remains the health of my people. Since my Government assumed office in 2011, the budget for Health has seen a 67% increase reflecting my Government’s priorities. The allocation in the current year is 6511 crore rupees. Even in the field of Medical education, in the current academic year alone, we were able to get 410 additional MBBS seats in Government Medical Colleges, taking the overall seats in Government Medical Colleges from 2145 to 2555 this year. This is a result of the persistent efforts invested in by my Government. I have stood rock-firm in protecting the rights of my State and the interests of the students, in opposing the introduction of the Common National Entrance cum Eligibility Test which was eventually decided in the Supreme Court in favour of our Government’s consistent stand.

I take pleasure in stating that Tamil Nadu is also one of the best performing States and has already achieved the National Rural Health Mission / Reproductive Child Health goals. The current Infant Mortality Rate of the State is 22 according to the Sample Registration System of 2011, which is well below the national target of 30 per 1000 live births. Against the national target of 100 per lakh live births for the Maternal Mortality Rate, the State has already achieved a Maternal Mortality Rate of 73 per lakh live births. The State has also achieved replacement level and the current Total Fertility Rate is 1.7 which is the lowest in the Country. We have won encomiums from the Union Planning Commission, and many other independent review missions for our performance, and the best accolade received is from the people. This has been made possible because of the concordant health policy of my Government, which is committed to addressing the health needs of the people in a holistic manner. The actualization of the policy and transformation into services is credited to the quality human resources delivered by the various institutions affiliated to the University.

Let me also take this opportunity to highlight some of the schemes initiated by the Government of Tamil Nadu under my leadership. The CEMoNC, that is, the Comprehensive Emergency Maternal and Newborn Care scheme has been initiated successfully throughout Tamil Nadu, to bring down the Maternal Mortality Rate. LSAS, that is, Life saving Anaesthetic Skills for Emergency Obstetric Care is another Intensive 24 week training programme, instituted for Graduate doctors to tackle Obstetric emergencies.
The health of women has been my foremost priority. Improvement of facilities for institutional delivery and prevention of maternal and infant mortality has been fired into action. After I assumed charge as Chief Minister for the 3rd time in 2011, I have increased the financial assistance under the revised Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme from 6,000 rupees given earlier to 12,000 rupees to be given to pregnant women from poor families as maternal assistance. This has incentivised ante natal care vaccination, and helped in encouraging institutional deliveries, which are now around 99% - the highest in the Country. On an average, 6 lakh women benefit from the scheme every year. Cancer screening of the breast and cervix has been launched in all the 32 Districts of the State. Aggressive media campaigning is being done to encourage all reproductive age group women to come forward to get screened for cancer of the breast and cervix.

To ensure coverage of patients with Blood Cancer and Thalasaemia, my Government has sanctioned a first-of-its-kind cord banking system, with a grant of 9 crore rupees to create a Cord Bank under Public Private Partnership. Under this scheme, 3000 cord blood donations would be collected and processed. Patients referred by the Government hospitals, Government employees and their dependents, and patients under the Chief Minister’s Comprehensive Health Insurance scheme would be given units free of charge. This will greatly benefit Blood cancer and Thalasaemia patients. Tamil Nadu was among the first States that recognised Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in the Country. Our State’s contribution in identifying Diabetes at an early stage has been tremendous. The first Independent Department of Diabetology was established at the Madras Medical College. To tackle this disease, rigorous propaganda has been launched through audio and visual media to educate the public about lifestyle modification and the need for a healthy diet.

Progress and universal coverage in the Health Sector is a key to Tamil Nadu’s prominence as the numero-uno State in the Country, since the State’s productivity depends on the health and well-being of its people. With this principle in mind, my Government is committed to dedicating the building at Omandurar Estate as a multi-specialty hospital to meet the health needs of the common people by offering the best possible yet affordable treatment. A medical college will also be started to augment the number of physicians and create ‘health assets’. Post Graduate courses will be offered to create more specialists. Chennai is all set to become the ‘Health Capital of India’.

My Government is focused on addressing the preventive, promotive and basic curative health care needs of the people of the State through a network of 8706 Health sub centres, 1614 Primary Health Centres,
267 Secondary Care Hospitals, and 19 Government Medical Colleges, with 43 tertiary hospitals attached to them. These are in addition to the private medical facilities with which, under the Chief Minister’s Comprehensive Health Insurance scheme, we are able to provide access to the poor to those facilities also. The inflow of insurance funds to the Government Hospitals helps to constantly improve their infrastructure. So far in the past 2 years, 4.16 lakh persons have benefited under the Scheme for an insurance coverage of 912 crore rupees, of whom 1.54 lakh beneficiaries have been treated in Government hospitals for an insurance coverage of 318 crore rupees. The best practice in Blood bank administration is also credited to Tamil Nadu, where blood storage centres are not only fully functional, but also have strong linkages with various health units.

Keeping pace with the latest advances in the medical field, as the plethora of medical conditions in health care is becoming broader; the need for specialists in sub specialties and super specialties is growing today. Earlier, Medical Graduates were leaving the Country to obtain specialized training in their chosen subjects. Now the situation has changed and I am proud to be able to inform all concerned that all their training is being offered by this University. This is the first University in India to offer Fellowship programmes in Medical, Surgical and Dental sub and super specialties. Many of these Post-Doctoral fellowship students, after successful completion of their training, are offering professional health care to our people. It is a matter of great pride that students from neighbouring countries are also keen on enrolling in our Fellowship Training Programmes.

This place attracts the best talent and the brightest minds. Many aspire to get here but only a few are chosen. You have been chosen and that, in itself, is a remarkable achievement. This day is the culmination of an extraordinary amount of inspiration, intelligence, and hard work. Each one of you is idealistic and well motivated, and you have a mental image of being a physician, even though you may not yet know what this entails. You have been given the tremendous responsibility of caring - Listening, showing kindness, warmth and sensitivity to the patient and his or her family’s needs, in addition to excellent clinical skills--these are the hallmarks of a caring physician. The health of the poorest person can have an impact on the health of the State. Caring for that person should be your concern, for it is my concern too – a mission close to my heart. Throughout your education, you have prepared to embark on your professional journey to undertake that CARE.

It is a high and noble calling. You are all called upon to make sacrifices, to make commitments, and to be present at the happiest and saddest moments in people’s lives. When it comes to service, you provide that to your communities, and beyond, your efforts must be selfless and mindful of those most in need. It is a great responsibility indeed, but the powerful translation of this responsibility into a privilege will come, when you see the grateful smile of a patient. This is a memorable occasion in your life, as you embark upon the journey of healing. I offer you my warmest congratulations. May the purity of thought in your minds, direct your hands, and guide your hearts, as you begin a life of service to others.

Thank you.
KAPPALOTIYA TAMIZHAN
V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR

Kappalotiya Tamizhan V.O.Chidambaranar launched novel protests against British rule. V.O.C floated a swadeshi shipping company called ‘Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company’ to compete with the Britishers, who were then monopolizing the shipping business in the country.

V.O.C. was inspired by the great maritime feats of the Tamils in the past. He hearkened back to the times when ‘the Tamils sailed to Rome in the West and to Java and Sumatra in the East’. It was to revive these ancient traditions of the Tamils that he started the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company.

PERIYAR E.V. RAMASAMY

Purpose of education: Why need we educate an individual? The purpose is to make a man competent to live his life independently. Or we can say the purpose is to make him live a life of values.

Tamil spirit: The meaning of ‘Tamil spirit’ is enriching people’s wisdom as well as the Tamil language by translating into Tamil and propagating the great arts that are useful to the people and give them wisdom, talent and courage.

Life is a joint effort: Man’s life is lived amidst society. Man lives among other men. It is difficult for any individual to meet all his needs by himself and it requires joint effort of others in society. So it has become necessary for a man to live not only for himself but also for others in society.

Incident in Anna’s life: Peraignar Anna narrated an incident in his life when he and his mentor Periyar were worshipped as saints. ‘‘When I and Periyar were in Haridwar, Periyar used to walk along the banks of the Ganga wrapped in his yellow shawl. I followed him closely. I would clasp my hands tightly to protect myself from the cold, as Periyar had not bought me a woollen coat. People assumed that Periyar was a great saint and I was his disciple. They prostrated themselves before me with the hope that as a disciple, I should have some mystic power derived from my ‘guru’ Periyar. Though people here have a different perception about us here, they considered us as real “samiyars” there.

- Annavin Peruraigal

PeriYar E.V. ramaSamY

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PERAIGNAR ANNA

There must be broad agreement despite difference of opinion. Democracy functions only under this principle.

Fame: Those who are not after fame are of three types. The first one knows well that it is difficult for him to get fame. The second has more fame than he needs. And the third does not know the value of fame. But Saint Tiruvalluvar said two thousand years ago that fame earned through giving and living in harmony with others is the true value of man’s life.
Speech delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, while presenting the President of India medals and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister’s medals to Police personnel on 23.8.2013 (English Translation)

Hon’ble Ministers, Members of Parliament, Representatives of Local Bodies,

Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, Chief Secretary to Government who delivered the felicitation address, Dr. Niranjan Mardi, Principal Secretary, Home Department,

Thiru. Ramanujam, Director General of Police who delivered the welcome address, Thiru. George, Chennai Metropolitan Police Commissioner, who is to propose a vote of thanks, Officers of the Police Department, Police Personnel and those in uniform who have received medals today and their families,

Respected Elders, Ladies, my gods who sustain me in life, my dear siblings who are Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar MGR’s blood unto blood and who are dearer to me than my own life,

At the outset, I offer my affectionate respect to all of you.

After accepting the honour of the march past presented by the Police who have dedicated themselves to the great task of providing security to the people, I am extremely happy to participate in this pleasant function of presenting the President of India and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister medals to 549 personnel belonging to the departments of Police, Vigilance and Anti-corruption, Fire and Rescue Service, Prison and Home Guards and Civil Defence for their gallantry, distinguished service, meritorious service, correctional service, outstanding devotion to duty, excellence in investigation, excellence in fingerprint science, excellence in technical and specialised service and excellence in public service. I offer my hearty congratulations and good wishes to all the medallists.

After I assumed office for a third time with Tamil Nadu people’s great support, I released the Police department from the clutches of the various power centres and created conditions for them to discharge their duties independently and without anyone’s interference. This helped in the retrieval of the lands grabbed from innocent persons in the previous regime and their restoration to the rightful owners. People uniformly applaud the police for this.

Besides, I continue to take all needed steps to modernise the police force and improve its efficiency with a view to accord greater importance to the maintenance of law and order.
To help the Police department maintain law and order in an excellent way, I have directed that the vacancies that may occur in the department be assessed in advance and filled up periodically. So far, 12,162 Constables have been recruited. Moreover, 14,611 vacancies – 13,294 Second Grade Constables, 886 Sub-inspectors, 234 Technical Assistants and 197 Sub-inspectors (finger print) are to be filled up shortly. I have already ordered the setting up of a Tamil Nadu Special Police Youth Brigade for attending to the department’s subsidiary works so that the Police can concentrate on their core job of maintaining law and order, prevention of crime, speedy investigation of crimes that take place and getting the culprits convictions through courts. In the current year, 10,500 persons are to be recruited for the Brigade.

Under the programme of modernisation of the Police force, modern weaponry, equipment, protective armour etc are being purchased at a cost of Rs. 200 crore.

The scheme “Your Own House” for the in uniformed personnel was inaugurated by me, in the first phase, at Melakottaiyur in Kancheepuram District. Here, 2,673 apartments are being
constructed on 47.6 acres of land. Work on implementing the scheme in a similar way in other parts of Tamil Nadu is going on.

Moreover, construction of 43 Police Stations, 2 All-Women Police Stations, 933 residential quarters for Police Constables, 67 such quarters for the personnel of Prison Department has been completed at a cost of Rs. 1,115 crore. In the current year, construction of 10,704 residential quarters, 223 Police Stations and 63 other buildings at a cost of Rs. 1,695 crore is on.

By way of strengthening the Police force which is working for the cause of the country, I have taken steps like providing modern weapons and vehicles, increasing patrolling duty, and fixing closed circuit cameras in public places. For improving the health of the personnel in uniform, I have initiated steps like enhancing the risk and food allowances, establishing Police restaurants, dormitories and gymnasiums, developing the Police hospital, timely promotions and setting up canteens to sell articles at low prices.

You have taken up the service of protecting Tamil Nadu and its people. To come up in life and in service, it is necessary to face challenges. Hurdles bring forth the innate strength in everyone. New avenues open up when one has the strength to face challenges.

All tasks are challenging ones. But police work is more challenging. In this age of technology, crimes multiply through technology. Still, the same technology helps easy detection of crimes. Technology poses challenges, yet it helps us overcome the challenges and accomplish our aims.

You have to face the challenges in your work with courage. Self confidence is the other name for courage. If you are not courageous, at times you may not even be able to save your life.
There was a king. It was his habit to go in disguise early in the morning everyday and knock at the door of any of his citizens and give presents to the owner of the house.

One day the king knocked at the door of a farmer’s house. When the farmer opened the door with sleepy eyes, the king gave him a handful of gold coins. As the king left the house, a cow knocked him down. He sustained a head injury. His bodyguards took him to the palace.

The bodyguards informed the Minister that the King sustained the head injury because he saw the farmer and hence the farmer was responsible for it. The Minister summoned the farmer and brought him before the King.

“Execute him”, the King ordered.

The man laughed on hearing the sentence.

“This evening you will be executed and you are laughing like this”? the king asked the man.

The man replied calmly: “Because you saw me, you sustained head injury. Such is my cursed face. You are let off with this injury. But, today it was your face that I saw the first thing in the morning. What is the effect? I am going to lose my life itself. This is what your kingly face has brought about!”

The King’s face changed colour at the reply. He revoked the capital punishment awarded to the man. The man saved his life as he had the courage to counter the king himself.

Apart from showing courage, if you show involvement (in your work), success is certain.

There was a gnani in a town. Some people went in search of him.

“Swamiji, How are you” they asked.

“Leading an ordinary life”, the gnani said.

“What are your teachings”, they asked the gnani.

“Meditation, eating when hungry, sleeping when feeling sleepy… these are my principles”, he said.

They were surprised. “What are you saying, Swamiji. There seems to be nothing special in your activities,” they said.

“Yes,” replied the gnani.

“Don’t all people eat when hungry and go to sleep when they feel sleepy,” they asked.

The gnani laughed.
“When you eat, you don’t concentrate on eating. You think about the past and the future. Your mind is restless. I am not like that. When I meditate, my mind is focused on it. While eating, my mind is focused on the food. Likewise, if I want to sleep I sleep. Whatever I do, I am totally absorbed in that. That is my nature. This is the difference between me and others,” the gnani said.

