

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter of Thiru **Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I am writing this letter strongly proposing the name of Perarignar C.N. Annadurai, who was the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu from 1967 – 69 for the highest civilian award, the "Bharat Ratna".

He was known as Perarignar Anna for his outstanding intellectual capacity. He was a great social reformer, writer, orator, litterateur and a tall Dravidian leader. His literary and political works, both in Tamil and English, bear the stamp of his genius and rank among the best in these genres.

He was the ideological fountainhead of major Dravidian parties. He stood for a politics that foregrounded social equality, self-respect and linguistic pride. He condemned the backwardness and superstitious practices of the society and advocated science and education for eradicating them. He was for preserving the identity and antiquity of Tamil language and its culture. He fought for the upliftment of downtrodden and women's rights. He was an orator par excellence in Tamil, no less in English as well. He mesmerised the masses through his oratorical skills. He created a knowledge revolution among the poor and simple, by his sparkling speech. "Kadamai, Kannyam, Kattupadu" – (Duty, Decorum, Discipline) - the politico philosophical magical words coined by him.

Perarignar Annadurai had the distinction of converting the Dravidian ideology into a political formation and was instrumental in a regional party forming a Government for the first time in India. He served as the Chief Minister of Madras from 1967 till 1969. During his tenure as Chief Minister, "the State of Madras" was renamed as "Tamil Nadu".

He legalised self-respect marriages and introduced two language policy and "A rupee for a measure of rice scheme" in the Public Distribution System. He was the pioneer who championed the cause for State Autonomy.

Perarignar Annadurai was one of the Country's finest Parliamentarians and his speeches in the Parliament were well received and acclaimed by other Parliamentarians, cutting across party lines. Perarignar Annadurai is still remembered with fondness by a large number of people of Tamil Nadu, even now, 49 years after his demise. Several institutions and organisations in Tamil Nadu have been named after him.

Under his stewardship, people believed that the State was entering a new epoch. Abolition of levy on dry lands, assignment of wastelands to the landless poor, free education for students upto pre-university class, implementation of prohibition policy, development of Tamil were among some of the far reaching initiatives undertaken by him.

The advent of the political party headed by Perarignar Annadurai as a party in power in the State of Tamil Nadu marks a watershed. He was a titan among the politicians living in his era and was well respected even by his worst critics. He was mild mannered, accommodative, upright and fought tirelessly for improving the socio-economic conditions of the people.

In view of his contributions to Tamil Nadu, in particular and India as a whole, the Tamil Nadu Cabinet unanimously resolved on 9.9.2018 that this statesman needs to be honoured befittingly with the highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna and accordingly recommended to the Government of India to award "Bharat Ratna" to the Hon'ble former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Perarignar Annadurai posthumously.

I request you to kindly confer the "Bharat Ratna" award to Hon'ble former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru C.N. Annadurai, posthumously.

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