

# PERIYAR ERA

Vol.5 No.11 THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE AUGUST 1999 Rs.8/- US\$ 2

## ABLE PRIME MINISTER EXPOSED



**Brig. SURINDER SINGH**

SENT SIX LETTERS TO SUPERIORS  
BETWEEN AUG.'98 AND MAR.'99, INFORMING PAK'S INTRUSION.  
THE SLEEPING DOGS WERE IN SLUMBER

**PREPARE FOR YET ANOTHER  
WAR OF INDEPENDENCE  
BOYCOTT ELECTIONS!  
SONIA GANDHI'S FEUDAL MIND**

# PERIYAR ERA

Vol.5

THIS MONTH

No.11



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# PREPARE FOR YET ANOTHER "WAR of INDEPENDENCE" : **BOYCOTT ELECTIONS!**

*The Britishers were foreigners. They belonged to an alien race. They came to parts of India as traders but ultimately conquered the whole of India and ruled for about 300 years. They exploited the natural wealth of India. But still it was the Britishers who opened public schools between 1835-1854 in all parts of India. They provided opportunity for all castes and communities to get education which was denied to the suppressed and toiling and tilling classes by all Hindu Kings; Mohammedan Emperors and Nawabs and all other local chieftains for a long time. All the rulers upto the 18th century were very much bent upon opening Vedapatasalas which were meant only for Brahmins. Thus education was brahmanical and for brahmins.*

*The tragic outcome was, that the literacy percentage of Indians on the eve of Independence in 1947 was only 16. This included the literates among upper castes too who were themselves 20% of the then total population of 33 crores. That is to say that even upper caste land lords were also illiterate to some extent.*

*The so called sovereign democratic Republic of India declared that it, "shall endeavour to provide free and compulsory education to all children under age of 14 years," on 26.1.50. They promised to do it within a period of 10 years from 1950. Now after 50 years of Independence when there are 96 crores of people in India the literacy percentage is only 52. This is shamefully low. In actual terms - about 45 crores of Indians are illiterates. It speaks volumes. Among the 50 crores of literates the upper castes who have a strength of only 20% in the population, form 19 crores. Not even a single man or woman of the upper caste remains illiterate as of today. But at the same time the greater sections of Sudras and Adi-Sudras the untouchables remain unlettered till today. Thus the promise in 1950 ended as a promise for the upliftment of the upper castes only.*

*This denial of opportunity to get primary education even after 52 years of 'Independence', to the tillers and toilers and the aborigines of India reveals the ill intention of the ruling classes — the Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Kattris and others.*

*All the Prime Ministers of India from Pandit Nehru down to Vajpayee belonged to these ruling castes. All of them irrespective of their wisdom and knowledge, experience and talents were one in denying education to the vast multitude of Indian down trodden. They had a vision and it aimed at denying education to the greatest number. They were single minded at that. They deserve to be condemned by every body who stands for real and ideal democracy.*

*It is said, "that the greatest good of the greatest number is the essence of democracy". Here in India the greatest number have been denied education during a long course of 52 years of 'democratic rule'.*

*The ruling classes are to be held responsible for this havoc and injustice heaped on the people. It is the Prime Ministers, Central Ministers, States Chief Ministers and the bureaucrats of all hues who are responsible for committing such a heinous crime of keeping the vast multitude as dumb and voiceless. who can never play their rightful role in any sphere of life. They cannot taste and enjoy the best in any walk of life.*

*Denial of education apart, these down-trodden have not been provided with even good drinking water. They have not been given the minimum medical and health facilities. Many have no roofs over their heads. They have been treated as cattle and left destitute.*

*All the State Govts. except West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala and the Central Govt. have miserably failed to implement land reform laws. In Tamil Nadu alone 64 % of the S.C. agricultural labourers are left landless. Why should these vast multitude vote for those who want to rule India even here after?*

*The Congress ruled India for over 47 years from 1946. The members of Nehru clan alone ruled India for*



39 long years. It can safely be said that the Congress is the first culprit which destroyed the spirit of democracy in the party as well as in the country. If the Congress could claim laurels for all the achievements made in India so far, they must receive the brick bats also for the well planned miseries that have been heaped on the majority of the people.

The Congress and its off shoots in different colours stand for status-quo. They want to protect and preserve Varnashrama Dharma. They want to keep India one to the detriment of liberty of several distinct linguistic nationalities. They have thrust Hindi as the sole official language. They have denied proportional share to the socially and educationally Backward castes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Religious Minorities in administration and judiciary. The Congress remains to this day an embodiment of all anti-people policies.

The worst still is the Bharatiya Janata Party and the other Parivars of the R.S.S. The B.J.P., while trying to defeat the Congress in keeping status-quo, has hidden agenda to fortify and propagate further Varnashrama Dharma. Thus BJP is a devil at the other side of the deep sea.

To vote for the Congress will tantamount to setting house on fire — while to vote for the BJP would be sub-cremation. The BJP during its rule for a short period of 2 years in some northern states (1993-95) have spoiled the very edifice of democracy by introducing Hindutva principles in education. They have done all that they could to falsify the history of India. They have effectively removed and destroyed all the evidences of demolition of Babri Masjid by BJP - VHP men, on 6-12-1992, while they ruled India just for 13 days in 1996.

They have not changed any of their pro-Hindutva ideologies and policies. The only change they have welcomed is to entertain all the sundries that are after power to join their bandwagon for achieving victory in the 1996 and 1999 elections.

During the past 13 months rule the BJP headed Govt. have blocked all the avenues for employment by raising the age of retirement of Central Govt. employees. Through this anti B.C., anti S.C. policy, they have made lakhs and lakhs of employees of upper castes - particularly Brahmins to get a longer period of service. They have made this with the sole purpose of keeping bureaucracy pro-Hindutva and preventing the vast number of B.C.s and S.C.s from entering into services.

The B.J.P. Govt. have laid strong foundation for re-writing the history of India on pro-Aryan philosophy by changing the composition of the ICHR, by throwing to wind all democratic norms.

In the recent Kargil episode they have proved their utter incapability of even assessing the ill intention of Pakistan in advance and their well planned intrusion beyond the Line of Control. It has caused India an enormous expenditure of over 10,000 crores within a period of 100 days from May 6, 1999. It has ended in the death of about 500 valiant men of defence forces.

The U.S.A. support to India on this occasion is aimed at destabilising Pakistan which has surrepticiously pampered Osama Bin Laden, the arch enemy of U.S.A. and have employed his men and body guards in the act of crossing the LoC.

The BJP has failed miserably on all fronts and it has no right to demand for lease of life for another period. The voters should beware of the false promises of the Congress and its off-shoots and the B.J.P.

The Communists and other regional parties have allied with one of these two anti-people parties with the only aim of saving their own fiefdoms.

Hence we call upon the respected voters to boycott the elections and prepare themselves for yet another war of "Independence" which will usher in freedom to all in social, political, economic and cultural spheres.

# செந்தமிழ்ச் சிலப்பதிகார உலகளவிய மாநாடு

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SILAPPADHIKARAM LITERATURE at KUALA LUMPUR



Reg: No. 3932/86



நாள் - Date : 11.12.1999 (காரிக்கிழமை - Saturday)  
12.12.1999 (ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமை - Sunday)

**Organised By :**

**ஏற்பாடு :** மலேசியத் தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டு இயக்கம்

**முகவரி:**

தமிழ்ப் பண்பகம் - பிரிக் ஃபீல்ட்சு, கோலாலும்பூர்.

Malaysian Movement for Tamil Culture

Tamil Panbaham - No 198B, 2nd Floor,

Jalan Tun Sambanthan, Brickfields,

50470 Kuala Lumpur.

Tel:2747844

**தலைமையக முகவரி / Address of HQ :**

The Malaysian Movement For Tamil Culture,

110-Jalan Bangau Berkley Garden,

411150 Kelang-Malaysia,

Tel:03-3417906 Fax:03-3428280

## WHAT IS ROLE OF LITERATURE NOWADAYS?

Literature takes us far back into the period to which it belongs and helps us to know about the passions and aspirations of the time. It portrays the life of the people, they lived and so on.

**Literature builds character in a person.** Dr. Misran Rokimin from University Kebangsaan Malaysia's Faculty of Development Science raised the issue at the National Education Issues seminar held sometime on November, 1998. In Dr. Misran's paper, the Era of Globalisation : Is Literary study still Important? noted that literature as a subject in school is even more crucial as we enter into the much vaunted "borderless world". In the current era of globalisation some people in society see the field of economics, technology and science as the only one with the capability to develop a nation. There are also people who say that literature was for the weak and dull-witted. As a result literature is marginalised or treated as if it is of no benefit at all.

But Dr. Misran pointed out that literature is important, no matter what era it may belong to. He asserted that literature should be taught at all levels, from the school right up to college and university. He further noted, that many scholars concurred that literature plays a vital role in the development of humanity, the mind and the nation. Dr. Misran stressed that literature definitely helps in nation building that it helps to raise a generation that is more responsible. His conclusion is that other than instilling nationalistic sentiments, literature in general, builds character in the person.

In all great languages of the world, there are masterly epics. Iliad, Odessey, Divine Comedy are the most famous ones. They have greatly influenced the people. Time can't defy the virility of the Bible, Tirukkural, the Koran, the Bhagavat

Gita and so on. Somebody has cryptly said, 'Read Shakespeare for the seventh time, you will find a new meaning.' Such of these books are not confined to geographical borders for they are universal.

## TAMIL LITERATURE

Tamil is the mother-tongue of Seven hundred and fifty lakhs of people in this world. It is very ancient language and primeval language having voluminous prominent literature.

The late lamented Subramania Bharathi's poem on Tamil says that "Of the poets I know, none has been born on this earth like Kamban, Valluvar, or Elango and this is not a mere praise but the truth".