The moral of the story is that when we do our work with involvement it attains perfection. When done this way, work is no more a burden but becomes enjoyable.

“How to write poetry,” a person asked Paavendar Bharathidasan.

“Mere writing and composing is not possible. If you want to write a poem about the grass, you should go to it and write what it says. That is a poem,” said Paavendar Bharathidasan. That is, if you want to write about grass, you should become grass. Only then, will the poem flow. When the work we do consumes us entirely, we are totally absorbed in it.

If you show such involvement and courage in your job, the incidence of crime will come down further. Law and order will be maintained more effectively. Society will applaud you. People will be happy. I will also continue to feel proud.

I know that you have won several medals and trophies at the National-level competitions on policing skills. At the competition held in Nasik in 2012, you won 11 medals and 2 revolving cups. At the competition held in Bhopal in 2013, you came first by winning 14 medals and 5 revolving trophies.

In this context, I wish to point out that I have increased manifold the prize money given to Tamil Nadu Police personnel who win medals at such competitions to encourage them and doubled the medal allowance in 2011 to those who have won several medals.
The job of Police is a great one. The victims of injustice in society feel happy when they are treated kindly at the Police Station, when their grievances are heard with compassion and the culprits are brought before the law and convicted. You also feel happy over it. People develop confidence in the rule of law and in this Government.

Swami Vivekananda said: “Devotion to duty is the highest form of worship of God”.

In tune with this, personnel in uniform should realise that discharging one’s duty is superior to any thing else and should involve themselves totally in the task of protecting people’s interests without any selfish motive.

In this context, I also urge the people to extend their co-operation to the Police personnel who work for the people round-the-clock, facing several challenges, so that they can perform their duty more efficiently.

By way of recognising the efficient service, sense of duty and the spirit of sacrifice of the personnel in uniform, the Tamil Nadu Government has been presenting medals.

Functions like the present one, I believe, will not only enthuse the medallists to put in more excellent work but inspire others also in the force to do their best as to get them medals.

Once again, I convey my congratulations to all those who have received medals in this function.

I extend my greetings to all those who have made this function a grand success, particularly the Director General of Police, the Additional DGP, Armed Force, Additional DGP, Enforcement and other officers. I convey my greetings to all the Police personnel who are performing well and wish them success in winning medals in the coming years. Hailing, ‘Anna Naamam Vazhga;! ‘Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Naamam Vazhga’! I take leave of you. Nandri, Vanakkam.
Convocation Address delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the 155th Annual Convocation of the University of Madras on 17.8.2013.

‘MISSION -- MAKE TAMIL NADU GLOBAL HUB OF HIGHER EDUCATION’

I am greatly honoured to be part of this scintillating event that marks a major academic milestone in your life, as you step out into the world from the portals of this University, fortified with the knowledge you have been endowed with during your time here. It is also a special event for the University as it sends forth its students equipped with the spirit of this institution. The overwhelming ceremonial aura of this Annual Convocation is tremendously energizing and bears testimony to the 156 year old grand tradition of one of the oldest universities of the Country – the University of Madras. A Convocation is the occasion when all the hard work and midnight toil put in around the years is crystallised and is a formal recognition that you are ready to move forward in channelizing your energies towards being a complete entity in Society,
adapting fearlessly and energetically to changing times. It is a moment of celebration for students and their parents who have transcended odds and striven hard to reach here. For the teachers who are waiting to witness these scholars pass out, it is an endorsement of their hard work and a validation of the vocation they chose.

The University of Madras has lived up to the ideals ordained in its creation since its inception and I am sure it will continue to catalyze the flowering of human personality as well as function as a reservoir from which spring streams of innovation and imagination, of dynamism in thought and action.

The glorious history of this institution is a reminder of the journey traversed so far and will serve to enlighten future generations. The University of Madras was established in response to the demand of the time. The request for an institution of higher learning originated from the people of the Madras Presidency, in a public petition signed and submitted to Lord George Elphinstone, the then Governor of Madras. Sir Charles Wood’s epoch-making Dispatch of 1854 cleared the path for the formation of the Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. The University Act, Act No. II of 1857, was passed by the Legislative Council and received the Governor-General’s assent on the 24th January, 1857. The Act emphasised that the University was to be an imperial university. As a sequel, the University of Madras, organized on the model of the London University, was incorporated on the 5th September, 1857, by an Act of the Legislative Council of India. The Government’s intention was to create a University which would cater to the needs of the nobility and upper classes of India.

Justice Sir Christopher Rawlinson was the first Vice-Chancellor of the University. In 1904, Sir Subramania Iyer became the first Indian to be made the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras. Sir Raghupati Venkataratnam Nayudu was the first elected Vice Chancellor. The University of Madras was the first to introduce autonomous colleges within the University system in 1978-79. Since then, 27 out of the 159 affiliated institutions have become autonomous. The tiny star which appeared in 1857 has now grown into a super nova churning out treasures of enlightened and inspired citizens. This institution has an
academic heritage, created and nurtured by stalwarts and visionaries.

The establishment of the University of Madras proved to be a tool of history, initiating a process quite independent of the original intention of the British to create an aristocratic institution and ultimately became directly contradictory to it. It has endeavoured to create an open and secular system and seeks to deliberately incorporate inclusiveness into the fabric of education. It has broken the shackles of the ‘Ivory tower’ and has thrown open the gates of the once ‘elitist institution’ to the common people. The University of Madras has been carefully accomplishing the task of synthesizing academic standards with social relevance to create ignited minds ready to take up enterprising careers and raring to reform the ills threatening our Society. The architectural beauty of the impressive Indo-Saracenic buildings of the University and the charm of the premises add to the character of this institution. This in itself has a potent influence on the students.

Universities are temples of knowledge wherein students are initiated as novices into the mysteries of knowledge. They have frequently been regarded as key institutions in processes of social change and development. The most explicit role they have been allocated is the production of highly skilled labour and research output to meet perceived economic ends. Universities do not only respond to Society’s needs, they contribute to its evolution. Universities in Tamil Nadu are now finding themselves at the very centre of development and are entrusted with the task of training and harnessing vital human resources essential for catapulting Tamil Nadu to the numero uno status in the country.

The University of Madras has pegged the stakes high for its students and the alumni have distinguished themselves in various fields of excellence in India and abroad and brought laurels to their Alma Mater. The Madras University boasts of many stalwarts as its alumni. It has produced two Nobel laureates, - Sir C V Raman who won the Nobel prize for Physics in 1930 and Dr S Chandrasekar in 1983, and two Presidents of India - Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, to name a few. The list however is endless with hundreds of faculty members and students proving their mettle both in India and abroad. They are all shining examples for the young people here to emulate. You need to learn from the dedication, scholarly pursuit and will to succeed of these eminent personalities.

Education is a powerful tool for human progress and empowerment. It is also a strong
driver of social thinking and transformation. True education should emphasise achievement of human resource development in its entirety and thereby augment the Nation’s richest asset. Imparting ethical values, as a significant constituent of education, therefore, is no longer merely obligatory but a constitutional imperative, essential for the development and realization of the full potential of the human person. Socrates had said and I quote: “Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel” (unquote). The atmosphere in this hall today is vibrant and I believe that many a flame has been kindled by this great institution.

An ancient Chinese proverb says, “If you are thinking one year ahead, plant rice
If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant trees
If you are thinking 100 years ahead, educate the people.”

My Government has done all three. I am committed to providing good governance now, in the years ahead, the decades to come and to implementing lasting reforms that generations will speak of. The mission of my Government is to promote Human Resource Development through self-actualized Institutions producing high quality professionals in sufficient numbers and to make Tamil Nadu a global hub for University Education. I envision that Institutions of Higher Education emerge as Centres of
Innovation, Excellence and Development - that world-class education is offered to our youth in an all-encompassing and inclusive system. The Higher Education sector in Tamil Nadu is moving at an accelerated pace to meet the demands of the century, in terms of research and development and many schemes have been implemented with this in view. For example,

★ Smart Classrooms with Video-Conferencing facilities have been established in 10 universities at a cost of 2 crore rupees.

★ Foreign language laboratories have been established in 10 universities at a cost of 1.5 crore rupees for enhancing the language skills of students in English, Chinese, Japanese, German etc.,

★ Entrepreneurship cum Skill Development Centres have been established at a cost of 2 crore rupees in 10 Universities, to develop the entrepreneurial skills of students for self employment.

★ To promote gaining from sharing of expertise by reputed professors, a scheme of inviting them from foreign universities has been introduced in 10 Universities at a cost of 1 crore rupees.

★ Curriculum Development Cells have been established in 10 Universities at a cost of 10 crore rupees, to restructure curricula on par with global standards.

★ 11 new Arts and Science Colleges have been opened during 2011-2012 and another 11 colleges during 2012-2013, in various Districts, in an effort to equip rural youth with career skills and improve their employability.

★ 10 Polytechnic Colleges and 2 Engineering Colleges have been started in a move to promote professional education in rural pockets and ensure that youth in the far flung backward Districts are on par with their counterparts in big cities.
“My Government was devised bearing in mind that our students must not be left lagging behind in the use of modern technology in this age of the internet and has placed our students a head above their peers in other parts of the country. So far 5,45,402 college students have received their laptop computers.”

★ Business Collaboration Centres have been started in 6 Universities of which the University of Madras is one, for co-ordinating Universities, leading Industries and other business organizations in the country and abroad.

★ A widely acclaimed move by my Government is the Study Abroad Programme for Faculty and Students which has commenced with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education with the British Council. 14 students and 3 faculty members have been selected to study one semester in Universities in the United Kingdom from September 2013 to January 2014.

★ Centres for Technical and Academic Writing have been established in the University of Madras and 8 other Universities in the State. These Centres would develop the skills of students in writing academic reports and drafting other forms of written communication.

★ Incubation and Technology Transfer Centres have been established in the University of Madras and 8 other Universities in the State.
Centres for Multimodal Material Production for the Differently-Abled have been established in the University of Madras and 9 other Universities in the State.

Post Graduate Centres of Excellence have been established in this University and 9 other Universities in the State.

Soft Skill Centres have been established in 30 Colleges under 5 Universities including the University of Madras.

The free laptop computer scheme, which is a flagship scheme of my Government, was devised bearing in mind that our students must not be left lagging behind in the use of modern technology in this age of the internet and has placed our students a head above their peers in other parts of the country. So far 5,45,402 college students have received their laptop computers.

This is only an overview of the efforts taken by my Government to raise the scales of development on the higher education front. We must direct our energies towards developing our Universities to meet global benchmarks. Universities should be prime movers of change. A more just, humane, and sustainable Society requires the development in each of our students of a personal moral compass and a commitment to ethical decision making. It is necessary not merely to achieve personal excellence, but also to enable the Nation to rise to higher levels of endeavour and achievement. Here, I would like to quote Benjamin Franklin who said, “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.” Learning should be a two-way process and should involve the intellect and heart of the student and the faculty. Social commitment on the part of the educationists cannot be overlooked.
As you set out on the next steps of your journey, and as you cross many more milestones that mark your achievements, I am sure you will proudly recall the value of the opportunities that the University of Madras gave you, and how it empowered you to achieve success. With confidence, you leave this place, ready and determined to do your part in the never-ending quest to advance peace, prosperity and justice in your environment, to choose your own paths, to risk failure, to further the boundaries of knowledge, and to shine forth as worthy citizens of this great Nation. Whichever path you choose, and whichever gates you pass through, I wish you safety, good guidance, and truthfulness.

I wish that you may be guided wisely through the tunnels and labyrinths of life and that you find the still centre of your purpose and your being - untarnished, persistent, illuminated and brightly glowing.

On this auspicious occasion, I urge you to solemnly reaffirm the ideals of the University and dedicate yourselves wholeheartedly to the task of building a resurgent Nation of high idealism and noble endeavours on the foundation of knowledge and moral values. I invoke upon each one of you, the blessings of the Almighty, your parents, your teachers and all the elders gathered here.

Thank you.
Chief Minister reiterates concern for women, girl children

Your Lordship Hon’ble Mr. Justice P. Sathasivam, Chief Justice of India / Patron-in-Chief, National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi,

Hon’ble Mr. Justice F.M. Ibrahim Kalifulla, Judge, Supreme Court of India,

Hon’ble Mr. Justice R.K. Agrawal, Acting Chief Justice and soon to be Chief Justice of High Court of Madras,

Mr. K.P. Munusamy, Hon’ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts & Prisons, Government of Tamil Nadu,

Hon’ble Mrs. Justice R. Banumathi, Executive Chairperson, Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority, Chennai and soon to be Chief Justice of High Court of Jharkhand,

Hon’ble Mrs. Justice Chitra Venkataraman,

Executive Chairperson, Union Territory of Pondicherry Legal Services Authority, Puducherry,

Hon’ble Mr. Justice M. Jaichandren, Chairman,

Speech delivered by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during the Inaugural Function of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre and Laying Foundation Stone for Construction of Administrative Block of Madras High Court on 20.8.2013
Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre, High Court, Madras,

Hon’ble Mr. Justice S. Rajeswaran, Chairman,

High Court Building Committee, High Court, Madras,

Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu Mrs. Sheela Balakrishnan,

Mr. A.L. Somayaji, Advocate General of Tamil Nadu,

Mrs. Saraswathi Sathasivam and Mrs. Kalifulla,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to participate in this function along with the Lordship the Chief Justice of India, Justice Sathasivam, because he is a true son of the soil of Tamil Nadu and Justice Sathasivam has made all of us proud by becoming the first step from Tamil Nadu to attain the first of the Chief Justice of India. Indeed not only the people of Tamil Nadu, not only the Tamils living in Tamil Nadu, but Tamils living all over the world are proud of Justice Sathasivam, who is our very own person sitting in the exhaustive position of Chief Justice of India.

I am glad to participate in the inauguration of the Alternative Disputes Resolution Centre in the Madras High Court campus. I am happy to have sanctioned an amount of 3.20 crore rupees from the State fund towards the construction of this magnificent building.

The growing population, increasing awareness of rights, and the abiding confidence of the people in the judiciary have witnessed a tremendous spurt in litigation. However, in the Indian context, lack of awareness of legal provisions, mystifying legal terms, delays in disposal and the prohibitive cost of litigation are some of the barriers in the way of accessing justice. The cost of litigation has increased exponentially over time, and the ability of the marginalized sections to avail of their constitutional right to legal remedies is seriously hampered by their lack of resources. There are a lot of litigants clamouring for speedy justice. But the elements of judiciousness, fairness, equality and compassion
cannot be allowed to be sacrificed for the sake of expeditious disposal. Through careful thought and precise planning, the Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanism has been put in place and has been given legal validity. ADR is now an integral part of modern legal practice and jurisprudence. This will go a long way in weeding out the impediments to securing universal justice.

