

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.

Our former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran was honoured with the highest civilian award, the "Bharat Ratna" in recognition of his outstanding contribution to public service by the Government of India in the year 1988.

I write to you strongly proposing as unanimously resolved and recommended by the Tamil Nadu Cabinet to rename Chennai Central Railway Station after "**Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran**" in commemoration of his birth centenary. The Hon'ble former Chief Minister Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, who is affectionately known as "Puratchi Thalaivar" (Revolutionary Leader), was a self-taught genius, an iconic film personality, who became Tamil Nadu's most popular mass leader.

The birth centenary of Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M.G. Ramachandran, Hon'ble former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu which fell in 2017, is being celebrated by the Government of Tamil Nadu in a glorious and befitting manner.

Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran was one of the most illustrious, charismatic and popular Chief Minister of the State, who rode like a colossus during the turbulent transitional socio-political period of the State for more than three decades as an actor supreme and as a political leader invincible, till his death in 1987.

Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran is remembered nationally and internationally for having launched several innovative welfare programmes which have become model to be emulated throughout the country. He was socially conscious and politically committed and his yardstick for governance, was whether a welfare scheme would ultimately benefit the poor. "The Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme" implemented in all the Schools in Tamil Nadu, is a manifestation of his commitment for the welfare of the weaker sections of the society. The scheme has been commended by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as worthy of being followed by other states, now religiously being adopted by the Government of India as a pan-Indian Programme.

As Chief Minister, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, placed great emphasis on socio-economic development of the masses, especially poor and

downtrodden. He was instrumental in laying the foundation for the rapid socio-economic growth that the State of Tamil Nadu has witnessed in the last four decades. In order to encourage community participation and promote the goal of self-sufficiency at the village level, he introduced the popular "Self Sufficiency Scheme".

With an innate understanding that knowledge provides children the power to dream of a bright future and attain it, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran introduced a comprehensive package for school children, which included supply of free books, uniforms, footwear, free education upto higher secondary level and the popular Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme. This had far reaching results in terms of improving school attendance and reducing drop outs appreciably, especially in rural schools.

Dr. M.G. Ramachandran's love for Tamil language and his vision for the development of language manifested in establishing a exclusive Tamil University for Tamil language so as to provide higher research in the Language. As a champion of the cause of women, especially their education, he established Mother Theresa Women's University at Kodaikanal.

To the people of Tamil Nadu and to Tamils across the world, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran continues to be an inspirational figure who is always remembered for his qualities of magnanimity, generosity, commanding leadership and determination to fight for the legitimate rights of the States.

As desired by him, his residence at Chennai has been converted into a school for the hearing and visually challenged children, after his demise. Dr. M.G. Ramachandran's life story continues to inspire millions to strive for greater public good through dedicated service.

To honour the memory of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M.G. Ramachandran, a great and an illustrious son of the nation, it is felt that it would be proper if, on the occasion of his birth centenary, the Central Railway Station at Chennai, one of the most prominent and iconic landmarks be named after him. In view of the above, the Tamil Nadu Cabinet unanimously resolved on 9.9.2018 to recommend to the Government of India to rename Chennai Central Railway Station after "Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran".

I request you to kindly take steps to rename Central Railway Station at Chennai as "**Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station**" in commemoration of his birth centenary.

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