“யாமறிந்த புலவரிலே  
கம்பனைப் போல்  
வள்ளுவன்போல்  
இளங்கோவைப்போல்  
பூமிதனில் யாங்கணுமே  
பிறந்ததில்லை  
உண்மை; வெறும் புகழ்ச்சி  
யில்லை”

It needs no special mention that there are wonderful books found in Tamil language. Tamil literature dates far back to 5,000 years and it has been the mirror of the Tamil civilization, culture and way of life. **The Tamil poets and scholars created all their literature not for the sake of their own race but for the welfare and development of the world people.**

யாதும் ஊரே யாவரும் கேளிர்

Existence has not created this earth in fragments. Currently, the world is divided because man is divided. Man wherever he is born, he belongs to one humanity. The saying of KANIYAN POONGUNDRAN in Purananooru Literature 'Yaathum Oore Yaavarung Kelir' vividly indicates necessary qualities of good living, namely Universal Brotherhood. "All countries are ours and all people are our kin". Tolkaappiam, Pattup- patu (the ten idylls) and

Ettuthogai (the eight collections) of the Sangam epoch are such books that should be preserved by those who claim themselves as Tamilian. The post-sangam works are said to be **TIRUKKURAL** an ethical code containing 1330 couplets which has no equal. TIRUKKURAL is a scripture written by great philosopher namely TIRUVALLUVAR for human salvation.

Then comes the **SILAPPADHI-KAARAM** of 2nd century A.D. which is acclaimed as the greatest of all epics and also unique in its contents. The three Tamil Sangams (kazhagams) which were established and patronized by Pandiyan Kings for more than ten thousand years until the destruction of KUMARIKAN-DAM (*Lost Lemuria*) deluges brought out many thousand literary works on various subjects. But alas, most of them were destroyed by natural causes such as water, fire, termites and foes. Sorry to say here that the Tamilians' negligence also had caused perishment of many precious works of our ancestors.

## SILAPPADHIKAARAM - THE LAY OF ANKLET

The first ancient epic that we have in Tamil Literature is 'Silappadhikaaram'. This Silappadhikaaram which is one of the five epics of Tamil literature, is full of lyrical charm and is a model of ancient Tamil music and dramatic composition. The brother of Cheran Chenguttuvan and an ascetic young prince namely Elango Adikalar wrote this epic poem in 2nd Century A.D. The three ancient kings of Tamil Nadu, Pandiyan, Cholan, and Cheran, their glorious reigns and the greatness of their kingdoms, seemed to be spoken of vividly in this memorable epic.

The story of epic poem revolves around an anklet (Silampu) worn by Kovalan's wife Kannagi. At the time Kovalan went to Madurai, the King Pandiyan Neduncheliyan's wife had lost her anklet made in pearls. Kovalan, in the city of Madurai, met

the Chief Jeweller to the King. This unscrupulous jeweller, an arrant rogue who had stolen the Queen's anklet put the blame on Kovalan. Without investigation and inquiry, the King concluded Kcvalan as thief and ordered his guards to behead the thief. Innocent Kovalan died. On hearing the sad news of her husband's demise the chaste lady Kannagi rushed to the King's palace. There she requested for the King's presence and proved before everybody that her anklet contains diamonds. The just King on realising his folly fell down dead.

Elango Adikalar has stressed remarkably three cardinal truths : They are (1) Aram (அறம்) will become the God of Death to those who deviate from the path of righteousness. (2) Great men should adore a chaste lady. (3) Nobody can escape from the clutches of destiny.

“அரைசியல் பிழைத்தோர்க்கு  
அறம் கூற்றாவது உம்  
உரைசால் பத்தினிக்கு  
உயர்ந்தோர் ஏத்தலும்  
ஊழ்வினை உறுத்துவந்து  
ஊட்டும் என்பது உம்  
சூழ்வினைச் சிலம்பு காரண  
மாகச்  
சிலப்பதி காரம் என்னும்  
பெயரால்  
நாட்டுதும் யாழ்ப்பாணம்  
செய்யுள்”

- இளங்கோவழிகளார்

**Note :** International conference on Silappadhikaaram has been scheduled to be held at the University Malaysia on 11th 12th of Dec, 1999. You are cordially invited to participate in this occasion. Thank You.

## ABOUT THE MALAYSIAN MOVEMENT FOR TAMIL CULTURE

The Malaysian Movement for Tamil Culture is affiliated to the International Movement for Tamil Culture (IMTC) which has its Head Quarters in Malaysia and its principal

office is situated at 198B, 2nd Floor, Jalan Tun Sambanthan, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur.

MMTC has 42 branches all over the world and is affiliated to 60 Academic Institutions and universities throughout the world.

The movement which was established in 1974 is also an informal member of UNESCO since 1992.

The centre also acts as a Tamil research documentation centre which could provide ample information on Tamil history, Tirukkural philosophy, Culture, Language and Economics for research scholars and institutions. To propagate Tirukkural philosophy by expanding into 133 chapters (Aram - moral), (Porul - political economy) and (Inbam - family happiness) by way of simplified lessons to be supplied to all the branches and to the general public.

The Malaysian Movement for Tamil Culture has outlined a twelve point plan to enhance the activities of the Movement and for this financial assistance is most needed and those wishing to contribute could kindly do so by way of draft or money order to:

The General Secretary,  
The Malaysian Movement for Tamil Culture,  
198 B, 2nd Floor,  
Jalan Tun Sambanthan,  
Brickfields 50470 Kuala Lumpur.

## MALAYSIAN MOVEMENT FOR TAMIL CULTURE Our Activities :

- \* Through Tamil Panbham, we are organising Tirukkural preaching activities such as moral classes for school children.
- \* Educational and cultural seminars for younger citizens.
- \* Tamil - basic study for adults.
- \* Tamil Tuition for PMR/SPM students.
- \* Diploma in Tamil Studies & Degree

courses with the collaboration of Tamil Nadu, Chennai Maanavar Mandram, since 1992.

Propagating Tirukkural philosophy, irrespective of races, to the general public.

\* Conducting Training & Dialogue sessions.

\* Publication of Books-Producing Cassettes.

\* Conducting wedding in accordance with Tirukkural concept.

\* Extension of Library facility to Tamil research students & scholars.

## Our recent past Activities

\* Paventhar Bharathidasan Centenary Celebration/conference-1997

\* Raavana Kaaviyam literary conference - 1992

\* Ulaga Tamil Marai Tirukkural chanting International Conference - 1996.

\* Establishment of Permanent Tamil Centre & Tirukkural Secretariat - 1997.

## Our Future Projects :

\* A building for the Movement.

\* Tirukkural Correspondence Course

\* Printing of Books - Publishing of an official organ, to promote the ideologies.

\* Research study & Conference on Tolkappiam

## APPEAL FOR DONATIONS.

Dear Sir/Madam

The Malaysian Movement for Tamil culture will be organising the International conference on Silappadhikaaram literature on 11th & 12th December 1999 at University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. In order to enhance our activities we need your financial assistance. We are confident that with your assistance we can play a positive role in fostering development in moral upliftment among our people in



trace in Nehru family?

Feudal ambition and brahmanical greed which are her acquired, not genetical qualities, have overtaken Sonia Gandhi's nerves because she was lucky enough to be the wife of Rajiv Gandhi and daughter-in-law of Indira Gandhi, and to belong to Nehru family for the last 30 years and for ever. Hence again her "acquired" feeling of urgency to recapture the union and the states – all in one lot!

#### (4) SONIA, MISGUIDED!

Having entered politics afresh but with wrong-placed hopes tutored into her mind by her self-seeking closebys and with prejudices against the sons of the soil who have been toiling in public life for more than a period equal to her age - the prejudices sown in her mind by the more cunning sycophants around her - Sonia Gandhi (though the congress president!) has, in the darkness of her total inexperience and in the dazzling light of preposterous suggestions of her elder - sympathisers, been helplessly moving about like an electronic toy in the political world with half a mind of hers pulled back by PRIYANKA WADHERA with no certainty about what she stands for, and with a vague assertion to herself of recapturing power both at the centre and in the states.

At the most the Congress (I) may get 180 seats, varying between 170 and 190 - with a shortage of 80 to 100 seats required for even a thin majority. Is Mrs. Gandhi aware of this ground reality? It is, after all, a number game which may be baffling to any politician of some stand. Sonia is not different. She has to look around, she has to read more and reflect still more before she utters a word. Now she has said something at Gangtok without a little thinking and reflecting on how currently the Indian polity is undergoing silently, imperceptibly a structural change - may take the readers to a different sphere. So let me cut short.

It may be doubted whether a little bird's little chirping in a little town in

a little state should be blown up by me to such an enormous size. Making mountain out of mole! Why? In all her earlier meetings also the theme has been the same with her - a theme appropriate to her "acquired" feudal mind.

#### (5) SAME OLD STUFF

The last Lok Sabha elections. Sonia Gandhi began her election campaign on 11-1-1998 from Rajiv memorial at Sriperumbudur. She said : "The Congress alone is the representative of all the people of India and as such it alone can give a stable, efficient government".

In Bangalore, she roared : "The Congress (I) is the only true national party representing the whole country and the people".

In Hyderabad on January 16th 1998 she spoke at length : "The congress (I) is the only truly nationalist party with a presence in every corner of the country and representing all its people". She further added : "It has given us an India we can all be proud of. It is the only party which has the experience and capability to give India what it needs most, a stable and secular government". And she continued : "Only the Congress has the vision that encompasses the whole of India".

At Jodhpur, Sonia spoke on 23-1-1998 : "Only our congress is capable of delivering stability," she added : "The congress (I) above was the answer to the country's ills. Only the congress can put the country back on the rails".

Ever since India became independent it is in this strain only every Congress leader spoke. This "Congress alone" attitude is an undemocratic attitude, intolerant of other parties forming government. Again it is a brahmanical attitude looking down upon other political parties. It is a feudal attitude as well, for other parties are to remain serfs. Sonia Gandhi belongs after all, to this Congress tribe and to Nehru family. What else could she talk!