The enactment of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996, was a giant stride which gave statutory recognition to the Disputes resolution mechanism. Further, by amending Section 89 in the Civil Procedure Code, such mechanisms have gained strategic importance. The Supreme Court, in its landmark judgment in the case of Salem Advocates Bar Association, Tamil Nadu versus Union of India in 2005, has endorsed and given heightened impetus to the court – annexed Alternative Disputes Resolution methods. Under Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, judges can direct the parties in civil proceedings to resort to methods such as arbitration, conciliation, mediation and settlement through ‘Lok Adalats’ - when it is perceived that the Disputes can be resolved in a co-operative and non-adversarial manner. This provision is a major systemic improvement in the access to justice, and reflects an exemplar shift in the delivery of legal services, which is indeed laudable.

The idea of resolving matters outside a court room in an orderly, law abiding manner is not unknown to our Society. It has been prevalent in Indian Society from time immemorial. Mediation has been practised by our village elders in the ‘Panchayat system’. The Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanism mirrors a metaphorical bridge to this indigenous system.
ADR operates on the principle of consensus, where all perspectives are discussed until a compromise that is acceptable to all sides is reached. It is a forum for decision making after thoughtful analysis and sensitive negotiation. It eliminates the dissenting mentality, and has clearly passed the test of time. Alternative Disputes Resolution does not merely apply fastidious rules, but takes into consideration the human condition and the need for flexibility in dealing with reality. It allows for greater creativity in solutions, affords an opportunity for mending of relationships and seeks to replace animosity with cordiality.

The main methods of Alternative Disputes Resolution are – Negotiation, Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration.

The Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanism is a pragmatic tool in solving new generation familial conflicts. The surge of matrimonial disputes in court is a poignant reminder of the ills that plague the fabric of relationships in the family. Litigation — whether for divorce, maintenance, alimony, child custody or any other matrimonial cause — should cease to be viewed in terms of failure or success of legal action. The amicable settlement of family conflicts is a social therapy.

In any conflict it is the woman who encounters an uphill struggle to realize her rights to equality and dignity. Women in India face myriad cultural challenges that impede their social advancement. Women throughout the world face systematic gender-based discrimination and are regularly denied the right to life and security of person, recourse to legal rights, health care, education, employment, inheritance, and freedom of movement. This is an area quite close to my heart. I have, during my previous tenures as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, introduced a number of novel schemes for women and female children which have won accolades in our Country and abroad. The flagship schemes of my Government are – the Girl Child Protection Scheme; the 4-gram gold coin for the Thirumangalyam and 50,000 rupees grant for the marriage of impoverished women; Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme; Orphan Girls’ Marriage Assistance Scheme; Inter-caste Marriage Assistance Scheme; financial assistance to young destitute girls for pursuing higher education; cradle baby scheme for girl children to prevent infanticide – this list is not exhaustive.

All the initiatives mooted by my Government have been formulated keeping in mind the disadvantaged and weaker sections of Society. I have strongly condemned all kinds of crimes perpetrated against women and sought to improve their livelihood opportunities, so that they are empowered financially and socially, in order to stand up against any injustice meted out to them. Another critical aspect of this work is to strengthen the leadership opportunities of marginalized women, by equipping them with a voice to articulate the problems that affect their lives; craft solutions that help solve these problems; and contribute to practical, legal and policy changes that advance women’s rights and achieve a broader and more meaningful social justice. As a prologue to the above mandate, the Women Self-help Groups, formed with the assistance of my Government, have emerged...
as an indomitable force, that has transformed the status of women, and liberated them from discriminatory codes and cultural stigma. This is only the beginning - the best is yet to come.

The establishment of All-Women Police Stations was pioneered by my Government in 1992. This was specifically aimed at tackling and giving an impetus to investigation in crimes against women, and to respond swiftly to complaints given by women. It has been a landmark achievement in the path of women empowerment in Tamil Nadu and has set the beacon for other States to follow. In 2002, I had made provision for tough punishments for crimes against women under the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act. I have ordered that all cases relating to sexual violence should be treated as grave crimes and investigation would be carried out by Police Inspectors and would be directly supervised by Deputy Superintendents of Police.

The poor, marginalized and vulnerable live in a parallel world where economic poverty is structurally, politically and socially defined. Fighting poverty also means investing in people's capacity to participate meaningfully in the economy, access gainful livelihood and improve the quality of their lives. I have given deep thought to this concept, and have been devising Government schemes with this in mind – with pro-poor initiatives and inclusive strategies, to improve their economic well-being. At the heart of the idea of empowering the poor, lies the goal of not only alleviation of poverty, but its ultimate elimination. It is my desire to witness this social change of inclusion and equity that is snowballing into a massive transformation. A desire to achieve for my people, the highest attainable standard of health, adequate housing, education, economic opportunities and social security for a dignified life remains at the core of all my policies.

It is a collective responsibility to ensure that the cherished constitutional entitlements reach the poorest of the poor. Today's inauguration has strengthened the faith that all our initiatives towards this goal have started taking root, and I am confident we will witness the glory of its abundant fruits in the years to come.

Thank you.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 22.8.2013 declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat, in the presence of the Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court Thiru. Rajesh Kumar Agrawal, the Rs. 100 crore National Law School located at Srirangam in Tiruchirapalli District.

The Cabinet meeting held on 7.7.2011 decided on establishing such a school in Srirangam Taluk for imparting higher studies in Law. The Hon’ble Chief Minister presided.

In 2012, the Tamil Nadu National Law School Act was passed. As per the Act, the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court will be the Chancellor and the Law Minister, the Pro-Chancellor.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Law School on 13.2.2012 at Navalur Kuttapattu in Srirangam Taluk. The school will come up on a campus of 25 acres. The Administrative Block, the Service Block, Undergraduate Block and Hostels have been constructed. Other works including training centre, library, hostels for post-graduate students, examination hall, multi-purpose hall, residential buildings, indoor stadium and ground for athletic events are to be taken up.

The strength of the school will be 100 including 10 for overseas Indians.

After declaring open the school, the Hon’ble Chief Minister issued admission cards to 7 students and the acting Chief Justice to 5 students as a token.
I had announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly that 10,000 green houses would be constructed in the financial year 2013-2014 for weavers, who are part of the textile industry that plays an important role in earning foreign exchange to the country and in creating job opportunities locally.

To implement this assurance, a review meeting was held at the Secretariat today (29.8.2013). I presided. Hon’ble Ministers Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, Thiru. Natham R. Viswanathan, Thiru. K.P. Munusamy, Thiru. R. Vaithilingam, Dr. R. Sundararaj, Chief Secretary to Government, Principal Secretary to Finance Department, Principal Secretary to the Department of Handloom, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi, Principal Secretary to the department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Secretary to the Department of Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection, the Director of Department of Handloom and Textiles and other high officials participated.

It was pointed out at the meeting that as a majority of weavers worked on the looms in their own houses, the 300 sq.ft houses under the Green House Scheme could be inadequate and the houses for weavers should have an area of 365 sq.ft. The ceiling of the hall where the loom is located should be raised to 12.3 ft from 10 feet and its length increased to 16 ft from 12 feet.

I am happy to announce that after detailed discussions, I have directed, in the interests of weavers, the construction of houses measuring 365 sq.ft. Each house will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.60 lakh. The additional expenditure of Rs. 50,000/- incurred on each house will be borne by the State Government. For this, Rs. 50 crore will be allotted. This will help the weavers work from their own houses.
Like the ‘fence eating the crop’, during the 5 year minority DMK rule, Thiru. Karunanidhi, ruined Tamil Nadu’s law and order and converted the state that was a garden of peace into one of strife. Such a person has raised a question about the ‘Chief Minister not being in the State capital Chennai for more than a month’ and given a reply that does not apply to me as I have taken swift action on law and order issues. He has cited some incidents of murder and theft and also bemoaned the media’s silence over them.

The people of Tamil Nadu and the media know fully well the steps I have taken in the last one month for the State’s good on several important issues. They keenly observe whether correct steps are taken to deal with problems immediately. They don’t attach any importance to matters like whether the Chief Minister convened a meeting of officials and took the decision, whether that meeting was held at the Secretariat or in the Chief Minister’s house or at the camp office of the Chief Minister and with whom the Chief Minister held discussions. There is also no need for them to consider all these matters.

The important factor is whether the Chief Minister is taking a well-thought out, unselfish, non-partisan and just decision or a selfish decision for the welfare of his own family.

People have been informed through a Government press release that I will be staying for some days in Kodanadu, in the Nilgiris District and attend to Government works from there.

Kodanadu is part of Tamil Nadu. Plantation workers and tribal people live there. Is it a grave crime to stay there for some days? Is Kodanadu in London or in Karnataka? All unbiased people will agree that I have been discharging well my Governmental tasks even though I have stayed there for some days.

I don’t wish to list all the tasks I have attended to from Kodanadu. But at the same time I consider it my duty to point out the steps that I had taken on some important issues.

I have been taking action after due consultations on law and order issues in Tamil Nadu, on Central Government’s actions against Tamil Nadu and on the rights of Tamil Nadu. I have also exposed how Thiru. Karunanidhi has repeatedly betrayed the Tamil Nadu people.
I had severely criticised the upward revision of petrol and diesel prices twice a month by the Central Government leading to inflation and stressed, in my statement, the withdrawal of the price hike. I had also pointed out the way the price of petroleum products should be fixed.

Likewise, I had criticised through a statement the price fixing policy of natural gas. In that statement, I had pointed out that the Central Government, mandated to rule till May 2014, had no moral right to determine the price fixing policy for natural gas implementable from April that year.

Besides these, I had issued a statement protesting against the decision to increase foreign direct investment in several sectors including insurance, communications and defence. I had also pointed out that enhancing foreign direct investment in sectors like communications and defence would pose a threat to the security of India itself.

Also, I wrote a letter to the Hon’ble Prime Minister on 7.7.2013 in continuation of my letters protesting against the Central Government’s decision to sell NLC (Neyveli Lignite Corporation) shares to private parties. In that letter, I once again pointed out that Tamil Nadu Government’s Public Sector undertakings were eligible to purchase the NLC shares and requested him to initiate steps to sell the shares to these undertakings. The Central Government asked the State to appoint a liaison officer for holding discussions in this regard. After consultations with officials, I appointed the Principal Secretary to Finance Department as the liaison officer for the proposal for purchase of NLC shares by the Tamil Nadu State Public Sector undertakings. The Chief Secretary to Government conveyed this information to the Central Government. On my direction, the Principal Secretary, Finance Department, the Principal Secretary, Planning and Development Department and Joint Secretary, Industries Department held discussions with Central Government officials on 10.7.2013 at New Delhi. Following this, the same team of officials, on my direction, went to Mumbai on 15.7.2013 and held discussions with SEBI officials. My advice and consultations alone paved the way for the State Public sector undertakings to purchase the NLC shares.

On learning that 16 Tamil Nadu fishermen are imprisoned in Iran, I wrote to Prime Minister to take steps to get them released. As the families of these fishermen were languishing in poverty, I ordered the release of Rs. 1 lakh to each of these families from the Chief Minister Public Relief Fund. A Hon’ble Minister of the State disbursed the amount in person.

I continued to urge the Prime Minister through letters to prevent the arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lanka Navy.

After detailed discussions with officials, it was decided to release water from the Mettur reservoir for Samba cultivation from 12.8.2013 and I issued a statement about this decision on 27.7.2013. Following the receipt of more than 90,000 cusecs of water to Mettur due to heavy rains in the catchments areas of Cauvery in Karnataka. I issued a statement on 29.7.2013, advancing the release of water from Mettur to 2.8.2013, so that the farmers could start earlier and utilize the higher inflows to the maximum extent for the samba cultivation. This speedy action was to enable
utilisation to the extent possible of the excess water received suddenly.

I was in contact with the Chief Secretary the Director General of Police and other officials several times a day and on every day during my stay at Kodanadu. That was why speedy decisions could be taken and implemented on several issues. Without realising all these things, Thiru. Karunanidhi has blamed this Government whimsically.

As for the murder of Auditor Ramesh, the Tamil Nadu General Secretary of the Bharatia Janata Party, I issued a statement on 21.7.2013 announcing that a Special Investigation Division would be set up to expedite the taking up of the investigation in the case. I also held a review meeting at Kodanadu on 25.7.2013 with the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and the Director General of Police about this case and about the law and order situation.

I ordered security arrangements be put in place to prevent caste clashes following the death of Thiru. Ilavarasan of Dharmapuri who had married a girl of another caste. I also instituted a one-man Inquiry Commission to enquire into his death in detail.

On receipt of information that 4 persons from Dharmapuri were caught in the Hoganekkal floods, I ordered their rescue by helicopter. They were rescued by an IAF helicopter.

In his question-answer statement Thiru. Karunanidhi has mentioned some incidents of murder and found fault with the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu. As I have already spoken in the Legislative Assembly several times on how bad the law and order situation was during Thiru. Karunanidhi’s rule and how well it is now, there is no need for me to describe it in detail once again.

What steps did Thiru. Karunanidhi take for the development of Tamil Nadu when he was Chief Minister?

While Thiru. Karunanidhi was Chief Minister, he allotted most of his time to organising meetings to felicitate himself, viewing films, keeping company with sycophants, earning money by saying he was penning stories for films, getting posts for family members and viewing the TV serial ‘Maanaada Mayilaada’. The state administration remained crippled. This was a well-known fact.

Hence, it is not so important that a Chief Minister stays put in the capital all the time. What is important is that the interests of the people are served whether the Chief Minister is in the capital or in any other part of the state.

In this age of electronic communication, Thiru. Karunanidhi betrays his ignorance by issuing a statement like a Stone Age man.

When Thiru. Karunanidhi was Chief Minister, different power centres were operating in Tamil Nadu. The lands of innocent people were grabbed; the Government-owned Arasu Cable TV was closed down for the sake of his family business. For enjoying the comfort of office, Tamil Nadu’s rights were sacrificed and support was extended for the annihilation of Sri Lanka Tamils. People of Tamil Nadu know all these things fully well.

Working for the people of Tamil Nadu without any selfish motive is sacrifice; to feign to work for them for selfish reasons is trade. People of Tamil Nadu will easily understand where Thiru. Karunanidhi stands in this matter.
The Government headed by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has been taking steps to computerise the details pertaining to lands in the State, and to help people understand these details easily and expedite steps such as patta transfers.

Details of lands in rural areas, ‘A’ register and ‘chitta’ have been computerised and pattas are now issued through the software ‘Tamizh Nilam’. But details about urban land and Natham land had not been computerised and are to be taken up now. At present, there are 1.35 crore sub-divisions in Natham land in Tamil Nadu. It is essential that these details are computerised. The Hon’ble Chief Minister has ordered the completion of this work through outsourcing and has allotted Rs. 70 lakh for this. After these details are computerised, it will be possible to issue ‘Natham’ pattas to people quickly.

Of the 53 lakh field measurement sketches (FMS) in the taluk survey offices in 29 districts, 14 lakh have been computerised through the software COLLABLAND.

Management of land records will be easy if done through web-based software. This will facilitate the transfer of land record orders to the central server in the taluk office and taluk officials can access the details by logging on to it. Hence, the Hon’ble Chief Minister has ordered the distribution of laptops to all firka surveyors so that they can execute their work quickly, utilise the FMS easily and undertake online management of land records through website software. In the first phase, laptops are to be distributed to 300 firka surveyors in the 4 zones of Chennai, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai and Coimbatore at the rate of 75 firkas each. The Hon’ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs. 83.15 lakh for this.

It is the task of sub-taluk surveyors to attend to land administration works like measuring the lands connected with patta transfer on account of land transaction and preparation of documents. To improve their work further, the Hon’ble Chief Minister has directed the distribution of a SIM card to each of the sub-taluk surveyors so that they can install the ‘Closed User Group’ facility and establish contacts through their mobile phone instantly for undertaking their official duties. This programme will cost the Government Rs. 13.66 lakh and will benefit 1,138 sub-taluk surveyors.
State-level sports competition for the Chief Minister’s Cup are to be conducted on the lines of National Games in Tamil Nadu every year. Orders to this effect have been passed by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa.

Last year, such competitions were held successfully in 10 games. To increase the impact of these games on sportspersons, both men and women, the annual competition has been conceived.

The prize money for winners in these competitions is Rs. 1 lakh for gold medallists, Rs. 75,000/- and Rs. 50,000/- for silver and bronze medallists respectively. The Hon’ble Chief Minster has allotted Rs. 8.09 crore for this.

The competitions will be held at the District, Zonal and State levels for men and women in truck events and in basketball, volleyball, hockey, football, kabadi, swimming, tennis, table tennis and badminton. In each zonal level event, 1,632 sportspersons will compete at the rate of 204 from each district. Totally, 204 first prizes and an equal number of second and third prizes will be instituted and the winners will get the prize money along with the gold/silver/bronze medals.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister has directed the setting up of a Rs. 2.20 crore Sports Science Centre with modern technological facilities at the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University, to give training to sportspersons in a scientific way. The amount will be utilised to raise new buildings, purchase new equipment and to appoint officers and employees.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister has also directed the establishment of 2 gymnasiums at the Secretariat complex for the benefit of the 6,000 staff there. The one for men will come up in an area of 2,000 sq. ft and that for women in an area of 1,800 sq. ft, and cost Rs. 50 lakh totally. The gyms will each have 20 types of modern exercise equipment.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has issued orders increasing the annual family income ceiling limit from Rs. 24,000/- to Rs. 72,000/- for eligibility to claim financial assistance from Government for two marriage schemes.

The Government is implementing 5 types of marriage assistance schemes. Among these, no income ceiling is fixed for 3 schemes, Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiyyar Ninaivu Widow Remarriage Assistance scheme, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Ninaivu Inter-caste Marriage Assistance scheme and Annai Therasa Ninaivu Marriage Assistance scheme for Orphan Girls. As the annual family income ceiling limit for the remaining 2 schemes the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyyar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance scheme for the marriage of the daughters of poor widows is low at Rs. 24,000/- the poor and marginalised sections are not able to benefit in a big way. Hence, it has been increased to Rs. 72,000/-.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister has also sanctioned Rs. 22,23,243/- for purchase cooking utensils for 3,963 children welfare centres in 32 pilot Taluks under the Integrated Child Development Programme. Each centre will get Rs. 561/- for purchase of a stainless steel ladle (Rs. 66) and an Indoleum ‘kadaai’ (Rs. 495/-).

To modernise the infrastructure supporting irrigated lands, the IAMWARM scheme (Irrigated Agriculture Modernising and Water-bodies Restoration and Management) was launched with World Bank assistance in 2005, by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa, during her earlier regime.

Renovation works have been undertaken under this scheme so far in 4,910 lakes, 662 dams and in supply channels under them to a length of 8,590 km.

When Vaigai river has floods, the surplus water is diverted through the Paralaiyaru channel of the river to benefit lakes in the Paramakudi and Mudukulathur areas. Taking into account the needs of the farmers in Mudukulathur and Paramakudi areas, the Hon’ble Chief Minister has directed the development of the Paralaiyaru channel under the IAMWARM scheme at a cost of Rs. 22.28 crore.

Through this scheme, irrigation will be ensured to 4,957 acres through 54 lakes in Paramakudi and Mudukulathur taluks of Ramanathapuram District.
Autorickshaws play an important role in the transportation of people.

The total number of autorickshaws in Tamil Nadu is 2.14 lakh. In Chennai metropolitan city alone, 71,470 autos ply. The auto fares were revised last in 2007.

As the price of fuel, spare parts and the salary of auto drivers have risen manifold, trade unions for auto drivers and consumer bodies sent representations to the Tamil Nadu Government for revision of fares. A business committee was set up in this regard.

On my direction, a tripartite meeting of representatives of the trade unions, consumer organisations and Government officials was held on 10.8.2013 at Chennai in the presence of the Transport Minister. Views were expressed by different sections on the extent of fare revision.

Following this, a review meeting was held at the Secretariat on 22.8.2013. I presided. Hon’ble Minister for Finance Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, Hon’ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Thiru. Natham R. Viswanathan, Hon’ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons Thiru. K.P. Munusamy, Hon’ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development Thiru. R. Vaithilingam, Hon’ble Minister for Transport Thiru. V. Senthil Balaji, Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu government Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, Principal Secretary, Finance Department Thiru. K. Shanmugam, Principal Secretary, Home Department Dr. Niranjan Mardi, Secretary Law Department Dr. G. Jayachandran, Chennai Metropolitan Police Commissioner Thiru. S. George and the Advocate General of Tamil Nadu Government Thiru. A.L. Somayajee participated in the meeting.

Following detailed discussions, I directed that the following steps be taken to benefit both the general public and auto drivers and...
auto owners:-

★ The fare will be fixed at Rs. 25/- for the first 1.8 km and Rs. 12/- per km thereafter.

★ Between 11 PM and 5 AM, the fare will be 50 per cent more. This is the night fare.

★ The waiting charge will be Rs. 42/- per hour at the rate of Rs. 3.50 paise for every 5 minutes.

★ The revised fare will come into effect from today (25.8.2013).

★ The revised fares will be published in newspapers. Charges have to be collected from passengers on that basis.

★ Auto drivers can get the card containing the revised fares before 15.9.2013 from the Regional Transport Office concerned or from the special camps conducted by the RTO offices.

★ Auto meters should be corrected as per the revised fares before 15.10.2013.

★ Autos plying in Chennai metro area will be fixed with meters at Government expense with Global Positioning System (GPS) and Electronic Digital Printer. This move is the first of its kind in the whole of India. Government will incur an expenditure of Rs. 80 crore. This will enable issue of receipt to passengers containing the details of the distance travelled and the fare. This will also ensure that correct fares are collected from passengers. The movement of the auto rickshaws can also be monitored.

★ If the passengers encounter any emergency they can press the panic button fixed in the meter. The control room will get alerted and police will swing into action immediately.

★ The traffic police and the Police department will closely monitor the movements of the auto rickshaws. Collection of excess fare over and above the revised fares will invite severe action. The driver’s licence will be cancelled. The vehicle will be confiscated, impounded and its permit cancelled.

★ To facilitate passengers to lodge complaints, a common complaint number will be created and the telephone number will be prominently displayed in each auto.

These measures of my Government will protect the interests of the auto drivers and of the general public.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed the starting of 5 new Government Industrial Training Institutes at a total cost of Rs. 26.39 crore.

These institutes will come up at Veppalodai in Thoothukudi District, Bodi in Theni District, Thiruvaikudai in Thanjavur District, Radhapuram in Tirunelveli District and at Aruppukottai in Virudhunagar District. They will start functioning from the academic year of 2013-2014.

At present, 62 ITIs are functioning in the state with a sanctioned seat strength of 28,594 and are offering training in 43 engineering and 20 non-engineering industrial trades.
Representatives of Auto Drivers’ trade unions and consumer organisations met the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa at the Secretariat on 3.9.2013 and thanked her for fixing auto fares acceptable to all the sections involved.

Those who met the Hon’ble Chief Minister included Secretary, North Chennai Anna Auto Drivers’ Union, Secretary, South Chennai Anna Auto Drivers’ Union, State General Secretary, State President, State Deputy Secretary, Tamil Nadu AITUC Auto Workers’ Federation, Deputy General Secretary Madras Metro Auto Drivers’ Association, State General Secretary and State Working President of INTUC Auto Workers Union, President, General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary, CITU Auto Workers Union, President, and Treasurer, Goodwill Auto Workers Union, General Secretary, Pattabi Auto Drivers’ Unions, Founder President, Auto Drivers Passengers Goodwill Association, General Secretary, Dr. Ambedkar Auto Drivers Union, General Secretary, Workers’ Liberation Front Auto Drivers Union, General Secretary, North Chennai Auto Drivers Security and Welfare Association, and on behalf of consumers, ‘CHANGE’, Consumer Association of Indian, Pattabiram Tiruvallur Consumer Protection Organisation, and Tamil Nadu Consumer Protection Organisation and other representatives of consumers.

They conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Hon’ble Chief Minister for fulfilling their long pending request in a manner acceptable to all sections of the people. Representives of the Auto Drivers’ Unions specially thanked the Hon’ble Chief Minister saying that this was the first occasion in the whole of India where a Chief Minister had met representatives of Auto Drivers’ Unions.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa administered Harmony day pledge at the Secretariat on 20.8.2013 in commemoration of the birth anniversary of late Prime Minister Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi.

Hon’ble Ministers, the Worshipful Mayor of Chennai, the MLA for Chennai port and members of the public paid floral tributes to the portrait of Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O. Chidambaranar kept near his statue on his birth anniversary (5.9.2013). The Chairman of the Chennai Port Trust, the Director of Information and Public Relations and other officials also participated.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed the setting up of a Tribal Cultures Resource Centre in Nilgiris District for safeguarding the interests of tribal communities and for organising their cultural events. She has allotted Rs. 10.12 crore for the purpose.

The Centre will organise the art and cultural events of the hill tribes of Nilgiris district under one roof. It will have a modern auditorium, an exhibition hall, a museum and permanent sales stalls.

Located near the Botanical Gardens in Uthagamandalam on a 51,881 sq.ft area with 2 floors and with various facilities, the Centre will have a seating capacity of 984.

The Centre is being set up as a Government-sponsored body to improve the livelihood of tribals, safeguard their culture and make the greatness of their traditions known to tourists who visit the hills.

**HANDLOOM WEAVERS TO GET MOTORISED PIRN WINDERS**

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has sanctioned Rs. 3.75 crore for distribution of motorised pirn winders to handloom weavers.

About 25,000 handloom weavers in the co-operative fold will benefit by this measure.

Preparing warp, starching, dyeing, running the warp and pirn winding for the weft operation are pre-weaving tasks. At present, pirn winding is done manually. Not only is this time-consuming but the uneven winding affects the quality of the weave itself.

Use of motorised pirn winding will remove these defects and will pave the way for quality and increased production of cloth.
Taking the welfare programmes being implemented by Hon’ble Chief Minister Amma to the people through the media is the foremost duty of Information and Public Relations Officers, Thiru. K.T. Rajenthirabhalaji, Hon’ble Minister for Information and Special Programmes Implementation said at the Secretariat on 26.8.2013.

Presiding over the work review meeting of Information and Public Relations Officers of all districts, the Minister said a golden era had dawned in Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Hon’ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. The Information Department’s work of taking information about Government programmes to the people was a great one. Amma’s Government had stepped into its third year of rule in Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi’s third term of office. It had implemented countless programmes that benefited the poor, marginalised, differently abled and all other sections of people. “Our work should be to make Amma’s programmes of achievements into historic ones”. All the programmes brought by Amma had received the acclaim of the people. Ensuring that the people were informed about them through the print and other media was the important task of the officers of the information department.

Information and Public Relations Officers should develop good rapport with journalists. This would enable Government news reach the people. Information and Public Relations Officers should show enthusiasm to get more Government news published in newspapers. Amma’s Rule was the rule of the poor and downtrodden. It had won all round praise. People should be informed correctly and quickly about the laudable role of the government and about its achievements.

Officers should arrange for the telecast of the news about the day-to-day developments in Government departments and their working in the local cable TV channels in all districts. Memorials were being erected across the state for national leaders, tyagis, and other leaders including Tamil savants. Visitors to these memorials should get the needed
Boy students from the BC, MBC, Notified and Minority Communities who have taken Tamil as a language of study and who have scored more than 1,167 marks in the 12th standard public examination held in March 2013 are requested to get in touch with the District Backward and Minorities Welfare Officer in the Collectorate of the District where they have studied plus 2 courses with copies of their Mark Sheet, Community Certificate and the Bonafide Certificate from their present colleges, for claiming award money. Girl students from the above communities who have scored more than 1,170 marks are also requested to contact the said officer with copies of the above-mentioned certificates.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has launched and implemented a scheme from 2012-2013 of presenting Rs. 3,000/- every year to students from these communities who have captured the first 500 places (boys and girls separately) in the 12th standard Government public examination at the State level. They will be paid the money till they complete their polytechnic/college course.

The various new schemes that were implemented by Hon’ble Chief Minister Amma were recorded on discs and dispatched to the districts then and there. The I & PR officers should arrange for their telecast at least twice a day in the local cable TV channels, he said.

The I&PR Officers should check whether Government news reels were shown in cinema theatres. The work of I & PR Officers was not like those of other departments. Their hard work would strengthen the goodwill of the people for the Government. The I & PR Officers should work with sincerity and a sense of duty.

I & PR Officers were doing good work and deserved appreciation. But however well one worked, there was no limit to efficiency. ‘‘To the extent we pay greater attention and put in constructive work, the Government’s programmes will reach the people.,’’ the Minister said, and thanked all the officers who participated in the meeting.

Earlier Thiru. J. Kumaragurubaran Director, I & PR department gave the welcome address. Thiru. S.P. Ezhilazhagan, Joint Director (Information) proposed a vote of thanks.