### CANADIAN PARLIAMENT ASKED TO REMOVE GOD FROM CONSTITUTION

A Canadian parliamentarian has presented a petition signed by 1,000 people to the House of Commons to press for the removal of all references to God in the Constitution.

New Democratic Party Member of Parliament Svend Robinson claims he himself is not an atheist, but messenger of his constituents who believe the country has changed significantly since the Constitution was repatriated from England.

There is now more diversity in Canada, with people of different faiths and many who do not believe in any religion at all, Robinson's constituents point out. Besides, many ethnic groups believe reference to God in the Canadian Constitution is to Christ and does not reflect other faiths.

So, to accommodate this growing population, it would be better for the country if all references to God in the Constitution are removed, the petitioners have suggested. The document will, however, remain a petition unless Robinson or some other parliamentarian tables a private member's bill on the basis of the petition.

(Courtesy : "The ATHEIST" July 1999)

**Readers of  
'Periyar Era'  
please  
remit your  
subscription and extend a Helping Hand!**



# Kerala : PEOPLE'S PLAN

GEORGE MATHEW

An outstanding achievement of the Left Democratic Front Government in Kerala is the people's plan which is entering its third year. This unique programme to strengthen decentralisation through the local bodies is no more an experiment; it has become an integral part of people's lives in 990 village panchayats, 152 block panchayats, 14 district panchayats, 55 municipalities, and three corporations. This initiative giving power to the people has attracted national and international attention. A World Bank mission which visited the State recently writes : "Kerala's decentralisation programme is probably the largest of its kind in the world. Three million people (10 percent of the State's population) take part in meetings. This is a far-reaching, innovative and courageous new approach to rural development and local governance... It reflects a profound commitment to a total change in which governments govern to empower disadvantaged groups to voice their demands, and to make institutions responsible and accountable to them".

Ensuring the maximum participation of the people to discuss local development problems and governance issues is the hallmark of the movement. Ward conventions and grama sabhas are convened on holidays and volunteers visit households to explain the programme; mass organisations hold preparatory meetings; a vigorous propaganda is undertaken using posters, banners and media advertisements. About 2.4 million people participated in the meetings in the first year.

The seeds of this historic experiment were sown in a small panchayat — Kalyasseri in Kannur district — by mobilising volunteers in 1991 for resource mapping and a socio-economic survey there. This initiative of the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad

had four components: seminars and study, planning, action and organisation. After five years, in 1996 when the LDF Government came to power, Kalyasseri showed the way.

The people's campaign rests on eight pillars : functional, financial and administrative autonomy; subsidiarity (what can be done best at a particular level should be done at that level and not a higher level; all that can optimally be done at the lowest level should be reserved to that level; only the residuary should be passed on to the highest levels); role clarity; complementarity (the functions of different tiers should not overlap); uniformity of norms and rules; maximum direct participation of the people; accountability (continuous social auditing of performance) and transparency through the right to information.

The people's plan has several unique features, the autonomy granted to the local bodies to determine their priorities being the most important. During 1997 - 98 the total resource developed without Centrally-sponsored schemes was Rs. 1,025 crores and of it, Rs. 749 crores was in terms of grant-in-aid or untied fund. During 1998-99, it rose to Rs. 1,178 crores and the grant-in-aid was Rs. 949 crores. For the first time in the country such a high percentage was given as grant-in-aid.

A comprehensive area plan prepared by each local body is the key to getting the grant-in-aid. In the first year (1996-97), Rs. 212 crores was provided to the local bodies as untied fund to "initiate the preparation and implementation of a local-level, need-based plan programme for development". But then no plan was prepared and funds were divided equally among ward members for various works, mostly roads. Breaking with this tradition and mindset was a challenge. The people's campaign faced

this challenge successfully. Today, there are comprehensive area plans for all panchayats; grant-in-aid is integrated with the State and Centrally sponsored schemes and the revenue surplus of the local bodies. It is supplemented with resources mobilised through loans, voluntary labour and donations. **It is only in Kerala, that panchayats and municipalities are entrusted with preparing comprehensive area plans.**

Kerala is doing away with district schemes. In West Bengal and Karnataka decentralised planning was first linked to local self-government institutions. But even in these States, bureaucratic traditions persisted, district schemes dominated and non-official roles were restricted. In Kerala also, in the past, 15 - 30 per cent of annual plan outlay was for district - level schemes. Today, the devolution of about 40 per cent of the outlay to the panchayats as "untied funds" indicates that soon the Government would confine itself to State-level schemes.

Total transparency is the only way to check the danger of decentralisation degenerating into decentralisation of corruption. All documents on beneficiary selection, reports and minutes of meetings and all documents on works undertaken by the local bodies through contractors and beneficiary committees including bills and vouchers are public documents. Copies are available on payment of a fee. Essential facts about any public work are exhibited in simple language at the work site.

There was severe criticism of the people's plan in the media and by political parties. Much of it was about corruption, the corrupt practices of officials in the panchayats as well as the contractor-politician nexus. Allegations were raised to grama sabhas and in the local newspapers. All these have acted as a deterrent

against corruption. The complaints declined considerably at the end of the second year. Earlier, there was dissatisfaction galore with the quality of the projects, irregularities in implementation and nepotism. The implementation of several projects led to a severe scarcity of inputs. Bunching of the projects at the fag-end of the year gave them high visibility and rendered them targets of ridicule.

The avalanche of criticism especially by the LDF partner, CPI, has taken some scheme out of the programme. It also discourages experts who volunteered their service in the preparation of plans. In 41 districts, more than 4,000 senior retired officials were involved in the plan preparations. Instead of encouraging the participation of such experts, the controversies dampened their enthu-

siasm. However, on the other side, the criticism could also be seen as a sign of success in introducing transparency in development administration. Thiruvananthapuram district with a tradition of corrupt practices, according to sources, has become a corruption free-district.

The people's plan began with a campaign, it moved on to become an experiment and now it is a movement. The biggest challenge before the panchayats is how to institutionalise the new values of this movement.

What are the priorities for the third year? The people's plan campaign cell on the State Planning Board lists six — Shelter for all : — about 70,000 houses will be built in two years. Rs. 35,000 will be the contribution from the panchayats through the plan funds; safe drinking water source for

everybody within 200 metres; total sanitation; improvement of primary and high school education as well as the health care system; a substantial increase in the production of vegetables and construction of model buildings for every anganawadi.

Dr. Thomas Isaac, member of the State Planning Board, expects that about 500 model panchayats would come up at the end of the third year (now there are 100). What are the criteria for evaluation? Innovative programmes, high-level of participation and transparency. As things stand, every panchayat is competing for a better place, for the people's plan has created a new culture and a new ethos of people's participation in decentralised planning in Kerala. (The writer is Director, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi).

(Courtesy : "The Hindu")

## ABOUT MARRIAGE...

Marriages came into vogue in the days of the barbarians, say some five thousand years ago. Why should we still maintain it? I would say that marriages take place to make a woman slave to a man. Even as animals are butchered for the sake of gods, women are treated in these marriages.

Why should women who form half of the total population be illtreated like this? Marriages are for selfish ends. They are not for the general welfare. By these marriages the wife protects the husband and the husband safeguards the wife. When children are born they are looked after by both. There is no benefit to the society.

Our people do not worry even if the neighbour's house is burning. He may give a bucket of water to safeguard his own house from fire.

Our people should learn and understand the various scientific advancements going on in the world. Without this, what is the use of simply living separately and

### PERIYAR E.V.R.



having a separate kitchen for the husband and wife. They are devoid of any sense of public responsibility.

If the world is to prosper and if the humanity should aspire to be happy and progressive marriage should be made a criminal offence by law. Such a state would come into being if not today at least in the future. What all I said are taking place. So I urge now for a change in the system of marriage. It is atrocious to subject women who form 50 per cent of the population in the society to such a tyranny.

Parents should afford education to their daughter upto the age of 22 years. After education the girls should be provided with jobs. Then only the thought of marriage and suitable life partner should arise. That too the girl herself should be permitted to choose her life partner. The parents should on no account interfere in this marriage affair.

# PERIYAR E.V. RAMASAMY

## HIS LIFE AND MISSION

7

Prof. M.K. Subramanian

### 2.3. VARNASHRAMA DHARMA

The Brahmin born of Lord Brahma's face, the Kshatriya born of the Lord's chest, the Vaishya of the Lord's thighs and the Sudras of the Lord's feet were the four varnas. The social status of these four varnas - from brahmin to sudra - was according to their place of birth on the Lord's body, in a descending order. The brahmin enjoyed the highest social status while the sudra the lowest. Those who were not brought into those four varnas were literally pushed out of this *chatur-varna*, and they were branded the *Avarnas*. They were the untouchables.

**These varnas were not formed according to what they achieved or according to their merit but strictly in accordance with their birth.** That is, a brahmin is born a brahmin, a sudra is a sudra by birth while the kshatriya or vaishya is born so. So, *varnashrama* is a caste arrangement based on birth. Dharma is adherence to and observation of the obligations and duties attached to caste by Divine Will. For example, a sudra cannot perform the religious duties reserved for the brahmins. As you are born in a caste you are destined to be in the caste only for ever until you die. Shifting, transferring or moving from one caste to another by any means is absolutely prohibited. Once you are born in a caste, you have to live (or suffer) in it and die in it. That is your destiny.

Each varna is divided into 100s of castes, each caste into several sub-castes. Thus there are nearly 6000 sub-castes in India. Each sub-caste is individually a minority as

against other sub-castes when clustered. Each sub-caste is numerically small and as such not powerful. But the brahmin caste though small in number is yet powerful as it is a dominant caste occupying the highest social status besides being a priestly class possessing absolute religious authority.