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The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has allotted Rs. 29.50 crore for strengthening and modernising the police force.

Of this amount, Rs. 4.93 crore will be spent for providing communication facilities for police stations, Rs. 18.78 crore for purchase of vehicles, Rs. 3.84 crore for modern equipment and Rs. 1.95 crores for modern weapons.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister also allotted Rs. 1.68 crore for setting up repeater stations in Tiruvadanai and Kamudhi in the sensitive Ramanathapuram District, for improving police communications.

At present, a prime repeater station is functioning for the prime VHF centre at Aranganal. Three more part repeat stations are functioning and they have been connected with the prime station at Aranganal for frequency integration. But these stations are unable to provide excellent service to the cell phones and handsets operated in Kamudhi and Tiruvadanai sub-revenue divisions. Hence the allocation.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister has given administrative and financial sanction for Rs. 21.36 crore for locating 30 more marine police station along the 1,076 km long Tamil Nadu coast and for strengthening the coastal security force with the purchase of 30 four-wheelers, 60 two-wheelers and equipment for these stations. At present, there are only 12 marine police station.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister has also sanctioned Rs. 1.34 crore for construction of a new building to house the police hospital at Vellore. The hospital is now functioning from a property owned by the Indian Archeology department. The new building will come up on a plot of 6,662 sq.ft.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has ordered the replacement of the old bridge between Sankari Durg and Erode railway station with a new overbridge at a cost of Rs. 40.16 crore.

As the Railways expressed its inability to release funds for the bridge, the Hon’ble Chief Minister directed the release of the amount from the State’s funds.

The existing bridge links 3 districts – Salem, Namakkal and Erode through Tiruchengode and Pallipalayam. As the number of industries and schools near the bridge is increasing by the day, it has become necessary to construct a new overbridge.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister has also given administrative sanction for Rs. 36 crore for constructing a flyover and a bridge across Vennar river for reducing traffic congestion in Thanjavur town. The flyover will come up between Thanjavur town and Alakudi railway stations at a cost of Rs. 29 crore. The bridge across the Vennar is to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 7 crore and will form part of the second phase of work of laying the Thanjavur by-pass road.

As per this scheme, deep borewells to a depth of 400 ft will be sunk in the tiger sanctuaries at Anaimalai, Mudumalai, Kalakkadu Mundanthurai and Sathiyamangalam at a cost of Rs. 44 lakh. Solar powered submersible pumps will be fixed to each of these borewells and water will be pumped to overhead tanks. The stored water will be utilised as and when necessary and will also be taken to open air water pits through several pipes to facilitate water availability to wildlife in their own habitats.

Twenty-six more such deep borewells but without overhead tanks will be sunk in the above four sanctuaries and in the forest areas of Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Coimbatore and Vellore Districts at a cost of Rs. 2.37 crore.

Through these steps of the Government, the trespassing of wildlife into human habitats in search of water during the summer will be averted to a large extent.
I would like to draw your immediate attention to the plight of 34 fishermen belonging to Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu who were ruthlessly apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in various incidents while fishing in the high seas in pursuit of their daily livelihood and are suffering prolonged incarceration in Sri Lankan jails.

I have repeatedly written to you about the incidents of Tamil Nadu fishermen who take to the high seas in search of their livelihood and fish in their traditional fishing waters around Katchatheevu being subjected to unprovoked brutal assaults, grievous hurt, abduction and detention at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy. You may recall that in my letter dated 17.6.2013, I had brought to your notice that 8 fishermen belonging to Rameswaram, along with their 2 mechanized fishing boats, were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 15.6.2013, when they were fishing in the seas around Katchatheevu and produced in Mannar Court, Sri Lanka. They were remanded to judicial custody and lodged in Anuradhapura jail till 27.6.2013. Their remand was further extended up to 25.7.2013 and they were shifted to Vavunia prison. Now we have been informed that their remand has further been extended up to 6.8.2013.

Another batch of 21 fishermen of Rameswaram along with 5 mechanized fishing boats were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 6.7.2013 and produced in the Mannar Court, Sri Lanka. They were lodged in Anuradhapura jail till 19.7.2013. I had written to you regarding this incident on 8.7.2013. We are now informed that their remand has been further extended up to 2.8.2013. Their boats with implements are under the custody of the Sri Lankan Navy.

You are also aware that in my D.O. letters dated 4.7.2012 and 17.6.2013, I had brought to your notice the arrest and detention of 5 innocent fishermen from Rameswaram who
are languishing in Sri Lankan jails for more than 20 months due to a fabricated case.

I am sorry to note that, despite my repeatedly writing to you with regard to these incidents of unprovoked assault on Tamil Nadu fishermen and their detention in Sri Lankan jails, there appears to be no concerted effort by the Government of India to secure the release of these fishermen. You will appreciate that these fishermen belong to one of the poorest sections of Society for whom prolonged periods of custody in an alien land means loss of their daily livelihood. It has a crushing impact on their families who are in agony over their prolonged absence and detention. The entire fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is agitated over this issue. There appears to be no action by the Government of India to secure their release.

May I request you to direct the Ministry of External Affairs to immediately take up this matter through the highest diplomatic channels and take concerted steps to secure the immediate release of our fishermen? I seek your personal intervention in this matter.”

\[Do you know\]

Free toll-free telephone facility for farmers:

The Tamil Nadu Government has provided toll-free telephone facility for farmers to enable them to know technical details relating to farming. The farmers can get details about seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides and other necessary inputs by contacting this number. The toll-free number is 1800-425-1501. This facility is available from 10 am to 6 pm on all working days. Farmers are advised to make use of this facility.

Under the Chief Minister’s golden scheme of patta transfer, solution has been found for 29 lakh 39 thousand and 305 petitions.

Three lakh 80 thousand 890 house site patta have been distributed to the poor and marginal people after the Hon’ble Chief Minister took charge, which is a historic achievement.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister has issued orders for opening a Scientific Sports Centre under the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University at a cost of Rs.2.20 crore. The Centre will have technical facilities that will provide scientific training to sports persons. The sanctioned amount will be utilized for purchase of sports gadgets and also to appoint competent persons in the centre.
“The Union Government has unilaterally and hastily promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance, 2013. Though the Ordinance claims to provide Food Security to all, unfortunately, contrary to such a claim, there are several flaws in the Ordinance which have created serious apprehensions and actually raise the spectre of food insecurity for a State like Tamil Nadu. Many of these lacunae were already pointed out in my letter to you dated 20.12.2011 and have been reiterated by my Ministers and Officers in several meetings. Very disappointingly, and as has become the Central Government’s wont, none of these serious concerns have been addressed in the hurriedly promulgated Ordinance.

Tamil Nadu has been successfully implementing a Universal Public Distribution System for the last several decades, which has won accolades from several domestic and international observers including the Supreme Court of India. Through this system, the State has been able to address the issue of food
security for all without exception. Historically, the system has been built on a combination of procurement of rice within the State and a reliance on assured allocations from the Central Pool of food grains. To preserve this hard earned food security, it is essential to ensure that the present level of allocation of food grains from the Central Pool is retained without any diminution. Therefore, we had repeatedly requested that a proviso be inserted in the relevant clause of the Food Security Bill to protect the existing level of allocation of food grains for Tamil Nadu. I am deeply dismayed to find that the Ordinance as promulgated contains no such proviso.

Section 3(2) of the Ordinance envisages that nationwide, 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population are to be covered as households eligible for allocation of subsidized food grains. This is a totally arbitrary allocation principle with no rational basis. When the edifice of food security in a State is based on a much applauded Universal PDS, clumsy attempts at targeting and arbitrary cut off points of this nature will severely compromise food security and cause great hardship to the people.

I just cannot comprehend how a lower level of allocation in urban areas can be justified. There is no food production in urban areas to supplement household consumption. In such a situation, the urban coverage should be 100 per cent or at least 75 per cent on par with rural areas. It should not be forgotten that the Public Distribution System was originally put in place to ensure affordable supply of food primarily in urban areas. Tamil Nadu with an urban population of 49 per cent has the highest level of urbanization amongst major States in the country and is going to be particularly hard hit by this ill-conceived and invidious discrimination against urban areas in the Ordinance.

What is even more galling is that Tamil Nadu is not likely to receive even the nationwide average allocation based on the population proportion. The Joint Secretary to GOI, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution, in a letter dated 26th July, 2013, to all State Governments has indicated a State-wise break-up of the allocation and I was shocked to find that there is a further drastic reduction in eligible population in Tamil Nadu. Only 62.55%
of the rural population and 37.79% of the urban population would be covered in Tamil Nadu. Arbitrarily chosen metrics have been applied to the data collected in the Large Scale Sample Survey of monthly Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization in 2011-2012. Such a desk exercise based on a convoluted methodology completely ignores ground realities and pre-existing historical circumstances. The overall status of food production in the State, quantity retained by households for own consumption, the net surplus available for the market, and current reliance on the PDS are all crucial and relevant factors for food security which have been totally ignored in determining the State-wise allocation. The arbitrary allocation made is a huge penalty slapped on the better performing States which have provided greater Food Security to their entire population.

It is estimated that, as a consequence of the Ordinance, the monthly allocation of food grains for Tamil Nadu will decline by nearly 1 lakh tonnes from the present level of 2.96 lakh tonnes. Preserving the Universal Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu will then cost the State exchequer a net additional Rs.3000 crores per annum. An even graver concern is the uncertainty of availability, which would expose the State to higher vulnerability of physical shortage, especially during scarcity periods.

This will be compounded by the fact that Schedule-I of the Ordinance assures even the limited allocation of subsidized food grains only for a period of 3 years from the commencement of the Ordinance. There is no clear-cut indication on how the Union Government will maintain the level of subsidy on the supply of food grains to the States thereafter. This will only increase the uncertainty in ensuring food security over the long run and expose the State’s finances to an even greater risk.

Further, Section 8 of the Ordinance requires State Governments to pay a food security allowance when food grains cannot be supplied. In the case of Tamil Nadu, such a situation will arise only when the Central Government fails to allocate and ensure supply of adequate food grains. This provision does not answer the fundamental question of making adequate food grains available. The provisions contained in Section 23 are also inadequate to meet such a contingency. Hence, I suggest that Section 23 should be amended to make it incumbent on the Government of India to take all necessary measures, including import of food grains when warranted, to ensure continued supply of food grains and not leave the States to fend for themselves after providing limited financial assistance.
The State Governments are also obliged under the first proviso to Section 10(1) to prescribe guidelines and complete identification of the eligible households within 180 days of the commencement of the Ordinance. As you are aware, the Central Government has taken up the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) in 2011 which should form the data base for an identification of households. This census process has not been completed and the data is yet to be shared with the State Governments in a final, usable form. It is learnt that the Government of India is yet to prescribe guidelines on the manner in which BPL families and eligible families are to be identified based on the SECC database. In these circumstances, the requirement of finishing the identification of eligible households in six months time is unrealistic and is bound to create many administrative difficulties, exposing the State Governments to needless criticism. Hence the first proviso to Section 10(1) may be deleted from the Ordinance.

Under these circumstances, I would scarcely be exaggerating if I stated that for Tamil Nadu, this Ordinance is actually a Food Insecurity Ordinance. I have strong reasons to suspect that the Central Government is deliberately trying to create a Food Security crisis for Tamil Nadu, on the one hand by adopting arbitrary principles and formulae for allocation of food grains in the guise of the Food Security Ordinance, and on the other hand by acting against the interests of the State in receiving its due share of water in the River Cauvery which is crucial for paddy cultivation in the Cauvery delta.

Therefore, I strongly urge you that the design of food security for the Country needs to be reconsidered and the Ordinance in its present form must be replaced with a Bill which reflects our concerns adequately. The Government of India is duty bound to protect the food security of States like Tamil Nadu. Respecting federal and democratic principles, any such Bill should be passed only after a detailed consultation with the States on the whole gamut of issues and after addressing specific concerns of different States and after adequate discussion in Parliament.

To this end, I strongly urge that the following amendments must be made...
in the Bill that is proposed to replace the Ordinance in Parliament:

1) There must be a foolproof and firm guarantee in the legislation through an appropriate clause in Chapter VIII of the Ordinance: “Obligations of Central Government for Food Security”, to ensure continued adequate level of allocation of food grains to States that are already implementing a Public Distribution System that delivers a higher level of coverage at the time of the commencement of the new legislation. This provision should ensure that the present total allocation of food grains to the State under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, BPL and APL categories is not reduced.

2) The proportion of the urban population eligible under Section 3(2) must be increased from 50 per cent to cover the entire urban population.

3) The supply of food grains by the Central Government at the rate currently proposed in Schedule-I should be guaranteed, and not restricted for a period of only three years.

4) The difference between the State’s current allocation of food grains, which is to be guaranteed by the proposed new legal provision, and the entitlement based on eligible families under Section 3(2) as proposed to be amended, should continue to be supplied at the differential price now applicable for APL allotment.

5) Section 8, Section 10 and Section 23 should also be amended appropriately as already indicated in earlier paragraphs.

Hence I strongly urge you to ensure that the concerns of Tamil Nadu are addressed through the inclusion of the appropriate amendments in the Bill that the Government of India intends to place before Parliament to replace the Food Security Ordinance.”

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Under the Hon’ble Chief Minister’s scheme of issuing residential, community and salary certificates to students in their respective educational institutions, 14,63,780 students have been given the necessary certificates so far.
D.O. letter dated 3.8.2013 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India

“Yeou had come to Tiruchirappalli on 2nd August, 2013, en route to Thirumayam in Pudukkottai District, Tamil Nadu, for the inauguration of the BHEL Power Plant Piping Unit & BHEL High Pressure Boiler Plant (Unit II - Tiruchirappalli). I had deputed the Hon’ble Minister for Finance, Hon’ble Minister for Transport and Hon’ble Minister for Khadi and Village Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu, the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, apart from the District Collector Tiruchirappalli, to receive you on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

I have been informed that, at the Tiruchirappalli Airport, when the Director General of Police of Tamil Nadu was walking towards the ladder point of the aircraft to receive you along with the Hon’ble Ministers from Tamil Nadu, the Chief Secretary and Collector Tiruchirappalli, he was rudely accosted and prevented from approaching the aircraft by a lower level officer of the Special Protection Group, who was part of the security team on duty. This incident occurred despite the fact that the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, was in uniform. I am also informed that a detailed list of those who would receive the Prime Minister at ladder point including the Director General of Police had been sent and was duly confirmed by the Prime Minister’s Office on 1st August, 2013.