This social stratification made on the basis of birth together with the assignment of duties and obligations for each caste is conceptualised as *Varnashrama Dharma*. The duties and obligations assigned to each caste making the brahmin caste the exploiter class and the sudra caste the exploited class make the caste system in India functionally most cruel. Manu Dharma Shastra (Manu being the brahmin law giver) is the sacred book of law which elaborately deals with the duties and obligations of each *varna* and prescribes punishments to whoever violates the regulations. This divine law book makes the brahmin the most privileged class while condemning the sudra community to serfdom and subjecting him to indignities.

*Varnashrama Dharma* is a means by which the brahmin community has preserved its purity without allowing the native blood of the sudras to mix with the brahmin's blood. For 2000 years last, no complete racial fusion has taken place in India in the manner in which it has taken place in Britain and other European countries.

**Take for instance America. The United States despite its problems of race and religion, offers no social barriers to the mixing of colour or creed. Not only America, every other country in the West**

**does not erect social walls against mixing of races and classes. India is the only country where once born low you remain low for ever until your death and ever after.**

For, India is the only country where brahminism as a socio-religious institution, caste system as a socially divisive device, *Varnashrama Dharma* as a divine law and scriptures as divine revelations dominate the Hindu society for ages, all together fortified by Hindu beliefs, superstitions, customs, fate, rebirth, etc. Many things have changed but these bases have remained for ages, unchanged and unchangeable.

In essence, *Varnashrama Dharma* is a cunning device to keep the non-brahmin sudras permanently divided and suppressed denying all opportunities of progress. It is also a device to keep them away without allowing any mixing so that the exclusiveness, purity and superiority of the brahmins may be preserved in tact. It is a divinely sanctified caste system which assures every caste in the social ladder the benefit (material, of course.) and satisfaction (psychological, of course) of being superior in position to those castes below. **This arrangement controls all castes, prevents them from uniting as a non-brahmin sudra group and protects the vested interests of the brahmins at the top against any social revolution. Varnashrama Dharma is thus a means of exploitation of the low-born**

### 2.4 SANSKRITIZATION

In the name of religion and god and scriptures and in the observance



of rituals the brahmins assuming the role of a priestly class became a dominant group. Throughout Indian history, this dominant minority contrived palace revolutions, blacked out the progressive and radical forces, shut the door to knowledge, kept repressed the majority under caste hierarchy, ostracized the rebel and the deviant, exploited the guillibility of the gullible and the ignorance of the ignorant, used the weapons of soul, fate and *Dharma* against the guilty, the orphaned and the poor, hoodwinked the rich, knifed Buddhism, expelled Buddhism and devoured it through absorption and assimilation, occupied government service in large numbers much beyond their proportion in the total population, infiltrated into the Indian National Congress and the Communist Party and, above all, is silently sanskritizing, brahminizing Indian's society.

With the invasion of India by the Aryans, Aryanization of India began. As the racial theory became outmoded and unscientific, the Aryanization process for the preservation of racial purity which was in currency during the Vedic and later Vedic period lost its credence.

With the plastering of the *Varnashrama Dharma* on Indian society the caste divisions took deep roots in the society. It is a societal compartmentalisation for the preservation of the separate identity of the victorious Aryans against the defeated Indian aboriginals and Dravidians. The Aryans emerged as the upper caste Brahmins while the defeated were driven to remain as the non-brahmin sudras and panchamas. Guarding this identity, if not the purity, of the Aryan race and guarding against the invasion of other cultures and assimilating the superior cultures and other cultures, the Aryan, the racial figures turned into a Brahmin, the socio-cultural figure.

Occupying a top social status in the caste hierarchy the Brahmin preserves his separate identity and claims cultural superiority. The

Sudras and Panchamas could climb up and occupy the different stratified caste divisions without breaking the hierarchy by sheer effort and undergoing several tests. They are rewarded for their slavish imitation of and subordination to the Brahmanical system. The rewards would take the form of God's will, God's grace, the brahmanical appreciation and recognition and publicity in public life. This is called brahminism, this is how it works, this is how it overpowers, spreads, dominates, excels, eliminates and exterminates.

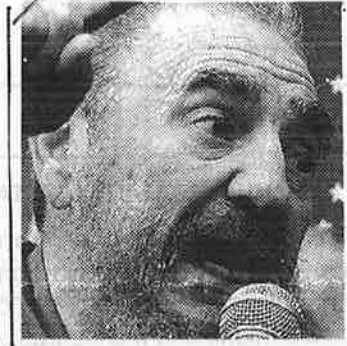
**M.N. Srinivas, the Indian sociologist coined the expression "Sanskritization" to indicate the process of modernization and progress. What he calls sanskritization does, in deeper analysis, mean only Brahmanisation. Sanskritization is a technique or strategy adopted by the brahmins, to absorb all types of modernisation but to conserve the social privileges and dominance of the brahmins and maintain their ceremonial functions. Science and technology contribute to the advancement of the society. But the sanskritization process absorbs it and subordinates it to the ceremonial functioning of the Hindu society without any hindrance to the brahmanical way of living, rites and rituals of brahmanical religion and also without any disturbances to the caste hierarchy.**

Periyar's mission is to de-sanskritize the Hindu society by elimination of orthodoxy, ceremonies, customs and tradition and by promotion of modernisation.

**(To be continued...)**

Ulyanova said reburying the body of the founder of the world's first socialist state would be a "barbarous sacrilege," Ms. Ulyanova, daughter of Lenin's brother Dmitry Ulyanova, was reacting to Mr. Yeltsin's resolve to shift the late Soviet leader's body to St. Petersburg from Moscow. She said the mausoleum was built after the consent of parliament, and removing the body now from the depth of three metres would require the demolition of the mausoleum which is a protected monument of the UNESCO. It is widely believed here that the "shifting" of Lenin's body might take place as early as July 17, the anniversary of the liquidation of the Czar's family, or delayed until January 21 next year - Lenin's death anniversary.

## CASTRO WAS CIA OBSESSION



**HAVANA :** America's Central Intelligence Agency watched the Cuban leader. Mr. Fidel Castro, for years with every means possible, the self-proclaimed former Cuban double agent, Orlando Argudin, has said. "Fedel Castro was an obsession for the CIA", said Argudin, who was appearing as a witness in Havana in a court case brought against the U.S. Government. He said he was smuggled in by the CIA and worked for them in Cuba for 13 years. The case demands \$181.1 billions from Washington for damages it charges the country caused during Castro's revolution.



**MOSCOW :** Removing Lenin's body from Red Square mausoleum in Moscow would cause upheavels in Russia, Lenin's niece, Ms. Olga Ulyanova, has warned. **Novosti**, quoting a statement from Ms.

# SORRY STATE OF AFFAIRS OF MUSLIMS

MUHAMMAD MOHIBUL HAQUE

Ours is the age of human rights. Preservation and promotion of human rights are considered the most important and essential function of a State. Laski, a great political thinker of the 20th century, rightly asserts that a State is best known by the rights it maintains.

The concept of human rights assumes a special significance in a country like India which is polyethnic and cosmopolitan. Long historical disparity, horizontal and vertical division of the society along caste and communal lines, change the very nature of human rights in India. The human rights of minorities also present a different picture in this country. A close analysis of the rights of Muslims, the largest minority in the country, can throw some light on the complex phenomenon of human rights preservation and violation in India.

The Muslims, according to government records, constitute 11.67 percent of Indian population against 82.41 per cent Hindu population. Misinterpretation of medieval history, divide and rule policy of the British Government, subsequent social and political developments during the 19th and 20th centuries, partition of the country and scores of communal riots have left an indelible impact on the Hindu-Muslim relation in India. All these factors have contributed to making the Muslims the most backward and exploited lot in the country. Their socio-economic condition is deplorable. Educationally they lag behind their fellow country-

men and morally, they are dejected. Despite all these there is hardly any serious efforts made by the Government or the elites of the community to uplift this poor stratum of our society.

### 3 Additional factors

While discussing the plight of the Muslims, one question crops up in our mind : Why is this particular religious community so backward in comparison to other communities of India? A close analysis of the backwardness of Muslims leads us to three additional factors that have contributed a lot to the poverty and non-dominant position of Muslims. They are the Revolt of 1857, partition of the country in 1947 and the Babri Masjid tragedy and subsequent communal riots. The Revolt invited the wrath of the British Government against Muslims in particular. It was mercilessly suppressed, resulting in unimaginable damage to Muslims. *The Nai Dunya* in its special Azadi issue of August 1997 reveals that within three days after the revolt, more than 52,000 Muslim ulema alone were executed. This figure is enough to show the hostility of the British Government towards Muslims. The revolt thus shattered the socio-economic condition of Muslims. Also, the repressive and coercive policy of the agitated British threw them into political and intellectual darkness. In the aftermath of revolt great landlords and Nawabs were seen wandering on streets like beggars. The worst impact of the British policy was that it destroyed

the confidence and courage of the Muslim and they were placed in a situation of no hope. Thanks to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan who very successfully tried to change the attitude of our colonial rulers towards Muslims and formulated an apt strategy for their survival.

The partition of India in 1947 and the communal violence which followed it also caused irreparable damage to the Muslim community. First, it brought the destruction of lives and property of the Muslims though Hindu besides Sikhs also faced the same problem. Secondly, it led to the migration of the Muslim elites from India to newly created Pakistan. The numerical strength of the Muslims was greatly affected by the partition. Thirdly, the large scale communal violence sowed a seed of hatred between Hindus and Muslims due to which even today Muslims face a very severe kind of hostility. Lastly, the large scale communal violence and separation of a big section of the Indian Muslims developed a kind of fear psychosis among them.

After partition, the Muslims of India have been living in a very hostile atmosphere. Well planned riots were engineered in various parts of the country. Hindu revivalist organisations and political parties started propaganda against Muslims and ultimately the Babri Masjid issue was created. Babri Masjid was demolished on December 6, 1992 and with this began a series of communal riots. The entire country was engulfed by the fire of communalism. Thousands of Muslims were killed and property worth crores was destroyed. According to PUCL (People's Union of Civil Liberties) report property worth 700 crores was destroyed in the Coimbatore riots of 1997 alone. Thus the economic loss to the Muslim community can be understood during the various riots erupting within 50 plus years of our

Table-I

Services	Year	Total Number	Muslims	Percentage
IAS	1981	3883	116	2.99
IPS	1981	1753	50	2.85
Income Tax	1971-81	881	27	3.06
Railway Traffic and Account	1971-81	415	11	2.65
Bank	1971-81	1,13,77,2275	2479	2.18

Independence. This episode also left a damaging impact on the socio-economic conditions of the Muslims.

### Muslim Share

Right from 1857 till today, the Muslims have not been able to take a sigh of relief. These are the additional factors that contribute to the backwardness and plight of the Indian Muslims. These point to the fact that the Government of Free India should have taken special care of this particular community as in the cases of Sikhs and Dalits. But, contrary to this, the attitude of the Government has not only been apathetic but hostile and discriminatory against the Muslims. Prof. Ausaf Ahmad of Third World Academy, New Delhi finds that Muslims received a mere five or 1.25 per cent of the total 405 industrial licences approved in 1989. In 1990 out of 386, six licences were given to Muslims. Of all telephone connections 94.6 per cent belong to Sikhs and Hindus, 2.06 per cent to Christians and only 1.52 per cent to Muslims. The Muslims have a mere 4.05 per cent of the petrol dealership of India Oil Corporation, 1.23 per cent of its gas dealership and 6.2 per cent of Kerosene dealership. In the small scale enterprise 14,000 or 2.3 per cent of the total 600,000 industrial units belong to Muslims.

The percentage of Muslims in Civil Services is meagre, and fluctuate between two to three per cent. The ratio of Muslims in the various governmental jobs in 1981 is given in Table-I.

### A Cry In The Wilderness

It is a fact that the percentage of Sikhs in police services and armed forces is higher than that of Muslims. This is a clear indication that the

Muslims are discriminated against. It is also true that during communal riots Muslims are killed and/or looted more by the police than by civilians. The Government of India and state governments created many commissions to investigate into the allegations made by the Muslims regarding the partisan role of police during riots. Most of the time, the commissions recommended that the ratio of Muslims should be increased in the police and para-military forces, and the alleged culprits should be brought to book. But all these recommendations proved to be a cry in the wilderness. This is evident from the defiant rejection of Justice Sri Krishna Commission Report on Mumbai Riots and the recent rejection of Justice Parikh Commission Report on Meerut (1982) Riots which make a mockery of democracy, secularism and Rule of law in our country.

Not a single Muslim is on the Boards of Directors of the 16 commercial banks. Out of the total 467 members in the Boards of Directors of 20 nationalised banks only four are Muslims. Another study by Mr. Navalakha of the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi reveals that Hindus constituting 82.2 per cent of the total population, form 85.3 per cent of the elite, the Christians comprising 2.6 per cent of the population are 3.5 per cent while Jains constituting 0.5 per cent of the population are 2.8 per cent of the same. It is only in the case of Muslims that the trend is reversed. The Muslims who are 11.2 per cent of the population constitute only 4.5 per cent of the elite.

Owing to political apathy towards Muslims and polarisation of society the Muslim representation in Parlia-

ment and assemblies is constantly declining. This trend can be seen in Table - II.

### Sorry State of Affairs

The above mentioned facts and figures clearly reveal the sorry state of affairs of the Muslims. On account of these figures it can be concluded that socio-economic rights have been denied to the Muslim in India. Not only the Government has denied these rights to Muslims but the coercive apparatus of the State (police, bureaucracy) has violated the rights of Muslims during riots in particular and during normal days in general. This is evident from the much debated Sri Krishna Commission Report on Bombay riots and Justice Parikh Commission Report on Meerut (1982). Keeping in view the socio-economic condition of Muslims the Government should take special care of this downtrodden section of our society. The benefits of reservation should reach this community as a whole because poverty among Muslims does not know the caste barrier. They need reservation up to 30 per cent in police and armed forces at once which will help them in coming out of fear psychosis as well in controlling communal riots. **This is the truth that socio and political justice cannot be assured in the absence of economic justice. That is why the Muslims should be brought in the mainstream of development, employment and upliftment.**

(Courtesy : "Radiance" Weekly, 11-17 July '99)

Table-II

Year	No. of Muslim MPs in the Lok Sabha
1980	46
1984	41
1989	34
1991	28
1996	27
1998	28

**FOR READERS OF  
'PERIYAR ERA' WHO  
HAVE FAILED TO  
SUBSCRIBE TILL TO-  
DAY, THE MAGA-  
ZINE WILL NOT BE  
SENT FROM  
SEPTEMBER 1999.**



# "FINAL SOLUTION" TO EELAM TAMIL PROBLEM IN SRILANKA

In 'Periyar Era' of July '99 we wrote that the Singhala army attacks in Madu and Mannar are to draw out the LTTE on a Long line from Mullaitivu and then attack Mullaitivu.

Mr. Sambandar writing from Colombo in 'the Hindu' recently reports, the Singhala army is making preparations for a heavy attack on Mullaitivu to finish off LTTE. Our guess has been confirmed. The question now is how are Eelam Tamils at home and abroad preparing to demolish this, perhaps the last attempt to the 'Final Solution' to the Eelam Tamil problem in Sri Lanka.

"Prabakaran is a world renowned guerrilla strategist", America has said and he is leading the defence of Tamil Eelam.

Now what role can the Eelam Tamils at home and abroad play on this momentous occasion?

At this point we would like to relate a story from our own experience under similar critical situation.

## Welikade massacre :

The place is Welikade jail and time 2 p.m. on 27.7.83. I hope Eelam Tamils around the world will observe this day as a day of mourning to 53 Eelam Tamils, slaughtered like cattle within the premises of the Sri Lankan Govt. jail.

I am relating the incident in some detail so that you can face the present situation with courage and honour.

On 25.7.83 thirty five Eelam Tamils in Welikade Jail including Kuttimani, Jegan and Thangathurai were clubbed, cut and slashed to death in Welikade Jail.

Nine of us Dr. Dharmalingam, Rev. Fr. Singarayar, Rev. Fr. Sinnarasa, Rev. Fr. Jeyatilakarajah, his brother Dr. Jeyakullarajah, Mr. Nithiananthan Lecturer at the University of Jaffna, Kovai Mahesan, Dr. Rajasundaram Secretary,

Gandhiyam Sri Lakna and I, President, Gandhiyam Sri Lanka were housed in a separate section of the Welikade Jail.

On 26.7.83 all was calm and quiet. We were expecting an attack at any time. Dr. Dharmalingam also, calm and cool said, "Be ready, whether it is today or tomorrow. If attacked not one you should cry and die like a coward. Break all the tables and chairs. Kill one Singhalese before you die". Having heard the command we attended to our duties.

On 27.7.83 after lunch we were resting for a while; rumbling sounds were heard. And cries of, 'Kill, Kill' followed. Tall members in our cell jumped up and caught the bars of the fan lights and looked out. They cried that the hoodlums were coming.

18 Eelam Tamils were locked up in Single cells on the ground floor below us. They also raised cries of alarm. The hoodlums had the keys to their cells. They opened one by one and hacked the inmates to death.

Then the hoodlums with timber poles, iron rods, steel blades and crow bars rushed up the stairs. Our door was locked; they started to try and break the lock, others threw timber poles, iron rods and steel bars at us. We were armed with legs of chairs and tables. Rev. Fathers, four of them and Mr. Nithyanantan, University Lecturer fought like devils. Slyly Dr. Dharmalingam moved behind the wall of the door with the gate. One foolish hoodlum was holding a timber pole and holding it between the bars of the gate. Dr. Dharmalingam nearing 80 years of age held fast to the end inside our cell. 10 minutes of this tug-of-war gave us precious time to keep the hoodlums outside our cell.

By this time the lock on our gate was shattered to pieces. Dr. Rajasundaram who was near the

door and speaking to the hoodlums on similarity of Buddhism and Hinduism in fluent Singhalese was dragged out of our cell and with a heavy blow struck on his head on the floor. Two or three hoodlums forced their way into our cell through the crowd.

The army arrived and exploded tear gas shells. All were closing their eyes and running helter skelter. Nearly 40/50 hoodlums on the stairs vanished in no time.

The Rev. priests caught three hoodlums who entered our room, put them under the shower, washed their eyes. They were crying out, "Please don't kill us. We were sent by big people".

Two army men came up to the three hoodlums, spoke into their ears and sent them out. Then they crouched at the door, ordered us to kneel down and raise our hands up. The army men were taking aim to shoot us. At this time we stood still and our minds went blank. Just then the commander from below shouted, "bring down the people". The Singhala soldiers who took aim to shoot us gave up and took us down. We walked over the dead bodies of our colleagues who were killed on the ground floor.

The soldiers formed a cordon from the prison door to the opened doors of a van. Balthazar himself pushed each one of us into the van. He kept the doors of the van closed and stood on a step attached to the van. Inside the jail premises crowds of hoodlums and officers were calling out for our blood.

## At Batticaloa

The van took us to an army lorry outside the prison. There were no people or cries outside. We were loaded into the lorry like cattle and ordered to keep our heads on the lorry floor.

We were taken to Kattunayake

Airport and kept waiting till 7 a.m. We were then loaded into a ramshackle plane here. We were ordered to place our heads on the floor. At 8 am we were brought out of the plane. Then we knew we were in Batticaloa.

Batticaloa people received us with sweets, chocolates, and coffee. After the hell of Panagada and Welikade, Batticaloa was heaven indeed.