That such an outrageous incident involving the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, who was part of the confirmed list of persons for the reception and send off line up approved by the Prime Minister’s Office shows up the officers of the SPG in very poor light. It is most astonishing that the SPG could not recognize the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, the topmost ranking Police Officer in the State, even while he was in uniform. It would also be pertinent to point out that it was the very same Director General of Police who was responsible for the elaborate security arrangements to ensure a peaceful, trouble free atmosphere during your visit to Tamil Nadu.

I am constrained to bring this incident to your notice so that you could have the matter enquired into and take appropriate action against those responsible. I also suggest that a suitable regimen be put in place so that such lapses in protocol do not recur in future.”
I wish to draw your immediate attention to three major incidents involving attack, apprehension and illegal detention of Indian fishermen on the high seas by the Sri Lankan Navy that occurred on 30th and 31st July, 2013. I have been informed that on 30th July, 5 fishermen belonging to Perumalpettai fishing village of Nagapattinam District were brutally attacked on the high seas with pipes, sickles and other deadly weapons by Sri Lankan fishermen. All the 5 fishermen have been admitted to the Government District Headquarters Hospital, Nagapattinam.

Similarly, 20 fishermen in 3 mechanised fishing boats belonging to Nagapattinam District have been abducted and illegally detained by the Sri Lankan Navy near Point Pedro on 30.7.2013. Again, on 31st July, 2013, 16 fishermen in 2 boats belonging to Nagapattinam District were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy near Mullaitheevu.

I am pained to note that such incidents of unlawful abduction and arrest of fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy go on unabated and are occurring with alarming frequency. It is clear that the Sri Lankan Navy is acting with impunity and carrying out unprovoked and illegal acts of abduction and detention of innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu because of the total lack of response from the Government of India. It is disappointing that the Government of India has failed to take any concerted steps to convey to the Government of Sri Lanka, through the highest diplomatic channels, our strong protest and sense of outrage at these continuing incidents.
of attack and illegal abduction of fishermen of Tamil Nadu on the high seas by the Sri Lankan Navy.

I have repeatedly pointed out to you in my previous letters the urgent need to take up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka at the highest levels. I also wish to point out that the Ministry of External Affairs has not taken any steps to lodge a strong protest with the Government of Sri Lanka about these unprovoked instances of illegal detention of fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy. I consider that the least that the Government of India can do is to summon the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and convey India’s strong protest against and deep sense of disapproval over these unprovoked assaults upon and arrests of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy continuing unchecked.

Unless the Government of India takes positive and concrete steps to secure the release of these fishermen, the deep sense of frustration amongst the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is bound to escalate. I once again exhort you to take immediate action to secure the release of all the fishermen from Tamil Nadu who are in Sri Lankan custody and arrange for their immediate repatriation.

May I request your immediate intervention in the matter?’

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa presided over a consultative meeting on Police Department reforms at the Secretariat on 6.9.2013. Hon’ble Ministers for Finance, Electricity, Municipal Administration, Housing, Chief Secretary to Government, Advocate General, Home Department Principal Secretary, Director General of Police, Law Department Secretary and other high officials participated.
You may recall that I had written to you on 2nd August, 2013, giving certain suggestions for amendments to be included in the National Food Security Bill to be introduced in Parliament to replace the hastily promulgated National Food Security Ordinance, 2013. I note that the Government of India has accepted some of the suggestions made by me and introduced a few amendments in the Bill.

Most importantly, in response to my request that there must be a foolproof and firm guarantee in the legislation to ensure that the present total allocation of food grains to the State under the Public Distribution System is not reduced, a proviso has been added in Clause 3 of the Bill protecting the existing level of allocation and offtake of food grains under the Public Distribution System. The total quantity that each State is eligible for has been specified in the newly introduced Schedule IV. However, the newly introduced proviso leaves the fixation of the issue price to the discretion of the Central Government. In the event that the issue price is fixed at the economic cost of rice, this would place an additional huge financial burden of around Rs.1000 crores on the Government of Tamil Nadu. Given the fiscal impact on the States and the sensitivity of the issue in States like Tamil Nadu, I strongly urge you to provide a legally binding assurance that the difference in quantity between what has been assured through the newly introduced second proviso to Clause 3(1) and what is eligible under Clause 3(1) read with Clause 3(2) will be supplied to the States at the price of Rs 3 per kilogramme or at least at the current price applicable for Above Poverty Line families of Rs 8.30 per kilogramme. Lack of a clear assurance on this aspect is a lacuna which has to be set right through a further amendment to the second proviso to Clause 3(1) or to Schedule IV indicating clearly the issue price for the additional allocation.

I find that my suggestion to amend Clause 3(2) to cover the entire urban population as households eligible for allocation of subsidized food grains has not yet been accepted. I reiterate my earlier request to increase the urban coverage to 100 per cent or at least 75 per cent of the population on par with rural areas.
I had also suggested that Schedule I of the Ordinance, which assures even the limited allocation of subsidized food grains only for a period of 3 years from the commencement of the Ordinance, should be amended to guarantee a much longer term for an assured level of subsidy from the Government of India. This suggestion has not been accepted. I request you to kindly have this issue reconsidered and provide the guaranteed subsidy for a period of at least 10 years.

I had suggested that Section 23 should be amended to make it incumbent on the Government of India to implement all necessary measures, including import of food grains when warranted, to ensure continued supply of food grains and not leave the States to fend for themselves after providing limited financial assistance. A provision to obligate the Central Government to import food in times of scarcity is very crucial to make this legislation truly a Food Security Act.

The State Governments are also obliged under the first proviso to Section 10(1) to prescribe guidelines and complete identification of the eligible households within 180 days of the commencement of the Ordinance. This has been extended to 365 days. As the identification of eligible households by the State is contingent on the completion of the National Population Register and Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC), I am not sure whether even one year’s time is a realistic time frame. This issue also may need to be revisited.

Further, in Clause 12(2)(h), there is a provision for the Central Government to introduce cash transfer and food coupon schemes in such area and such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government. This provision needs to be amended with a clear indication that no such scheme may be introduced without the concurrence of the State Government.

While some of the key issues have been addressed in the first set of amendments proposed, there are still some outstanding issues which would require to be addressed before the present National Food Security Bill truly assures food security to the Nation and in particular to Tamil Nadu. Hence, I request you to kindly consider the remaining suggestions for amendments and ensure that our concerns are adequately addressed before the Bill is passed.”

Grant to heirs of pensioners hiked

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has issued orders enhancing the financial assistance to the heirs of Government pensioners to Rs. 35,000/- from Rs. 25,000/- at the time of the pensioners’ death none the financial assistance to the families at the time of death of pensioners has been increased to Rs. 50,000/- from Rs. 35,000/-
Though the Central Government has not moved any amendment in respect of rice price, and has put the onus on the states for the purchase of foodgrains during times of deficit, though nothing has been done about ‘money transfer’ and ‘food coupons’ clauses that could be enforced without the consent of the states, though no changes have been brought to Section 37 that confers powers on the Centre to change the quantum of rice supplied to states and its price through a notification and without the approval of Parliament, the DMK has voted for the National Food Security Bill and performed a great betrayal of the people of Tamil Nadu. By way of replying to my statement in this regard, Thiru Karunanidhi has issued a statement with the heading ‘Food security Act– Gain or loss?’. This reminds me of the Tamil proverb about the fish that tries to slip away while being washed (Kazhuvara meenil nazhuvara meen).

In his statement, the DMK president Thiru Karunanidhi has said that 2,37,900 tons of rice will be made available to Tamil Nadu every month at a price of Rs. 3 per kg, that is 28.54 lakh tons per year as per the new Food Security Act. This is totally contrary to facts. Thiru Karunanidhi has got himself confused by calculating the number of families under the ‘Anthyodaya Anna Yojana’ scheme as number of persons. The Central Food Minister Thiru K.V. Thomas has stated while replying to the debate in Parliament that only 24 lakh tons of rice will be allotted to Tamil Nadu for supply to the targeted families.

On my insistence that the quantum of monthly supply of rice for the Public Distribution System for Tamil Nadu should not be reduced, the Central Government fixed the quantum at 36.78 lakh tons per year on a 3 year average basis and passed the Bill by including an amendment in the 4th schedule. However, only eligible families can draw the rice at a price of Rs. 3 per kg.

In his statement Thiru Karunanidhi has further stated that “the only reason that Jayalalithaa advances for opposing the Food Security Bill is that rice for the Above Poverty Line should be allotted at Rs. 8.30 per kilo’’ and has cited as proof for acceptance of this
request, the letter of the Central Food Minister Thiru K.V.Thomas to Thiru T.R.Balu. This statement of Thiru Karunanidhi is ridiculous. No one can accept such an assurance, without an amendment to the Bill, as proof that the Central Government will supply rice at a price of Rs. 8.30 per kg to the remaining eligible people.

When Dr.M.Thambidurai, Leader of the AIADMK Parliamentary Party raised this issue in the Lok Sabha, the Central Food Minister Thiru K.V.Thomas replied: “The amendment to this effect has been given and it will come at the time of passage of the Bill.” But no amendment regarding price was moved. Dr.V.Maithreyan, AIADMK leader in the Rajya Sabha raised the matter in the House, Thiru Thomas gave a wishy washy reply, “The Central Cabinet Committee has given its consent; what more guarantee is needed?”

Does not Thiru Karunanidhi, who has been the Chief Minister five times know that the Central Government can alter as per its wishes anything that does not form part of the Act and that it cannot change without Parliament’s approval anything that forms part of the Act? But concealing this fact deliberately and with a view to diverting the attention of the people, Thiru Karunanidhi says that the Central Government’s order to issue 6.97 lakh tons of rice at Rs. 8.30 a kg is quite acceptable.

In this context, I consider it appropriate to point out Thiru Karunanidhi’s view about the power of a statute. Speaking at a Government function at Chepauk on 15/07/2006, Thiru Karunanidhi announced “… in the coming Legislative Assembly session I shall strive to enact a law - I will, for sure - to declare Kamaraj’s birth anniversary as Education Development Day and to observe it in all schools as a felicitation and thanksgiving day by garlanding his portrait”. He went on to describe the difference between a law and an order, saying that the former is powerful, cannot be altered and is not easy to change. After speaking about the force of a law in this fashion in 2006, he has now taken the oral order of the Central Food Minister as gospel truth and has justified the DMK’s support to the Bill saying that the Central Government has agreed to allot rice at Rs 8.30 per kilo. This is sheer chicanery and is meant to fool the people of Tamil Nadu.

Thiru Karunanidhi further stated at the Government function on 15-7-2006 that even after being made a law, it can be changed. But to change it, it has to come back to the legislature. The man who once spoke in this vein, has now supported this Bill, which has conferred powers on the Centre to amend all the schedules annexed with the National Food Security Bill without getting the approval of Parliament. His attempt to justify his action is the height of deceit.

As for the Central Congress coalition Government, it has no intention to continue the supply of rice at Rs. 8.30 as has been done till now. It feels the allocation at this price can be continued for some months as an eyewash and the price structure can be changed later. During the debate in the Rajya Sabha, Dr.V.Maitreyan posed the question, “What about the price?” The Food Minister Thiru K.V.Thomas replied: “….It is a Cabinet decision. Do you want much more that that?"
I have got the document with me. We have not included it because APL is always linked to MSP.” From this reply, the pulse of the Central Government, its thinking can be gauged.

The DMK has voted in favour of the Bill that has not guaranteed the price of rice and is against the interests of Tamil Nadu. By this act, Thiru Karunanidhi has committed the greatest betrayal of Tamils.

Under the Public Distribution System, the Tamil Nadu Government is supplying 3.2 lakh tons of rice every month. The annual offtake is 38.40 lakh tones. Though the Central Government allots 36.78 tones of rice, the balance of 1.62 lakh tons has to be procured from the open market. Hence the financial burden on Tamil Nadu is not going to come down even if the Central Government allots rice at Rs. 3 per kg for eligible persons and at Rs. 8.30 per kg for others.

The Central Government, which was allotting 59,780 kilolitres of kerosene till March 2010 had reduced the allotment gradually and at present the supply is just 29,060 kilolitres. Likewise, if there is no statutory guarantee, the Central Government will not only reduce the quantum of supply of rice but will also increase the price of rice. This will end up in the State Government getting the rice at the procurement price. By supporting such a Bill, Thiru Karunanidhi has committed the greatest betrayal.

Thiru Karunanidhi has stated that it was the DMK Government that has given life to the word ‘State autonomy’. After supporting this Bill (Food Security Bill) which has clauses that can usurp the rights of the states and after surrendering the State’s rights in several issues including Cauvery and Katchchathivu his assertion is ridiculous, laughable and deserves to be looked upon with disdain.

Lastly, Thiru Karunanidhi has asked in his statement that if the AIADMK did not endorse the Bill it could have staged a walk-out saying it is not in agreement with the Bill, when it was voted to a voice vote, why did it not do so? The AIADMK stand was to support the Bill if it incorporated all the amendments, and to oppose it if that was not done. So when the Bill was put to voice vote, the AIADMK opposed it with a “No”.

In ‘Murasoli’ dated 26-8-2013, Thiru Karunanidhi had announced that “the DMK is not agreeable to the Centre alone fixing the price for the 14.90 lakh tons of rice”. However, when the Centre has not moved any amendment in this connection, he has made the DMK members vote for this anti-Tamil Nadu Bill. The perceptive people of Tamil Nadu will easily see through his double game and understand that he is supporting the Food Security Bill for selfish reasons.

Unless the Central Government incorporates all the amendments I have mentioned in my letter to the Prime Minister, the National Food Security Bill will be one that harms the interests of Tamil Nadu.

Hence I would like to point out to Thiru Karunanidhi that the people of Tamil Nadu will consider who is playing a game of duplicity and who is supporting for selfish gain this National Food Security Bill that is against Tamil Nadu’s interests and inflicts loss on the State. The time is not far off when the people will give such persons a fitting reply.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has directed the promotion of Pachamalai area in Tiruchi District and Muthupettai estuary in Tiruvarur District as attractive tourist spots.

The Pachamalai region is to be promoted at a cost of Rs. 2.30 crore and the Muthupettai estuary at a cost of Rs. 2.18 crore.

Pachamalai, with an area of 527.61 sq. kms is 160 to 1,072 metres above sea level and has 35 reserve forests on 19,075 hectares of land. The area sports 154 kinds of birds, and 135 kinds of butterflies. About 50 deer live here in 3 habitats. In the nearby Solaimathi reserve forest, the grey Indian squirrel is found. Besides, wild cats, polecats, hill lizards, peacocks, monkeys, bird-eating spiders and vipers are also found.

There are two waterfalls in this hill Periya pakkalam and Koraiyaru which get flooded during the rainy season. To climb the mountain, there are two paths, the Kanapadi-Kannimarsolai path and Kanapadi-Ramanathapuram path.

Some of the developmental works to be taken up here pertain to the two falls, the hill path, the traditional herbs farm, setting up of watch towers, environmental children’s park, tree-top houses at Sengattupatti area, construction of dormitory, additional rooms in the Sengattupatti forest rest house and renovation of the guest house built during the British era.

The mangrove forest in Muthupettai is the biggest in Tiruvarur District. It lies on an area of 11,885 hectares. Mangrove forests, rivulets, coastal backwaters and sand dunes dot the Muthupettai estuary. Migratory water birds swarm the area during the winter.

The grey pelican, pintail duck, greater flamingo, and painted stork are the important varieties among the migratory birds. The lagoon in Mullipaalam is the second biggest backwater lagoon in Tamil Nadu.
“I write to bring to your personal attention, a long pending issue relating to a nomadic tribal group found in Tamil Nadu, known as Narikoravan or Narikoravar or Kuruvikkaran or Kuruvikkarar community who have been representing to the Government for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been repeatedly writing to the Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, regarding the inclusion of “Narikoravan Grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community” in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu. I wish to draw your attention to the detailed letter No.22747/A/CV-1/2007-7, dated 16.7.2012 from the Government of Tamil Nadu wherein my Government had clearly explained the urgent need for inclusion of “Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community” in the Scheduled Tribes list of Tamil Nadu. In the said letter it has been clarified to the Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, regarding the spelling of the name of the community in the colloquial and formal forms in Tamil, and the use of the names Narikoravan, Narikuravan and Narikoravar interchangeably to represent the same community. It was also clarified that Kuruvikkaran is an additional colloquial name of the community in Tamil Nadu, used to refer to one of their transitional occupations of trapping birds,
especially sparrows, for which the Tamil word is “Kuruvi”.

The Government of Tamil Nadu had in this letter clearly pointed out that expert bodies, the Lokur Committee and the Joint Committee of Parliament had recommended the inclusion of Narikoravan, Kuruvikkaran in the Scheduled Tribes list of Tamil Nadu. The Registrar General of India, had also agreed to the proposal for inclusion of “Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community” in the Scheduled Tribes list on the lines of the recommendations of the expert bodies. The State Government had therefore urged the Government of India to take appropriate and urgent steps for inclusion of “Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community” in the Scheduled Tribes list of Tamil Nadu by amending the Constitution as envisaged under Article 342(1) and 342(2) of the Constitution of India.

Based on the recommendations of the State Government, Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, vide their letter F.No.12016/3/2011-C&LM-I, dated 30.4.2013 informed that the Registrar General of India and the National Commission of Scheduled Tribes, New Delhi, have also agreed to the proposal for inclusion of “Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran” in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu and the Ministry is in the process of preparing the draft cabinet note for inclusion of Narikoravan group with Kuruvikkaran in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu.

Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, in its letter dated F.No.12016/3/2011-C&LM-I, dated 29.7.2013, had also sought the name of ‘Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran’ in its Hindi version in order to enable the Ministry to finalise the draft note for the Union Cabinet for inclusion of ‘Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran’ in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu has furnished this information to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The Narikoravars constitute one of the most deprived and vulnerable communities in Tamil Nadu, who are nomadic and extremely poor and deserve all the Constitutional protection and welfare measures envisaged by inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Justice in the form of inclusion of the community in the list of Scheduled Tribes has eluded the Narikoravars for far too long. They urgently need to be provided all the Constitutional guarantees envisaged by Article 342 of the Constitution of India to enable them to lead a life of equality and dignity along with other citizens of India.

Based on the request made by my Government, as the note for the Union Cabinet for inclusion of ‘Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community’ in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu is now ready for discussion, I request you to kindly intervene personally in the matter and to take prompt action for the inclusion of “Narikoravan grouped with Kuruvikkaran Community” in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu in the requisite consolidated amendment, as envisaged under Article 342(1) and 342(2) of the Constitution of India and to ensure that the necessary legislation is moved in the current session of Parliament itself.”
“I had written to the then Prime Minister of India on 28th November, 1995, urging that Scheduled Caste persons professing Christianity should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes through an Act of Parliament, meeting the requirements of Articles 341(1) and 342(2) of the Constitution. The issue of inclusion of the Scheduled Caste Christians within the definition of the term Scheduled Castes has been the subject of repeated representations by Scheduled Caste Christian groups and protracted correspondence initiated by the Government of Tamil Nadu with the Government of India. The substantive grounds that I had listed in my first letter on this issue still hold good. In fact, they have been reiterated and endorsed by the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities appointed by the Government of India, headed by Justice Ranganath Misra.

Tamil Nadu is one of the most progressive States in the Country in the matter of implementing policies and schemes for the uplift and empowerment of the Scheduled Caste population, including Scheduled Caste Christians. Under my leadership, the Government of Tamil Nadu accords the topmost priority to the welfare of the Scheduled Castes. We have been implementing an integrated and comprehensive programme for Scheduled Castes, including the provision of house sites, housing, amenities, drinking water supply, link roads, street lights and hut electrification, which is one of the best in the Country. Scheduled Caste students, including Scheduled Caste Christian students are also accorded benefits like Scholarships, Fee Concessions, Special Incentives for Scheduled Caste Girl Students, Supply of Free Text Books and study material, Note Books, Uniforms, Footwear, Bi-cycles, and Laptop Computers. As a result of these comprehensive policy initiatives, we have ensured the steady flow of benefits and opportunities for the development and growth of the Scheduled Castes in the State.

However, as a result of the restrictive nature of the definition of the term “Scheduled Castes” found in para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, as amended from time to time, the various welfare measures and policies designed for the Scheduled Castes have largely benefited only those amongst the Scheduled Castes who profess Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. A sizeable population of Scheduled Castes who profess Christianity has been excluded and remains outside the purview of all the Centrally

SC status sought for Christians
D.O. letter dated 9.8.2013 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India
assisted welfare and ameliorative measures and most importantly is excluded from the benefit of reservation in educational institutions and employment in public services for the Scheduled Castes.

Since my Government is committed to a policy of affirmative action in favor of the Scheduled Castes, irrespective of creed or religion, we have done our utmost to implement schemes that will benefit Scheduled Castes converted to Christianity on par with other Scheduled Castes. The cornerstone of Indian democracy is secularism, which rests on the three pillars of equality, social justice and equity for all its citizens, without discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, sex or religion. The position of Scheduled Caste persons belonging to the minority religions is very similar to Scheduled Caste persons professing Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism. Yet, they are being unfairly kept out of the purview of the constitutional scheme of protection and reservation envisaged by the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

The National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities headed by Justice Ranganath Misra concluded that, on a careful examination of prevalence of the caste system among various sections of the Indian citizenry, caste is in fact a social phenomenon shared by almost all Indian communities irrespective of their religious persuasions. Many of the particular castes are found simultaneously in various religious communities, equally facing problems of social degradation and mistreatment both by their co-religionists and the others. The Commission further found that the Constitution of India prohibits any discrimination between citizens on the basis of caste, and yet it sanctions special affirmative measures for Scheduled Castes. At the same time the Constitution prohibits any discrimination on the ground of religion. The Commission concluded that any religion-based discrimination in selecting particular castes for affirmative action will conflict with the letter and spirit of the Constitutional provisions.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, issued by the President of India derives its sanction under Article 341 of the Constitution. The term “Scheduled Castes” has been defined in Article 366 (24) read with Article 341(1) as:

“Scheduled Castes means such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purposes of this Constitution”. It is apparent that the Constitution of India does not confine the category of Scheduled Castes to any select religion. By extending the benefits of positive affirmation to a certain category of persons and then to proceed to confine the benefits under the Constitution Order, 1950, to citizens professing only specified religions like Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism and excluding from its purview citizens professing other religions, is not only ultra vires Article 341 but also militates against the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution to liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship to all its citizens.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, is not carved in stone. In the context of the changing nature of the socio economic structure of Indian Society since 1947, the Order can and must be amended so as to be in tune with the socio economic realities of modern day India. Continuing
to keep the benefits of reservation in education and public services out of the reach of Scheduled Caste Christians because of the restrictive definition of Scheduled Caste found in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, is an ongoing injustice which must be ended forthwith.

The social tensions over the status of unbalanced growth between the Hindu Scheduled Castes and the Christian converts have only aggravated over time and the sense of alienation amongst the minority communities has further deepened. Therefore, I wish to emphasize that the matter cannot brook any further delay. I, therefore, request that Scheduled Caste Christians be treated on par with Hindus, Sikhs or Buddhists, and should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes annexed to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. To enable this, as recommended by the Ranganath Misra Commission, para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, must be deleted. Early disposal of the pending Writ Petitions in the Supreme Court filed by or on behalf of Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity challenging the validity of para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order should also be ensured by the Government of India by filing its counter affidavit supporting the request of Scheduled Caste Christians.

Prompt action should now be taken by the Government of India to initiate the necessary statutory steps to include all Scheduled Castes irrespective of religion within the ambit of the status of Scheduled Castes listed in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, and bring in necessary legislation in the current session of Parliament.”
I would like to bring to your notice yet another incident which occurred on 26th August, 2013, in which Indian fishermen belonging to the Pamban area in Ramanathapuram District have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. 35 poor, innocent fishermen set out for fishing from the Pamban (South) fishing base on 25.8.2013 in 4 mechanised fishing boats bearing registration numbers IND/TN/10/MM/892, IND/TN/10/MM/174, IND/TN/10/MM/975 and IND/TN/09/MM/230. It is reported that they have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken to Kalpitiya Police Station for further action.

I had already brought to your notice that 36 fishermen in 5 mechanized fishing boats belonging to Nagapattinam District have been abducted and illegally detained by the Sri Lankan Navy in two incidents on 30th and 31st July, 2013, respectively and have been remanded up to 28.8.2013 through multiple extensions of remand. I had also written to you that two groups of 21 fishermen and 20 fishermen in 5 boats each belonging to Ramanathapuram District were also apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 6.7.2013 and 3.8.2013 respectively and they have been remanded through multiple extensions up to 29.8.2013. All of them have been languishing in Sri Lankan jails for the past several weeks.

I write with a deep sense of anguish and agony because, despite my repeated letters dated 8.7.2013, 1.8.2013, 2.8.2013 and 6.8.2013, seeking to impress on you the imperative need to ensure the early release of the poor, innocent Indian fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu, the Government of India remains a mute spectator. What we in Tamil Nadu read are just press statements that all efforts would be taken by the Government of India to ensure the early release of our fishermen but we fail to see any concerted action. It leads us to doubt whether the issue is even taken as seriously by the Government of India as it ought to be. This very muted response of the Government of India has emboldened the Sri Lankan Navy.
to repeatedly arrest our fishermen and their aggressive actions are worsening day by day.

You will appreciate that these fishermen belong to the poorest section of Society and prolonged periods of incarceration in an alien land means severe mental agony and loss of livelihood not only for the detainees but also for their beleaguered families. The entire fisherman community in Tamil Nadu is greatly exercised over this issue and in particular by the apathy shown by the Government of India towards their cause.

You are also aware that already 5 Rameswaram fishermen charged in a fabricated case are languishing in a Sri Lankan prison since 29.11.2011. The Government of India has to take positive and concrete steps to secure the early release of the 82 fishermen who are already in Sri Lankan jails for months together and the 35 fishermen who were arrested on 26.8.2013, or else the deep sense of frustration and anger amongst the fishermen community of Tamil Nadu against the Government of India will only mount further. I yet again exhort you to take immediate action through diplomatic channels to secure the release of all the Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu who are in Sri Lankan custody along with their boats and arrange for their immediate repatriation.

May I request your immediate and effective personal intervention in this matter which has been a severe source of aggravation in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu for many months now?”

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has enhanced the cost of the houses constructed under the Indira Awaas Yojana scheme to Rs. 1.20 lakh each from Rs. one lakh from the current year (2013-2014).

The Central Government’s share in this, is Rs. 52,500/- and that of the state Rs. 67,500/-. The Central Government has fixed a target of 88,436 houses for Tamil Nadu under the scheme in the current year. The Hon’ble Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs. 603,39,22,000/- the State Government’s share for construction of these houses.

Under the Indira Awaaz Yojana scheme, the cost was originally fixed at Rs. 45,000/- per house by the Central Government, the Centre and State shares being Rs. 33,750/- and Rs. 11,250/- respectively. The State was giving Rs. 30,000/- separately for concrete-roofing of the house. After the Hon’ble Chief Minister assumed office for a third time, the fund for concrete roofing was increased to Rs. 55,000/- from Rs. 30,000/- pushing the cost of each house to Rs. 1 lakh.

Besides constructing these houses, the State Government is also implementing a novel housing scheme- “Chief Minister’s Solar Powered Green House” scheme.
Fourteen students from Government Colleges and three lecturers who are sponsored by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHE) to take up studies, joint research and undergo training in 4 Universities abroad, met and received the blessings of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa at the Secretariat on 27.8.2013.

They form the first batch of students and professors/lecturers and they will take up studies and undergo training at the Edge Hill Nottingham, Royal Holloway and Birmingham Universities.

As per a Memorandum of Understanding signed between TANSCHE and the British Council, South India in the presence of the Hon’ble Chief Minister on 13.12.2012, 25 students and 5 professors were to be sponsored from the year 2013. The Hon’ble Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs. 15 lakh to each of the students and professors and directed that the amount be routed through TANSCHE.

The government headed by the Hon’ble Chief Minister has been implementing schemes to realise the goal of providing world class education to all students in Tamil Nadu and especially those studying in Government colleges and are economically backward to boot. The sponsorship is one such step.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister presented the permission letters of the foreign universities and the air tickets to the students and lecturers and advised them to make good use of the educational facilities available there, improve their intellectual acumen and utilise it for the benefit of Tamil Nadu.

The students and the lecturers conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Hon’ble Chief Minister for providing them such a precious opportunity.
Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, a Government of Karnataka Enterprise, has put out advertisements in newspapers inviting Expression of Interest for the restoration and rejuvenation of river Arkavathy and for the modernization of the Hemavathy canals.