There is a great lesson in the above episode to fight back with courage. If you step down to the Singhalese they will climb on your shoulders. "Prabhakaran has laid bare the myth of the lion race." The Singhalese are top rate cowards and are living and fighting on the charity of the world, both West and East. I leaded by America the world is going to the dogs.

### **J.R. JAYAWARDENA STARTED "FINAL SOLUTION" PROJECT**

We wish to take up another object which will help Eelam Tamils to resolve, they unite, in this hour of crises and demolish Singhala plans for "Final solution" to the Eelam Tamil problem in Sri Lanka. This is the discussion on the rule of J.R. JAYAWARDENA in Sri Lanka. He was a monster. He is the replica of "Beast of Belson" of Nazi Germany. Driven by a boundless hatred for Eelam Tamils this monster laid the ground plans for economic and physical extermination of Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka. The evil spirit of this monster is embodied in his 'Prevention of Terrorism Act of 1979' which he copied from the degraded white supremeacists Government of South Africa. He had laid the inhuman trap to hound out and destroy Eelam Tamil intellectuals and youth thirsting for Tamil Eelam. In this diabolical venture J.R. Jayawardena was ably helped by die hard Eelam Tamil baitors Cyril Mathews, Athulut-mudali and Dissianayake.

There is another facinating side line to the psychotic dementia of J.R. Jayawardena. His origin lies in Kerala Muslim ancestry. So like Hitler there was a need to prove that he was a better Singhalese than Senanayakas

and Bandarhanaikas. A brilliant Eelam Tamil journalist Mr. V. Ratnam has patiently searched out Jayawardena's origins in Kerala Muslim ancestry. We have listened with great pleasure to Dr. N.M. Perera shouting at the top of his voice to crowds in Gate Face Green "Thambe Mudiansaeage "Jeyawardena". There are stories of his grandfather betraying the Dutch and leading the British army to Kandy. Jayawardena is rooted in such sordid past. Like Hitler he had to fight his despicable past. Jeyawardena wanted to physically exterminate the Eelam Tamils and to show the Singhalese that he was through and through a Singhalese.

**J.R. Jayawardena let loose horrible racial riots of 1977, 1981 and the fearful 1983 riots. His own personal view was that the Eelam Tamils can be frightened to submission by murder, rape, looting and arson. The emergence of a Eelam Tamil guerrilla prodigy was unbeatable to Jayawardena. Jayawardena's grand vision of Singhala supremacy in Sri Lanka was shattered to pieces by this tough fighter Prabhakaran. In uncontrollable anger J.R. Jayawardena unleashed Prevention of Terrorism Act 1979 to arrest and liquidate Eelam Tamil patriots. Gradually the grand vision of Sri Lanka Singhala glory was fading. Jayawardena was a master politician but Prabakaran was a tough guerrilla with little pretensions to politics. Jayawardena could not meet Prabakaran on a common platform.**

Having told Rajiv Gandhi, "You are not born when I was in politics and that he was a close friend of Rajiv Gandhi's father and grand father", Jayawardena made a somarsault and signed the nefarious Indo-Sri Lanka Accord in 1987 to corner Prabakaran. Even IPKF failed to control Prabakaran. Jayawardena was a broken man. To make matters worse Prabakaran joined Premadasa, Jayawardena's arch rival. Jayawardena quietly slipped out of centre stage politics and died, we are told of madness.

**Pardon us for writing at length**

**on Jayawardena. The moral of the story is, if Eelam Tamils take heart they can overcome the Singhala Terror in Sri Lanka. Each Eelam Tamil must contribute his own mite on his own initiative to demolish Singhala execution of the 'Final solution' to the Eelam Tamil problem in Sri Lanka.**

### **PREPARE TO MEET FINAL SOLUTION ATTACK**

Now we must take up the planning and execution of our counter measures with devotion and dedication.

There are three areas which can provide help. 1) Tamil Eelam, 2) Tamil Nadu, and 3) Overseas Tamils.

First, Eelam can be divided into four zones in respect of military preparations. 1) Vanni, 2) Jaffna, 3) Eastern Province and 4) Singhale areas.

Vanni is now an active military zone and the proposed area of attack for 'Final solution of Tamil Eelam problem' is in the North East of Vanni. LTTE may be in occupation of 100 sq. miles and with a sea coast line of 10 miles. The present population of Vanni, including refugees is 600,000. Normally the population is 300,000. Srilanka army in Vanni may be 60,000. That is one soldier for 10 civilians. We presume LTTE has 20,000 guerrillas. The military personnel of LTTE is not known to the public. So LTTE has 2 guerrillas for 10 civilians and singhala soldiers. **The singhala soldiers are provided with ample equipment for land, air and sea attacks. LTTE lacks equipment for air attck and defence. This is a serious handicap. Even land and sea equipment is deficient. The NATO subdued Serbia by air attacks alone. If Sri Lanka opts for this type of war LTTE will be helpless. Sri Lanka Govt. has world wide support and many countries can supply planes and pilots. So the situation is grim. If overseas Tamils can arrange for air attack and defence for LTTE it can be splendid support.**

There are now around 2,000,000 Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka. Even if

one percent of this population can volunteer to help the LTTE in this crisis, Tamil Eelam is a possibility.

There are rumours that Chandrika wants to hold elections in Sri Lanka by the end of 1999. This is near impossibility with rainy season starting in the Vanni in September and continuing till January 2000.

In any case the urgent preparation of LTTE to face Sri Lanka attack is essential for survival of Tamil Eelam.

The second zone in Tamil Eelam is Jaffna. The population is 400,000. It was 800,000 in happier times. 40,000 Sri Lankan soldiers are keeping watch over 400,000 Eelam Tamils. That is 1 soldier to 10 civilians. There is hardly any room for military preparation. Jaffna can of course send 4000 able bodied men and women to join LTTE. It is better for Jaffna people not to give room for attack by Singhala soldiers because they are waiting for opportunities to make the whole Jaffna "a Chemmani" type grave to achieve 'Final solution' to Eelam Tamil problem in Sri Lanka.

The third zone in Tamil Eastern province is Trincomalee district and

Batticaloa district. The Tamil population of Trincomalee is 300,000 with nearly 300,000 Muslims and 300,000 Singhalese. The Singhala Govt. considers that Trincomalee and Batticaloa are Govt. supporters. There is a heavy pressure of land, sea and air for Singhala soldiers in Trincomalee. There is no strict military surveillance. There is room to use Trincomalee as a supply and 'safe house' for Eelam Tamil guerrillas. Trincomalee can supply 3000 men and women for guerrilla activity. The Tamils in Trincomalee are devoted Tamils. Batticaloa has a Tamil population of 400,000, 200,000 Muslims and Singhalese 100,000. Hence Batticaloa can give 4000 excellent guerrillas to LTTE.

The fourth zone is Eelam Tamils in the Singhalese areas. There are nearly 300,000 Eelam Tamils with 200,000 in Colombo city and 100,000 spread all over Singhala areas. They are mostly traders and white collar workers. This zone is mostly of bourgeois class. They may have plenty of money but will be very reluctant to part with it. They may also not provide volunteers. These people are called "Colombo Tamils". They became friends of Singhalese to pro-

mote their own self interests but ultimately played into the hands of the Singhalese.

The second area we can look for help is Eelam Tamils in Tamil Nadu. There are 100,000 Eelam Tamil refugees in Tamil Nadu, 70,000 in Govt. camps maintained by Tamil Nadu Government at very poor level of subsistence. If a good campaign is carried out many can join the guerrillas. The 30,000 living outside are helped by their relatives and friends in the West. They are leading a senseless hand to mouth life.

The third area from which help can come is America, Canada, Europe, Australia, Middle East and Africa. All the Eelam Tamils in these countries are earning good money and many are wasting it on trifles.

**We have written two articles on this subject (i) 'Periyar Era' - June '99 "Time running out for Eelam Tamils", ii) 'Periyar Era' - July '99 "Duty of Eelam Tamils". We have wasted 16 precious years. Will we at least make a start now? If we do we can surely create a separate State of Tamil Eelam.**

18.7.99

**S.A. DAVID**

## Who discovered Pencillin?

PARIS : A Frenchman may have discovered pencillin some 30 years before Scotsman Sir Alexander Fleming., an English author has said. Paris-born scientist Ernest Duchesne described the mould later known as pencilin in an 1897 study for the Military Health School of Lyon, Briton Richard Barry told Reuters. "He got a very good mark, then it was filed and forgotten", Mr. Barry said. "What a tragedy, considering the thousands of lives that might have been saved during the Great War", Mr. Barry said. Fleming is credited with having discovered in 1928 that pencillin could kill bacteria, making it the first of a class of potent new drugs known as antibiotics. Duchesne was just 23 or 24 when

he made his discovery, Mr. Barry said, based on military records he uncovered in France. After identifying the mould, he injected it into guinea pigs to demonstrate that it could protect against infections, said Mr. Barry, who hopes to write a book about the Frenchman. Duchesne died in 1912, aged 38. Ironically, the cause of his death was tuberculosis, a disease that might have been cured by antibiotics, Mr. Barry said. ★

## European Parliament President

STRASBOURG : The European Parliament on Tuesday 20th July elected the French conservative MP, Ms. Nicole Fontaine, as President, or Speaker, at its constituent session, five weeks after the European elections. With 306 of 545 votes cast in the 626 seat legislature, she received an absolute majority in the first round.