This Expression of Interest is for the restoration and rejuvenation of river Arkavathy, and remodelling Hemavathy Left Bank Canal, Right Bank Canal and Right Bank High level Canal. The Expression of Interest is for the preparation of the Detailed Project Report for the rejuvenation of Arkavathy river under the National River Conservation Programme and National Watershed Development. The modernisation of the Hemavathy canals is for seeking assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.
I would like to bring to your attention that the rejuvenation of river Arkavathy, and remodelling of Hemavathy Canals are new schemes not contemplated in the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The scope of the projects is also not known. Further, it is apprehended that the remodelling of the Hemavathy project will result in increased drawal of water by Karnataka and expansion of their Ayacut to an extent that is more than what has been allocated by the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, besides affecting the natural flow of the river and consequently severely affecting the irrigation interests of Tamil Nadu. These schemes proposed by the Government of Karnataka are against the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

As you are aware, the Supreme Court has formed a pro tem Committee to monitor the implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. It is shocking that Karnataka, in utter disregard of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, is proceeding with new modernization schemes in the Cauvery basin. The Government of Karnataka should not, therefore, be allowed to take up any new schemes not contemplated in the Final Order or any other schemes in the Cauvery Basin till the formation of the Cauvery Management Board.

Further, my repeated requests to you to order the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for ensuring the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, have not been acted upon. I would like to reiterate that the immediate formation of the Cauvery Management Board is imperative to ensure that the Final Order of the Tribunal is not violated with impunity by Karnataka repeatedly.

Under the circumstances, I request you to intervene in the matter and advise the Government of Karnataka and its Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited not to proceed with any projects in the Cauvery Basin till the Cauvery Management Board is formed. Further, the Government of Karnataka may be instructed to advise the Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited appropriately to withhold the Invitation for Expression of Interest called for by it for these two projects and also not to call for any Invitation for Expression of Interest for the projects of Karnataka lying in the Cauvery Basin till the Cauvery Management Board is formed. I also request you to form the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee immediately.

I shall be thankful for your immediate response in this matter.”
It is no exaggeration to say that the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance Government at the Centre is the only Government in the history of Independent India to contribute to inflation by increasing the price of petroleum products several times and thus achieving the distinction of torturing the people.

The Congress-led Coalition Government at the Centre considers people’s trials and turbulations as its achievement. To further improve its achievement, it has once again increased the price of petrol by Rs. 2.35 paise per litre and diesel by 50 paise, effective from midnight tonight (August 31, 2013) even before the people could recover from the shock of the August 1 revision of 70 paise per litre for petrol and 50 paise for diesel. This is an act akin to depriving the poor and the middle class of their sustenance. I strongly condemn this.

While speaking about the current state of the Indian economy in Parliament on 30.8.2013, the Hon’ble Prime Minister stated that simple economic reforms have already been taken up and hard reforms like “cutting down subsidy”, and “reforms in insurance and pension sectors” have to be taken up. Perhaps he was hinting at...
the upward revision of petrol and diesel prices yesterday itself!

The Prime Minister, in his speech, also accepted that inflation in India is high. The very next day, oil companies again raised the price of petrol and diesel. This will only push up inflation further. This action of the Central Government reminds one of the Tamil proverbs, “Study text-Ramayanam; work – demolition of Vishnu temple”.

This price hike in petrol and diesel prices will severely affect the poor, the downtrodden, the middle class, farmers, workers and the common people who use two wheelers. Transportation charges will go up and through that, the price of all commodities including essential commodities, vegetables and fruits will go up several fold.

The oil companies have cited the depreciation of the Indian rupee value against international price of petroleum products due to the geo-political situation in the Middle East for effecting an increase in petrol and diesel prices. But this is unacceptable.

The Hon’ble Prime Minister has said in Parliament that the slide of the rupee value is natural since inflation in India is high compared to that in the developed countries. So, it is unjust to increase the price of petroleum products, citing the decline of the rupee value because this price rise will push up inflation further and contribute further to the fall of rupee value.

Without identifying and preventing the factors that contribute to the slide of the rupee, any superficial action, I would like to point out, will further ruin the country’s economy.

Echoing the same view, Thiru. Subba Rao, Governor of the Reserve Bank said in a meeting some days ago, that the basic cause for the fall of the Indian rupee value is domestic structural factors.

Till the Central Government takes steps to rectify this, the fall of rupee value cannot be prevented. The upward revision of petroleum products price, on account of this, cannot also be averted. Hence, I strongly urge the Central Government to take immediate steps to rectify the situation at least now.

Through my statements, I have pointed out several times that fixing the price of petrol and diesel only on the basis of the international price of petroleum products without taking into account the indigenous production of crude oil will only work out to the oil companies’ profit and will not benefit the people in any way. I wish to remind the Central Government of this once again.

I strongly urge the Congress-led Coalition Government at the Centre to rescind this price hike in petrol and diesel, withdraw immediately the power given to oil companies to fix the prices of these two commodities and remove the deficiencies in the price fixing procedures of petrol and diesel.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa today (22.8.2013) declared open the newly established Tiruvannamalai Government Medical College through video conferencing at the Secretariat. At present, 18 Government Medical Colleges are functioning in Tamil Nadu. It is the policy of the government headed by the Hon’ble Chief Minister that Medical Colleges should be opened gradually in the districts which do not have one. Accordingly, the government allotted 25 acres of land in Tiruvannamalai, one of the backward districts, for starting a Government Medical College and hospital as per Indian Medical Council Rules, at a cost of Rs. 133.88 crore. New buildings have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 73.16 crore for the Administrative Block, Professional staff hall, hostel and library, needed for admission of first year students.

For running the college, 192 permanent posts were created and filled up. For procurement of medical equipment for the Medical College Hospital, Rs. 16.82 core was allotted and procurement done through the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation.

The Indian Medical Council has granted permission for admission of 100 students in the current academic year and admission has started.

The number of medical seats last year was 2,145. Including the 100 seats in the Tiruvannamalai Government Medical College, the Indian Medical Council has permitted 410 additional seats in the current academic year, taking the total number of medical seats to 2555 in Tamil Nadu. This is due to the efforts of the State Government.
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J Jayalalithaa has sanctioned Rs. 2.42 crore for construction of a new building and a 20-bed ward for the Rheumatology department of the Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai.

At present, this department is functioning with a joint professor and a deputy professor. The Hon’ble Chief Minister has directed the creation of 21 medical and non-medical posts for this department – one joint professor (immunology), one deputy professor (rheumatology), one nurse assistant (female), one nurse assistant (male), one social worker, one typist, one physiotherapist, one laboratory supervisor, one laboratory technician grade I and one laboratory technician grade II. For this, the Government will incur an expenditure of Rs. 1,15,71,048/- annually. For purchase of equipment, Rs. 4.30 lakh has been allotted.

College of Nursing at Periakulam

The Hon’ble Chief Minister has ordered the starting of a new College of Nursing at Periakulam near the Theni Medical College, Theni District. The College will start functioning with 50 students, boys and girls. Thirty-four posts will be created for the college – one Principal, one deputy principal, one Reader in nursing, 5 lecturers in nursing, 16 tutors in nursing grade II, one librarian, one administrative officer, one office superintendent, one assistant, one assistant, one junior assistant cum typist, 2 watchmen, one warden and 2 health assistants.

A sum of Rs. 13.54 crore has been allotted for the college for expenditure under various heads.

Strengthening security in hospital

To strengthen the security in intensive care units, emergency wards, maternity wards and neonatal wards in Government Medical College hospitals and Government hospitals with a bed strength of more then 200, 286 security personnel and 868 watchmen will be appointed. They will be outsourced and put on roster duty of 8 hours duration. The Hon’ble Chief Minister has allotted Rs. 9 crore for this.
I wish to bring to your urgent notice an important issue related to the proposals of the Government of Karnataka to build reservoirs across the river Cauvery at Mekedatu for generation of hydro electric power.

The media had widely reported the statement of the Minister for Law, Government of Karnataka, about the Government of Karnataka’s plan to construct a hydro power station at Mekedatu and for this purpose, three reservoirs are planned to be constructed across the river Cauvery near Mekedatu. Further, it was reported that Karnataka proposes to utilize the surplus water of the Hemavathy and the Krishnarajasagar reservoirs at an estimated cost of Rs.500 to Rs.600 crores for drinking water schemes.

I would like to bring to your attention that the proposed reservoirs near Mekedatu are new schemes not contemplated in the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. Further, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal prescribes the total quantity of water to be used for consumptive use. Therefore, this proposal of Karnataka is wholly illegal and is causing great alarm and apprehension in Tamil Nadu, as it will affect the natural flow of the river Cauvery considerably and will severely affect the irrigation in Tamil Nadu. Further, it will set at nought the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

The Government of Karnataka should not be allowed to unilaterally execute a scheme without the consent of the lower riparian State. The Cauvery Management Board directed to be constituted by the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is yet to be put in place by the Government of India. In the absence of such a monitoring mechanism, the stand of the Minister of the Government of Karnataka that there is no impediment to executing the scheme of construction of a reservoir as the Final Order has been notified is wholly untenable and is against all principles of federalism. In a federal structure, no upper riparian State can unilaterally interfere with the natural flow of an inter State river without the consent and concurrence of the lower riparian State.

Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu had filed an Interlocutory Application in the Supreme Court to restrain the Government of Karnataka from executing the Shivasamudram and Mekedatu Hydro electric Projects by themselves and also to direct the Government of India to execute the Shivasamudram, Mekedatu, Hogenekkal and Rasimanal hydel projects as a package through the National Hydro Power Corporation Ltd., or any other appropriate Central Power Generation utility so as to derive the maximum benefits of the power potential. The Civil Appeals as well...
The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa has increased the grant for the Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee to Rs. 30 lakh in the current year from Rs. 20 lakh.

The State Haj Committee was formed to select the pilgrims from Tamil Nadu for the Haj pilgrimage and to extend all assistance to them to complete their pilgrimage safely. After assuming office for the third time, the Hon’ble Chief Minister raised the grant to the Haj Committee to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs. 10 lakh so that the pilgrimage, undertaken by the minority community people annually, be performed in an excellent way.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister has also allotted Rs. 49,68,347/- towards grant to Muslim Women’s Help Groups in the 10 districts of Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Ariyalur, Theni, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, The Nilgiris, Tiruvarur and Namakkal. Initially the grant was in equal proportion to the donations collected by these Muslim Women’s Help Groups. The grant was doubled from 1.4.2012, that is, in the ratio of 1:2. The ceiling for grant was also raised to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs. 10 lakh for each district. The present allotment of funds is to cover both the pre and post 1.4.2012 periods of donation collections.

The collection of donations and the Government grant are to help the destitutes in the Muslim Community. They are given medical assistance and are enabled to improve their livelihood through distribution of free sewing machines and grinders so that they can become self-employed.

Grant for Haj Pilgrimage increased

My repeated request to you to instruct the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, for ensuring the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, is yet to be acceded to.

Under the circumstances, I seek your immediate intervention in the matter and request you to advise the Government of Karnataka not to take up any schemes including hydro electric projects in the Cauvery Basin of Karnataka without the prior consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu. I also request you to advise the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, not to accord clearance to any Projects of Karnataka in the river Cauvery till a permanent monitoring mechanism viz., the Cauvery Management Board is formed.

I look forward to your immediate positive response in this matter.”
I would like to invite your attention to my earlier letters dated 17.6.2013, 8.7.2013, 1.8.2013 and 2.8.2013 highlighting the plight of 70 innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu who continue to languish in Sri Lankan jails. I had also sought your personal intervention at the highest diplomatic levels in order to secure their immediate release. In the absence of any action by the Government of India to secure their release by raising the issue with the Sri Lankan Government, these poor fishermen from Tamil Nadu still remain in Sri Lankan custody.

Even while they continue to remain in Sri Lankan jails, in yet another outrageous incident that took place on 3rd August 2013, another 20 fishermen from Rameshwaram have again been abducted by the Sri Lankan Navy. This is the third time within a period of one month that fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been subjected to such highhanded acts of abduction and kidnapping at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy. 5 Mechanised fishing boats bearing registration numbers IND/TN/10/MM/268, IND/TN/10/MM/865, IND/TN/10/
MM/381, IND/TN/10/MM/708, IND/TN/11/MM/325, which ventured out for fishing on 3.8.2013 from Rameshwaram base with 20 fishermen on board, have been apprehended near Katchatheevu by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken to Thalaimannar, Sri Lanka. They have been remanded to custody on 4.8.2013.

I have been repeatedly writing to you about the travails of innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen who face harassment, abduction, assault and apprehension at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy, which continues its menacing and predatory acts in the face of the immobility and apathy of the Government of India to the plight of these innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu. The ineffective response of the Government of India has emboldened the Sri Lankan Navy to continue such predatory attacks on Indian fishermen with impunity.

I must also emphasise that these frequent abductions, arrests and detention for long periods of time of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Government, have created tension and agitation amongst the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu. The fishermen community in Tamil Nadu, which faces continuous harassment not only by the Sri Lankan Navy but also attacks by Sri Lankan miscreants in the guise of fishermen, now nurses a strong grievance against the Government of India that it has forsaken them in a time of crisis and is apathetic to their interests.

These continuous attacks and abductions are acts of an unfriendly nation and should be countered effectively by coercive diplomacy. A strong message should be delivered through diplomatic channels that India will not tolerate these attacks. Our diplomats in Colombo should take up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka and take concrete steps to secure the immediate release of all the 90 fishermen who are now in Sri Lankan jails.

May I also request you to take immediate steps to initiate a diplomatic dialogue with the Government of Sri Lanka to immediately stop the recurrence of such incidents of arrest and harassment of Tamil Nadu fishermen in the Palk bay, which is their traditional fishing area from time immemorial? I solicit your personal and immediate intervention in this matter.”
Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J. Jayalalithaa, launched through video conferencing at the Secretariat on the occasion of the Perarignar Anna’s birth anniversary on Sept. 15, 2013, a drinking water production plant at Gummidipundi with the capacity of producing 3 lakh litres a day. She also formally inaugurated the sale of the ‘Amma mineral drinking water’ by purchasing a one litre bottle of water at Rs 10 from the Transport Minister and handed over Amma mineral drinking water bottles to seven passengers.

The scheme was announced by the Hon’ble Chief Minister on June 21, 2013, with a view to ensure safe and protected drinking water supply to the public at an affordable price.

The Gummidipundi plant has been set up on behalf of the State Transport Corporation. The water bottled in this plant will be sold in long-distance transport corporation buses, and in bus terminuses in Chennai Corporation and in the suburbs in the districts. The scheme will be extended in phases to 9 places in other parts of Tamil Nadu on behalf of the State Transport Corporations functioning in the districts.

This is the first time in the country that safe and protected mineral drinking water is being sold through the State transport corporations at a marginal price. A one litre bottle of Amma mineral water costs Rs. 10 while the same quantity of water is sold at Rs. 15 by the Railways and at Rs. 20 by private parties.