Ms. Fontaine, a 57 year old lawyer, is the first Woman President of the European Parliament since Ms. Simone Veil, also from France, who held the office from 1979 to 1982. A member of the French rightist-liberal UDF party, Ms. Fontaine has been a member of the Strasburg based Parliament since 1984. She has vowed to carry out reforms aimed at expanding the powers of the Deputies. Ms. Fontaine held the post of Vice-President twice before. Conservatives and Christian Democrats in the European Parliament have the biggest faction with 232 seats, followed by the Social Democrats with 180 seats. Under a political deal between the Christian Democrats and Liberals, the Liberal candidate, Mr. Patrick Cox, of Ireland, is to succeed Ms. Fontaine for the second half of the five-year presidency term. ★



# INDIGENOUS DRUG FOR HEPATITIS-B

— R. PRASAD

A great medical breakthrough has been achieved by discovering a drug for treating the virulent Hepatitis-B infection. The discovery by Mr. A.L. Thyagarajan, head of the Department of Microbiology at the Dr. A.L. Mudaliar Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences of the University of Madras, comes after nearly twenty years of research. With this the 400 millions suffering from Hepatitis-B around the world, with 42 million in India alone, have a chance to get cured of the infection. Hepatitis-B kills more people in the world than AIDS does in one year. The discovery can therefore be hailed as one of the greatest Indian contributions to the medical world in the 20th century.

The drug has been developed based on a locally available Kizhanelli (*Phyllanthus amarus*) plant. Kizhanelli has been traditionally known to cure jaundice (Hepatitis-A and Hepatitis-E). The discovery has been able to point out the efficacy of *Phyllanthus amarus* to cure Hepatitis-B provided the type of soil to be used, preparation of the soil for cultivation, biotyping (the biological tests to find out the various active properties of the plant to treat Hepatitis-B and liver damage and finally chemotyping (to check the corresponding chemical constituents responsible for this biological properties) are taken care of.

The idea to use Kizhanelli to treat Hepatitis-B was first tried out by Mr. Thyagarajan in 1972. It was found to reduce the bilirubin level in from 38 ml to 12 ml per CC in two weeks of treatment and completely clear it in four weeks time. Bilirubin is released by dead liver cells infected by Hepatitis-B and is used as a direct measure to evaluate the state of liver infection.

Studies revealed presence of five species of *Phyllanthus* (Kizhanelli) in India. And it was only in 1989-90 that the anti-viral property of *Phyllanthus amarus* was discovered. Strangely, *Phyllanthus amarus*, found only in South India, showed the required activity. Even in South India, the anti-viral property of the plant depends on the soil condition, preparation of the soil, and the season when the plant is collected. "The patent is based on these vital properties which gives the plant the required anti-viral properties," says Mr.

Thyagarajan.

Jaundice transmitted through contaminated water, otherwise known as Hepatitis-A and Hepatitis-E, is mostly prevalent in India and most other developing countries. Hepatitis-B on the other hand is transmitted through infected blood and blood products, infected needles, sexual contact and vertical transmission (mother to new born baby). But the drugs presently available in the market never cure Hepatitis-B completely. When left untreated, Hepatitis-B can cause cirrhosis of the liver and even liver cancer. The Interferon alfa drug available in the market can only achieve 33 per cent suppression of viral multiplication (loss of Hepatitis-B e antigen) after six months of treatment. Lamivudine on the other hand has higher virus suppression but the virus shoots back to pre-treatment level once the treatment is stopped. Besides, these treatments cost more than Rs. 1 lakh and have side effects too.

Field trials have shown the efficacy of the drug developed by Mr. Thyagarajan to completely clear the virus in the case of acute Hepatitis-B within eight weeks of treatment. All clinical symptoms are cleared within four weeks of treatment. In the case of chronic patients, the drug has been able to achieve 60 per cent viral clearance. This high viral clearance nearly stops the progress of the diseases like cancer and cirrhosis at bay.

The drug according to Mr. Thyagarajan, can be given to babies affected by vertical transmission in the absence of vaccination. "It is ideal to start treatment before the baby is five years old", says Mr. Thyagarajan. This is because the DNA of the virus has an affinity to combine with the DNA of the host liver cell leading to an "integrated state" of the virus with the liver cell. Once this happens removal of the virus from the liver cell becomes difficult. It is this integrated state of the virus which determines the efficacy of the drug.

In the case of acute Hepatitis-B patients, the host liver cell reacts with the virus thus preventing an integration of the virus. The efficacy of the drug is thus very high. However, in the case of chronic Hepatitis-B patients, integration of the vi-

rus is possible over a period of time thus affecting the potency of the drug. This makes an early treatment imperative. In spite of the drug's ability to cure, prevention through vaccination remains paramount.

The *Phyllanthus amarus* plant for drug preparation can be grown only in the tropical climate as open farm cultivation and in certain soil conditions. But the standard protocol developed by Mr. Thyagarajan to prepare the soil for cultivation, special type of seeds required for cultivation and various tests to check if the soil has been prepared to specifications, and biological and chemical fingerprinting techniques will ensure that soil requirements do not pose a limitation for production.

This becomes all the more important as the demand for the drug will be high considering the rate of increase of Hepatitis-B infection around the world. In India alone, the rate of infection had increased from 3 per cent in 1992 to 4.8 per cent in 1998.

The discovery and sale of the patent to Rallis India and Phytopharma of the U.K., comes at a time when the western world is closely looking at Indian traditional medicines. And patenting drugs by the developed countries based on traditional medicinal properties known to Indian is now becoming more a norm than an exception. Against this backdrop, the patenting of *Phyllanthus amarus* based drug should be hailed.







Yet, the importance of a drug to treat Hepatitis-B notwithstanding, the saga of Indian scientific institutions finding little industrial support for R&D work continues. Says Mr. Thyagarajan, "Indian pharmaceutical companies did not understand the value of this drug preparation and they did not pay much importance. Initially they did not attach much significance; so we did not succeed in having a collaborative work. Else, we could have developed this drug long back". The highlight is of course the paltry Rs. 10 lakh paid by Rallis India and \$40,000 by Phytopharma for the technology transfer and the 7.5 per cent royalty from sales proceeds. Price for Indian research! ★

(Courtesy :  
"The Hindu" 22.7.99)

# BJP VITAL STATISTICS

Graphics by JAT

## FROM A NARROW, URBAN HINDI BASE THE BJP HAS BECOME A NATIONAL PARTY

-  Percentage of votes gained
-  Party president
-  Popular party leaders
-  Key issues for the campaign
-  Main allies
-  Performance/Remarks

The BJP traces its political ancestry to the Jan Sangh, which was formed by Shyama Prasad Mookerjee in 1951 after he resigned from Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet. Mookerjee received full support from the RSS and in time, the Jan Sangh came to be regarded as a part of the Sangh Parivar. In 1977, the Jan Sangh merged into the Janata Party but re-established its separate identity as the BJP in 1980.

Number of seats won  
(excluding allies)



1952	1957	1962	1967	1971
3.1%	5.9%	6.4%	9.5%	7.4%
<b>S.P. Mookerjee</b>	<b>Devaprasad Ghosh</b>	<b>Pitamber Das</b>	<b>Balraj Madhok</b>	<b>A.B. Vajpayee</b>
S.P. Mookerjee	A.B. Vajpayee, Balraj Madhok	Vajpayee, Madhok, D.D. Upadhyay	Vajpayee, Madhok, Upadhyay, Nana Deshmukh	Vajpayee, Madhok, Vijayaraje Scindia
Kashmir, refugee problem	Linguistic states	Sino-Indian tensions	Hindi, cow slaughter	Privy purse, bank takeover
None	None	None	Akali Dal, Swatantra Party	Cong(O), Swatantra, BKD
Presence in WB, UP, MP	Gains in Maharashtra	Major gains in UP, MP	Highest non-Cong votes	Losses, except in MP

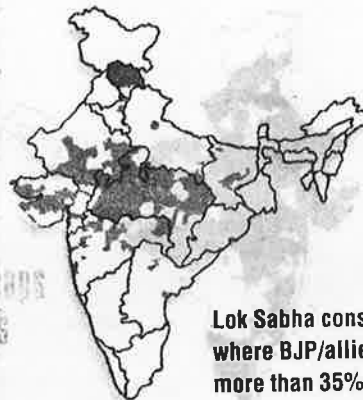
### 1984

Real presence only in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi.



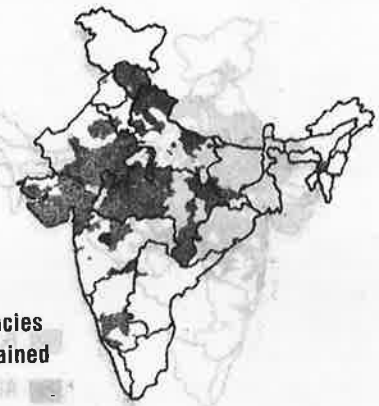
### 1989

Massive gains in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.



### 1991

Breakthrough in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. Establishes presence in Karnataka, Andhra, Bihar.

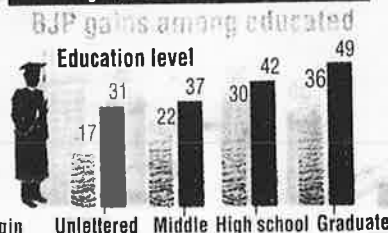


### 1998: WHERE BJP GAINED

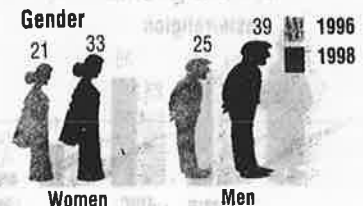
Number of seats (excluding allies)



### Percentage of voters voted for BJP + allies

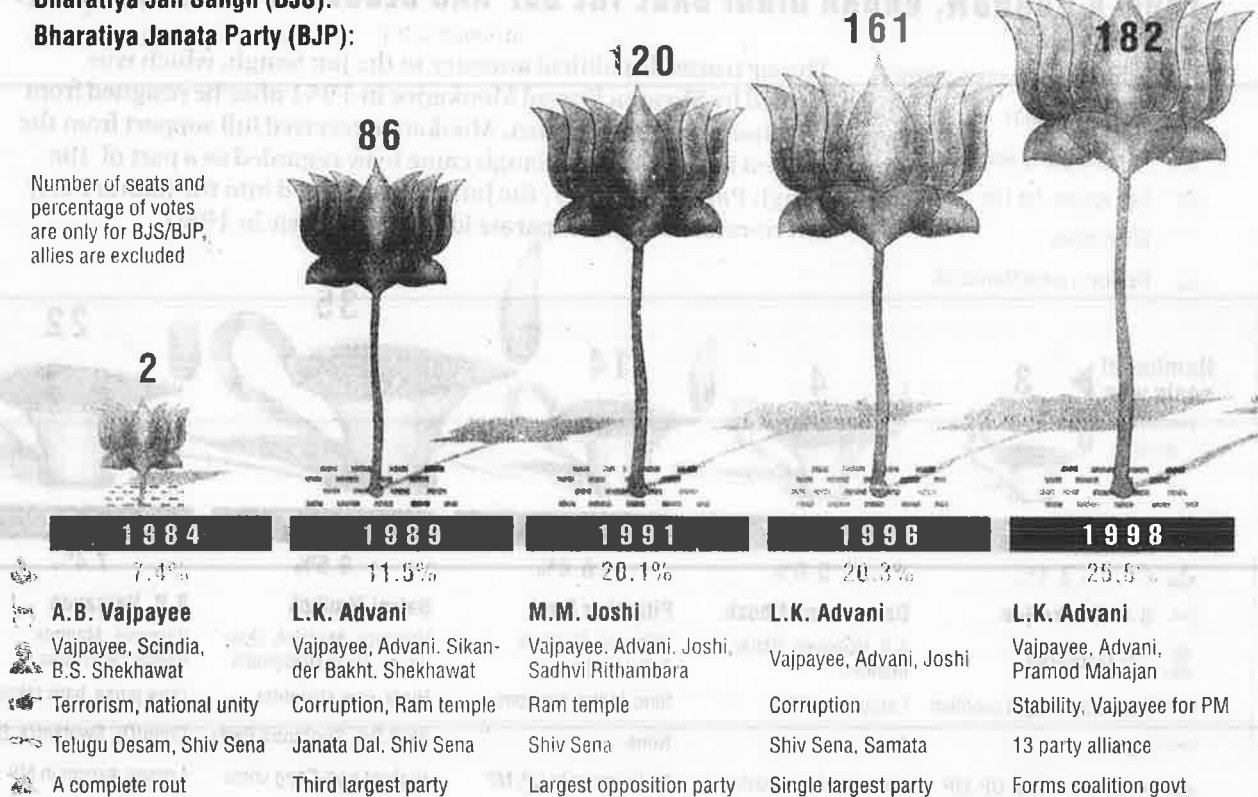


### BJP improves its standing among women



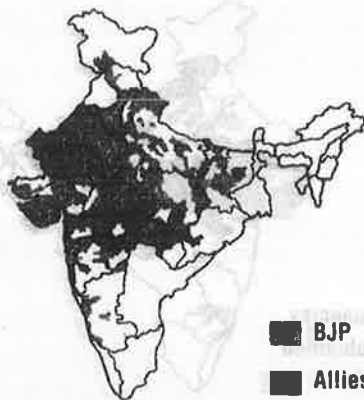
### Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BJS): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP):

Number of seats and percentage of votes are only for BJS/BJP, allies are excluded



### 1996

Consolidation in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. No real southern base yet.



### 1998

BJP establishes presence in all areas except Kerala and the Northeast. Alliances yield results.

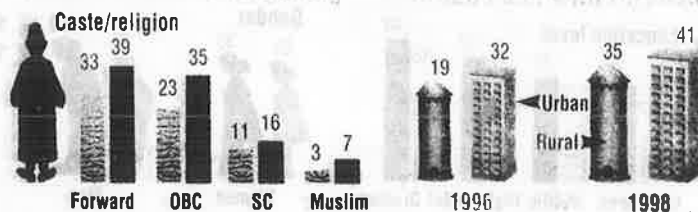


### BJP: STATEWISE TALLY, 1998

Andhra Pradesh	18.3	4
Assam	24.5	1
Bihar	24.0	20
Gujarat	48.3	19
Haryana	18.9	1
Himachal Pradesh	51.4	3
Jammu and Kashmir	28.6	2
Karnataka	26.9	13
Madhya Pradesh	45.7	30
Maharashtra	22.5	4
Orissa	21.2	7
Punjab	11.7	3
Rajasthan	41.6	5
Tamil Nadu	6.9	3
Uttar Pradesh	36.5	57
West Bengal	10.2	1
Chandigarh	42.4	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	53.7	1
Daman and Diu	42.0	1
Delhi	50.7	6

### All India

Votes and seats of allies are not taken into account





Your favourable colours, white, black, yellow.

Switched off. Heard from a public meeting : "I saw one of youth volunteers with his forehead full of red kum-kum. I said blood is oozing. Others understood. He erased red kum-kum. We must know we belong to Rationalist school. Unless our youth propagate rationalism how can we change our society?"

Eyes back to the visual :

"For the benefit of Kanni Raasi holders. Morn' you'll feel dull. In course of time you'll pick up. Afternoon you will gain monetarily, you must carefully spend and run the show efficiently. Otherwise, loss is likely. Students should study well. They may score good marks. Your lucky numbers are 3,6,8; favourable direction, east and west; favourable colours, blue, red, black."

Switched off. Turned to a public function :

"Yes, I frequent temples. My temples are SAMATTHUVA-PURAMS. We believe in casteless society. We studied in Thanthai Periyar's School of Rationalism and Arignar Anna's University of Democracy."

Again, to VISUAL :

"Meenam Raasimen. You can be peaceful and happy. You must adjust with your family."

"Political personalities should not be hasty in their decisions. They should consult friends. They may win many things. They must be close with their trusted friends. They may not go wrong. Better to move the coins with caution.

"Time is good for you working with machines. You tell your boss which you think to be correct. Move with him carefully. You have a good future. Be always in the look out for better things. See your lucky numbers, your favourable direction, your lucky colours."

Close your eyes, open the ears to hear the public meeting:

"We should not be superstitious. Fire-walking is barbaric. Partymen should not participate in fire walking. Our heritage is Periyar's Movement."

Double faced! Double Tongued! Split Personality! Opportunistic! Playing hot and cold! Showing Head and Tail alternately! Self-contradictory! Between SUN TV and MK what an enormous distance!

Nothing about Periyar, Anna, Singaravelar. Nothing about Rationalism. Nothing about Dravida History, Culture, Civilization but Raasi Palan, Mahabharata, Marma Desam, Panchami only!... Which have reduced your good programmes like Vanakkam Thamizhagam into a froth, a foam, a bubble of no significance!!!

**M.K.S.**

## **Saving the Oldest Printed Book**

The *Diamond Sutra*, the earliest known dated and printed book in existence, was one of the hoard of manuscripts discovered near the town of Dunhaung in north-west China in 1907. An inscription on it fixes its date as May 11, 868.

The paper itself is dyed yellow and it is vital that any procedure to dissolve the glue that binds the *Sutra*

to its backing paper does not also wash away the dye. Investigations have led to a possible preservation approach, where treatment of berberine dyed papers with a saturated solution of aqueous sodium nitrate resulted in the colour being fixed into the paper. The theory behind this 'nitrate treatment' is that the glues that bind the backing papers to the *Diamond Sutra* could

be dissolved in the aqueous sodium nitrate, but the colour is fixed into the paper. As these ancient Chinese documents are historically invaluable. A sample can be seen here in the hand of a doctoral student of Queen's University, England), only tiny fragments are available for analysis, so special analytical techniques have been developed.

**LAST PAGE**

## AGAIN, NERUKKU NER!

After a long break SUN TV reporter is with me, "How do you feel now... About...?", he shouts. "About?... What?", in perplexity! "About our programme", he said.

"Three programmes I like - your Personal Direct Interview, Question Time, Vanakkam Thamizhagam – the third and last is the best. Other programmes are ... majority of them... dance, songs, cinema! Terribly boring! What a tremendous waste of time and money on what Science has given us. Poor, helpless Science!"

"So, you are not likely this time to be aggressively, yes... acrimoniously critical...."

"Your implication is I'll be critical yet, is not very much."

"Yeah, but still I feel nervous."

"Be so, for sometime. There are serials which don't appeal to rhyme or reason. Stupid! Supernatural! Superstitious!"

"Which of these you mean? You don't put your taste on its art side, its aesthetics?"

"Remember one man's food is another man's poison. But you give poison relying upon those sections of people who will consider it food."

"I don't follow you..." curtly reacts.

"You give Maha Bharat, Mantra Vāsal etc. The sections who welcome them are upper-caste lotus-eaters who kill time. Because these stories perpetuate a ceremonial society which is inequitable, which protects the upper caste interests. You don't do visuals for the lower-down, the bottom castes, the sudras, the panchamas, dalits, you are a horrendous vested interest! Commercial minded! Exploiter!"

"I am afraid you've drawn yourself back to your original, rigid stand! What ever it is, you said the best is V.T. — VANAKKAM THAMIZHAGAM!"

"Yes, Chief Guests — for instance, NAMMALVAR, IRAI ANBU, PROF. RAMASUNDARAM, KANNAPPA TAMBIRAN, PROF. GUNASEKARAN - 'Domesticated Animals' beautifully done by Dr. NATARAJAN, gardening, VALAMPURI JOHN'S... such programmes in V.T.... But, just listen. I have tape-recorded two different stuff for you. Alternately I play it. One from V.T.; one from outside. Keep quiet all thorough.

"Today's RAASI EFFECT for MESHAM - rasi - man. In the forenoon you be cautious. Do your work carefully. In the afternoon, you may reap the benefit provided you are patient enough. In your office you may feel dejected at heavy work. Your officer will be kind. You can overcome hardships if any.

"Your lucky numbers, 1,4,5. Your favourable directions, South-east, south.

*Continued on 3rd Wrapper Page..*

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